**Coaching Code of Conduct**

The athlete/coach relationship is a privileged one. Coaches play a critical role in the personal and athletic development of their athletes. In this relationship, there is an inherent imbalance of power and a coach must recognize this and be careful not to abuse it. Coaches must recognize they are the source through which values and goals of the team and CZHA are channelled. Thus, how an athlete regards his/her sport is often dependent on the behaviour of the coach. This code of conduct has been created to enable the coaches to achieve a level of behaviour, which will allow their athletes to become well-rounded, self confident and productive human beings. Although this code is directed toward coaching conduct, it also applies to all members of the Team Staff. It is assumed that these people act in co-operation with one another to construct a suitable environment for the athlete.

**COACHES HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO:**

1. Treat everyone fairly within the context of his/her activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, or economic status.
2. Direct comments or constructive criticism at the performance rather than the athlete.
3. Consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of their sport and coaching.
	1. Refrain from public criticism of fellow coaches, athletes, officials, volunteers, and parents.
	2. Abstain from the use of tobacco products while in the presence of athletes.
	3. Abstain from using alcoholic beverages while working with athletes.
	4. Discourage the use of alcohol by athletes in conjunction with athletic events or at playing sites
	5. Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing, or otherwise offensive/derogatory language in the conduct of his/her duties.
4. Ensure that the activity being undertaken is suitable for the age, experience, ability and fitness level of the athletes and educate the athletes as to their responsibilities in contributing to a safe environment.
5. Communicate honestly, the severity of an athlete’s injuries incurred while participating in sport. Follow the recommendations of registered medical practitioners involving treatment and management of athlete’s medical and psychological problems. Consider the athlete’s future health and well being foremost when making decisions regarding time frame for return to playing or training.
6. Recognize and accept when to refer athletes to specialists or other coaches. Understand and communicate that the athlete’s goals take precedence over and above your own.
7. Regularly seek ways to up-grade personal development and self-awareness.
8. Teach athletes to uphold not only the rules but also the spirit of the rules, and to respect opponents and officials both in victory and defeat.
9. In the case of minors, communicate and co-operate with the athlete’s parents/legal guardians involving them in management decisions pertaining to their child’s development.
10. Be aware of the many pressures placed on athletes as they strive to balance the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of their lives and conduct practices and games in a manner so as to allow optimum success.

**COACHES MUST:**

1. At no time, become intimately and/or sexually involved with their athletes. This includes requests for sexual favours or threat of reprisal for the rejection of such requests.
2. Never advocate or condone the use of drugs or performance enhancing substances.
3. Ensure that all athletes receive equal instruction and support. Coaches will apportion playing time as outlined in the teams Policies and Guidelines. These must be approved by the Zone Player and Coaches Development Committee.
4. Never ridicule or yell at athletes for making mistakes or for performing poorly. Remember that athletes play to have fun and must be encouraged in order to gain self-confidence.
5. Remember that athletes need a coach they can respect and one who will be generous with praise and set a good example at all times.
6. Never have unrealistic expectations of the athletes, and understand they are not professionals and cannot be judged by professional standards.
7. Never condone the use of violence in any form.

Clarington Zone Hockey Association
Coaching Code of Conduct Agreement

*Agreement*

 *I, the undersigned coach, have read and agree to abide by, the Clarington Zone Hockey Associations Coaching Code of Conduct.*

 *I understand that violations of the Coaching Code of Conduct may result in full or partial forfeiture of my coaching privileges in programs sanctioned by the Clarington Zone Hockey Association.*

 *I further understand that lack of awareness or a misunderstanding of the code of conduct guidelines on my part is not a defence to a charge of unethical conduct.*

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Team\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_