



Stettler Minor Hockey Association Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct identifies the standard of behavior that is expected of all Stettler Minor Hockey Association (SMHA) members, including Players, Coaches, Parents, Directors and Volunteers.

The SMHA is committed to providing and maintaining a Minor Hockey environment where all individuals are treated with respect. Attached to this document are specific guidelines for the behavior of Parents, Players, Spectators, Coaches, On and Off Ice Officials and Executive members and forms part of this Code of Conduct. As such, every family participating in SMHA must take the "RESPECT IN SPORT" online course through Hockey Alberta. This must take place before registering your child with the SMHA. On your registration form will be a place for you to write your Respect In Sport Certificate Number. Please understand your child's registration cannot be accepted until this course has been completed and the Certificate number submitted.

During the course of all SMHA activities and events, members of the SMHA shall conduct themselves, at all times, in a fair and responsible manner.

The following behaviors are strictly prohibited:

- Harassment and bullying in all its forms
- Language or physical act that is vulgar, obscene, racial or sexist
- Abuse of Officials, Coaches or Managers
- Fighting between Players on or off the ice, including play fighting in the dressing rooms
- Use of alcohol or illegal drugs before or during a Minor Hockey game
- Breaking of SMHA's Social Media Policy

Zero tolerance means that behavior to the contrary will not be tolerated. Each Coach has a responsibility to report recurring non-compliance to the Executive. Any Coach who does not report, or condones, any recurring acts of non-compliance may be subject to disciplinary action as well. The Coach shall participate in any disciplinary action and final discipline will be directed by the current Executive and may include discharge from Minor Hockey for the season. To ensure oversight, Coaches, or appropriate appointed personnel, shall supervise and maintain a positive team attitude and ensure compliance with the Policy guidelines.

Failure to observe this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Discipline policy and guidelines of the SMHA. Such action may result in the member losing the privileges that come with Membership in the SMHA, including the opportunity to participate in SMHA activities.



All matters having to be handled, for any of the above situations, shall be treated with the utmost confidentiality, except where recommendations of the Discipline Committee require communication with the Player, Parents, Coaches or the Executive of the SMHA. When formal meetings of the Discipline Committee occur with respect to any individual, the Committee shall meet with a minimum of three members present and if a Committee member is related to bias in any way, they will not be allowed to attend.

Stettler Minor Hockey Association Behavior Guidelines

Guidelines for Coaches

- Maintain self-control at all times
- Be a positive role model to your Players. Display emotional maturity and be alert to physical safety of Players. Do not appear for games or practices while intoxicated by alcohol or drugs.
- Show respect for On-ice and Off-ice Officials.
- Winning is a consideration, but neither the only one nor the most important one. Care more about the Player than winning the game. Remember, Players are involved in hockey for fun and enjoyment.
- Be generous with your praise when it is deserved; be consistent, honest; be fair and just; do not criticize players publicly; learn to be a more effective communicator and Coach; don't yell at Players.
- Adjust to personal needs and problems of Players. Be a good listener, never verbally or physically abuse a Player or Official; give all Players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem; teach them the basics.
- Organize practices that are fun and challenging for your Players. Familiarize yourself with the rules, techniques and strategies of Hockey; encourage all your Players to be Team Players.
- Maintain an open line of Communication with your Players' Parents. Explain the goals and objectives of your Association.
- Be concerned with the overall development of your Players. Stress good health habits and clean living.
- To play the game is great; to love the game is greater.
- Cell Phones in dressing room/bench are only for Emergency Use, not to be used on benches during a game.



Guidelines for Players

- Maintain self-control at all times.
- Attend as many games and practices as reasonably possible.
- Be present before games and practices in a timely manner.
- Notify the coach/manager ahead of time if I will be absent.
- Play for FUN.
- Work hard to improve your skills.
- Be a Team Player – get along with your Teammates.
- Learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline.
- Learn the rules and play by them. Always be a good sport.
- Respect your Coach, your Teammates, your Parents, Opponents and Officials.
- Don't be afraid to make mistakes; that's part of the learning process.
- Be modest in victory and gracious in defeat.
- Give 100% effort at each Practice and Game.
- No cell phones in the dressing room at any time
- SMHA does not approve any player driving themselves to ANY games. Home or Away.

Guidelines for Parents

- Should you wish to confront your child's coach about a practice or game related issue, **wait 24 hours before doing so**. Emotions can cause miscommunication and misunderstandings.
- Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desires to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it FUN.
- Encourage your child to attend as many games and practices as reasonably possible in a timely manner.
- Notify the coach/manager ahead of time of absences.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember that children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
- Maintain self-control at all times.
- Refrain from expressing your opinion of the coaches or players in front of your child.
- Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches, or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit.
- Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete.
- Know and study the rules of the game, and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the Officials only hurts the game.
- Applaud a good effort in victory and in defeat and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice - -it is destructive.



- Recognize the importance of Volunteer Coaches. They are important to the development of your Child and the sport.
- If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about the game and volunteer.

Guidelines for Spectators

- Act appropriately; do not taunt or disturb other fans; enjoy the game together.
- Maintain self-control at all times.
- Cheer good plays of all participants.
- Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive and will not be tolerated.
- Support the Referees and Coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
- Show respect for the decisions, judgement and authority of the officials and timekeepers.
- Respect locker rooms as private areas for Players, Coaches and Officials.
- Never appear for a game while intoxicated by drugs or alcohol.
- Be supportive after the game...win or lose.
- Recognize good effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Guidelines for On and Off Ice Officials

- Act in a professional and businesslike manner at all times and take your role seriously.
- Maintain self-control at all times.
- Strive to provide a safe and sportsmanlike environment in which players display their hockey skills.
- Know all playing rules, their interpretations and their proper application.
- Remember that Officials are "Teachers". Set a good example.
- Make your calls with quiet confidence; never with arrogance.
- Control games only to the extent that it is necessary to provide a positive and safe experience for all participants.
- Violence must never be tolerated.
- Be fair and impartial at all times.
- Answer all reasonable questions and requests.
- Adopt a "zero tolerance" attitude toward verbal or physical abuse.
- Never use foul language when speaking with a Player, Coach or Parent.
- Use honesty and integrity when answering questions.
- Admit your mistakes when you make them.
- Never openly criticize a Coach, Player or other Official.
- Keep your emotions under control.



