

# Policy Statement of Irish Hockey Association

*From here on will be represented by the term Hockey*

Hockey is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of its participants. Every individual in hockey should, at all times, show respect and understanding for participants' rights, safety and welfare and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the organisation and the guidelines contained in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport* [www.hockey.ie](http://www.hockey.ie)

In working with young people in hockey our first priority is the welfare of young people and we are committed to providing an environment that will allow participants to perform to the best of their ability, free from abuse, neglect, bullying and intimidation.

## Guidelines for Sports Leaders

Hockey recognises the key role leaders (coaches, youth administrators, captains, selectors and team managers, etc.) play in the lives of young people in sport. Leaders in Hockey should strive to create a positive environment for the children in their care. They have an overall responsibility to take the necessary steps to ensure that positive and healthy experiences are provided. All Leaders should have as their first priority the children's safety and enjoyment of hockey and should adhere to the guidelines and regulations set out in the Hockey's Code of Ethics.

### Leaders should:

- respect the rights, dignity and worth of every child and must treat everyone equally, regardless of gender, disability, ethnic origin, religion, etc.

### As a role model they:

- Will be required to display high standards of language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation.
- Ensure that players in their care respect the rules of the game. Insist on fair play and ensure players are aware that you will not tolerate cheating or bullying behaviour.
- Encourage the development of respect for opponents, officials, selectors and other leaders and avoid criticism of fellow trainers and coaches. Do not criticise other leaders.
- Must actively discourage the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco as being incompatible with a healthy approach to sporting activity.
- Must avoid the use of alcohol and banned substances, before coaching and training, during events, while supervising trips with young players.

## Code of Conduct for Young People

Hockey wants to provide the best possible environment for all young people involved in the sport. Young people deserve to be given enjoyable, safe sporting opportunities, free of abuse of any kind.

These participants have rights, which must be respected, **and responsibilities** that they must accept. Young people should be encouraged to realise that they have responsibilities to treat other participants and sports leaders with fairness and respect.

### Young players are entitled to:

- Be safe and to feel safe
- Be listened to
- Be believed
- Have fun and enjoy hockey
- Have a voice in relation to their activities within Hockey
- Be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect
- Participate on an equitable and fair manner, irrespective of ability, disability, gender, religion, social class, etc.
- Experience competition at a level at which they feel comfortable
- Make complaints and have them dealt with
- Get help against bullies
- Say No
- Protect their own bodies
- Confidentiality (see section on confidentiality)

### Young players should always:

- Treat Sports Leaders with respect, (including administrators, coaches, umpires, managers, children's officers, club officials, etc.,)
- Look out for themselves and the welfare of others
- Play fairly at all times, do their best
- Be organised and on time, tell someone if you are leaving a venue or competition
- Respect team members, even when things go wrong
- Respect opponents, be gracious in defeat
- Abide by the rules set down by team managers when traveling to away events, representing the club, school, province or country, etc.
- Behave in a manner that avoids bringing Hockey in any way into disrepute
- Talk to the Children's Officer within the club if they have any problems
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### Young players should never:

- Cheat
- Use violence or physical contact that is not allowed within the rules
- Shout or argue with officials, team mates or opponents
- Harm team members, opponents or their property
- Bully or use bullying tactics to isolate another player or gain advantage
- Take banned substances, alcohol, smoke or engage in sexual behaviour
- Keep secrets, especially if they have caused or could cause harm
- Tell lies about adults / young people
- Spread rumours

- Discriminate against other players on the basis of gender, disability, social class, religion

## Guidelines for Parents

Hockey believes that parents should:

- Be a role model for your child and maintain the highest standards of conduct when interacting with young people, other parents, officials and organisers
- Always behave responsibly and do not seek to unfairly affect the outcome of a game, a player or the opponent
- Never intentionally expose any young participant to embarrassment or disparagement by the use of flippant or sarcastic remarks
- Always recognise the value and importance of the officials and volunteers who provide sporting and recreational opportunities for your child. Do not publicly question their judgment or honesty. Respect Children's Officers, Designated Persons, coaches, umpires, youth organisers, managers and other players.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Teach your child that honest endeavour is as important as winning and do all you can to encourage good sportsmanship.
- Set a good example by applauding good play on both sides. Encourage mutual respect for teammates and opponents.
- Take an interest in your child's sport and support the child's participation in their chosen activity.
- Parents should support all efforts to remove abusive behaviour and bullying behaviour in all its forms. (see bullying policy within these guidelines).

## Parents Code of Conduct

### Parent(s) will:

- respect the rules and procedures set down in Hockey
- respect my child's teammates and leaders as well as players, parents and coaches from opposing teams. Parents will encourage their child to treat other participants, coaches, children's officers, officials, selectors and managers with respect.
- give encouragement and applaud only positive accomplishments whether from my child, his/her teammates, their opponents or the officials.
- respect my child's leader(s) and support his/her efforts
- respect the officials and their authority during sessions and events within the club and under the auspices of IHA.
- never demonstrate threatening or abusive behaviour or use foul language.