



Smoky Lake Minor Hockey

Smoky Lake Minor Hockey Association- Fair Play Policy

Smoky Lake Minor Hockey believes that rural hockey is developmental hockey in a competitive setting. Alternatively, there are avenues to allow movement of players to elite streams of hockey as outlined in our constitution.

We feel that it is critical that at the U13 level and below fair and equal ice time is given to the players. All players should have a chance to develop and experience different types of game play. Hockey Alberta has mandated this at the U11 level via the U11-pathway mandate. We feel that it is equally important at the U13 level.

Should there be 2 goaltenders at any level below U15, these goalies should split game action. 30 minutes each, or thereabouts, in a regular 60-minute game, regardless of the perceived skill of one over another. This can be accomplished by changing at the nearest stoppage in play to the halfway mark of the game. If agreed upon by goalie parents, and the coaches, this could be game for game, but at the end of the season it should be as equal as possible, but this is not the preferred method of splitting games. At the U15 level, allowances can be made for goaltenders to play complete games if an agreement to do so has been made between goaltenders, parents, and coaches. The games played at the end of the season should be virtually the same. Should no agreement be in place, the default should always be to split games, 30 minutes for each goaltender. While not subject to an even play policy, U18 goaltending will again be enforced by an agreement between goaltenders, parents, and coaches. Arrangements between coaches, parents, and goaltenders should be well understood by all parties when the season begins.

It is our belief that it is each coach's responsibility to foster a love of the game in each and every player on their respective teams. No child should be left behind or left out in gameplay or practice. Coaches do have the flexibility to deal with poor behavior on the ice, or in the locker room. Such incidents should be clearly relayed and explained to the parents/guardians, with consequences laid out in advance of gameplay in a coach/parent/team meeting.

If there is a team policy, where missing practices will result in less ice-time in games, this should be clearly communicated to parents/guardians. Missing just one practice must NEVER result in this consequence. Typically, a text or phone call stating the player will be missing practices is enough. In the case where many practices are missed, the coaches may ask that the player attend practice before returning to game play. Keep in mind, especially at the developmental level, missing practices does put your player behind, regardless of their individual skill level. Missing practice or games must always be communicated.

Failure to adhere to these policies, put in place for the 2022-23 season and onward, will result in an immediate review of the coaching staff by an independent group, and potential removal of coaches found to be negligent in following these policies. Coaches are volunteers, we don't expect perfection. There is no coach capable of fulfilling such expectations. We can only



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expect coaches and parents alike to learn from past incidents. A late player should always be welcomed to the bench. Remember that we don't know what other people are dealing with when they're not at the rink. Be kind.

Fair Play Code- for players

- 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 control my temper - fighting and mouthing off can spoil the activity for everybody.
- 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 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.

Fair Play Code- for parents

- 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 for mine.
- 3) I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to re- solve 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.
- 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 game.
- 7) I will remember that children learn best by example.
- 8) I will applaud good plays/performances by both my child's team and their opponents.
- 9) I will never question the officials' judgement or honesty in public.
- 10) I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's hockey games.
- 11) I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteer coaches who give their time to coach hockey for my child.



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Fair Play Code-for spectators

- 1) I will remember that participants play hockey for their enjoyment. They are not playing to entertain me.
- 2) I will not have unrealistic expectations. I will remember that players are not professionals and cannot be judged by professional standards.
- 3) I will respect the officials' decisions and I will encourage participants to do the same.
- 4) I will never ridicule a player for making a mistake during a game.
- 5) I will give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort.
- 6) I will condemn the use of violence in any form and will express my disapproval in an appropriate manner to coaches and league officials.
- 7) I will show respect for my team's opponents, because without them there would be no game.
- 8) I will not use bad language, nor will I harass players, coaches, officials, or other spectators.

Fair Play Code-for coaches

- 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, support and playing time (U13 and under).
- 4) I will not ridicule or yell at my players for making mistakes or for performing poorly. I will remember that players play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
- 5) I will ensure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the players' ages and abilities.
- 6) I will remember that participants need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example.
- 7) I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills.
- 8) I will work in cooperation with officials for the benefit of the game.



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Fair Play Code- for officials

- 1) I will ensure that every player has a reasonable opportunity to perform to the best of his or her ability within the limits of the rules.
- 2) I will avoid or put an end to any situation that threatens the safety of the players. I will maintain a healthy atmosphere and environment for competition.
- 3) I will not permit the intimidation of any player either by word or by action. I will not tolerate unacceptable conduct toward officials, other players, spectators, or myself. I will be consistent and objective in calling all infractions, regardless of my personal feelings toward a team or individual player.
- 4) I will handle all conflicts firmly but with dignity. I accept my role as a teacher and role model for fair play, especially with young participants.
- 5) I will be open to discussion with the players before and after the game.
- 6) I will remain open to constructive criticism and show respect and consideration for different points of view.
- 7) I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my officiating skills.
- 8) I will work in cooperation with coaches for the benefit of the game.

Fair Play Code- for league organizers

- 1) I will do my best to see that all players are given the same chance to participate, regardless of gender, ability, ethnic background or race.
- 2) I will absolutely discourage any sport program from becoming primarily entertainment for the spectator.
- 3) I will make sure that all equipment and facilities are safe and match the athletes' ages and abilities.
- 4) I will make sure that the age and maturity level of the participants are considered in program development, rule enforcement and scheduling.
- 5) I will remember that play is done for its own sake and make sure that winning is kept in proper perspective.
- 6) I will distribute the Fair Play codes to spectators, coaches, athletes, officials, parents, and media.
- 7) I will ensure that coaches and officials promote fair play as well as the development of good technical skills and I will encourage them to become certified.

FAIR PLAY IS EVERYONE'S CALL