



## WEST VANCOUVER MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

# Around the Rink - Policies

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WVMHA has a number of policies designed to ensure player, parent and spectator safety, preserve WVMHA equipment, and ensure WVMHA provides a productive and positive learning environment for our young hockey players.

## General Policies and things you need to know!

### Parents and Family

- **Parents, unless they are team officials, are not permitted on the bench or the ice at any time!**
- Siblings should not play in the dressing room and hallway or anywhere near the bench. Keep small children away from the dressing room doors.
- **Parents should not discipline or critique other players;** any on-ice or off-ice behavioral issues must be brought to the coaches' or manager's attention and can **only** be dealt with by team officials, the Director of Hockey or board members.
- Read and know the **Parent's Code of Conduct**  
<http://www.wvmha.ca/parents/parents-code-of-conduct/>

### Uniforms

- **Game socks are not to be worn during practices;**
- **Game jerseys are not to be worn during practices;**
- Only WVMHA-issued socks can be worn during games;
- The association's helmet colour is black.

### WVMHA Equipment

- Our **blue rink dividers** are to be stored behind the players' benches after every use and **should not be used as seating or playthings;**

- Our **rink divider boards** must be neatly stacked near the south-east entrance corner of the rink.
- Our cross-ice nets must be handled with care.

### Timeliness

- Arrive at the rink at least **15 minutes** before practice – or earlier as per coaches' discretion.
- If you can't make a game or practice, please let the team manager or coach know.
- Players are to be **fully dressed and ready at least 5 minutes before ice time**.
- **Players are not to go on the ice without a Coach.**

### Dressing Room

- **No cell phones or cameras** in the dressing room.
- Dressing rooms must be **supervised** at all times by team officials or designated parents.
- Our dressing rooms are **nut-aware**. Please avoid bringing or consuming foods with nuts or nut products in the dressing rooms.
- Players should never walk around the dressing room without skates or shoes on.
- Goalies must wear gloves when lying on the floor having their pads laced.
- Do not dress your child in the lobby, the stands or on the bench.
- Parents (unless they are team officials or supervisors) and siblings are not permitted in the dressing rooms at U13 and above.
- For the younger players, once your child is fully dressed, parents and siblings must leave the dressing rooms and dressing room hallway.

### Players' Conduct

- Players shall read the **Players' Code of Conduct** and abide by it.  
<http://www.wvmha.ca/parents/players-code-of-conduct/>
- **Players are not to go on the ice without a Coach.**
- Players shall be respectful of coaches and teammates at all times.  
On the ice, WVMHA players shall "**take a knee**" promptly when told to do so and **refrain from horsing around** and otherwise disrupting practices.
- Players should remember to volunteer to pick up pucks and equipment at the end of practice.

- Players should be mindful of thanking their coaches after each practice.

### Personal Equipment

- **Neck guards are mandatory for all ages.** Players may not participate in on-ice activities without a neck guard.
- Skate laces should not be wrapped around the ankles as this inhibits proper movement and blood flow. Tuck extra long laces under the hockey socks.
- Helmets must be CSA approved and should be snug and remain in place when chinstrap is fastened. Facemasks should fit properly; chin should fit comfortably in cup of facemask.
- **Bring a water bottle** to each game and practice with a name clearly marked.

## Behaviour

### Representing WVMHA

All players, team officials and parents must recognize that they are representatives of both our Association and our greater community. Our members are expected to take pride recognize that their personal actions can have an impact on the reputation of the Association. We are all ambassadors of WVMHA and it is critical to our success that we take pride in who we are and maintain our integrity and an honourable reputation both within minor hockey and the greater community.

Accordingly, as indicated in our bylaws, the Board has the “power to suspend any player, coach, manager or officer of a team for ungentlemanly conduct on or off the ice, including but without limitation abusive language to any official, coach or other person, or for alleged falsification of any registration or record, and such suspensions shall be effective until reviewed by the Directors.”

### Respectful Behaviour

WVMHA is committed to cultivating a safe and productive sports environment and a culture of respect. We expect the highest standards from our players, coaches, team officials, parents and volunteers at all times.

We take pride in being ambassadors for our organization and our community whenever we are at a rink — home or away.

We expect all our players and coaches to demonstrate respect for:

- Themselves;
- Their teammates;
- Their coaches;
- Parents;

- Volunteers;
- The game and all of its rules;
- Opponents;
- Referees;
- Any facility we occupy, especially our arena;
- Our equipment (both personal and association equipment);
- Guests in our arena;
- Our neighbours in the community.

Examples of respectful behaviour expected of WMVHA members include (but are not limited to):

- Players picking up garbage in the dressing rooms and being respectful towards arena staff;
- Players not complaining about penalty calls either verbally or via body language;
- Parents and players demonstrating moderation in celebrating goals in blowout games;
- Parents not cheering opposing team injuries;
- Coaches not yelling at or berating players or referees;
- Players “taking a knee” in practice when summoned by coaches and not engaging in distracting/unsafe behaviour.

### ‘24 Hour’ Rule & Parent to Coach Communication

**Rep Teams** - Parents who are not rostered as team officials on REP teams should never initiate communication directly with the coaches except during pre-defined team meetings between the parents and the coaches.

**House Teams** - Because house and initiation coaches are often parents of team players, the same process as rep applies only to coaching issues, so social communication is normal between parents and parent-coaches but when there is an issue with the coaches that the parent would like to address, they need to also follow the protocol in that all issues need to be processed through the manager.

**24-hour Rule:** if you have something to say to the coach, or they have something to say to you (that could be contentious) you must wait 24 hours after the event or the game before discussing it. By this time, you have better perspective and a lot of arguments naturally are eliminated in the process.

**In all situations the Team Manager is the conduit for confrontational communication. Managers need to understand their role as a non-partisan representative of the team.**

Any concerns or issues that need to be addressed by the coaches should be raised with the team manager who will review it with the team head coach. If that doesn't get it resolved then the team manager should inform the Director of Hockey of the situation who will either try to resolve it or bring it the Board for review and/or dispute process/intervention if necessary.