

# Ottawa Valley Titans

## Fair Play In Minor Hockey



Fair Play is a program introduced into Minor Hockey to enhance and promote SAFETY and RESPECT with all participants involved.

September 2003  
Revised Feb 2005

## **5 PRINCIPLES OF FAIR PLAY**

Respect the Rules

Respect the Opponents

Respect the Officials

Have Everyone Participate

Maintain Self Control

# RATIONALE

A Fair Play Program .....

Outlines the rights and responsibilities to all those participants involved in the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association.

Makes all individuals aware that playing minor hockey is a PRIVILEGE, not a right.

Provides the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association with a visible commitment that promotes the concepts of SAFETY and RESPECT.

Outlines a clear set of expectations and guidelines that all participants involved in the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association can follow.

Is used to define a positive set of expectations that all minor hockey associations attempt to provide, as recreational programs to all their participants.

Ensures that all participants are aware of the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association's philosophies and objectives.

Promotes and develops a positive set of values to coaches, players and parents in the Association. These values can further enhance the many positive aspects of the minor hockey program.

Develops a comprehensive guide by whom the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association executive body runs its programs, in addition to existing rules, regulations and objectives.

## **BENEFITS OF A FAIR PLAY PROGRAM**

- Increased SAFETY and RESPECT on and off the ice by participants.
- Increased positive team unity.
- More appropriate spectator behavior.
- Decrease the "win at all costs" attitude.
- Increase of on ice positive behavior.
- Participants take more responsibility for their actions.
- Increase in sportsmanship.
- More parents become promoters of positive attitudes.
- Fair ice times for all players.
- New participants are drawn to the game of hockey by the positive aspects of Fair Play.
- Refocusing of the intent of minor hockey as a positive recreational program for many young players and other participants.

# **FAIR PLAY INTERVENTIONS**

Interventions are components of a Fair Play program used to enhance SAFETY and RESPECT

Codes of Conduct/Guidelines

Team Meeting

Fair Play Team Support

# CODES OF CONDUCT - GUIDELINES

Developed to clarify rights, responsibilities and privileges of players, parents and coaches in the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association.

Established prior to each season in conjunction with selected coaches and executive members and are distributed to participants before team selection.

Each code/guideline provides a consistent rule base focused upon the goals and principles of Fair Play.

Newly selected coaches input into the development to ensure the requirements of their teams are accommodated. Various levels may have different needs.

Coaches are to be aware that the Code/Guidelines may be referred to throughout the season to assist in resolving some team problems.

Players, coaches and parents have their own specific Codes/Guidelines.

Participants must sign their Code/Guideline to ensure understanding of the Fair Play program and the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association rules.

The Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association provides the Fair Play principles and philosophy. Coaches provide specific team requirements.

In player selection, "ability and attitude" should be a criteria. All participants have to be made aware of these TWO criteria prior to selections.

Players exhibiting poor sportsmanship, lack of honesty, and lack of safety and respect for others, should be made aware that attitudes such as these are not tolerated in Fair Play.

# TEAM MEETINGS

Two Meetings are held:

Prior to Final Selections - Coaches and Parents

After Final Selections - Coaches, Parents and Players

Objective of the meetings are to clarify the Codes/Guidelines & Team Rules

Three Codes/Guidelines:

Coaching Staff Commitments - Signed by coaches and given to parents/players

Parent's Commitments - Signed by the parents and given to the Executive

Player's Commitments - Signed by the players and given to the Executive

A copy of team rules stay with parents and players

# FAIR PLAY SUPPORT TEAM

Provides assistance to any participant in Fair Play related matters when asked to do so. It is NOT a policing group.

Comprised of volunteers as selected by the Titan Executive or delegate.

The Executive's role is to clarify rules and if required, sanction the Support Teams rulings regarding Fair Play issues.

Some issues the Support Team may need to resolve:

Inappropriate spectator behavior

Player behavior on and off the ice

Supporting a coach dealing with players and/or parents

Inappropriate coach behavior towards players on/off ice

Fair Play participant's behavior at other rinks

Shortening benches constantly

Team manager support in handling difficult parents

**OTTAWA VALLEY TITAN MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION  
PLAYER'S - FAIR PLAY PLEDGE**

It is the intention of this pledge to promote fair play and respect for all participants within the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association. All players **must** sign this pledge stating that they will observe the principles of the Fair Play Code before being allowed to participate in hockey.

