

FAIR PLAY CODES

PLAYERS

- I will play hockey because I want to, not because others or coaches want me to.
- I will play by the rules of hockey, and in the spirit of the game.
- I will control my temper – fighting and “mouthing off” can spoil the activity for everybody.
- I will respect my opponents.
- I will respect my teammates.
- I will do my best to be a true team player.
- I will remember that winning isn’t everything – that having fun, improving skills, making friends, and doing my best are also important.
- I will acknowledge all good plays/performances – those of my team and of my opponents.
- I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.

PARENTS

- I will not force my child to participate in hockey.
- I will remember that my child plays hockey for their enjoyment, not for mine.
- I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will teach my child that doing one’s best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game.
- I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good plays/performances by both my child’s team and their opponents.
- I will never question the officials’ judgment or honesty in public.
- I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children’s hockey games.
- I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteers who give their time to coach hockey for my child.

COACHES

- I will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remembering that players have other interests and obligations.
- I will teach my players to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials, and opponents.
- I will ensure that all players get equal instruction, support, and playing time.
- I will not ridicule or yell at my players for making mistakes or for performing poorly. I will remember that players play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
- I will make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the players’ ages and abilities.
- I will remember that participants need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example.
- I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills.
- I will work in cooperation with officials for the benefit of the game.

OFFICIALS

- I will make sure that every player has a reasonable opportunity to perform to the best of their ability, within the limits of the rules.
- I will avoid or put an end to any situation that threatens the safety of the players.
- I will maintain a healthy atmosphere and environment for competition.
- I will not permit the intimidation of any player either by word or by action. I will not tolerate unacceptable conduct toward myself, other officials, players, or spectators.
- I will be consistent and objective in calling all infractions, regardless of my personal feelings toward a team, coach, or individual player.
- I will handle all conflicts firmly but with dignity.
- I accept my role as a teacher and role model for fair play, especially with young participants.
- I will be open to discussion and contact with the players and coaches before and after the game.
- I will remain open to constructive criticism and show respect and consideration for different points of view.
- I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my officiating skills.
- I will work in cooperation with coaches for the benefit of the game.

SPECTATORS

- I will remember that participants play hockey for their enjoyment. They are not playing to entertain me.
- I will not have unrealistic expectations. I will remember that players are not professionals and cannot be judged by professional standards.
- I will respect the officials' decisions and I will encourage participants to do the same.
- I will never ridicule a player for making a mistake during a game. I will give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort.
- I will condemn the use of violence in any form and will express my disapproval in an appropriate manner to coaches and league officials.
- I will show respect for my team's opponents, because without them there would be no game.
- I will not use bad language, nor will I harass players, coaches, officials, or other spectators.

LEAGUE ORGANIZERS

- I will do my best to see that all players are given the same chance to participate, regardless of gender, ability, ethnic background, or race.
- I will absolutely discourage any sport program from becoming primarily an entertainment for the spectator.
- I will make sure that all equipment and facilities are safe and match the athletes' ages and abilities.
- I will make sure that the age and maturing level of the participants are considered in program development, rule enforcement, and scheduling.
- I will remember that play is done for its own sake and make sure that winning is kept in proper perspective.
- I will distribute the fair play codes to spectators, coaches, athletes, officials, parents, and media.
- I will make sure that coaches and officials are capable of promoting fair play as well as the development of good technical skills and I will encourage them to become certified.

HOCKEY CALGARY

FAIR PLAY CODE POLICY FOR COACHES

The fair play codes are set out in Hockey Canada's booklet Safety Requires Teamwork – An information guide to Hockey Canada's Risk Management and National Insurance Programs. The fair play codes are a set of guidelines for players, coaches, parents, officials, spectators and league organizers set out to promote positive hockey experiences. Fair play is important from a developmental perspective as well as from a risk management perspective.

It is the policy of Hockey Calgary that the Fair Play Codes be followed by all member associations affiliated with Hockey Calgary including Elite Hockey, Community Hockey, Girls Hockey, and Recreational Hockey.

For the most part the fair play codes are clear. However, for coaches there is a provision, which states, "I will ensure that all players get equal instruction, support and playing time." The use of the term "equal" is generally understood. However, there is a tendency among a small minority to mis-interpret the term "equal" with "earned" or "fair" which allows for entirely different interpretations of the intentions of the fair play codes. Some individuals will acknowledge that the fair play codes apply and then claim you can shorten the bench in the last five minutes of a game, in a tight situation or in playoffs. Allowing variances in the interpretation of fair play only increases a broader degree of confusion for the rules of minor hockey.

