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LGHA CODE OF CONDUCT

(Edit Sept 2016)

The spirit of this code of conduct is promote and maintain a positive environment surrounding all events and interactions among members of the LGHA. Any code of conduct can usually be boiled down to “Treat Other People, The Way You Want To Be Treated”. Unfortunately, in spite of this, negative behaviours and interactions can occur. This document outlines expectations for how we conduct ourselves, and when necessary how conflict will be resolved.

TEAM OFFICIALS CODE

1. Be a resource person able to assist the athlete to develop his/her athletic potential and self dependency.
2. Recognize individual differences in athletes and always think of the athlete’s long-term best interests.
3. Aim for excellence based on realistic goals. The activity undertaken must be suitable for the age and ability of the players.
4. Lead by example. Teach and practice co-operation, self-discipline, respect for officials and opponents and proper attitudes in language, dress and deportment. Rules are mutual agreements that no one should evade or break.
5. Make sport challenging and fun. Skills and techniques need not be learned painfully. Ensure that all equipment and facilities meet current safety standards.
5. Be honest and consistent with athletes. They appreciate knowing where they stand.
6. Be prepared to interact in a positive manner with administrators, league officials, on-ice & off-ice officials and parents.
7. Be responsible people who are flexible and willing to continually learn and develop.
8. Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
9. Set and monitor the boundaries between a working relationship and friendship with players. Team officials must realize that certain situations or friendly actions could be misinterpreted, not only by the player, but also by others motivated by jealousy, dislike or mistrust and could lead to allegations or misconduct or impropriety.
10. Conduct of the team on and off the ice is the responsibility of the Team Officials.

PARENTS CODE

1. Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports.
2. Remember, children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours.
3. Encourage your child always to play by the rules.

4. Teach your child that honest effort is more important than victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
5. Turn defeat to victory by helping your child work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
6. Remember that children learn best by example. Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
7. Do not publicly question the officials' judgment and never their honesty.
8. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from the children's sporting activities.
9. Recognize the value and importance of volunteer team officials. They give their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your child.
10. Set an example by supporting and respecting your child's team officials. When problems arise, communicate on an individual basis, after the 24 hour cool-down period. Public comments are not appropriate.

PLAYERS CODE

1. Play for the fun of it, not just to please your parents or coach.
2. Play by the rules.
3. Never argue with the officials' decisions. Let your captain or coach ask any necessary questions.
4. Control your temper - no mouthing off, breaking sticks, throwing gloves or other equipment, or other displays of disrespect to others and yourself.
5. Work equally hard for yourself and your team - your team's performance will benefit and so will you.
6. Always display good sportsmanship at all times.
7. Treat all players as you yourself would like to be treated. Don't interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of any player.
8. Remember that the goals of a game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good. There is no need to stand out by showing off trying to get the most points or penalties.
9. Co-operate with your team officials, team mates and opponents, for without them, you do not have a game.
10. Remember, you are representing yourself, your parents, your team, your sponsor and your community at all times to and from the arena. Conduct yourself accordingly.

Conflict Resolution Procedure

1) In any civilized society, most problems are best solved through discussion. This grievance procedure begins with a discussion between the parties involved. The Coaching Staff is to choose a neutral time and place; not during a game or team practice, or within earshot of the players. The Coaching Staff is to contact the Discipline Chair of the LGHA, to advise them of the meeting.

2) If the two parties are unable to reach a resolution, the Complainant must submit a written complaint stating the time, place and as many specifics as possible regarding the incident, to the Discipline Chair of the LGHA. If the Discipline Chair is the subject of the grievance, the written complaint shall be submitted directly to the President of the Association.

3) As soon as possible, the Discipline Chair will inform the President that a complaint has been received. The Discipline Chair will talk with the involved parties, and conduct an investigation as necessary. If the Discipline Chair is unable to resolve the conflict within 72 hours, he must inform both parties (verbally, within 24 hours; in writing, within 5 days) that the complaint has been referred to the President. (The President, at his/her discretion, may bypass this step and directly take charge of the complaint and investigation.)

4) The President may attempt a resolution through discussion with the involved parties. If the complaint is not resolved within 72 hours, the President will verbally notify both parties and a Discipline Committee of the need for a meeting. The Discipline Committee will strive to meet at a mutually convenient time and place for both parties within 10 days. But, if this is not possible, the Chairperson will set the time and location.

5) The Discipline Committee may invite two members at large, who are not directly involved in the complaint as a Coach, Administrator, or parent member of the LGHA. The two, at large members will be chosen by the Discipline Committee Chairperson. Any Committee Members that have a conflict in the issue will step aside. The Policy and Discipline Committee will discuss and decide the issues after the parties involved have been dismissed from the meeting. The President will notify both parties of the Committee's decision verbally, within 24 hours, and by letter within 5 days.

6) Copies of the letter will be sent to all members of the Executive. NOTE: If either party retains legal representation during this process, the player(s) involved will be suspended until the issue is resolved.