



North Shore Minor Lacrosse Association

The Fair Play Philosophy

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Fair play is an attitude, a way of thinking. It can be taught and it can be learned. Once it's learned, it can apply to every aspect of a person's life. That's why fair play is so important and that's why all of us are responsible. At Fair Play Canada, they believe that the fair play philosophy becomes reality through the creation of a more ethical sport system, one that is democratic, open to all Canadians, and grounded in the principles of integrity, fairness and respect. Through sport, athletes learn about setting goals, working hard and having fun. They learn to respect their own abilities, and those of their competitors, and to value the effort of all participants, regardless of ability. When guided appropriately, athletes begin to realize that the joy of sport is as much in the effort as in the result.

Developing a more ethical sport system means addressing tough issues like violence and equity. In turn, both of those issues include difficult areas such as sexual harassment, the principles of team selection and participant involvement. Through fair play resources, advocacy, communications and training, we're working with partners at the national, provincial and municipal levels to create an atmosphere in which coaches, athletes, administrators and educators can make every athlete's sport experience a positive experience. They believe in an alternative and positive sport-model, one that closes the gap between fair play as a vision and fair play as a reality. We welcome your involvement.

FAIR PLAY ISSUES

To ensure a fair playing field, everyone involved in sport must support the principles of fair play - fairness, integrity and respect. When consistently applied, they not only provide a clear ethical framework for competition, but greater opportunities for getting the most out of the game. That's because they help participants focus on achievement rather than the desire to conquer an opponent.

Violence. Any physical aggression outside the rules of a sport is violence. Violence in sport reflects violence in our society; on television or the evening news, so too may we come to accept it as a fact of life in sport. It shouldn't be. The sport system must look at minimizing sources of frustration and at using the appropriate tools to control inappropriate behaviour. Officials must be empowered to enforce the rules.

Doping and Other Methods of Cheating. Winning is a reward for effort, will, discipline and talent. Violating the rules by taking performance-enhancing drugs or gaining any other unfair advantage over a competitor has nothing to do with winning; it's a form of cheating. It means that the participants are no longer all playing the same game; it demeans the efforts of every other participant, the integrity of the game and the essence of sport.

Respect. Unhealthy attitudes are just as harmful to the value and purpose of sport as unhealthy play. When opponents are viewed as enemies, officials are treated with contempt, and rules are seen only as obstacles to be overcome, nobody wins. Respect for the rules and for everyone involved is fundamental to the quality of sport and the integrity of the game.



Equal Opportunities and Fair Access. Sport is for everyone, regardless of age, sex, race or ability. Sport can have numerous benefits for everyone. All Canadians should have a range of choices and opportunities to be involved in sport.

FAIRPLAY CODE FOR COACHES

1. I will not allow players to harass or put each other down. (See the Harassment Policy)
2. I will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remembering that young athletes have other interests and obligations.
3. I will ensure that all athletes get equal instruction, support and playing time.
4. I will not ridicule or yell at my athletes for making mistakes or for performing poorly. I will remember there is a reason for failure, it is a part of the learning process and it is my responsibility as a coach to define the problem and find the solution.
5. I will remember the game is for the athletes and the goals that I set will reflect the needs of the players rather than my personal goals.
6. I will teach my players to play fairly and to follow the FairPlay Code for Players.
7. I will not pressure my players to perform at levels I have not prepared them for or in a way that will jeopardize their safety.

THE COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

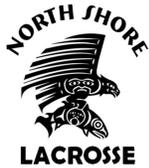
Coaches will:

1. Be a role model for all aspects of the Coach's Code of Conduct, the FairPlay Codes and the Harassment Policies.
2. Be a model of the ethics and behaviour expected of the players. i.e. Refrain from smoking, drinking, using drugs and swearing when in the presence of your players or have players in your care (road trips).
3. Follow, teach and enforce the rules of the game at all times. Do not allow players to bend the rules or challenge the officials.
4. Ensure the safety of the athletes with whom they work. This includes: monitoring behaviour at all times, controlling the style of play and providing a safe environment.
5. At no time become intimately and/or sexually involved with their athletes. This includes requests for sexual favours or threat of reprisal for the rejection of such requests.
6. Ensure respect between all participants. The dignity of the individual must be preserved: verbal and physical behaviours that constitute harassment or abuse are unacceptable.
7. Never advocate or condone the use of drugs or other banned performance enhancing substances and never provide under age athletes with alcohol.

PARENT'S ROLE

Everyone involved in sport, from parents and spectators to athletes, officials and coaches, can and should all play a part in promoting fair play. The elements of Fair-Play are best applied when there is respect between all participants and respect for the rules and for the game. Respect must be given for it to be received:

- The leaders and parents lead best by example.
- Rules, both of the game and of conduct, are applied at all times, in every situation and equally toward all participants.



Parents, have significant impact on how their children feel about their achievements in sport, and in all aspects of life. Parents can help their children by:

PARENT'S CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Avoid forcing your child to participate in a sport, and remember that your child is playing for his/her enjoyment, not yours.
2. **Discuss Fair Play issues openly with your child.** Encourage him/her to play by the rules and resolve conflicts without resorting to violence. Help them understand that violence is unacceptable in professional sport.
3. **Be a supportive and fair spectator.** Teach your child that although it is fun to win, trying hard and doing one's best is really the name of the game. Never ridicule or get angry at your child for making a mistake or losing a competition. Offer constructive advice and assurance that continued effort will make for improved performance the next time out. Remember that children learn best by example.
4. Applaud good plays by members of both teams.

FAIR PLAY CODE FOR PARENTS

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that my child plays sport for his/her enjoyment, not for mine.
3. I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
4. I will teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game/event.
5. I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
6. I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a competition.