

# MLHA Parents/Spectators Code of Conduct

Parents/guardians are the most important component in a positive environment for their child to play hockey. Parental behavior sets the example for their child's behavior. MLHA historically has had member-parents whose behavior and deportment reflect positively on the organization, who are supportive of our organizational goals, have the best interest of our kids at heart, and set a good example for our children to follow. To that end, our parents understand that they must:

- Be a positive role model for all the children, not just their son or daughter.
- Emphasize skill development attained during practices and how they benefit their young athlete. The kids need to focus on learning the skills of the game and skating. De-emphasize the importance of games, win/loss record and competition, particularly in the younger age groups. Don't yell at your child if they make a mistake. Point out what they do well. Positive reinforcement goes a long way.
- Encourage their child to play by the rules, take the time to learn 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.
- Show good sportsmanship: applaud the good plays of both teams in games; enjoy the wins graciously and with class and handle losses with dignity and grace. Kids imitate their parents and the sportsmanship parent's display will be an example your child can follow.
- Never yell or verbally or physically abuse your child after a game or practice - it is destructive.
- Do not shout personal instructions from the stands. Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or official. The positive attitude shown towards the game and all of its participants will benefit your child.
- Remember that the opposing team's players are someone's children too. Treat them as you want your child to be treated.
- Respect the coach's decisions and abilities. Don't force your child to choose between listening to you or listening to the coaches.
- Stress fair and sensible play. Children should not be hurt because someone is not playing by the rules.
- Stress the importance of the team. Hockey is a TEAM sport and no on player can succeed alone.
- Remember that USA Hockey, the PAHL and MLHA have a ZERO TOLERANCE policy regarding the following behaviors all of which are unacceptable:
  - a. Yelling at or threatening referees, opposing players or coaches before, during or after games or practices
  - b. Direct confrontations with parents or players
  - c. Demonstrations of frustration or anger after a game loss
  - d. Unnecessary or exaggerated celebration of a goal scored on a game won 'that would embarrass or demean the opposing team
  - e. Any physical abuse of any other person
  - f. Approaching the bench during a game situation unless summoned by a player or coach

Wait 24 hours before taking up a question or concern about the coach or team situation with the team Business Manager. This "cooling off" period provides an opportunity for all parties to separate themselves from the immediacy of the situation and then discuss it in a calm, non-emotional manner. Team officials are not required to deal with an upset or emotional parent unless the 24 -hour cooling off period has been observed. Remember that there is more to life than hockey and keep things in perspective. The odds of your child making it to the NHL are slim, so encourage them to enjoy participating in hockey (and other activities), and, above all, to have FUN playing hockey.

I/We \_\_\_\_\_ have read, understood and agree to the MLHA Parents/Spectators Code of Conduct. In addition, I understand that any person I invite to any game/practice is my responsibility and I will be held responsible for their behavior.

Parent/Guardian 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_