

OHGHA CODE OF CONDUCT

Adopted Monday, March 28, 2010
Revised Oct. 30, 2013 (OWHA Handbook references)

The Oakville Hornets Girls Hockey Association ("OHGHA") is committed to providing a sport environment in which all individuals are treated with respect.

The OHGHA hereby expressly adopts and incorporates into this Code of Conduct the following policies:

- (1) the OWHA Code of Conduct & Suspensions (<http://www.owha.on.ca>);
- (2) the OWHA RESPECT SPEAK OUT Policy (<http://www.owha.on.ca>);
- (3) the Hockey Canada Fair Play Codes for Parents (Appendix "A").

The conduct of OHGHA Coaches is governed by this Code of Conduct as well as the applicable Rep or House League OHGHA Coaches' Manuals.

Each of the above policies is available through links from the OHGHA website. It is the responsibility of every individual covered by this Code of Conduct to familiarize himself or herself with those policies. In addition, hard copies of the entire policy are available for inspection at the OHGHA office during office hours. Ignorance of those policies will not constitute an excuse for any breach.

The essence of this Code of Conduct is that all individuals covered by it shall refrain from making comments or engaging in behaviour which is disrespectful, offensive or abusive. The OHGHA expects that its volunteers will at all times comply with this Code of Conduct. The OHGHA appreciates the efforts of its volunteers to do so and also requires all players, parents and spectators to treat all our volunteers (which includes all coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, managers, officers, directors and others serving in a voluntary capacity in the OHGHA) and officials with respect. Disparaging comments about any volunteer or official that calls into question their integrity or may tend to discredit or damage their reputations will constitute a breach of this policy.

Applicability

This Code of Conduct is applicable to every player, coach, assistant coach, trainer, manager, official, parent, chaperone, director, officer, volunteer, employee and spectator. Compliance with this Code of Conduct constitutes a condition of membership for all members. By registering a player with the OHGHA, both the player and her parents expressly agree to abide by this Code of Conduct.

Investigation of Breaches

The Ethics & Discipline Committee and the Executive Committee are each hereby empowered to investigate any potential breach of this Code of Conduct without having to receive a complaint first. If either committee concludes a breach has occurred either may take such action as it sees fit, including the immediate imposition of a suspension or other disciplinary action.

Complaints

Any and all complaints of breaches of this Code of Conduct shall be dealt with in accordance with this Code. No complaint shall be made to any body except the OHGHA until the procedures set out in herein has been followed.

If the complaint relates to a minor breach the interested parties are encouraged to try to resolve the situation informally, with or without the assistance of the relevant coaching staff or the executive.

At the other extreme, if the behaviour in question constitutes criminal behaviour then the aggrieved member is encouraged to contact the police directly.

For all other complaints, the required procedure is to do one of the following:

- (1) report the complaint to the Chairperson of the Ethics & Discipline Committee; or
- (2) report the complaint to the Ombudsman.

In either event of a complaint being made to the Ethics & Discipline Committee or the Ombudsman:

- (1) the Ethics & Discipline Committee or Ombudsman may proceed informally to attempt to resolve the complaint; or
- (2) the Ethics & Discipline Committee or Ombudsman may require the complaint to be set out in writing; or
- (3) the Ethics & Discipline Committee or Ombudsman may decline to investigate the complaint if the complaint is found to be frivolous, vexatious or made in bad faith or the complainant fails to cooperate fully.

In the event that the Ombudsman proceeds with a formal complaint he or she shall do so in accordance with Article 17 of the Constitution.

In the event the Ethics & Discipline Committee proceeds with a formal complaint it shall do so in accordance with Article 8.7 of the Constitution.

Consequences of a Breach

Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct, or knowingly bringing a false complaint, may result in disciplinary action, suspension, or release from membership. Such action may result in the member losing the privileges that come with membership in the OHGHA, including the opportunity to participate in OHGHA activities.

SECURITY CLEARANCE AND SPEAK-OUT

All team personnel must have a valid Security Clearance, with Vulnerable Sector Screening and Speak-Out certification prior to participating in any on-ice session, participating behind the bench, or entering a dressing room. These certifications must be obtained and registered with the OHGHA (Privacy Commissioner) by October 31 of the current season.

Any person participating in team activities per above, who is lacking the appropriate credentials will be immediately suspended from participating in any activities associated with the OHGHA or the teams until the above requirements are met. The Head Coach will also be suspended for the next game or practice, whichever comes first. Further information on these requirements can be found in the Coaches Corner section of the Hornets web site.

Appendix A

FAIR PLAY CODE

Respect the Game

Hockey Canada asks you to consider your role in showing "Respect" for the game, and for the people who make this the great game it is. How much do you RESPECT the game of hockey and all its participants? Take this simple test to see how you rate.

Check off the statements that apply to you.

- The safety of the participants in the game is more important than the final score.
- I value the contribution of the coach in developing the player's talents, even though I may not always agree with their methods.
- I understand that officials do not make the hockey rules, they only apply them.
- I understand that children learn from adults, and my behaviour reflects what I want children to learn.
- I understand that officials are responsible to ensure that the game is played in a safe and fair manner for all participants.
- I understand that players, coaches and officials are learning the game, and mistakes will be made in the learning process.
- I may not cheer for the opposition team, but I will also not cheer against them or verbally abuse them.
- I understand that the biggest reason for players and officials quitting the game is abuse.

(How did you rate? If you checked off 0-2 Step back and check your motives for being involved in the game; 3-4 on your way; 5-6 almost there; 7-8 outstanding)

FAIR PLAY CODE for parents...	10 WAYS To Become a Good Hockey Parent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will not force my child to participate in hockey. • I will remember that my child plays hockey for his or her enjoyment, not 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/event. • 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 competition. • I will remember that children learn best by example. • I will applaud good plays / performances by both my child's team and their opponents. • I will never question the official's judgment or honesty in public. • I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's hockey activities. • I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteer coaches who give their time to provide hockey experiences for my child. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get involved with your son or daughter's team in a positive way. • Let your son or daughter know you enjoy having them involved with the game. • Don't lose perspective; emphasize the values associated with the game. • Be supportive and don't let expectations become a burden to your son or daughter. • Model respectful behaviour for your son or daughter. • Be there for your child whether they win or lose. • Make safety, respect, fair play and fun a priority. • Support your child emotionally. • Encourage your child to participate but avoid pressuring them to play the game. • Communicate with your son's or daughter's coach in a professional effective manner.