

Ontario Soccer Code of Conduct

These sections are taken from the Ontario Soccer Code of Conduct:

Responsibilities

Individuals have a responsibility to:

- a) Maintain and enhance the dignity and self-esteem of Individuals and other persons by:
 - i. Demonstrating respect to individuals regardless of body type, physical characteristics, athletic ability, race or perceived race, nationality, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, class, marital status, family status, religion, political belief, physical or mental disability, economic status or source of income
 - ii. Focusing comments, criticism or disciplinary actions appropriately
 - iii. Demonstrating the spirit of sportsmanship, sport leadership, and ethical conduct
 - iv. Acting, when appropriate, to correct or prevent practices that are unjustly discriminatory
 - v. Treating individuals fairly and reasonably
 - vi. Adhering to the Organization's rules and policies and the spirit of those rules and policies
- b) Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes harassment, where harassment is defined as comment or conduct directed towards an individual or group, which is offensive, abusive, racist, sexist, degrading, or malicious.

Types of behaviour that constitute harassment include, but are not limited to:

- i. Written or verbal abuse, threats, or outbursts
- ii. The display of visual material which is offensive or which a reasonable person ought to know is offensive in the circumstances
- iii. Racial harassment, which is racial slurs, jokes, name calling, or insulting behaviour or terminology that reinforces stereotypes or discounts abilities because of racial or ethnic origin
- iv. Unwelcome remarks, jokes, comments, innuendo, or taunts
- v. Leering or other suggestive or obscene gestures
- vi. Condescending or patronizing behaviour, which is intended to undermine self-esteem, diminish performance or adversely affect working conditions

vii. Practical jokes which cause awkwardness or embarrassment, endanger a person's safety, or negatively affect performance

viii. Hazing

ix. Retaliation or threats of retaliation against an individual who reports harassment to the Organization

x. Bullying

xi. Offensive or intimidating communications, including social media

xii. Inappropriate use of social media

xiii. Displaying or circulating offensive pictures, photographs or materials in printed or electronic form

xiv. Psychological abuse

xv. Discrimination

xvi. Words or actions which are known or should reasonably be known to be offensive, embarrassing, humiliating, demeaning or intimidating

xvii. Behaviours such as those described above that are not directed towards a specific individual or group but have the same effect of creating a negative or hostile environment

xviii. Retaliation or threats of retaliation against a person who reports harassment

c) Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes violence, where violence is defined as the exercise of physical force, that causes or could cause physical injury; an attempt to exercise physical force that could cause physical injury; or a statement or behaviour that it is reasonable to interpret as a threat to exercise physical force.

Types of behaviour that are applicable to this section include, but are not limited to:

i. Verbal threats to attack

ii. Sending to or leaving threatening notes or emails

iii. Making threatening physical gestures

iv. Wielding a weapon

v. Hitting, pinching or unwanted touching which is not accidental

vi. Throwing an object

vii. Blocking normal movement or physical interference, with or without the use of equipment

viii. Any attempt to engage in the type of conduct outlined above

d) Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes sexual harassment, where sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual comments and sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, or conduct of a sexual nature. Types of behaviour that constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

i. Sexist jokes

ii. Sexual violence

iii. Display of sexually offensive material

iv. Sexually degrading words used to describe a person

v. Inquiries or comments about a person's sex life

vi. Unwelcome sexual flirtations, advances, requests, invitations or propositions

vii. Inappropriate sexual touching, advances, suggestions or requests

viii. Persistent unwanted physical contact including, but not limited to, touching, petting, pinching, or kissing

ix. Physical or sexual assault

e) Abstain from the use of illegal drugs, or illegal or non-prescribed performance-enhancing drugs or methods.

f) Refrain from the use of power or authority in an attempt to coerce another person to engage in inappropriate or unwanted activities

g) While acting in the capacity as either a coach or volunteer responsible for supervising activities and/or athletes, refrain from consuming recreational drugs, intoxicants or alcohol.

h) Respect the property of others and not willfully cause damage

i) Adhere to all federal, provincial, municipal and host country laws

j) Comply, at all times, with the Organization's By-laws, policies, procedures, and rules and regulations, as adopted and amended from time to time

k) Treat all other Individuals with respect l) Report to the Organization any ongoing criminal investigation, conviction, or existing bail conditions involving yourself, including, but not limited to, those for violence, child pornography, or possession, use, or sale of any illegal substance

Athletes (with the assistance of their caregivers when necessary)

In addition to the section , athletes will have additional responsibilities to:

- a) Report any medical problems in a timely fashion, when such problems may limit their ability to travel, practice, or compete
- b) Participate and appear on-time and be prepared to participate to their best abilities in all competitions, practices, training sessions, tryouts, tournaments, and events
- c) Properly represent themselves and not attempt to participate in a competition for which they are not eligible by reason of age, classification, or other reason
- d) Adhere to the Organization's rules and requirements regarding clothing and equipment
- e) Never ridicule a participant for a poor performance or practice
- f) Act in a sportsmanlike manner and not display appearances of violence, foul language, or gestures to other players, officials, coaches, or spectators
- g) Dress in a manner representative of the Organization, focusing on neatness, cleanliness, and discretion
- h) Act in accordance with the Organization's policies and procedures and, when applicable, additional rules as outlined by coaches or managers

Parents/Guardians and Spectators

In addition to the first section above, parents/guardians and spectators at events will:

- a) Encourage athletes to compete within the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence
- b) Condemn the use of violence in any form
- c) Never ridicule a participant for making a mistake during a performance or practice
- d) Provide positive comments that motivate and encourage participants' continued effort
- e) Respect the decisions and judgments of officials, and encourage athletes to do the same
- f) Never question an official's or staff member's judgment or honesty
- g) Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse, coercion, intimidation, and sarcasm
- h) Respect and show appreciation to all competitors, and to the coaches, officials and other volunteers
- i) Not harass competitors, coaches, officials, parents/guardians, or other spectators