



Yellowknife Minor Hockey Association

Code of Conduct

Approved: July 16, 2009

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Yellowknife Minor Hockey Association (YKMHA) is committed to ensuring a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all players, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators. This Code of Conduct outlines the expectations for behaviour, emphasizing respect, sportsmanship, and integrity in all hockey-related activities.

This Code is in addition to Hockey Canada's policies and regulations and is further supported by the ***YKMHA Disciplinary Process Policy***, which details how violations of this Code will be handled.

2.0 SCOPE

This Code applies to:

- All individuals involved in YKMHA activities, including players, coaches, team officials, parents, spectators, volunteers, and board members.
- All YKMHA-sanctioned activities, including practices, games, tournaments, meetings, and events.
- Both on-ice and off-ice conduct that affects the integrity and reputation of YKMHA.

3.0 STANDARD OF BEHAVIOUR

All individuals must adhere to Hockey Canada, Hockey North, and YKMHA policies and maintain the highest standard of conduct. All individuals shall:

- Respect all persons regardless of race, ancestry, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, or ability.
- Demonstrate sportsmanship, honesty, and integrity.
- Promote player safety and well-being in all activities.
- Follow applicable federal, territorial, and municipal laws.
- Respect the authority of officials, coaches, and volunteers.
- Not engage in vandalism or destruction of property.

3.1 Zero Tolerance for Abuse & Harassment

YKMHA has a zero-tolerance policy for any form of abuse, harassment, or bullying, whether in person, through social media, or in digital communication. This includes:

- Verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse of players, coaches, officials, or spectators.
- Threats, intimidation, or violent behavior of any kind.

- Discriminatory comments or actions based on race, ancestry, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, or ability.
- Cyberbullying, online harassment, or inappropriate social media behavior related to YKMHA activities.
- Retaliation against any individual for reporting misconduct.

All reports of abuse or harassment will be taken seriously and handled through the **YKMHA Disciplinary Process Policy** and, if necessary, escalated to Hockey North or legal authorities.

3.2 Alcohol, Drug, and Substance Use

YKMHA strictly prohibits the use, possession, or distribution of alcohol, cannabis, vaping products, and illegal substances by players, coaches, team officials, and spectators at any YKMHA-sanctioned event. This includes but is not limited to:

- Practices, games, tournaments, and team activities.
- Dressing rooms, arenas, and team transportation.
- Any setting where individuals are representing YKMHA.

3.2.1 Players

- Players shall not use, possess, or be under the influence of alcohol, cannabis, vaping products, or illegal substances while participating in any YKMHA-sanctioned event.
- The use of vaping products (e-cigarettes) is strictly prohibited in dressing rooms, team areas, or while in team uniform.
- Any player found violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion.

3.2.2 Coaches & Team Officials

- Coaches and team officials must not consume alcohol, cannabis, or other substances before or during YKMHA events where they are responsible for players.
- Coaches are responsible for enforcing this policy in dressing rooms, team areas, and at team events.
- Any violation by a coach or team official will be addressed through the **YKMHA Disciplinary Process Policy** and may result in suspension or removal from their position.

3.2.3 Parents & Spectators

- Spectators and parents are expected to adhere to the same standards of conduct at all YKMHA events.
- Alcohol, cannabis, and illegal substance use is prohibited inside arenas and within team-designated areas.
- Individuals violating this policy will be addressed through the **YKMHA Disciplinary Process Policy** and may result in removal from events or suspension from attendance.

3.3 Respect for Officials and Coaches

- Players, parents, and spectators must respect game officials, coaches, and team personnel at all times.
- Arguing, challenging, or berating officials or coaches will not be tolerated.
- Verbal abuse, swearing, or threats toward an official, coach, or opposing player will result in disciplinary action.
- Only the designated team captain, alternate or head coach may politely and respectfully ask an official for clarification during a game.
- Any concerns regarding officiating must follow YKMHA's 24-hour rule, requiring a cooling-off period before filing a formal complaint.

3.4 Dressing Room Conduct

- The dressing room is a safe and inclusive environment where all players must be treated with respect.
- Bullying, hazing, or inappropriate behaviour in the dressing room is strictly prohibited.
- Coaches and team officials must supervise dressing rooms to ensure compliance with the ***Hockey Canada Dressing Room Policy***.
- Cell phones, cameras, or recording devices are not permitted in dressing rooms.
- Vaping, smoking, or consuming banned substances in the dressing room will result in immediate disciplinary action.

3.5 Social Media & Online Conduct

- Players, parents, coaches, and team officials must conduct themselves professionally and respectfully online.
- Defamation, harassment, or bullying through social media will result in disciplinary action.
- Posting harmful or inflammatory content about YKMHA, players, officials, or other teams is strictly prohibited.
- Sharing private team information, game strategies, or confidential matters on social media is prohibited.
- YKMHA reserves the right to investigate and discipline members for misconduct related to online behavior.

4.0 LINKED POLICIES

This Code is reinforced by additional YKMHA policies that govern conduct:

- ***YKMHA Discipline Process Policy***
- ***YKMHA Parent Code of Conduct***
- ***YKMHA Coach Code of Conduct***
- ***YKMHA Communication Policy***

All YKMHA members must read, understand, and adhere to these policies.

5.0 DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

All violations of this Code will be handled in accordance with the ***YKMHA Discipline Process Policy***, which outlines:

- How violations are reported and investigated.
- Possible sanctions for misconduct.
- The appeals and grievances process.

To review the full details of the disciplinary process, refer to the ***YKMHA Disciplinary Process Policy***.

6.0 FINAL STATEMENT

YKMHA is committed to promoting respect, fairness, and accountability in minor hockey. All members must adhere to the Code of Conduct and supporting policies to maintain a safe and positive environment for all participants.

For any questions, concerns, or reports of violations, contact the Director, Ethics and Discipline at discipline@ykminorhockey.ca.