

LAS VEGAS ICE CATS PARENT GUIDELINES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Introduction

The hockey season is long and demanding. Parents, players, coaches, and officials make significant commitments and sacrifices. To make the season as fun, safe and positive as possible, the Las Vegas Ice Cats Youth Hockey Organization *requires* that each player's parents or guardians agree to the following Code of Conduct, as well as to rules set by coaches at the team level.

The Las Vegas Ice Cats Board of Directors (the "Board") vests its coaches with the authority to discipline any player whose behavior is judged to be damaging to the player, teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, fans, the general public, or to the reputation and integrity of our community and the Las Vegas Ice Cats Youth Hockey Organization. The Board encourages coaches to set team rules to promote a smooth program, with a goal of improving the skill and character of all players.

The Board also automatically reviews all cases of alleged misconduct by a parent or guardian of a player or other member of an organization. In the most severe cases disciplinary actions may include suspension or expulsion from the program. While the Board hopes these circumstances never arise, it will nonetheless hear and act on such matters to preserve the integrity of the program, as well as a constructive and healthy environment for the players.

Parent Guidelines

- ***Do not force your child to play hockey.*** Instead, support his/her desire to play. A child typically gets involved in organized hockey for enjoyment. Make the game fun. Remember that your child is PLAYING hockey. It is important to allow him/her to establish his/her own goals. Do not impose your own standards or objectives on your child.
- ***Know the rules.*** Study the rules of the game and support the officials on and off the ice. Criticizing officials only hurts the game.
- ***Encourage your child to play by the rules.*** Children learn best by example, so applaud fair play and the good plays of both teams.
- ***Do not embarrass your child.*** Do not yell at players, coaches or officials. Show a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants.
- ***Emphasize developing skills and practicing.*** De-emphasize the importance of games and competition in younger age groups.
- ***The stands are for cheering, not yelling.*** The stands are not a place from which to try to personally coach your child. A child often mirrors his parents' actions. If a player sees Mom or Dad losing control in the stands, he will probably do the same on the ice.
- ***Be supportive.*** The best way to help a child achieve goals and reduce the natural fear of failure is through positive reinforcement. Applaud good efforts in both victory and in defeat. Highlight the positive points of the game. When your child makes a mistake (and he/she will), keep in mind that mistakes are an important part of the learning process. Strive to be supportive and point out the things your

child does well. Make your child feel like a winner.

- ***Never yell or physically abuse your child*** after a game or practice – it is destructive. Work diligently to help remove the physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
- ***Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches.*** They are crucial to the development of your child, to this program, and to the sport. Communicate with, respect, and support your child’s coaches.
- ***Keep things in perspective.*** There is much more to life than hockey. The car and home are not places to coach. Support and respect the coach’s decisions and abilities. It is unfair to put a child in a position of having to decide who to listen to—his or her parents or the coach.
- ***Enjoy the game.*** Learn all you can about it! And . . . volunteer!

Parent Code of Conduct and Pledge

Parents may not coach their child during practices and games by yelling at them over the glass.

Parents may not yell at the referee for what they perceive as a bad call. There is zero tolerance for players, and parents. Parents are expected to know the rules, support the officials & coaches, and display good sportsmanship.

Parents may not use profanity at a coach, referee, or any other official.

Any parent who physically assaults or batters any coach, manager, or official will be immediately suspended pending review of the Board.

Parents wishing to contact or confront a coach about his/her decision MUST wait at least 24 hours after a game or practice. Miscommunications most often occur when

emotions are high. Coaches will be instructed to notify the board of directors or their Hockey Director immediately after an incident.

Parents are not allowed to view a game anywhere near the vicinity or above the player's bench. Parents are not allowed to approach the team bench anytime before, during or after a game or practice. Parents are not allowed on the ice at any time.

If a parent has a problem or issue with their child's coach, the parent must first try to resolve it with the coach as stated above. Then, if the parent is still not satisfied, they are to call the Hockey Director. Only after that may the parent contact the board of directors and file a grievance.

If you are asked to leave a game, practice or tournament because of your behavior, the disciplinary committee will suspend you pending review of the incident. This is non-negotiable.

The penalty for any of the foregoing may range from removal from rink to suspension from games and practices, to removal from the Las Vegas Ice Cats Youth Hockey Organization.

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I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care and encouragement for my child participating in Las Vegas Ice Cats Youth Hockey by following the foregoing Parent Code of Conduct. I additionally pledge to conduct myself as follows:

1. I will encourage good sportsmanship by showing positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every game, practice or other youth hockey event.
2. I will condemn unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind.

3. I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of my personal desire to win.
4. I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
5. To encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for everyone, I will support the coaches and officials who work with my child.
6. I will demand a youth hockey environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol. I will refrain from their use at all youth hockey events.
7. I will remember that the game is for the kids — not the adults.
8. I will do my very best to make youth hockey fun for my child.
9. I will support and encourage my child to follow the Player Code of Conduct.
10. I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, gender, nationality, creed, or ability.
11. I will help my child enjoy the youth hockey experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectful fan, assisting with coaching, or providing transportation.
12. I will refrain from making negative comments about any player, coach, volunteer or official. I understand that failure to do so may lead to disciplinary action including expulsion from the program.
13. I will not, at any time, verbally or physically abuse any player, coach, fan, official, volunteer or other person associated with the ice hockey program.
14. Should I not abide by this Code of Conduct, I understand that a

representative of the Las Vegas Ice Cats Youth Hockey Organization may ask me to leave the ice rink. If such request occurs, I will leave the rink.

I have read and understand the Code of Conduct. I understand and agree that failure to abide by such may be subject to disciplinary action by the Las Vegas Ice Cats Youth Hockey Organization, and that such disciplinary action may include expulsion from the Organization.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 2007.

PARENT/GUARDIAN

PARENT/GUARDIAN