



Code of Conduct and Ethics

“Organization” refers to: Mississauga Ringette Association

DEFINITIONS

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Code:
 - a. *“Individuals”* – Individuals employed by, or engaged in activities with, the Organization including, but not limited to, athletes, coaches, convenors, referees, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, and directors and officers of the Organization;
 - b. *“Workplace”* – Any place where business or work-related activities are conducted. Workplaces include but are not limited to, the Organization’s office, work-related social functions, work assignments outside the Organization’s offices, work-related travel, and work-related conferences or training sessions.

PURPOSE

2. The purpose of this Code is to ensure a safe and positive environment (within the Organization’s programs, activities, and events) by making Individuals aware that there is an expectation, at all times, of appropriate behaviour consistent with the Organization’s core values. The Organization supports equal opportunity, prohibits discriminatory practices, and is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect.

APPLICATION OF THIS CODE

3. This Code applies to Individuals’ conduct during the Organization’s business, activities, and events including, but not limited to, competitions, practices, tryouts, training camps, travel associated with the Organization’s activities, the Organization’s office environment, and any meetings.
4. An Individual who violates this Code may be subject to sanctions pursuant to the Organization’s *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. In addition to facing possible sanction pursuant to the Organization’s *Discipline and Complaints Policy*, an Individual who violates this Code during a competition may be ejected from the competition or the playing area, the official may delay the competition until the Individual complies with

the ejection, and the Individual may be subject to any additional discipline associated with the particular competition.

5. An Individual of the Organization found to have engaged in acts of violence or harassment against any other employee, worker, contractor, member, customer, supplier, client or other third-party during business hours, or at any Organization event, will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action subject to the terms of the Organization's *Human Resources Policy* as well as the employee's Employment Agreement (if applicable).
6. This Code also applies to Individuals' conduct outside of the Organization's business, activities, and events when such conduct adversely affects relationships within the Organization (and its work and sport environment) and is detrimental to the image and reputation of the Organization. Such applicability will be determined by the Organization at its sole discretion.

RESPONSIBILITIES

7. Individuals have a responsibility to:
 - a) Maintain and enhance the dignity and self-esteem of the Organization members and other individuals by:
 - i. Demonstrating respect to individuals regardless of body type, physical characteristics, athletic ability, age, ancestry, colour, race, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, creed, disability, family status, marital status, gender identity, gender expression, sex, and sexual orientation;
 - ii. Focusing comments or criticism appropriately and avoiding public criticism of athletes, coaches, officials, organizers, volunteers, employees, or members;
 - iii. Consistently demonstrating the spirit of sportsmanship, sport leadership, and ethical conduct;
 - iv. Acting, when appropriate, to correct or prevent practices that are unjustly discriminatory;
 - v. Consistently treating individuals fairly and reasonably;
 - vi. Ensuring adherence to the rules of the sport and the spirit of those rules;
 - b) Refrain from any behaviour 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 behaviour that constitute harassment include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Written or verbal abuse, threats, or outbursts;
 - ii. The display of visual material which is offensive or which one ought to know is offensive in the circumstances;

- iii. Unwelcome remarks, jokes, comments, innuendo, or taunts;
 - iv. Leering or other suggestive or obscene gestures;
 - v. Condescending or patronizing behaviour, which is intended to undermine self-esteem, diminish performance, or adversely affect working conditions;
 - vi. Practical jokes which cause awkwardness or embarrassment, endanger a person's safety, or negatively affect performance;
 - vii. Any form of hazing where hazing is defined as *"Any potentially humiliating, degrading, abusive, or dangerous activity expected of a junior-ranking athlete by a more senior teammate, which does not contribute to either athlete's positive development, but is required to be accepted as part of a team, regardless of the junior-ranking athlete's willingness to participate. This includes, but is not limited to, any activity, no matter how traditional or seemingly benign, that sets apart or alienates any teammate based on class, number of years on the team, or athletic ability"*;
 - viii. Unwanted physical contact including, but not limited to, touching, petting, pinching, or kissing;
 - ix. Unwelcome sexual flirtations, advances, requests, or invitations;
 - x. Physical or sexual assault;
 - xi. Behaviours such as those described above that are not directed towards a specific individual or group but have the same effect of creating a negative or hostile environment;
 - xii. Retaliation or threats of retaliation against an individual who reports harassment to the Organization;
- c) Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes **workplace harassment**, where workplace harassment is defined as vexatious comment or conduct against an individual in a workplace — a comment or conduct that is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome. Workplace harassment should not be confused with legitimate, reasonable management actions that are part of the normal work function, including measures to correct performance deficiencies, such as placing someone on a performance improvement plan, or imposing discipline for workplace infractions. Types of behaviour that constitute workplace harassment include, but are not limited to:
- i. Bullying;
 - ii. Repeated offensive or intimidating phone calls or emails;
 - iii. Inappropriate sexual touching, advances, suggestions, or requests;
 - iv. Displaying or circulating offensive pictures, photographs, or materials in printed or electronic form;
 - v. Psychological abuse;
 - vi. Personal harassment;
 - vii. Discrimination;

