

To ensure a safe and enjoyable playing environment for all players and participants, Hockey NSW and affiliated Associations have in place a Zero Tolerance Policy for inappropriate behaviour by Parents and Spectators.

This Policy will supplement the current policy applied to Coaches and Team Officials. The Policy will ensure that:

1. There will be a zero tolerance shown towards any inappropriate or abusive behaviour from parents and spectators.
2. Any parent/guardian and/or spectators who feels the need to:
 - Persistently or wilfully question or challenge the rulings of umpires
 - Berate or abuse umpires
 - Berate or abuse players
 - Berate or abuse other parents or spectators
 - Display conduct which is inappropriate in a sporting environment

will be asked to leave the venue immediately.

Failure to leave when requested will result in the Association or Hockey NSW representative taking appropriate action to safeguard the safety of players, spectators and parents. In the event that the aforementioned action becomes necessary, there is no requirement for a warning. A parent/spectator that has been requested to leave an event may be suspended directly or required to attend a hearing. It should be noted that repeated inappropriate behaviour by a parent may have an impact on the playing future of their child.

All spectators and parents have to accept responsibility for their behaviour.

Any appeals against disqualification by Hockey NSW under this policy should be immediately be directed to Hockey NSW – Attention: Operations Manager.

Any appeals against disqualification by an affiliated Association of Hockey NSW under this policy should be immediately be directed to the Association – Attention: Member Protection Officer.

This action has become necessary due to the reported instances of inappropriate and abusive behaviour at events conducted by or on behalf of Hockey NSW and our desire to nurture a safe competitive environment for all participants. Hockey NSW implores any parents or spectators who feel that they cannot refrain from the above behaviour not to attend.

Parents/spectators/Associations who would like to offer feedback or request clarification on officiating issues should direct their feedback through their coach/Association.

The health of our game depends on the nurture and development of officials and younger players. The realistic barometer of the health of any Hockey Association is their capacity to provide well organized and officiated competitions for the communities to service. It is the aim of Hockey NSW to help Associations increase this capacity.

This policy is not aimed at stifling or diminishing healthy supportive cheering or the ability of all spectators and parents to enjoy the spectacle of junior sport.

Please note that any action taken under this new policy and procedure is entirely independent of any action that maybe necessitated by law under the NSW Child Protection Legislation and Hockey Australia's Member Protection Policy.



Attachment B6: Parent/Guardian Code of Behaviour

1. Parents/Guardians shall at all times conform to accepted standards of good sportsmanship and behaviour.
2. Parents/Guardians shall at all times respect officials, coaches and players and extend all courtesies to them, and let the coaches do the coaching.
3. Lead by example and respect all players, coaches, umpires and spectators – physical or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.
4. Respect the umpires' decision. Do not abuse, threaten or intimidate an umpire or match official and do not show dissension, displeasure or disapproval towards an umpire or match official's decision in an abusive or unreasonable fashion.
5. Never publicly criticize umpires – raise personal concerns with club officials in private.
6. Support skilled performances.
7. Show respect for opponents.
8. Display appropriate social behaviour by not using profane, demeaning or derogatory language, or harassing players, coaches, officials or other spectators. Show appreciation for good performance and skillful plays by all including opposition.
9. Do not throw any object.
10. Barrack in a positive way.
11. Leave the area tidy and free from litter or other mess.
12. Remember that your child and other children participate in the sport of hockey for their enjoyment not yours.
13. Never ridicule mistakes or losses, be understanding and supportive and focus on their efforts instead.
14. Recognise all volunteers who are giving up their valuable time.
15. Be mindful that any poor behavior on your part could result in an Umpire issuing a warning to the team captain of the team you are a spectator/s of. This is to let the spectators know that their team will lose points if they continue to behave in a manner not in line with the code of behaviour.
16. Refrain from any form of personal abuse towards your children and team-mates. This includes verbal, physical and emotional abuse. Be alert to any forms of abuse directed towards your children and team-mates, from other sources whilst they are in your care.
17. Refrain from any form of harassment towards athletes, spectators or officials. This includes sexual and racial harassment, racial vilification and harassment on the grounds of disability.
18. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.
19. Be a positive role model for your children. Please note: This policy is binding to parents & guardians who have signed an agreement reflecting the Code of Behaviour with either HA or a Member⁷

⁷ As per the Dictionary, this means a State Association or its board, committee/s, sub-committee/s or advisory panel, an Affiliated Association and/or Affiliated Club or their board, committee/s, sub-committee/s or advisory panel