

PARENTAL BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

All parents would like to see their children develop in the most desirable environment possible and grow to become a solid, contributing member of society.

While participating in the great sport of hockey, children need parents as role models to instill the important qualities of respect, teamwork and sportsmanship.

This outline is meant to provide a framework within which all parents should work. We strongly recommend that each association, at every level, adopt the criteria of this outline as a prerequisite to a family's involvement.

TOWARD KIDS:

<u>DON'T....</u>	<u>DO....</u>
Yell at or criticize your child, it only serves to degrade their self esteem. It is the first step in causing them to lose interest in the sport.	Provide your child with as much positive reinforcement and encouragement as possible. It bolsters them with the home grown incentives they need to enjoy the game and become a better player.
Criticize other players in front of your child. Your child will do the same thing with teammates, which breeds a losing attitude and will hurt other children's feelings.	Encourage your child to see the good things in even the least talented teammates. It provides a positive learning environment and is a valuable lesson for the big game of life.
Complain about coaching techniques in front of your child. He/she will do the same in front of other players, which decimates a learning atmosphere.	Direct your youngster to listen to his coach. A properly trained USA Hockey coach (as PAHL and high schools require) knows a lot more than you. Also, it is good discipline for kids to learn to respect authority.
Criticize referees in your child's presence. It will eventually lead to excuses for games lost and plant a seed for authority rejection, which certainly will have an adverse effect as they grow older.	Encourage your child to respect the referees. Those striped shirts will be replaced by neck-ties and badges later in life.
Show anger over losing a game. If a good honest effort was given, everyone should be proud.	Teach your youngster that understanding a loss and learning from it is the key to winning in the long run. This is the foundation of good sportsmanship.

TOWARD COACHES

<u>DON'T.....</u>	<u>DO.....</u>
Approach coaches within a short time before or after practices or games for any reason	Understand the proper method of approaching the coach and why it must be done. It should only be done through the team manager. All good hockey associations establish this method. It protects the coach from constant, bothersome communication.
Make strategic recommendations to your coach at any time. He/she is trained by USA Hockey, selected by the Board and is more hockey educated than you.	Realize that any problem involving a coach that needs to be conveyed to him/her should be presented 24 hours after the game, practice or incident <u>only</u> through the manager.
Criticize the coach in front of other parents. It only creates a negative, unproductive environment and serves to undermine the entire program.	Respect the coach for donating his/her time and effort, before initiating any negative activity. Then take a good look in the mirror and see if you are capable of the same effort.

Try to schmooze coaches. Most of them can see through it and don't appreciate it.	Understand that team managers should alert the coach to any notable problem with parents. That way the coach may address the problem individually or collectively before it becomes serious.
Think or believe that scrimmages and games develop your child's skills. Well-coached, well-run practices that incorporate fundamental skills at all age levels do this.	

TOWARD REFEREES

<u>DON'T.....</u>	<u>DO.....</u>
Think others find your insulting remarks humorous. While they may bring a laugh from some in the crowd, the majority of the mature, hockey-educated adults recognize ignorance when they see and hear it.	Try and gain a full understanding of the rules. You will avoid the embarrassment of criticizing the officials when they are right and you are wrong.
Yell at the referee for the sake of yelling. The large majority of the fans are trying to enjoy the game and find loud, obnoxious, under-educated comments to be disturbing and unsettling.	Avoid yelling even if the referee is wrong. Referees are humans and they do make mistakes.
Say anything or use any tone to the referee that you would find insulting or upsetting yourself. Referees are human beings who have feelings and emotions. Put yourself in their place...would you take the abuse?	Understand that after a referee commits repeated inaccuracies or mistakes and clearly is a problem, you must go through the proper administrative channels at the league to address the issue. Yelling and screaming only makes the whole scene intolerable.