



Fair Play in the GHA!

August 9th, 2001



Fair Play in the GHA!

Introduction

In August of 2001 the Board of Directors of District 9 (GHA) of the Ottawa and District Minor Hockey Association approved the Fair Play program for implementation beginning the 2001-2002 hockey season. The Board recognized the need to ensure that our youth are given the opportunity to participate safely and with respect in our national sport. It is understood that the emphasis is on the positive aspects of Fair Play and strives to ensure that these positives remain in the forefront in the decision making process. Having said that, there are times when controversial decisions will need to be made in the name of Fair Play and those decisions however controversial are made in the spirit of safety and respect for all.

Mandate/Philosophy

The mandate/philosophy of *Fair Play in the GHA!* is to encourage, foster and enhance the aspects of **SAFETY and RESPECT**, on and off the ice by all participants involved. Fair Play encourages all players to be as competitive as possible, but within the rules of the game. Fair Play does NOT take away from winning. It has been shown that Fair Play can enhance winning rather than detract from it. The game of hockey not only teaches children the "sport" of hockey but also provides children life long lessons in respect, teamwork, morals and friendship.

5 Principles of Fair Play

- RESPECT THE RULES
- RESPECT THE OPPONENTS
- RESPECT THE OFFICIALS
- HAVE EVERYONE PARTICIPATE
- MAINTAIN SELF CONTROL

Rationale

The *GHA Fair Play* program:

- ❖ outlines the rights and responsibilities to all participants involved in a minor hockey association (player, coach, official and parent)
- ❖ makes all individuals aware that playing minor hockey is a **PRIVILEGE**, not a right
- ❖ provides an association with a visible commitment that promotes the concepts of **SAFETY and RESPECT**
- ❖ outlines a clear set of expectations and guidelines that all participants involved in a minor hockey association can follow.
- ❖ is used to define a positive set of expectations that all minor hockey associations attempt to provide, as recreational programs to all their participants
- ❖ ensures that all participants are aware of the minor hockey association's philosophies and objectives.
- ❖ promotes and develops a positive set of values to coaches, players, parents, and officials in the association. These values can further enhance the many positive aspects of the minor hockey program.
- ❖ develops a comprehensive guide by which the association executive body runs its programs, in addition to existing rules, regulations and objectives.

The Approach

Fair Play in the GHA! requires a cooperative, responsible positive approach encouraging a "buy-in" by players, coaches, officials, parents and associations.

❖ Awareness/Marketing

Awareness at the association level begins with association's buying in and promoting the *Fair Play in the GHA!* approach. Associations recruit coaches who believe in Fair Play and assist with the marketing of the program by including the codes of conduct within their association policies. All participants sign codes of conduct; players, coaches, parents and officials must agree to abide by the rules of Fair Play.

Signs are posted in all *GHA* arenas promoting the 5 principles of Fair Play and are mentioned often in association's newsletters and websites

❖ Checking-In

The awards and recognition program meets the needs of positive reinforcement and encourages all to be "honest". Teams are asked to rate their team and their efforts during home games and their ability to follow the Fair Play program.

❖ Awards

Teams with Fair Play winning attitudes are encouraged to enter their Fair Play game sheets into the draw to become the *GHA's Fair Play Team(s) of the Month*.

❖ **Disciplinary Hearings**

Teams who are finding themselves unable to abide by the Fair Play Codes of conduct may come before a disciplinary hearing of the GHA. The disciplinary team will discuss the Fair Play program with the individual/team and may at their discretion take disciplinary action, as they deem fit.

NOTE: The following consequences have been approved by the GHA.

Motion: Failure to abide by the GHA's Code of Conduct will be addressed by each Association and suspensions could be as follows:

-1st offense - up to 3 games and 1 week

-2nd offense - up to 5 games and 2 weeks

-3rd offense - suspended from all hockey activity until a discipline hearing held by the GHA Board.

Any participants suspended with any of these consequences will have the right to appeal within the existing appeal process in the GHA and individual Associations.

Codes of Conduct (Appendix A, B, C & D)

Codes of conduct are developed to clarify rights, responsibilities and privileges of players, parents, coaches and officials in an association. Each code/guideline provides a consistent rule base focused upon the goals/mandate and principles of *Fair Play in the GHA!* Coaches are to be aware that the Code/Guidelines may be referred to throughout the season to assist in resolving some team problems. Participants must sign their Code/Guideline to ensure understanding of the *Fair Play* program and the GHA rules. The GHA provides the *Fair Play* principles and philosophy. Coaches provide specific team requirements. In player selection, "ability and attitude" are to be criteria. All participants have to be made aware of these TWO criteria prior to selections. Players exhibiting poor sportsmanship, lack of honesty, and lack of safety and respect for others, should be made aware that attitudes such as these are not tolerated in *Fair Play in the GHA!*

Signed codes are kept on file with each particular association/organization and are forwarded to the GHA's disciplinary team upon request.

