

## **DMHA COACH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**I hereby acknowledge that I have applied to Dorchester Minor Hockey Association to coach a representative minor hockey team for the 2017-18 hockey season and confirm that I am aware of, understand and, if selected to be a coach or member of the bench staff, agree to abide by the policies, rules and regulations of DMHA at all times and to coach the team in accordance with the following principles of the association:**

- 1.** Development of all players on the team and of the team as a whole will be the focus, rather than playing the few players thought to be the most skilled most frequently in an effort to win. This will be particularly emphasized at the Novice (where playing the top few disproportionately means a weaker AE team the next year when those few go to AAA and the rest have not been appropriately developed in all situations) and Atom levels, but is important at all levels. Successfully doing this year after year should increase the odds of having deeper and stronger teams at the older levels consistently;
- 2.** There is a strong preference for relatively equal playing time for all skaters at all levels;
- 3.** DMHA policies and directives, including those regarding team sizes, will be followed. The general team size target for the coming season will be 15 skaters plus goalie (s), depending on overall numbers, and other consideration by the executive. Numbers will be provided to the coaches before the tryouts;
- 4.** BB and AE coaches at each level are strongly encouraged to communicate with each other through the tryout process and to also communicate during the season about matters such as practices and AP's. In an effort to increase the practice to game ratio, shared practices (AE and BB) will be encouraged at all levels and required at the Novice and Atom levels. Shared practices increase the amount of practice ice and maximize the use of the ice, but coaches will have to work together to make this work. Many other local centres mandate this;
- 5.** There has been much feedback from the association membership about limiting the number of tournaments in which teams can enter (particularly out of town) due to time and costs. This is of primary concern at the Novice and Atom levels, where teams are limited to three out of town (ie. more than 100 km from Dorchester) tournaments per season. At all levels, teams are strongly encouraged to limit themselves to three out of town tournaments, plus International Silverstick (if qualify). This will be enforced through the granting of travel letters. Tournaments should be scheduled for blackout weekends where possible and no tournaments should be scheduled during playoffs/playdowns;
- 6.** Communication must be respectful, positive and effective, whether with players, parents, officials and/or other coaches/staff. While it is acknowledged that hockey knowledge/experience is important for a coach, being able to effectively communicate with and teach the players in the age level to be coached is as or more important. If it cannot be communicated to the players in a way that they understand and process, the value of the coach's hockey knowledge is lost. That communication needs to be done in a positive and effective way that instills confidence in the players.

DMHA supports equal opportunity and prohibits discriminatory practices and is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and to ensure a safe and positive environment within DMHA programs, activities and event, by making all individuals aware that there is an expectation of appropriate behavior at all times that is consistent with the mission, vision, values and Code of Conduct of DMHA at all times.

I understand that conduct that violates the Code of Conduct may be subject to sanctions pursuant to the DMHA's policies related to discipline and complaints.

In consideration for my appointment as a volunteer coach or team official within DMHA, I acknowledge and agree to the following:

a) I have received a copy of the DMHA and OMHA Codes of Conduct or have been able to review copies posted on the OMHA and DMHA websites, and have read, understand and agree to abide by their terms and conditions.

b) I will act in accord with the Codes of Conduct as a condition of my role with DMHA.

c) I will not retaliate against any individual, team or DMHA for raising a compliance issue against me with respect to the Codes of Conduct.

d) I understand that any violation of the Codes of Conduct may result in corrective and/or disciplinary action up to and including termination.

e) I understand that my failure to cooperate in any investigation or hearing can be grounds for suspension or removal from my role.

I acknowledge that I have read this form in its entirety and that I have executed this agreement voluntarily.

**Name(s) (Print and sign):**

**Team:**

**Date:**