

# Code of Conduct

## Preamble

One of the primary objectives of competition is to develop and foster respect for fellow participants, coaches, umpires, and spectators. With this in mind this **Code of Conduct** has been adopted.

The following conduct guidelines are based on the premise that everyone participating in the Springfield League is doing so for the purpose of playing or supporting women's field hockey. While field hockey is a competitive sport, it is assumed that a spirit of cooperation and support will exist among the league members.

There is an ancient concept: **that sport is to be enjoyed and sport participants are to respect one another, "to be good sports.** Such a concept requires universal acceptance by all - players, coaches, umpires and spectators. The "sporting behaviour" we seek must be more than a concept, but rather a consistent pattern of thought and action that is apparent to all.

Positive "sporting behaviour" must permeate all aspects of the league. Such behaviour should be modeled and strengthened in practices, just as techniques and strategies are. Part of the "game plan" for each game should be respect and appreciation for your opponent.

**No room exists for uncivil behavior by players, coaches, umpires or spectators.** The use of profanity, taunting, or threats of physical harm prior to, during or following games will not be tolerated. Participants are expected to act as mature individuals and model positive "sporting behavior" ahead of winning. While players want to win and should strive toward this objective, winning is always secondary to the enjoyment of the sport, the camaraderie, exercise, teamwork and the improvement of skills. Focus on such goals helps keep us unified and committed to what we claim to be – a league that desires to promote the sport of women's field hockey.

Any participant who willfully performs any act that substantially interferes with or is detrimental to the orderly operation of the league shall be subject to discipline, suspension, or expulsion. Any such acts by participants on or off the field at any time during the season constitute sufficient cause for discipline, suspension, or expulsion. Such acts shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Failure to demonstrate courtesy, fairness, and respect for other participants, coaches, umpires and spectators
- Creation of dissension among any members of the league.
- In cases where a conflict, complaint, or concern arises, failure to follow the steps outlined in the Regulations

Everyone is encouraged to keep this question top of mind:

"Does this play/tackle/comment encourage sportsmanship and positive interaction with my teammate/opponent/umpire?"

**Remember, it's a game so, "HAVE FUN!!!"**