



## **Unionville Minor Hockey Association**

### **Parent Code of Conduct**

The UMHA has a responsibility to maintain discipline and order. We appreciate the efforts parents make to expose their children to the sport of hockey.

Occasionally parents and coaches may forget that their actions are on display as much as their child's.

The following reminders can be used as required. This list can be posted in the dressing room or sent to parents to provide subtle reminders.

- Applaud good plays. Don't dwell on bad plays.
- Kids imitate their parents. If you behave badly, your child may follow your lead.
- The stands are not a place to shout personal instructions. Your child likely cannot hear you and you may be contravening instructions provided by his or her coach!!
- There is more to life than hockey. Encourage your child to participate in other activities.
- Respect the coach's decision and abilities. Do not force your child to decide whether to listen to you or the coach.
- Stress fair and sensible play. Nobody needs to get hurt because someone is not playing by the rules.
- Stress the long-term importance of practice over the short-term excitement of games.
- Keep things in perspective. The odds of your child making it to the NHL are pretty slim and even if they do make it, good character will serve them well.
- Stress the importance of the team. Every player has something valuable to contribute to the team.
- Never lose sight of the fact that you are a role model.
- Winning probably means more to you than it does to your child!
- Don't yell if your child makes a mistake. Point out what they did well. Positive reinforcement goes a long way.

- Take time to learn the rules of the game. That way, if you insist on discussing an aspect of the game with a representative of the UMHA, at least you will know what you are talking about.
- Remember that coaches, conveners, administrators, and board members are volunteers. A "thank you" every once in a while is often reward enough.
- If you have a serious issue to discuss with your child's coach, or the convener, wait 24 hours and then send an email message or make a phone call. A cool head and some perspective will allow you to provide a more compelling description of the issue.
- Do not address the referee directly. Only the conveners may talk to the referee with regard to the game. If you have a complaint, wait 24 hours. If it is still an issue, contact your convener.