

HALIFAX HURRICANES RINGETTE ASSOCIATION

Policy Manual

Subject:	CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS	Policy No. 1.0
Issued By:	HHRA Board of Directors	Date of Issue: 06/11/2024
Approved By:	HHRA Board of Directors	Revision Date:
Form(s) Required: 1.1 Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct and Ethics Pledge; 1.2 Player Code of Conduct and Ethics Pledge U14, U16, U19, 18+/Masters; 1.3 Player Code of Conduct and Ethics Pledge FUN, U10, U12; 1.4 Coach Code of Conduct Pledge.		

1.1 POLICY:

- 1.1.1 This Code of Conduct and Ethics policy (the “Policy”) includes Board of Directors, Coaches, Team Staff, Athletes and Parents/Guardians individually. All registrants in the Halifax Hurricanes Ringette Association (HHRA) are required to acknowledge they have read and understand this Policy to participate in the current season.

1.2 PROCEDURES:

- 1.2.1 Discussion of the Code of Conduct Pledge documents are to be on the agenda of all parent/guardian meetings at the beginning of each season. The Code of Conduct Pledge forms are to be signed by all athletes (Athlete Code of Conduct Pledge) and at least one of the athlete’s parents/guardians (Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct Pledge).

1.3 DEFINITIONS:

- 1.3.1 The following terms have the following meanings in the policy:
- “Association” – Halifax Hurricanes Ringette Association (HHRA).
 - “Individuals” – All categories of membership within the Association Bylaws, as well as all individuals engaged in activities with the Association, including but not limited to, athletes, coaches, parents/guardians, volunteers, committee members, administrators, and directors.

1.4 PURPOSE:

- 1.4.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe and positive environment within Association programs, activities and events, by making all individuals aware that there is an expectation, always, of appropriate behavior.

- 1.4.2 The Association is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect. The Association supports equal opportunity and prohibits discriminatory practices. Individuals are expected to always conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the values of the Association that includes fairness, integrity, inclusivity, open communication and mutual respect.
- 1.4.3 Conduct that violates this policy may be subject to sanctions pursuant to the Association's policies related to discipline and complaints.

1.5 APPLICATION OF THIS POLICY:

- 1.5.1 This policy applies to conduct that may arise during regular Association business, activities and events, including but not limited to, its office environment, games, practices, evaluations, tournaments, competitions, training camps, travel, and any meetings. This policy also applies to the conduct of individuals that may occur outside of the Association's business, activities, events and meetings when such conduct is detrimental to the image and reputation of the Association, as determined by the Association.

1.6 RESPONSIBILITIES:

All individuals have a responsibility to:

- 1.6.1 Maintain and enhance dignity and self-esteem of individuals and other persons by:
- Demonstrating respect to individuals regardless of body type, physical characteristics, athletic ability, gender, ancestry, colour, ethnic or racial origin, nationality, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital status, religion, religious belief, political belief, disability or economic status;
 - Focusing comments or criticism appropriately and avoiding public criticism of athletes, coaches, officials, organizers, volunteers, employees and members;
 - Consistently demonstrating the spirit of sportsmanship, sports leadership and ethical conduct;
 - Acting, when appropriate, to prevent or correct practices that are unjustly discriminatory;
 - Consistently treating individuals fairly and reasonably; and
 - Ensuring that the rules of ringette, and the spirit of such rules, are adhered to.

- 1.6.2 Refrain from any behavior that constitutes harassment, where harassment is defined as comment or conduct directed towards an individual or group, which is offensive, abusive, racist, sexist, degrading or malicious. Types of behavior that constitute harassment include, but are not limited to:
- Written or verbal abuse, threats or outbursts;
 - The display of visual material which is offensive or which one ought to know is offensive in the circumstances;
 - Unwelcome remarks, jokes, comments, innuendos or taunts;
 - Leering or other suggestive or obscene gestures;
 - Condescending or patronizing behavior which is intended to undermine self-esteem, diminish performance or adversely affect working conditions;
 - Practical jokes which cause awkwardness or embarrassment, endanger a person's safety or negatively affect performance;
 - Any form of hazing;
 - Unwanted physical contact including, but not limited to, touching, petting, pinching or kissing;
 - Unwelcome sexual flirtations, advances, requests or invitations.
 - Physical or sexual assault;
 - Behaviors such as those described above that are not directed toward a specific individual or group but have the same effect of creating a negative or hostile environment; and
 - Retaliation or threats of retaliation against an individual who reports harassment.

- 1.6.3 Refrain from any behavior that constitutes sexual harassment, where sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual comments and sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or conduct of a sexual nature. Types of behavior that constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:
- Sexist jokes;
 - Display of sexually explicit material;
 - Sexually degrading words used to describe a person;
 - Inquiries or comments about a person's sex life;
 - Unwelcome sexual flirtations, advances or propositions; and
 - Persistent unwanted contact.

