

Good Shepherd Hockey

Zero Tolerance Policy

The Good Shepherd Hockey Program has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy to prevent verbal abuse and potential abuse directed towards any player, referee, official, or coach during all scheduled games, practices, scrimmages, etc. This policy applies to all coaches, players, spectators and other supporters and is effective immediately.

Abusive and obscene language, violent conduct, fighting and other behavior (including, but limited to sarcasm, taunting, etc.) deemed detrimental to the game will not be tolerated. The ultimate responsibility for the actions of players, parents, and any other spectators resides with the coaches on the sideline. It is the responsibility of the coaches to provide referee support and spectator control, and it is the responsibility of the Good Shepherd Hockey Referee to provide instructions to their coaches on how to implement sportsmanlike and appropriate behavior.

This policy applies before, during, and after the game at the hockey field and its immediate surrounding areas.

Parents and Spectators:

No parent or spectator shall persistently address the referee at any time.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Parents and spectators shall not dispute calls during or after the game.
- b. Parents and spectators shall not make remarks to the referee(s) or advise the referee(s) to watch certain players or attend to rough play.
- c. Parents and spectators shall never yell at the referee(s), including criticism, sarcasm, harassment, intimidation or feedback of any kind before, during or after the game.
- d. Parents and spectators shall never enter the field of play unless specifically directed to do so by the game official(s).
- e. Parents and spectators are prohibited from bringing any kind of noise makers, horns, or bells to the game.
- f. The referee may eject the offending parent or spectator. Once ejected, the individual will be required to leave the field immediately.
- g. The referee should end the game if the parent or spectator does not leave the field or any immediate adjoining area after he/she has been instructed to do so.

Additionally, parents and spectators shall not make derogatory comments to players, spectators or coaches of either team.

Players:

The conduct of the players is governed by the Laws of the Game as stated by Good Shepherd Hockey rules. The Laws themselves describe penalties associated with violating the Laws of the Game. Additional penalties for players who engage in misconduct may be established by Good Shepherd Hockey.

Coaches & Assistant Coaches

It is the responsibility of all coaches to maintain the highest standards of conduct for themselves, their players, and supporters in all games. Failure to do so undermines the referee's authority and the integrity of the game resulting in a hostile environment for players, the referee(s), coaches, assistant coaches, trainers and parent/spectators.

As role models for all of the participants and spectators, coaches participating in the Good Shepherd Hockey League are expected to be supportive of, and to acknowledge the effort, good play, and sportsmanship on the part of ALL players from either team in a game. By example, coaches and assistant coaches are expected to show that, even though, they are competing in a game, they have respect for their opponent, referees, and spectators at all times.

Good Shepherd Hockey will not tolerate negative behavior exhibited either by demonstrative actions and gestures, or by ill-intentioned remarks, including those addressed toward the referees or members of an opposing team. Coaches exhibiting hostile, negative, sarcastic or otherwise ill-intended behavior toward referees, opposing players or coaches will be subject to disciplinary action.

Coaches shall not offer dissent to any call made by the referee(s) at any time.

Coaches are not to address the Referee(s) during the game except to:

- a. Respond to a referee who has initiated a conversation.
- b. Point out emergency safety issues

Absolutely no sarcasm, harassment, or intimidation is allowed.

NOTE: It is STRONGLY recommended that coaches or other team members do not engage in any conversation with the referee(s) once the game has concluded.

Penalties (Coaches or Assistant Coaches)

In the opinion of the referee, depending on the severity of the offense, the referee may take any of the following actions:

- a. The referee may issue a verbal warning to the offending coach or assistant coach.
- b. The referee may eject the offending coach or assistant coach. Once ejected, the individual will be required to leave the field immediately.
- c. The referee should end the game, if the coach or assistant coach does not leave the field or any immediate adjoining area after having been instructed to do so.

Print Child's Name

Parent Signature

Date