



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Hockey Manitoba

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Date: December 17, 2008

To: Minor Hockey Association Presidents

From: Hockey Manitoba

CC: Board of Directors
Hockey Manitoba Leagues

Subject: CODE OF CONDUCT

Hockey Manitoba has recently received a number of complaints from parents and members of associations regarding the conduct and language of some of our coaches. Although the large portion of coaches that participate in our program make a substantial contribution to the development of our youth and should be applauded for their efforts it invariably reflects negatively on all coaches when some members of the coaching fraternity deviate from the acceptable coaching and teaching practices.

The role of a coach is considered one of the most important, potent and dominant on the relationship continuum and plays a significant function in influencing our youth. It is vital that this relationship is allowed to develop in both a non-threatening and safe environment in order to ensure that athletes have the maximum opportunity to develop.

Hockey Manitoba is fully supportive of pushing athletes as a method to reach their full potential however all coaches should be aware of the difference between being demanding and demeaning. In this case the end does not justify the means and the use of inappropriate language, bullying and threatening actions are behaviors that are unacceptable and intolerable.

Hockey Manitoba considers coaches that view the employment of these types of motivational tactics abusive, selfish and limited in their abilities to maximize the potential of their athletes and need to reexamine their personal motives for coaching. This form of expression may at one time have been accepted as common practice however the practice has never been acceptable as an element of a coach's arsenal.

As members in good standing with Hockey Manitoba I hope you will take the necessary steps to remind all coaches under your influence to maintain the highest standards of conduct and refrain from the expression of vulgar and demeaning language while directing members of our program.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.