Fair play is intended to allow all players an equal opportunity to develop their skills in Hockey. Development occurs in both practice and game situations. And within the game itself, there are different situations where each player should be afforded the opportunity to develop his or her skills, whether it is power play, penalty kill, playoffs or tournaments.

The following policy respecting ice time is intended to ensure a consistent application of the fair play codes throughout the Hockey Calgary network with an emphasis to ensure all players are provided equal opportunity to develop his or her hockey skills in every game situation. The policy applies to Elite Hockey, Community Hockey, Girls Hockey, and Recreational Hockey.

FAIR PLAY POLICY RELATING TO COACHES

The head coach is responsible for allocating more or less playing time to players in any particular game but should ensure that over two to three games the playing time per athlete member is relatively equal. This includes all games and practices, home or away, exhibition, regular season, playoff or tournament. This policy applies to all levels of hockey administered under Hockey Calgary including Elite Hockey, Community Hockey, Girls Hockey, and Recreational Hockey.

The following policies should be reviewed and followed by all coaches and the principles of fair play openly communicated by Hockey Calgary to all of its member associations and directors.

Goalies

A regular rotation for goalies should be strived for throughout the hockey season that will result in an equal number of games played by each team goalie. The rotation is subject to changes in the event of injuries or sickness or suspension.

Rotations should strive to ensure equal number of games played within League, Playoff, Minor Hockey Week, Exhibition and Tournament Play.

Players

A regular rotation of players should be strived for at their playing position throughout a game including power play and penalty killing, noting that the game includes the last five minutes and overtime. Each team should designate playing positions; defense, left wing, right wing, centre and no team should have a dis-proportionate number of designated forwards for a game (i.e. if there are five left wingers and three right wingers, one of the left wingers should become a right winger). If there are ten forwards and five defencemen, then one of the forwards should play defence.

For those coaches wishing to utilize a special teams unit for either power play or penalty killing, those coaches, as a tool for themselves, should establish a listing (Special Teams Log) of their designated units for each five game (or shorter) rotation. Such listing to show each player receiving an equal participation on those designated units. It is recommended that those listings be kept by the coach for the duration of the season.

Coaches choosing not to maintain a Special Teams Log should not utilize a separate power play or penalty killing unit for games. The power plays or penalty killing lines should simply be the next line in the regular rotation.

U21 B & C Team Rosters

U21 B or C teams with rosters in excess of the maximum allowable playing positions should establish a rotation of players that will be required to sit out of the line-up in those situations where healthy scratches are required. The rotation should result in all players taking a turn as a healthy scratch if a sufficient number of healthy scratches are required.

Affiliates

Teams are encouraged to bring up affiliated goalies in order to ensure the team has a back-up goalie for each game. It is the coach's discretion as to whether an affiliate goalie plays or not, however, in extended situations where an affiliate is required, the regular team goalie should not receive less game time than what the regular rotation would have provided.

If a team chooses to bring up an affiliate it is recommended teams do not bring up a positional player that creates a contingent at each position greater than 6 defenseman or 9 forwards, respectively .

Teams must recognize Hockey Calgary Affiliation Rules outlined in Community, Elite, Female, and Recreational Hockey sections restricting the number of affiliations and ensuring not to increase the team size to greater than the team roster.

Player Discipline

Coaches should use discretion to sit a player for the first period, or portion thereof, of a game in the event a player has developed a habit of missing practices within a set reasonable limit or arriving late for games. The requirements to sit a player should be documented and if repeated occurrences are considered necessary, the reasons should be reported to the teams' hockey association.

Coaches should have the discretion to sit a player for a period, or portion thereof, for objectionable conduct of the player (Swearing, inappropriate hits).

All coaches wishing to implement "team rules" should submit those "team rules" to their member association for approval. "Team Rules" should be reasonable and respect the varying needs of all players.

Fair Play Discipline

Every Hockey Calgary member association should have a Director responsible for games and conduct. All parent's or player's that feel that the fair play codes for their team are not being adhered to are encouraged to discuss their concerns with the coach on a private basis.

Should the concerns of the parent or player not be addressed or satisfied then the parent or player should feel comfortable reporting such non-compliance to the Director responsible for their associations Game and Conduct.

Each member association should establish internal policies and procedures to ensure full compliance with the fair play policies.

Only after an individual has exhausted all avenues of appeal within their member association should that individual raise such issues with Hockey Calgary.