

# **Vail-Eagle Hockey Association (VEHA)**

## **Player Code of Conduct:**

The purpose of this Player “Code of Conduct” is to convey individual conduct and behavior expectations and the consequences of choices made by participants of VEHA youth hockey. This document is to be discussed as part of the mandatory Coach’s, Parent’s and player meeting. After reading the following, please sign,(both player and parent/ guardian) and return the signature page to the team Coach, Manager or the VEHA Director of Hockey.

**NOTE:** The signature page must be turned in **PRIOR TO THE FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE.** Players may not practice until VEHA has received the signed form. Faxed copies of the signature page are acceptable.

## **VEHA Policies and Procedures**

- ***PLAYERS SHALL COMPLY WITH THE VAIL-EAGLE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (VEHA) “POLICIES AND PROCEDURES”***  
**Players shall abide by and be governed by ALL articles, policies and procedures as specified in the adopted VEHA “Policies and Procedures”.** This specifically includes, but is NOT LIMITED TO, USA Hockey playing rules for the current season and CAHA policies and procedures regarding recreational teams.

## **Player Agreement and Responsibilities**

- **I pledge to:**
  - **Play for fun.**
  - **Work hard to improve my skill.**
  - **Be a team player – get along with my teammates.**
  - **Learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline.**
  - **Be on time. Learn the rules and play by them. Always be a good sport.**
  - **Display a positive attitude and good sportsmanship. I will be a credit to myself, my family, my teammates, the VEHA Mountaineers and the community at all times.**
  - **Not swear, taunt, make derogatory remarks or display disrespectful conduct toward my teammates and coaches, opposing players and coaches, parents or officials on or off the ice.**
  - **Respect and honor the game and treat my teammates, parents and coaches with respect.**
  - **Respect game officials and, should a penalty be called on me, go directly to the penalty box without comment or gesture in protest of the call.**
  - **Clean up after myself in the locker rooms and treat all public and private property with respect.**
  - **Respect and abide by all rules of Dobson Ice Arena, the Eagle Pool and Ice Rink and all venues (arenas/rinks) that my team is participating in all games, practices, scrimmages and tournaments.**

# Vail-Eagle Hockey Association (VEHA)

## Player Code of Conduct: (continued)

Page 2 of 7

- ***ZERO TOLERANCE***

In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, VEHA, CAHA and USA Hockey instituted a “Zero Tolerance” policy.

This policy requires all PLAYERS to be knowledgeable of and abide by the USA Hockey current addition of “The Official Rules of Ice Hockey”.

- ***HAZING***

It is the policy of VEHA and USA hockey 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 tournaments or other USA Hockey events by any employee, volunteer, participant (PLAYER or coach) or independent contractor.

The definition of “hazing” is any conduct which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, offensive or physically harmful towards another player or teammate.

This includes the activity known as “Locker Boxing” (also known as “Helmet and Gloves”), which may produce head trauma in children and young adults. VEHA is opposed to that activity and any player(s) participating in such activity is/are subject to a Disciplinary Committee hearing leading to sanctions including suspension from VEHA

- ***TEAM RULES***

Regardless of the CAHA division level in which my team participates;

I pledge I will follow all team rules and the directions of coaches and officials promptly and without complaint.

I pledge I will attend all practice sessions and games and show up at the time prescribed by the coaching staff. If unable to attend or will miss portions of practices and/or games, due to conflicts with overlapping falls sports, school or other extracurricular activities, I will notify the coaching staff as required by specific team rules.

I pledge to my teammates, parents and coaches that the team will be my participation priority.

I pledge I will not compromise my ability, both mentally and physically, by taking part in activities that are detrimental to my on-ice performance. (For example, skiing just prior to hockey competition on game days and failing to maintain academic eligibility in school.)

I understand and accept that playing time may be affected by many factors, including participation, effort and dedication in practices and games, in continually improving my

# Vail-Eagle Hockey Association (VEHA)

## Player Code of Conduct: (continued)

Page 3 of 7

skills and abilities, in off-ice team regimens and following the team rules and player agreement.

I pledge if I am selected to an A-Level or above team, when my association fields more than one team in my age group, my position and participation on that team has to be “earned” throughout the season. If I fail to meet the expectations of coaches and team rules, I am subject to potential limited playing time, extra team duties or the potential of being moved to a lower designated division team within my age group and association.

