

COACHING ETHICS CODE

*The USA Hockey Coaching
Education Program
is presented by*



EASTON



USA Hockey would like to give special thanks to the United States Olympic Committee. Many of the ideas for this Coaching Ethics Code were drawn from the USOC Coaching Ethics Code.

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THIS IS USA HOCKEY

USA Hockey, Inc., founded in 1936-37, is the National Governing Body for the sport of ice hockey in the United States. Its mission is to promote the growth of hockey in America and provide the best possible experience for all participants by encouraging, developing, advancing and administering the sport.

Headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colo., USA Hockey is the official representative to the United States Olympic Committee and the International Ice Hockey Federation. In this role, USA Hockey is responsible for organizing and training men's and women's teams for international tournaments, including the IIHF World Championships and the Olympic Winter Games. Closer to home, USA Hockey works with the National Hockey League and the National Collegiate Athletic Association on matters of mutual interest.

USA Hockey's primary emphasis is on the support and development of grassroots hockey programs. USA Hockey is divided into 12 geographical districts throughout the United States.

Each district has a registrar to register teams; a referee-in-chief to register officials and organize clinics; a coach-in-chief to administer educational programs for coaches; a risk manager to oversee liability and safety programs; and a skill development program administrator to facilitate learn-to-play programs for youth players and their parents.

For players, USA Hockey annually conducts regional and national championship tournaments in various age classifications; sponsors regional and national player identification and development camps; studies and makes recommendations for protective equipment; distributes Hat Trick, Playmaker and Zero Club Awards; and provides an insurance program that includes excess accident, general liability and catastrophic coverage.

For coaches and officials, USA Hockey conducts clinics and produces training manuals and videos through its Coaching Education and the Officiating Education Programs. USA Hockey also promotes uniformity in playing rules and the interpretation of those rules.

USA Hockey has not forgotten parents, supplying this vital segment of the hockey family with a "Parent's Introduction To Youth Hockey" brochure, which includes tips on buying equipment, rules of the game and the role of parents in youth sports.

USA Hockey Magazine, the most widely circulated hockey publication in the world, is sent to the household of every registered member as a benefit of membership. The organization's official website, usahockey.com, also provides up-to-the-minute coverage of news and events.

USA Hockey introduced its official inline hockey program - USA Hockey InLine - in December, 1994 to provide structure and support for the growth of the sport across America.

INTRODUCTION

This Ethics Code is intended to provide standards of ethical conduct that can be applied by USA Hockey and its member organizations. Whether or not a coach has violated the Ethics Code does not by itself determine whether a contract or agreement is enforceable or whether other legal consequences occur. These results are based on legal rather than ethical rules. However, compliance with or violation of the Ethics Code may be admissible as evidence in some legal proceedings, depending on the circumstances.

This Code is intended to provide both the general principles and the decision rules to cover most situations encountered by coaches. It has as its primary goal the welfare and protection of the individuals and groups with whom coaches work. This Code also provides a common set of values. It is the individual responsibility of each coach to aspire to the highest possible standards of conduct. Coaches should respect and protect human civil rights, and should not knowingly participate in or condone unfair discriminatory practices.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLE A: COMPETENCE

Coaches strive to maintain high standards of excellence in their work. They recognize the boundaries of their particular competencies and the limitations of their expertise. They provide only those services and use only those techniques for which they are qualified by education, training or experience. In those areas in which recognized professional standards do not yet exist, coaches exercise careful judgment and take appropriate precautions to protect the welfare of those with whom they work. They maintain knowledge of relevant coaching educational information related to the services they render, and they recognize the need for ongoing education. Coaches make appropriate use of scientific, professional, technical and administrative resources.

PRINCIPLE B: INTEGRITY

Coaches seek to promote integrity in the practice of coaching. Coaches are honest, fair and respectful of others. In describing or reporting their qualifications, services, products, or fees, they do not make statements that are false, misleading or deceptive. Coaches strive to be aware of their own belief systems, values, needs and limitations and the effect of these on their work. To the extent feasible they attempt to clarify, for relevant parties, the roles they are performing and to function appropriately in accordance with those roles. Coaches avoid improper and potentially harmful dual relationships.

PRINCIPLE C: PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Coaches uphold professional standards of conduct, clarify their professional roles and obligations, accept appropriate responsibility for their behavior, and adapt their methods to the needs of different athletes. Coaches consult with, refer to, or cooperate with other professionals and institutions to the extent needed to serve the best interest of their athletes, or other recipients of their services. Coaches' moral standards and conduct are personal matters to the same degree as is true for any other person, except when coaches' conduct may compromise their responsibilities or reduce the public's trust in coaching and/or coaches. Coaches are concerned about the ethical compliance of their colleagues' conduct. When appropriate, they consult with their colleagues in order to prevent or avoid unethical conduct.

PRINCIPLE D: RESPECT OF PARTICIPANTS AND DIGNITY

Coaches respect the fundamental rights, dignity and worth of all participants. Coaches are aware of cultural, individual and role differences, including those due to age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language and socioeconomic status. Coaches try to eliminate the effect on their work of biases based on those factors, and they do not knowingly participate in or condone unfair discriminatory practices.

PRINCIPLE E: CONCERN FOR OTHERS' WELFARE

Coaches seek to contribute to the welfare of those with whom they interact. In their actions, coaches consider the welfare and right of their athletes and other participants. When conflicts occur among coaches' obligations or concerns, they attempt to resolve these conflicts and to perform their roles in a responsible fashion that avoids or minimizes harm. Coaches are sensitive to differences in power between themselves and others, and they do not exploit nor mislead other people during or after their relationships.

PRINCIPLE F: RESPONSIBLE COACHING

Coaches are aware of their ethical responsibilities to the community and the society in which they work and live. They apply and make public their knowledge of sport in order to contribute to human welfare. Coaches try to avoid misuse of their work. Coaches comply with the law and encourage the development of law and policies that serve the interest of sport.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

A. GENERAL STANDARDS

These General Standards are applicable to the activities of all coaches.

1. Applicability of the Ethics Code

While many aspects of personal behavior and private activities seem far removed from official duties of coaching, all coaches should be sensitive to their position as role models for their athletes. Private activities perceived as immoral or illegal can influence the coaching environment, and coaches are encouraged to observe the standards of this Ethics Code consistently.

2. Boundaries of Competence

- (a) Coaches provide services only after first undertaking appropriate study, training, supervision, and/or consultation from persons within their respective association.
- (b) All coaches must take reasonable steps to ensure their attendance at the proper CEP certification level for the level of play in which he/she is coaching.

3. Maintaining Expertise

Coaches maintain a reasonable level of awareness of related coaching information and undertake ongoing efforts to maintain competence in the skills they use.

4. Basis for Professional Judgments

Coaches rely on scientifically and professionally derived knowledge when making judgments or when engaging in coaching endeavors.

5. Describing the Nature of Coaching Services

When coaches provide services or information to an individual, a group, or an organization, they use language that is reasonably understandable and appropriate to the recipient of those services and information that is always updated and truthful.

6. Respecting Others

Coaches respect the rights of others to hold values, attitudes and opinions that differ from their own.

7. Nondiscrimination

Coaches do not engage in discrimination based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language, socioeconomic status, or any basis prescribed by law.

8. Sexual Harassment

- (a) Coaches do not engage in sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is sexual solicitation, physical advances, or verbal or nonverbal conduct that is sexual in nature, and that either:
 - (1) is unwelcome, is offensive, or creates a hostile environment, and the coach knows or is told this;
 - (2) is sufficiently severe or intense to be abusive to a reasonable person in the context. Sexual harassment can consist of a single intense or severe act or of multiple persistent or pervasive acts.
- (b) Coaches will treat sexual harassment complainants and respondents with dignity and respect. Coaches do not participate in denying an athlete the right to participate based on their having made, or their being the subject of, sexual harassment charges.

9. Other Harassment

Coaches do not engage in or condone behavior that is harassing or demeaning to persons with whom they interact in their work based on factors such as a person's age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language, or socioeconomic status.

