

Watertown Youth Hockey Coaches Code of Conduct

Participation in Watertown Youth Hockey is a privilege, and everyone associated with the program, including coaches, players, caregivers and spectators will be held responsible/accountable to meet appropriately high but attainable standards of conduct that ensure a safe, healthy, positive, supportive and enjoyable developmental environment for all participants.

The coaches of Watertown Youth Hockey are unpaid volunteers who generously donate their valuable time and attention to teach and develop life and hockey skills that produce good future citizens and hockey players in a safe, healthy, and positive environment.

They are the foundation of our program and will be afforded appropriate gratitude and respect.

Active or passive disrespect or willful disobedience of Watertown Youth Hockey coaches and staff or rink personnel is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

- Coaches are the lead supervisors, ultimately responsible for all in-rink WYH player health, safety, and discipline rules and issues, with caregivers and spectators assisting and supporting them with parallel and overlapping layers of supervision of players and as necessary, identifying, addressing, and escalating issues to the coach's attention.
- Coaches will provide timely, tactful and matter of fact feedback to caregivers regarding their player.
- Coaches are primarily responsible for the in-rink enforcement of the Player Code of Conduct with appropriate feedback, support and oversight provided by the caregivers and the Safe Sport representative.
- Coaches will always skate intentionally and under control to reduce the potential for high impact collisions with players that could result in serious injuries to model the behaviors expected of players.
- Coaches will only physically touch or move players as necessary to adjust and correct them for playing, equipment, and health and safety purposes, using only the minimum effort necessary while in full view of other coaches or Caregivers. Diffuse the situation, per Safe Sport regulations.
- Coaches will always employ a system of two-person integrity when providing players with dressing and bathroom assistance, ensuring no adult is ever alone in a locker room, bathroom or enclosed area with any non-caregiver adult without at least one other caregiver, coach or adult present.
- Coaches will not use profanity, abusive or demeaning language, and will address players in a professional manner.
- Coaches are authorized to escalate disciplinary consequences according to the context, severity, and duration of the disciplinary infraction.
- Coaches are authorized to assess two-minute minor to five-minute major "penalties" with players sent to the bench.

- Coaches are authorized to address a player's non-compliance or refusal of discipline with a practice benching.
- Coaches will escalate any persistent or unresolved discipline and safety concerns to the Safe Sport Representative for review as a "strike".
- Coaches will host a "Meet the Coach" session with all caregivers and players prior to the end of the first week of practice and all coaches, caregivers and player will sign and submit their respective code of conduct.

I have read and understand my responsibilities and acknowledge that my participation in the Watertown Youth Hockey Program is contingent upon my fulfilling the obligations of this Coaches Code of Conduct.

Coach's Name

Coach's Signature