

Mitchell

Minor Hockey

BY-LAWS

Revised August 2020

By-Law 1 – CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code of Conduct identifies the standard of behaviour that is expected of all Mitchell Minor Hockey Association (MMHA) members, including players, coaches, parents, directors, and volunteers.

The MMHA 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 behaviour of Parents, Players, Spectators, Coaches, On and Off-Ice Officials and Executive members and forms part of this Code of Conduct.

During the course of all MMHA activities and events, members of the MMHA shall conduct themselves at all times in a fair and responsible manner. They shall refrain from comments or actions that are disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist, or sexist. Behaviour that constitutes harassment or abuse (as defined by Canadian Hockey governing bodies) will not be tolerated by the MMHA.

Members shall avoid behaviour that brings the MMHA or the sport of Hockey into disrepute, including but not limited to abusive use of alcohol and non-medicinal use of drugs, or that endangers the safety of others.

MMHA members shall at all times adhere to the MMHA Constitution and to the rules governing the MMHA events and activities.

Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Discipline policy and guidelines of the MMHA. Such action may result in the member losing the privileges that come with membership in the MMHA, including the opportunity to participate in MMH.

Guidelines For Coaches

Winning is a consideration, but neither the only one nor the most important one. Care more about the child than winning the game. Remember players are involved in hockey for fun and enjoyment.

Be a positive role model to your players, display emotional maturity and be alert to the 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 at all times.

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.

Guidelines for Parents

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 play by the rules. Remember that children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.

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.

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

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. Work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse in youth sports

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 Players

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.

Discuss an official's decision calmly and express your opinion clearly and without profanity or disrespect.

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.

Guidelines for Spectators

Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches, and officials.

Act appropriately; do not taunt or disturb other fans; enjoy the game together.

Cheer good plays of all participants; avoid booing opponents.

Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive and will not be tolerated.

Help provides a safe and fun environment; throwing any items on the ice surface can cause injury to players and officials.

Do not lean over the boards or pound on the glass; the glass surrounding the ice surface is part of the playing area.

Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity Be responsible for your own safety - - be alert to prevent accidents from flying pucks and other avoidable situations

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.

Mitchell Minor Hockey Association Behaviour Guidelines

Guidelines for On and Off – Ice Officials (Referees and Time Keepers)

Act in a professional and businesslike manner at all times and take your role seriously.

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

Follow the rules and regulations of the Canadian Hockey Federation, the Ontario Minor Hockey Association, Western Ontario Athletic Association to ensure that the philosophy and objectives of these organizations are promoted.

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 your 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

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 MMHA. Do not use your position or influence to further purely personal objectives.

By-Law 2 – DISCIPLINE POLICY

Coaches and Players

(Effective Sept 1/2002)

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 Mitchell Minor Hockey. This disciplinary policy will work hand in hand with our new “Code Of Conduct” introduced this year. Players, parents and coaches will be informed of this policy at the start of the Hockey season. Coaches and their staff will be supported by the MMHA executive in enforcing the policy throughout the year. Hockey is a team sport and for everyone on the team to be able to participate to his or her highest level we must all work together to encourage our children and provide positive direction. Mitchell has a great reputation within our own community and among other towns for being very well behaved and respectful when participating in games and tournaments. Lets work together to continue this reputation for years to come.

How to report an Incident:

- The coach /coaching staff or player must submit a letter in writing outlining the incident in detail to the President of Minor Hockey 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 the 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 Minor Hockey.
- The individual will be given the opportunity to appear before the MMHA executive to appeal the decision to suspend. All subsequent decisions of the MMHA executive will be considered final.

Conduct Considered To Be Inappropriate: Verbal Abuse

Verbal abuse to teammates, coaches, managers, officials, parents, etc. will result in the following suspensions.

Players:

- 1st offence: Warning
- 2nd Offence: 1 game suspension
- 3rd offence: 5 game suspension
- The 4th offence will result in the player being suspended for the duration of the current season. The remaining registration will be refunded on a pro rated basis depending on the number of games and practices remaining. Also MMHA will deduct an administration fee of 25.00 dollars.

Coaches:

- 1st offence: Warning
- 2nd Offence: Removed from Coaching for current season. OMHA and Police will be notified.

