



The following principles are the foundation of the Southwest Michigan Blades Hockey Program.

To be a positive, contributing member of the Southwest Michigan Blades Hockey team you must understand these principles. Our success on and off the ice is directly related to your personal commitment to these principles and your willingness to put these words into action.

I. CHARACTER

Each of you will wear our colors with pride and always exhibit the spirit of good sportsmanship. Playing Blades Hockey is not a right but a privilege. A privilege that must be earned daily by your individual and collective efforts both on and off the ice and in the classroom.

II. PRACTICE

Each player will commit themselves, to using the time made available during practices to work on weaknesses and improve the strengths and the skills needed to play the game. Each player's perception of what it means to have fun is different, however, there can be no debating the fact that hard work, sweat and 100% effort result in a sense of satisfaction for any athlete. No game should be more physically demanding than any practice.

III. LEARNING

We expect to make mistakes and learn from them, but we will not be afraid to make mistakes in any situation (practice or game). We know that when we are afraid to make a mistake that fear paralyzes action and therefore our desire to work our hardest will be limited when fear is the motivator. Remember; focus on the rewards of success (doing it right), not the penalty of failure (making a mistake).

IV. TEAM WORK

We will always encourage each other and respond in a positive manner to any effort that helps the team. Criticism of teammates has no place on our bench, in our locker room or on the ice - regardless of the situation and/or severity of the error. No one makes a mistake on purpose.

V. EFFORT

Each player is responsible for conducting the "mirror test" after each game or practice. A look into the mirror with the question, "Did I give my best?" should provide an honest answer to the player – because if you cannot be honest with yourself about that then you will not develop as a player nor mature as a person.