



Hamden Youth Hockey Association

Code of Conduct

Purpose

The Hamden Youth Hockey Association (HYHA) is committed to fostering a positive, inclusive, and respectful environment for all participants in its youth hockey programs, in alignment with its mission. This Code of Conduct establishes expectations for parents, legal guardians, family members, and other supporters of HYHA players to promote sportsmanship, safety, and community values.

Applicability

This Code applies to all parents, legal guardians, family members, and supporters (collectively, "Supporters") of players registered in HYHA programs, as well as Active Members. Supporters are expected to uphold this Code during all HYHA activities, including practices, games, tournaments, and off-ice events, whether in-person or online.

Expectations

Supporters shall:

1. **Promote Sportsmanship:** Encourage players to play by the rules, respect opponents, coaches, officials, and teammates, and demonstrate graciousness in victory and defeat. Applaud positive efforts by all teams to model good sportsmanship.
2. **Support Skill Development:** Emphasize the importance of practice, effort, and skill development over winning, recognizing that these contribute to players' growth as athletes and individuals.
3. **Respect Coaches and Officials:** Support volunteer coaches and officials by refraining from criticism, yelling instructions during games or practices, or engaging in behavior that undermines their authority. Communicate concerns privately and constructively, following HYHA protocols.
4. **Maintain a Positive Environment:** Refrain from conduct that embarrasses or demoralizes players, including yelling at participants or engaging in disruptive behavior. Foster a supportive atmosphere that prioritizes player well-being.
5. **Uphold Safety and Privacy:** Respect locker rooms, benches, and other designated areas as private spaces for players, coaches, and officials. Adhere to HYHA's safety guidelines, including SafeSport protocols, as coordinated by the Director of Player Safety.
6. **Engage Responsibly Online:** Comply with HYHA's Social Media Guidelines, which prohibit negative, defamatory, or harassing posts about HYHA participants, programs, or affiliates on social media or other digital platforms. Share positive content that aligns with HYHA's values.



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7. **Learn and Follow Rules:** Familiarize themselves with the rules of hockey, HYHA policies, and USA Hockey regulations to support fair play and informed engagement with the sport.

Social Media Guidelines

Supporters shall:

- Post only positive or constructive content related to HYHA activities (e.g., game highlights, team achievements).
- Avoid sharing sensitive information, such as player injuries or private team matters, without authorization.
- Refrain from tagging or identifying players without parental consent, in accordance with privacy guidelines.
- Report inappropriate online behavior to the Director of Marketing or Board of Directors for review.

Enforcement

1. **Reporting Violations:** Suspected violations of this Code shall be reported in writing to the President, Secretary, or Director of Player Safety within 30 days of the incident, unless extenuating circumstances apply.
2. **Review Process:** The Board of Directors or a designated Disciplinary Committee shall investigate violations, following procedures outlined in the Bylaws. Investigations may include interviews, document review, and hearings, with confidentiality maintained to the extent possible.
3. **Sanctions:** Violations may result in sanctions, including but not limited to warnings, suspension from attending HYHA events, or expulsion from the program, as determined by the Board of Directors by majority vote.
4. **Appeals:** Supporters subject to sanctions may appeal to the Board of Directors within 10 days of notification. The Board's decision on appeal shall be final, except as required by USA Hockey or applicable law.
5. **SafeSport Compliance:** Violations involving safety or abuse shall be reported to the Director of Player Safety for coordination with USA Hockey's SafeSport Program, as required.

Acknowledgment

Supporters shall acknowledge receipt and understanding of this Code annually on HYHA's website, as coordinated by the Registrar, typically at the time of upcoming season rosters. The Code shall be available on the HYHA website (www.hyha.org)