



Player Code of Conduct Policy

This policy is adapted from the USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Player's Code of Conduct

As a STMA player, participating in USA Hockey, I agree to always honor the game by respecting the sport's ROOTS:

- R** – The **RULES** of hockey keep the game fair. Respect for the rules means we honor our sport.
- O** – The **OPPONENT** challenges us to do our best. They are on the ice to do their best and have fun, just like you are. Without opponents, there is no game. Be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.
- O** – **OFFICIALS** have been selected and trained to enforce rules, and they have a very difficult job. Without officials, the game would be unsafe and unfair. Officials are not perfect (just like athletes, coaches, and parents) and sometimes make mistakes. However, respect must be shown even when you disagree.
- T** – Being a **TEAMMATE** is part of hockey. Being with teammates should be fun. Encouraging, supportive teammates practice together to learn teamwork, sportsmanship, and discipline.
- S** – Having **SELF-RESPECT** in hockey means you will challenge yourself to give 100% effort in all things and practice self-control on and off the ice.

Further, I pledge to abide by the following Code of Conduct Policy:

1. **Play for fun.** Work hard to improve your skills and give 100% at practice and games.
2. **Learn teamwork, sportsmanship, and discipline.** It is a privilege, not a right, to play youth hockey.
3. **Respect and support your teammates.** Be a team player, get along with my teammates, and encourage my teammates. Do not criticize other teammates or their play. Hockey is a team sport. The interests of the team take precedence over the individual.

4. **Respect and support your coaches.** Adhere strictly to the coach's rules and be supportive of the coach's practice plans, game plans, and other decisions.
5. **Be on time.** Be at the arena by the appointed time set by the coaches. If unable to attend practices and/or games, notify the coach or team manager in advance. A legitimate reason such as religion class, school activity, illness, etc. must be provided.
6. **Respect and support officials.** Learn the rules and play by them. Never argue with an official's decision. Trust the coaches to handle all matters pertaining to officials.
7. **Do not attempt to deliberately injure another player.** Any player incurring a MATCH penalty for "attempt to injure" or engaging in any other offense deemed equally serious by the coach may be subject to disciplinary action beyond the USA Hockey rules as deemed appropriate by the STMAYHA Executive Board. Fighting, wrestling, or throwing a punch in a game, practice, or locker room qualifies under this code.
8. **Always conduct yourself in a respectable manner.** Destructive or delinquent behavior in the locker room and/or before, during, or after a practice or game will not be tolerated. Conduct should be respectable when with the team at any other public facility including, but not limited to, restaurants, hotels, etc.
9. **Use of cell phones or other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras is strictly prohibited in the locker rooms.**
10. **Player Behavior Specifics.** There will be ZERO tolerance of offensive behavior, either physical or verbal. Harassment, obscene language or gestures, inappropriate physical contact, and other behavior deemed to be offensive toward coaches, officials, teammates, opponents, parents, spectators, volunteers, arena personnel or STMAYHA officials will not be tolerated.
11. **Follow the rules.** Adhere to all policies, procedures, rules, and guidelines set forth by STMAYHA, District 5, Minnesota Hockey, and USA Hockey.

Depending on facts and circumstances, consequences due to violation(s) of the above may range from verbal warnings, loss of playing time, probation, suspension, removal from the team and/or STMAYHA.

Any alleged violation of this Code of Conduct brought to the STMAYHA Board of Directors may be referred for a disciplinary hearing with the Executive Board if warranted. Past concerns may be considered by the STMAYHA Board of Directors. Following a disciplinary hearing, the STMAYHA Executive Board will notify the individual(s) in writing, outlining the sanction that is being set forth. This will be done in a timely manner.

All violations and resulting sanctions will be maintained in confidence by STMAYHA and will be cumulative throughout the parent/legal guardian's participation in STMAYHA. If need be, all sanctions will be forwarded to District 5 and/or Minnesota Hockey for further enforcement.