

Player Code of Conduct

The following standards govern the behaviour of all players before, during and after games:

For the good of the game . . .

(Philosophy) Players shall:

1. Remember that safety, skill and fair play are paramount.
2. Conduct themselves so as to maintain the highest principles, integrity, and dignity of the league and the sport of women's field hockey.
3. Accept the notion that an athlete's strong desire to compete and succeed is in no way compromised by respect for the rules and respect for all opponents.
Acceptance of this concept is the very heart of sportsmanship and fair play.
4. Know all playing rules, their interpretations and their proper application. Understand the "spirit" of the rules. Always adhere to the spirit and letter of the playing rules.
5. Treat everyone fairly, regardless of gender, place of origin, color, sexual orientation, religion, political belief, or economic status.
6. Play with honor and integrity, placing these values above winning.
7. Play fair. Winning is without value if victory has been achieved unfairly or dishonestly.
8. Promote the interests of field hockey. Be ambassadors for the game.
9. Recognize that doing one's best is more important than winning and not encourage anyone to feel defeated by the outcome of a game or her performance.
10. Play for the "fun of it" and uphold the spirit of the league. Players are encouraged to avoid over-zealous (aggressive) play.
11. Be aware of the role sport plays in all athletes lives and respect the pressures that may be placed on themselves and other athletes as they strive to balance physical, mental, emotional and spiritual elements of their lives.
12. Avoid a "win at all costs" attitude.
13. Support the Mission Statement.

(Safety) Players Shall:

1. Never deliberately jeopardize the safety and well being of opponents, teammates, umpires, or spectators.
2. Not use stick/ball as a weapon.
3. Play appropriately to the surface. Grass is not turf, adapt swing and tackle.
4. Avoid body contact.
5. Participate in a manner that ensures the safety of athletes, coaches and officials also participating in the game.
6. Refrain from retaliating when fouled.
7. Refrain from displays of temper on the field or in the playing area.
8. Abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages during a practice or a game.

(Dealing with others) Players shall:

1. Accept the authority of the umpires. At no time is it appropriate to demonstrably question the decisions and actions of the umpires. Avoid comments or gestures which express disagreement with umpires' calls (these are cardable offenses). Only the captain may ask for clarification of a decision.

2. Be modest in success and generous in defeat. Accept defeat with dignity.
3. Acknowledge, willingly and openly, good play by either team.
4. Control their temper - verbal abuse of officials and/or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not permitted.
5. Treat all players as they would like to be treated themselves.
6. Support and encourage their teammates as well as all other players and umpires. Without them there would be no competition.
7. Direct comments or criticism at the performance rather than the athlete.
8. Consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of the sport
9. Refrain from public criticism of fellow players, coaches and umpires.
10. Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing, or otherwise offensive language or behaviour. Avoid profanity during play, even in a "friendly" manner.
11. Treat opponents and officials with due respect, both in victory and defeat.
12. Refrain from addressing remarks to opposing players or coaches, umpires, or spectators (except when remarks convey genuine friendship and respect or are in response to questions by the umpire).
13. Convey a consistently positive attitude toward their teammates and coaches.
14. Refrain from negative comments, such as "Let's score another one" about a weak team.
15. Remember that without opponents there can be no game.
16. Remember that their teammates are their colleagues. All team members are equal.
17. Be positive role models.
18. Encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game.
19. Avoid any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or spectator such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
20. Resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
21. Never ridicule or yell at any participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
22. At no time allow individuals who request sexual favours or use threats of reprisal for rejection to go unreported.

Players Shall Avoid Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Unsportsmanlike Conduct occurs when a player, coach, or spectator at any time while on field or in the area of a Springfield game conducts her/himself in an abusive, offensive, or illegal manner prior to, during, or after a game. This includes but is not limited to:

- a) fighting
- b) causing property damage at a game site
- c) entering into an argument with an umpire as to a decision that has been made
- d) attempting in any way to influence the decision of an umpire
- e) using threatening, profane, or obscene language or gestures at any time during a game
- f) baiting, taunting, or any other act which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule, or demean others under any circumstances, including on the basis of gender, place of origin, color, sexual orientation, religion, political belief, or economic status.

Failure to adhere to the code of conduct may result in suspension or expulsion from league play.