



Coaches Code of Conduct

Youth sports are supposed to be fun for the coaches, parents and most importantly for the KIDS that are learning to play the game. Many parents, fans, coaches and other kids don't realize that their actions both verbal and nonverbal have a lasting effect on young athletes. Unfortunately, kids are leaving sport activities because the fun has been taken out of the game.

The mission of the Osgoode Rideau Minor Hockey Association (ORMHA) is to teach youth to play the game of hockey while developing good sportsmanship, work ethic and friendships along the way. Therefore as a coach in this association, it is imperative that you help build both the hockey player and the youth that plays hockey. That is why the ORMHA has developed this Coaches Code of Conduct.

Coaches Responsibilities to the Game

Coaches are role models and therefore must conduct themselves in a way that maintains the highest principles, integrity and dignity of the game. Coaches are responsible for knowing, understanding and following all rules of the game that have been given by Hockey Canada, ODHA, ODMHA and ORMHA. It is also the coach's responsibility to make sure all players understand and follow these rules.

Hockey Officials are a part of the overall game of hockey; therefore the coaches shall neither exhibit nor tolerate any behavior from anyone associated with their team that will reflect poorly on the game officials. This includes but is not limited to excessive argument concerning a judgement call that incites players or fans against the official. Coaches are prohibited from physically, emotionally or psychologically abusing any player, parent, game official or director.

Coaches Responsibility to the Youth Hockey Player

Coaches are educators! The coach's main objective is to teach the game of hockey to every player on the team and to teach the TEAM how to play hockey. The rink is the classroom. Practices are opportunities to teach and practice skill development, and game situations provide an opportunity to test the skills of the team. Coaches should never place the value of winning over the objective of instilling the highest ideals and character traits in every player on their team.

Teach every youth to practice a strong work ethic to improve their hockey skills. By improving skills of each player, every member of the team will become a better hockey player and make contributions to better play of the team. Coaches should never teach tactics or skills that would undermine the rules of fair play. These rules exist to protect the players and provide a common standard by which final results of play will be determined. Coaches will not teach players to break rules to take unfair advantage of an opponent.

Coaches must be prepared for every practice, scrimmage and game. A coach must make every attempt to be at every practice scrimmage and game. If a coach is unable to be present, a qualified and suitable substitute will be present and prepared. Coaches cannot use (or be under the influence of) alcohol, or other controlled substance within ANY facility that ORMHA is using where youth players are present.

"Fair" play should be the guide for coaches. This means that players should have comparable playing time, however, it is understood that certain situations could limit this practice. Coaches should make every effort to comply with the fair play rule and address any exceptions with the team so that they understand and agree with any deviations from this approach. Coaches should also use discretion to keep practices and games in good proportion.

Leadership

Coaches are expected to provide leadership at all hockey games and represent ORMHA in a positive manner whether as a coach, assistant coach, trainer, off-ice official or fan. This applies regardless of what capacity he/she is in at that game (i.e. coach, assistant coach, trainer, off-ice official, or fan). When at a game in a non-coaching capacity, a coach should ensure that his/her actions represent ORMHA in a positive manner at all times.

Always conduct themselves in a manner that creates a positive example which will have a great influence on other coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, and fans.

Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players at practice and during game situations. Whenever players exhibit unsportsmanlike behaviour to an opponent, a teammate, or any other ORMHA member it is the responsibility of the coach to immediately address that behavior and end it. Coaches will make sure all players have safely left the arena area before leaving themselves.

A Coach's Pledge:

I WILL:

1. Promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal motivation.
2. Remember that each athlete plays hockey for his/her enjoyment, not mine.
3. Encourage good sportsmanship through my actions, by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators.
4. Provide support for coaches, parents, volunteer team and league personnel, and officials working with the players to provide a positive experience for all.
5. Require that players under my influence treat all players, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators with respect.
6. Treat all players, coaches, volunteer team and league personnel, officials, parents, and spectators with dignity and respect in language, attitude, behavior, and mannerisms.
7. Teach playing by the rules.
8. Respect the property and equipment used at any sports facility, both home and away.
9. Enforce the Code of Conduct for Players and Parents.
10. Set a good example at all times.
11. Agree to attend and obtain the necessary certifications required by Hockey Canada, ODHA, ODMHA and ORMHA.
12. Abide by the "Fair" play policy of Hockey Canada.
13. Do my very best to provide a safe playing environment for my players.
14. Understand that I, or a team representative with a second qualified person, need to be present in the locker rooms at all times that players are in the rooms.
15. Remember that I am a youth coach and that the game is for children to have fun.

I WILL NOT:

1. Make inappropriate physical contact with any player, coach, official, league representative, arena personnel, or spectator.
2. Taunt or threaten any player, coach, official, league representative, arena personnel, or spectator.
3. Go into the locker/dressing room of an opposing team or obstruct their access to said room.
4. Go into the officials' locker/dressing room or obstruct their access to said room.
5. Use profane and/or vulgar language or mannerisms.
6. Go onto the ice surface during a game (unless I am performing a trainer role and/or as requested by the game officials).
7. Throw any object onto the ice surface.
8. Pound or climb on the glass.
9. Deface or destroy property belonging to any individual, team, association, or arena.
10. Be involved in any activity that would warrant the summoning of law enforcement officials.
11. Incite any person(s) to become involved in any of the above unacceptable behaviors.
12. Not be under the influence of alcohol or other controlled substance, while at any team practice, scrimmage, or game.
13. Never instruct a player to deliberately injure another player.

I **FULLY** understand and **ACCEPT** that my behavior, the behavior of my players or the behavior of my coaching staff may be deemed in violation of the Code of Conduct by the ORMHA Executive Committee and can be subject to an investigation and hearing.

I **ACKNOWLEDGE** that the ORMHA Executive Committee has the authority to assess any penalties up to and including exclusion from participation and/or attendance of any ORMHA events for behavior deemed by ORMHA to be in violation of this Code of Conduct.

I **WILL** voluntarily abide by any and all decisions of the ORMHA Executive Committee.

Printed Name of Coach

Date

Signature

Printed Name of Witness

Date

Signature