

## **West Carleton Minor Hockey Association Code of Conduct**

***Although this Code of Conduct has been written using “plain language” where possible, it is understood that younger players may/will not comprehend it. It is for this reason that I ask parents/guardians to review this Code of Conduct with their children to ensure that there is a general understanding of what the objective of the code is.***

***Thank you***

***WCMHA Board of Directors***

All members of the West Carleton Minor Hockey Association Corporation and all invitees, including spectators, shall abide by the following code of conduct. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary measures, including the suspension and/or expulsion of the offender, being imposed by a Disciplinary Committee of the Corporation.

1. Win or lose, players shall congratulate their team-mates and coaches as well as the players and coaches of the opposing team in a genuine and positive manner. Derogatory comments are absolutely forbidden.
2. The referees are in charge of the game. Only the captains and alternate captains of the team shall address the referees and then shall do so only in a civil tone. Direct communication between Referee's and Coaches will be utilized where warranted. This will be at the discretion of the officials and the Association. Use of foul or abusive language is absolutely prohibited. While explanations of a referee's call may be legitimately sought, questioning the referee's judgement is forbidden. Accept the call and get on with the game.
3. Spectators shall provide only a positive encouragement for the players, coaches, and referees. Derogatory comments aimed at any player, coach, or referee from a spectator shall be addressed with a strong warning on the first offence at any game. Upon the commission of a second offence by the same spectator, that spectator shall be removed from the Arena and forbidden re-entrance during the game and spectator's identity shall be properly noted. Should any spectator be removed from any three games, that spectator's removal shall be accompanied by a (one-month) ban from attendance at any games held in West Carleton. Upon a fourth offence, that spectator shall be banned for the balance of the season.
4. The coaching staff shall lead by example and shall adhere in all respects to this code of conduct. In addition, coaching staff shall address their own players the referees and the coaching staff of the other team only in a civilized and respectful tone. Coaching staff of the team may not address the players of the opposing team except to provide positive encouragement or congratulations. Discouraging or humiliating remarks, gestures or other communications to players, referees and the opposing team shall be absolutely forbidden. In addition, coaching staff shall at all times, both in practices and games, treat their own players with respect and dignity. Humiliation, belittlement and embarrassment through words, actions or conduct are inappropriate forms of punishment and ineffective instructional methods and shall be absolutely prohibited.
5. Each child is entitled to the benefit of constructive criticism and instruction in order to develop his or her skills to their maximum potential. Coaching staff must carry out performance appraisals in an impartial and objective way based solely on an evaluation of technical skills, play, leadership, sportsmanship and the adherence of the children to the core values of the WCMHA. Those being fair play, skills development in a safe and

friendly environment and the encouragement of fun and friendship Favouritism, actual and perceived, must be always avoided.

6. Play hard but play fair. Hockey by its nature is a physically tough game; it shall be played with maximum effort in a sportsmanlike manner within the rules from time to time endorsed by the Ottawa and District Minor Hockey Association (ODMHA). Players shall not set out to intentionally maim or injure another player and the coaching staff, by their actions, words, conduct or inaction, shall not encourage or endorse such behaviour.

7. Players and coaches alike shall participate in the game of hockey with honesty and integrity. Any player who intentionally participates in any conduct which results in the intentional violation for the rules of eligibility governing the WCMHA or otherwise intentionally circumvents the rules of eligibility shall be subject to an immediate one year suspension from participation in all hockey programs run by the WCMHA. Any person committing a second offence shall be subject to a lifetime suspension from participation in the hockey programs of the WCMHA at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee.

8. Each member of the coaching staff shall have a positive obligation to expeditiously report to the executive of the WCMHA any instance of a breach of the rights of any player of which he has specific knowledge or which he has reasonable grounds for believing has occurred.

9. The coaching staff shall strictly adhere to the *Policies and Procedures* for coaching staff established from time to time by the WCMHA.

10. Any member of the WCMHA found providing false or misleading registration information i.e. (incorrect place of residence) will be subject to a disciplinary hearing.

11. Any member of the WCMHA causing grievance to players, parents, coaches, team management, Executive Members will be asked to leave and will be provided a refund according to our Registration Policy or ban parent. Playing in WCMHA is a privilege not a right.

## **HARASSMENT**

When a young person is harassed or abused by an adult occupying a position of trust, the impact can be devastating. A major hurdle to healing the wounds that inevitable result is non-disclosure: in order to recover, victims must be heard and believed.

Harassment is understood as encompassing a very broad range of prohibited behaviour, including discriminatory conduct, physical and sexual harassment, emotional, mental, physical and sexual abuse.

Minor Hockey believes that any hockey player should have the ability to discuss any concerns that might be classified as harassment. Minor Hockey also believes that false allegations can be devastating to a person's career and personal life.

In view of the incidents of harassment that have affected the sport of hockey, we believe that there is a need for a concerned player, to be able to talk in private and confidentially with our organization.

We do not encourage minor or frivolous concerns that may result from frustration or anger to be reported or acted upon, however, we are available to talk to your request.

The Director of Risk & Safety is the appointed "Ombudsman" to hear your concerns and acts as Chair of the Disciplinary Committee.

Please feel free to contact our Risk & Safety officer if you believe there is a need to discuss any incident that, in your opinion, is an issue of harassment or breach of the Code of Conduct.

The Director of Risk & Safety contact information is available on our website.