

TO THE PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN PLAYING HOCKEY WITH THE HAREWOOD HOCKEY CLUB - Code of Conduct

The 2015 Hockey season is about to get under way following the organisation of teams and coaches, who are volunteering their time to ensure your children can participate. To ensure the smooth operation of games and practices, and the safety and supervision of your children, there are some important expectations we need you to be aware of:

1. Your children's participation in hockey should be a positive experience. Your children's coaches will be working hard to ensure this, but your positive support and encouragement is essential. Please ensure the *Positive Parent Guidelines* on the accompanying page are followed.
2. Your children must have suitable hockey footwear, mouth guard, and shin pads for practices and for games otherwise they will not be able to participate.
3. Your children's coaches are volunteers who will take all due care and have accepted a responsibility for motivating your children, running practices to build skills and confidence and for being there on game day to make decisions in the best interests of the teams. These include decisions regarding team selection, substitutions, injury-affected players, and team tactics. Therefore the supervision of your children is a joint responsibility between you and your children's coaches. Your coaches will hold a list of contact telephone numbers for parents that they will use when appropriate (emergency or behavioural) and they will also arrange First Aid when required.
4. Your children are expected to behave appropriately and follow the instructions of their coaches while at practice and at games.
5. When at all hockey venues, it is a requirement both parents and children adhere to the rules and regulations implemented by CCC, CHA or the school you are visiting. All venues are non-smoking, no dogs are permitted, and no sitting on turf surround fences is permitted for your safety. No stiletto heels on artificial surfaces and gymnasiums please.
6. Umpires have the right to exit spectators from the ground and send off players in the event of abusive behavior.



Positive Parent Guidelines

Good sport is about positive attitude. You can set the right tone and help to make your child's involvement in sport successful. Ensure that you:

- Encourage your child, and other people's children, in their efforts in sport
- Insist that your child plays within the rules and plays fairly
- Respect your child's efforts the same regardless of whether s/he has won or lost
- Display self-control on the sideline. Always be positive. Do not ridicule players or shout at them in a negative fashion.
- Watch your child play and let him/her enjoy the game
- Show your appreciation to people who volunteer their time so that your child can play
- Remember your child plays sport for his/her reasons, not yours.
- Be a positive role-model for your child
- Never put undue pressure on your child to perform
- Make an effort to understand the rules of the game
- Try to avoid sideline coaching, the coaches know what they are doing and this can just lead to confusion for your child if you are instructing them the complete opposite of the coach. The game has changed tremendously from the days we as parents may have played in.
- Do not challenge the coach whilst games are being played. They cannot concentrate on the needs of the players during games and answer questions from parents. If you have questions please raise them with the manager or coach at the conclusion of the game in an appropriate manner. Dependant on the nature of the issue a 30 minute cooling off period after the game may be appropriate before you approach the coach.
- Promote competition as an important aspect of participation in sport while ensuring that your child accepts winning and losing gracefully.
- Give it heaps and don't get ugly!

We look forward to your children having a fantastic season with their teams and trust you will enjoy watching them play as much as they enjoy playing.