

ABERDEEN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ATHLETIC CODE CONTRACT 2009/2010

I. Purpose

This code applies to Athletes in all levels. Athletes must read, accept and sign the Athletic Code Contract annually. It must be signed by the athlete and parent/legal guardian, acknowledging understanding and acceptance of the contract.

II. Letters

Letters may be given as prescribed by the Aberdeen Hockey Association (AHA). A varsity player must satisfactorily complete the season by playing a minimum of one-third of the Varsity games as the criteria for earning a letter. Satisfactorily completing the season includes attending practices, displaying good attitude and effort, and displaying behavior consistent with the philosophy of the AHA. The Varsity Head Coach will present recommendations for awarding letters to the Hockey Development Committee for approval. In addition, the HDC may make letter awards due to special circumstances. Athletic award letters will not be issued in the event the spirit or interpretation of this Athletic Code is violated in any form.

III. General Code

A. Equipment

The athlete is responsible for the equipment, uniform, and any other items issued to him/her. All issued items must be returned clean and in good condition at the termination of the athlete's participation or the end of the current hockey season. If not, the athlete is responsible and must pay for their replacement.

B. Practice Sessions

1. The athlete is required to attend all practice sessions, meetings, and games unless excused by the Head Coach.
2. Apparel worn during practice or when representing the Aberdeen Hockey Association at any event can not advertise controlled substances (alcohol, illegal drugs, etc.) or offensive material.

C. Withdrawing From a Team

1. **Voluntary.** All AHA equipment must be returned and financial obligations cleared. Rejoining a team after an voluntary withdraw, will not be allowed without the approval of the head coach and HDC.
2. **Involuntary** (Coaches or HDC decision). All AHA equipment must be returned and financial obligations cleared. If withdrawal is the result of disciplinary action, a letter of explanation is to be sent to the parent/guardian. Rejoining the team during the current season will not be allowed.

IV. **Code of Conduct**

A. Philosophy

The philosophy of participating carries the responsibility, as a role model for others, to follow the code of conduct of the Aberdeen Hockey Association. Actions not specifically covered, but clearly contrary to expected behavior, are subject to review by the Aberdeen Hockey Association's Hockey Development Committee or their Designees.

B. School Suspension

Students who are suspended from school are prohibited from participation in the Aberdeen Hockey Association's program during the length of the suspension.

C. Theft, Vandalism and Destruction of Property

As discipline, participants involved either directly or as an accomplice, shall receive a minimum of a (1) game suspension. Subsequent involvement is subject to review by the AHA Board of Directors or their Designees.

D. Discipline

All athletes, parents/legal guardians and coaches are required to bring confirmed violations of the Athletic Code to the appropriate Head Coaches attention and committee or person(s) so designated by the Board of Directors.

1. **Attendance.** It is the responsibility of the athlete to be at scheduled practices and games unless previously excused by the coach. Discipline for unexcused absences will be:

***** Missing (1) practice per week will mean being benched for (1) period.**

***** Missing (2) practices per week will mean being benched for (2) periods.**

2. **Language.** Profanity or taunting by an athlete, at any time, within any hockey facility will not be tolerated. The discipline will range from being benched for (1) period to a (1) game suspension depending on the severity.
3. **Misconduct.** Excessive misconduct during practices and games will not be tolerated. Depending on the severity, the coach will decide if benching is appropriate and may choose discipline ranging from being benched for (1) period to a (1) game suspension. If necessary, the coach will contact the parent/legal guardian regarding habitual problems.
4. **Fighting.** Fighting in a game is unacceptable. The current State punishment is as follows: 1st fighting offense, (1) game suspension; 2nd fighting offense, (2) game suspension.
5. **Excessive Penalties.** Any player receiving (3) penalties during a game will not be allowed to participate in the remainder of that game.

After the first game with (3) penalties the player will receive an additional one period suspension for every game with 3 penalties. (Varsity – at Coach Discretion/Bantam and Pee Wee mandatory/Development levels not applicable.)

At the Bantam level, the head coach has the discretion to appeal the suspension portion of this rule based on penalty type.

6. **Substance Conduct.** The possession or use of tobacco is a violation of the Athletic Code, as is the possession, use or distribution of mood altering substances, i.e., alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana, etc. It is not a violation for an athlete to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the athlete's own use by their physician.
7. **Crimes.** Crimes against any person or property are a violation of the Athletic Code.

8. **Hazing/Bullying.** Hazing or bullying of athletes by team members is a violation of the Athletic Code. Hazing is defined as: A ritualistic test and a task involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a gang, club, military organization or other group. Bullying is defined as: the act of intentionally causing harm to others, through verbal harassment, physical assault, or other more subtle methods of coercion such as manipulation.
9. Actions not specifically covered, but clearly contrary to expected conduct are subject to review and possible action by the HDC or their Designees.

E. Consequences

The following minimum consequences for items 6,7,8 will be imposed immediately upon confirmation:

*****First Violation – Suspension from participation for the next 5 games. There will be an additional (2) game suspension if the player does not report the violation to their coach within (24) hours of the violation.**

*****Second Violation – Suspension from participation for the remainder of the season.**

NOTE: At the JV/Varsity level, (1) game equals a JV/Varsity set if applicable. The athlete will not be allowed to dress for games or sit on the bench with teammates during the suspension time period. Any suspension that is not served at the end of the season will be carried over to the participants next season.

F. Enforcement

The Code of Conduct applies to all participants of the Aberdeen Hockey Association and is in effect from the first practice to after the last game of the season.

V. Summary of Comments

- A. Concerns as to interpretation, definition or explanation of the Athletic Code should be directed to the Hockey Development Committee or their Designees.
- B. AHA reserves the right to contact law enforcement upon reasonable suspicion and/or information of a crime committed on AHA property or at any AHA sponsored event against any person(s), AHA property or any applicable violation of the Athletic Code.
- C. AHA reserves the right to restrict membership and/or deny access to AHA property for any violation of the Athletic Code.
- D. All appeals of action shall be directed to the Hockey Development Committee or designated committee of the Aberdeen Hockey Association. Appeals should be sent through the parent portal at Aberdeenhockey.com.

Player Signature

Date

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date