

MARATHON COUNTY YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION COACH EXPECTATIONS and GUIDELINES

The Marathon County Youth Hockey Association is dedicated to the development of hockey skills and attitudes of area youth for the purpose of fielding competitive teams and to benefit our Wausau high school programs. We expect our players to strive to the highest standards of playing skills and conduct both on and off the field.

Consistent with this purpose, MCYHA expects the following from its coaches:

- Coaches must understand and abide by the USA Hockey Coaching Ethics Code.
- Coaches must remember that **winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one**. Care more about the child than winning the game. Remember, players are involved in hockey for fun and enjoyment.
- Coaches must be a positive role model to your players, display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of players.
- Coaches must be generous with praise when it is deserved; be consistent, honest; be fair and just; do not criticize players publicly; learn to be a more effective communicator and coach; don't yell at players.
- Coaches must adjust to personal needs and problems of players, be a good listener, never verbally or physically abuse a player or official; give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem; teach them the basics.
- Coaches must organize practices that are fun and challenging for your players. Familiarize yourself with the rules, techniques and strategies of hockey; encourage all your players to be team players.
- Coaches must maintain an open line of communication with your players' parents. Explain the goals and objectives of the Association and your coaching style.
- Coaches must be concerned with the overall development of your players. Stress good health habits and clean living.

COACHING GUIDELINES

- **COMPLIANCE WITH ASSOCIATION POLICIES REGARDING CONTACT WITH PLAYERS:** All coaches must be aware of and comply with the policies of the Association regarding contact and relationships with players of the Association. All coaches must abide by the Association policies and will be relieved of any coaching responsibilities if a violation of the Association policies is proven.

- **PLAYING TIME:** Coaches should be aware of and comply with the MCYHA Policy on Equal Playing Time.
- **MIXED GENDER TEAMS: MINIMUM DRESS IN LOCKER ROOM FOR ALL SKATERS IS T-SHIRTS/SHORTS.** All players shall be allowed reasonable time to dress away from team and there shall be a reasonable time frame to assemble prior to game time (Chalk talks and pre-game talks).
- **CONDUCT:** The Coach should have absolute control of language and actions of all members of the team in all areas where the team is assembled; including practice games, locker rooms and travel. Report/deal with all problems immediately and with equal concern to all parties involved.
- **MEETING:** The Coach will attend Association Coaches Meetings and share ideas and information with other MCYHA Coaches.

TO PLAY THE GAME IS GREAT, TO LOVE THE GAME IS GREATER

Signature _____

Date _____