



## **PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT**

The purpose of the Association is to organize, develop and promote minor hockey for the youth in the town of Wallaceburg and surrounding area.

There are four main participant groups involved in minor hockey games; the players, the coaches, the officials and the parents / spectators. How these four groups interact determines how positive or how negative an event becomes. This information package has been put together by the Wallaceburg Minor Hockey Board to assist parents / guardians in becoming more familiar with the sport of ice hockey and its organization and structure. Keep in mind, above all, the motivating factor for most youth who play organized sports is their desire to have fun. With a supportive attitude and a fundamental understanding of the game, everyone will come away from their child's sports experience with a positive feeling.

It is a fact that improper conduct is detrimental to the development of players, coaches, officials and volunteers in minor hockey and can be directly linked to many quality participants exiting the game. Parents can take the fun out of hockey by continually yelling or screaming from the stands. The stands are not a place from which parents should try to personally coach their kids. Parents need to remember they are not the coaches. Don't confuse or make the players determine who they should listen to while on the ice, the coach or you. Please avoid approaching the player's bench during a game. Coaching and the progressive structure of the way young players are instructed have changed significantly over the past 15 to 20 years. If you don't agree with or understand something that is happening on the ice, calmly ask the coach about it "24 hours" after the event. Respect the game, the rules, the coaches, the officials and most of all the players. We are models for our children. It is imperative we act accordingly. Any excessive profanity, harassment, bullying or aggression directed at a coach, an official, a parent or a child will not be tolerated and appropriate disciplinary action will be the result.

There are many benefits that are derived from your child playing youth hockey. Boys and girls learn good sportsmanship and self-discipline. They learn to work together, how to enjoy winning and how to handle defeat. In the process, they also learn important lessons about physical fitness and personal health. How much our

children benefit from this experience is as much the parent's responsibility as the players.

Parents serve as role models for their children, who often look to adults for advice, direction and approval. Never lose sight of the fact that you are a role model, and strive to be a positive one. As a parent, one of the most important things you can do is show good sportsmanship at all times to coaches, referees, opponents and teammates. It is important to remember that your children are playing hockey. It is important to allow them to establish their own goals and play the game for themselves.

The most important aspect of your child's hockey experience is for them to have fun in a safe environment while developing physical and emotional skills that will serve them in life. A healthy, risk-free environment that emphasizes the importance of fair play, sportsmanship, discipline, and most importantly, fun will be invaluable for your child as he or she continues to develop a positive self image.

Remember, kids are playing hockey for their enjoyment, not to entertain you! If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about it and become a volunteer.

**Parents / Guardians are responsible for reading, ensuring they understand this code of conduct.**

Any violation of this contract MAY result in not being allowed to participate in your child's / children's practices, games or tournaments.

### **Complaint Process**

- 24 Hour Cool Down policy
- Approach the Manager of the team in a professional manner
- If unsatisfied speak to a board member of WMHA
- All letters of complaint must be valid and identified. All letters must be signed by the complainant.