

POLICY 7- DUTIES OF SAMHA COACHES

7.1 Coaches shall:

- A) attend coaches' meetings. This is mandatory and the consequences of not showing or sending a team representative could result in loss of team practice times;
- B) be 15 years of age or older, and unless registered with the SAMHA as a player on another team, **MUST** complete a coaching application and have a CRC submitted to the Association via the Division coordinator by the 30th of November;
- C) conduct themselves in a responsible and sportsmanlike manner at all times, especially when dealing with players;
- D) schedule meetings with team managers on a monthly basis to communicate with parents, giving the Division Coordinator the opportunity to attend such meetings;
- E) assume responsibility for the discipline and good conduct of the team by promoting quiet and orderly player conduct, bearing in mind that fair, firm and consistent guidance, coupled with positive reinforcement, is the best policy;
- F) keep the team in the dressing room until the game or practice time begins and ensure that the team leaves the ice immediately following the game or practice and that the dressing room is left clean;
- G) encourage players who cannot attend a game to inform the coach prior to the game;
- H) contact players who have missed 2 games without an apparent reason to determine if the player plans to continue in the program. Immediately report to the Coordinator and Registrar any player who has chosen to quit the program;
- I) choose at least one assistant coach, one manager and one trainer and submit the names to the Board through the Coordinator for approval. These individuals must complete an application and have a Criminal Record Check that has been applied for in preparation for the upcoming season.
- J) Wherever possible and practical, it is recommended that a Coach serve no more than two (2) concurrent years with the same general group of players on a team. This is so that the players are provided with exposure to various coaching techniques and philosophies.
- K) Wherever possible and practical, it is recommended that a Coach not be involved in coaching more than one team during the season.
- L) A coach may be removed from their position for reasons of incompetence or actions which contravene the principles and policies of the Association as described throughout the SAMHA Constitution, By-laws and Policies. If a coach is removed, the Division Coordinator will appoint a substitute for the remainder of the season.

- M) A coach is expected to emphasize a spirit of good sportsmanship and a healthy, competitive attitude, win or lose, remembering that the example they set can influence the players on their team. A coach must avoid the use of profanity, intimidation and violence. In addition, the coach will share these expectations with all bench volunteers.
- N) To the best of his/her ability, a coach must assume responsibility for affording each player an opportunity to participate fairly and equally, regardless of the player's ability. Exceptions are as follows:
1. at the competitive level (AA and AAA) for Atom or higher, a coach may assume responsibility for unequal ice time in the final period of a game in a situation where a loss in that crucial game would significantly affect the opportunity for the team to participate in further competitions, i.e. playoffs or tournament play. A coach is encouraged to clearly communicate his reasons for unequal ice time at the parents' meeting or at the earliest opportunity;
 2. a player may be benched for all or part of a game at the discretion of the coach for disciplinary reasons – that is, for abusive or foul language directed at players, officials or spectators or for actions which are deemed to be detrimental to the welfare of the team as a whole. A coach may give a one game suspension for disciplinary reasons, and parents/guardians of the suspended player are to be notified by the coach, but a suspension of more than one game by a coach must be approved by the Board. A written notice shall be provided by the Coordinator and be sent to the parents/guardians of the suspended player;
 3. the reason for the benching must be clearly communicated to the player and where appropriate, discussed with the player's parents. Any dispute over the benching may be appealed through the Division Coordinator.
- O) All coaches that may be registered with the SAMHA as a player on another team **MUST** wear a helmet, neck guard and hockey gloves while on the ice.
- P) Coaches or team staff should avoid going onto the playing surface to get to the bench unless there is no direct access to the players' bench. Coaches will be permitted on the playing surface at the end of the game to shake hands along with the team.
- Q) Coaches should ensure that no pucks are shot around late in practices - particularly in the direction of the Zamboni entrance and doors leading off the playing surface.
- R) Coaches are asked to **NEVER** allow players on the ice surface at any rink until the Zamboni doors are closed.
- S) Demonstrators (younger SAMHA or non SAMHA players) should only be used in **EXTENUATING** circumstances and in no instance shall these persons (or coaches that may be registered as a player with another SAMHA team) participate in scrimmages or contact drills.