

## PARENTS CONDUCT

As our spring hockey program prepares to enter its first weekend of play I would urge all of you to remind the players, parents as well as yourselves as to why we are doing this. WE WANT TO MAKE THESE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN BETTER HOCKEY PLAYERS BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY TO MAKE THEM BETTER PEOPLE THROUGH THE TEACHING OF LIFE SKILLS. Although we all like to win it is important that we remind ourselves of the priorities of our program.

We want our program to be an example of how enjoyable hockey can be for the players and parents when it is done right. **It is with that idea in mind that I remind you that we will continue to enforce our zero tolerance policy towards our parents.** Unfortunately, each spring we seem to have to deal with a few parents demonstrating improper behavior.

I realize that the officiating will not always be at the level you have come to expect from the Atlantic Hockey Group. Understanding that the game of hockey is one of passion where emotions and frustration levels can get the best of us, we as parents, must demonstrate a high degree of composure under adverse conditions as I do not believe we are sending a very good message to our sons and daughters by going crazy in the stands over what we may interpret as a bad call. My 50 plus years of experience in the game of hockey has provided me with the insight that hockey parents are not always the most objective people when watching a game of hockey. Unfortunately, every call by the official cannot go against the other team.

I would like to note that we want our parents to have fun and make noise during the game. However, I also believe that we all realize that there is a line between having fun and encouraging our team and not crossing that line by becoming negative towards the officials or worse the other team. As a hockey dad that has spent many years watching my 4 kids play hockey nothing turns me off more than having to listen to a loudmouth negative parent yell at officials from the puck drop until the end of the game.

# **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

**We will expect proper behavior from all of our parents.**

If improper behavior is witnessed during one of our games the coaching staff will be approached by an AHG Supervisor immediately after the game to ask that they conduct a parent meeting immediately in order to deal with improper behavior from any of their parents. If unacceptable behavior continues the parent or parents demonstrating improper behavior will be asked to leave the arena and not be allowed to return to any games until the situation has been dealt with in an appropriate manner.

*Remember we are teaching our kids life skills through hockey. Yelling and screaming at an official is not a skill we want to teach these kids.*