



**Acknowledgement and agreement via registration required for Participation in  
Starhawks Youth Hockey for the 2015/16 season.  
Parent's Code of Conduct**

As a Parent/legal guardian of a child involved in the Starhawks Youth Hockey Program I agree to honor the game and abide by and follow the rules and guidelines below:

**Recognize the Coaches' Commitment.** Your child's coaches have made a commitment that involves many hours of preparation beyond the time spent at practices and games. All of our coaches are volunteers. Respect their commitment and imagine yourself in their place before approaching them to discuss any issues you may perceive.

**Fill the Coach's Emotional Tank.** Too often, coaches hear only from parents who have complaints. Filling the coaches' Emotional Tanks with specific, truthful praise positively reinforces them to continue doing the things you see as benefiting the youth athletes.

**Let Coaches Coach.** It can confuse players to hear someone other than the coach yelling out instructions. Also, your instructions may counter the coaches' strategy and tactics, undermining team performance.

**Fill Your Child's Emotional Tank.** Competitive sports can be stressful to players. The last thing they need is your critiquing their performance...on top of what the coach may deliver and what they already are telling themselves. Let your children know you love and support them regardless of their performance.

**Don't Put the Player in the Middle.** You wouldn't complain to your children about how poorly their math teacher explains fractions. Don't share your disapproval of a coach with your children. Doing so may force the child to take sides, and not necessarily your side! If your child has an issue with the coach or another player and can maturely articulate it, encourage your child to approach the coach and at the very least learn some life lessons in self-advocacy with an authority figure. Otherwise, if you as a parent have an issue with the coach or player or you disapprove of how the coach handles a situation, seek a private meeting to discuss the matter.

**Contribute to a Positive Environment.** Fill all the players' Emotional Tanks when you see them doing something well. Honor the Game as a spectator, respecting ROOTS (Rules, Opponents, Officials, Teammates and Self), and encourage others around you to Honor the Game.

Additionally, I agree to the following items:

1. Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desire to play hockey. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun!
2. Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember Children learn by example, so applaud the play of both teams.
3. Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all its participants, your child will benefit. Always respect players, coaches and officials
4. Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-Emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
5. 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.
6. Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat; 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.
7. Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sports. Communicate with them and support them.
8. If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about hockey –and volunteer.