

Winston Salem Youth Hockey Association

Codes of Conduct

To play the game is great. To love the game is greater. USA Hockey publishes a set of core values and codes of conduct for parents, players, spectators and coaches.

The full USA Hockey Code of Conduct can be found [here](#).

In short, the USA Hockey Code of conduct is built on these core values:

SPORTSMANSHIP - Foremost of all values is to learn a sense of fair play. Become humble in victory, gracious in defeat. We will foster friendship with teammates and opponents alike.

RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL - Treat all others as you expect to be treated.

INTEGRITY - We seek to foster honesty and fair play beyond mere strict interpretation of the rules and regulations of the game.

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE AT THE INDIVIDUAL, TEAM AND ORGANIZATIONAL LEVELS - Each member of the organization, whether player, volunteer or staff should seek to perform each aspect of the game to the highest level of their ability.

ENJOYMENT - It is important for the hockey experience to be fun, satisfying and rewarding for all participants.

LOYALTY - We aspire to teach feelings of support and allegiance to the ideals and fellow members of the sport of hockey.

TEAMWORK - We value the strength of learning to work together. The use of teamwork is reinforced and rewarded by success in the hockey experience.

It is expected that all participants in Winston Salem Youth Hockey Association (WSYHA) will adhere to the USA Hockey Codes of Conduct. This includes Players, Parents, Spectators and Coaches. Below, find the WSYHA's Player Code of Conduct, Parent Code of Conduct and Spectator Code of Conduct.

Consistent with our mission, participation in youth hockey for WSYHA is meant to be an enjoyable experience for all. It is the intention of this policy to promote **fair play** and **respect** for all participants in WSYHA. It is expected that all players read and understand the Player Code of Conduct and continue to adhere to and follow all the principles contained in our Code of Conduct.

Player Standards & Code of Conduct

- I will always respect the game of hockey and I will always play to have fun.
- I will play and train to the best of my ability, giving 100% effort, 100% of the time.

- I will respect my coaches at all times and listen carefully to their instructions.
- I will demonstrate a team first attitude in my behavior and my play.
- I will do my best to be a coachable player, absorbing the instruction provided by my coaching staff.
- I will have a positive attitude and never give up on myself, my teammates or my coaches.
- I will maintain a healthy lifestyle which will contribute to my commitment to develop as a hockey player.
- I will abide by all team rules.
- I will arrive at practices and games on time and prepared.
- I will exemplify good sportsmanship in winning and in losing.
- I will respect officials and accept their calls without challenge.
- I will respect my opponents and their fans.
- I understand that there is no place for fighting, violent or overly aggressive play in youth hockey. I will refrain from fighting and any other activity that could injure me, another player or coach.
- I will respect all facilities that I play in, home and away, and leave all locker rooms clean and undamaged.
- I will not curse or use foul language in the locker room or on the ice at a game or in practice.
- I will not use drugs, alcohol or tobacco products.
- I will not use social media to embarrass or harass a teammate, coach, opponent or another team.
- I will not use cell phones or other mobile devices with recording or photo capabilities in the locker room.
- I understand that being part of Winston Salem Youth Hockey Association is a privilege, not a right.
- I will follow policies set by the Winston Salem Youth Hockey Association.

I understand that failure to adhere to the Winston Salem Youth Hockey Association Player Standards & Code of Conduct will lead to disciplinary action in the form of a potential suspension, loss of ice time or possibility of team expulsion.

Just as hockey has major and minor penalties with separate series of consequences, so does our Code of Conduct policy.

MAJOR VIOLATION

WSYHA will hold a Zero Tolerance Policy for the following behaviors:

- The use of alcohol, tobacco products (including, but not limited to cigarettes, e cigarettes, dip, chew, vaping, etc.), all illegal substances and drugs, and legal substances used in a way to get high, has no place in hockey. The use of any of these items whether at a WSYHA activity or not, is prohibited. Each player is a representative of WSYHA and use of these substances will not be tolerated – no exceptions.
- Endangering others or creating safety hazards by throwing objects haphazardly on or outside the playing surface or bench area.
- Violent or overly aggressive play where the obvious intent is to injure or harm another player.
- Use of vulgar or profane language, racial, ethnic or gender-related slurs or comments, toward teammates, coaches, officials, opponents or spectators.

- Physical abuse, sexual abuse and other types of misconduct, including emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing.
- Acts of vandalism at home or away rinks may result in suspension for the remainder of the year.

CONSEQUENCES

Reporting of a violation is everyone's responsibility. Reports with as much information as possible shall be made to a member of the Board of Directors. The report, at a minimum, should include the following:

- Date approximate time, and location of the incident;
- Name or jersey number of the alleged violator;
- Name or jersey number of any victim/recipient of the prohibited behavior;
- Any other witnesses to the prohibited behavior;
- Any other information or details that may be helpful.

The report should be made as soon as possible after the violation.

The Board of Directors will receive this information and directly or through a sub committee, investigate the allegation. The results of the investigation will be discussed with the full Board. Upon finding of a major violation and based on the severity of the violation, the Board may issue the following consequences:

First Infraction:

- One full game suspension (this will include practices leading up to the game).

Second Infraction:

- An appearance before a committee of the Board of Directors by the player, players parents, coach and as required, others involved.
- This committee will decide the level of discipline to be assessed based on this review.
- A two-game suspension (this will include practices leading up to the games) at a minimum will be issued.