- 1.6.4 Abstain from the non-medical use of drugs or the use of performance-enhancing drugs or methods. More specifically, the Association adopts and adheres to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program. Any infraction of such program shall be considered an infraction of this policy and shall be subject to disciplinary action, and possible sanction, pursuant to the HHRA's 19.0 Discipline and Suspension Policy. The Association will respect any penalty enacted to a breach of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program, whether imposed by any sport organization.
- 1.6.5 Refrain from associating with any person for the purpose of coaching, training, competition, instruction, administration, management, athletic development or supervision of the sport of competitive ringette, who has incurred an anti-doping rule violation and is serving a sanction involving a period of ineligibility imposed pursuant to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program and/or World Anti-Doping Code and recognized by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES).
- 1.6.6 Refrain from the use of power or authority in an attempt to coerce another person to engage in inappropriate activities.
- 1.6.7 In the case of adults, avoid consuming alcohol or cannabis in situations where minors are present at a HHRA event (such as an arena), and take reasonable steps to manage the responsible consumption of alcoholic beverages in adult-oriented social situations associated with Association events.
- 1.6.8 Respect the property of others and not willfully cause damage.
- 1.6.9 Promote ringette in the most constructive and positive manner possible.
- 1.6.10 Adhere to all federal, provincial and municipal laws.
- 1.6.11 Comply at all times with the bylaws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations of the Association, Central Region Ringette League and Ringette Nova Scotia, as adopted and amended from time to time.

1.7 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND BOARD STAFF:

- 1.7.1 In addition to section 1.6 above, the Board of Directors of the Association will:
- Conduct oneself openly, professionally, lawfully and in good faith in the best interests of the Association;
 - Behave with decorum appropriate to both circumstance and position;
 - Be fair, equitable, considerate and honest in all dealings with others;
 - Exercise due diligence in upholding one's fiduciary responsibility to the Association;
 - Respect the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature;
 - Ensure that all Individuals are given sufficient opportunity to express opinions, and that all opinions are given due consideration and weight;
 - Respect the decisions of the majority and resign if unable to do so;
 - Commit the time to attend meetings and to be diligent in ones preparation for and participation in discussions at such meetings; and
 - Have a thorough knowledge and understanding of all the Association's governance documents.

1.8 COACHES:

- 1.8.1 In addition to section 1.6 above, Coaches have additional responsibilities. The athlete-coach relationship is a privileged one and plays a critical role in the personal and sport and athletic development of the athlete. Coaches must understand and respect the inherent power imbalance that exists in this relationship and must be extremely careful not to abuse it, consciously or unconsciously. Coaches will at all times:
- Meet the highest standards of credentials, integrity and suitability, including but not limited to such considerations established by the Association's screening procedure, so that the ringette community is satisfied it has minimized the risk of an unsafe environment;
 - Report to the Association President any ongoing criminal investigation, conviction or existing bail conditions, including those for violence; child pornography; or possession, use or sale of any illegal substance;
 - Under no circumstances provide, promote or condone the use of drugs (other than properly prescribed medications) or performance-enhancing substances and, in the case of minors, alcoholic beverages and/or tobacco;
 - Respect all other teams, and athletes from other teams, and, in dealings with them, not encroach upon topics or actions which are deemed to within the realm of 'coaching', unless first receiving approval from the coach who is responsible for the team or athlete(s) involved;

- Not engage in an intimate or sexual relationship with an athlete under the age of 18 years or an intimate or sexual relationship with an athlete over the age of 18 years if the coach is in a position of power, trust or authority over such athlete;
- Recognize the power inherent in the position of coach and respect and promote the rights of all participants in sport. This is accomplished by establishing and following procedures for confidentiality (right to privacy), informed participation and fair and reasonable treatment. Coaches have a special responsibility to respect and promote the rights of participants who are in vulnerable or dependent position and less able to protect their own rights;
- Dress professionally, neatly and inoffensively; and
- Use inoffensive language, taking into account the audience being addressed.

1.9 TEAM STAFF (TRAINERS, MANAGERS, ON-ICE ASSISTANTS):

- 1.9.1 In addition to section 1.6 above, Team Staff, including Trainers, Managers and On-Ice Assistants will have additional responsibilities to:
- Meet the highest standards of credentials, integrity and suitability, including but not limited to such considerations established by the Association's screening procedure, so that the ringette community is satisfied it has minimized the risk of an unsafe environment;
 - Report to the Association President any ongoing criminal investigation, conviction or existing bail conditions, including those for violence; child pornography; or possession, use or sale of any illegal substance;
 - Under no circumstances provide, promote or condone the use of drugs (other than properly prescribed medications) or performance-enhancing substances and, in the case of minors, alcoholic beverages and/or tobacco;
 - Not engage in an intimate or sexual relationship with an athlete under the age of 18 years or an intimate or sexual relationship with an athlete over the age of 18 years if the Trainer, Manager, or On-Ice Assistant is in a position of power, trust or authority over such athlete;
 - Recognize the power inherent in the position of a Trainer, Manager, or On-Ice Assistant and respect and promote the rights of all participants in sport. This is accomplished by establishing and following procedures for confidentiality (right to privacy), informed participation and fair and reasonable treatment;
 - Dress professionally, neatly and inoffensively; and

- Use inoffensive language, taking into account the audience being addressed.

1.10 ATHLETES:

1.10.1

In addition to section 1.6 above, Athletes will have additional responsibilities to:

- Report any medical problems in a timely fashion, where such problems may limit the athlete's ability to travel, train or compete;
- Participate and appear on time, well-nourished and prepared to participate to one's best abilities in all competitions, practices, training sessions, events, activities or projects;
- Properly represent oneself and not attempt to enter a competition for which one is not eligible, by reason of age, classification or other reason;
- Adhere to the Association's rules and requirements regarding clothing and equipment;
- Never ridicule a participant for a poor performance or practice; and
- When competing, act in accordance with the Association's, Central Region Ringette League's and Ringette Nova Scotia's policies.

1.11 RELATED POLICIES:

- 19.0 Discipline and Suspension Policy

1.12 POLICY REVIEW:

Revision Date	Revision	Reason
06/11/2024	New Policy	Approved in season by the HHRA Board of Directors.
02/06/2025		Ratified at the 2024/25 AGM by majority vote.