

Black Bear Code of Conduct and Discipline

Ice hockey is a rigorous and challenging team sport that provides opportunities for the development of individual skill, character, teamwork, and sportsmanship. It is the responsibility of every player, parent, coach, and volunteer to ensure these opportunities are equally available to all members of the Black Bears organization.

The Black Bears will always strive to be recognized for high standards of conduct, sportsmanship, and competition.

Player Conduct and Responsibilities

1. Players must never use disrespectful, abusive, or obscene language toward coaches, parents, officials, teammates, or opponents, on or off the ice. Unsportsmanlike conduct such as inappropriate gestures, slapping boards, or dramatic displays of anger is prohibited.
2. Players must respect the property of others at all times.
3. Players are responsible for maintaining their jerseys in clean, good condition. Complete equipment, as required by Amateur Athletic Union and USA Hockey rules, must be worn for all on-ice activities.
4. Fighting before, during, or after games—on or off the ice—is strictly forbidden and will result in disciplinary action by coaches and/or the Board, regardless of penalties imposed by officials.
5. Coaches may bench a player for part of a game or future games for:
 - Public criticism of teammates
 - Abusive or obscene language
 - Unsportsmanlike conductDiscipline issues may be referred to the Board.
6. Any player who **intentionally damages property** while participating in Black Bear activities will be suspended until restitution is made and placed on probation for the remainder of the season. Unintentional damages must be resolved promptly to avoid suspension.
7. In extreme cases, the Board may impose additional penalties necessary to protect the best interests of the Black Bears.

Parent/Spectator Conduct and Responsibilities

1. Parents and spectators must uphold the Black Bears' philosophy of sportsmanship, in line with AAU and USA Hockey **Zero Tolerance Policies**. Enthusiastic encouragement builds character and skills; negativity fosters stress, poor sportsmanship, and conflict.
 2. Coaches are responsible for player development and team play. Concerns should be discussed privately with coaches or team managers, not publicly. Parents must wait **24 hours** after a game before raising complaints. Unresolved issues may be brought to the Board.
 3. Parents are not permitted on the ice, bench, or locker rooms unless:
 - A medical emergency arises, or
 - They are registered/insured through AAU or USA Hockey and invited by the coach.
 4. Any parent displaying abusive or threatening behavior toward referees, coaches, or players may be asked to leave the arena. The Board reserves the right to ban offenders from future events. Noncompliance may result in player suspension or termination.
 5. Players are expected to attend all practices, games, and team events. Absences without notice may result in reduced ice time or benching.
 - **Arrival expectations:** Players must arrive **60 minutes before games**, fully dressed for on ice warms 25 minutes before game starts. Parents are not allowed in the locker room unless excused by coaching staff.
 6. Parents are responsible for transporting and supervising their children to ensure adherence to rink and Black Bear rules.
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Coach and Team Manager Conduct and Responsibilities

1. Each team will have a Director and Head Coach, with assistants appointed by the Director.
 2. Coaches and Managers must uphold Zero Tolerance policies and promote Black Bear values of teamwork and sportsmanship.
 3. Coaches and Managers must model appropriate personal conduct at all times.
 4. Coaches may issue disciplinary actions (e.g., benching) and must explain the reason to the player.
 5. All bench staff must meet AAU and/or USA Hockey certification, registration, and insurance requirements. Non-registered individuals are not permitted on the ice or bench.
 6. Coaches and Managers should encourage parent involvement through specific roles (e.g., scorekeeper, timekeeper).
 7. The Scheduler approves all practice and game changes.
 8. Obscene language, unsportsmanlike displays, intoxication, or substance use will be referred to the Board for action.
 9. Coaches and Managers must ensure locker rooms are left clean. Any damage must be reported immediately.
 10. The Team Manager must notify the Director within 72 hours of any game misconduct or suspension.
 11. Coaches and Managers are responsible for enforcing all suspensions.
 12. The Manager/Coach must maintain the team registration book (birth certificates, consent forms, waivers) and have it present at all games, scrimmages, and practices.
 13. A medical kit must be brought to every practice and game.
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Rules Regarding Suspension

(Per Chicago United Hockey League, Central States Hockey League, AAU, and USA Hockey by-laws)

1. A penalized player will be suspended for the remainder of the game in which the infraction occurs.
2. The player will also be suspended for the next league game.

Black Bear Hockey Club Player Code of Conduct

As a member of the Black Bears, I pledge to:

1. Place school before hockey and maintain acceptable grades.
2. Follow all team, club, AAU, and USA Hockey rules.
3. Learn and respect the rules of the game.
4. Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
5. Avoid alcohol, tobacco, and illegal substances.
6. Demonstrate sportsmanship and encourage it in others.
7. Avoid profanity, negative gestures, or disrespect toward anyone.
8. Leave competition on the ice and not carry conflicts into the locker room.
9. Avoid fighting, violent play, or intent to injure. Fighting results in suspension and a mandatory Board hearing.
10. Accept additional penalties for match penalties or repeat offenses, up to expulsion without refund.
11. Arrive to practices and games on time.
12. Be a team player—win and lose as a team.
13. Avoid negative remarks about teammates, coaches, officials, or parents.
14. Always give my best effort and maintain discipline on and off the ice.

Signatures:

- Player Name (Print): _____
- Player Signature: _____
- Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____
- Parent/Guardian Signature: _____
- Date: _____