Third Infraction:

- An appearance before a committee of the Board of Directors by the player, player's parents, coach and as required, others involved.
- The Committee of the Board of Directors has the option to select the discipline and may recommend a suspension for the remainder of the season.

The Board of Directors reserves the right to change the above hierarchy of consequences and tailor the consequences to the severity of the incident. Such change may be by unanimous consent only. This means if the Board finds an egregious violation, they may proceed to multiple game suspension or dismissal from the team.

MINOR VIOLATION

A violation of any of the principles listed above, which does not rise to the severity of a major violation, is a minor violation. Examples would include unsportsmanlike behavior at a game by arguing with a referee or degradation of an opposing team's player.

CONSEQUENCES

Reporting of these violations should be made to the player's coach (head or assistant) or the team's parent coordinator, who shall in turn forward the information to the head coach. The head coach shall be responsible for any investigation necessary to determine the veracity of the report. The head coach may enlist the help of Board Member(s) at any time for assistance with investigation.

Upon a finding of a minor violation, the head coach will issue the following consequences:

First Infraction:

- Verbal warning to the player and player's parent or guardian. The head coach shall inform the player and the player's parent/guardian as soon as practicable (while observing WSYHA and SafeSport policies and procedures in regards to meetings with players).
- The head coach shall make a report of each violation of the Player Code of Conduct by reporting the following information to the Director within 24 hours of the violation:
 - Date, approximate time, and location of the incident;
 - Name or jersey number of the alleged violator;
 - Name or jersey number of any victim/recipient of the prohibited behavior;
 - Any other witnesses to the prohibited behavior;
 - Any other information or details that may be helpful;
 - Report of the meeting with the player and player's parent/guardian.

Second and Subsequent Infraction:

- The head coach is authorized to take any immediate actions as necessary to promote sportsmanlike behavior, and the good reputation of WSYHA.
- After the incident, the head coach shall report to the Director with the information listed above.
- The Director shall bring the information to the Board for decision on consequences.
- The Board shall issue consequences commensurate with the violation, including, but not limited to, suspensions, private apologies to those involved, public apologies to those involved, community service or other remedial activities, or ultimately, dismissal from the team and team activities.

I have read and understand all of the above items. I will ask questions of a coach or Board Member if I do not understand these rules. I agree to abide by this Player Code of Conduct for the entire season.

Parent's Code of Conduct

It is the intention of this conduct to promote Fair Play and Respect for all participants of WSYHA. It is expected that all parents of WSYHA participants read and understand the Parent's Code of Conduct and continue to observe and follow all the principles contained within this code throughout the year.

- Parents are encouraged to attend practices and games and be vocal in their encouragement of their child. Do not single out individual players for critical comments. Hockey is a team sport.
- Refrain from "coaching" from the stands or bleachers. This does not help the team or any players on the ice.
- Your attitude and your conduct towards the other team's fans should not be reproach. Keep it friendly and respectful!
- Your child's on-ice and off-ice attitude will reflect how you, the parent, act. Try to maintain a positive attitude about your child's team and their progress.
- Parents should not approach the player's bench and talk with the coaches or players during a game.
- I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflict without resorting to hostility, violence or vulgar language.
- I will remember that children learn by example. I will applaud good plays both by my child's team and their opponent's. I will not be critical of, or embarrass any player, including opposition players.
- I will know and study the rules of the game and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.
- I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteers who give their time to hockey for my child. This includes coaches and the Board Members.
- I will never yell, taunt, threaten or inflict physical violence upon any player, coach, official or spectator at any youth hockey activity. I will refrain from the use of abusive or vulgar language, racial, ethnic or gender related (including: gender, gender identity/expression or sexual orientation) slurs at any time at the rink or any youth hockey function. I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from youth hockey games.
- I will leave the coaching to the coaching staff. I will encourage my child to play in a manner consistent with the team's strategy of plans.
- I will attempt to learn about the game of hockey (USA Hockey rules, equipment, levels, skills etc.) so that I may best support my child's development in the game.
- I will communicate all and any concerns regarding inappropriate behavior to the Coach, Parent Coordinator or Director.
- I will remember that my child plays hockey for their enjoyment, not mine.
- Transportation to and from the local rink and "away" games is the responsibility of the parents.
- Hockey is a team sport. Coaches and the WSYHA Board Members have the authority to discipline players for late arrival, missing a game or practice, or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- I will communicate all concerns to the Team Manager/Parent Coordinator. If the conflict or problem cannot be resolved at the team level, the Team Manager or Coach will bring the issue to the attention of the appropriate WSYHA board member for action.

- I will follow policies set by the Winston Salem Youth Hockey Association.
- I understand the benefits from participation in a team sport, the commitment, the discipline and the social skills learned and acquired.

Violating the Parent's Code of Conduct can lead to WSYHA Board Members review and punishments including but not limited to: being asked to no longer attend on or off ice events, practices, and games and/or removal of child from the team and team activities.

Spectator's Code of Conduct

- Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials.
- Act appropriately; do not taunt or disturb other fans; enjoy the game together.
- Cheer good plays of all participants; avoid booing opponents.
- Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive.
- Help provide a safe and fun environment; throwing any items on the ice surface can cause injury to players and officials.
- Do not lean over or pound on the glass; the glass surrounding the ice surface is part of the playing area.
- Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
- Be responsible for your own safety – be alert to prevent accidents from flying pucks and other avoidable situations.
- Respect locker rooms as private areas of players, coaches and officials.
- Follow policies set by the Winston Salem Youth Hockey Association.
- Be supportive after the game. Win or lose, recognize good effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.