



Manual of Operations

Title: Team Commitment and Discipline	Number: MO-10-03
Source: LMC	
Approved By: WGHA Board	Date Approved: June 2014 Date Last Reviewed: June 2016, March 2024

COMMITMENT

Participation in any competitive sport or activity such as hockey requires considerable commitment (both in terms of time and money), dedication and sometimes sacrifice on the part of not only the volunteer coaches and players, but also their families.

Difficulties with commitment and dedication are accentuated when a participant is involved in more than one competitive sport or activity.

The WGHA respects the varying need of families.

In return for their commitment and dedication, the volunteers expect a corresponding level of commitment and dedication from the players, especially at crucial points in the season and at the older age divisions and higher categories of play.

Each WGHA team will develop expectations around commitment, behaviour, communication and consequences of not meeting expectations. These expectations will be set at the beginning of each season by the Coaching staff with the parents and players.

DISCIPLINE

In addition to WGHA *Discipline and Investigations* policy, Teams may set rules and expectations specific to the team.

When a player has broken a team rule or displayed inappropriate behavior, corrective action may be necessary. Removal of ice-time from a player for disciplinary reasons is permitted and is the only effective method of discipline a coach can use. The discipline applied should be consistent with that outlined at the initial team meeting. This **MUST** be applied fairly & consistently for all players on the team regardless of ability.



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Example: if a team establishes a rule that players arriving late for games will miss the first period, then this must be followed through with every instance, even if it involves the team's best player.

Where the infraction involves disruptive or abusive behavior during practices or games the coach should discuss the incident and the impending disciplinary action with the parent(s) involved prior to the removal of the ice-time. This will give the parent(s) an opportunity to participate in correcting the behavior as well as give the parent fair warning that their child will be missing ice-time in an upcoming game.

The WGHA recommends to all coaches that they should involve the team Parent Rep in a face-to-face meeting with the parent; however, this may not be practical in all circumstances.

Should future incidents occur and the behavior not be corrected, further progressive discipline will result including game suspension(s) and possible removal from the team. Such serious measures would require a disciplinary hearing before the Leagues Management Committee.