Parents:

- 1st offence: Warning
- 2nd Offence: Removed from MMHA Arena's for current season. OMHA and Police will be notified.

Physical Abuse

Players:

The physical attack on or intimidation of another player, coach, manager, or official will result in the player being suspended for up to one season. The OMHA and Police will be contacted to assist in the disciplinary/ criminal action to be taken.

Coaches:

The physical attack on or intimidation of a player, coach, manager, parent or official will result in the coach being suspended for life from ever coaching in Mitchell Minor Hockey. The OMHA and Police will be contacted to assist in the disciplinary/ criminal action to be taken.

Parents:

- Any physical attack on or intimidation of a player, coach, official, or spectator.
- 1st offence: Removed from MMHA Arena's for a period of no less than one calendar year. OMHA/OWHA and Police will be notified.
- 2nd Offence: Removed from MMHA Arena's indefinitely.

Vandalism

Player:

Abuse of the home or away arena including dressing rooms, washrooms, viewing areas etc. will not be tolerated. The player found to be responsible would be suspended from play until

- i) Costs for the damages have been paid
- ii) The incident reviewed by MMH Executive for possible further Discipline.

Coach:

Abuse of the home or away arena including dressing rooms, washrooms, viewing areas etc. will not be tolerated. The coach found to be responsible would be suspended from play until

- i) Costs for the damages have been paid
- ii) The incident reviewed by MMH Executive for possible further Discipline.

Parents:

Abuse of the home or away arena including dressing rooms, washrooms, viewing areas etc. will not be tolerated. The parent(s) found to be responsible will be removed MMH arena's from until the

- i) Costs for the damages have been paid
- ii) The incident reviewed by MMH Executive for possible further Discipline.

Alcohol And Substance Abuse

Player:

Any player found to be under the influence and or possession of an illegal substance/alcohol will be suspended for the duration of the current season and the police will be contacted. The remaining registration will **not** be refunded.

Coach:

Any Coach found to be under the influence and or possession of an illegal substance/alcohol will be suspended for the duration of the current season. Mitchell Minor Hockey would review the incident. The Police would be contacted for assistance.

By-Law 3 - COACHES' COMMITTEE

A Coaches' Committee will be appointed at the Annual Meeting each year to assist in reviewing and interviewing applicants for coaching positions with MMHA. The Coaches' Committee will provide recommendations to MMHA for all girls and boys teams including Rep., LL and AE. The Coaches Committee shall consist of the director of player development and four members of the General Membership. One member of the Committee shall be appointed as the Chairperson.

The terms of the four elected members will be a two year staggered term. Committee members will be replaced as their term expires.

In addition to the selection of coaches, the Coaches' Committee shall remain a unified body for the duration of the hockey season. This Committee will act a liaison between the Executive, players, coaches and parents. Complaints or issues about a particular coach must be made in writing to the Parent Rep who will work with the Coach (maximum 2 bench staff, one will be the head coach, the parent rep and the parent) to resolve issues. Complaints must abide by the 24 hour rule. If there is any form of harassment (verbal, physical, sexual) the President must be contacted. Upon a second complaint the parent rep will notify the President or delegate. The Executive will receive reports when such issues arise and if necessary will vote on an appropriate course of action.

Coaches for the Representative, Additional Entry and Local League teams will be selected in the following manner:

- MARCH to SEPTEMBER– MMHA will advertise for the submission of coaching applications as well as distribute applications to the current coaches. The application deadline is March 31.
- APRIL to SEPTEMBER – The Coaches' Committee shall conduct interviews, submit a recommended list of coaches and also identify any vacancies.
- APRIL to SEPTEMBER – The MMHA Executive Committee shall meet with the Coaches' Committee to review their recommendations and approve coaching staff for the upcoming season. The Coaches' Committee shall then inform all applicants of their acceptance or non-acceptance and provide feedback.
- Further advertising and personal contact will be done and the Coaches' Committee shall compile a list of potential applicants for the identified vacancies.
- MAY to SEPTEMBER – The Executive Committee shall meet and review the final recommendations of the Coaches' Committee and present the final list of Coaches at an Executive Meeting. The Coaches' Committee

- will then inform the remaining applicants of their acceptance or non-acceptance.
- All coaching applicants must provide a Police Record Check.
 - The Executive Committee may appoint a Coaching Mentor to assist all coaches in the MMHA

By-Law 4 - TRAINERS AND COACHES CLINICS

The MMHA will pay the costs of required coaches, trainers and respect in sport clinics for those team officials signed with the MMHA teams. Team officials wishing to attend clinics beyond what is required will have to cover the costs themselves.

