



## **MINNESOTA HOCKEY DISTRICT 5 2025-2026 COACHING GUIDELINES**

1. All coaches and instructors must complete Safesport training prior to any hockey activities (on ice or off) for the season. All coaches and instructors must be certified to coach at their level no later than December 31, 2025. Coaches failing to achieve proper certification will not be allowed to coach or instruct during any and all sanctioned USA Hockey/Minnesota Hockey events, including practice, for the remainder of the 2025-2026 season.
2. Verbal abuse of officials, players and/or opposing coaches will not be tolerated. Coaches receiving a bench penalty for violation of the zero tolerance policy will be subject to a letter of reprimand from the District 5 Coach-in-Chief.
3. All complaints of inappropriate coaching behavior will be investigated by the District 5 Coach-in-Chief, and if warranted, a letter of reprimand will be issued to the offending coach.
4. All letters of reprimand will be kept on file with the District 5 Coach-in-Chief. Local Association Presidents and ACE Coordinators as well as the District 5 Director and District 5 President will be copied on all letters of reprimand.
5. All coaches receiving two or more letters of reprimand during the 2025-2026 season will be subject to suspension, the duration of which will be determined at a hearing before the District 5 Grievance Committee. Coaches failing to appear for this hearing will be suspended indefinitely.
6. Any and all physical abuse or threat of physical abuse directed toward players, parents, officials or spectators will result in a hearing before the District 5 Grievance Committee.
7. District 5 coaches will abide by the USA Hockey Coaching Ethics Code. In addition, District 5 recognizes the USA Hockey Coaches Code of Conduct (please note that this is different from the Coaching Ethics Code). Please model your coaching behavior after

these simple reminders. Remember, the game is about the players. It should be an enjoyable and memorable experience for everyone involved.

## **USA Hockey Coaches Code of Conduct**

- Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one. Care more about the child than winning the game. Remember, players are involved in hockey for fun and enjoyment.
- Be a positive role model to your players, display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of players.
- Be generous with your praise when it is deserved; be consistent and honest; be fair and just; do not criticize players publicly; learn to be a more effective leader and coach; don't yell at players.
- Adjust to personal needs and problems of players; be a good listener; never verbally or physically abuse a player or official; give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem; teach them the basics.
- Organize practices that are fun and challenging for your players. Familiarize yourself with the rules, techniques and strategies of hockey; encourage all your players to be team players.
- Maintain an open line of communications with your players' parents. Explain the goals and objectives of your association.
- Be concerned with the overall development of your players. Stress good health habits and clean living.
- To play the game is great, to love the game is greater.