



Halifax Dunbrack Soccer Club

TEAM TRAVEL POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT

At *Halifax Dunbrack Soccer Club* (HDSC), players are expected to represent themselves, their families, our club and the province of Nova Scotia with respect at all times. This policy applies to all members of HDSC including players, families, coaches, managers, staff, and all volunteers.

PURPOSE

The purpose of a *Team Travel Policy* is to establish standards of behavior and manage expectations of HDSC and its members, thereby providing a sense of structure and familiarity while in an otherwise less familiar setting.

Team Travel is defined as overnight travel to attend a tournament, game or other team activity that is planned and supervised by the club.

PROCEDURE

Failure to follow this policy may result in that player being sent home early or being banned from playing in the respective event. Removal from the event due to a violation of the *Players Code of Conduct* will be determined by the coaching staff in consultation with HDSC and/or event organizers if necessary. Should this occur, the players' parents/guardians will be responsible for all additional costs related to travel/accommodations incurred.

Standard of Conduct

1) *Role Model and Personal Conduct*

Coaches, senior players, volunteers, ect: Younger players look up to you and want to strive to be at the level of play that you have achieved to date. Do not forget about the time and effort you have put into your development. Therefore, always present yourself professionally when you are with, and away from the team. Our HDSC core values:

- We value participation in our sport.
- We value inclusion, so everyone feels welcome to play the game we love.
- We value respect for our teammates, referees, volunteers, and opponents.
- We value passion for the beautiful game.
- We value commitment to continuous improvement.

Players must follow the *Player Code of Conduct* at all times when representing HDSC.

2) *Respect for Others/Harassment*

HDSC is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect. It does not allow discriminatory practices. Disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist or sexist remarks or actions are not acceptable behavior for any team representing HDSC. Respect for teammates, coaches, officials, opposing team members, staff, and their families all falls within the requirements for respectful behavior.



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Players must abide by the *Canada Soccer Association* harassment policy. Harassment is improper behavior related to one or more prohibited offenses the offender knew, or ought to reasonably have known, would be inappropriate or unwelcome. The behavior can be verbal or physical and can occur on a one-time, repeated, or continuous basis.

A person does not have to intend to harass for the behavior to be harassment.

Harassment can take many forms but generally involves conduct, comment or display that is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, hurtful, demeaning, belittling, malicious, degrading and/or can otherwise cause offense, discomfort, personal humiliation, or embarrassment to a person or a group of persons.

3) Costs of Loss or Damage

Every team member is personally responsible for covering costs due to the loss or damage of items under the control of the team member: facility, equipment, hotels, rental vehicles, etc.

4) Dress Code

Appropriate dress is required while representing HDSC. Uniforms must be clean and presentable at games, and training kits must be worn at all practices. Players are required to wear Joma branded uniforms for training and games.

5) Curfew

Every team member will be required to adhere to curfews set by the team representative. Violation of curfew can result in removal from a tournament at the expense of the parent or guardian.

6) Alcohol/Tobacco/Illegal substances

Athletes shall not drink alcohol, use tobacco products, or take illegal or banned substances while representing HDSC.

7) Social Media/Cell Phone Use

All players must adhere to the HDSC policy on social media. No player will publish through social media (ie. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Tik Tok, etc) anything that may be deemed as intent to embarrass, bully or harass a member of HDSC, the program, the team, team management, officials, or opposing players. No criticism through social media is permitted.

Use of cell phones and other electronic devices is not permitted at team meetings, team meals, in the dressing room, during games or any other time as determined by the coaching staff. All cell phones/iPads etc are to be handed in before curfew to the manager.



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8) Education

Players must be in good standing at their school (no suspensions nor expulsions) and must maintain appropriate class attendance. Players must develop and maintain proper and consistent study habits and grades.

9) Police

Criminal activity is not acceptable behavior for any athlete. Make the right decisions to avoid trouble. Think before you act. Walk away from and/or avoid situations and places where criminal activity could happen. Do everything within your power not to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. If players and/or other members of HDSC are charged with an offense, the club may review the case and the individuals involved may be removed from the team or role.

10) Travel

Athlete's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are responsible for getting players to and picked up from stated departure and arrival points for team travel. Athletes should not ride in a coach's vehicle without another adult or players present.

Players 13 years of age or younger must have a parent or guardian present for all overnight stays.

*Parents can choose to allow their player to travel with another team parent but are required to submit this in writing to the team manager.

11) Accommodations

Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangements with an athlete (unless the coach is the parent, guardian, or sibling of that athlete).

When doing room checks, the *Rule of Two* should be maintained.

During overnight team travel, if athletes are paired with other athletes they shall be of the same gender/gender expression and should be a similar age. Team managers, acting as chaperones, will stay in nearby rooms. Inclusion and safety of all athletes are taken seriously. We aim to ensure that people are roomed with those with whom they feel comfortable and safe. We welcome anyone to provide their coaches/team staff with any details, specifications, as well as suggestions about whom they feel most comfortable.

12) Discipline Process

Coaches and/or managers are required to notify the Club President as soon as possible of any violations of the *Code of Conduct*. The head coach or his/her designee shall make a written report of violations of the *Team Travel Policy* or the *Code of Conduct* to the Club Operations Lead, Board President and the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of any minor athlete who violates this policy. Per HDSC *Disciplinary Policy*, players who breach the team contract will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by HDSC.



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13) General

Coaches and/or managers are required to review this policy with all team members.

The team official should carry a signed *Medical Consent/Authorization to Treat* form for each athlete during the trip.

Staff traveling with the team will attend all team functions including meetings, practices, meals, etc. unless otherwise excused or instructed by the head coach or his/her designee.

Athletes are expected to remain with the team at all times during the trip and are not to leave the venue, the hotel, a restaurant, or any other place at which the team has gathered without the permission/knowledge of the coach or chaperone.

Athletes 12 & under must be accompanied by a chaperone when visiting public places

Related Documents:

Disciplinary Policy

Social Media Policy

Team Fundraising Policy

Coach Travel Expense Policy

Code of Conducts

Rule of Two Policy

Resources

Commit2Kids

Nova Scotia Human Rights Act