Referee Assessment Sheets (Appendix E)

Provides input from the officials about the game the questions deal with coaches, players and spectator behaviour during a game. The officials following each game fill out this assessment form. The GHA and the RIC will determine how to administer this portion of the program.

Incident Report Forms (Appendix F)

Incident reports forms allow all participants with the Gloucester Hockey Association to report unacceptable behaviour to the GHA Disciplinary Team. These forms are available through each local association and are distributed to team managers at the start of the season. These forms are to be filled out and sent to the GHA disciplinary chair within an expedient period of time.

"Fair Play Winning Attitude" Game Sheets (Appendix G)

Game sheets are completed by one parent on the home team following a home game and returned to the GHA. The GHA will use these sheets to determine Fair Play Team Winners. The GHA Board of Directors will determine the prize structure on an annual basis.

Fair Play Tournaments

GHA tournaments should follow the rules of *Fair Play in the GHA!* Teams who do not follow the five principles of Fair Play are automatically disqualified. Fair Play rules and guidelines are pre-circulated in the tournament package information and teams must agree to follow the Fair Play rules in order to participate in the tournament. Written agreement is obtained prior to confirmation of tournament acceptance.



Gloucester Hockey Association

PARENTS - FAIR PLAY PLEDGE

It is the intention of this pledge to promote fair play and respect for all participants within the Association. All parents must sign this pledge before being allowed to participate in hockey and must continue to observe the principles of Fair Play.

FAIR PLAY CODE

FOR PARENTS

1. I will not force my child to participate in hockey.
2. I will remember that my child plays hockey for his or her enjoyment, not mine.
3. I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflict 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 the game.
5. I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and hard.
6. I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a game.
7. I will remember that children learn by example. I will applaud good plays and performances by both my child's team and their opponents.
8. I will never question the official's judgment or honesty in public. I recognize officials are being developed in the same manner as players.
9. I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's hockey games.
10. I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteers who give their time to hockey for my child.

I agree to abide by the principles of the FAIR PLAY CODE as set by the Canadian Hockey Association and supported by the Gloucester Hockey Association.

I also agree to abide by the rules, regulations and decisions as set for the Gloucester Hockey Association.

PRINT NAME _____ **DATE** _____

SIGNATURES:

PARENT _____ **PARENT** _____

TEAM _____



Gloucester Hockey Association

FAIR PLAY PLEDGE

It is the intention of this pledge to promote fair play and respect for all participants within the Gloucester Hockey Association. All players must sign this pledge stating that they will observe the principles of the Fair Play Code before being allowed to participate in hockey.

FAIR PLAY CODE

FOR PLAYERS

1. I will play hockey because I want to, not because others or coaches want me to.
2. I will play by the rules of hockey and in the spirit of the Game.
3. I will control my temper - fighting or "mouthing-off" can spoil the activity of everyone.
4. I will respect my opponents.
5. I will do my best to be a true team player.
6. I will remember that winning isn't everything - that having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.
7. I will acknowledge all good plays and 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.

I agree to abide by the principles of the FAIR PLAY CODE as set by the Canadian Hockey Association and supported by the Gloucester Hockey Association.

I also agree to abide by the rules, regulations and decisions as set by the Gloucester Hockey Association.

PRINT
NAME _____ **DATE** _____

SIGNATURE:

PLAYER _____ **TEAM NAME** _____



Gloucester Hockey Association

COACHES - FAIR PLAY PLEDGE

It is the intention of this pledge to promote fair play and respect for all participants within the Gloucester Hockey Association. All coaches must sign this pledge before being allowed to participate in hockey and must continue to observe the principles of Fair Play.

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, opponents and teammates.
3. I will ensure *all* athletes receive equal instruction, discipline, support and appropriate, fair 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 ability.
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.

I agree to abide by the principles of the FAIR PLAY CODE as set by the Canadian Hockey Association and supported by the Gloucester Hockey Association.

I also agree to abide by the rules, regulations and decisions as set by the Gloucester Hockey Association.

PRINT:

NAME _____ **DATE** _____

SIGNATURE:

COACH _____ **TEAM NAME** _____



Gloucester Hockey Association

OFFICIALS - FAIR PLAY PLEDGE

It is the intention of this pledge to promote fair play and respect and respect all participants within the Gloucester Hockey Association. All officials must sign this pledge before being allowed to participate in hockey and must continue to observe the principles of Fair Play.