10. Personal Problems and Conflicts

- (a) Coaches recognize that their personal problems and conflicts may interfere with their effectiveness. Accordingly, they refrain from undertaking an activity when they know or should know that their personal problems are likely to lead to harm to athletes or other participants.
- (b) In addition, coaches have an obligation to be alert to signs of, and to obtain assistance for, their personal problems at an early stage, in order to prevent significantly impaired performance.
- (c) When coaches become aware of personal problems that may interfere with their performing work-related duties adequately, they take appropriate measures, such as obtaining professional consultation or assistance, and determine whether they should limit, suspend, or terminate their work-related duties.

11. Avoiding Harm

Coaches take reasonable steps to avoid harming their athletes or other participants, and to minimize harm where it is foreseeable and unavoidable.

12. Misuse of Coaches' Influence

Because coaches' judgments and actions may affect the lives of others, they are alert to guard against personal, financial, social, organizational, or political factors that might lead to misuse of their influence.

13. Multiple Relationships

- (a) In many communities and situations, it may not be feasible or reasonable for coaches to avoid social or other non-coaching contacts with athletes and other participants. Coaches must always be sensitive to the potential harmful effects of other contacts on their work and on those persons with whom they deal. A coach refrains from entering into or promising a personal, professional, financial, or other type of relationship with such persons if it appears likely that such a relationship might impair the coach's objectivity or otherwise interfere with the coach effectively performing his or her function, or might harm or exploit the other party.
- (b) Likewise, whenever feasible, a coach refrains from taking on obligations when preexisting relationships would create a risk of harm.
- (c) If a coach finds that, due to unforeseen factors, a potentially harmful multiple relationship has arisen, the coach attempts to resolve it with due regard for the best interests of the affected person and maximal compliance with the Ethics Code.

14. Exploitative Relationships

- (a) Coaches do not exploit athletes or other participants over whom they have supervisory, evaluative or other authority.
- (b) Coaches do not engage in sexual/romantic relationships with athletes or other participants over whom the coach has evaluative, direct, or indirect authority, because such relationships are likely to impair judgment or be exploitative.

15. Delegation to and Supervision of Subordinates

- (a) Coaches delegate to their assistants only those responsibilities that such persons can reasonably be expected to perform competently, on the basis of their education, training or experience, either independently or with the level of supervision being provided.
- (b) Coaches provide proper training and supervision to their assistants or substitutes, as well as take reasonable steps to see that such persons perform services responsibly, competently, and ethically.

B. PUBLIC STATEMENTS

1. Avoidance of False or Deceptive Statements

Coaches do not make public statements that are false, deceptive, misleading, or fraudulent (either due to what they state, convey or suggest, or because of what they omit) concerning their work activities or those of persons or organizations with which they are affiliated. As examples (and not in limitation) of this standard, coaches do not make false or deceptive statements concerning:

- their level of certification;
- their training, experience, or competence;
- their academic degrees;
- their credentials;
- their institutional or association affiliations;
- their services;
- the basis for, or results or degree of success of their services; or
- their criminal record.

2. Media Presentations

When coaches provide advice or comment by means of public lectures, demonstrations, radio or television programs, prerecorded tapes, printed articles, mailed material, or other media, they take reasonable precautions to ensure that the statements are consistent with this Ethics Code.

3. Testimonials

Coaches do not solicit testimonials from current athletes or other participants who, because of their particular circumstances, are vulnerable to undue influence.

C. TRAINING ATHLETES

1. Structuring the Relationship

- (a) Coaches discuss with athletes, as early as it is feasible, appropriate issues such as the nature and anticipated course of training.
- (b) When the coach's work with athletes will be supervised, the above discussion includes that fact, and the name of the supervisor.
- (c) Coaches make reasonable efforts to answer athletes' questions and to avoid apparent misunderstandings about training. Whenever possible, coaches provide oral and/or written information, using language that is reasonably understandable to the athlete.

2. Coach/Parent Relationships

- (a) When a coach agrees to provide services to several persons who have a relationship (such as parents and children), the coach attempts to clarify at the outset the relationship they will have with each person. This clarification includes the role of the coach and the probable uses of the services provided.

- (b) As soon as it becomes apparent that the coach may be called on to perform conflicting roles (such as mediator between parents and children or sibling teammates), the coach attempts to clarify and adjust or withdraw from roles appropriately.

