



*Hockey...  
for the fun of it!*

## COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

**The following code of conduct has been developed to provide coaches with a clear set of guidelines outlining the behavioural and procedural responsibilities of coaching Minor Hockey in Cumberland.**

- I understand that I am representing the Cumberland Minor Hockey Association (CMHA) as well as my team and will act accordingly at all times. Any inappropriate conduct directed towards members of the CMHA Board of Directors or the representatives of other associations, other volunteers, parents, players and officials will not be tolerated.
- I understand that coaching is a position of trust. Therefore, I will be a positive role model for my players and will maintain my personal integrity and dignity at all times.
- I understand that being a coach means being, first and foremost, a teacher. I will teach my players basic hockey skills, techniques and strategies, and will give all my players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem.
- I will learn and know the rules of the game and the policies of the league and shall support and uphold them to the best of my ability.
- I will know and understand the principle of fair ice time and will give every player an opportunity to play as much as possible. I will never, knowingly or intentionally, violate the principle of fair ice time – see attached.
- I will always display good sportsmanship and fair play, and will encourage the same from my players, colleagues, opponents, parents and spectators.
- I will respect the referees and game officials and their authority during every game. I will not dispute, challenge, or excessively argue any decisions made by them, or confront any referee or league official at the rink before, during or after a game. If necessary, I will take the time to calmly and rationally discuss any situation or call made during a game with a league official or by utilizing the Association Referee Complaint Form.
- I will not swear, use profanity or make obscene gestures, or engage in any inappropriate behaviour or conduct, while acting in a coaching capacity or representing the Cumberland Minor Hockey Association.
- I understand that the game of hockey is a team sport and will treat all my players in a fair and equal manner. I will stress that teamwork and being a team player are more important than any individual goals.
- I will have a positive attitude and will always praise my players for trying hard, playing fair and doing their best, regardless of the outcome of the game. I will not criticize or yell at any player for making a mistake or losing a competition. I will not tolerate physical or verbal abuse in youth sports.

- I will maintain an open line of communication with my players' parents. I will explain my goals and objectives for the team, as well as the rules of the game and the policies of the league, whenever requested or necessary, to the best of my ability.
- I will demand a sports environment that is free from drugs and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all games, exhibitions, practices and events. I will never coach a game or conduct a practice if I am under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I will be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

Coach Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Fair Ice Time Policy**

The Cumberland Minor Hockey Association operates a Fair Ice Time policy at all levels and age groups, for all on ice situations and for all types of games (exhibition, tournament, regular season, playoff and championship).

- Teams are not to establish Power Play units for use in man advantage situations.
- Teams are not to use Penalty Killing units for situations where they are short handed due to penalties.
- Teams are not to “shorten the bench”, limit the ice time for certain players, increase the ice time for certain players (double-shift).
  - Double Shifting is defined as allowing a player to return to the ice before all other players have been on for their regular shift. The following circumstances are situations where double shifting would be permitted.
    - ✓ A player becomes unavailable because of injury or illness
    - ✓ A player is unavailable due to a discipline situation administered to a player on the bench. (Coaches must communicate situations which could result in discipline to players / parents in advance of it being administered. Discipline can only be used to address behavioural issues – not for perceived poor play)
    - ✓ The team does not have an even number of players eg 8 forwards or 5 defencemen. In this case, the team should attempt to provide fair ice time by rotating double shifting opportunities over the course of the game.
- The last few minutes of the game does not “belong to the coach”. The policy of Fair Ice Time applies at all stages of the game.
- Fair Ice Time applies in tournaments, regular season and playoff games.

Coaches who do not abide by this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.