

FAIR PLAY CODE

For Athletes, Coaches, Officials, Parents, League
Administrators and PSO Administration

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Fair Play Philosophy

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.

We 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. We 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: An Athletes, Coach, Official, Parent and Administrator Role

Everyone involved in sport, from parents and spectators to athletes, officials and coaches, can and should play a part in promoting Fair Play. And the easiest way to do this is to lead by example; to always respect the written and unwritten rules of the game. It is also essential to learn how to constructively manage stress so that Fair Play skills and instincts will not be lost in the heat of competition.

Here are some examples of how we can incorporate Fair Play into sport and recreation activities:

Athletes:

- Participate because you want to, not just because your parent or coach wants you to.
- Co-operate and respect your coach, teammates and opponents, because without them, there would be not game.
- Always try to control your temper. Competition is stressful and can provoke powerful emotions, but fighting and mouthing off spoil the game for everyone.
- Remember that winning isn't everything. While it is great to win, it should always be fun to play.



Coaches:

- Encourage your team to respect the opposing team and the rules of the game, to accept the judgements of officials and opposing coaches without argument.
- Teach your players how to manage conflict and stress, and use good judgement in tough situations.
- Avoid overplaying talented players and allow average players equal playing time.
- Remember that children need a coach they can respect. Be generous with praise and set a good example.

Officials:

- Be consistent and objective in calling infractions, regardless of your personal feelings toward a team, coach or individual.
- Prevent any players or team staff from intimidating other participants, either by word or action. Similarly do not tolerate unacceptable conduct toward yourself, other officials, players or spectators.
- Remain open to constructive criticism and try to consider different points of view.
- Respect the athletes, their coaches, parents and everyone involved in your sport.
- Remember that you have many shared interests and common sport goals.

Administrators:

- Make sure that coaches and officials are capable of promoting Fair Play as well as the development of sound judgment and good technical skills. Encourage them to become certified.
- Do your best to ensure that all children are given the same chance to participate, regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnic background or race.
- Work toward ensuring that recreation department staffs, parents, coaches and participants understand their role and their responsibility for promoting Fair Play in sports.
- Distribute Fair Play Codes to spectators, coaches, players, officials, parents and news media.

The following are the Fair Play Codes for each area of our sport. Please review and distribute to others in your organization, team, or association.



Fair Play Code for Athletes

1. I will participate because I want to, not just because my parents or coaches want me to.
2. I will play by the rules, and in the spirit of the game.
3. I will control my temper – fighting and ‘mouthing off’ can spoil the activity for everybody.
4. I will respect my opponents.
5. I will do my best to try to be a true team player.
6. I will remember that winning isn’t everything – that having fun, improving my skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.
7. I will acknowledge all good plays/performances – those of my team and my opponents.
8. I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.



Fair Play Code for Coaches

1. I will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices, remembering that young athletes have other interests and obligations.
2. I will teach my athletes to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials and opponents.
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 that children play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.
5. I will make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the athlete's ages and abilities.
6. I will remember that children need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example.
7. I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills.



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 or 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.
7. I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good plays/performances by both my child's team and their opponents.
8. I will never question the official's judgment or honesty in public.
9. I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sporting events.
10. I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteer coaches who give their time to provide sport activities for my child.



Fair Play Code for Officials

1. I will make sure that every athlete has a reasonable opportunity to perform to the best of his or her ability, within the limits of the rules.
2. I will avoid or put an end to any situation that threatens the safety of the athletes.
3. I will maintain a healthy atmosphere and environment for competition.
4. I will not permit the intimidation of any athlete either by word or by action. I will not tolerate unacceptable conduct toward officials, athletes, spectators or myself.
5. I will be consistent and objective in calling all infractions, regardless of my personal feelings toward a team or individual athlete.
6. I will handle all conflicts firmly but with dignity.
7. I accept my role as a teacher and role model for fair play, especially with young participants.
8. I will be open to discussion and contact with the athletes before and after the game.
9. I will remain open to constructive criticism and show respect and consideration for different points of view.
10. I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my officiating skills.



Fair Play Code for League Organizers

1. I will do my best to see that all children are given the same chance to participate, regardless of gender, ability, ethnic background.
2. I will absolutely discourage any sport program from becoming primarily an entertainment for the spectators.
3. I will make sure that all equipment and facilities are safe and match the athletes' ages and abilities.
4. I will make sure that the age and maturity levels of the children are considered in program development, rule enforcement and scheduling.
5. I will remember that play is done for its own sake and make sure that winning is kept in proper perspective.
6. I will distribute the fair play codes to spectators, coaches, athletes, officials, parents and media.
7. I will make sure that coaches and officials are capable of promoting fair play as well as the development of good technical skills, and I will encourage them to become certified.



Fair Play Code for Spectators

1. I will remember that children play sport for THEIR enjoyment. They are not playing to entertain me.
2. I will not have unrealistic expectations. I will remember that child athletes are not miniature professionals and cannot be judged by professional standards.
3. I will respect the official's decisions and I will encourage participants to do the same.
4. I will never ridicule an athlete for making a mistake during a competition. I will give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort.
5. I will condemn the use of violence in any form and will express my disapproval in an appropriate manner to coaches and league officials.
6. I will show respect for my team's opponents, because without them there would be no game.
7. I will not use bad language, not will I harass athletes, coaches, officials of other spectators.



Fair Play Code for Media

When I cover games:

1. I will not judge or depict children as miniature professionals. I will respect sport programs for adults differently from those for children.
2. I will feature children who have demonstrated outstanding examples of fair play.
3. I recognize that these children are deserving of coverage and are of as much interest to my readers as those who score points.
4. I will keep isolated incidents of unfair play in their proper perspective - neither ignoring nor glorifying them for shock or entertainment value.
5. I will give equal coverage to girls and boys and will endeavour to help the public understand the importance of this equal coverage.
6. I will remember that children in organized sports often face a lot of pressure to meet unrealistic expectations. I will promote discussion of this and other fair play issues in order to raise awareness and protect children's rights.