



**Iron Range Hockey Association**  
**P.O. Box 105**  
**Negaunee, MI 49866**  
[www.ironrangehockey.com](http://www.ironrangehockey.com)

## **IRHA Team Guardian Code of Conduct**

- Let kids be kids. Fun should be paramount.
- Be supportive.
- Be disciplined. Manage your emotions and set a good example that teaches your child to do the same.
- Be positive, and when adversity comes, be constructive not destructive. If you must be critical, don't get personal. Direct your comments at the action, not the person.
  - Be proactive. Getting involved as a volunteer, coach or official in your association can give you an even greater influence on your child's hockey experience.
- Your child's coach is likely a volunteer, and often also a parent, donating their time to help your child. While criticism might be appropriate, it should be done constructively and through appropriate channels.
- Be respectful to everyone, including officials, especially in situations of disagreement or conflict.
- Don't bully or harass. Speak out if you see bullying or harassing behavior from others.
- Focus on the process, not the outcome, and teach your child to do the same.
- Kids learn best by doing.
- Praise your child's effort more often than their performance. Studies show it helps them better develop the confidence to meet new challenges and overcome obstacles.
- Keep hockey in perspective. Maintain a healthy balance of hockey and non-hockey activities. Encourage your child to be well-rounded.
- Enjoy the youth hockey experience with your child. Life moves fast and time passes quickly. Soon your child will be grown and you'll wish you could return to these days, if just for a moment. So savor these seasons, don't rush them. Make the experience one that you'll remember fondly together years from now.

DO NOT FORCE your children to participate in sports, but support their desires to play their chosen sports. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.

ENCOURAGE your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.

DO NOT EMBARRASS your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit.

EMPHASIZE and celebrate major moments and accomplishments, and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize scores and stats.”

KNOW AND STUDY the rules of the game and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.

APPLAUD a good effort in both victory and defeat, and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice—it is destructive. Work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.

RECOGNIZE the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them. IF YOU ENJOY THE GAME, learn all you can about hockey—and volunteer.

RESPECT officials and their calls on the ice.”

DISPLAY good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials.

ACT APPROPRIATELY; do not taunt or disturb other fans; enjoy the game together.

CHEER GOOD PLAYS of all participants; avoid booing opponents.

CHEER IN A POSITIVE MANNER and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive and will not be tolerated.

HELP PROVIDE a safe and fun environment