

# FAIR PLAY CODE OF CONDUCT

What happens if the code of conduct is not followed or is ignored. . . .

- 1) A person gets a reputation for being unruly, loud, abusive and/or threatening
- 2) Others do not want to associate with you because of your behaviour
- 3) Your son or daughter becomes known as the child of the unruly one
- 4) Your behaviour rubs off on your child and they become like you
- 5) Your child loses friends because of you or their known behaviour
- 6) No one wants them on their team regardless of skill
- 7) Coaches refuse to pick them regardless of their skills
- 8) Membership is refused - because membership is a privilege not a right
- 9) Any or all of the above take the fun out of the game

***Participating in sports is supposed to teach game skills and more importantly, life skills!***

# FAIR PLAY CODES

## WHAT IS FAIR PLAY?

Fair play is a universal concept that forms the foundation for all sport. Fair play does not change the rules of the game. Fair play goes far beyond scoring and winning, it is about the development of skills and character, on and off the ice, that lead to a life long enjoyment of sport and recreation. Fair play allows all athletes the same opportunity to develop skills, the chance to display those skills in an atmosphere of respect, and to develop an appreciation for the efforts of all participants.

All involved in the game must be proactive and a good role model in the promotion of the values of fair play. The following are recommended fair play codes for players, parents, spectators, coaches, officials, and league organizers.

### PLAYERS

- I will play hockey because I want to, not just because others or coaches want me to.
- I will play by the rules of hockey, and in the spirit of the game.
- I will control my temper – fighting and “mouthing off” can spoil the activity for everybody.
- I will respect my opponents.
- I will do my best to be a true team player.
- I will remember that winning isn’t everything - that having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.
- I will acknowledge all good plays/performance – those of my team and of my opponents.
- I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.

### PARENTS

- I will not force my child to participate in hockey.
- I will remember that my child plays hockey for his or her enjoyment, not for mine.
- I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will teach my child that doing one’s best is as important as winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game.
- I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a game.
- I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good plays/performance by both my child’s team and their opponents.
- I will never question the officials’ judgement or honesty in public.
- I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children’s hockey games.
- I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteer coaches and administrators who give their time to coach and provide hockey for my child.
- I will not be critical of, or embarrass any player, including opposition players.
- I will never yell, taunt, threaten or inflict physical violence upon any player, coach, official or spectator at any minor hockey activity.
- I will refrain from the use of abusive or vulgar language, racial, ethnic or gender-related slurs at any time at the rink or any minor hockey function.
- I will leave the coaching to the coaching staff.

### SPECTATORS

- I will remember that participants play hockey for their enjoyment. They are not playing to entertain me.
- I will not have unrealistic expectations. I will remember that players are not professionals and cannot be judged by professional standards.
- I will respect the officials’ decisions and I will encourage participants to do the same.
- I will never ridicule a player for making a mistake during a game. I will give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort.
- I will condemn the use of violence in any form and will express my disapproval in an appropriate manner to coaches and league officials.
- I will show respect for my team’s opponents, because without them there would be no game.
- I will not use bad language, nor will I harass players, coaches, officials or other spectators.

### TEAM OFFICIALS

- I will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remembering that players have other interests and obligations.
- I will teach my players to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.
- I will ensure that all players get equal instruction, support and playing time.
- I will not ridicule or yell at my players for making mistakes or for performing poorly. I will remember that players play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
- I will make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the players’ ages and abilities.
- I will remember that participants need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example.
- I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills.
- I will work in cooperation with officials for the benefit of the game.

## **OFFICIALS**

- I will make sure that every player has a reasonable opportunity to perform to the best of his or her ability, within the limits of the rules.
- I will avoid or put an end to any situation that threatens the safety of the players.
- I will maintain a healthy atmosphere and environment for competition.
- I will not permit the intimidation of any player either by word or by action. I will not tolerate unacceptable conduct toward myself, other officials, players or spectators.
- I will be consistent and objective in calling all infractions, regardless of my personal feelings toward a team or individual player.
- I will handle all conflicts firmly but with dignity.
- I accept my role as a teacher and role model for fair play, especially with young participants.
- I will be open to discussion and contact with the players before and after the game.
- I will remain open to constructive criticism and show respect and consideration for different points of view.
- I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my officiating skills.
- I will work in cooperation with coaches for the benefit of the game.

## **LEAGUE ORGANIZERS**

- I will do my best to see that all players are given the same chance to participate, regardless of gender, ability, ethnic background or race.
- I will absolutely discourage any sport program from becoming primarily an entertainment for the spectator.
- I will make sure that all equipment and facilities are safe and match the athletes' ages and abilities.
- I will make sure that the age and maturity level of the participants are considered in program development, rule enforcement and scheduling.
- I will remember that play is done for its own sake and make sure that winning is kept in proper perspective.
- I will distribute the fair play codes to spectators, coaches, athletes, officials, parents and media.
- I will make sure that coaches and officials are capable of promoting fair play as well as the development of good technical skills and I will encourage them to become certified.

- Excerpt from: Safety Requires Teamwork  
HOCKEY CANADA



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**TO:** All Nova Scotia Minor Hockey Associations  
**FROM:** Darren Cossar, Executive Director Hockey Nova Scotia  
**DATE:** 13/08/2012  
**RE:** Abusive Parents

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Please be advised that at Hockey Nova Scotia's Board of Directors meeting December 10 & 11, 2004, a motion on dealing with **Abusive Parents** was unanimously passed.

The Motion reads:

*Any parent who fails to comply with the Rules and Regulations of the local Association, and exhibits behaviour that is deemed inappropriate, is subject to disciplinary action by the Officers of the local Association. The officers of the Association are empowered to suspend the parents from all activities of the association, following a Disciplinary hearing of the local association. Hockey Nova Scotia recommends that the local Association adopt the following disciplinary process: Initially a letter of warning; secondly, short term suspension; thirdly, long term suspension, this is subject to approval of the President of Hockey Nova Scotia. A parent, who fails to comply with the terms of reference for the suspension that is determined by the local Association, may be required to withdraw his/her membership within the local Association. This action may include the cancellation of the membership of all registered players of the parent.*

All Associations are encouraged to follow these steps and spread the word to all involved with their local Association that there **is a policy and it will be enforced**.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in making this policy known and enforcing it to ensure our rinks remain a safe and positive place for our young players, referees and coaches to grow and develop.

Kindest Regards,

Darren Cossar  
Executive Director  
HOCKEY NOVA SCOTIA  
[www.hockeynovascotia.ca](http://www.hockeynovascotia.ca)

3.1 CORE VALUES:

Hockey Nova Scotia believes in...

- a. a positive hockey experience for all participants in a safe, fun, sportsmanlike environment
- b. the development of life skills, including respect for all people by all participants
- c. teamwork, through which we strive to be the best we can be
- d. consistency in our decisions and applications of policies and regulations
- e. innovation and creating an environment where learning and flexibility are the tools we use to wisely handle changing circumstances
- f. teamwork, as a life long skill
- g. perspective and maintaining a healthy balance between life and the game.