



LONDON RINGETTE ASSOCIATION ATHLETE, PARENT & BENCH STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the intention of this pledge to promote proper behaviour and respect for all participants within the London Ringette Association (LRA). All players, parents and coaches must sign this pledge before being allowed to participate in LRA programs, and must continue to observe the principles of fair play. It is **everyone's** responsibility to ensure the code of conduct is followed and take appropriate action with the LRA if breached.

ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT

The overall experience for athletes participating in sports should promote the development of healthy and positive values towards themselves, fellow athletes, officials and coaches.

For All Athletes:

- I will play Ringette because I want to, not just because others want me to;
- I will play by the rules of Ringette and in the spirit of the game;
- I will control my temper – throwing equipment and “mouthing” off can spoil the activity for everybody;
- I will respect my teammates and the members of other teams regardless of their abilities;
- I will do my best to be a true team player;
- I will remember that winning isn't everything – that having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing my best are most important;
- I will acknowledge all good plays/performances – those of my team and my opponents;
- I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect;
- I will remember that at all times, on and off the ice, to proudly represent my team, association and the Ringette community.

In Addition for Athletes 12 and Older: Athletes 12 years and older have a responsibility, while involved in the sport of Ringette, both on and off the ice to:

- Always treat everyone fairly regardless of gender, place of origin, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status;
- Respect the dignity of coaches, officials and fellow athletes. Verbal or physical behaviours that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable;
- Refrain from public criticism, including social media (i.e. facebook, twitter, msn) of fellow athletes, coaches and officials;
- Consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of Ringette, the LRA and the Ringette Community;
- Abstain from the use of tobacco products and discourage their use by fellow athletes and coaches;
- Abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages while participating in athletic events;
- Never use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language;
- Never maliciously damage property;
- Never engage in personal misconduct toward any person, either on or off the ice;
- Always treat opponents and officials with due respect, both in victory and defeat;
- Never use my cell phone, camera or any other recording device in the dressing room.

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Code of Conduct for Parents

- I will not force my child to participate in Ringette;
- I will remember that my child plays Ringette for their own enjoyment, not mine;
- I will remember that children learn best by example;
- I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to respect the officials at all times;
- I will teach my child that honest effort is as important as victory;
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or anyone else's for making a mistake or losing a game;
- I will never question the official's judgment or honesty. I recognize officials are learning the game in the same way the players are learning the game;
- I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteers who donate their personal time to benefit my child;
- I will observe a “24-hour cooling-off period” before I discuss any issues that arise with officials (coaching staff, LRA representatives).

BENCH STAFF & VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

Code of Conduct for Bench Staff and Volunteers

- To build self-esteem among my players;
- To show leadership by always taking responsibility for my actions;
- To ensure the proper conduct of all players and team officials on and off the ice at any function;
- To learn and follow the rules of the game, the rules and by-laws of the Ontario Ringette Association and the rules and by-laws of the LRA;
- To be responsible for the LRA's equipment and sweaters and return all items in good condition at the end of the season on the assigned date;
- To support the principles of fair play;
- To offer only constructive feedback;
- To always treat players with dignity and respect;
- To teach players that the Officials are an important part of the game and that their decisions should be respected at all times;
- To encourage players to be modest in victory and good sports in defeat;
- To remind the players that the medal or trophy is not the only measure of success;
- To ensure that all players receive equal attention to ensure proper player development;
- To ensure that all players are equipped with proper approved equipment;
- To be aware of alcohol and drug policies, and in particular those as set down by the ORA;
- To maintain a positive and open relationship with all players and their parents;
- To be respectful of all other Coaches and Members of my Home Association and other Associations;
- To be respectful to other teams and their players and personnel;
- To report to my Association any conduct observed or committed that reflects negatively on either my team or my Association;
- To never offer any player money, gifts or any material incentive in connection with their involvement in the program;
- To never permit myself to become sexually or intimately involve with any player in the program or to touch any player in a manner, which could be reasonably interpreted as being sexual or intimate in nature;
- To ensure that there is always more than one adult present in the dressing room when players are present and to ensure that one of the adults is always female.

CODES OF CONDUCT DISCIPLINARY ACTION AND EXPULSION

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in Ringette are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. The highest potential of the game of Ringette is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character" and in an effort to achieve this potential, LRA has developed and will enforce Codes of Conduct for every level of membership in the association.

All Players, Parents and Coaches must sign the Code of Conduct at the start of each season.

The LRA Board is adopting a ZERO tolerance policy and failure to adhere to these Codes of Conduct will result in appropriate disciplinary action at the discretion of the LRA.

1. Disciplinary Action:

a) Disciplinary action for Code of Conduct infractions will, as a general rule, follow a progressive disciplinary approach, with the severity of the penalty increasing for each subsequent infraction. However, the LRA Board reserves the right to impose a more severe penalty should the infraction warrant such a penalty. The Disciplinary steps in increasing order of severity are as follows:

1st Infraction – Written warning

2nd Infraction – Single game suspension

3rd Infraction – Multi game suspension

4th Infraction – Season long suspension (Pending LRA decision)

5th Infraction – Removal from LRA Membership (Pending LRA decision)

b) All reports of Code of Conduct infractions must be submitted in writing to the President or Vice-President and will be subject to the same process that is in place for handling complaints.

Expulsion:

a) LRA reserves the right to reject membership in such a case where previous record of behaviour unbecoming a member of the LRA has been evident.

b) Membership may be revoked at any time to an individual who has been deemed by the Board of Directors to be in contravention of the Bylaw or Operating Procedures. Such action shall only result after a fair hearing, and a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

TEAM NAME - _____

Signature Page (page 3 of 4)

PLAYERS SIGNATURES:

I have read and understand the above statements and agree to conduct myself in a manner that demonstrates the standards established in the Athletes' Code of Conduct. I agree to this code of conduct and will follow it.	Player name	Player Signature	Date	

PARENTS SIGNATURES:

I have read and understand the above statements and agree to conduct myself in a manner that demonstrates the standards established in the Athletes' Code of Conduct. I agree to this code of conduct and will follow it.	Parent Name	Parent Signature	Date	

TEAM NAME – (Insert)

Signature Page (page 4 of 4)

BENCH STAFF SIGNATURES:

	Bench Staff Name	Bench Staff Signature	Date
<p>I agree to abide by the principles of this Code of Conduct as approved and supported by the London Ringette Association. I also agree to abide by the Constitution, by-laws, and regulations as approved by the LRA, the WRRL, the WORL and the Ontario Ringette Association. I also understand that failure to do so at any of these levels could result in a disciplinary action. I have further provided and reviewed the LRA Code of Conduct with the players and parents of my team and will support its intent.</p>			