



# Forest Hill Hockey Association

## Code of Conduct



The Forest Hill Hockey Association (FHHA) has been a proud supporter of community hockey and a provider of a nurturing, inclusive hockey environment since 1960. The FHHA is a community organization whose goal is to provide a healthy, safe and thoroughly enjoyable hockey experience for every player and their family. While hockey is a physical and competitive sport, and we strive to develop hockey skills, the emphasis of our program is truly about fun, teamwork and respect.

This Code of Conduct, recently modified using those from other leagues which the FHHA respects, is to ensure all members of our hockey community achieves and maintains a certain level of behavior which allows our young hockey players to grow, enhance their self-confidence and learn to be positive, contributing members of our community. This community includes players, families, coaches, other team officials, referees and off-ice officials and other volunteers within our House League, Select/CDS and GTHL hockey divisions, as well as our volunteer Board of Directors and paid employees and affiliates.

This Code of Conduct governs the behaviour of our entire community. Our hockey operations and competition will adhere to the Hockey Canada, Ontario Hockey Federation, and GTHL policies and procedures, and those too are part of our Code of Conduct.

### **Expectations for Players**

1. Commit to your coaches and teammates and show up on-time for games and practices.
2. Attendance is important for all teams. Be sure to communicate with your team regarding all absences.  
*(In particular, Select/CDS players must play in House League games throughout the season. Those who neglect their commitment to House League will not be eligible to play in Select/CDS games)*
3. Be a good sport on and off the ice and treat others as you wish to be treated.
4. Learn, understand, and respect the rules of the game and of the association.
5. Read and remember “**The Mark of an FHHA Hockey Player**” (see below).
6. Play with intensity, but play with respect of officials, opponents and teammates at all times.
7. Never argue with the officials and leave your coach to inquire about confusing calls.
8. Always conduct yourselves in a fair and responsible manner and refrain from comments or behaviours that are disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist or sexist. In particular, the FHHA will not tolerate behaviour that constitutes harassment, abuse or bullying.
9. Avoid behaviour which brings the FHHA or the sport into disrepute.
10. Accept disciplinary action as may be imposed if obligations under this Code of Conduct are not met.

### **Expectations for Parents (also includes guardians)**

1. Always conduct yourselves in a fair and responsible manner and refrain from comments or behaviours that are disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist or sexist. In particular, the FHHA will not tolerate behaviour that constitutes harassment, abuse or bullying.
2. Avoid behaviour which brings the FHHA or the sport into disrepute.
3. Be sure to complete necessary requirements to be a member of the FHHA community as a parent, including, but not limited to, *Respect in Sport for Parents* training and the *Rowan's Law Program for Parents*.
4. Be sure to read and review with your child “**The Mark of an FHHA Hockey Player**” (see below) to help them focus on skill development and good sportsmanship.
5. Learn, understand, and respect the rules of the game and of the association.

6. Remember that children play sports for their enjoyment, not yours. They are not professional athletes.
7. Please make sure your child arrives on-time and ready to play with safe and appropriate equipment.
8. It's hard to stay calm when your child is fouled, with or without a penalty call. Referees are human and will make mistakes. Any concerns regarding the officiating should be calmly directed to the coach who will follow league procedures to investigate any issues.
9. Be a positive role model for your child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other team event. Never ridicule or yell at any child for making a mistake or losing a game, including your own and never resort to booing, taunting or using profane language or gestures.
10. Do not encourage any behavior that would endanger the health and well-being of the players.
11. Teach and encourage your child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
12. Demand that your child treats other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, gender or ability.
13. Never question, discuss, or confront coaches or other team officials at a game or practice. Take the time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place. Please obey the 24-hour rule, also in place for coaches and other team officials.
14. Refrain from coaching your child or other players during games and practices.
15. Recognize the value and importance of all volunteers. They give their time and resources to provide hockey for your child.
16. If you have concerns or questions regarding your child's coach or other team officials, direct your remarks to the appropriate FHHA official.
17. Accept disciplinary action as may be imposed if obligations under this Code of Conduct are not met.

