

# BP HOCKEY

## A “Bully Free” Environment Fun & Elite Hockey.

Submitted by: Chris Kornblum (BP Hockey)



**BP (Buddies and Pals) Hockey grew out of a childhood club we had as a family. The concept was simple; a buddy and a pal for life. The mission of BP Hockey? For five years, it has been dedicated to providing young participants with a fun and elite hockey experience that encourages sportsmanship and a love for the game through the development of players, coaches, and teams in a bully-free environment. My dream is to have every young participant take the buddies and pals concept and use it in their own lives.**

**With that in mind we have based our program on the following concepts:**

### Respect for All Persons

Respect for all persons is not just about physical well-being. It is also about emotional and mental wellness. At BP Hockey I will provide and promote a safe, bully-free environment where all three are of the utmost importance. Unfortunately, bullying is a part of our society...not just sports. My aim is a “bully-free” group. Thanks to current participants, the ground work has been laid. They have created the culture and passed on the appropriate standards. I really have no part in this. It’s just the way it is at BP. To me, being bully-free is more important than an overtime win, a beautiful goal, or an incredible new skill learned.

All members of BP Hockey matter to me, are equally important and are treated with fairness, respect and without regard for ethnicity, gender, social position or age.

### Code of Conduct

At BP Hockey the code of conduct (COC) defines the standards of behavior for group members. This includes:

- Communicate openly
- Players are “team” players
- Issues and ideas are shared with the group to make us better
- Use consensus for team decisions
- Parents actively participate in meetings



It’s very common for groups to develop a code of conduct. What’s not so common is for the group to have everyone abide by this code. Ignoring it is not an option. I live by it, and I expect everyone to do the same.

The code of conduct challenges everyone to take responsibility for themselves and the group’s well-being. Being a team player means following the code of conduct and actively participating to ensure its evolution and ongoing relevance.

This code is more than words on paper. It’s growing. I always go back to it, remind myself about it, and review things to ensure it’s meeting the needs of the group.

### Style of Play

- We are comfortable taking risks.
- Players will be allowed to be creative on the ice.
- Players will “push” the play. It’s a “move your feet” mentality, especially for defencemen. First pass...then move up ice. Pushing the play is a team tactic, not an individual skill.
- We will be a fun group to play against. Teams will want to play us.
- Team success will be measured by long-term player development, not by game results.
- We will be accountable to ourselves and honest with each other.
- We make mistakes and learn from them.
- Goalies are supported 100% of the time. Without confident goalies no one improves.
- Yelling at referees is a form of bullying and not tolerated.
- On the ice players are encouraged to be risk-takers, which means mistakes will be made. Parents and coaches will be supportive of this style of play.

### Player Development

Player development within an appropriate environment is one of my primary goals. It’s also my aim that all members will help each other in a place where age doesn’t matter. A shared love of the game and a sense of family will be nurtured to encourage all players to work together to sharpen their skills, share their knowledge and achieve their goals.

### Coaches

This isn’t just a hockey program. It’s a life skills group. Success begins and ends with having the best educators possible to help our kids. Coaches and off-ice fitness instructors have the most important role in the success of BP Hockey, both as teachers and role models. Our program will strive to ensure that our youth are provided the most current “best” practices. No team is successful without good coaching.



### Family Involvement

- One of the hardest things to do as a parent is to release or “let go” of your child to BP Hockey and the coach.
- Parents:
- You cannot criticize or undermine the coach in front of your child.
- You should not encourage your child to play the game the way you were taught.
- By letting your child go, you are trusting the coach to do what’s best for him or her, and you are trusting the coach is familiar with the latest ideas in the game.
- Don’t sacrifice your beliefs and values just so your son can play on the team.
- Every year I have seen examples of players and parents becoming disillusioned with the coach as the season wears on. Constant positive communication with the coach will keep parents informed and help to ward off negativity.
- Understand that the coach’s philosophy is very important prior to committing to the team. Sometimes the player quits, or simply endures that last few weeks or months and is miserable. I often think this could be avoided if the parents and coach communicate more effectively.
- Hockey is a game of instinct. The ability to make good decisions both on and off the ice is what makes for good teammates and great friends. My goal is to ensure that mental awareness is a big part of the on-ice portion of the player’s growth. I want families to understand the importance I’m placing on teaching and learning both the physical and mental aspects of the game at BP. These are the ingredients for broadly-based growth and success.

I want BP Hockey’s reputation to reflect one of the most competitive, well-run and sportsmanlike organizations in Canada.

I continue to remind parents that they signed up to support and encourage all players. The player’s passion, desire and love will come from within.

I’ve established the BP culture and the standards that will guide us. In the end I go back to how I was raised, and what my parents taught us as kids...or how Lori and I raised our kids. When you make good decisions off the ice, the hockey part becomes easy for me. My goal is to get the players to the “next” level, where they can be a “good buddy”, and strong mentally and physically.

I’ve truly been blessed with BP Hockey, and I’m thankful to parents for their support and allowing me to “make a difference” in so many young lives.

Hockey is truly a team sport. So...finally a special thank you to all those who have been part of “my” team. To Lori, my kids Megan, Brendan, and Ryan, my parents Ted and Bev, and my sisters Teresa, Cindy, Amanda and spouses, and to my aunts, uncles and cousins. To my Ontario coaches Chris Wilson, Kevin Reed, Brian Kehoe, Joe Shunock, Marty Abrams, Ryan Woodward, Brian Christopher, and my Alberta mentors. One more special thanks to Brett Keyworth for being someone I’ve looked up to and who raises the bar “100%” for BP Hockey.

And to Joey over in the County... “Dial it in...” simply the best!

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### The BP Hockey Way

We want teams capable of competing for the championship every year.

BP Hockey has been a supportive and fun environment that has helped develop our players, coaching staff, officials, parents, fans, community members and visitors so they feel respected and valued.

## HOCKEY CAMP DATES IN BELLEVILLE

Aug 20-24th in Belleville  
Also running 4 on 4 tournament  
in Belleville Aug 24th -26th