

WHK Youth Hockey - Code of Conduct

The WHK Youth Hockey Program believes strongly in the values of teamwork, sportsmanship and leadership through example. As a player and parent in the WHK organization, your actions reflect not only on you, but also on your teammates, your coaches and the WHK program.

Player Code of Conduct Agreement

- No swearing or abusive language on the bench in the rink or at any team function. Fighting will not be tolerated. Fighting will result in an appearance before a Discipline Committee.
- I will support and respect my teammates and opponents at all times. I will not tease, ridicule, put down or make fun of any players on my team, in our program or the opposing team, at any time.
- I will respect my coaches at all times and listen carefully to their instructions. I understand that they are giving their time to make me a better hockey player.
- I understand that my behavior reflects on my teammates, my coaches and the WHK program. I will always be on my best behavior at games, practices, hotels and other team events.
- I will not complain about penalties or calls made by the officials and I will respect the referees at all times. I understand that they are in charge of enforcing the rules of ice hockey, and I will respect their opinions at all times.
- I will show good sportsmanship at all times, both when winning and losing. I will always congratulate the other team and wish them good luck.
- I will be committed to developing as a hockey player. This includes attending practice, listening to my coach, and always giving my best effort.
- I will arrive at practices and games on time and prepared. I understand that it is my responsibility to have all of my equipment packed and ready to play a game.
- I will always leave the locker room clean and in good condition, both at my home rink and away.
- I will never bring drugs, alcohol, tobacco products or weapons of any kind to WHK games, practices, trips or other events.

Parents Code of Conduct Agreement

In The Stands

Parents can take the fun out of hockey by continually yelling or screaming from the stands. Parents should enjoy the game and applaud good plays for both teams. The stands are not a place from which parents should try to personally coach their kids. Kids often mirror the actions of their parents; if they see mom or dad losing their cool in the stands, they'll probably do the same on the ice.

Car and Home

Some parents not only spoil the fun for their kids at the ice rink, but also in the car, believing this is the perfect place for instruction. Parents should try to keep things in perspective. There's more to life than hockey, and the car and home are not places to coach. Parents need to remember that they are not the coach, and the most difficult kind of parent is the one who coaches against the real coach. It's unfair to put children in a position of having to decide who to listen to - their parents or the coach.

At Practice

Parents have to remember that if a child wants to improve, they have to practice - not just play. Even if a child is not the "star" player for a team, practice stresses the importance of teamwork, establishing goals, discipline and learning to control your emotions, all of which are important lessons children can use both in and away from sports. Parents also need to stress fair play and risk management to help eliminate injuries.

Support Your Child

There are many benefits that are derived from playing youth hockey. Boys and girls learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. They learn to work together, how to sacrifice for the good of the team, how to enjoy winning and how to handle defeat. In the process, they also learn important lessons about physical fitness and personal health. The degree to which your child benefits from his or her youth hockey experience is as much your responsibility as it is theirs. In order for your child to get the most out of a youth hockey program, it is important for you to show support and offer encouragement while maintaining a genuine interest in the team.

Always Be Positive

Parents serve as role models for their children, who often look to adults for advice, direction and approval. Never lose sight of the fact that you are a role model, and strive to be a positive role model. As a parent, one of the most important things you can do is show good sportsmanship at all times to coaches, referees, opponents and teammates. Remember that your children are PLAYING hockey. It is important to allow them to establish their own goals and play the game for themselves. Be careful not to impose your own standards or objectives.

Let the Coach "Coach"

Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are very important to the development of your child and the sport. Avoid placing an exaggerated emphasis on winning. A recent survey indicated 72% of children would rather play for a losing team than ride the bench for a winner. The most important aspect of your child's youth hockey experience is for them to have fun while developing physical and emotional skills that will serve them in life. A healthy, risk-free environment that emphasizes the importance of fair play, sportsmanship, discipline and, most importantly, fun will be invaluable for your child as he or she continues to develop a positive self image.

Bullying Policy

Whitman Hanson Kingston Youth Hockey has adopted an anti-bullying policy. We consider bullying to be behavior from verbal teasing to physical aggression. It's our position that no amount of bullying is acceptable. Not all joking or horseplay is bullying, but when the intent or effect is to cause distress, repetition of such behavior is bullying and will not be tolerated. Physical bullying can include pushing, hitting, or kicking a person or interfering with their property. Verbal bullying is the use of words or gestures to hurt or humiliate another person, including name-calling, racial or derogatory insults and teasing.

It is the responsibility of everyone to stop bullying. If you are being bullied, or know of someone being bullied, you must tell your coach or a member of the Board as soon as possible. If the Board determines that a person involved in the WHK Hockey has taken part in bullying behavior, a warning will be given. If the behavior continues, that person may be suspended. Any further violations will be referred to the Board for further action, which can include further warnings, discussions with parents, further suspensions or exclusions, ineligibility for tournaments and playoffs, and possible removal from the team.

I/We understand that by signing this agreement, I promise to uphold the WHK and USA Hockey Player/Parent Code of Conduct. I realize that violation of this Code of Conduct may result in loss of ice-time, suspension for part of or all of a game, or even ejection from the WHK Program.

Player: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____