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ST. THOMAS RINGETTE ASSOCIATION CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Definitions

1.1 The following terms have these meanings in this Code:

“Individuals” – Individuals employed by, or engaged in activities with, St. Thomas Ringette Association including, but not limited to the Directors, committee members, volunteers, registered players, and player parent / guardian(s) of St. Thomas Ringette Association.

“Volunteer Placement” - Any place where ringette-related activities are conducted. Volunteer placements include but are not limited to, all (including out-of-town) arenas visited for ringette games, ringette-related social functions, ringette assignments outside the St. Thomas arenas, ringette-related travel, and ringette-related conferences, meetings or training sessions.



2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this Code is to ensure a safe and positive environment within the St. Thomas Ringette Association programs, activities and events by making individuals aware that there is an expectation at all time, of appropriate behaviour consistent with the St. Thomas Ringette Association's core values. St. Thomas Ringette Association supports equal opportunity, prohibits discriminatory practices, and is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect.

3. Application of this Code

- 3.1 This code applies to Individuals' conduct during all St. Thomas Ringette Association business, activities, and events including, but not limited to, competitions, practices, tryouts, training camps, travel associated with St. Thomas Ringette Association activities, and any meetings.
- 3.2 An Individual who violates this Code may be subject to sanctions pursuant to St. Thomas Ringette Association's Discipline and Complaints Policy. In addition to facing possible sanction pursuant to St. Thomas Ringette Association's Discipline and Complaints Policy, an Individual who violates this Code during a competition may be ejected from the competition or the playing area, the official may delay the competition until the Individual complies with the ejection, and the Individual may be subject to any additional discipline associated with the particular competition.
- 3.3 A volunteer of St. Thomas Ringette Association found to have engaged in acts of violence or harassment against any other Members or other third party during any ringette event, will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action subject to the terms of St. Thomas Ringette Association's Discipline and Complaints Policy.
- 3.4 This Code also applies to Individuals' conduct outside of St. Thomas Ringette Association's regular ringette activities, and events when such conduct adversely affects relationships within St. Thomas Ringette Association (and its work and sport environment) and is detrimental to the image and reputation of St. Thomas Ringette Association. Such applicability will be determined by St. Thomas Ringette Association at its sole discretion.



4. Responsibilities

4.1 Individuals have a responsibility to:

a. Maintain and enhance the dignity and self-esteem of St. Thomas Ringette Association members and other individuals by:

- i. Demonstrating respect to individuals regardless of body type, physical characteristics, athletic ability, age, ancestry, colour, race, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, creed, disability, family status, marital status, gender identity, gender expression, sex, and sexual orientation;
- ii. Focusing comments or criticism appropriately and avoiding public criticism of athletes, coaches, officials, organizers, volunteers, employees, or members;
- iii. Consistently demonstrating the spirit of sportsmanship, sport leadership, and ethical conduct;
- iv. Acting, when appropriate, to correct or prevent practices that are unjustly discriminatory;
- v. Consistently treating individuals fairly and reasonably;
- vi. Ensuring adherence to the rules of ringette and the spirit of those rules.
- vii. Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes harassment, where harassment is defined as comment or conduct directed towards an individual or group, which is offensive, abusive, racist, sexist, degrading, or malicious. Types of behaviour that constitute harassment include, but are not limited to:
 1. Written or verbal abuse, threats, or outburst;
 2. The display of visual material which is offensive or which one ought to know is offensive in the circumstances;
 3. Unwelcome remarks, jokes, comments, innuendo, or taunts;
 4. Leering or other suggestive or obscene gestures;
 5. Condescending or patronizing behaviour which is intended to undermine self-esteem, diminish performance or adversely affect volunteer placement conditions;
 6. Practical jokes which cause awkwardness or embarrassment, endanger a person's safety, or negatively affect performance;
 7. Any form of hazing;
 8. Unwanted physical contact including, but not limited to, touching, petting, pinching or kissing;
 9. Unwelcome sexual flirtations, advances, requests or invitations;



10. Physical or sexual assault;
 11. Behaviours such as those described above that are not directed towards a specific individual or group but have the same effect of creating a negative or hostile environment;
 12. Retaliation or threats of retaliation against an individual who reports harassment to St. Thomas Ringette Association.
- b. Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes volunteer placement harassment, where volunteer placement harassment is defined as vexatious comment or conduct against a volunteer in a volunteer placement – a comment or conduct that is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome. Volunteer placement harassment should not be confused with legitimate, reasonable management actions that are part of the normal work function, including measures to correct performance deficiencies, such as placing someone on a performance improvement plan, or imposing discipline for volunteer placement infractions. Types of behaviour that constitute volunteer placement harassment include, but are not limited to:
- i. Bullying;
 - ii. Repeated offensive or intimidating phone calls or emails;
 - iii. Inappropriate sexual touching, advances, suggestions or requests;
 - iv. Displaying or circulating offensive pictures, photographs or materials in printed or electronic form;
 - v. Psychological abuse;
 - vi. Personal harassment;
 - vii. Discrimination;
 - viii. Intimidating words or conduct (offensive jokes or innuendos);
 - ix. Words or actions which are known or should reasonably be known to be offensive, embarrassing, humiliating, or demeaning.
- c. Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes volunteer placement violence, where volunteer placement violence is defined as the exercise of physical force by a person against a volunteer, in a volunteer placement, that causes or could cause physical injury to the volunteer; an attempt to exercise physical force against a volunteer, in a volunteer placement, that could cause physical injury to the volunteer; or a statement or behaviour that it is reasonable for a volunteer to interpret as a threat to exercise physical force against the volunteer, in a volunteer placement, that could



cause physical injury to the volunteer. Types of behaviour that constitute volunteer placement harassment include, but are not limited to:

