

Policy Type: Hockey Operations
Policy Title: GCMHA Codes of Conduct

Background:

The **OMHA Code for Conduct** identifies the standard of behaviour which is expected of all OMHA members and participants. For the purpose of this policy, “**participants**” shall include all players, guardians, parents, coaches, officials, volunteers, directors, officers, committee members, conveners, team managers, trainers, administrators and employees involved in OMHA activities and events.

OMHA is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect. Members and participants of OMHA shall conduct themselves at all times in a manner consistent with the values of OMHA which include fairness, integrity and mutual respect.

1. During the course of all OMHA activities and events, members shall avoid behaviour which brings OMHA or the sport of hockey into disrepute, including but not limited to abusive use of alcohol, use of non-medical drugs and use of alcohol by minors.
2. OMHA members and participants shall at all times adhere to OMHA’s operational policies and procedures, to rules and regulations governing OMHA events and activities, and to rules and regulations governing any competitions in which the member participates on behalf of OMHA.
3. Members and participants of OMHA shall not engage in any activity or behaviour which interferes with a competition or with any player or team’s preparation for a competition, or which endangers the safety of others.
4. Members of OMHA shall refrain from comments or behaviours which are disrespectful, humiliating, demeaning, offensive, abusive, racist or sexist. In particular, behaviour which constitutes bullying, harassment or abuse will not be tolerated, and will be dealt with under OMHA’s Harassment & Abuse policy.
5. Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Discipline Policy of OMHA. Such action may result in the member losing the privileges which come with membership in the OMHA, including the opportunity to participate in OMHA activities and events, both present and future.

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GCMHA Policy:

In the spirit of the OMHA Code of Conduct, the following conduct rules apply to players, coaches, off-ice officials, parents and board members.

GCMHA PLAYERS

1. Play for the fun of it and release your competitive spirit in a sportsmanlike manner.
2. Work equally hard for yourself and the team;
3. Respect your coaching staff;
4. Respect and support your fellow player;
5. Show respect to the officials of the game;
6. Adhere to the coach's rules and those of the Association;
7. Adhere to dress code;
8. Commit to the team;
9. Be prepared for the game, physically and emotionally;
10. Control your temper;
11. Treat all players as you would like to be treated yourself.

The following behaviours are unacceptable from a Garden City Minor Hockey Association player:

1. Swearing, arguing with a referee, trash talking your opponent, purposely trying to injure a player or damaging the facilities;
2. Acting in a physically aggressive manner towards a teammate.
3. Teasing or making fun of another player's looks, body size or race;
4. Playing practical jokes that can embarrass or physically hurt a person.
5. Criticizing or blaming another player for the game outcome.

Manager/Coach/Convener

1. Do not criticize other players – they are other people's children.
2. Do not talk about other parents.
3. Be supportive of your own kids
4. Accept the ruling of the board of Directors – the members of the Association have elected them.
5. Commit to the demands of travel hockey.
6. Do not use alcohol in unauthorized areas.
7. Be a role model and conduct yourself accordingly – disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist or sexist behaviour toward anyone will not be tolerated.
8. Become familiar with the Canadian Hockey Association policy on harassment and abuse.

COACHES

1. Conduct yourself in a professional manner, demonstrating an exemplary demeanour to your players and to the organization.
2. Make a personal commitment of keep informed of sound coaching principles and the principles of individual growth and development.
3. Be well organized, having appropriate staff and equipment.

4. Communicate your aims and objectives, both verbally and in writing, to players and parents, amending when needed during the season.
5. Teach all payers equally, to their abilities.
6. Commit to the coaching system and to player development as set out by the Association. Create an environment for competition where your Standards of Behaviour are built on RESPECT – for players, parents, the game, officials and the opposition.

COACHES (From Canadian Hockey Association)

- Respect the dignity and the spirit of all athletes.
- Treat all athletes fairly and equitably.
- Establish a supportive and a positive environment for healthy competition, skill development, fun and the achievement of goals.
- Avoid contact or conduct that may be interpreted to have sexual connotations.
- DO NOT take part in or TOLERATE behaviour that frightens, embarrasses, demoralizes or negatively affects the athlete's self-esteem.
- Intervene if a child or youth is being abused, harassed or neglected.
- Work toward eliminating all harassment and abuse.
- Show considerate regard for all athletes, parents, spectators and officials, abiding by all rules of the official's decision.
- Adhere to the policies, procedure and code of conduct of your organization.

PARENTS

1. Acknowledge coaches are volunteers.
2. Be supportive of the coaches' directives.
3. Accept the authority of the coaches and respect their decision.
4. Have a positive reinforcement of the coaches' philosophies knowing that each coach may be different.
5. Adhere to a minimum 24 hour "cooling off" period after any upsetting situation.
6. Follow the chain of command for any grievance.

BOARD MEMBERS

Garden City Minor Hockey Association Board of Directors has developed a stringent Code of Conduct to guide them in their positions as directors of a governing board. Below is a simple summary of these rules. The full policy may be viewed in the Governance Section of the Policy Manual.

- Objectivity
- No "hidden agendas".
- Always step outside of personal opinions.

- Must not use the position for influence.
- Aims and objectives of the Board are first and foremost.
- Accept the responsibilities of the position and commit to carrying out those responsibilities.
- Work in a positive manner to maintain the integrity of the Board.

Procedure:

1. Players, coaches and on-ice officials are penalized by game officials for infractions on the ice.
2. Failure to comply with these Codes of Conduct by any participant off the ice or while watching games or attending events will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Conflict Resolution Policy also in this manual.

