

# **HURON HOCKEY ASSOCIATION – CODE OF CONDUCT**

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Huron Hockey wishes to provide a program aimed at increased participation, improved skills and a responsible environment for the conduct of youth hockey. Participation in HHA is a privilege. The actions of a player, their Parent(s)/Guardian(s) or both may cause privileges to be revoked. Sportsmanship is the responsibility of everyone involved in HHA activities, including all elected and appointed HHA officials, coaches, referees, parents, fans and players. It is vital that HHA strive to create and maintain a positive environment for coaches, players and fans, both on and off the ice.

The guidelines listed below are designed to provide this positive environment. These guidelines are not intended to be an all-inclusive list of association rules concerning player, coach, and parent behavior. Players, coaches, and parents affiliated with HHA are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful of others and reflects positively on HHA and the Huron community. Players are expected to use good judgment and common sense in their behavior consistent with social standards of conduct normally expected in youth athletic setting and core values of hockey clubs affiliated with USA Hockey.

Violation of the Code of Conduct will be presented to the Disciplinary Board.

All participants in HHA will:

- Insure their conduct demonstrates good sportsmanship and represents HHA in a positive manner.
- Know, understand, and abide by the rules of HHA, SDAHA, and USA Hockey.
- Conduct his/herself in accordance with the “Code of Conduct” detailed in this document.
- Refrain from physically, verbally, or psychologically abusing any player, parent, game official, spectator, or Board member or volunteer.
- Sign and acknowledge the standards of behavior listed in the Code of Conduct

## **PLAYER'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

Players who participate in HHA should consider it an honor and a privilege. With this privilege comes responsibility to teammates, coaches, parents and to the entire HHA hockey program, which you represent to other teams and communities. Among these responsibilities are:

1. No drinking alcoholic beverages or illegally using any controlled substance or tobacco products. Note- A coach, referee, or HHA board member has the authority to remove a player from the ice who in his/her opinion is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
2. Stealing and/or vandalism of any property is prohibited.
3. Hockey players should always conduct themselves so as to maintain the highest principles, integrity, and dignity of their institution in particular and The Game in general.
4. Hockey players accept the authority of all game officials. At no time is it appropriate to demonstrably question the decisions and actions of game officials, particularly on-ice officials. (ie Never dispute an on-ice officials call.)
5. Hockey players accept the notion that an athlete's strong desire to compete and succeed is in no way compromised by respect for the rule book and respect for all opponents. Acceptance of this concept is the very heart of sportsmanship and fair play.
6. Hockey players' actions will never deliberately jeopardize the safety and well being of opponents, teammates, officials, or spectators.
7. Hockey players accept that their academic responsibilities supersede their athletic responsibilities.
8. Hockey players will honestly report all injuries and medical conditions in a timely manner to the appropriate institutional medical personnel.
9. Show respect toward opposing coaches and players and to game officials at all times. The use of profanity and/or gestures toward officials, players, spectators or coaches will not be tolerated.
10. Follow the directions of your coach and be willing to accept criticism of your shortcomings.
11. Be a team player and give due credit to your teammates. Do not criticize your fellow players and coaches.
12. Attend all scheduled team activities except when properly excused.
13. Always be properly prepared. Keep your game uniform clean, your equipment in good repair and your skates sharp. Bring two sticks to games and practices.
14. Be a competitor. You are expected to give your best at all times. Play hard but fairly.
15. Be gracious and courteous in victory and defeat.
16. Leave and keep locker rooms in a clean and orderly manner.
17. Line up and shake hands with the opposing team after all games.

18. Maintain good citizenship (i.e. Grades, attendance and conduct).
19. Maintain proper behavior that will reflect positively on HHA. Any damages assessed to HHA or an HHA team by any facility used by these teams, will be shared evenly by the parents of all players who were at the facility during that time, unless responsibility can be established.

## **PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT**

Being involved in HHA demands time and effort on the part of the parent. Parents, in no small measure, help determine the success of the hockey program by understanding the requirements of team participation. Some of the things that a parent can do to help their player and the team are:

1. Put the welfare of the player ahead of personal reflected glory.
2. Make sure that your player knows that win or lose, you appreciate the effort made. Praise, don't criticize.
3. Accept disappointment gracefully; don't pass it along to the player or team members.
4. Acknowledge your coaches for a job well done and discuss any health issues concerning your child with them. Never discuss playing time, coaching decisions or abilities directly with the coach. These issues should be directed to the Coaching Director or President to get resolved.
5. Appreciate the fact that the coach has the responsibility of an entire team in the locker room and on the ice. The coach is not responsible for the behavior of your child outside of the locker room and ice surface. Activity and behavior of the player at all times is the sole responsibility of the parents.
6. Don't be a chronic complainer. If you are convinced something is wrong on your player's team, contact your coordinator or a member of the HHA Board of Directors.
7. Know the requirements of HHA hockey team participation and encourage your player to live up to them.
8. It is the responsibility of the parents to inform the coach or president of any known or alleged violations of the players code of conduct.
9. Parents are asked to conduct themselves in a sportsmanship-like manner and instill in their players the desire to reflect such sportsmanship.
10. Parents are expected to provide their players with the required equipment and assist them in taking proper care of their equipment as well as the public facilities used for games and practices.
11. Parents are responsible for providing or arranging transportation for their players.
12. Parents are to support the HHA philosophy of encouraging players to enjoy hockey as a sport and to have fun. Parents that place undue expectations on their players minimize the player's enjoyment and development in the game of hockey.
13. Parents are expected to assist the team where needed. This includes coverage of the games, HHA Tournaments. This includes: working in the feedbox, assist as minor officials, operate penalty boxes, keep scorebooks, monitor locker rooms, sell tickets and maintain the facility.
14. Parents are asked to pay fees by the deadlines to ensure that their player remains eligible to participate with his or her team. Players with unpaid fees for the current and/or prior season will not be allowed to participate in future HHA programs until all outstanding fees have been paid.
15. Ultimately the safety of the player is the responsibility of the parents. If a parent fears injury or witnesses poor sportsmanship, he/she has the right and responsibility to remove their child from playing under those conditions.
16. Any damages assessed to HHA or an HHA team at any facility used by these teams will be shared evenly by the parents of all players who were at the facility during that time, unless responsibility can be established.
17. Parents whose conduct reflects negatively on HHA will be referred to the appropriate level director or the HHA board for discussion and appropriate action.

## **COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT**

A coach is responsible for the operation and conduct of his/her team. He/she is the teacher of skills and a developer of players; socially, psychologically and physically. The coach is responsible to the HHA Board of Directors. These responsibilities include:

### **A. Responsibility to "The Game"**

1. Coaches are role models. As such, they shall always conduct themselves so as to maintain the highest principles, integrity, and dignity of The Game.
2. Coaches are responsible for knowing, understanding, and following all rules of the game as established and directed by the SDAHA and USA Hockey.
3. It is the coach's responsibility to make sure that all players understand the rules, their spirit, and the only legitimate processes by which to affect change.

4. Game officials - like coaches and players - are major participants in The Game. The coach shall neither exhibit nor tolerate any behavior from others (staff and squad) - verbal or otherwise - that might reflect poorly on an on-ice official. This includes, but is not limited to, arguing a judgment call in such a manner as to incite players and spectators against an official. There are approved methods by which a coach may comment on an official's performance. Public displays of displeasure before, during, or after a contest are not among these approved methods.

## **B. Responsibility to the Institution**

1. Coaches are educators. The rink serves as classroom, practices provide skills, and competition allows for the pursuit of excellence. This primary function of the coach must never be disregarded.
2. Coaches should constantly be alert to see that their program is being conducted and promoted properly. While there are definable duties in which coaches hold primary responsibility, coaches are also responsible for having an awareness of all institutional activities that may affect their program's performance and reputation.
3. Coaches should immediately notify the Coaches Director or President of any situation that might violate any HHA, SDAHA or USA Hockey rules or regulations.
4. Coaching Certifications - ALL coaches are required by HHA, SDAHA and USA Hockey to obtain appropriate certification(s) through the Coaching Education Program. Levels include Level 1 Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4. This clinic style program is offered periodically at different sites in the area and consists of both on-ice and off-ice instruction.
5. Maintain proper behavior that will reflect positively on HHA
6. Enforce common rules regarding care of equipment and facilities which include the following:
  - Restrain the players from damaging the rink, kicking the boards or related equipment with their skates or pounding them with their sticks.
  - Return any HHA equipment and jerseys to the Equipment Managers immediately following the season.
  - Do not damage locker rooms. Be sure your players leave locker rooms in a clean and orderly condition both home and away.
  - Safeguard other facilities and equipment utilized.