### **PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF PLAYER AGREEMENT:**

*At the discretion of the coaching staff and/or the VEHA Hockey Director, Coaches Committee and/ or Discipline Committee.*

- Verbal warning and possible missed shifts on the ice. ( Coaches will document)
- One (1) to three (3) or more game periods benching for repeated warnings. .  
(Coaching staff are be required to make a report to the VEHA Director of Hockey via email., Parents are to be notified as well)
- Suspension from games and practice sessions. (Player and parent will be notified of disciplinary Committee meeting to be held as soon as possible under VEHA policy 19.

### **COACHES DISCRETIONARY SUSPENSIONS**

Any coach may immediately temporally suspend a player from his/her team for misconduct that may or may not be listed in this document this specifically includes violations of playing rules, where the violation was flagrant and in the coach’s opinion clearly warranted a major penalty or more, whether it infraction was called by the officials or NOT. The Coach is required to notify parents, the Director of Hockey and the President within 2 hours via phone. The Suspended player may not attend any VEHA function until the suspension has been reviewed by the VEHA Disciplinary Committee, such review will be within 48 hours and both player and a parent are required to attend.

### **Player Code of Conduct:**

- ***CONDUCT SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION***  
VEHA has a Zero Tolerance policy with respect to conduct by a PLAYER, coach, parent or guardian that is detrimental to a rewarding hockey experience and are violations of the Code of Conduct. The procedure for reviewing complaints of such conduct, for handling conflict and the penalties for violation of this policy are as follows: (Misconduct)

In the event the (appropriate) VEHA Disciplinary Committee determines that a PLAYER, coach, parent or guardian of a player or coach, or guest of a player or coach,

# **Vail-Eagle Hockey Association (VEHA)**

## **Player Code of Conduct: (continued)**

**Page 4 of 7**

has engaged in behavior that is detrimental to a rewarding hockey experience, the Committee may: Issue a verbal warning and/or send a letter notifying the person(s) that they are in violation of VEHA's misconduct policy and inform them that they may be subject to sanction if such behavior is continued, or the Board of Directors may sanction the offending person(s) as provided herein below.

A breach of any of the following points constitutes a violation of the VEHA Code of Conduct. This list includes, but is NOT LIMITED TO, the following:

- Entering the playing venue (rink/arena) and/or a VEHA function while intoxicated. Consuming alcoholic beverages or tobacco (including chewing tobacco), controlled or illegal substances anywhere in the venue, function or the parking lot before, during or after a practice or game. (Those of legal age may drink at restaurants, etc. but restraint is strongly advised.
- Making physical contact with any player, coach, an on or off-ice official, an association or league representative, arena personnel, spectator or parent.
- Taunting or threatening any player, coach, official, association or league representative, arena personnel, spectator or parent.
- Entering the locker room of any opposing team or obstructing their access or exit from said room or playing venue.
- Theft, bullying, pushing/shoving or teasing for any reason.
- Entering the locker room of any official or obstructing their access or exit from said room or playing venue.
- Using profane and/or vulgar language or mannerisms that are offensive to other persons.
- Pounding or climbing on the glass or throwing of any object onto the ice surface, into the players' area or at another person.
- Being involved in any action that would warrant the summoning of Law Enforcement.
- Defacing or damaging property belonging to any individual, team, association or venue.
- Violating Dobson Ice Arena or Eagle Pool and Ice Rink rules, including, but not limited to: Damage to the facility and/or vandalism of any sort, theft of any kind, violation of "FLOOR HOCKEY" RULES, being involved in any activity that would warrant the summoning of Law Enforcement, being involved with drugs or alcohol in and/or around Dobson Ice Arena or Eagle Pool and Ice Rink and inciting other persons to become involved in any of the above activities.
- Any other conduct deemed inappropriate by the officials, representative and Board of Directors members of VEHA and venue personnel.

If the behavior of a PLAYER generates a SECOND complaint, and if after providing such person with an opportunity to appear before the (appropriate) Disciplinary

# **Vail-Eagle Hockey Association (VEHA)**

## **Player Code of Conduct: (continued)**

**Page 5 of 7**

Committee, the Board forms an opinion that the actions of such person(s) warrants a second censure by the Board, the person(s) shall be restricted from entering or participating in any VEHA functions or VEHA event for a period of thirty (30) days, or the Board may immediately sanction the offending person(s) as provided herein below. If necessary, a committee will be formed, normally chaired by the VEHA Vice President, to investigate the complaint.

