



West Ottawa Ringette Code of Conduct for Players and Parents

The West Ottawa Ringette Association (WORA) is committed to providing its members with a safe and positive environment in which all individuals are treated with respect. All WORA members, including parents and players, are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times, in a fair and responsible manner. Each and every member has an important role to play in ensuring that an atmosphere of fun, friendship and good sportsmanship is maintained. To ensure this, WORA has established the following code of conduct for its players and their parents, which is based on 4 guiding principles:

1. **Demonstrate good sportsmanship.**
2. **Set good expectations.**
3. **Help provide a safe and fun environment.**
4. **Show respect.**

At all times, WORA requires that its players:

- **Demonstrate good sportsmanship.** Be a good sport and encourage other players. Recognize all good plays, even those made by the opposing team. Cooperate with coaches, teammates, and opponents; without them, there is no game. Treat all players fairly and with respect, as they themselves expect to be treated.
- **Set good expectations.** Play because they want to, not just to please parents or coaches. Strive to have fun, improve skills and feel good. Work hard, for the benefit of themselves and their teams.
- **Help provide a safe and fun environment.** Control tempers - no "mouthing off", throwing equipment, or breaking sticks. Ensure that social media is not used in a negative manner. Put safety and enjoyment first - be open and honest about health issues and never compromise those for play time and winning.
- **Show respect.** Respect coaches' decisions and ensure they have open communication with them. Play by the rules of the game, respect WORA's policies and encourage others to do the same. Respect the officials, their judgment and their decisions. Support volunteers, referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and their integrity.

At all times, WORA requires that the parents of its players:

- **Demonstrate good sportsmanship.** Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat, and enforce the positive points of the game. Recognize good plays by WORA's teams as well as by opposing teams. Remember: without them there would be no game.
- **Set good expectations.** Encourage players to play ringette in line with this code of conduct. Act as a role model and require players to adhere to WORA's policies and the rules of the game at all times.
- **Help provide a safe and fun environment.** This includes not interfering in any way with the players' enjoyment of the game, ensuring that social media is never used in a negative manner and understanding that dressing rooms are private places for players, coaches and officials. Put player safety and enjoyment first - be open and honest about health issues and never compromise those for play time and winning.
- **Show respect.** Respect coaches' decisions and encourage open communications with them. Respect the officials, their judgment and their decisions. Appreciate that players, coaches and officials are not professionals and cannot be judged by professional standards. Support volunteers, referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and their integrity.

In addition to the above, all WORA members must adhere to the Ringette Ontario Code of Conduct and Ethics (which can be found at [Ringette Ontario](#)). This includes, in particular, the Hazing, Bullying and Harassment Policies. In this regard, WORA has a policy of zero tolerance.

All WORA members are encouraged to communicate any concerns regarding this code of conduct and WORA's members.

Unless safety is a concern, parents and players are encouraged to consider a 24 hour cooling off period. Following that, or where safety is at issue, concerns should be raised immediately. As appropriate, concerns should be raised to coaches or to WORA's board, who are here to support the members. Confidentiality will be protected to the fullest extent possible. Concerns can be sent by email to vice.president@westottawaringette.com or members can contact any member of WORA's board directly.

Violations of the WORA Code of Conduct:

Conduct that violates the WORA Code of Conduct or the Ringette Ontario Code of Conduct and Ethics will be subject to WORA's and Ringette Ontario's disciplinary policies. Disciplinary action may include being requested to leave any event, denied admission to future events and suspension from all WORA events and activities.

Reviewed and revised Oct 2021.