



CODE of CONDUCT

WPHU Code of Conduct

Western Province Hockey Union Code of Conduct

1. Under the Western Province Hockey Union (WPHU) Constitution and Bye-Laws, the WPHU holds full jurisdiction and authority over all matters concerning hockey and the effective playing of hockey. As such, any individual(s) affiliated with Affiliate Members (Clubs) and Associate Members involved in any hockey activity agree to comply with the WPHU Constitution, Bye-Laws, League Rules, Rules of Hockey, and the directives of this Code of Conduct.
2. This Code of Conduct applies to all players, coaches, officials and Affiliate Members (Clubs) and Associate Members of the WPHU.
 - a. The Code of Conduct is established to raise awareness of the responsibility for promoting the game of hockey among all participants, Affiliate Members (Clubs) and Associate Members of the WPHU.
 - b. All participants, Affiliate Members (Clubs) and Associate Members of the WPHU are responsible for their own behaviour and conduct, and as such, are accountable. They must abide by the WPHU Constitution, Bye-Laws, League Rules, Rules of Hockey, and the directives of the Code of Conduct as outlined below.
 - c. It is the responsibility of the President/Chairperson of the Affiliate Members (Clubs) and Associate Members to inform their members of these requirements. The President/Chairperson of the Affiliate Members (Clubs) and Associate Members shall share responsibility with their members should any breaches of the WPHU Constitution, Bye-Laws, League Rules, Rules of Hockey, and the directives of the Code of Conduct, as outlined in paragraph (b) above, occur.
 - d. Complaints regarding misconduct or breaches of the WPHU Constitution, Bye-Laws, League Rules, Rules of Hockey, and the directives of the Code of Conduct, as mentioned in paragraph (b) above, shall initially be addressed by the President/Chairperson of the Affiliate Members (Clubs) and Associate Members. If necessary, the matter may be referred to the WPHU Executive Committee, which may in turn involve the WPHU Disciplinary Committee.
3. All participants, Affiliate Members (Clubs) and Associate Members are therefore subject to the jurisdiction of the WPHU. The WPHU is committed to maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct for all individuals under its jurisdiction. In pursuit of these standards, all participants, Affiliate Members (Clubs) and Associate Members shall adhere to the following rules and directives:
 - a. Participants must always conduct themselves fairly and properly on the field of play, and in any area of hockey venues where matches or practices take place. No individual may act in a manner or commit any act or omission that may harm the interests of hockey or bring the game into disrepute.
 - b. The following behaviours shall be regarded as improper, unfair, and unacceptable:
 - i. Verbal or physical abuse or hostility towards any other participant, person, or member of the public.

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- ii. Disputing, protesting, reacting provocatively, or approaching an umpire or official aggressively in response to any decision made.
 - iii. Pretending to be injured or overreacting to a perceived infringement or decision.
 - iv. Using rude, offensive, or abusive language or hand signals.
 - v. Abusing hockey equipment or clothing, or damaging venue equipment or fixtures and fittings.
4. Public statements must be fair, reasonable, and must not involve personal attacks on any player, umpire, appointed official, or administrator. No member of an Affiliate Member (Club) or Associate Member may make any public statement on behalf of the WPHU without the prior approval of the Executive Committee (or appointed nominee).
5. The WPHU acknowledges that fair and reasonable commentary on the game is in the best interest of all involved. However, it is essential that such comments and criticisms are constructive in nature, particularly in order to maintain positive relations between players, umpires, and officials. Any public statement made by the following individuals is also subject to the jurisdiction of the WPHU:
 - a. WPHU Executive Committee Member
 - b. Affiliate Member (Club) Executive Committee Member or Associate Member Executive Committee Member
 - c. Member of a Club
 - d. Member of an Associate Member
6. The WPHU defines a "public statement" as any statement, in whole or in part, made available to the public. This includes statements made on social media platforms, WhatsApp groups, newspapers, magazines, periodicals, or any other electronic means such as the internet or email. Furthermore, statements made through television, radio, or any other medium are also considered public statements, regardless of the circumstances in which they were made.
7. No player, coaching staff, management team, support staff, or Club member who is currently serving an active sanction, punishment, or suspension shall be permitted to participate in league matches.