If the actions of a PLAYER requires a THIRD censure or a violation of the 30-day restriction occurs, the PLAYER will be restricted from entering Dobson Ice Arena or Eagle Pool and Ice Rink during any VEHA event for up to a period of one (1) year. In addition, the membership of the family of the player may be suspended, at the discretion of the Board.

Any member family that has a PLAYER under suspension or restriction at the end of the hockey season may not be considered a “member in good standing” for the following reason. After the end of the season, the Board shall review the circumstances of the suspension or restriction and make a determination as to whether the player(s) in such family shall be eligible to return for the following season.

In the event the Board determines that the conduct in question involved a deliberate attempt by a PLAYER to physically harm another person, or involved other behavior of an outrageous, dangerous or violent nature, the VEHA Executive Board may, at its discretion, forego the procedure outlined herein above and immediately implement such sanction, including restriction, suspension or termination of the PLAYER as it deems reasonably necessary to protect the interests of VEHA and its membership. The Board shall review any action taken pursuant to this paragraph after the person in question has been given an opportunity to appear before the Board at a regular Board meeting.

Any punishment meted out by the VEHA pursuant to this Policy shall be separate from and in addition to any sanction issued by any coach (in the case of players or parents/guardians) for violation of written team rules, or any sanction issued by any referee, CAHA or USA Hockey.

### **Player Rule Categories**

- ***CATEGORY I RULE***

Displays of unsportsmanlike conduct before, during or after a game/practice are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, arguing with an official, coach or player, abusive or foul language, fighting, biting, spitting at another individual, or any attempt to injure.

# Vail-Eagle Hockey Association (VEHA)

## Player Code of Conduct: (continued)

Page 6 of 7

Players and their parents MUST obtain permission from their coaching staff and the VEHA Board President before playing with any other team/organization outside of VEHA, i.e., double rostering, tournament teams, etc., during the hockey season defined as September through March.

Players of opposite sex of the Pee Wee age level and older WILL NOT dress/undress in the same locker room. Only when dressed (all gear except helmets, skates and gloves), may the players convene in one locker room before and after games/practices for a period of time set by the coaching staff. (VEHA policy states that at least two (2) adults will be present when this occurs.)

### **PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF CATEGORY I RULE:**

*Coaching staff and Board Members are required to report and document violations to the VEHA Director of Hockey AND the VEHA Board President for review and scheduling a Disciplinary Committee hearing, and assessment of sanction. Disciplinary Committee hearing is required for 2<sup>nd</sup> violation and beyond.*

- **First violation** - Up to three (3) game periods benching at the discretion of the coaching staff. (Discipline will be documented, Parents will be notified, parents and player may be subject to appearance before Discipline Committee, if sanctions are beyond verbal warnings or missing a shift or two.
- **Subsequent violations** may include probation, varying lengths of suspension from games, practices and/or all VEHA activities. Severity of sanction is at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee. Sanctions are in force upon the conclusion of the Disciplinary Committee Hearing issuing the opinion. Any sanction may be appealed by following VEHA Policies and Procedures policies.
- **CATEGORY II RULE – incidents which may involve Law enforcement.**

Harassment, fighting, or abuse of any kind deemed harmful to any individual, coach or team, including but not limited to, verbal, physical, racial and sexual, will not be tolerated.

Hazing, defined as conduct insulting, intimidating, humiliating, offensive or physically harmful behavior is strictly prohibited.

The use and/or distribution of alcohol, tobacco and controlled or illegal substances, acts such as burglary, theft or vandalism are strictly prohibited. Any such violation will result in immediate suspension and a hearing within 7 days. All required restitution MUST be made prior to any consideration of lifting the suspension.

**Vail-Eagle Hockey Association (VEHA)  
Player Code of Conduct: (continued)**

**Page 7 of 7**

**PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF CATEGORY II RULE:**

*Coaching staff and Board members are required to report violations to the VEHA Coaching Director AND the VEHA Board President for review by the Disciplinary Committee, Player is immediately suspended from all VEHA activities, a preliminary review will be held within 24 hours to review the facts. Player, parent and coach will be notified of pending actions and review by Disciplinary Committee.*

**VEHA Player Code of Conduct Contract  
2011/2012**

I have read and understand the VEHA Player Code of Conduct, and agree to abide by its content. Please sign below.

Player Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

This signature page must be turned in **PRIOR TO THE FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE.** Players may not practice until VEHA has received the signed form. Faxed copies of the signature page are acceptable.