- i. Verbal threats to attack a volunteer;
- ii. Sending to or leaving threatening notes or emails for a volunteer ;
- iii. Making threatening physical gestures to a volunteer;
- iv. Wielding a weapon in a volunteer placement;
- v. Hitting, pinching or unwanted touching of a volunteer which is not accidental ;
- vi. Throwing an object at a volunteer;
- vii. Blocking normal movement or physical interference of a volunteer, with or without the use of equipment;
- viii. Sexual violence against a volunteer;
- ix. Any attempt to engage in the type of conduct outlined above.

- d. Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes sexual harassment, where sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual comments and sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, or conduct of a sexual nature.

Types of behaviour that constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- i. Sexist jokes;
- ii. Display of sexually offensive material;
- iii. Sexually degrading words used to describe a person;
- iv. Inquiries or comments about a person's sex life;
- v. Unwelcome sexual flirtations, advances, or propositions;
- vi. Persistent unwanted contact.

- e. Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes hazing, where hazing is a form of conduct that exhibits a potentially humiliating, degrading, abusive, or dangerous activity expected of a junior-ranking individual by a more senior individual, which does not contribute to either individual's positive development, but is required to be accepted as part of a team or group, regardless of the junior-ranking individual's willingness to participate. This includes, but is not limited to, any activity, no matter how traditional or seemingly benign, that sets apart or alienates any teammate or group member based on class, number of years on the team or with the group, or ability.

- f. Abstain from the non-medical use of drugs or the use of performance-enhancing drugs or methods. More specifically, St. Thomas Ringette



Association adopts and adheres to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program. Any infraction under this Program shall be considered an infraction of this Code and may be subject to further disciplinary action, and possible sanction, pursuant to St. Thomas Ringette Association's Discipline and Complaints Policy. St. Thomas Ringette Association will respect any penalty enacted pursuant to a breach of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program, whether imposed by St. Thomas Ringette Association or any other sport organization.

- g. Refrain from associating with any person for the purpose of coaching, training, competition, instruction, administration, management, athletic development, or supervision of the sport of ringette, who has incurred an anti-doping rule violation and is serving a sanction involving a period of ineligibility imposed pursuant to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program and/or the World Anti- Doping Code and recognized by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES).
- h. Refrain from the use of power or authority in an attempt to coerce another person to engage in inappropriate activities.
- i. Avoid consuming mind-altering / illegal substances in the volunteer placement or in any situation associated with St. Thomas Ringette Association events, avoid consuming alcohol during competitions and in situations where minors are present, and take reasonable steps to manage the responsible consumption of alcohol in adult-oriented social situations associated with St. Thomas Ringette Association's events.
- j. Respect the property of others and not willfully cause damage.
- k. Promote Ringette in the most constructive and positive manner possible.
- l. Adhere to all federal, provincial, municipal and host country laws.
- m. Comply, at all times, with St. Thomas Ringette Association's bylaws, policies, procedures, and rules and regulars, as adopted and amended from time to time.



5. Board/Committee Members and Volunteers

5.1 St. Thomas Ringette Association's Board Members, Committee Members, and volunteers will have additional responsibilities to:

5.2

- a. Function primarily as a member of the board and/or committee(s) of St. Thomas Ringette Association; not as a member of any other particular member or constituency;
- b. Act with honesty and integrity and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the nature and responsibilities of St. Thomas Ringette Association business and the maintenance of Individuals' confidence;
- c. Ensure that St. Thomas Ringette Association's financial affairs are conducted in a responsible and transparent manner with due regard for all fiduciary responsibilities;
- d. Conduct themselves openly, professionally, lawfully and in good faith in the best interests of St. Thomas Ringette Association;
- e. Be independent and impartial and not be influenced by self-interest, outside pressure, expectation of reward, or fear of criticism;
- f. Behave with decorum appropriate to both circumstance and position and be fair, equitable, considerate, and honest in all dealings with others
- g. Keep informed about St. Thomas Ringette Association activities, the provincial ringette community, and general trends in the sectors in which they operate;
- h. Exercise the degree of care, diligence, and skill required in the performance of their duties pursuant to the laws under which St. Thomas Ringette Association is incorporated;
- i. Respect the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature;
- j. Ensure that all Individuals are given sufficient opportunity to express opinions, and that all opinions are given due consideration and weight;
- k. Respect the decisions of the majority and resign if unable to do so;
- l. Commit the time to attend meetings and be diligent in preparation for, and participation in, discussions at such meetings;
- m. Have a thorough knowledge and understanding of all St. Thomas Ringette Association governance documents;
- n. Conform to the bylaws and policies approved by St. Thomas Ringette Association, in particular this Code of Conduct and Confidentiality Policy.