**Parent's Code of Conduct**

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthy, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when your student reflects these 'six pillars of character'.

Do not force your student athlete to play hockey, but support his/her desire to play. A student athlete typically gets involved in organized hockey for enjoyment. Make it fun. Remember that your student athlete 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 student athlete.

Encourage your student athlete to play by the rules. Student athletes learn best by example, so applaud fair play and the good plays of both teams. Do not embarrass your student athlete by yelling at players, coaches or officials. Show a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants. Your student athlete will benefit from this.

Be supportive after the game... .Win or lose.... Recognize good effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Emphasize developing skills and practicing, and their benefits. De-emphasize games and competition in younger age groups. Support their desire to play their chosen sport. The student is involved in organized sports for their enjoyment.

Parents serve as role models to their son/daughter, who often look to adults for advice, direction and

approval. Never lose sight of the fact that you are a role model, strive to be a positive role model. As a parent, one of the most important things you can do is show good sportsmanship at all times to coaches, referees, opponents and teammates.

Know and study the rules of the game and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help develop and support the game. Criticizing officials only hurts your team, your players and the game.

The stands are not a place from which to try to personally coach your student athlete. A student athlete often mirrors his parents' actions. If he sees mom or dad losing control in the stands, he'll probably do the same on the ice.

The best way to help a student athlete 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. If your student athlete does make a mistake - and he/she will (remember, he/she's just a kid) - keep in mind that mistakes are an important part of the learning process. Strive to be supportive and point out the things your student athlete does well. Make your student athlete feel like a winner.

Recognize the importance of coaches. They are very important to the development of your student athlete and to the sport. Communicate with, respect and support your student athlete'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 student athlete in a position of having to decide who to listen to, their parents or their coach.

If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about it! And volunteer!