FAIR PLAY CODE

FOR OFFICIALS

1. I will make sure that every player has a reasonable opportunity to perform to the best of his or her ability, within the rules.
2. I will avoid or remedy any situation that threatens the safety of the players.
3. I will maintain a healthy atmosphere and environment for competition.
4. I will not permit the intimidation of any player either by word or action. I will not tolerate unacceptable conduct towards myself, other officials, players, coaches or spectators,
5. I will be consistent and objective in calling all infractions, regardless of my personal feelings towards a team or individual player.
6. I will handle all conflicts firmly but with dignity.
7. I will accept my role as teacher and role model for fair play, especially with young participants.
8. I will be open to discussion and contact with players 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 to upgrade my officiating skills.
11. I will work in co-operation with coaches for the benefit of the game.

I agree to abide by the principles of the FAIR PLAY CODE as set forth by the Canadian Hockey Association and supported by the Gloucester Hockey Association.

I also agree to abide by the rules, regulations and decisions as set forth by the Gloucester Hockey Association.

PRINT
NAME _____ **DATE** _____

SIGNATURE OFFICIAL: _____



REFEREE ASSESSMENT QUESTIONNAIRE.

To the Referee: Please take a minute to fill out this questionnaire. Feel free to add comments below.

DATE: _____ ARENA: _____

HOME TEAM: _____ VISITORS: _____

Question	Home		Away	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
1) Did the coach have control of his team?				
2) Did the players and coaches use acceptable language?				
3) Did the coach and players show respect towards officials and/or other team?				
4) Did fans show respect towards officials and/or other team?				
5) Did the coaches and players accept decisions of the officials?				
6) Did players, coaches, fans accept outcome of game appropriately?				

7) How would you, as an official rate this game?

EXCELLENT ____ GOOD ____ FAIR ____

8) We encourage additional official's comments about the game



INCIDENT REPORT FORM

Submit completed form to:
President of the Gloucester Hockey Association
(Address)
(Ph Number)
(Fax)

This form is to be utilized by anyone in the Gloucester Hockey Association to report an incident of unacceptable behaviour. An individual is considered to be displaying unacceptable behavior if they are verbally or physically harassing and/or abusing a game participant (player, coach, spectator, or official).

DATE & TIME OF INCIDENT _____

NAME OF OFFENDING INDIVIDUAL _____

ASSOCIATED WITH (TEAM NAME) _____

NAME (S) OF ADDITIONAL WITNESSES:

1) _____ Tel _____

2) _____ Tel _____

3) _____ Tel _____

On a separate attachment, please attach a clear description of the unacceptable behaviour witnessed. Please use black ink or type the report. Reports that are not legible will not be reviewed.

You can expect an official to investigate your report. Unfortunately a written response to all reports is not possible, as our volunteers do not have the resources to do so. We do however hope to be able to contact complainants at some point during or after the investigation. Resolution typically takes 2 to 4 weeks from receipt.

Please summarize your expectation of the outcome resulting from your report:

If additional space is required, please use reverse side or attach separately.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ City/Town: _____

PHONE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____



Appendix G

FAIR PLAY TEAM ASSESSMENT SHEET.

Check each appropriate box based on your own team. Please feel free to add comments below. Please hand in sheet to your team's coach/manager following the game.

TEAM: _____ DATE: _____

ARENA: _____ OPPONENTS: _____

Evaluated by: _____

1) PLAYER CONDUCT ON ICE	None	Some	Often
Unnecessary penalties			
Displays of poor attitude with officials			
Displays of poor attitude with opposition			
Hot-dogging after goal			
Scorers acknowledge line mates			
After goal scored upon, goalie encouraged			
Positive attitude amongst players			
Use of bad language by players			
Inappropriate body language			
Acceptance of referees decisions			
2) PLAYER BEHAVIOR OFF ICE	Good	Average	Poor
Dressing rooms left clean			
Appropriate deportment in rink			
Use of foul language in rink			
Use of loud abusive language in dressing room			
Good deportment entering and leaving rink			
3) COACHES	Good	Average	Poor
Amount of time spent in dressing room			
Shows respect for officials			
Positive attitude towards all players			
Fair ice time for all players			
Positive role model for all players			
Conduct in rink and on bench			
4) PARENTS:	Good	Average	Poor
Attitude towards players			
Attitude towards opposing team players			
Attitude towards opposing team parents			
Demonstrate Fair Play principles			

5) COMMENTS:

