



SOUTHERN GAUTENG HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

CODE OF CONDUCT

MAY 2022

1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1 SGHA's Code of Conduct is applicable to all forms of hockey (events) administered by SGHA and also when players or officials represent SGHA at regional or national hockey tournaments.
- 1.2 The Code of Conduct aims to promote the highest standard of behaviour and conduct in the administration, coaching, playing, officiating and supporting of hockey.
- 1.3 A hockey participant may be a player, coach, medical officer, umpire or a supporter. Team, match, club or SGHA officials are also hockey participants.
- 1.4 All participants are automatically bound by and required to comply with all of the provisions of the Code of Conduct. Accordingly, such participant shall be deemed to have agreed that it is their personal responsibility to familiarise themselves with all relevant requirements of the Code of Conduct, including what conduct constitutes an offence under the Code of Conduct.
- 1.5 Each club is responsible for informing and educating their participants about the Code of Conduct. Clubs shall share liability with participants should breaches of the Code of Conduct occur.

2. PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 2.1 All players must be registered with one club at any time.
- 2.2 Players wishing to move from one club to another are required to obtain a clearance certificate from the club they wish to leave and to provide that clearance certificate to the club that they are joining.

3. PARTICIPANT CONDUCT OFFENCES

- 3.1 Participants shall conduct themselves fairly, properly and in an acceptable manner on and off the field of play and when participating in any hockey related event.
- 3.2 Participants shall not act (or fail to act) in any way which may harm the interests and reputation of SGHA or bring our game into disrepute.
- 3.3 The conduct described below, if committed by a participant at any event shall have committed an offence under this code and will be sanctioned during a match by match officials or after a match, if warranted by SGHA officials.
- 3.4 Match sanctions range from receiving a verbal warning to red cards, detailed in the league rules.

- 3.5 Post match sanctions range from an official reprimand to a minimum of 1 to 5 match or more suspensions in response to specific offences, as detailed in the annexure attached taken from FIH's General Tournament Regulations for Outdoor Competitions.
- 3.6 For participant awareness and guidance, offences on which match and SGHA officials will take action include:
- 3.6.1 Using **language** or gesture(s) that is obscene, offensive or of an insulting nature. This includes excessively audible or repetitious swearing or obscene gestures, spitting towards a participant including frustration at one's own poor play or misfortune.
 - 3.6.2 Showing **dissent** at a match official's decision. Dissent includes disputing, protesting, arguing or reacting in a provocative or disapproving manner.
 - 3.6.3 **Charging** or advancing aggressively towards a participant. Note that intimidation or threat of assault or physical assault (without injury) of a participant or other 3rd persons warrants harsher sanctions. Any physical assault of any participant, including a spectator warrants a minimum of a 5 match suspension.
 - 3.6.4 **Excessive appealing** of an official's decision, including crowding of an official.
 - 3.6.5 **Throwing a stick or ball** (or any other object or item of equipment) at or near another participant or any other person in an inappropriate or dangerous manner.
 - 3.6.6 Deliberate, reckless or careless **physical contact** between players in the course of play including inter alia, carelessly pushing, walking or running into another participant.
 - 3.6.7 **Feigning injury** or overreacting to an alleged physical contact from another player.
 - 3.6.8 **Abuse of hockey equipment** or clothing, venue equipment or fixtures and fittings both on and off the field.
 - 3.6.9 **Public criticism** of, or inappropriate public comment in relation to an incident occurring at an event or any participant or team participating in an event, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.
 - 3.6.10 Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that is either contrary to the **spirit of the game**, or brings the game into disrepute.

4. BETTING

- 4.1 Participants shall not participate in any form of betting or gaming activities related to the event in which they are participants.
- 4.2 Any acts that appear to, or are intended to influence any participant or which may affect any decision or the outcome of any match (e.g. an inducement in the form of money or gift) are unacceptable.

5. ANTI-DOPING

- 4.1 The FIH Anti-Doping regulations are established to promote fair and equitable play. They protect a participant's fundamental right to participate in doping-free sport and thus to promote health, fairness and equality among participants.
- 4.2 All participants are personally and individually responsible for compliance with FIH's Anti-Doping regulations.
- 4.3 Each player and team staff member shall comply with the FIH Anti-Doping Regulations and they shall not direct any verbal or physical abuse or hostility towards Doping

Control Test Officials. Any possession of dope-related drugs or drugs on the list of prohibited substances as mentioned in the FIH Anti-Doping Regulations and/or the WADA List of Prohibited Methods and Prohibited Substances, or the commission of any criminal offence relating to drugs, shall be handled in accordance with the FIH Anti-Doping Regulations.

