



Blues Attendance, Commitment and Multiple-Sport Policy

Hockey is a team sport and the Blues believe consistent participation in practices, games, and tournaments is integral to the development of our hockey players, a positive team experience, and the overall success of our hockey program. There is an emphasis on the significantly higher degree of commitment required on all those participating in competitive hockey. It is important for those who choose to try out for Blues hockey, to understand that the commitment required is not only from the player, but a commitment from the family as well. Success can only be achieved with the combined commitment and dedication from all who are involved; from coaches, parents and players. Players must be prepared to make a commitment, often at the expense of high school hockey/sports, other sporting endeavors, free time and/or social events. In addition to the time commitment required for practices and league games, tournaments may require absence from school (and work). The Blues and the coaches understand that, while over the course of the season, 100% attendance at all events may not be possible, the expectation is that players will make every effort to honour their commitment to their team.

Blues coaches (and managers) will provide a schedule of events (games, practices, tournaments, and other hockey functions) as soon as they are planned to give players and parents adequate time to incorporate the hockey commitment into their schedule. It is ultimately the coach's responsibility to ensure that the date/time/location of the team activity is accurate.

All team members, players and staff alike, are expected to attend all team activities. In all cases where an event will be missed, the reason for missing should be conveyed to the coach in advance via proper communication channels (i.e. call, text, email, TeamSnap); timeline notification and communication channel provided by the coach at the beginning of the season. At a minimum, the coach should be advised as soon as possible and preferably at least 24 hours before the event to ensure accommodations/preparations can be made.

If your player is sick/contagious, please keep them home for everyone's benefit, and allow them to recover, so that they can rejoin the team as soon as possible. If a player is injured, but can attend school and perform most of their regular functions outside of hockey, they are asked to attend practices and games as spectators, including being involved in the pre-game speech and post-game debrief in the dressing room even if they aren't dressing. Coaches are trying to implement different systems, so this serves as a good learning opportunity for the player, and they are also showing support for their teammates.

If it is impossible to commit to all of the events in any given week, it is expected that players prioritize practices over games. This is where players will have the most opportunity for touches on the puck and experience the most progress.

Players will be expected to give 100% effort to all the Blues hockey endeavours (practices, games and other training).

Players must be punctual if they are to learn and compete with their team. This includes arriving to the rink/activity on time (the time that is communicated), being dressed on time, and physically and mentally prepared.

The Blues Executive will provide direction to the coaches on appropriate measures that can be applied during the season to enforce the required levels of attendance at team activities. Repeated absences will be addressed. Legitimate absences include, but are not limited to illness, injury (hockey-related / non-sport-related), and participation in mandatory school and religious activities. A player's attendance/punctuality, and level of effort throughout the season may have an impact on future opportunities with the team and with the Blues.

Players who do not prepare in a timely fashion, or are regularly tardy or regularly miss practices, games or tournaments for reasons other than promptly notified illness, injury, family and school commitments, the Head Coach will exercise timely communication initially with the player. If the issue(s) persists, it may result in a discussion with the parents, and further involve the Executive. These discussions will include actions to rectify the issue(s) and/or the possibility of consequences/disciplinary actions, as deemed necessary. These disciplinary actions will be progressive in nature to allow the player every opportunity to correct the issue(s).

The Blues believe participation in other sports/activities positively contributes to the long-term development of our players and we encouraged them to participate in other sports/activities.

When the hockey seasons wraps up, players are encouraged to take time off during the off-season. Continuously playing and training the same sport year-round non-stop can eventually lead to significant physical and mental burnout.

Players who commit to a Blues team agree to prioritizing hockey amongst their spots/activities.

As traditional summer sports are typically wrapping up/ending and with the hockey season starting in early September we understand there may be some conflicting schedules at the onset of the season. Up until the end of September, we expect that hockey practices and games should not be missed for practices of other sports/activities.

To clarify, this policy has no expectation that hockey will be your primary sport/activity. The position is that beginning October 1, and for the remainder of the hockey season, it is expected that all Blues commitments will generally take precedence over conflicting activities.

It is important to note that coaches may not, under any circumstance, prohibit or discourage any activity which does not directly conflict with team events, based on timing of events and level of physical and mental effort required.

Players are not only expected to attend all team activities, but they also must be properly prepared and sufficiently rested to participate. Coaches are responsible for assessing players' preparedness and ensure that they are not unduly fatigued. Should players be deemed unable to participate, coaches may impose measures to ensure player safety and well-being.

School requirements should not be confused with homework. Players and families are responsible for ensuring the player has adequate time for their homework and other school commitments outside of

their hockey commitments, and make personal sacrifices before sacrificing hockey and negatively affecting their team's development.

While important, family vacations and social activities should be planned outside of scheduled practice and game times.

If a player is also planning to be involved in another sport/activity that will inhibit their ability to fully commit to the Blues team, then the parent and player must make this known at the time of registration, or before the commencement of the tryout process. If during the course of the season a player becomes involved with another sport/activity and is unable to fulfil the commitment to the Blues, the parent and player must notify the coach of such a commitment conflict as soon as possible to ensure the player's and team's best position moving forward. Inability to provide sufficient notification and/or commitment to the team may result in an impact to the player's future opportunities.

The expectations set out in this policy are in addition to the coach, player and parent codes of conduct that apply to all Blues coaches, players and parents.

Although the expectations of competitive hockey players and families are quite demanding, they are necessary in order to be fair to the coaching staff and other teammates who are willing to make a similar commitment. Therefore, it is important that these expectations are understood and agreed to early on so as to avoid issues later in the season. Failure to honour the commitment level as laid out by the Blues Hockey program will result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the coach based on the appropriate measures provided to them by the Blues Executive. Coaches shall notify the Host Director of any disciplinary action taken for breach of the **Blues Attendance, Commitment and Multiple-Sport Policy**. The Coach shall maintain a record with respect to each player who is disciplined, and all measures taken.

Playing Blues hockey is a privilege for the skilled hockey player, not a right. Playing Blues hockey can be an incredibly rewarding experience since it allows participation in an activity at a highly competitive level. This being said, it is not skill alone that dictates who will be selected. If players and/or parents are unable or unwilling to make the commitment necessary, then another player may be chosen to play on the Blues team who is willing to make the proper commitment. Players will be evaluated based on both on-ice and off-ice skills. A player's attitude will also be taken into consideration. Attitude includes work ethic, commitment, desire, determination, discipline, respect for all participants and coachability.

In order to avoid misunderstandings with respect to required commitment, it is important to fully articulate the expectation of the Blues Hockey program at the onset. Before being rostered on a Blues team, each coach, player and the parents of each player will accept the **Blues Attendance, Commitment and Multiple-Sport Policy** (via registration) confirming their commitment to the principles outlined above.