

**Niagara Falls Ringette Association Parent Code of Conduct**

As a parent, you play a special role in the development of your daughter or son, and of his/her teammates. Your encouragement and good example will do more to ensure good sportsmanship and self-discipline than any other influence. The other team is the opponent, not the enemy, and should be treated with respect. While winning is important, playing well and fairly is the essence of the game

**1. Support your child**

Support your child by giving encouragement and showing interest in his/her team. Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than victory.

**2. Always be positive**

Children learn more by example than by criticism. Work to be a positive role model, and reinforce positive behavior in others. Applaud good plays by others on your child's team as well as good plays by the opposing team. Do not criticize any child’s performance from the sidelines. Accept the results of each game. Teach your child to be gracious in victory and to turn defeat into victory by learning and working toward improvement.

**3. Don't be a sideline coach or ref**

Refrain from coaching or refereeing from the sidelines. Parents who shout or scream from the sidelines often give inappropriate advice at the wrong time. The coach should be the only sideline voice. Remain well back from the sidelines and within the spectator area. You and your child will both enjoy the game more if you put some emotional distance between yourself and the field or play. Officials are symbols of fair play, integrity and sportsmanship - Do not openly question their judgment or honesty.

**4. Coaching**

The following issues are sensitive and should not be discussed in a negative or counter productive manner among parents or team officials.

 The teams philosophy.

 Coaching strategies, tactics and styles.

 Line combinations.

 Individual play of any player.

 Ice time during games.

**5. Consequences**

Any parent who verbally abuses or harasses an official, player or coach will be given one warning to stop. If they continue the will be asked to leave the arena and not to return. If a parent refuses to leave the arena, the game will be called and the team that the parent is from will automatically lose the game. Coaches may also enforce this during a practice if required. Their conduct will be brought to the attention of their home association and disciplinary action will be enforced.



**6. Remember that your child wants to have fun**

Your child is the one playing ringette, not you. Children must establish their own goals; to play the game for themselves. Don’t impose unreasonable demands on your child. Let your children experience the fun of playing as well as the challenge of excelling.

I/we will set a good example to my/our child in his/her ringette development by adhering at all times to the following:

• We will not criticize the referee openly or directly, during or after games. Any criticism shall be done in writing, sent to my coach and the executive, not verbally.

• We will give only positive feedback to players.

• We will cheer at all games within the spirit of fair play and shall do our best to cheer the effort regardless of the outcome. We will be mindful in “lopsided” game where cheering our own “winning” team might be misunderstood.

• We shall do our best to teach our players to become students of the game.

• We shall show the quality of our sportsmanship during and after each game and help our child remember to thank the referee after the match without regard to the result.

• We shall do our very best to have our child prepared for every game.

• We shall support the learning efforts of the players, the coaches, and the referees by demonstrating our patience.

• We understand that improper behavior at a game may result in a parent being asked to leave the rink by the referee or a club official this includes practice also.

• We shall leave the coaching to the coach during the game. We shall not give our child instructions during the game.

• We understand that Niagara Falls Ringette can, and will if necessary, suspend our individual privilege to watch our child play should we behave in a manner that is rude or otherwise offensive.

• We agree to do our best to have as much fun watching the game as the players should have playing the game.