



SCOTIA STORM RINGETTE CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Policy Title: Scotia Storm Ringette Code of Conduct Policy	
Date of Creation: November 12, 2024	Subject to Review: At least once every three years

Purpose

1. The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to ensure a safe and positive environment within Scotia Storm Ringette programs, activities, and events by making all individuals aware that there is an expectation, at all times, of appropriate behaviour.
2. Scotia Storm Ringette is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect. Individuals are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that shows integrity, respect and fairness to all. Disrespect toward anyone will not be tolerated.
3. Conduct that violates this Code of Conduct may be subject to sanctions from Scotia Storm Ringette.

Application of this Code

4. This Code of Conduct applies to conduct that may arise during the course of Scotia Storm Ringette business, activities, and events, including but not limited to: competitions, practices, training camps, tryouts, travel, and any meetings of Scotia Storm Ringette.
5. This Code of Conduct also applies to the conduct of individuals that may occur outside of Scotia Storm's business, activities, events, and meetings when such conduct adversely affects relationships within Scotia Storm Ringette and is detrimental to the image and reputation of Scotia Storm Ringette.

Athletes

Athletes with Scotia Storm Ringette understand that they will be representing their families as well as Scotia Storm Ringette and will have the responsibility to abide by the following Scotia Storm Athlete Code of Conduct:

6. I will play by the official ringette game rules and abide by my own team's rules.
7. I will participate for my own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please my parents and coaches.
8. I will learn the value of commitment by participating in as many practices and games as I can. I am expected to show up to practices with my team and not just games.
9. I will work equally hard for myself and my team. My team's performances will

- benefit and so will I.
10. I will be a good sport and show respect at all times to other athletes, coaches, officials, opponents, and parents at every game and practice, no matter win or lose.
 11. I will never argue with an official. If I need clarification, I will wait for my coach to approach the official.
 12. I will make every effort to acknowledge my opponents and officials. (e.g. shake hands after the game, say “thanks for the game”, etc.)
 13. I will not engage in harassment towards teammates, coaches, members of opposing teams or officials. Harassment is any action that has the purpose or effect of violating an individual’s dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for that person. The test for harassment is whether the person knew or should have known that the comments or conduct were unwelcome to the other person (i.e. someone may make it clear through their conduct or body language that the behaviour is unwelcome, in which case the behaviour should stop immediately). Examples include (but are not limited to):
 - a. Written or verbal abuse, threats, or outbursts, gossiping, spreading malicious rumors
 - b. Repeated unwelcome remarks, jokes, comments, innuendo, or taunts
 - c. Leering or other suggestive or obscene gestures
 - d. Condescending or patronizing behaviour which is intended to undermine self-esteem, diminish performance or adversely affect working/playing conditions
 - e. Practical jokes which endanger a person’s safety, or may negatively affect performance
 - f. Deliberately excluding or ignoring someone, including persistent exclusion of a particular person from team related social gatherings
 - g. Hazing
 - h. Unwanted physical contact including, but not limited to, touching, pinching, or kissing
 - i. Persistent sexual flirtations, advances, requests, or invitations
 - j. Physical or sexual assault
 - k. Bullying
 - l. Displaying or circulating offensive pictures, photographs or materials in printed or electronic form
 - m. Behaviours such as those described above that are not directed towards a specific person or group but have the same effect of creating a negative or hostile environment
 - n. Retaliation or threats of retaliation against a person who reports harassment
 14. I will play fair by not deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent. (including no “trash talking”, making inappropriate gestures or inappropriate non-game contact, etc.)
 15. I will respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians of Scotia Storm Ringette athletes understand that Scotia Storm Ringette’s goal is to provide a safe, competitive, fun, and positive season for all. Parents/guardians (or spectators), will abide by the Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

and Parent/Guardian Conduct rules below:

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

16. Ensure that their athlete appears on-time, well-nourished, and prepared to participate to their best abilities in all competitions, practices, training sessions, tryouts, tournaments, and events
17. Support team rules and regulations
18. Support the team and the coaches' decisions
19. Be a positive spectator and encourage/congratulate all athletes for their effort and skill
20. Have positive discussions with children about their play, and the team's play
21. Report any medical problems in a timely fashion, when such problems may limit their child athlete's ability to travel, practice, or compete

Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct:

22. I will remember that children play sports for their enjoyment. They are not playing to entertain me.
23. I will understand and endorse the purpose of the Scotia Storm Ringette program: to help children grow into adults who are empathetic, have integrity, who will lead, be responsible, and change the world for good.
24. I understand that Scotia Storm Ringette assigned players to teams based on skill needed to have a well-rounded team dynamic to maximize the enjoyment of the game for all players and the team's overall success.
25. I will not have unrealistic expectations. I will remember that child athletes are not miniature professionals and cannot be judged by professional standards.
26. I will refrain from discussing the weaknesses of other players and/or coaching staff with my child.
27. I will respect the coaches and officials' decisions and I will encourage other participants to do the same.
28. I will never ridicule an athlete for making a mistake during a competition. I will give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort.
29. I will support the team regardless of how much or how little my child plays or what the win-loss record is.
30. I will affirm my child and their teammates when good character, healthy sportsmanship, empathetic and responsible behaviors are displayed. I will not affirm only their athletic performance or a victory.
31. I will acknowledge and appreciate my athlete's growth toward maturity and their effort toward establishing stronger relationships with teammates, coaches, and themselves.
32. I will serve as a role model for the athletes, talking politely and acting courteously toward coaches, officials, other parents, visiting team parents, and spectators at practices, games and meetings.
33. I will model good sportsmanship. I will accept defeat graciously by congratulating the members of the opposing team on a game well-played.
34. I will encourage my child and their teammates with positive statements, even when they make mistakes.
35. I will refrain from boasting about my child's accomplishments.
36. I will condemn the use of violence in any form and will express my disapproval in a calm and respectful manner to coaches and league officials.
37. I will show respect for my team's opponents, because without them there would be no game.