**FAIR PLAY CODE**

**FOR PLAYERS**

1. I will play hockey because I want to, not because others or coaches want me to.
2. I will play by the rules of hockey and in the spirit of the Game.
3. I will control my temper - fighting, "mouthing-off", or throwing/breaking of equipment can spoil the activity of everyone.
4. I will treat other players, as I would like to be treated.
5. I will work equally hard for my team and myself - my team's performance will benefit and so will my own.
6. I will remember that winning isn't everything - that having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.
7. I will acknowledge all good players and performances - those of my team and my opponents.
8. I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.
9. I will remember that I am representing the OTTAWA VALLEY TITANS and my home association. Off-ice behavior is equally important as on-ice conduct.

I agree to abide by the principles of the FAIR PLAY CODE as set by Hockey Canada and supported by the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association.

I also agree to abide by the rules, regulations and decisions as set by the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association and understand that failure to do so could result in a suspension of my privileges and / or my expulsion from the Association.

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**OTTAWA VALLEY TITAN MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION  
COACH'S - FAIR PLAY PLEDGE**

It is the intention of this pledge to promote fair play and respect for all participants within the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association. All coaches **must** sign this pledge before being allowed to participate in hockey and must continue to observe the principles of Fair Play.

**FAIR PLAY CODE****FOR COACHES**

1. I will carry the objectives and policies of the OTTAWA VALLEY TITANS MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION, which are consistent with the objectives, and policies of each home association.
2. I will be reasonable in my demands on the player's time, energy and enthusiasm. I will remember that they have interests and responsibilities other than hockey.
3. I will teach my athletes to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials, opponents and teammates.
4. I will ensure *all* athletes receive equal instruction, discipline, support and appropriate, fair playing time.
5. I will not ridicule or yell at my athletes for making mistakes or for performing poorly. I will remember that players play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
6. I will make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the athlete's ages and ability.
7. I will follow the advice of a physician to determine when an injured player is ready to resume play.
8. I will remember that players need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example.
9. I will make a personal commitment to be informed on sound coaching principles.
10. I will develop my team's season on a balanced basis between games and practices.
11. I will discuss the proposed team tournament schedule with parents prior to final team selection, so that a dissenting parent will be provided the opportunity to alter the proposed approach or withdraw from the team consideration.

I agree to abide by the principles of the FAIR PLAY CODE as set by the Hockey Canada and supported by the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association.

I also agree to abide by the rules, regulations and decisions as set by the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association and understand that failure to do so could result in a suspension of my privileges and / or my expulsion from the Association.

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**OTTAWA VALLEY TITAN MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION  
PARENT'S - FAIR PLAY PLEDGE**

It is the intention of this pledge to promote fair play and respect for all participants within the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association. All parents **must** sign this pledge before being allowed to participate in hockey and must continue to observe the principles of Fair Play.

**FAIR PLAY CODE**

**FOR PARENTS**

1. I will not force my child to participate in hockey.
2. I will remember that my child plays hockey for his or her enjoyment, not mine.
3. I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflict without resorting to hostility or violence.
4. I will teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of the game.
5. I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and hard.
6. I will never ridicule or yell at any child for making a mistake or losing a game.
7. I will remember that children learn by example. I will applaud good plays and performances by both my child's team and their opponents.
8. I will never question the official's judgment or honesty in public. I recognize officials are being developed in the same manner as players.
9. I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's hockey games.
10. I will recognize the value and importance of volunteer coaches and manager. I will comply with reasonable requests of team management e.g. arrival times prior to practices and games, etc.
11. I will not criticize coach and manager in front of my child. I will honour the 24-hour rule before approaching a team official. I will discuss my concerns directly with the coach or manager in order to ascertain their objectives and ideas.
12. I understand that there are some extra expenses you can expect to pay regarding the coaches, and these are clarified under Sections 10 and 24 in the Policy and Procedure Manual.

I agree to abide by the principles of the FAIR PLAY CODE as set by the Hockey Canada and supported by the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association.

I also agree to abide by the rules, regulations and decisions as set by the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association and understand that failure to do so could result in a suspension of my privileges and / or my expulsion from the Association.

