

EYHA CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

1. The purpose of this document is to elaborate on and combine the existing codes of conduct by detailing the expected behavior of players, parents, and coaches within EYHA. It also outlines the consequences for not following these and other codes of conduct. The referenced codes of conduct can be found at the following link.

- a. [Codes of Conduct](#) - USA Hockey
- b. [Evansville Youth Hockey Association | Coach Code of Conduct](#) - EYHA and USA Hockey
- c. [Evansville Youth Hockey Association | Parent & Spectator Code of Conduct](#) - EYHA

2. Player Conduct

- a. Be a good sport and work hard.
- b. Coaches may expect players to wear certain team clothing into the locker room.
- c. Players should be in the locker room at the time appointed by the coach, who should communicate that expected time to parents several hours (or the night) beforehand. In the case of morning games, any clothing expectations should be communicated no later than 9pm on the night before the game.
- d. If a coach must correct a player's behavior/attitude/uniform expectation in the locker room, coaches have the responsibility to notify the parents as soon as possible.
- e. To better the Association, we need players and parents with great attitudes. Coaches and volunteers signed up to coach children out of a love of the sport. Conversations between parents and coaches, especially on contentious matters, should not be held in front of other players and should not occur immediately after a game
- f. Things NOT tolerated by the Association
 - i. Bullying or harassment of any kind towards a teammate or opposing player
 - ii. Lack of respect for coach, fellow player, referee, parent, or EYHA volunteer
 - iii. Complaining about ice time or shifts from players OR parents – ice time is earned not entitled. The players who are understanding the systems and performing them properly will get ice in crunch time. The opportunity will always be available for those who want to work harder to try to win out those positions through hard work.
 - iv. Negative attitude towards the team. The EYHA will not tolerate a player being negative towards a teammate.

3. Parent Conduct

- a. Conversations between parents and coaches, especially on contentious matters, should not be held in front of other players and should not occur immediately after a game.
- b. If a parent and coach have a respectful conversation and a matter remains unresolved, any further comment should be directed to the Coaching Director and should not be a basis for further conversation among other parent
- c. Parents approaching the bench during games
 - i. If a parent is needed at the bench due to a player injury, the coaches will signal to the parents to come to the bench.

- ii. Otherwise, all parents shall remain in the spectator area. Violation can result in removal from the rink.
- d. Communication with coaches
 - i. At no time will a parent confront or contact a coach to complain about a player's ice time or shifts or position on the team. Complaints should be directed to the Coaching Director.
 - ii. At no time will a parent confront or contact a coach to complain about a coach's decision to not roster their child during travel tryouts. Complaints should be directed to the Coaching Director.
 - iii. Acceptable coach communication includes an email to the coach asking what the player needs to work on to become a more useful member of the team, notification of absence from practice or a game, etc.
 - iv. At a minimum, it is expected that Parents observe a 48-hour cooling off period before contacting or talking to a Coaching Director if you are upset regarding actions during a game. The Coaching Director will make inquiries, and respond to the parents. This cooling off period is not applicable to player safety issues that need to be addressed immediately. In that event, contact the Coaching Director immediately.
- e. Communication with other members of the association and other participants in EYHA activities, including other teams and officials.
 - i. At all EYHA events, parents should demonstrate a positive and respectful attitude toward everyone.
 - ii. Parents shall refrain from criticizing players' performance at all times.
 - iii. Parents shall refrain from criticizing coaches' decisions, other than through the approved avenues listed above.
 - iv. Parents shall refrain from behavior requiring an official's intervention.
 - v. When live streaming a game, parents must ensure that any comments made align with the expectations of this code of conduct.
 - vi. Additionally, parents should be aware that their child's eligibility to participate in EYHA activities may be affected by a failure to comply with these codes of conduct.

4. Disciplinary Actions

- a. Players – as determined by the coach
 - i. First offense- player sits 2 shifts, Communication with parents
 - ii. Second offense- player sits 1 period, Communication with parents
 - iii. Third offense- player sits 1 game, Communication with parents
 - iv. If a fourth time should happen, the player, parents, and coaches will meet to discuss. The player will be subject to removal from the team.
 - v. During any time while a player is being disciplined by sitting out a shift, if the player creates a disruption on the bench with their attitude or action, the coach may send the player to the locker room to change out of their equipment and sit in the spectator area.
- b. Parents – as determined by the EYHA board
 - i. Warning
 - ii. Suspension from attendance
 - iii. Expulsion from Association

5. Coaches Conduct and Expectations

- a. General Conduct -Coaches may run the team in accordance with accepted, appropriate coaching principles.
- b. If the Board addressed a conduct expectation, USA Hockey, SafeSport, or other player/safety issue, the coach will modify their conduct immediately. If the Board must repeatedly address conduct expectations with a coach or coaches because the conduct is not changing, the Board reserves the right to remove the coach(es) at any time and replace with another coach or coaches at the discretion of the board.
- c. Conduct during games and practices
 - i. Coaches should recognize the wide age gap between players and coaches, and the meaningful impact their words or tone may have on the players
 - 1. Whenever possible feedback should always be constructive.
 - 2. Coaches should use the bench to address players who won't listen.
 - 3. Yelling to address a player's performance is not acceptable. Yelling to get a player's attention on the ice is allowable if it is strictly for that purpose.
- d. Travel Team Tryouts
 - i. The EYHA expects coaches to hold a Parent Meeting before tryouts to outline coach's expectations
 - 1. This meeting should occur with parents or guardians immediately before tryouts begin
 - 2. Projected costs should be communicated. Precision isn't important, but parents should be informed of the magnitude of travel hockey financial commitment.
 - 3. Travel expectations should also be communicated, including expected travel destinations, which league the team will participate in, and the approximate number of games to be played in the season.
 - 4. Coaching style should be explained (i.e. ice time is earned), so there are not surprises after rostering.
 - 5. Expected roster size should be communicated.
 - 6. Before tryouts, coaches at the High School level should have a meeting with both players and parents.
 - 7. During the tryout meeting, coaches must inform parents (or high school players) how they will communicate the tryout results. This could include calling families/players or posting the roster.