



# **Shakopee Youth Hockey Association**

## **Parent Code of Conduct**

### **Hockey Parents Make the Difference**

Keep in mind that, above all, the motivating factor for most children who enter an organized youth sports program is their desire to have fun. This is particularly true with young children, many of who are newcomers to the youth sports scene. With a supportive attitude and a fundamental understanding of the “basics” of hockey, everyone will come away from their youth sports experience with a positive feeling.

### **In the Stands**

Parents can take the fun out of hockey by continually yelling or screaming from the stands. Parents should enjoy the game and applaud good plays. The stands are not a place from which parents should try to personally coach their kids. Kids often mirror the actions of their parents; if they see mom or dad losing their cool in the stands, they will probably do the same on the ice.

### **Car and Home**

Some parents not only spoil the fun for their kids at the ice rink, but also in the car, believing this is the perfect place for instruction or criticism. Parents should try to keep things in perspective. There’s more to life than hockey, and the car and home are not places to coach. Parents need to remember that they are not the coach, and the most difficult kind of parent is the one who coaches against the real coach. It’s unfair to put children in a position of having to decide who to listen to – their parents or the coach.

### **At Practice**

Parents have to remember that if a child wants to improve, they have to practice – not just play. Encourage your children to develop a strong work ethic and to work hard to improve their skills. Even if a child is not the “star” player on the team, practice stresses the importance of teamwork, establishing goals, discipline, and learning to control your emotions, all of which are important lessons children can use both in and out of sports.

### **At the Rink**

Hockey parents can create a fun environment by making certain their children are wearing properly fitted equipment. Parents also need to stress fair play and risk management to help eliminate injuries.

### **Support Your Child**

Many benefits are derived from playing youth hockey. Boys and girls learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. They learn to work together, how to sacrifice for the good of the team, how to enjoy winning and how to handle defeat. In the process, they also learn important lessons about physical fitness and personal health.

The degree to which your child benefits from his or her youth hockey experience is as much your responsibility as it is theirs. In order for your child to get the most out of a youth program, it is important for you to show support and offer encouragement while maintaining a genuine interest in the team.

## **Always Be Positive**

Parents serve as role models for their children, who often look to adults for advice, direction and approval. Never lose sight of the fact that you are a role model. As a parent, one of the most important things you can do is show good sportsmanship at all times to coaches, referees, opponents and teammates.

Remember that your children are PLAYING hockey. It is important to allow them to establish their own goals and play the game for themselves. Be careful not to impose your own standards or objectives.

## **Let the Coach Coach**

Avoid placing an exaggerated emphasis on winning. A recent survey indicated 72% of children would rather play for a losing team than ride the bench for a winner. The most important aspect of your child's youth hockey experience is for them to have fun while developing physical and emotional skills that will serve them in life. A healthy, risk-free environment that emphasizes the importance of fair play, sportsmanship, discipline and, most importantly, fun will be invaluable for your child as he or she continues to develop a positive self-image.

## **Positive Reinforcement**

The best way to help children achieve goals and reduce their natural fear of failure is through positive reinforcement. After all, no likes to make mistakes. If your child makes a mistake – and they will – remain positive and help your child to do the same.

## **As a SYHA parent/guardian/spectator, we acknowledge and agree that:**

- It is a privilege, not a right, for our child to play youth hockey.
- Sportsmanship and fair play are essential to the sport of hockey.
- Sportsmanship and fair play are the most important skills that children can possibly learn from youth hockey.
- Because our children learn from our example, we as parents and fellow players need to exemplify the highest level of sportsmanship by supporting all players, coaches, team managers, referees and parents.

## **PARENT/GUARDIAN MISCONDUCT (TRYOUTS)**

Parents/Guardians will refrain from misconduct during the tryout process, including but not limited to the following:

- Misconduct stemming from disagreements regarding tryout decisions; via the use of phone, text messaging, email, social media, or a web site to defame, discredit, or slander any SYHA parent/guardian, coach, Board member, or evaluator.
- Displays of anger in any arena OR via phone, text messaging, email, social media, or a web site to any SYHA parent/guardian, coach, Board member, or evaluator.
- Swearing or use of abusive language towards any SYHA parent/guardian, coach, Board member, evaluator or other people in any hockey facility.
- Fighting and/or threatening violence (included physical and verbal), in any capacity.

SYHA has a 24 hour rule which says "no parent in a fit of frustration or anger over the tryout process or their player(s) placement shall make any contact unless 24 hours has passed". Contact made prior to 24

hours for reasons other than; injury/illness, clarifications, or inappropriate behavior by another person(s) within the association will not be responded to. Contact regarding player placement or tryout process is to be made to a SYHA President via phone once 24 hours has passed.

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN/SPECTATOR MISCONDUCT (IN SEASON)**

In an effort to make hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, USA Hockey has instituted a program of Zero Tolerance for parental and fan behavior that has been adopted by District 6. Referees at their discretion, may have parents/spectators removed from the arena. SYHA supports this program and requests that all parents be supportive of the team, the players and the officials. Players and officials all strive to perform at the highest possible level and deserve our support. Our SYHA Coaches also have the best interest and safety of our players in mind and will address any

issues directly with the officials and opposing team coaches as necessary. The on-ice official will stop the game when the parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game.

This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include but not be limited to:

- Swearing or use of abusive language towards any SYHA parent/guardian, coach, Board member, evaluator or other people in any hockey facility.
- Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or act.
- Throwing of any object in the spectator's viewing area, player's bench, penalty box or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.
- Excessive Alcohol use, parents/guardians are prohibited from being intoxicated at hockey facilities.

### **INFRACTIONS**

Anytime a SYHA parent/guardian/spectator/has a reported misconduct infraction as noted above during tryouts or in season, is removed from a game, practice, or other SYHA event, there will be immediate and automatic consequences as outlined below. The parent may have been reported/removed by a referee, coach, tournament official, arena official, board member, or police officer.

- **For the first infraction during tryouts or current season, the parent shall be removed from all SYHA events, home or away, for a period of up to 30 days**
- **For the second infraction during tryouts or current season, the parent shall be removed from all SYHA events, home or away, for a period of up to 90 days**
- The parent may appeal the above stated suspensions after 7 days with a written appeal to the SYHA Board Officers (President, VP, Treasurer, and Secretary); however, exceptions to the consequences will be rare in accordance with the zero tolerance nature of this policy.
- The SYHA Board of Directors and/or D6 reserves the right to institute greater penalties than outlined above as they deem appropriate.
- Any parental/guardian/spectator misconduct not specifically alluded to above, will be dealt with on an individual basis by the SYHA Board Officers (President, VP, Treasurer, and Secretary).
- Bench coaches are exempt from this policy as they are governed by specific District 6 rules for coaches.