

**Sooke & District Minor Hockey Association (SDMHA) Code of Conduct**

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### **Introduction**

The Sooke & District Minor Hockey Association (SDMHA) is committed to providing and maintaining a minor hockey environment where all individuals are treated with respect. During the course of all SDMHA activities and events, members of the SDMHA shall conduct themselves, at all times, in a fair and responsible manner. The SDMHA respects the right of all teams and Association personnel to express their views. However, as members of the SDMHA, everyone is expected to conduct themselves within the standard of behavior outlined in this Code of Conduct.

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### **Effective Date**

April 21, 2025

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to educate SDMHA members and supporters on the behavior expected by the Association and to ensure all are aware that conduct deemed inappropriate may be subject to disciplinary action by the SDMHA.

### **Scope**

The Code of Conduct is applicable to all members of the SDMHA, including association directors and staff, teams, on-ice and off-ice officials, players, parents/guardians, players’ family members, and supporters. This encompasses all SDMHA activities, events, and public communications. Parents/guardians are expected to uphold the same standards of conduct as players, coaches, and officials.

### **Code of Conduct**

All members subject to the Code of Conduct as stated above shall:

* ensure that my player(s) abides by the rules of hockey, the policies of SDMHA, and the principles of good sportsmanship.
* ensure that my player(s) respects their teammates, coaches, team staff, on-ice officials, opponents, opposing coaches, opposing team staff, and other participants in SDMHA games, practices, and other association activities.
* ensure that my player(s) conducts themselves in a manner that minimizes the risk of injury, both physical and psychological, to themselves and others, which includes refraining absolutely from making any derogatory comments regarding another individual’s race, ethnic origin, colour, religion, gender, and/or sexual orientation.
* refrain from criticism of coaches, team staff, on-ice officials, teammates, opponents, opposing coaches, opposing team staff, and other participants in SDMHA games and other association activities. If I feel that criticism is warranted, I shall offer it in a manner that is fully respectful, through proper channels, and away from the hockey rink.
* respect and appreciate the contributions of all volunteers, including team managers, scorekeepers, and arena staff, recognizing that minor hockey relies on their time and effort.
* refrain from directing comments that are insulting, intimidating, humiliating, hurtful, malicious, degrading, or otherwise offensive to players, team staff, on-ice officials, and association volunteers, including but not limited to division managers, board members, executive members (directors), and paid association staff such as team and skill development coaches.
* refrain from discussing the weaknesses of other team players and/or coaching staff with my player(s).
* familiarize myself with and abide by the policies and procedures of SDMHA.
* ensure that my player(s) respects all SDMHA and opposing team facilities, ensuring they are kept clean and undamaged, and will encourage them to treat equipment and shared spaces with care.
* promote a positive and inclusive environment by encouraging all players, supporting good plays, and emphasizing effort over results.
* not engage in negative, disrespectful, or inflammatory discussions about players, teams, coaches, officials, or the Association on social media or online platforms.
* Members are expected to uphold the values and reputation of SDMHA. Publicly making false, misleading, or disparaging remarks about the organization, its members, or its leadership in a manner that damages morale, public perception, or internal cohesion is considered misconduct. Constructive concerns should be addressed through appropriate internal channels.
* Members shall not post images, videos, or other media of players, coaches, or officials on public social media platforms without explicit consent from the individuals involved or their legal guardians. Additionally, all social media posts and online discussions related to SDMHA must align with the values of respect, sportsmanship, and integrity. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.
* Members represent SDMHA not only at the arena but also in public spaces and online. Wearing SDMHA apparel or jerseys while engaging in disrespectful behaviour, damaging property, or acting in a manner that contradicts the values of SDMHA is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action.

### **Code of Conduct Violations**

The following are examples of conduct that are considered violations of the SDMHA Code of Conduct and may be subject to disciplinary action by the SDMHA:

* Any statement deemed to be publicly critical of Association officials or detrimental to the welfare of a member team, the Association, or an individual.
* Divulging confidential information that may include, but is not limited to:
  + Player injuries;
  + Trades or other player movement;
  + Game strategies; or
  + Any other matter of a sensitive nature to a member of a team, association, league, BC Hockey, or an individual.
* Negative or derogatory comments about teams, SDMHA programs, stakeholders, players, or any member of another team.
* Any form of bullying, harassment, intimidation, or threats against players, officials, or volunteers.
* Photographs, video, or comments promoting negative influences or criminal behaviour, including but not limited to:
  + Drug use;
  + Alcohol abuse;
  + Public intoxication;
  + Hazing;
  + Sexual exploitation; etc.
* Actions or comments that contradict the current policies of the SDMHA.
* Inappropriate, derogatory, racist, or sexist comments of any kind.
* Actions or comments that are meant to alarm other individuals or misrepresent fact or truth.

### **Discipline**

All violations of the Code of Conduct will be addressed through the SDMHA Disciplinary Committee.

### **Summary**

Each member should assume at all times they are representing the SDMHA. All members of the SDMHA should be mindful of the Code of Conduct both at and away from the arena.

### **Acknowledgement**

My family has read and understood the principles stated above that were put forth by SDMHA. We agree to abide by those principles with the understanding that if we do not follow them, we may be asked to leave any practice, game, or event and may be subject to disciplinary action by the SDMHA.