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_

# DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

1. ALL MEMBERS, PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND TEAM OFFICIALS OF THE OTTAWA VALLEY TITANS MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION, WHICH INCLUDES INVITEES AND SPECTATORS, SHALL ABIDE BY THE CODE OF CONDUCT SET OUT BY THE ASSOCIATION. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN THE INITIATION OF AN INCIDENT REPORT.
2. **ALL INCIDENTS REPORTED TO THE ASSOCIATION SHALL BE FORWARDED TO THE PRESIDENT IN WRITING WITH ALL PARTICULARS INCLUDED.** THE ASSOCIATION WILL ENSURE THE INCIDENT IS DEALT WITH BY A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE. ANY SERIOUS INCIDENT SHALL BE MONITORED AND OVERSEEN BY A RISK MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR. A RECORD OF THE INCIDENT SHALL BE COMPLETED AND ATTACHED TO THE INCIDENT REPORT. **ALL ATTEMPTS SHALL BE MADE TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE.**
3. AFTER REVIEWING THE FACTS PRESENTED, A RISK MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR ALONG WITH THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT (S) OF THE ASSOCIATION WILL DECIDE IF A DISCIPLINARY HEARING IS WARRANTED.
4. WHEN DEEMED NECESSARY A DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE WILL BE FORMED WITH ITS MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE. A RISK MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR WILL FACILITATE THE COMMITTEE HEARING FOLLOWING APPROVED ODMHA AND HOCKEY CANADA POLICIES.
5. IN SERIOUS INCIDENTS OR IN THE CASE OF A REOFFENDING INDIVIDUAL, AT THE DISCRESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE, THE ISSUE CAN BE FORWARDED TO A HIGHER LEVEL IN THE BRANCH (DISTRICT / ODMHA / ODHA) THUS ENSURING A NEUTRAL ENVIROMENT IS MAINTAINED AND THE CODE OF CONDUCT IS ADHERED TO.
6. ANY PLAYER, PARENT, GUARDIAN OR TEAM OFFICIAL WHO IS FOUND BY THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE TO HAVE BREACHED THE CODE OF CONDUCT, MAY BE SUBJECT TO A TIME SUSPENSION FROM ANY ASSOCIATION EVENTS, GAMES, PRACTICES OR FUNCTIONS AND IN MORE SERIOUS CASES (INCLUDING REPEAT OFFENDERS OR IGNORING THE RULING OF A PREVIOUS COMMITTEE RULING) A RECOMMENDATION TO THE EXECUTIVE FOR EXPULSION FROM THE ASSOCIATION.
7. A DISCIPLINARY HEARING COMMITTEE RULING MUST BE ADHEARED TO BY THE OFFENDER. ANY PERSON WANTING TO APPEAL THE DECISION TO THE NEXT LEVEL SHALL NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION IN

WRITING, WITHIN 72 HOURS OF THEM RECEIVING THE DECISION. THE SUSPENSION REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL THE APPEAL HAS BEEN HEARD.

8. ANY INCIDENT THAT INVOLVES PHYSICAL VIOLENCE OR THREATS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE MUST BE DEALT WITH IMMEDIATELY. THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY (POLICE OR CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY) SHALL BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY BY THE PERSON(S) INVOLVED. THE OTTAWA VALLEY TITANS ASSOCIATION SHALL NOT UNDERTAKE ANY ACTION IN THE ABOVE SITUATIONS WITHOUT THE APPROPRIATE AGENCY HAVING BEEN CONTACTED. THE PRESIDENT OR HIS DELIGATE, AND / OR THE RISK MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVE SHALL BE CONTACTED AND A WRITTEN INCIDENT REPORT SUBMITTED.
  
9. NO ACTION SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE ASSOCIATION UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITY HAS CONCLUDED THEIR INVESTIGATION, UNLESS THERE IS CAUSE FOR AN IMMEDIATE DISCIPLINARY ACTION, SUCH AS A SUSPENSION ON AN INTERM BASIS TO PROTECT THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED FROM FURTHER HARM, OR IF INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY THE EXTERNAL AUTHORITIES INVOLVED IN THE INVESTIGATION.

## INCIDENT REPORT FORM

SUBMIT COMPLETED FORM TO:  
APPROPRIATE VICE PRESIDENT

This form is to be utilized by anyone in the Ottawa Valley Titan Minor Hockey Association to report an incident of unacceptable behavior. An individual is considered to be displaying unacceptable behavior if they are verbally or physically harassing and/or abusing a game participant (player, coach, spectator, or official).

Date and Time of Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Offending Individual: \_\_\_\_\_

Associated with (Team Name): \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of additional witnesses: \_\_\_\_\_

**On a separate attachment, please attach a clear description of the unacceptable behavior witnessed. Please use black ink or type the report. Reports that are not legible will not be reviewed.**

You can expect an official to investigate your report. Unfortunately a written response to all reports is not possible, as our volunteers do not have the resources to do so. We do however hope to be able to contact complainants at some point during or after the investigation. Resolution typically takes 2 to 4 weeks from receipt.

**If additional space is required, please use reverse side or attach separately.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Blank forms can be obtained from your appropriate vice president or you may photocopy this form.**