Guidelines for Executive Members

- Work with On-Ice Officials, Coaches, Parents and other Executive Members to provide a positive and safe experience for all participants.
- Support programs that train and educate Players, Coaches, Parents, Officials and Volunteers.
- Promote and publicize our programs.
- Never appear for an Association event while intoxicated by drugs or alcohol.
- Communicate with Parents by being available to answer questions and address problems throughout the season.
- Maintain self-control at all times.
- Treat all Players, Coaches, and other Volunteers with fairness, to promote fair play and sportsmanship.
- Recruit Volunteers, including Coaches, who demonstrate qualities conducive to being role models to the youth in our sport.
- Perform your duties impartially, in furtherance of the aims of the SMHA. Do not use your position or influence to further purely personal objectives.



Stettler Minor Hockey Association Disciplinary Policy

The following is a set of Guidelines the Coaches/Players/Executive will be using in order to establish and maintain consistent discipline on our Teams within SMHA. This Disciplinary Policy will work hand in hand with the SMHA Code Of Conduct.

Coaches and their Staff will be supported by the SMHA Executive in enforcing the policy throughout the year.

We must all work together to encourage our Players and provide positive direction. We encourage teams to have their own rules and expectations and be able to moderate these in a reasonable fashion, **but any disciplinary action that removes a player from a practice and/or a game must be reported to the Director.**

SMHA Chain of Communication



All discipline concerns will be handled by the current Executive in a respectful manner and will be treated with utmost confidentiality for all parties involved.

At a minimum, the following situations will be subject to review by the current Executive:

- Concerns may be raised by a Member of the SMHA with proper documentation. The concern must be documented in writing and submitted to the SMHA President.
- Excessive suspensions and the recurring nature of the suspension and/or excessive penalty minutes.
- Violations of the Policies or Code of Conduct of the SMHA.



How to report an incident:

- Proper chains of communication must take place. SMHA encourages resolutions at the team level whenever possible. Any individual who does not follow the chain of communication will be in violation of the SMHA code of conduct and will be subject to discipline.
- The Coach/Coaching Staff or Player/Parent must submit a letter in writing outlining the incident in detail to the President of SMHA within 5 days of the incident happening.
- Once the incident has been given to the President in writing, the President will address the incident with current Executive Committee and render a decision within 3 days.
- Once the decision has been made, the discipline/suspension will be communicated to the Player by his or her Coach. For Coaches the discipline/suspension will be communicated by the President of SMHA.
- Once the Executive Committee has decided on the course of disciplinary action, a copy of the decision, in writing, will be submitted to the party in question. A copy will be kept for SMHA records as well.
- The individual will be given the opportunity to appear before the SMHA Executive to appeal the decision to suspend. All subsequent decisions of the SMHA Executive will be considered final.

Disciplinary Policy:

Refer to Stettler Minor Hockey Association Bylaw XVII Discipline Process.
Each situation will be handled on a case to case basis



**Stettler Minor Hockey Association
SMHA Tournament and Exhibition Ice Policy**

TOURNAMENT:

New to the 2023-24 season, a position of tournament director will be created to oversee home tournament operations.

U7 and U9 Tournament Policies:

U7 teams may attend a maximum of one away tournament and will host one home tournament each season. There is no requirement to apply to the tournament director to host a home tournament. Home tournaments will be scheduled towards the end of each divisions respective season. A reminder that 10% of tournament income will be returned to SMHA.

U9 teams may attend a maximum of two away tournament and will host one home tournament each season. There is no requirement to apply to the tournament director to host a home tournament. Home tournaments will be scheduled towards the end of each divisions respective season. A reminder that 10% of tournament income will be returned to SMHA.

U11 and U13 Tournament Policies:

U11 and U13 teams may attend away tournaments at their own discretion, however, it is advised that teams familiarize themselves with their respective league scheduling requirements prior to committing to away tournaments.

U11 and U13 teams may host one home tournament each season. Applications to host must be reviewed and approved by the tournament director. A reminder that 10% of tournament income will be returned to SMHA.

U15 and U18 Tournament Policies:

U15 and U18 teams may attend away tournaments at their own discretion, however, it is advised that teams familiarize themselves with their respective league scheduling requirements prior to committing to away tournaments.

U15 and U18 will not host home tournaments as of the 2023-24 Season

EXHIBITION GAMES:

Each U11 – U18 team is allowed to host 2 home exhibition games per season and may attend 2 away exhibition games per season. Home exhibition games must be completed by the end of their respective league Christmas Break. Away exhibition games may be completed at any time during the season.

END OF SEASON ICE:

Due to Town of Stettler cancelation policies, teams may attend a maximum of 2 advance-scheduled practices in the week following playoff elimination, subsequent practices will be canceled.

If teams did not participate in any exhibition play during the season, then one additional practice may be scheduled to host a wind-up skate practice, depending on availability.

If teams are participating in late in season tournaments, ice may be booked at their own cost, depending on availability.

****Please note that player-parent/sibling games are not permitted by SMHA for insurance purposes, unless participants are actively registered and rostered to a SMHA team.**