3. Sexual Intimacies with Current Athletes

Coaches do not engage in sexual intimacies with current athletes.

4. Coaching Former Sexual Partners

Coaches do not coach athletes with whom they have engaged in sexual intimacies.

5. Sexual Intimacies with Former Athletes

(a) Coaches should not engage in sexual intimacies with a former athlete for at least two years after cessation or termination of professional services.

(b) Because sexual intimacies with a former athlete are so frequently harmful to the athlete, and because such intimacies undermine public confidence in the coaching profession and thereby deter the public's use of needed services, coaches do not engage in sexual intimacies with former athletes even after a two-year interval except in the most unusual circumstances. The coach who engages in such activity after the two years following cessation or termination of the coach-athlete relationship bears the burden of demonstrating that there has been no exploitation, in light of all relevant factors, including:

- the amount of time that has passed since the coach-athlete relationship terminated,
- the circumstances of termination,
- the athlete's personal history,
- the athlete's current mental status,
- the likelihood of adverse impact on the athlete and others, and
- any statements or actions made by the coach during the course of the athlete-coach relationship suggesting or inviting the possibility of a post-termination sexual or romantic relationship with the athlete or coach.

6. Drug-Free Sport

Coaches do not tolerate the use of performance-enhancing drugs and support athletes' efforts to be drug free.

7. Alcohol, Tobacco and Gambling

(a) Coaches discourage the use of alcohol and tobacco in conjunction with athletic events or victory celebrations at playing sites and forbid the use of alcohol by minors.

- (b) Coaches refrain from tobacco, alcohol and gambling use while they are coaching and make every effort to avoid their use while in the presence of their athletes.
- (c) Coaches discourage gambling in conjunction with athletic events, at playing sites and during road trips.

8. Pornography

- (a) Coaches discourage the use of pornographic material.
- (b) Coaches refrain from the use of pornography while they are coaching and make every effort to avoid pornography while in the presence of their athletes.
- (c) Coaches do not engage in illicit behavior or activities with athletes or other participants over whom the coach has direct or indirect authority.

D. TRAINING SUPERVISION

1. Design of Training Programs

Coaches who are responsible for training programs for other coaches seek to ensure that the programs are competently designed, provide the proper experiences and meet the requirements for coaching education or other goals for which claims are made by the program.

2. Descriptions of Training Programs

- (a) Coaches responsible for training programs for other coaches seek to ensure that there is a current and accurate description of the program content, training goals and objectives, and requirements that must be met for satisfactory completion of the program. This information must be readily available to all interested parties.
- (b) Coaches seek to ensure that statements concerning their training programs are accurate and not misleading.

3. Accuracy and Objectivity in Coaching

- (a) When engaged in coaching, coaches present information accurately and with a reasonable degree of objectivity.
- (b) When engaged in coaching, coaches recognize the power they hold over athletes and therefore make reasonable efforts to avoid engaging in conduct that is personally demeaning to athletes and other participants.

4. Honoring Commitments

Coaches take responsible measures to honor all commitments they have made to all participants.

E. TEAM SELECTION

1. Recruiting

Coaches do not engage, directly or through agents, in uninvited in-person solicitation of business or services from actual or potential athletes or other participants who, because of their particular circumstances, are vulnerable to undue influence. However, this does not preclude recruiting athletes deemed exceptional by USA Hockey.

2. Tampering

In deciding whether to recruit players already on another team, coaches must carefully consider the potential athlete's welfare. The coach must discuss these issues with the player's present coach first, then the player's parents before approaching the athlete in order to minimize the risk of confusion and conflict.

3. In-Season Contact

Contact with any player(s) should not occur during the progress of a season when the player's team is still actively engaged in their schedule of play. The only exception would be regarding participation on a USA Hockey National Team on a temporary assignment basis, where the player would be returned to his/her regular team at the conclusion of the assignment.

4. Player Selection

Coaches perform evaluations or team selection only in a manner consistent with the Ethical Code.

5. Assessing Athlete Performance

- (a) In coach-athlete relationships, coaches establish an appropriate process for providing feedback to athletes.
- (b) Coaches evaluate athletes on the basis of their actual performance on relevant and established program requirements.

