

# *Wildcats Hockey 2018-2019*

## *Sportsmanship, Class and a Winning Environment*

The purpose of this handout is to make all players and parents involved in Wildcats hockey aware of the philosophy and general policies of the new Wildcats coaching staff.

### **Philosophy:**

The main goal of the coaching staff is for all people involved in Wildcats hockey to have a positive environment in which to thrive. I ask that the players come to practice every day with a goal in mind in which they want to improve. I want the players to be open to being coached and open to finding new ways to improve their game. I want the players and coaches to be creative. Hockey players are the best athletes in the world. Inside the glass they are fierce, competitive and will do anything to help their teammates succeed. Outside the glass they are respectful, honest, polite and role models. That is what I expect from all my players.

The coaching staff will respect and teach each player how to play this game the correct way. All players will be treated fairly. We as a staff will find a way to maximize each player's full potential. On a team each player plays a significant role. Every single role is important for us to have success this season. We will run this program like a business. We are in the business of winning hockey games. A good business is only run well when all parts of the system are working as one. That means on and off the ice. We will look and act as professionals on and off the ice. All players will be model student athletes.

- All student Athletes will uphold academic requirements set forth by the CIAC, their respective schools, and the Wildcats coaching staff.
- All student athletes are expected to give 110% participation in the classroom, during games & practices, and other team functions.
- I will be checking in with the respective Athletic directors and teachers to make sure all hockey players are model students and respective young men inside the classroom and off the ice. If there are any problems inside the classroom or off the ice, the coaching staff will determine at their discretion if any discipline is necessary.
  - Hazing and Initiation will **NOT** be tolerated by the coaching staff. Serious consequences will be upheld if this happens.

### **Practice**

- Practice is very important to the overall success of the program.
- Coaching staff will plan out every practice to make sure all players have chance to develop and enhance their skills and earn playing time at the varsity level.

- Call a coach if you cannot attend a practice. Do not text. If a player misses a practice without a phone call and proper reason as to why they cannot attend, this results in loss of playing time. Coach King Phone Number: (860-471-2046)
- Arrive on time ready to work and learn. We only have one hour of ice time to practice. Every second of ice time is essential to learn and grow as players and young men. If a player is late on the ice without a good reason then this results in discipline.
- There will be off ice workouts and film sessions throughout the season
- There will be optional pre-season workouts in the SHS weight room. Players are encouraged to come as this will get you into better hockey shape for tryouts.

## Games

- Coaches will tell the players a certain time in which all players must be present for home games. If a player is late without a good reason this will result in loss of playing time.
- Players must ride the bus to away games and arrive to the bus early and prepared. If a player fails to do so this will result in loss of playing time.
- The players will perform an off ice warmup before all games to get their bodies ready for battle and to help prevent injuries. Players must bring the necessary clothing to perform this warmup.
- Dress Code for **Home** Games. All players must wear a collared shirt, tie, dress pants, belt and dress shoes to all home games. NO Baseball Caps. NO sweatshirts. NO Sneakers. If a player fails to follow these dress code rules this will result in loss of playing time.
  - Dress Code for **Away** games. All players must wear a collared shirt, dress pants, belt and dress shoes. No tie is required. NO Baseball Caps. NO sweatshirts. NO Sneakers. If a player fails to follow these dress code rules this will result in loss of playing time.
  - As stated before we are running this program as a business on and off the ice. I feel strongly that players must look professional if they want to play and succeed. Look good, feel good, play good.
    - Sportsmanship - This is very important to the coaching staff. We want to set a standard throughout the state as hard competitors but more importantly as the team with absolute class and integrity. Only Captains and Coaches will speak to officials. NO profanity NO obscene gestures towards officials, opposing coaches or fans will be tolerated. When speaking to officials you must refer to him as sir or ref. Any violations to these rules will result in discipline.
    - I expect all players to play the game hard, fast, smart and fair. ALL players will use sportsmanship at all times.

## Coaches

The coaching staff is here to help all players with any issues on or off the ice. Treat every coach with respect and honesty. When addressing a coach you must refer to him as coach or sir. We are here to be your role models and teach you this great game.

## **Substance Abuse**

- The use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, nicotine, non-prescribed medication and/narcotics will NOT BE TOLERATED. All school rules apply. This is for ALL team functions and non-team activities. Any violations of these rules will result in hefty discipline.
  - Coaches and School officials will choose the severity of each action and decide the appropriate punishment.

## **Playing Time**

- The coaching staff is at complete discretion of playing time. All players have a chance to prove themselves in practice to earn minutes on the ice.
- Start of the season is a clean slate. I don't care what you've done in the past, I don't care what teams you play for in the off season, and I do not care what grade you are in. Every player starts the season with a clean slate. Each and every player will earn every minute of ice time they get.
- Coaches are looking for players that work their tail off, are positive leaders, have a high hockey IQ, and guys that are willing to do whatever it takes to help the team succeed.
- Coaches will always let the players know where they stand and what they need to improve.
  - If there is a problem with ice time I ask that the player come speak to me directly first. If the problem persists then I will speak to parents and the player in private. Parent emails to myself or any of the coaching staff should be last resort. I am trying to teach these boys how to be young men. In life if you're not happy with your boss you do not have your parents email him/her, you speak directly yourself in a polite professional manner.
- Coaches will always have the best interest of ALL players. Every single player is equal.
- There will be NO JV program this year. This is very unfortunate as the JV program is where the development of players has happened in the past. That will not stop the coaching staff in developing each and every player to reach their fullest potential.
- The varsity game roster will have 20 names and 20 names only. Each player has a chance to earn a spot of 20 each and every day of practice. The roster with 20 names will be posted at least 24 hours before the start of the game.
- Since there is no JV, game time will be very limited for some players which is very unfortunate.
- The goal of the program is to have the kids enjoy playing the game of hockey. The most fun part about hockey in my opinion is winning. The coaching staff will do whatever we can to win as many games as possible and to have fun at the same time.

## **Goals for the Season**

The main goal of Wildcats Hockey is for all players to become better hockey players and better young men off the ice. Players will learn to play hard, with confidence and with sportsmanship. The goal is to teach every player in the program the correct way to play this game.

When you put on any Wildcat apparel you are representing 3 towns, 3 schools, your coaches and your families. Wear that apparel with pride and represent this organization with class!

Coach Jake King

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By signing below you are stating that you understand completely all rules and regulations and willing to do your best for the Wildcat Hockey program.

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Player Signature: \_\_\_\_\_