By-Law 5 - ICETIME SCHEDULER

The Executive Committee shall appoint an Ice time Scheduler to assign the available ice time to the teams as directed by the General Membership. Ice scheduler is responsible to give a monthly allocation by team and what ice is paid for but not used to the Executive Committee. Once scheduled, each team is responsible to use their given times or ensure that another team is going to use it. Each team is responsible to check the ice time schedule and make any necessary changes in conjunction with the Ice time Scheduler including the updating of games and practices. Failure to use or switch unwanted times may result in the loss of some future practice(s).

The MMHA will strive to work with the other arena user groups to divide up the available ice time based somewhat on the number of registrations in each group. This currently involves but not restricted to Curling, Figure Skating, OWHA and affiliated Hockey (predominately girls registrations), Ringette, and OMHA and affiliated Hockey (predominately boys registrations). The MMHA will then offer programs based on the amount of available ice time allotted to them. This will be reviewed at the beginning of each season following the registration period.

By-Law 6 - GOALIE EQUIPMENT

Teams needing goal equipment shall be directed to the Equipment Manager.

The MMHA shall supply goalie equipment for all Pee Wee and below teams or those teams approved by MMH Executive as needed. The coach of each of these teams shall ensure that all equipment is returned to the Equipment manager following use.

By-Law 7 – BANNERS

The MMHA shall provide a large Arena Banner for any team winning an OMHA, OWHA, or International Silverstick Championship.

By-Law 8 – PERMISSION TO SKATE & RELEASES

Permission to skate forms can be obtained from the President or their designate with 7 days written notice for any player, after they have registered with the MMHA, wishing to try out for: > Boys – AAA Zone

- > Boys – OHA Junior “B” and above
- > Girls – OWHA teams rated “AA/A” or above (providing MMHA does not enter an “AA/A” team at that age division). As per OWHA, all players requesting a PTS will be granted one after 7 days written notice to the President or Girls Town Contact. If the player has been released to a level below A for reasons other than moving residence or insufficient registrations, the player will only be allowed to return to Mitchell Minor Hockey if the numbers permit and a passing vote is achieved at the board level.
- > Boys – A/AA
 - Eligible players, upon registration with Mitchell Minor Hockey may request a Non-Resident Player Passport to be eligible for tryouts at the nearest centre categorized AA/A level (Peewee level and above). Passports will be issued by the Town Contact.
 - *Note – Permission to skate forms are automatically granted to any registered players wishing to try out for the Mitchell Junior C Hawks.*
 - The responsibility of any player from MMHA is vested with the Executive governed by the rules and regulations of the OMHA and OWHA.
 - Any request for a release of a MMHA registered player to play for an O.W.H.A. team shall be dealt with by the Executive Committee within 14 days of the request in writing.
 - Any player granted a release shall be entitled to a refund of registration fees subject to MMHA’s Refund Policy
 - When insufficient registrations do not warrant a team to be entered at a certain age group then those registered players at that level shall be given a choice to try out for the team above their age category or be given permission to try out for a nearby community. Only those registered at the time a decision is rendered by the Executive Committee to abandon the team shall be eligible to receive permission to skate forms and subsequent permission to sign in another Minor Hockey system.

- All teams shall have a minimum of 12 registered players at the age category in order to warrant a team. Any special circumstances shall be dealt with and ruled on by the Executive Committee.

By-Law 9 – REGISTRATION & REFUND By-Law

Registration will be held in March for the next hockey season. Registration fees will be set by the Executive Committee according to the projected programs to be. All players must be registered with the MMHA before being allowed to try out for any team. Registrations are due prior to April 1st and a late fee will be applied for registrations received after this date. The late fee will be determined by the Executive.

All refund requests must be made in writing to the Minor Hockey Executive for approval. Approved refund amounts will be based on the following table:

- Written request before April 1 --- full refund
- Written request April 1 to September 30 --- the lesser of 75% refund or \$200
- Written request October 1 to 31 --- 50% refund
- Written request after November 1 --- no refund

Special exceptions and circumstances must be approved by the Executive Committee.