- 4.4 Sanctions for non-compliance may be levied against an individual, their team or their club.
- 4.5 The Executive Committee may provisionally suspend an athlete prior to the opportunity for a full disciplinary hearing based on an “adverse analytical finding”.
- 4.6 When it appears that these anti-doping regulations have been violated in connection with SAHA testing or testing at an event then the case shall be assigned to the SAHA Disciplinary Commission for adjudication.
- 4.7 No player, coaching staff, management team or any support staff who is currently serving any active sanction/punishment for a positive drug test shall be permitted to be involved in any SGHA sanctioned event.
- 4.8 A violation of these anti-doping regulations in connection with an in-competition test automatically leads to disqualification of the individual athlete with all resulting consequences, including forfeiture of all trophies and medals received in that competition.

Annexure A: SPECIFIC OFFENCES

Level 1 Offence

The penalty shall be an official reprimand or a suspension of the individual for a minimum of 1 match with or without an official reprimand.

- a. Using language or gesture(s) that is obscene, offensive or of an insulting nature.

Note: This includes: (i) excessively audible or repetitious swearing; and (ii) obscene gestures which are not directed at another person, such as swearing in frustration at one's own poor play or misfortune.

- b. Showing dissent at an umpire's decision.

Note: Dissent will include disputing / protesting, reacting in a provocative or disapproving manner in an inappropriate way towards any decision made by an umpire or other official. This may include arguing or entering into a prolonged discussion with an umpire or a Technical official about the decision.

- c. Charging or advancing towards an umpire or technical official in an aggressive manner during a SGHA event.

- d. Excessive appealing of an umpire's or technical official's decision, or crowding an umpire or technical official.

Note: Excessive appealing shall include repeated appealing of the same decision / appeal.

- e. Throwing a stick or ball (or any other object or item of equipment) at or near another participant or any other person in an inappropriate and / or dangerous manner.

- f. Deliberate, reckless or careless physical contact between players in the course of play.

Note: Without limitation, participants will breach this article if they deliberately, recklessly or carelessly push, walk or run into another participant.

- g. Feigning injury and / or overreacting to alleged physical contact from another player.

Note: Without limitation, participants will breach this article if they deliberately fake an injury in order to penalise another participant against whom it is alleged committed a foul against him / her.

- h. Abuse of hockey equipment or clothing, venue equipment or fixtures and fittings.

Note: This includes any action(s) outside the course of normal hockey actions, such as hitting or kicking the goal posts and any action(s) which intentionally or negligently results in damage to the team benches, advertising boards, dressing room doors, mirrors, windows and other fixtures and fittings.

- i. Breach of SGHA player uniform regulations.

- j. Public criticism of, or inappropriate public comment in relation to an incident occurring in a match or any participant or team participating in any SGHA event, generally, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.

- k. Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that either is contrary to the spirit of the game or brings the game into disrepute.

Note: This clause is intended to be a 'catch-all' provision to cover any type of conduct of a minor nature that is not, and because of its nature cannot be, adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the *Code of Conduct*.

- l. Spitting towards another participant.

Note: Without limitation, participants will breach this article if they deliberately, recklessly or carelessly spit towards another participant.

Level 2 Offence

The penalty shall be a suspension of the individual for a minimum of 2 matches.

- a. Using language or gesture(s) that is seriously obscene, seriously offensive or have a seriously insulting nature to another participant or any other third person.

Note: It is acknowledged that there will be verbal exchanges between players in the course of play. Rather than seeking to eliminate these exchanges entirely, umpires or technical officials will be required to report such conduct that falls below an acceptable standard.

- b. Serious public criticism of, or inappropriate public comment in relation to an incident occurring in an SGHA event or any participant or team participating in any SGHA match, generally, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.
- c. Any attempt to manipulate any SGHA match for inappropriate strategic or tactical reasons or for betting purposes.
- d. Intimidation of an umpire or other third person whether by language or conduct (including gestures) during a match.

Note: Includes appealing in an aggressive or threatening manner.

- e. Threat of assault or physical assault (without injury) on a participant or any other third person.
- f. Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that is either contrary to the spirit of the game or brings the game into disrepute

Note: The above clause is intended to be a 'catch-all' provision to cover any type of conduct of a serious nature that is not, and because of its nature cannot be, adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the *Code of Conduct*.

Level 3 Offence

The penalty shall be a suspension of the individual for a minimum of 5 matches.

- a. Threat of assault or physical assault (without injury) on an umpire or technical official.
- b. Physical assault of another participant or any other person (including a spectator).
- c. Any act of violence on or off the field of play during an SGHA event.
- d. Where the facts of the alleged incident are not adequately or clearly covered by any of the above offences, conduct that is either contrary to the spirit of the game, or brings the game into disrepute.

Note: The above clause is intended to be a 'catch-all' provision to cover any type of conduct of a very serious nature that is not, and because of its nature cannot be, adequately covered by the specific offences set out elsewhere in the *Code of Conduct*.