38. I understand that only the head coach may question an official or facilities supervisor. At no time should I address or yell at any official.
39. I will not use foul language, nor will I harass athletes, coaches, officials or other spectators.
40. I will not "coach" my athlete during games. Athletes will be focused on what coaches have to say and need to concentrate on such.
41. I will not go near or approach the team bench.
42. I will not approach a coach or any staff member in a threatening manner on the ice or in/outside of the facility.
43. When problems or questions arise, I will have my child present the problem to one of their coaches. I want my child to develop self-advocacy. After meeting with the coach, if the issue requires more clarity, I will contact the head coach. If I am not satisfied with the response from the head coach, I can reach out to the Scotia Storm Ringette President with my concerns.
44. I will follow the 24-hour waiting rule before raising a potentially contentious matter to a coach or a member of the Scotia Storm Ringette Board. Waiting 24 hours after the event allows for emotions to be set aside, placing the event in perspective, and enabling the opportunity for an objective evaluation and approach. I understand that the recipient of the information is then allowed 24 hours to respond, for the same purposes.
45. I will not engage in any behavior that would reflect negatively on Scotia Storm Ringette.
46. To promote a safe and healthy sport environment, I will refrain from the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco at all Scotia Storm Ringette sports events.
47. I understand that equal playing time on any Scotia Storm Ringette team or at any event is not guaranteed. I understand that the amount of playing time my athlete receives is determined by their attendance, attitude, effort, performance, the athlete's potential, the team's needs at the moment and in the future, and is left solely to the discretion of the coach. The "coaching decision" is not up for debate or question. It is my athlete's responsibility to ask what they can improve on to get more playing time. My athlete will be expected to play in any position to benefit team performance.

Coaches

Coaches with Scotia Storm Ringette will be representing their teams as well as the Scotia Storm Ringette organization. Scotia Storm Ringette coaches commit to fulfilling the Coach Responsibilities and adhering to the Coach Code of Conduct below.

Coach Responsibilities

Scotia Storm Ringette follows the Fair and Safe Play Program policies and procedures accredited by the Nova Scotia Sport and Recreation Commission. The principles of fair play in sport combine integrity, fairness, and respect. These principles and responsibilities include:

- Respect the rules
- Respect the officials and their decisions
- Respect your opponent
- Maintain self-control at all times
- Commit to having all athletes play in each game with the exception of teams with multiple goalies who will play in designated games. Playing time will

depend on the team's rules and goals.

Coach Code of Conduct

48. I will remember that children play to have fun and must be encouraged to help boost their confidence levels.
49. I will remember that children need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a positive example.
50. I will show respect at all times to athletes, teammates, officials and parents. I will be competitive, but not disrespectful toward other teams or clubs.
51. I will teach my athletes to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.
52. I will obtain Scotia Storm Ringette's mandatory coach training and education before the season starts and continue to upgrade my coaching skills and abilities.
53. I will ensure a safe environment by selecting activities and establishing controls that are suitable for the age, experience, ability, and fitness level of the involved athletes.
54. I will make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the athletes' ages and abilities.
55. I will ensure that all athletes are provided with equal instruction and support. I will not display favoritism.
56. I will not ridicule or yell at my athletes for making mistakes or performing poorly.
57. I will ensure that my team leaves the bench & surrounding area clean (e.g. clears drink bottles, any garbage) after each game to show respect to the facility staff and/or next group using the space.
58. I will not compromise the present and or future health of my athletes. I will communicate and cooperate with medical professionals in the management of an athletes' medical and psychological treatments. For example, if an athlete is injured, I will ensure that they do not return to play without a medical clearance note from a physician.
59. I will dress professionally, neatly, and inoffensively.
60. I will use professional, inclusive, respectful language, taking into account the audience being addressed.
61. My electronic communications and presence on professional or personal social media platforms should be considered "public" and permanent. I understand and expect that parents and/or your young players may be looking at my online content and so I will ensure that my content supports my presence as a positive role model and does not in any way reflect negatively on Scotia Storm Ringette. I will ensure that my social media presence does not contain any content that others could find offensive including but not limited to vulgar language or images, use of profanity or images of unprofessional behavior (e.g. photos promoting being inebriated), etc. I can make my social media accounts private if needed.
62. I will not provide, promote, or condone the use of drugs (other than properly prescribed medications) or performance-enhancing substances and, in the case of minors, alcohol, recreational drugs and/or tobacco.
63. I will not engage in a sexual relationship where a power of imbalance exists. I understand that once a Coach-Athlete, Coach-Junior Coach relationship is

established in the age group that I am coaching, that a power imbalance is presumed to exist.

64. I will enforce Scotia Storm Ringette's Athlete Code of Conduct. Players not following the organization's or individual team rules can be subject to different levels of remediation. I will ensure that all remedial measures will be discussed with the athlete, parent and also a member of the Scotia Storm Ringette Board.

Date of last review: December 7, 2024