By-Law 10 - PLAYERS TRYING OUT FOR HIGHER AGE DIVISIONS

All MMHA players are required to register and sign with a team in their own age group. Consideration will be given to exceptional players wishing to tryout and sign with a higher age group as per OMHA and OWHA manuals. The Executive Committee may appoint a review committee to determine the abilities of the "exceptional player" and report back to the Executive Committee with their findings. In most cases this would involve witnessing the player practice or play in a tryout period with the advanced group. The Executive Committee will then review the report before rendering a decision. "Exceptional Player" may be defined as one who would be included in the top third of the higher division team that player wishes to try out for.

The Executive may need to move players to higher age divisions to support numbers in those divisions. Parents will be notified prior to any such movement and be allowed to overrule the executive's desired movement.

By-Law 11 – TRYOUT POLICY - COACHES PLAYER SELECTION GUIDELINE

MMH, in order to try out for the team in their age category. If from another Minor Hockey Association, they need a Permission to Skate Form, plus \$30 tryout fee for three practices which will go towards registration if selected to the team.

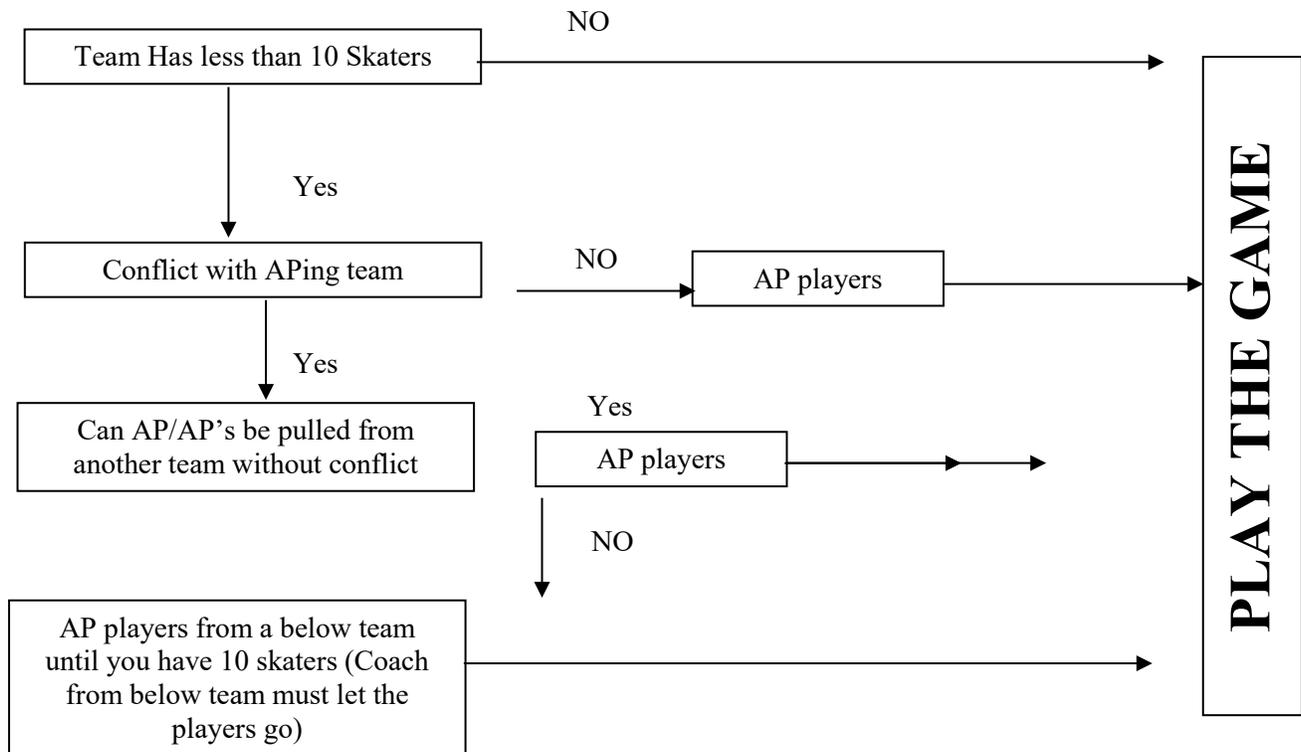
- Players are guaranteed two practices to be evaluated. After the 2nd practice coaches may start assigning players to the lower level team in their age category (e.g. Rep team to AE team to LL or HL team).
- Coaches are to have their team selected at the conclusion of 5 on-ice times (practices or games.) or as approved by the coaches committee.
- Coaches are to communicate with the players in a respectable manner when assigning players to a lower level team.
- A third party adviser/mentor may be appointed by the MMH executive to each team to insure tryout policy is followed, and will evaluate any players related to the coaching staff trying out for the team.
- Coaches must follow recommended number of players selected per team as outlined by the executive. The number of players will be set in accordance with registration numbers. (e.g.. standard 13 skaters and 2 goalies).
- A player must attend the rep team tryout in order to play for any traveling team (e.g.. AE or LL team). If a particular player has an issue with playing for a particular team, they should make their concern(s) known to the executive in writing in the form of a signed letter or an email from the party concerned.
- Girls may not be used as full time players on a MMHA girls and boys team in the same season. Girls may register for a boy's team.

