



January 10, 2025

**To: Parents of Thompson Okanagan Ringette League**

*Subject: Upholding Positive Sportsmanship and Conduct in Ringette*

Dear Parents,

As we continue to support our athletes and foster a positive environment for the sport of Ringette, we wanted to take a moment to remind everyone of the importance of upholding the Parent Code of Conduct, particularly in light of the recent concerns about unsportsmanlike behavior observed during games.

We've received multiple reports from officials and parents regarding both player and parent conduct during recent competitions. These reports have highlighted incidents that undermine the integrity of the game and affect the experience for all involved—players, coaches, officials, and supporters alike.

As parents, you play a crucial role in setting an example for your children, ensuring they understand the importance of respect, fairness, and professionalism both on and off the ice. Your behavior contributes significantly to creating a positive and supportive atmosphere that is essential for their development as athletes and individuals.

To help address this, we kindly ask that you:

1. **Reinforce the Code of Conduct:** Please remind your child of the expectations outlined in our Code of Conduct, emphasizing sportsmanship, respect for officials, teammates, and opponents. Both players and parents must recognize that their actions reflect not only on themselves but on the entire team and organization.
2. **Lead by Example:** Your behavior as a parent has a direct impact on your child and their team culture. Demonstrating patience, respect, and positive communication with officials, coaches, players, and other parents sets the tone for how everyone interacts within the ringette community.
3. **Address Any Issues Respectfully:** If any concerns regarding behavior arise, please address them in a constructive manner and abide by the 24 hour rule. Should you have concerns about a player or another parent, we encourage you to approach the situation calmly and professionally with your coaching staff or Association Representatives. If you need additional assistance or support in addressing any behavior-related issues, please reach out to the TORL Board. Under no circumstance is it appropriate to direct comments towards a Referee. If you have officiating concerns, please reach out to your associations Director of Officials or the TORL Director of Officials.
4. **Support Positive Parent Involvement:** Encourage a supportive environment for all players by refraining from negative commentary during games and focusing on positive engagement with the team. Something you say at the arena may be overheard by a young child or another individual that may be harmed by your comments. Often we hear parents say their negative comments were meant as a joke, but to some they may think they are deliberate insults. If you have concerns with another parent or group of parents, please email the TORL Vice President.

The TORL Board is committed to ensuring that our athletes are able to focus on improving their skills, enjoying the game, and learning valuable life lessons in a safe and respectful environment. Let's all work together to maintain a culture of integrity, sportsmanship, and respect that reflects the values of Ringette. We have reminded all Coaches of their roles and responsibilities on and off the ice. We will continue to work with them to ensure Parents, Players and Coaches all feel comfortable being part of our ringette community. If you are noticing coaching behavior that you feel is inappropriate, please reach out to your associations Director of Coaching or the TORL Director of Coaching for support.

Additionally, we've asked our officials to engage in more open communication with coaches before and during games. Our referees strive to officiate with fairness and consistency, but challenges do arise, such as being short-handed or working with new officials. Like players, referees are continuously learning and developing. When referees are treated respectfully, they are more likely to continue their training, which strengthens our officiating community.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to fostering a positive environment for our players and the sport of Ringette as a whole.

Sincerely,

Richard Toth  
TORL Vice President

Derrick Doige  
TORL Director of Officials