

The Life of a Hockey Parent

Sports parents are a pretty particular type of people, and hockey parents are a breed of their own. If you have the pleasure and honour of calling yourself a hockey parent, then your life probably looks like this:

- Your car has an extra blanket in the back, along with a case of water or electrolyte drinks.
- Your weekends and free time are mainly dedicated to the game.
- You've spent more than a few paychecks on vending machine candy.
- Pizza or french fries are often a recurring game-watching food.
- A few Tim Horton's locations would consider you a regular or know you by name.
- Your kids have been scolded for yielding their sticks in parking lots or hotel hallways during an away game.
- All your vacations must come second to and work around hockey season.
- You have a specific bench spot in the stands to watch games.
- You're proud of your kid no matter the wins or losses.

The dedication that comes from being a hockey parent is admirable and should be recognized more often. Registering your child in hockey means changing your lifestyle in a big way. The [Whitby Minor Hockey Association](#) welcomes children to the rink and aims to share the fun hockey brings to life.

Mornings are an early start and unfold in a cold rink amid the lingering smell of sweat. A big chunk of money goes towards registration costs, gear, travel and food, and not to mention the countless coffees to keep warm and stay awake. These are nothing compared to the benefits.

First off, joining a sport improves your child in so many areas of life that it's worth it just from that standpoint. Through the hard work and dedication that comes with being a part of a team, your child learns the value of being a part of society. Manners are expected and required; friends and lifelong bonds are made; exercise is always guaranteed; and fun and excitement are a given.

Building a solid sense of character through sports and teamwork is a fantastic thing and, as a hockey parent, you get the opportunity to witness it often. The determination that comes from being a hockey player helps highlight other qualities, such as quick thinking, good self-esteem, or the value of a loss and the joy of a win.

Seeing the pride and excitement on the kids' faces after a win is always mirrored in the parents' faces in the stands. Just like the players are a team, so are all of the parents. Friendships are made in the stands just as much as they are on the rink. Sharing the lifestyle and the love you have for your child unites hockey parents pretty quickly.

After becoming a hockey parent, you will realize that this network is an incredible thing. Parents look out for each other and are willing to lend a hand when you need it. The sense of

community offers a value that is immeasurable. Celebrating your own child's goals and the accomplishments of their teammates with just as much joy is indescribable.

Hockey life isn't meant for the weak of heart, but no matter what, the rink is always open to those with a passion for the game. The WMHA wants to create an opportunity for kids to experience the excitement and fun of hockey. Information regarding [registration](#), [volunteering](#), and more is available through the [Whitby Hockey website](#).