



**New Canaan Winter Club 2020-21
Expectations of Conduct and Behavior/Disciplinary Policy**

NAME: _____

To be read and signed by you as a member of Team: _____

The purpose of this letter is to clearly state the high expectations that we have for our players and to define clearly our process for punishing any players who do not live up to our Club's standards. In this policy letter, we have addressed many of the predictable issues that may come up during the season and how they will be handled by our Club's Hockey Policy Committee (HPC). Where appropriate, we have referred to the relevant USA Hockey (USAH) Rules governing fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct and the accumulation of major penalties. In general, on and off ice behavior is a pretty simple issue. The players on our teams represent the New Canaan Winter Club. Our expectation is that they will be respectful of their teammates, coaches, opponents, and referees and our player conduct will reflect well at all times on our Club.

Locker Room Policies and Expectation of Behavior

In addition to the developing our player's love of hockey and individual and team skills, the safety and protection of our participants is central the NCWC travel hockey program goals. The NCWC adheres to USA Hockey's SafeSport Program as a means to help protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse and other types of misconduct, including emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing.

Hockey may be the best team sport out there and there are few things as fun as being in a locker room with your teammates. No teammate should feel uncomfortable in the locker room or team setting. As such, the New Canaan Winter Club will not tolerate any form of bullying or bad behavior in the locker room. Per USA Hockey policy, we do not want any electronic devices such as phones, laptops or tablets used in the locker room. It is up to our coaches whether they will allow music.

It is a USA Hockey requirement that programs have at least one responsible adult directly monitoring the locker room during all team events to ensure that only participants (coaches and players), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room and to supervise the conduct in the locker room. Any individual meetings between a minor participant and a coach in a locker room shall require a responsible adult be with the coach. We are also asking that one or two parents from each team volunteer to coordinate parents to serve as locker room monitors. In the case of Peewees and Bantams, the monitor role should be filled by a father/male when reasonably practicable.

Some teams consist of both male and female players. It is important that the privacy rights of all players are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. All players are required to arrive at the rink wearing their hockey base layers or shorts and t-shirts under their street clothes. All members of the team must have this minimum attire before entering a co-ed locker room so that no player of one gender has the opportunity to see players of the opposite gender in a state of dress/undress.

If there are any complaints about individual players, these complaints should be brought to the attention of the team's coaches and, if appropriate, the HPC, which will conduct an investigation into the incident and will hand down appropriate punishment if need be. There are two key points here. First, a small group of kids cannot ruin the experience for the rest of the team. Second, HPC and NCWC Board positions are volunteer jobs. None of these volunteers offer their time with the hope of spending a lot of time investigating and ruling on bad behavior. We are also not going to hire the FBI to investigate. If we get multiple reports from neutral parties that there was inappropriate behavior going on in the locker room, we will act decisively to address the situation and discipline the offenders as we deem appropriate.

On and Off Ice Conduct

Fighting - We do not tolerate fights on or off the ice. Any player who receives a game misconduct for fighting will automatically be suspended for one game by USA Hockey, a second game by CHC, and a third game by the NCWC. A fighting penalty = a three game suspension, no exceptions. If a player receives a second game misconduct for fighting in the same season, they will be suspended for a minimum of another three games and until a CHC hearing can be held. A third game misconduct will result in a player suspension for the remainder of the season. There will be no deviations from this policy and no consideration of the circumstances of the fighting penalty. The message to our players is very simple – do not fight on the ice, off the ice or in the locker-room.

Unsportsmanlike Behavior/USAH Zero Tolerance Policy - Any player who receives three or more unsportsmanlike penalties for talking back to the referees or the opposing coaches, bad

language, etc. will receive a minimum of a one game suspension. HPC will conduct a very quick investigation into the circumstances by asking coaches, referees and parents in attendance for their version of the situation. HPC reserves the right to suspend players for additional games if the situation warrants such action and if additional unsportsmanlike conduct penalties occur. *Please refer to the USAH Zero Tolerance Policy for further information.*

Accumulation of Penalties – Excessive number of penalties hurt both the team and individual players and the reputation of our Club. It is difficult for a team to win if they take too many penalties and it robs teammates of ice time if certain individuals are repeatedly in the penalty box. As such, any player who receives 25 penalties over the course of the season will be referred to HPC for a mandatory review. HPC will consult with the coaches, the player, and team parents to determine whether this is a significant issue that warrants suspension. In addition, USA Hockey has issued very clear policies regarding Major Penalties for both players and Coaches. As USA Hockey rules very clearly stipulate, any player who accumulates three (3) major penalties during the season will receive an automatic three (3) game suspension with progressively steeper suspensions if a player incurs additional major penalties. The NCWC will follow through on such suspensions without exception.

This letter is coming from both the NCWC Board and the Hockey Policy Committee. If you have any questions or concerns about its content, please contact Ben Merrill, NCWC Board President, or JD DeGulis and Pete Walker, Co-Chairs of the HPC.

Signed (player): _____ Date: _____

Signed (parent/guardian): _____ Date: _____

Signed (parent/guardian): _____ Date: _____

References on USA Hockey Website:

- USA Hockey Policy Rule 615 Fighting
- USA Hockey policy Rule 411 Progressive Suspensions
- USA Hockey Rule 404 Misconduct Penalties
- USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy