

The Berkshire Rattlers Code of Conduct Agreement



Board of Directors Code of Conduct

- Support programs that train and educate players, coaches, parents, officials and volunteers.
- Promote and publicize the Rattlers' programs; seek out financial support when possible.
- Communicate with parents by holding parent/player orientation meetings as well as by being available to answer questions and address problems throughout the season.
- Work to provide programs that encompass fairness to the participants and promote fair play and sportsmanship.
- Recruit volunteers, including coaches, who demonstrate qualities conducive to being role models to the youth in our sport.
- Encourage coaches and officials to attend USA Hockey clinics and advise your board members of the necessity for their training sessions.
- Make every possible attempt to provide everyone, at all skill levels, with a place to play.
- Read and be familiar with the contents of the *USA Hockey Annual Guide* and USA Hockey's official playing rules.
- Treat other board members, players, coaches and parents as well as the mission of the program with respect and dignity.
- Use of any electronic media device and/or any website or other similar forum to make disparaging comments towards the Rattlers Organization, or other teams, players, parents, or members of any organization will not be tolerated. This is inclusive of, but not limited, to Facebook, Twitter, internet blogs, email, and texting.

Coach's Code of Conduct

- Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one. Care more about the child than winning the game. Remember, players are involved in hockey for fun and enjoyment.
- Be a positive role model to your players. Display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of players.
- Be generous with your praise when it is deserved; be consistent and honest; be fair and just; do not criticize players publicly; learn to be a more effective communicator and coach; don't yell at players.
- Adjust to personal needs and problems of players; be a good listener; never verbally or physically abuse a player or official; give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem; teach players the basics.
- Organize practices that are fun and challenging for your players. Familiarize yourself with the rules, techniques and strategies of hockey; encourage all your players to be team players.
- Maintain an open line of communication with your players' parents. Explain the goals and objectives of your association.
- Be concerned with the overall development of your players. Stress good health habits and clean living.
- To play the game is great, to love the game is greater.
- Use of any electronic media device and/or any website or other similar forum to make disparaging comments towards the Rattlers Organization, or other teams, players, parents, or members of any organization will not be tolerated. This is inclusive of, but not limited, to Facebook, Twitter, internet blogs, email, and texting.

Parent's Code of Conduct

Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desires to play their chosen sports. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.

- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
- Do not embarrass your child by yelling at, using foul language toward or otherwise abusing players, coaches, officials, or other parents; these actions will not be tolerated. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit.
- Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat, and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice – it is destructive. Work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches (or any other program volunteer – team parent, board member). They are important to the development of your child and the program, as well as the environment that your child is involved in.

- Communicate with and support your child(ren), other players, coaches, volunteers.
- If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about hockey and volunteer.
- Use of any electronic media device and/or any website or other similar forum to make disparaging comments towards the Rattlers Organization, or other teams, players, parents, or members of any organization will not be tolerated. This is inclusive of, but not limited, to Facebook, Twitter, internet blogs, email, and texting.

Player's Code of Conduct

- Play for fun and work hard to improve your skills.
- **Be a team player – get along with your teammates.** Any malicious acts (pushing, shoving, grabbing, verbal abuse (not limited to foul language) will not be tolerated.
- **Learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline.**
- Be on time.
- Learn the rules and play by them and always be a good sport.
- Respect your coach, your teammates, your parents, opponents, officials and program volunteers.
- Respect all decisions of the officials and never argue with them.
- Use of any electronic media device and/or any website or other similar forum to make disparaging comments towards the Rattlers Organization, or other teams, players, parents, or members of any organization will not be tolerated. This is inclusive of, but not limited, to Facebook, Twitter, internet blogs, email, and texting.

Penalty for players:

1st offense: Warning or an immediate suspension for a set duration of the season’s games or practices depending on the severity of the action and the board’s decision. Multiple warnings in a month’s timeframe may lead to an immediate suspension.

2nd offense: Dismissal from the Rattlers program for one calendar year.

3rd offense: Permanent dismissal from the Rattlers program.

To clarify, in the case of a suspension; the player will not be allowed to participate in the next game(s), whether it is a league game, practice game or tournament game, and the player will not be able to participate in practices during that period.

1. The Rattlers reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to adjust the length of any penalty assessed to the player; or to assess a different disciplinary action based on the severity of the misconduct under this Code of Conduct and one of which is in the best interests of the player(s) and the Berkshire Rattlers.
2. Players and parents will receive written notice of any Code of Conduct penalty assessed by the Berkshire Rattlers. They will be expected to confirm receipt of this notice by signing and returning a copy. Failure to sign or abide by the notice/agreement may result in dismissal from the Rattlers program.

Penalty for Parents/Coaches/Board Members:

For the initial violation of the participant Code, the parent or participating adult may not be allowed to attend any games or practices for a period of up to 15 days, except in those circumstances where the Board of Directors deems the violation to be of such a nature that a more severe penalty is appropriate. For any additional violation, the participant is subject to further disciplinary action by the Board of Directors, which may include a permanent ban on attending games and practices or suspension of the child for the participants’ failure to adhere to the Code and/or comply with the sanctions.

I have read this agreement and am fully aware that by signing this agreement, I promise to uphold to the Berkshire Rattlers’ Code of Conduct. I realize that the violation of this Code of Conduct may result in a suspension or a dismissal from the Rattlers’ program(s). All violations that are reported will be addressed by the Board of Directors.

Signature - Player

Date

Signature - Parent(s)

Date