F. RESOLVING ETHICAL ISSUES

1. Familiarity with Ethics Code

Coaches have an obligation to be familiar with this Ethics Code (or as it may be amended from time to time), other applicable ethics codes and their application to the coach's work. Lack of awareness or misunderstanding of an ethical standard is not itself a defense to a charge of unethical conduct.

2. Confronting Ethical Issues

When a coach is uncertain whether a particular situation or course of action would violate the Ethics Code, the coach ordinarily consults with other coaches knowledgeable about ethical issues, with their Association, Affiliate or District with USA Hockey.

3. Conflicts Between Ethics and Organizational Demands

If the demands of an organization with which coaches are affiliated conflict with this Ethics Code, coaches clarify the nature of the conflict, make known their commitment to this Ethics Code, and to the extent feasible, seek to resolve the conflict in a way that permits the fullest adherence to the Ethics Code.

4. Informal Resolution of Ethical Violations

When USA Hockey participants believe that there may have been an ethical violation by a coach, they attempt to resolve the issue by bringing it to the attention of that individual in an informal manner.

5. Reporting Ethical Violations

If an apparent ethical violation is not appropriate for informal resolution under Standard F4 or is not resolved properly in that fashion, participants and the association may take further action by:

Participant

- (a) Contacting the coach's Association President or appropriate designee.
- (b) Confirm with the coach's Association President if there was an attempt for an informal resolution.
- (c) Complete an Ethical Violation Form available through the Association President or designee.

Association

- (a) Will review the Ethical Violation charge using the appropriate due process procedure as outlined in USA Hockey's Annual Guide, Bylaw 10: Resolutions of Disputes, Arbitration and Suspensions.
- (b) Will give a copy of the completed Ethical Violation form to the coach in question seven (7) days prior to the association's review.
- (c) Will keep a written report on all reviews and actions.

6. Cooperating with Ethics Committees

Coaches cooperate in ethics investigations, proceedings, and resulting requirements of USA Hockey and any of its member organizations. Failure to cooperate is itself an ethics violation.

7. Improper Complaints

Participants do not file or encourage the filing of ethics complaints that are frivolous and are intended to harm the respondent rather than protect the public.

G. PROCESS RELATING TO VIOLATION OF CODE

1. The Coach acknowledges that this Ethics Code is administered under the authority of USA Hockey and its member organizations, that a violation of the Code subjects the coach to the processes of USA Hockey and its

member organizations. USA Hockey and its member organizations acknowledge that all violations of the Ethics Code will be reviewed for possible disciplinary action, and member organizations will keep a written report on all reviews and actions.

2. In the event that a violation of the Ethics Code occurs during an authorized USA Hockey activity, USA Hockey may take action separate and independent from that of its member organizations in order to protect its interests and those of athletes, coaches and others involved with the activity.
3. Any action taken by a member organization of USA Hockey which affects the opportunity of a coach to participate in “protected” competition as defined in the USA Hockey Annual Guide shall be entitled to due processes assured under the USA Hockey By-Laws.
4. If the violation of the Ethics Code occurs while a coach is a member of a USA Hockey team or event, the coach's member organization acknowledges that USA Hockey may institute its own proceedings regarding the violation, which action shall not restrict the ability or obligation of the member organization to take its own separate and independent action.
5. In the event that a coach is found to have violated the Ethics Code, such action is separate and apart from any other legal consequences which may occur as a result of the act.

POLICIES

A. ZERO TOLERANCE

In an effort to make ice and inline hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, the USA Hockey Youth, Junior and Adult Councils and the Inline Section have instructed the officiating program to adhere to certain points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship. This campaign is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, team officials and administrators and parents/spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey-sanctioned games.

Thus, the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all referees and linesmen:

Players

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
3. Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision. Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.

Coaches

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
3. Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision including standing on the boards or standing in the bench doorway with the intent of inciting the officials, players or spectators.

Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, he/she shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

Officials

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited.

Officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

Parents/Spectators

The game will be stopped by game officials when parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The game officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

1. Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
2. Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
3. Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, players bench, penalty box or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

B. SEXUAL ABUSE

It is the policy of USA Hockey and USA Hockey InLine that there shall be no sexual abuse of any minor participant involved in any of its sanctioned programs, its training camps, hockey clinics, coaches clinics, referee clinics, regional and national tournaments or other USA Hockey or USA Hockey InLine events by an employee, volunteer, or independent contractor. Sexual abuse of a minor participant occurs when an employee, volunteer or independent contractor touches a minor participant for the purpose of causing the sexual arousal or gratification of either the minor participant or the employee, volunteer or independent contractor. Sexual abuse of a minor participant also occurs when a minor player touches an employee, volunteer or independent contractor for the sexual arousal or sexual gratification of either the minor participant or the employee, volunteer or independent contractor, if the touching occurs at the request or with the consent of the employee, volunteer or independent contractor.

Neither consent of the player to the sexual contact, mistake as to the participant's age, nor the fact that the sexual contact did not take place at a hockey function are defenses to a complaint of sexual abuse.

Upon proof of violation of this policy, the violator will be permanently banned or suspended from USA Hockey and USA Hockey InLine sanctioned programs and/or the programs of its affiliate associations.

C. PHYSICAL ABUSE

It is the policy of USA Hockey and USA Hockey InLine that there shall be no physical abuse of any participant involved in any of its sanctioned programs, its training camps, hockey clinics, coaches clinics, referee clinics, regional and national tournaments or other USA Hockey or USA Hockey InLine events by any employee, volunteer or independent contractor. Physical abuse means physical contact with a participant that intentionally causes the participant to sustain bodily harm or personal injury. Physical abuse also includes physical contact with a participant that intentionally creates a threat of immediate bodily harm or personal injury.

Physical abuse does not include physical contact that is reasonably designed to coach, teach or demonstrate a hockey skill. Permitted physical conduct may include, but is not necessarily limited to, shooting pucks at a goaltender, demonstrating checking and other hockey skills, and communicating with or directing participants, during the course of a game or practice, by touching them in a non-threatening, non-sexual manner.

D. SCREENING

It is the policy of USA Hockey and USA Hockey InLine that it will not authorize or sanction in its programs that it directly controls any volunteer or employee who has routine access to children (anyone under the age of majority) who refuses to consent to be screened by USA Hockey or USA Hockey InLine before he/she is allowed to have routine access to children in USA Hockey's and USA Hockey InLine's programs. Further, it is the policy of USA Hockey that it will require its affiliates to adopt this policy as a condition of its affiliation with USA Hockey, and it is a policy of USA Hockey InLine that it will require its sanctioned leagues to adopt this policy as a condition of its sanctioning by USA Hockey InLine.

A person may be disqualified and prohibited from serving as an employee or volunteer of USA Hockey and USA Hockey InLine if the person has:

1. Been convicted (including crimes the record of which has been expunged and pleas of "no contest") of a crime of child abuse, sexual abuse of a minor, physical abuse, causing a child's death, neglect of a child, murder, manslaughter, felony assault, any assault against a minor, kidnapping, arson, criminal sexual conduct, prostitution related crimes or controlled substance crimes.
2. Being adjudged liable for civil penalties or damages involving sexual or physical abuse of children.
3. Being subject to any court order involving any sexual abuse or physical abuse of a minor, including but not limited to domestic order or protection.
4. Had their parental rights terminated.

5. A history with another organization (volunteer, employment, etc.) of complaints of sexual or physical abuse of minors.
6. Resigned, been terminated or been asked to resign from a position, whether paid or unpaid, due to complaint(s) of sexual or physical abuse of minors.
7. Has a history of other behavior that indicates they may be a danger to children in USA Hockey or USA Hockey InLine.

E. GENDER EQUITY – CO-ED LOCKER ROOMS

The issue of co-ed dressing arrangements in locker rooms continues to come up, and USA Hockey is frequently asked to provide some type of guideline about dealing with such situations. Teams, leagues, associations and USA Hockey need to recognize that there are gender equity issues to deal with when managing a co-ed locker room setting. Both female and male privacy rights must be given consideration and appropriate arrangements made.

