

Vancouver Island Ball Hockey League (VIBHL) – Players' Code of Conduct

The Vancouver Island Ball Hockey League (VIBHL) is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all players, officials, and spectators. As a recreational league, we emphasize fairness, equity, and sportsmanship. All players must adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

1. Respect & Inclusivity

- Treat all players, officials, and spectators with respect, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, or background.
- Foster an environment where all players feel welcome and valued.
- Avoid discriminatory language, gestures, or actions that could be harmful to others.

2. Fair Play & Integrity

- Compete with honesty and integrity; winning is not more important than sportsmanship.
- Play within the rules and respect officials' decisions, even if you disagree.
- Do not attempt to gain an unfair advantage through cheating, embellishment, or unsportsmanlike conduct.

3. Player Safety

- Play in a manner that prioritizes the safety of yourself and others.
- Avoid reckless play, including excessive physical contact, stick infractions, or any behaviour that could cause injury.
- Report unsafe conditions or dangerous play to league officials.

4. Respect for Officials & League Volunteers

- Accept the authority of referees and league organizers without argument or abuse.
- Refrain from verbal or physical abuse, threats, or harassment of any kind.
- Recognize that officials and volunteers contribute to the success of the league and deserve respect.

5. Zero Tolerance for Violence & Harassment

- Physical altercations (fighting, intent to injure, or aggressive behaviour) will not be tolerated.
- Any form of bullying, harassment, or intimidation—on or off the rink—is strictly prohibited.
- Players engaging in violent or abusive behaviour may face suspension or expulsion from the league.

6. Criminal Charges & Player Eligibility

- The VIBHL reserves the right to review a player's eligibility based on any pending or existing criminal charges that may pose a risk to the safety and well-being of other players.
- Players with criminal charges related to violence, harassment, sexual offenses, or other serious misconduct may be subject to temporary suspension or permanent removal from the league.
- The league will review concerns on a case-by-case basis, with decisions made in the best interest of player safety and league integrity.

7. Reporting a Breach of the Code of Conduct

If you witness or experience a violation of this Code of Conduct, including safety concerns, harassment, or other misconduct, follow these steps:

- Report the incident to a league official, referee, or designated league contact as soon as possible.
- Provide details of the incident, including date, time, individuals involved, and any witnesses.
- Health & Safety Notification: If the breach involves a serious safety risk, suspected criminal behavior, or behavior that endangers others, the matter will be escalated to the league's Health & Safety committee for review.
- Confidentiality: Reports will be handled with discretion to protect the privacy of all involved.

8. Alcohol, Drugs, & Substances

- Players must not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during league play.
- Any player suspected of impairment may be removed from the game or the league.

9. Enforcement & Accountability

- Violations of this Code of Conduct will be reviewed by league officials.
- Consequences may include warnings, suspensions, or permanent removal from the league.
- Players are responsible for their actions and are expected to uphold the league's values at all times.

By participating in the VIBHL, all players agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. Together, we create an enjoyable and respectful environment for everyone involved in the game.

Vancouver Island Ball Hockey League – Play Hard, Play Fair,
Have Fun!