



Western Pennsylvania Special Hockey Association

A Non-Profit Organization for the Developmentally Disabled

Personal Information

Volunteers Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Primary Email Address: _____

Secondary Email Address: _____

Release of Liability

I myself, my spouse, my child and on behalf of my/our hers, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, hereby release and hold harmless Western Pennsylvania Special Hockey Association its Board of Directors, officers, officials agents, employees, volunteers, and other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, and advertisers, with respect to any and all injury/injuries, weather arising from the negligence of the releases or otherwise, to the fullest extent permitted by law. The risk of injury to my child from the activities involved in these programs is significant, including the potential for permanent disability and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and,

- 1) For myself, spouse, and child, knowingly and freely assume all such risk, both known and unknown even if arising from the negligence of the releases, or others, and assume full responsibility for my child's participation; and
- 2) I willingly agree to comply with the program's stated and customary terms and conditions for participation. If I observe any unusual significant concern in my child's/athletes readiness for participation and/or in the program itself, I will remove my child from the participation and bring such attention to the nearest official immediately; and,
- 3) I, for myself, my spouse, my child, and on behalf of my/our heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, hereby indemnify and hold harmless of the above releases from any and all liabilities to my involvement or participation in these programs, even if arising from their negligence, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND IT'S TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

PRINT FULL NAME: _____

UNDERSTANDING OF RISK

I UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE RISK INVOLVED IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM, MY PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ADHERING TO RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND ACCEPT THEM AS A PARTICIPANT.

PARTICIPANT (PLAYER) SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

PRINT FULL NAME: _____

Code of Conduct Agreement

Sportsmanship – This is our most important code of conduct standard. Sportsmanship encompasses respect, friendship and the desire for fairness. Our players, coaches, and parents shall be taught that win or lose to be proud of themselves, their teammates, and the Association. They shall be taught to win with humility and lose with dignity.

Teamwork - All players and coaches should strive to put the team above anyone individual. All members of WPSHA should remember that we win as a team and lose as a team and that **Together Everyone Achieves More**.

Individual Growth - We will promote the development of confidence and self-esteem in players to use the sport of ice hockey to better prepare team members for future challenges beyond hockey.

Respect - Treat all others as you would expect to be treated. The players should respect their coach, in turn; the coach should respect their players. The coach should treat their parents with respect and the parents should respect the coach and his decisions. The parents will also be expected to respect their own player as well as all other players on the ice. Finally, players should respect their teammates. All members of WPSHA should strive to conduct themselves in a manner of respect and dignity towards their opponents and officials.

Equal Opportunity - Every member of the WPSHA will be fairly evaluated and fairly considered in all aspects of involvement; board selections, coaching, volunteers, committees and most importantly players.

ZERO TOLERANCE - Each member of the Association should seek to uphold the WPSHA Code of Conduct By-law at all times. The Code of Conduct is to be signed by all members upon registration and will be made available to all who request it. If a member of WPSHA violates the Code of Conduct By-law, disciplinary action will be taken by the WPSHA Board of Directors. A hearing will be scheduled and penalties will be assessed in the form of fines, suspension, or removal from the Association. In all cases, an appeal process will be available to the member.

Administrators

Follow the rules and regulations of USA Hockey and WPSHA to ensure that the WPSHA philosophy and objectives are enhanced and emphasized.

Support programs that train and educate players, coaches, parents, and volunteers.

Promote and publicize the WPSHA programs and seek out financial support when possible.

Communicate with parents by holding parent/player meetings as well as by being available to answer any questions and address any problems.

Work to provide programs that encompass fairness to the participants and promote fair play and sportsmanship.

Recruit volunteers, including coaches, who demonstrate qualities conducive to being role models to the youth in our sport.

Encourage coaches and officials to attend ASHA and/or USA Hockey Clinics.

Make every possible attempt to provide everyone, at all skill levels, with a place to play.

Coaches

WPSHA Coaches should always be a positive role model to our players, emphasizing respect of the game, the team, officials, both on-ice officials and off-ice officials, and of the individual. WPSHA coaches should display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of the players.

WPSHA Coaches should remember that winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one.

WPSHA Coaches should praise when it is deserved, treat all players and parents fairly, openly and honestly. Learn to be an effective communicator, maintaining composure, not yelling at players or officials and have zero tolerance for the use of profanity themselves or by the players.

WPSHA Coaches should adjust to personal needs and problems of players, be a good listener, never verbally or physically abuse a player or official, give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence, and develop self-esteem and take the time to teach their players the basic skills of hockey.

WPSHA Coaches should conduct themselves in a professional manner at all WPSHA functions or in the presence of WPSHA players or members, have a zero tolerance for the use or abuse of drugs and alcohol, and is never intoxicated or under the influence of drugs or alcohol in the presence of players or at any WPSHA function.

WPSHA Coaches should organize practices that are fun and challenging for their players emphasizing development and constant improvement of basic skills and strong teamwork.

WPSHA Coaches should continually strive to improve their own knowledge of hockey and techniques and strategies of hockey.

WPSHA Coaches should maintain an open line of communication with players, parents, and Association officials.

WPSHA Coaches should concern themselves with the overall development of their players and stress good work habits, good health habits, and clean living.

Players

No swearing or abusive language on the bench, in the rink, or at any team function.

No lashing out at any official no matter what the call is. All players must understand and adhere to the fact that the coaching staff will handle all matters pertaining to officiating.

Fighting will not be tolerated on or off the ice. Fighting will result in a disciplinary action.

Player's will conduct themselves in a befitting manner at all facilities, to include the ice rink, team meeting rooms and facilities, hotels, restaurants, etc., during all team functions.

Any player who cannot abide by these rules and code of conduct standards will be subject to disciplinary action.

No hazing of any kind will be tolerated on any team at any level within WPSHA.

Players (cont.)

Threatening of any kind to include both physical and verbal threats will not be tolerated and is subject to disciplinary action.

Locker Room behavior by all members of WPSHA is expected to be a positive, fun atmosphere. Anything less is subject to disciplinary action.

Parents

Display good sportsmanship always respecting players, coaches, and officials.

Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desires to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.

Place the physical and emotional well-being of my child and the other children in WPSHA ahead of my personal desire to win.

Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.

Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches, or officials. Show a positive attitude towards the game and all of its participants.

Emphasize skill development and it how they benefits the athlete.

Support WPSHA rules and regulations that will be set forth at the beginning of the season, which includes but is not limited to missed practices and games, profanity, on and off ice actions and suspensions of my child.

Know and study the rules of the game and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.

Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat. Enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice – it is destructive. Work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse in all sports.

Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.

Spectators

Display good sportsmanship always respecting players, coaches, and officials.

Act appropriately. Do not taunt or disturb other fans. Enjoy the game together.

Cheer good plays of all participants. Avoid booing opponents.

Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play. Profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive and will not be tolerated.

Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.



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Spectators (cont.)

Be responsible for your own safety. Be alert to prevent accidents from flying pucks and other avoidable situations.

Respect locker rooms and facilities as private areas for players, coaches, and officials.

Be supportive after the game – win lose or draw. Recognize good effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Print Athlete's Name: _____

Athlete's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

By placing your signature in the spaces above you agree to uphold all aspects of the code of conduct presented by the Western Pennsylvania Special Hockey Association and all of its members.