

## **Penncrest Ice Hockey Contract of Understanding with the Players and Parents**

The Penncrest Ice Hockey Club is dedicated to the pursuit of the following:

To provide the opportunity for students in the Rose Tree Media (RTM) School District to play competitive, interscholastic ice hockey.

Provide for the wholesome development of individual skill and character, as well as teamwork and good sportsmanship, among the participants.

To enhance the reputation and public image of the schools and residents of the Rose Tree Media School District.

The conditions under which Penncrest Ice Hockey is sanctioned by the RTM School District, require strict adherence to school policy governing all extracurricular activities. Participation is a privilege extended to those who adhere to the required standards of conduct and meet their financial, academic and behavioral responsibilities to the team, players, coaches, league officials, and parents. These are, but not limited to, the following:

1. **Responsibility to Perform.** Each player has voluntarily chosen to make a commitment to this organization. That commitment comes with the responsibility and the accountability for your actions both on and off the ice. In order to fulfill your responsibility, you are expected to meet and fulfill your Team and Club's criteria to succeed. Each player will follow all rules, regulations, guidelines, and by-laws as outlined by the Rose Tree Media Ice Hockey Club (RTMIHC), by their Team Head Coach and in this Code of Conduct.
2. **Financial Commitment.** The parent agrees to be responsible for the financial commitment made in this Agreement (which includes the payment of a Registration Fee and a Player Fee), even in the event that player's club or playing privileges are suspended and/or terminated for any reason, including, but not limited to, disciplinary or academic issues, and understand this to mean that in no case will the Player Fee be prorated for any portion of the season.

The parent understands and agrees that if the player resigns or otherwise voluntarily terminates his/her participation for any reason after signing this agreement and participating in the regular season (practices and/or games), the player is not entitled to a refund of the Player Fee and must pay the entire remaining balance of the Player Fee before the player will be permitted to resume participation with the club in future seasons.

The parent understands that the USA Hockey Atlantic District requires member clubs to report any player's outstanding financial obligation to the District. The parent and player understand that a reported player cannot be placed on the roster of any other Atlantic District team (middle school, high school, in-house or travel ice hockey team) until the outstanding financial obligation to the club is satisfied.

3. **USA Hockey, Safe Sport and Safety.** The safety of all RTMIHC players is paramount to the organization. Through the USA Hockey Safe Sport program RTMIHC is committed to creating the safest possible environment for participation in our ice hockey program. These policies address the following types of abuse and misconduct: sexual, physical, or emotional abuse, bullying, threats and harassment, and locker room electronic communications policy. The Safe Sport Handbook can be reviewed at: <https://www.usahockey.com/safesportprogram>  
Anyone in violation of the Safe Sport policy will be subject to suspension and or expulsion.
4. **Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy.** Any use or possession of drugs, narcotics, hallucinogens, alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, electronic cigarettes or similar or other non-prescribed drugs by participants of the RTMIHC is strictly prohibited. THIS IS A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY and will be enforced if discovered by a Team Head Coach or RTMIHC Board Member. Any player found to be in violation may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or termination from the club without refund or relief from financial commitment.
5. **Academics.** As a member of the ice hockey club you are required to maintain your school grades at an acceptable level, in accordance with school district guidelines. If grades fall below RTM eligibility standards players will not be permitted to participate in team activities. This is a weekly check and a player declared ineligible for the week is out until the next week's eligibility report comes out.
6. **Respect, Maturity and Player Behavior.** Each player is responsible to balance schoolwork, social and family activities, and athletics. RTMIHC players will show respect for their coaches, teammates, referees, opponents and spectators. Incessant swearing and abusive language will not be tolerated. At no time shall a player use disrespectful, abusive, or obscene language/gestures to coaches, officials, opponents, teammates, or parents/fans. Behavior that is not in the best interests of the club, team or teammates will not be tolerated. Failure to comply with these rules will result in disciplinary action as determined by the Head Coach in conjunction with the Board. **Players receiving a game misconduct for unsportsmanlike conduct or abuse of officials will receive an automatic additional game suspension and will have the incident reviewed by the Board.**
7. **Fighting.** Fighting is not tolerated. Any RTIHC player involved in a fight will receive the league-imposed discipline and may be subject to additional disciplinary action as determined by the Head Coach in conjunction with the RTMIHC Board. Any additional fighting offense(s) within the same season will be reviewed by the RTMIHC Board for possible further discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion from the club without refund or relief from financial commitment.
8. **Equipment.** Players are responsible for their own equipment. Players are required to wear ALL appropriate ice hockey equipment, at all times for all practices, scrimmages, and games per USA Hockey rules and regulations **including mouth guards**. Failure to comply with these requirements compromises a player's safety and may result in ejection from the remainder of the practice, scrimmage or game.
9. **Uniforms and Dress Code.** As a club member you are a representative of the RTMIHC. The club's dress code is determined by the Head Coach of each team. Violation of this rule may result in disciplinary action as determined by the Head Coach. The uniform of RTMIHC teams is: Penncrest jersey and matching socks. High school players will also wear a red helmet, team gloves and red shell for all Penncrest on ice activities.

10. **Parent Conduct in the Stands.** Parents must demonstrate respect for all players, coaches, officials and parents of both teams. It is required that you uphold the class and dignity of the Rose Tree Media Ice Hockey Club and the Penncrest name. Repeated violation of this rule will prevent you from attending the games.
11. **Property and Facilities.** The property of others will always be respected. This includes, not only equipment, but, also the facilities, such as ice rinks, locker rooms, and schools. At no time will damage or defamation to property be tolerated.
12. **Coach Player Issues.** At the high school level, any and all player/coach issues need to be discussed and resolved between the coach and the player. If the issue is not resolved, a meeting between the parents/player and coach may be arraigned ONLY through the high school vice-president.

At the Middle School and Elementary School levels, the parents may contact the team manager to set up a meeting to resolve the issue.

The 24-hour rule always applies. (Contact regarding issues may not be made until 24 hours has passed from the time the issue occurred) Violation of this policy will be subject to suspension.

**Parents and players must use the proper procedure to resolve any player/coach issues**

13. The ICSHL's Central division is one of the most competitive divisions in the area. Penncrest will always play in this division. While the perfect scenario is for every player to play equal time, given the competitive nature of the games, that is not always going to happen as playing time may be limited as deemed by the coach. Any issues of playing time MUST be discussed and resolved between player and coach.

These rules are meant for you and your team's benefit and protection. Failure to abide by these rules, or their intent, will result in disciplinary action in accordance with those actions established or enacted by the club's Disciplinary Committee or Board of Directors. This can, but is not limited to, game or game time suspensions. Certain offenses may result in the dismissal from the club. **In any event, there will be no refund of fees paid by players, or their parent/guardian, for players dismissed or suspended from the club.**

**Your electronic signature on the registration form acknowledges that the player and parent have read, understand and agree to comply with the terms and conditions listed.**