



Fair Play in the BMHA!

Introduction

The purpose of this Fair Play Program is to ensure that our youth are given the opportunity to participate safely and with respect in our national sport. The intention is to emphasize positive aspects of Fair Play and ensure that these positives remain in the forefront of decision-making.

Note: There are times when controversial decisions need to be made in the name of Fair Play and those decisions, however controversial, are to be made in the spirit of safety and respect for all.

Mandate/Philosophy

The mandate/philosophy of this Fair Play Program is to encourage, foster and enhance the aspects of safety and respect, both on and off the ice, by all participants involved. Fair Play encourages all players to be as competitive as possible, but only within the rules of the game. Fair Play does NOT take away from winning; it teaches the “sport” of hockey and provides life long lessons in respect, teamwork, and friendship.

The Fair Play Program:

- Outlines the rights and responsibilities of all participants (Player, Coach, Official, and Parent);
- Makes all individuals aware that playing hockey is a privilege, not a right;
- Demonstrates that our Association promotes the concepts of safety and respect;
- Ensures that all participants are aware of the Association’s philosophies and objectives;
- Promotes, develops and defines a positive set of values and expectations, that are meant to help further enhance the thrill of sports;
- Develops a comprehensive guide that the association executive can use to run programs, in addition to existing rules, regulations and objectives.

5 Principles of Fair Play

- Respect the Rules
- Respect the Opponents
- Respect the Officials
- Maintain Self-Control
- Have everyone Participate

Implementation

Applying the Fair Play Program requires a cooperative, responsible, positive approach; encouraging “buy-in” by players, coaches, officials, parents and the association executive.

Awareness at the association level starts with recruiting coaches who believe in Fair Play and continues with promoting the Fair Play Program through all general marketing and registration programs.

Players, coaches, parents and officials demonstrate that they are “buying-in” by signing Fair Play Pledges, agreeing to abide by the rules of the Fair Play Program. These Fair Play Pledges are each developed to specifically clarify rights, responsibilities and privileges in the association. Each Pledge provides consistent rules focused upon the goals, mandate and principles of Fair Play in the BMHA.

Note: Coaches are to be aware that Fair Play Pledges may be referred to throughout the season to assist in resolving team problems and that breach of this Fair Play Program is sufficient reason for Coach-Imposed Suspensions.

Players exhibiting poor sportsmanship, lack of honesty, or lack of safety and respect for others, should be made aware that attitudes such as these are not tolerated in the BMHA.

Reporting Infractions

Incident Report Forms allow all participants to report unacceptable behaviour to any member of the BMHA Board of Directors within an expedient period of time. These forms are available on the forms page of the association website.

Penalties and Suspensions

Members who are finding themselves unable to abide by their Fair Play Pledge may come before a disciplinary hearing. The disciplinary team will discuss the Fair Play Program with the individual and may, at their discretion, take disciplinary action as they deem fit.

Note: Signed Fair Play Pledges are kept on file with the association and are forwarded to the disciplinary team upon request.

Penalties and suspensions for failure to abide by the Fair Play Pledge **could** be:

- 1st Offence – 3 meaningful games and/or 2 weeks from all hockey activities,
- 2nd Offence – 5 meaningful games and/or 4 weeks from all hockey activities,
- 3rd Offence – Suspended from all hockey activities and/or a disciplinary hearing with GHA.

This Fair Play in the BMHA Program is a continuation of the program originally implemented in August 2001 by the GHA.

Fair Play Pledge.... For PARENTS

This pledge is meant to promote Fair Play and respect for all participants within the BMHA. All parents must sign this pledge, stating that they will observe the principles of Fair Play, before being allowed to participate in hockey.

1. I will not force my child to participate in hockey.
2. I will remember that my child plays hockey for his or her enjoyment, not mine.
3. I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
4. I will teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game/event.
5. I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
6. I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
7. I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good plays / performances by both my child's team and their opponents.
8. I will never question the official's judgement or honesty in public.
9. I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's hockey activities.
10. I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteer coaches who give their time to provide hockey experiences for my child.



I agree to abide by the principles of this Fair Play Code, as supported by the BMHA, as well as the rules, regulations and decisions as set by the Association.

Parent's Name (print): _____ Parent's Name (print): _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Player's Team: _____

Fair Play Pledge.... For PLAYERS

This pledge is meant to promote Fair Play and respect for all participants within the BMHA. All players must sign this pledge, stating that they will observe the principles of Fair Play, before being allowed to participate in hockey.

1. I will play hockey because I want to, not just because others or coaches want me to.
2. I will play by the rules of hockey, and in the spirit of the game.
3. I will respect my opponents.
4. I will control my temper – fighting and mouthing off can spoil the activity for everyone.
5. I will do my best to be a true team player.
6. I will remember that winning isn't everything, while having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing my best are important.
7. I will acknowledge all good plays / performances – those of my team and of my opponents.
8. I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.



I agree to abide by the principles of this Fair Play Code, as supported by the BMHA, as well as the rules, regulations and decisions as set by the Association.

Player Signature: _____

Player Name (Print): _____

Date: _____

Team: _____

Fair Play Pledge.... For COACHES

This pledge is meant to promote Fair Play and respect for all participants within the BMHA. All coaches must sign this pledge, stating that they will observe the principles of Fair Play, before being allowed to participate in hockey.

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



I agree to abide by the principles of this Fair Play Code, as supported by the BMHA, as well as the rules, regulations and decisions as set by the Association.

Coach Signature: _____

Coach Name (Print): _____

Date: _____

Team: _____

Fair Play Pledge... For OFFICIALS

This pledge is meant to promote Fair Play and respect for all participants within the BMHA. All team officials must sign this pledge, stating that they will observe the principles of Fair Play, before being allowed to participate in hockey.

1. I will ensure that all players have a reasonable opportunity to perform to the best of their ability, within the rules.
2. I will avoid or remedy any situation that threatens the safety of players.
3. I will maintain a healthy atmosphere and environment for competition.
4. I will not permit the intimidation of any player, either by word or action, and will not tolerate unacceptable conduct towards others.
5. I will be consistent and objective, regardless of my personal feeling towards any individual player.
6. I will handle all conflicts firmly but with dignity, as I accept my position as teacher and role model.
7. I will remain open to constructive criticism and show respect and consideration for different points of view.



I agree to abide by the principles of this Fair Play Code, as supported by the BMHA, as well as the rules, regulations and decisions as set by the Association.

Team Official Signature: _____

Team Official Name (Print): _____

Date: _____

Team: _____

Position: _____