- viii. Intimidating words or conduct (offensive jokes or innuendos);
 - ix. Words or actions which are known or should reasonably be known to be offensive, embarrassing, humiliating, or demeaning;
- d) Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes **workplace violence**, where workplace violence is defined as the exercise of physical force by a person against an individual, in a workplace, that causes or could cause physical injury to the individual; an attempt to exercise physical force against an individual, in a workplace, that could cause physical injury to the individual; or a statement or behaviour that it is reasonable for an individual to interpret as a threat to exercise physical force against the individual, in a workplace, that could cause physical injury to the individual. Types of behaviour that constitute workplace harassment include, but are not limited to:
- i. Verbal threats to attack an individual;
 - ii. Sending or leaving threatening notes or emails for an individual;
 - iii. Making threatening physical gestures to an individual;
 - iv. Wielding a weapon in a workplace;
 - v. Hitting, pinching or unwanted touching of an individual which is not accidental;
 - vi. Throwing an object at a worker;
 - vii. Blocking normal movement or physical interference of an individual, with or without the use of equipment;
 - viii. Sexual violence against an individual;
 - ix. Any attempt to engage in the type of conduct outlined above;
- e) Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes **sexual harassment**, where sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual comments and sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, or conduct of a sexual nature. Types of behaviour that constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:
- i. Sexist jokes;
 - ii. Display of sexually offensive material;
 - iii. Sexually degrading words used to describe a person;
 - iv. Inquiries or comments about a person's sex life;
 - v. Unwelcome sexual flirtations, advances, or propositions;
 - vi. Persistent unwanted contact;
- f) Abstain from the non-medical use of drugs or the use of performance-enhancing drugs or methods. More specifically, the Organization adopts and adheres to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program. Any infraction under this Program shall be considered an infraction of this Code and may be subject to further disciplinary action, and possible sanction, pursuant to the Organization's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. The Organization will respect any penalty enacted pursuant

to a breach of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program, whether imposed by the Organization or any other sport organization;

- g) Refrain from associating with any person for the purpose of coaching, training, competition, instruction, administration, management, athletic development, or supervision of the sport, 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 the World Anti-Doping Code and recognized by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES);
- h) Refrain from the use of power or authority in an attempt to coerce another person to engage in inappropriate activities;
- i) Refrain from consuming alcohol, tobacco products, or recreational drugs while participating in the Organization programs, activities, competitions, or events;
- j) In the case of adults, avoid consuming alcohol in situations where minors are present and take reasonable steps to manage the responsible consumption of alcohol in adult-oriented social situations associated with the Organization's events;
- k) Respect the property of others and not wilfully cause damage;
- l) Promote the sport in the most constructive and positive manner possible;
- m) Adhere to all federal, provincial, municipal and host country laws;
- n) Comply, at all times, with the Organization's bylaws, policies, procedures, and rules and regulations, as adopted and amended from time to time.

BOARD/COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF

- 8. In addition to section 7 (above), the Organization's Directors, Committee Members, and Staff will have additional responsibilities to:
 - a) Function primarily as a member of the board and/or committee(s) of the Organization; not as a member of any other particular member or constituency;
 - b) Act with honesty and integrity and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the nature and responsibilities of the Organization's business and the maintenance of Individuals' confidence;
 - c) Ensure that the Organization's financial affairs are conducted in a responsible and transparent manner with due regard for all fiduciary responsibilities;

- d) Conduct themselves openly, professionally, lawfully and in good faith in the best interests of the Organization;
- e) Be independent and impartial and not be influenced by self-interest, outside pressure, expectation of reward, or fear of criticism;
- f) Behave with decorum appropriate to both circumstance and position and be fair, equitable, considerate, and honest in all dealings with others;
- g) Keep informed about the Organization's activities, the provincial sport community, and general trends in the sectors in which they operate;
- h) Exercise the degree of care, diligence, and skill required in the performance of their duties pursuant to the laws under which the Organization is incorporated;
- i) Respect the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature;
- j) Ensure that all Individuals are given sufficient opportunity to express opinions, and that all opinions are given due consideration and weight;
- k) Respect the decisions of the majority and resign if unable to do so;
- l) Commit the time to attend meetings and be diligent in preparation for, and participation in, discussions at such meetings;
- m) Have a thorough knowledge and understanding of all the Organization governance documents;
- n) Conform to the bylaws and policies approved by the Organization, in particular this *Code of Conduct and Ethics* as well as the *Conflict-of-Interest Policy* and *Confidentiality Policy*.