

## **COACHING GUIDELINES**

The head coach is the person recognized by RLHA as having total responsibility for the team. With this responsibility comes the need for a wide range of teaching, organizational, interpersonal and parental skills in order to have a successful season. To meet the high expectations with this for all of our teams is one of our association's greatest challenges.

RLHA has found through experience that it is extremely important to have qualified coaches for all levels. Therefore, the RLHA Board selects coaches based on a number of criteria.

### **Support of the RLHA philosophy and principles**

- Coaches selected will reflect the RLHA mission statement and core values, and they will demonstrate good character and support RLHA in words and actions.

### **Coaches that are age appropriate**

- It is RLHA's intent to place coaches at the most appropriate level. This means that while a head coach may be very good in their coaching ability, if they don't have the ability to relate to the particular level and age of the child, it would be inappropriate to match that head coach with a group of players. We recognize that some coaches are better suited to working with younger/older players and it will be a key component in the overall assessment as to where head coaches should be placed.

### **Past hockey coaching experience and feedback**

- Coaches are selected for a one-year commitment. Having continuity from season to season is a significant strength to the overall program; however, it is also beneficial to have different coaches with different coaching strengths and weaknesses. Feedback from parents through the use of year end surveys and personal observation by the Board will be determinate factors in bringing back the same coach the following year.

### **Knowledge of the game of hockey**

- Coaches need to have a broad knowledge of the game, either as a former player or coach in order to effectively coach. Merely watching a hockey game or learning in a classroom does not adequately educate someone on the intricacies of the game, proper skill execution and fundamentals.

### **Ability to communicate effectively with parents and players**

- Most importantly, coaches need to communicate effectively with parents and players in order to have a successful season.

## **COACH'S RIGHTS**

- Be treated with respect by players, parents and the RLHA in words, actions and deeds.
- Be notified of a player's absence in advance.
- Have access to necessary safety and practice equipment.
- Discipline players for violating team or association rules as they deem fit.
- Position players where they determine their strengths will most benefit the team.
- Expect and demand that players practice hard, play hard, follow rules and instructions, and accept decisions without complaint or criticism.