USA Hockey's member organizations should consider the following:

1. Recognize that it is an issue that must be dealt with and that favoring one group over another can produce legal ramifications;
2. Recognize that the ideal situation of using two, separate dressing rooms is not possible in many ice rink/arena settings;
3. Recognize that it is an issue that will increase in visibility as girls'/women's participation in USA Hockey continues to grow; and
4. Recognize that it is an issue for members who are participating as players, coaches and officials.

Our recommendations, made in conjunction with the Girls'/Women's Section, the Coaching Education Program and the Officiating Program, are as follows:

Note: *Make certain that two properly screened adults are present in locker room settings to supervise. Arrange to provide supervisors who are of the same sex as the children they are to protect. Please follow Coaching Ethics guidelines.*

- Where possible, have the male and female players undress/dress in separate locker rooms; then convene in a single dressing room to hold the coach's pre-game meeting;
- Once the game is finished, hold the coach's post-game meeting; then have the male and female players proceed to their separate dressing rooms to undress and shower (separately), if available.
- In those cases where separate facilities are not available, have one gender enter the locker room and change into their uniforms. That gender then leaves the locker room, while the other gender dresses. Both genders would then assemble in the locker room and hold the coach's pre-game meeting.

- Following the game and the coach's post-game meeting, where separate facilities are not available, the second gender group enters the locker room and undresses, while the first group waits outside until they have undressed and left the room. Once the second group leaves, the first group enters the locker room and undresses.

Note: *Taking turns is a means of 'reasonable accommodation,' so neither gender group is favored, nor is "the ones who always have to wait" and it's fair.*

Failing to establish some type of similar procedure, or failure to seriously consider the privacy issues will likely lead to complaints and/or lawsuits. By being proactive on this issue, everyone [coaches, players, officials, volunteers and parents] can enjoy the sport without the worry of legal actions or the invasion of privacy concerns arising.

Lastly, reinforce to all players, coaches, officials, volunteers and parents that your organizations are going to take this issue seriously. It is not acceptable under USA Hockey's By-Laws – Policies on Physical and Sexual Abuse – for members to be observing the opposite gender while they dress or undress. Members and volunteers who violate USA Hockey's policies, or who violate the privacy rights of others, could be subject to appropriate discipline.

F. HAZING

It is the policy of USA Hockey and USA Hockey InLine that there shall be no hazing of any participant involved in any of its sanctioned programs, its training camps, hockey clinics, coaches clinics, referee clinics, regional and national tournaments or other USA Hockey or USA Hockey InLine events by any employee, volunteer, participant or independent contractor.

USA Hockey is concerned with the activity known as "Locker Boxing" (aka Helmet & Gloves) which produces head trauma in children and young adults. USA Hockey is opposed to that activity and recommends that our local associations take action to prevent this activity through awareness, education and supervision.

Definition: Conduct which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, offensive, or physically harmful. Any player, team official, executive member of a team, club or association having been party to or having had knowledge of any degrading hazing, or initiation rite, without reporting it or taking action, shall be subject to suspension from playing or holding office with any team, club or association affiliated with USA Hockey.

G. CONSUMPTION/USE/ABUSE OF MOOD ALTERING SUBSTANCES

It is the considered judgment of the Board of Directors of USA Hockey that consumption/use/abuse of mood altering substances is detrimental to a healthy state of mind, body, and spirit in an athletic participant. This is especially true for those participants aspiring to develop their talents in the furtherance of

their playing, or coaching, or officiating careers in the sport of ice hockey. Therefore, with the best interests of its participants in mind, USA Hockey and USA Hockey InLine prohibit use by any participant of mood altering substances during active participation in its programs, and, upon discovery of any violation, shall take action to remove the participant from participation in its programs for a reasonable period of time. Further, USA Hockey and USA Hockey InLine hereby recommend that each and all of its teams, associations, programs and affiliates adopt reasonable regulations concerning the prohibition of consumption/use/abuse of mood altering substances, and a reasonable enforcement procedure thereafter, in order to maintain the health of our athlete participants, the integrity of our programs, and the eligibility of all of our competitors for national, international, and collegiate competition.

For purposes of this policy, the words “mood altering substances” shall include the following:

1. Intoxicating beverages, including, but not limited to, alcohol.
2. Non-prescription or prescribed controlled substances.
3. Prescription or prescribed controlled substances when used to an excess in violation of doctors orders, or to produce the state of intoxication in the participant.

