



Purpose:

The NAHL Code of Conduct has been created to promote player safety and to ensure the future health and well-being of our players. It explains regulations and consequences for targeted dangerous and illegal actions that we all want out of the game. It is critical that all NAHL Coaches read and understand this document and the potential disciplinary actions contained for engaging in specific, repetitive, negative and high-risk behavior.

Background:

USA Hockey and the NAHL are seeking solutions to ensure that junior hockey is played at a high level of competition that serves as a developmental path to college and professional hockey.

The emphasis of our shared efforts in making our game better centers around the following actions – fighting, checking from behind, contact to the head and dangerous hits and/or stick infractions that can lead to significant injuries.

It is the position of USA Hockey and the NAHL that players, coaches, officials, ownership and team officials must all share in the combined efforts of improving the quality and player safety in the game while also taking responsibility for and having fair, yet clear ramifications for illegal and dangerous on-ice actions.

Role of the Coach:

The relationship between an athlete and their coach plays a critical role in the mental, physical and emotional development of the junior-aged hockey player. Coaches are conduits through which the values and goals of junior hockey are promoted and messaged to players. Coaches should emphasize to players that they must be in control of their actions at all times.

Coaches have a responsibility to:

1. Be knowledgeable of the objectives of the Player Safety Initiative, the Code of Conduct, and the Rule Supplement.
2. Understand the consequences of these negative actions and the subsequent discipline that shall be enforced for engaging in this unwanted behavior.
3. Understand that the NAHL Code of Conduct was created for the players safety, that controlling their actions will define them as a player and that they will be accountable for negative and unwanted behavior.
4. Make the athlete's future health and well-being the top priority when making decisions regarding an injured athlete's ability to continue playing or training.
5. Respect the game, the rules, fellow coaches, the players, the officials, the volunteers and the fans.
6. Refrain from verbal, physical or otherwise communication with fans, staff and volunteers.
7. Refrain from contact of any kind with fans, staff and volunteers.