



Salmon Arm Minor Hockey Association

CODE OF CONDUCT TEAM OFFICIALS CONTRACT

The athlete/coach relationship is a privileged one. Coaches play a critical role in the personal as well as athletic development of their athletes. They must understand and respect the inherent power imbalance that exists in this relationship and must be extremely careful not to abuse it. Coaches must also recognize that they are conduits through which the values and goals of a sports organization are channelled. Thus how an athlete regards his/her sport is often dependent on the behaviour of the coach. The following Code of Conduct has been developed to aid coaches in achieving a level of behaviour, which will aid their athletes in becoming well-rounded, self confident and productive human beings.

Although this code is directed toward coaching conduct, it equally applies to other members of the "Team Officials Staff", ie: managers, trainers, equipment personnel, etc. It is assumed that these people act in cooperation with one another to construct a suitable environment for the athlete.

COACHES HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO:

1. Treat everyone fairly within the context of their activity, regardless of activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status.
2. Ensure all athletes receive equal instruction, discipline, support and appropriate, fair playing time.
3. Be reasonable when scheduling games and practices remembering that young athletes have other interests and obligations.
4. Direct comments or criticism at the performance rather than the athlete. Remember that children play to have fun, and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
5. Consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of their sport and coaching.
 - a. Refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches, athletes, officials and volunteers.
 - b. Abstain from the use of tobacco products while in the presence of his/her athletes.
 - c. Abstain from drinking alcohol in conjunction with athletic events or victory celebrations at the playing site, or at any location where minors are present during a minor hockey sanctioned activity as described within the BCAHA Zero Tolerance Policy.
 - d. Observe the BCAHA Zero Tolerance Policy with regards to athletes and team officials.
 - e. Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language in his/her duties.
6. Ensure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the athlete's ages and abilities.
7. Ensure that the activity being undertaken is suitable for the age, experience, ability and fitness level of the athletes and educate athletes as to their responsibilities in contributing to a safe environment.
8. Communicate and cooperate with registered medical practitioners in the diagnosis, treatment and management of their athlete's medical and psychological problems. Consider the athlete's future health and well being as foremost when making decisions regarding an injured athlete's ability to continue playing or training.
9. Recognize and accept when to refer to athletes to other coaches or sports specialists. Allow athlete goals to take precedence over their own.
10. Regularly seek ways of increasing professional development and self-awareness.
11. Treat opponents and officials with due respect both in victory and defeat and encourage athletes to act accordingly. Actively encourage athletes to uphold the rules of their sport and the spirit of such rules.
12. In the case of minors, communicate and co-operate with the athlete's parents or legal guardians, involving them in management decisions pertaining to their child's development.
13. Be aware of the many pressures places on athletes as they strive to balance the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of their lives and conduct practices and games in a manner so as to allow optimum success.

COACHES MUST:

1. Ensure the safety of the athletes with whom they work.
2. At no time become intimately and/or sexually involved with their athletes. This includes the requests for sexual favours or threat of reprisal for the rejection of such requests.
3. Respect the athlete's dignities; verbal or physical behaviours that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable.
4. Never advocate or condone the use of drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances.
5. Never provide under age athletes with alcohol; never encourage its use.
6. Observe the rules of the Association, OMAHA, BCAHA and Hockey Canada including such rules as the Zero Tolerance Policy to alcohol and banned substances.
7. Remember that you are an ambassador of the sport of minor hockey and the Association, and are bound by its rules and regulations and those of its parent authorities. As such, you are expected to conduct yourself in accordance with the spirit of those rules and the game of hockey.

I have read and understand the above statements and agree to conduct myself in a manner that demonstrates the standards established in these Code Of Ethics.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____