### **Expectations for Coaches and other Team Officials**

1. Coaches and other team officials must be appointed and/or approved by the FHHA.
2. No one is permitted on the bench or on the ice (or as a Team Official) without the approval of the FHHA and without proper accreditation, including, but not limited to, any necessary coaching, *Respect in Sport Activity Leader/Coach Program* and other inclusiveness training programs, as well as background checks.
3. Always conduct yourselves in a fair and responsible manner and refrain from comments or behaviours that are disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist or sexist. In particular, the FHHA will not tolerate behaviour that constitutes harassment, abuse or bullying.
4. Avoid behaviour which brings the FHHA or the sport into disrepute.
5. Treat all players and their families fairly within the context of their activity, regardless of gender, place of origin, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief or economic status.
6. Be sure to read and review with your players **"The Mark of an FHHA Hockey Player"** (see below) and help model these principles.
7. Understand and respect the inherent power imbalance that exists with your players and be careful not to take advantage of, abuse or mismanage it in any way that could be detrimental to the development of your players.
8. To the best of your ability, ensure players are enjoying the game of hockey in a fun, safe environment.
9. Ensure activities are suitable for the age, experience, ability and fitness level of the players, and educate them as to their responsibilities in contributing to a safe environment and fair play.
10. Communicate and co-operate with registered medical practitioners in any diagnoses, treatment and management of a player's medical or psychological issues. Consider the player's future health and well-being when making decisions regarding an injured player's ability to continue playing or practicing.
11. Remember that players play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
12. Ensure that all players receive equal instruction, support and appropriate, fair playing time.
13. Be responsible for the conduct of your players on the ice and in the dressing rooms.
14. Consider it an honour and a privilege to work with the young people of our community.

15. Always keep in mind you are assisting in youth sports and that the recreational experience is for the players not for the adults.
16. Use positive coaching methods to make the experience enjoyable for your players, increase their self-esteem and foster in them a true sense of enjoyment of hockey. Do not ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or for performing poorly.
17. Treat officials and opposing players and coaches with respect and dignity and encourage your players and their parents to do the same, both in victory and defeat. Cooperate in a civilized and respectful tone and do not engage in verbal or physical threats or abuse.
18. Model grace, dignity, respect and composure regardless of the outcome of the game.
19. Observe all player participation rules and strive to make each player feel as if they are a valuable member of the team regardless of any physical or developmental limitations they may have.
20. Learn the rules of the game and of our association, abide by those rules, and teach those rules to your players and their parents as best you can.
21. Always encourage safe play and report any unsafe playing conditions to the arena staff and/or the FHHA as soon as possible.
22. Abstain from being under the influence of and/or refrain from consuming/using any tobacco, alcohol and/or drugs (legal or illegal), before or during any practices or games, on or off arena property.
23. Do not engage in the use of profanity and do not initiate nor engage in any fight or scuffle with any coach, parent, player, participant, official or any other attendee.
24. Encourage fair and open communication with parents and players and proactively address and seek to resolve all issues and conflicts directly with parents and players and report all material issues and conflicts to the FHHA.
25. Openly communicate and co-operate with the players' parents – involving them in management decisions pertaining to their player's development – and encourage all players to maintain open and constant communication with their parents regarding all areas of their hockey experience.
26. Never question, discuss, or confront players or their parents at a game or practice. Take the time to speak with them at an agreed upon time and place. Please obey the 24-hour rule, also in place for parents.
27. Report any conduct that violates this Code of Conduct or adversely affects the fun, positive, nurturing environment of the FHHA community.
28. Accept disciplinary action as may be imposed if obligations under this Code of Conduct are not met.

***Players, parents/guardians, coaches and other team officials may be suspended or otherwise disciplined for not adhering to this Code of Conduct or breaking any of the rules which govern our competition. Such discipline may include the removal or ban from an arena, games, practices and other team activities, not to mention removal or ban from being able to participate or spectate as a member of the FHHA community.***

### **The Mark of an FHHA Hockey Player**

- Plays hard for themselves and their team to everyone's benefit.
- Plays for fun, not just to please their coaches and parents/guardians.
- Works hard and listens to their coaches to help improve skills and through teamwork.
- Celebrates goals and victories with class and doesn't forget to thank the teammate who made that pass or blocked that shot (goals are cooler, but assists are awesome!).
- Learns from and then forgets their mistakes and/or defeats.
- Goalie is the hardest position. Support goaltenders.
- Remember penalties can cause injuries and are often signs of laziness... also, a teammate will miss a shift.
- After the game, congratulates their coach, their team and their opponents... without them, there is no game of hockey.