

Cumberland County Minor Hockey Association – Policy Manual

CATEGORY: Team Management	LAST REVIEW: 2025
POLICY NUMBER: 6.7	DATE APPROVED: May 29, 2025
TITLE: Bench Management/Fair Play	
PURPOSE: This policy outlines the principles of Fair Play.	
RELATED GUIDELINES/DOCUMENTS:	

1. WHAT IS FAIR PLAY?

Fair play is a complex notion that comprises and embodies a number of values that are fundamental not only to sport but also to everyday life:

- Respect
- Friendship
- Team spirit
- Fair competition
- Sport without doping
- Respect for written and unwritten rules such as equality, integrity, solidarity, acceptance, care, excellence and joy.

These are the building blocks of fair play that can be experienced and learned both on and off the ice.

2. FAIR SELDOM MEANS EQUAL

As usual the more extreme the example, the greater the agreement. Who could argue with the coach who sits a player on the bench for a gross violation of the rules?

For example, a player retaliates after being tripped with a violent 2 handed swing to the head of the opposing player. Not only has this violent action negated a pending man advantage, the team now finds themselves shorthanded and perhaps a player short for the remainder of the game, and likely a few more games as well.

Please answer YES or NO

- ✓ Is it fair for a Player to take long shifts?
- ✓ Is it fair for a Player to hog the puck and not pass to players that are wide open?
- ✓ Is it fair for a Player to continually make bad decisions that hurt the team? For example, trying to beat three players instead of dumping the puck in.
- ✓ Is it fair for a Player to ignore the team philosophy and work ethic?
- ✓ Is it fair for a Player to take retaliatory penalties?
- ✓ Is it fair for a Player to take "bad" penalties?
- ✓ Is it fair for a Player not to give 100%?

3. FAIR PLAY WILL BE ADHERED TO AT ALL LEVELS

CCMHA is for the development of all Players registered. Each player deserves the opportunity to further develop their growth in the game with full participation in PP, PK and "final minutes"

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situations. If players are not given the opportunity, they may never develop in that particular area. All players will receive equal ice time.

We want all players to experience these game situations to help develop them. Having said that, as long as it is explained to parents/guardians and players BEFORE-HAND, coaches should sit players for one shift for doing selfish acts that hurt the team, such as not passing to a player in a better position, staying

on the ice over 60 seconds when the player had chances to change, selfish penalties (retaliatory), or disrespect to any other player, coach or official.

In order for this to work, it must be applied fairly to ALL players at ALL times. Players need to be held accountable for their actions and need to learn to react in a positive way when they are benched and focus on things they can control (i.e.-refocus on next shift and support teammates) rather than pouting because they were benched.

Players/Goalies are to be played equally with the exception of the last three (3) minutes of a “Meaningful Game”. Coaches may shorten the bench in the last three (3) minutes of any game.

4. REVIEW

The Policy will be reviewed by Cumberland County Minor Hockey on an annual basis.