## **C. Responsibility to the Student-Athlete**

1. Coaches should never place the value of a win above the objective of instilling the highest ideals and character traits in their players. The safety and welfare of the players should always be uppermost in their mind and these values must never be sacrificed for personal prestige or personal gain.
2. Coaches should never teach their players tactics or skills designed to circumvent the intent of the rulebook and the standards of fair play. The rules exist to protect the players and provide a common standard by which final results will be determined. Coaches should not attempt to "beat the rules" or take any unfair advantage over an opponent.
3. Whenever players exhibit unsportsmanlike behavior on their own, it is the responsibility of the coach to address that behavior and put an end to it. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players on the ice, in the locker room, and immediately following a game.
4. The diagnosis and treatment of injuries is a medical problem and coaches should always defer to the proper medical authorities without the slightest interference.
5. Coaches are responsible for knowing and following the HHA manual, SDAHA playing rules and the USA Hockey playing rules. Coaches should not knowingly jeopardize the eligibility and participation of any student-athlete due to ignorance of the rules and their application.
6. Coaches should not make any demands on a student-athlete that in any way compromise the student-athlete's academic pursuits.
7. It shall be understood by coaches that their general responsibility to "the student-athlete" and to "The Game" includes all student-athletes, whether on his team or on an opponent's.
8. Respect, encourage and compliment players. Use constructive criticism only.
9. Develop each player as much as possible within the limits of their physical and mental abilities.
10. Use proper control at all times, because the coach is the model for the player.
11. Enforce rules fairly, without prejudice toward any one player.
12. Show enthusiasm and make hockey fun.
13. Maintain team discipline. When a player is disciplined, the coach should fairly inform the player of the reasons for the punishment before leaving the arena. Matters of discipline should be discussed privately between the player and the coach.

## D. Responsibility to Officials

1. All game officials - including but not limited to on-ice officials, goal judges, scorers, host facility personnel - shall at all times be treated in a professional and courteous manner.
2. In particular, on-ice officials should be treated with respect at all times and it is the particular responsibility of the host coach to insure for the safety and well-being of these officials in that host facility.
3. Coaches should be sensitive to the impropriety of private meetings with on-ice officials before, during, or after the contest, without the presence of a representative of the opposing team.
4. Coaches wishing to express displeasure with an official's conduct must follow the proper procedure as established by the SDAHA.

## E. COACHES RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGS

1. To expect team members to show up 30 minutes before practices and be dressed and ready to listen 15 minutes before practice.
2. The right to exercise reasonable discipline over the team and for the team to respond to that discipline without any verbal or physical abuse.
3. The right to penalize player's shifts or games depending on the severity of the offense.
4. The right to expect team members to be responsive to his/her instructions.
5. Expect parents attend the games to provide whatever assistance may be requested of them.

## Substance Abuse Policy

**Players:** Instances involving alcoholic beverages, illegal use of a controlled substance or tobacco products will be brought to the disciplinary committee for review and action. Athletes accused of violations will have a fair and impartial hearing before the committee before disciplinary action is taken. If validated, the player will be suspended for 2 games or 2 weeks whichever is greater. \*JV/Varsity play count as 1 game.

Individuals on suspension above must practice with a team under supervision of the coach. If it is determined that the individual's presence at practice is creating a disruption, additional action may be taken.

A second instance involving the use of alcoholic beverages or the illegal use of a controlled substance will result in suspension for the remainder of the season, including practices.

A second instance involving the use of a tobacco product will result in the individual being suspended for 4 weeks, with a maximum of 6 games, but no less than 4 games. Individuals on suspension above must practice with a team under supervision of the coach.

