

Umpires Code of Conduct

Umpires must recognize their impact on the game, its participants and their fellow officials. The following umpiring code of conduct has been developed to aid in achieving a level of behaviour that will allow all umpires to contribute positively to the game.

Umpires shall:

1. Always remember that the game is for the players. Player safety and fair play come first.
2. Know all playing rules, their interpretations and their proper application. Understand the "spirit" of the rules. Help fellow umpires to do the same.
3. Control games only to the extent that is necessary to provide a positive and safe experience for all participants.
4. Treat everyone fairly regardless of gender, place of origin, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status.
5. Support the Mission Statement.
6. Respect other umpires' decisions and not publicly criticize another official.
7. Stay calm when confronted with emotional reactions from players, coaches and spectators.
8. Support good sportsmanship with a kind word to players, coaches and spectators of both teams when deserved.
9. Always be fair and impartial, avoiding conflicts of interest. Decisions based on personal bias are dishonest and unacceptable.
10. Act in a professional and businesslike manner at all times. Take the role seriously.
11. Strive to provide a safe and sportsmanlike environment in which players can properly display their hockey skills.
12. Remember that officials are "teachers". Set a good example.
13. Make calls with quiet confidence; never with arrogance.
14. Adopt a "zero tolerance" attitude toward verbal or physical abuse.
15. Answer all reasonable questions and requests. Use honesty and integrity when answering questions.
16. Refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language when speaking with a player, coach or spectator.
17. Admit mistakes when they are made.
18. Use International Hockey Federation approved officiating techniques and policies (FIH Rule Book).
19. Dedicate themselves to personal improvement and maintenance of officiating skills.
20. Respect their supervisor and her critique of their performance.
21. Direct comments or criticism at the performance rather than the individual if this is part of the role.
22. Consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of women's field hockey and officiating.
23. Treat all other hockey participants with due respect and encourage all officials to maintain a high standard of self discipline.
24. Ensure the safety of the officials with whom they work.
25. Abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages when officiating and working with officials.
26. Honour accepted game assignments. In an emergency, find a replacement.

Failure to adhere to the code of conduct may result in suspension or termination of officiating position in Springfield and the filing of a report with Field Hockey Ontario.