REMEMBER TRYOUTS ARE A VEHICLE TO PLACE PLAYERS ON TEAMS WHERE THEY WILL BENEFIT THE MOST, ACCORDING TO THEIR SKILL LEVEL AND ABILITY.

By-Law 12 – AFFILIATED PLAYER POLICY

All OMHA, WOAA and OWHA rules will apply first. MMHA rules cannot override OMHA, OWHA or WOAA rules.

1. Mitchell Minor Hockey Association's primary purpose of player affiliation is to ensure that teams have sufficient available players for fair and safe play in cases of illness, injury, or other unavailability. The affiliation agreement is to help develop the players and should not be used with the intent to better a team.
2. The affiliation agreement is to compliment the current signed players of an affiliating team. The affiliation agreement is not to be used to add to the original players signed to a team.
3. For cases in Initiation, Novice, Atom and Peewee where a team's roster is below 13 skaters, the coaching staff may decide to affiliate players to add to his/her roster and bring it up to 13. This philosophy must be discussed with the team and parents at the start of the season. All other AP rules still apply.
4. In cases in Bantam and Midget where a team's roster is below 15 skaters, the coaching staff may decide to affiliate players to add to his/her roster and bring it up to 15. This philosophy must be discussed with the team and parents at the start of the season. All other AP rules still apply.
5. The affiliated player's first obligation is to his/her carded (assigned) team. In the event of a conflict:
 - The player, parents and coaches involved must agree.
 - Players cannot be forced to play for an AP team when their rostered team is playing.
 - If a team has less than 10 players for a game, they are able to pull up an AP(S) to reach 10 players. Coaches must accommodate these situations and let agreed upon players play for the AP'ed team. The APing Team cannot AP if it leaves the team below with less than 10 skaters and no possibilities of APing. See Chart Below:



6. If the lowest level team has less than 10 skaters and cannot AP from other travel teams, then they are permitted to AP from House league to bring their skating number to 10. Permission from the Coaching Committee or Director of Player Development is required for each occurrence.
7. During playoffs and tournaments, the affiliated player's first obligation is to his/her carded (assigned) team unless the coaches, the player and the players' parents all agree. If it is agreed to AP to another team during a tournament, the player is still responsible for their tournament fee.
8. An affiliated player can play for both teams (affiliated and assigned) in the same day as long as the player and players parent(s) are in agreement.
9. Affiliation is not intended to be used as a means by which the affiliated player can play on a regular basis with the non-assigned team.
10. We understand and acknowledge that the coach requiring the use of an affiliated player shall first obtain the approval of the carded team's coach, secondly contact the affiliated player's parents and thirdly contact the affiliated player.

11. Each affiliated OMHA player must sign a Player Affiliation Agreement as well as each player's parent and both coaches from the affected teams. OWHA player pick-up forms must be signed by the President, Director of Player Development or Girls Town Contact.
12. It is recommended that each team source players from two different teams to reduce conflicts.
13. The Executive understands and acknowledges that special circumstances may exist. Any special circumstance that deviates from this affiliation policy must be approved by the executive.