

Coaching Code of Conduct

Volunteer coaches are an indispensable part of our program. Coaches hold a position as leaders and role models for the children in our program. Coaches and representatives of the board of directors jointly participate in team placements and the drafting of players in all competitive divisions (other than Chipmunks). Once we complete team placements, coaches are the face of our program and the adult leaders who set the tone for their teams during the season.

Coaches are both bound by the code of conduct and held to a higher standard befitting their roles.

Coaches who do not live up to this higher standard are subject to discipline including suspension and dismissal.

Dealing with Players

- Children participate to have fun and the game is for them.
- Treat players with respect. All criticism of a player's performance must be constructive, focusing on the playing decisions made and teaching the preferred decisions. Never ridicule or yell at a player.
- Teach your players that doing their best is more important than winning, so they will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game.

Dealing with Officials

- Respect all officials and their authority during games.
- Recognize that officials may make calls you disagree with, or may miss infractions. Accept this with good grace.
- If you question the application of a rule by an official, politely ask the official to explain the decision. If you are not satisfied with the explanation, recognize that the official's decision is final and allow the game to proceed without delay and without making a scene.
- Upon request, we will facilitate a meeting between the coach, official and board member(s) to discuss application of the rule. The goal of this meeting is to increase understanding of the rule by all parties should the situation re-occur in the future
- Referees have the authority to discipline players, coaches, and spectators, up to and including ejection. Anyone who is ejected is required to leave the property. Incidents will be referred to the Board for possible supplementary disciplinary action.
- Referees have the authority to end the game prior to the completion of the scheduled playing time if they deem it necessary.

Sportsmanship

- Be a positive role model for your players by treating all players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect. Demand that your players follow that example.
- Do not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player or parent such as booing, taunting, refusing to shake hands, using profane language or gestures, or otherwise showing disrespect.

Scheduling

- Schedules are made in advance of the season. Changing schedules once they are posted is difficult. We take many factors into account in developing a schedule, including:
 - The number of players and teams in each division, which changes from season to season. This impacts the number of games that must be scheduled.
 - Scheduling game days and times by division, keeping the ages of the players in mind.
 - Planning rink usage effectively, fitting games for the several divisions together into a cohesive overall rink schedule.
 - Availability of suitable referees and game officials appropriate for each division.
 - Balancing the schedules of each team in a division, spreading the more and less desirable days and times as evenly as we can among the teams in the division.
- If you have a known event or commitment that might conflict with DekHockey, make us aware when you register. We will make an effort to accommodate conflicts if we can do so within the constraints of developing a balanced, workable schedule.
- Postponements and rescheduling:
 - Postponements due to weather or other adverse conditions will be made at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Games will be rescheduled if practical: the later in the season a postponement occurs, the more difficult it will be to reschedule a game.
 - Coaches are not authorized to postpone a game. If a scheduled game is not played at the scheduled time, the team(s) responsible for the game not being played may be assessed a loss by forfeit. The Board of Directors reserves the right to review the circumstances leading to the failure to play the game, and at their sole discretion apply alternate remedies.

Rosters

- Rosters are set prior to the start of the season. We have learned from experience that roster changes during the season do more harm than good. Once teams have been selected at the draft, expect that your roster is complete and will not change during the season.