

SIMSBURY SPARKS YOUTH FIELD HOCKEY Code of Conduct

Players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators are to conduct themselves in a manner that "Honors the Game" of field hockey and demonstrates respect to other players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators. In becoming a member of the field hockey community an individual assumes certain obligations and responsibilities to the game of field hockey and its participants. The essential elements in this "Code of Conduct" are HONESTY and INTEGRITY. Those who conduct themselves in a manner that reflects these elements will bring credit to the sport of field hockey, themselves, their team and their organization. It is only through such conduct that our sport can continue to earn and maintain a positive image and make its full contribution to amateur sports in the United States and around the world. The following essential elements of the "Code of Conduct" must be followed:

- Sportsmanship and teaching the concepts of fair play are essential to the game and must be taught at all levels and developed both at home and on the field during practices and games.
- The value of good sportsmanship, the concepts of fair play, and the skills of the game should always be placed above winning.
- The safety and welfare of the players are of primary importance.
- Coaches must always be aware of the tremendous influence they have on their players. They are to strive to be positive role models in dealing with young people as well as adults.
- Coaches should always demonstrate positive behaviors and reinforce them to players, parents, officials and spectators. Players should be specifically encouraged and positively reinforced by coaches to demonstrate respect for teammates, opponents, officials and spectators.
- Players should always demonstrate positive behavior and respect toward teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, parents and spectators.
- Coaches, players, parents and spectators are expected to demonstrate the utmost respect for officials and to reinforce that respect to players/teammates. Coaches are also expected to educate their players as to the important role of field hockey officials and reinforce the ideal of respect for the official to players/teammates.
- Grievances or misunderstandings between coaches, officials or any other parties involved with the sport should be communicated through the proper channels and procedures, never on or about the field of play or otherwise in view of spectators or participants.
- Officials are professionals and are therefore expected to conduct themselves as such in a manner that demonstrates total impartiality, courtesy and respect and fairness to all parties.
- Spectators involved with the game must never permit anyone to openly or maliciously criticize, badger, harass or threaten an official, coach, player or opponent.
- Coaches must be able to demonstrate a solid knowledge of the rules of field hockey, and should adhere to the rules in both the letter and the spirit of the game.
- Coaches should provide a basic knowledge of the rules to both players and spectators within his/her program. Attempts to manipulate rules in an effort to take unfair advantage of an opponent, or to teach deliberate unsportsmanlike conduct, is considered unacceptable conduct.
- Eligibility requirements, at all levels of the game, must be followed. Rules and requirements such as age, previous levels of participation, team transfer, etc., have been established to encourage and maximize participation, fair play and to promote safety.
- All players are expected to have the appropriate gear for all practices and games.
- All players are expected to be on time to practices, this means being in full equipment and ready to warm up at practice start time.
- PLAYING TIME POLICY: The Simsbury Youth Field Hockey program believes that youth players need adequate playing time during both practices and games in order to develop as a player and to enjoy the sport. Coaches will do their best to ensure playing time is equitably distributed to all players during games. This equitable division means coaches will take into account the following factors when distributing playing time: Attendance + Effort + Attitude + Respect = Playing Time. The players attending practice, putting forth their best effort, while also respecting their coaches and teammates are those that will have the most success and will receive ample playing time. Players who do not attend every practice, are not on time, do not try their hardest, and do not show respect for coaches, officials, opponents, and teammates may not get as much playing time as other teammates. Please discuss this policy with your child.

I/We hereby agree to abide by this Code of Conduct:

Player Signature

Print Name

Date: _____

Coach Signature

Print Name

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Print Name

Date: _____