

Schedule C of the MDMHA Constitution

Parents Code of Conduct

Parents Intro to Hockey

Hockey Parents Make the Difference!

This information has been put together to assist parents in becoming more familiar with the sport of ice hockey and its organization and structure at the grass-roots level. Here you will find information designed to enrich the entire youth hockey experience for parents and players alike.

Keep in mind that, above all, the motivating factor for most children who enter an organized youth sports program is their desire to have fun. This is particularly true with young children, many of who are newcomers to the amateur hockey scene. With a supportive attitude and a fundamental understanding of the "basics" of hockey, everyone will come away from their youth sports experience with a positive feeling.

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. The stands are not a place from which parents should try to personally coach their kids. Parents need to remember that they are not the coaches. Coaching and the progressive structure of the way we instruct young hockey players has greatly changed in the past 15-20 yrs. If you don't agree with or understand something that's happening on the ice, calmly ask the coach about it 24 hrs. after the practice or game. 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 on and off the ice.

At The Rink

Hockey parents can help create a fun environment by making certain their children are wearing properly fitted equipment. Parents also need to stress fair play and risk management to help eliminate injuries.

Initiation Program

The Canadian Amateur Hockey Association Initiation Program has been developed to make certain that a child's first experience with hockey is positive, safe and fun. Parents should avoid pressuring or placing unreasonable expectations on their children, particularly at the Initiation Program level. No matter what happens on the ice, children need your support, so always strive to be positive.

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 team-mates.

Remember that your children are PLAYING hockey. It is important to allow them to establish their own goals and play the game for themselves.

Let the Coach Coach

Avoid placing an exaggerated emphasis on winning. A recent survey indicated 72% of children in recreational hockey 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.

Positive Reinforcement

The best way to help children achieve goals and reduce their natural fear of failure is through positive reinforcement. After all, no one likes to make mistakes.

If your child does make a mistake - and they will (remember, they're just kids) - keep in mind that mistakes are an important part of the overall learning process. Strive to be supportive and point out the things they do well. Make your child feel like a winner.

We hope this information will be helpful to you as a hockey parent and will assist you to ensure that your child has an enjoyable and rewarding season!!

If you have any comments, questions, concerns, or recommendations feel free to contact an Millbrook & District Minor Hockey Association executive member.

Team Parent:

The person chosen by the team (House League) to be "Team Parent" will have a similar role to that of the Rep Team Manager, but on a smaller scale.

The team parent's duties would typically include:
Phoning team members with schedule changes etc.
Collecting moneys, tickets, etc. for the Coach.

Hand out schedules, newsletters, etc.

Help with organizing events such as team photos, social team events and tournament participation.

Assist the Executive Tournament Convenor, Fund Raising Representative and Treasurer with tournaments involving their team.

Parents have the right to:

1. Enjoy their children's pursuits in hockey.
2. Have consistent leadership through qualified coaching.
3. Have their children participate at a level that is consistent with their ability.
4. Have their children participate in a safe and healthy environment.
5. Have their children participate regardless of ability or income level.
6. Have their children receive an equal opportunity to strive for success.
7. Be treated with dignity and respect by all involved.

Players and/or Guardians are responsible for reading, ensuring they understand (ask if unsure), and returning their signed copy of the Parents Code of Conduct.

Parent's signature: _____

Guardian's signature: _____

Date: _____