Further, a participant shall include players, coaches, referees, and all persons involved in the conduct of an ice or inline hockey contest.

H. SLED HOCKEY

It is USA Hockey policy that sled hockey players (playing on sleds) shall not compete in games with players who are playing hockey standing up (playing on skates).

CORE VALUES

The following core values of USA Hockey are adopted to guide the association's members in their planning, programming and play, both now and in the future.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Foremost of all values is to learn a sense of fair play. Become humble in victory, gracious in defeat. We will foster friendship with teammates and opponents alike.

RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

Treat all others as you expect to be treated.

INTEGRITY

We seek to foster honesty and fair play beyond mere strict interpretation of the rules and regulations of the game.

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE AT THE INDIVIDUAL, TEAM & ORGANIZATIONAL LEVELS

Each member of the organization, whether player, volunteer or staff, should seek to perform each aspect of the game to the highest level of his or her ability.

ENJOYMENT

It is important for the hockey experience to be fun, satisfying and rewarding for all participants.

LOYALTY

We aspire to teach loyalty to the ideals and fellow members of the sport of hockey.

TEAMWORK

We value the strength of learning to work together. The use of teamwork is reinforced and rewarded by success in the hockey experience.

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.

VIOLATION REPORTING PROCEDURE

INFORMAL RESOLUTION OF ETHICAL VIOLATIONS

When a USA Hockey participant* believes that there may have been an ethical violation by a coach, they attempt to resolve the issues by bringing it to the attention of that individual in an informal manner.

** Participants are those taking part in hockey (athletes and their family members, coaches, officials, volunteers, administrators and spectators).*

REPORTING ETHICAL VIOLATIONS

If an apparent ethical violation is not appropriate for informal resolution as mentioned above, or is not resolved properly in that fashion, participants and association take further action by:

Participant

1. Contacting the coach's association president or their appropriate designee.
2. Confirming with the coach's association president if there was an attempt of an informal resolution.
3. Completing an Ethical Violation Form available through the association president or their designee.

Association

1. Reviews the ethical violation charge using the appropriate due process procedure as outlined in USA Hockey's Annual Guide, Bylaw 10, Resolutions of Disputes, Arbitration and Suspensions.
2. Gives a copy of the completed Ethical Violation Form to the coach in question seven (7) days prior to the association's review.
3. Will keep a written report on all reviews and actions.



ETHICS CODE VIOLATION REPORTING FORM

ATTACH ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION TO THIS FORM

PERSON REPORTING VIOLATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Secondary: _____

Email: _____

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT REPORTED TO

President's Name: _____

Association: _____

Phone: _____ Secondary: _____

Email: _____

Date Reported: _____

INFORMAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Was there an informal meeting with the coach to discuss the possible ethics violation? Yes No

If yes, please give the date and location of the meeting: _____

Who was present at the meeting? _____

If an informal meeting did take place, please give a brief description of the outcome. _____

If an informal meeting did not take place, please explain why. _____

DESCRIPTION OF FORMAL ETHICS VIOLATION

Coach(es) charged: _____

Code(s) violated: _____ Date(s) of violation: _____

Location(s) of violation: _____ Time(s) of violation: _____

Other person(s) involved: _____

Witness to violation: _____

Describe in detail the ethics code violation, use a separate sheet of paper if more space is needed. Also attach additional proof or other people's statements of the ethics code violation charge. _____

I certify that the above information is accurate, truthful and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature _____

Date _____

Office Use Only
Date Received: _____ Received By: _____
Hearing Date: _____ Date Copies Distributed: _____
Action: _____

Copies to: Coach(es) Charged Date: _____
Association President Date: _____
Members of Hearing Committee Date: _____
Form 4-C
Rev. 5/07

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Coaching Code of Ethics is the result of the work of many people and committees. The approach, structure and contents of this code were inspired by the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct, December 1992 (American Psychological Association, Vol. 47, No. 12, 1597-1611). Many of the ideas for these ethical standards were drawn from numerous other codes. The most significant of these were developed by the Coaching Association of Canada, the British Institute of Sport Coaches, the United States Olympic Committee and the NCAA.