

**Cole Harbour Bel Ayr Minor Hockey Association**

**Code of Conduct**

The CHBAMHA adopts the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS) published by Canada’s Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (<https://sportintegritycommissioner.ca/uccms> ). The UCCMS in conjunction with Hockey Nova Scotia and Hockey Canada rules and regulations form the foundation for the CHBAMHA Code of Conduct. The Association’s Code of Conduct also follows Hockey Canada mission statement:

“We dedicate ourselves to the advancement of amateur hockey for all individuals through progressive leadership by ensuring meaningful opportunities and enjoyable experiences in a safe, sportsmanlike environment”.

The intent of the Code of Conduct is to ensure the environment in which minor hockey activities take place is as positive as possible for all participants. We strive to offer a hockey program for players, team officials (head coaches/assistant coaches/managers/safety representatives) and parents/guardians, which promotes fun and respect for all in a cooperative atmosphere. The CHBAMHA Executive, coaching staff and others involved in minor hockey are community volunteers working together to provide a meaningful recreational program for all players enrolled in the Association. All participants should have the opportunity to enjoy their involvement in the hockey program free from improper or inappropriate influences and criticism. The Association also recognizes the need to have guidelines for a standard of behaviour expected of all participants and appropriate measures to deal with those instances in which behaviour exhibited is not in the best interest of the CHBAMHA and all concerned.

**Application**

The CHBAMHA Code of Conduct applies to all CHBAMHA members including players, parents/guardians, team officials, and the CHBAMHA Executive.

**Terms and Definitions**

**Member**: Player, team official (coaching staff/manager/trainer), on-ice official, off-ice official or others as defined by our by-laws.

**Team Activity**: Any Hockey NS sanctioned game (including tournaments), practice, organized team event (e.g., dry land training), whether locally or away.

**Objectives:**

The objectives of the Code are:

1. To foster and enhance mutual respect, understanding and the principles of good sportsmanship amongst all participants during minor hockey events.

2. To promote safety and respect, ensure fun, enjoyment, and good competition at any minor hockey event.

3. The elimination of behaviours and actions which detract from a positive environment in which minor hockey games should take place.

4. Zero tolerance of any forms of abuse and/or harassment before, during or after minor hockey events from any participants.

It is considered the responsibility of **all** participants to be accountable for any inappropriate situation(s) at any minor hockey event. The responsibility of acting should not fall onto Association volunteers or team officials alone. Participants are encouraged to use common sense, rationally evaluate the situation, and act accordingly. It is considered everyone's responsibility, including non-executive participants, to become involved in attaining the goals set out in a Code of Conduct.

**Zero Tolerance – Alcohol, Cannabis, Tobacco, Vaping and Drugs**

Alcohol, Cannabis, Tobacco vaping and performance enhancing and/or drugs have no place amongst athletes in youth sports and as such Cole Harbour Bel Ayr Minor Hockey Association (CHBAMHA) has a zero-tolerance substance abuse policy.

CHBAMHA is committed to providing all our players with an environment free from alcohol, tobacco, vaping, cannabis and drugs. Our zero-tolerance stance will be strictly enforced amongst players, coaches, volunteers and the like.

**Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco, and Cannabis**

Cole Harbour does not permit players to possess on their person or to use alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, cannabis or illegal drugs while the player is involved in any sanctioned team, zone, or CHBAMHA event.  This includes pre- and post-event while attending the sanctioned event.

Also, 

* It is illegal in NS for those under the age of 19 to purchase or use (alcohol, tobacco, vaping products and cannabis products).
* Most by-laws in place do not permit smoking/vaping in any public places.

If a player is caught using or possessing illegal drugs, alcohol and controlled substances, including all tobacco products such as chewing tobacco, vaping products, cannabis, and non-prescribed pharmaceuticals, during any CHBAMHA team activity, he/she will be suspended immediately.

Any player found to be in the possession of or attempting to distribute the above-mentioned items, will be immediately suspended until a disciplinary hearing can be convened to determine the length of the suspension or sanction.

The suspended member will not be allowed to participate in any team activities until the suspension is dealt with.

In the event that a player breaches this policy:

* If the parents are at the event, the player will be turned over to their care to immediately exit the facility.
* If the parents are not at the event, then the player will be sent home (under escort), and any additional expenses incurred will be the responsibility of the player and their family.
* In the event that a coach or on–ice official breaches this policy, they will be asked to immediately exit the facility. They will consequently be suspended and asked to appear before a discipline committee.