*The preceding rules are in effect only for the current hockey season— from date of first practice through the end of the competitive season.*

**Parents:** HHA recognizes the social situations that occur for parents and coaches during out of town travel. It should be remembered, however, that we are models for our youth. Please use discretion in the consumption of alcohol when players and children are present.

**Coaches:** Coaches will refrain from alcohol consumption prior to practices and games. When traveling with the team, use discretion with regard to alcohol consumption and tobacco use. Please use discretion in the consumption of alcohol when players and children are present.

Instances involving illegal use of a controlled substance or abuse of alcohol will be brought to the disciplinary committee for review and action. Coaches accused of violations will have a fair and impartial hearing before the committee before disciplinary action is taken.

**P.U.C.K (Parents United for Clean Kids)** - Statement of Purpose: The Parents of kids involved in the Huron Hockey Association are taking a voluntary and proactive step to prevent, identify, and protect our kids from the dangers of Drugs and Alcohol. In the intensely physical sport of hockey, we find it our responsibility to support and promote a Zero Tolerance approach to mixing this sport with impaired senses or with others who are impaired. With this purpose we have implemented a voluntary parent driven, random and selective drug and alcohol screening program

## **Grievance Policy and Process**

Most disputes are minor and can be resolved by following the appropriate channels to meet, discuss, and resolve the dispute. This is true whether the dispute involves a coach, player, parent, or a member of the Board of Directors. If individuals cannot resolve their differences then a written and signed complaint can be given to the team coordinator or any executive board member. Within five days of receipt of an allegation, the executive board will arrange for a meeting between the parties involved to resolve the issue. This meeting will be held no later than 14 days from receipt of the allegation. A formal write-up of the meeting will be documented at the next scheduled Board meeting. If the issue remains unresolved, the full board will be responsible for final adjudication and documentation as part of the Board minutes.

## **Discipline Committee**

The Discipline Committee will comprise of the Executive Board members.

## **General Disciplinary Process**

HHA reserves the right to take action that ensures the integrity and fidelity of the association, including actions that ensure association participants (Players, Coaches, Parents, Board Members) are acting within the spirit and letter of the HHA, SDAHA and USA hockey rules and policy.

Actions may include:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Written Warning and reprimand
3. Assignment of restorative acts (Training, apology, etc.)
4. Suspension from games and activities
5. Exclusion from HHA events
6. Removal from HHA

## **Theft and Vandalism Policy**

Theft or vandalism of property/equipment will result in a one-year suspension from all HHA sponsored events.

## **Player Misconduct**

Any player who engages in fighting, violence or any form of intimidation, or who receives a major or misconduct penalty for fighting, spearing, butt-ending or two unsportsmanlike penalties in one game will be disciplined as follows:

First Offense

- If penalty is called in a game the player will serve the state mandated penalty
- If penalty is not called or misconduct occurs at practice or off ice, coaches and/or discipline committee will determine penalty.

Second Offense

- Player is suspended, from all activities, until a meeting can be held with the Discipline Committee and the player, parents, coach.
- The meeting must take place within 5 days of the offense.
- The Discipline Committee will determine a sanction based in the circumstances. The sanction will be no less than a two-game suspension and no more than a five game suspension (unless aggravating circumstances are present)

Third Offense

- Player is suspended, from all activities, until a meeting can be held with the Discipline Committee and the player, parents, coach.
- The meeting must take place within 5 days of the offense.
- The Discipline Committee will determine a sanction based in the circumstances. The sanction will be no less than the suspension from the second offense and up to the balance of the season

Note: The coach or Discipline Committee will notify the player of the sanctions. Players may also be governed by SDAHA rules and sanctions. If use of alcohol, tobacco product, or drugs is found to be contributing factors, sanctions may be compounded.

Individuals on season ending suspensions may not participate in any team activities (i.e. meetings, practices, locker rooms, games, scrimmages, benches). Individuals on suspension for non-season ending suspensions must practice with a team under supervision of the coach. If it is determined that the individual's presence at practice is creating a disruption, additional action may be taken.