

## SFYHA COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

A coach is responsible for the operation and conduct of his/her team. He/she is the teacher of skills and a developer of players; socially, psychologically and physically. The coach is responsible to the Hockey Director and the SFYHA Board of Directors. These responsibilities include:

### 1. Responsibility to "The Game"

1. Coaches are role models. As such, they shall always conduct themselves so as to maintain the highest principles for human conduct, examples of integrity, and witnesses for how to show respect for the Game.
2. Coaches are responsible for knowing, understanding, and following all rules of the game as established and directed by the SFYHA, SDAHA and USA Hockey.
3. It is the coach's responsibility to make sure that all players understand the rules and the reasoning for why they have been promulgated, even when the coach disagrees with the rule. Coaches, therefore, are expected to only use legitimate processes through which positive change to those rules might be affected.

### 2. Responsibility to the Association

Coaches are educators. The rink serves as classroom, practices provide skills, and competition allows for the application of instilled disciplines along with the forum in which pursuit of excellence might be measured. This primacy function of the coach must never be disregarded. Behavior that reflects poorly on The Game or the SFYHA undermines a coach's ability to function effectively in this essential role.

1. Coaches must insure that their program is being conducted and promoted properly. While there are definable duties in which coaches hold primacy responsibility, coaches are also responsible for having an awareness of all institutional activities that may affect their program's performance and reputation.
2. Coaches must immediately notify the Director of Hockey or President of any situation that might violate any SFYHA, SDAHA or USA Hockey rules or regulations.
3. Coaching Certifications- ALL coaches are required by SFYHA, SDAHA and USA Hockey to obtain appropriate certification(s) through the Coaching Education Program. Levels include Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, Level 4, and Level 5 (Masters). This clinic style program is offered periodically at different sites in the area and consists of both on-ice and off-ice instruction. This includes the age-specific modules that are completed online. Coaches must advance in CEP levels in accordance with USA Hockey requirements.
4. Enforce common rules regarding care of equipment and facilities which include the following:
  1. Restrain the players from damaging the rink, kicking the boards or related equipment with their skates or pounding them with their sticks.
  2. Return any SFYHA equipment and jerseys to the Equipment Managers immediately following the season.
  3. Do not damage locker rooms. Be sure your players leave locker rooms in a clean and orderly condition both home and away.
  4. Safeguard other facilities and equipment utilized.

### 3. Responsibility to the Student-Athlete

Be passionate and make hockey fun.

- a. Coaches should never place the value of a win above the objective of instilling the highest ideals and character traits in their players.
- b. The safety and welfare of the players should always be uppermost in their mind and these values must never be sacrificed for personal prestige or personal gain.

The diagnosis and treatment of injuries is a medical problem and coaches should always defer to the proper medical authorities without the slightest interference.

c. Coaches should never teach their players tactics or skills designed to circumvent the intent of the rulebook and the standards of fair play.

d. Players will be held accountable by coaches. Whenever players exhibit unsportsmanlike behavior on their own, it is the responsibility of the coach to address that behavior and end it immediately. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players on the ice, in the locker room, and immediately following a game.

e. Coaches are responsible for knowing and following the SFYHA manual, SDAHA playing rules and the USA Hockey playing rules. Coaches should not knowingly jeopardize the eligibility and participation of any student-athlete due to ignorance of the rules and their application.

f. Respect the fact that SFYHA participants are student-athletes: emphasize the importance of academics and limit the demands placed on athletes outside of scheduled ice time to respect the athlete's need to study and rest adequately for learning.

g. Respect, encourage and compliment players. Use constructive criticism that focuses on skill improvement only. Praise publicly, correct privately.

h. Develop the hockey skills of every player within his/her personal limits of their physical, mental, and emotional abilities. A great coach holds an incredible impact on all of his students.

i. Demonstrate proper control of emotions at all times, because the coach is the model for the player

j. Enforce team rules fairly, without prejudice toward any one player.

k. Maintain team discipline. When a player is disciplined, the coach should fairly inform the player of the reasons for the punishment before leaving the arena. Matters of discipline should be discussed privately between the player and the coach. Always have another adult in the room.

#### **4. Behavior Toward Officials**

. All game officials- including but not limited to on-ice officials, goal judges, scorers, host facility personnel shall at all times be treated in a professional and courteous manner.

a. In particular, on-ice officials should be treated with respect at all times. It is the particular responsibility of the host coach to insure for the safety and well-being of these officials in that host facility.

b. Coaches should be sensitive to the impropriety of private meetings with on-ice officials before, during, or after the contest, without the presence of a representative of the opposing team.

c. Coaches wishing to express displeasure with an official's conduct must follow the proper procedure for making grievance as established by the SDAHA.

#### **5. Coaches Rights and Responsibilities**

. To expect team members to show up 30 minutes before practices and be dressed and ready to listen 15 minutes before the specified/assigned practice time reserved for the team at the training facility.

a. The right to exercise reasonable discipline over the team and for the team to respond to that discipline without any verbal or physical abuse.

b. The right to penalize player's shifts or games depending on the severity of the offense.

c. The right to expect team members to be responsive to his/her instructions.

- d. The right to expect parental support for punitive actions taken in the wake of poor conduct by players.
- e. Expect parents' attendance at games and their assistance provided for the good of the team when requested of them.