**Sanctions**

First Infraction includes up to a two-game suspension. During the suspension period, the player is required to attend team activities, including games (non-participant), practices, team building and dry land.

Second infraction includes a minimum of 3 games and up to an 8-game suspension. During the suspension period, the player is required to attend team activities, including games (non-participant), practices, team building and dry land. The player may be required to attend an assessment and addiction counselling session(s) as approved by CHBAMHA.

Third infraction of the conduct policy will be an ***immediate indefinite***suspension to be reviewed by the Vice President and President of CHBAMHA to render an appropriate course of action.

All decisions regarding discipline by the CHBAMHA shall be at the discretion of the Executive whose decision will be final.

**Education:**

1. Advertise zero tolerance of inappropriate behaviour at minor hockey events. This is done via the CHBAMHA website, team information notices, team meetings (e.g., set expectations at the start of each season).

2. Educate participants. At pre-season registrations all participants should be given information to educate them that inappropriate behaviour at minor hockey events by either home and/or away participants will not be tolerated. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure appropriate behaviour at rinks.

3. Association registration forms. A brief outline of the expectations of every participant will be detailed on the forms. Every participant signing the registration form indicates agreement to abide by the program.

4. In pamphlet form provided to each family during the manager's initial meeting following team selection.

**Guiding Principles:**

* **We believe in a safe, inclusive and comfortable atmosphere in all aspects of our operations.**
* **We believe all participants should present themselves in a respectful and professional manner.**
* **We believe in a team-oriented game with strong individual skill development and we support Hockey Canada’s coaching concepts at all levels.**
* **We believe in a strong work ethic and proper preparation**
* **We believe participants (including players, team officials and parents/ guardians) must be respectful of each other both in what they say and do.**
* **We believe all participants must exhibit a focused and committed attitude in addition to their playing ability and skills.**
* **We believe players must be encouraged to have the confidence in their own ability.**
* **We believe participants must have respect for the officials regardless of the call.**
* **We believe coaching should be left to the coaching staff.**
* **We will respect social media policies and the privacy of player and family information**

**What we expect from Players: Players’ Code of Conduct**

1. I will play hockey because I want to, not 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 control my temper - fighting or "mouthing-off" can spoil the activity of everyone.
4. I will respect my opponents.
5. I will do my best to be a true team player.
6. I will remember that winning isn't everything - that having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.
7. I will acknowledge all good plays and performances - those of my team and my opponents.
8. I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.
9. I will do my best to respect the CHBAMHA Code of Conduct

**What we expect from Coaches: Coach’s Code of Conduct**

1. To be reasonable when scheduling games and practices remembering that young athletes have other interests and obligations.
2. To teach my players to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials, opponents and teammates.
3. To ensure *all* players receive equal instruction and support, and appropriate and fair playing time.
4. Not to ridicule or yell at any players, game officials or other team officials for making (perceived) mistakes or for poor performance.
5. To remember that players play to have fun and I will create an environment where they will develop self confidence, trust, and respect.
6. Not to question the game officials’ judgement or honesty in public.
7. To make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the player’s ages and ability.
8. To remember that players need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and I will set a good example.
9. To abide by the CHBAMHA’s “24-Hour Rule”.
10. To obtain proper training and continue to upgrade coaching skills.
11. I will respect the CHBAMHA Code of Conduct

**What we expect from Parents/Guardians: Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct**

1. I will not force my player to participate in hockey.
2. I will remember that my player plays hockey for their enjoyment, not mine.
3. I will encourage my player to play by the rules and to resolve conflict without resorting to hostility or violence or inappropriate language
4. I will teach my player that doing one's best is as important as winning so that my player will never feel defeated by the outcome of the game.
5. I will make my player feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and hard.
6. I will never ridicule or yell (derogatory) at my or any child, a game official, a team official, or another parent.
7. I will remember that children learn by example. I will applaud good plays and performances by both my player’s team and their opponents.
8. I will never question the game official's judgement or honesty in public.
9. I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's hockey games.
10. I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteers who give their time to hockey for my player.
11. I will abide by the team’s communication rules between coaches and parents (e.g. through the team manager)
12. I will abide by the CHBAMHA’s “24-hour rule”.
13. I will be responsible for my guests at my player’s hockey games, encouraging them to respect and abide by the Parents’ Code of Conduct.
14. I will respect the CHBAMHA Code of Conduct.