



Revised January 2019

Coaches Code of Conduct

Purpose:

Affiliation with Stanley Stick Hockey Association (“SSHA”) brings many benefits to our community. As a result, coaches are expected to meet certain obligations including complying with SSHA policies and this Coaches Code of Conduct. Irresponsible behaviour by individuals can result in severe damage to both players and the integrity of SSHA. The SSHA Coaches Code of Conduct applies to an individual’s conduct during SSHA related business, coaching activities, and events including, but not limited to, tournaments, games, practices, and team social events associated with coaching. This Coaches Code of Conduct applies to all volunteer coaches, volunteer referees, and paid professional coaches (skating, goalie, etc.), and supplements the City of Guelph Rzone Policy as outlined in the SSHA Constitution.

Responsibilities:

Coaches must recognize the power inherent in the position of coach and respect and promote the rights of all participants in sport. This is accomplished by following responsibilities for confidentiality (right to privacy) and fair and reasonable treatment. Coaches have a special responsibility to respect and promote the rights of participants who are in a vulnerable or dependent position and less able to protect their own rights.

Responsibilities include:

- 1) Maintain and enhance the dignity and self-esteem of players and other individuals
- 2) Make all reasonable efforts to avoid adjusting players' equipment, as this is the responsibility of the players and the parents.
- 3) Refrain from messaging players directly (via texting, emailing, social media, etc.) without copying parents.
- 4) Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes harassment, where harassment is defined as comment or conduct directed towards an individual or group, which is offensive, abusive, racist, sexist, degrading, or malicious.
- 5) Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes sexual harassment, where sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual comments and sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, or conduct of a sexual nature.
- 6) Refrain from abusive use of alcohol.
- 7) Abstain from the non-medical use of drugs.
- 8) Refrain from the use of power or authority in an attempt to coerce another person to engage in inappropriate activities.

Stanley Stick Hockey Association

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- 9) Ensure a safe environment by selecting activities and establishing controls that are suitable for the age, experience, ability, and fitness level of the involved players.
- 10) Provide players (and the parents/guardians of SSHA players) with the information necessary to be involved in the decisions that affect the player.
- 11) Adhere to the City of Guelph Rzone policy as outlined in the SSHA Constitution.

Infractions:

Examples of infractions can include, but are not limited to, incidents of:

- a) Disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist, or sexist comments or behaviour
- b) Disrespectful conduct such as outbursts of anger or argument
- c) Non-compliance with, or disregard for SSHA policies, procedures, rules, or regulations
- d) Physical abuse
- e) Behaviour that constitutes harassment, sexual harassment, or sexual misconduct
- f) Pranks, jokes, or other activities that endanger the safety of others
- g) Conduct that intentionally damages the image, credibility, or reputation of SSHA
- h) Abusive use of alcohol, provision of alcohol to minors, or use or possession of illicit drugs and narcotics

Reporting an Infraction:

Coaches, Referees, Conveners, the SSHA Executive and the SSHA Board of Directors must report any infractions. Players and parents are encouraged to report any infractions. Infractions are to be reported to the Convener immediately, who will then notify the SSHA President and Vice-President. Infractions/complaints must be in writing and signed. Anonymous reporting may be accepted at the sole discretion of the SSHA Executive Committee as defined in the SSHA Constitution. Guelph Police, as well as the Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County, will be notified as appropriate.

Sanctions:

SSHA may apply the following disciplinary sanctions:

- a) Verbal or written reprimand
- b) Suspension or expulsion from SSHA
- c) Payment of the cost of repairs for property damage
- d) Any other sanction considered appropriate for the offense

Infractions that result in discipline will be recorded and records will be maintained by SSHA.

Note: The Coaching Association of Canada's guidelines were used to create the SSHA Coaches Code of Conduct.