

JPH APPENDIX 9

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. PURPOSE, SCOPE AND APPLICATION

- 1.1. Junior Premier Hockey (JPH) is the governing body for the Junior Premier Indoor League (JPIL) and Junior Premier Outdoor League (JPOL). The JPH Code of Conduct is adopted from the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and implemented as part of JPH's continuing efforts to preserve the integrity of the sport of hockey as in-line with their sanctioning by USA Field Hockey (USAFH) which is recognized by the FIH as the governing body for the sport of hockey throughout the USA.
- 1.2. The Code of Conduct aims to promote the highest standard of behavior and conduct in the administration, coaching and playing of hockey and is an effective means to deter any Participant from conducting themselves improperly both on and off the field-of-play or in a manner that is contrary to the spirit of hockey.
- 1.3. All Participants are automatically bound by and required to comply with all of the provisions of the Code of Conduct. Accordingly, by their participation in a Match or a JPH Event, such Participant shall be deemed to have agreed that it is their personal responsibility to familiarize themselves with all of the requirements of the Code of Conduct, including what conduct constitutes an offence under the Code of Conduct.
- 1.4. The Club Administrator of each participating team is responsible for informing and educating Participants about the Code of Conduct. Clubs shall share liability with Participants should breaches of the Code of Conduct occur.
- 1.5. All Participants are bound by the Code of Conduct at all times and shall continue to be bound by and required to comply with the Code of Conduct until they have not participated in a JPH Event during the Applicability Period. During the Applicability Period, the JPH shall have jurisdiction over all Participants under the Code of Conduct.
- 1.6. The Technical Delegate shall have jurisdiction to deal with breaches of the Code of Conduct during the on-site competition (unless the Technical Delegate is in breach, in which case, the matter will be dealt with by the JPH Directors). After the JPH Event has been completed and at all other times, any breaches of the Code of Conduct shall be dealt with by the JPH Directors, who may refer matters to USAFH for a decision, if appropriate. Breaches of the Code of Conduct by JPH Representatives and staff shall be dealt with in accordance with the Code of Conduct.
- 1.7. Further information about the application of the Code of Conduct, appeal process, Guidelines on Sanctions and the Process for Hearing and Determining Any Reported Offence is contained in the JPH Rules & Regulations.

2: CODE OF CONDUCT OFFENCES

2. General Behavior

- 2.1.1. Participants shall comply at all times with the FIH Rules of Hockey, JPH Rules and Regulations, JPH Code of Conduct, USAFH Social Media Guidelines and any other rules and regulations that may come into force from time to time.
- 2.1.2. Participants shall always use their best efforts during a Match when competing in a JPH Event.
- 2.1.3. Participants shall conduct themselves fairly, properly and in an acceptable manner on and off the field of play, including inside or around the hockey venue and accommodation.
- 2.1.4. Participants shall not act (or fail to act) in any way which may harm the interests and reputation of the FIH, USAFH, or JPH or bring the game of hockey into disrepute.

Conduct described in 2.2 to 2.4 below, if committed by a Participant during a JPH Event, shall amount to an offence by a Participant under the Code of Conduct.

Comment: Where considered helpful, guidance notes have been provided beneath the description of a particular offence. Such notes are intended only to provide guidance as to the nature and examples of certain conduct that might be prohibited by a particular Article and should not be read as an exhaustive or limiting list of conduct prohibited by such Article.

2.2. Specific Offences – Level One

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

- 2.2.1. 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.
- 2.2.2. 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 the Umpire or a Technical Official about the decision.
- 2.2.3. Charging or advancing towards an Umpire or Technical Official in an aggressive manner during a JPH Event.
- 2.2.4. Excessive appealing of an Umpire's or Technical Official's decision, or crowding an Umpire or Technical Official.
Note: Excessive shall include repeated appealing of the same decision / appeal.
- 2.2.5. 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 and / or dangerous manner.
- 2.2.6. Inappropriate and/or deliberate physical contact between players in the course of play
Note: Without limitation, Participants will breach this article if they deliberately or recklessly or negligently push, walk or run into another Participant.
- 2.2.7. 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 penalize another Participant against whom it is alleged committed a foul against him/her.
- 2.2.8. 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.

2.2.9. Breach of the JPH’s Uniform Regulations

Note: One of the core objectives of the JPH Uniform Regulations is to ensure appropriate and professional standards of appearance on the field of play and to prevent any practices that undermine that objective.

2.2.10. Breach of USAFH Social Media Policy

2.2.11. Public criticism of, or inappropriate public comment in relation to an incident occurring in a JPH Match or any Participant or team participating in any JPH Match or JPH, generally, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.

2.2.12. 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: Article 2.2.11 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.

2.2.13. Repeated failure to comply with the directions of a Technical Official

Note: Repeated failure includes a situation where a player, coach, manager or other team personnel has been given directions by a Technical Official just once and fails to comply. Such directions include being asked to remain within the team bench, to wear a bib when warming down, etc.

2.3. Specific Offences – Level Two

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

2.3.1. 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.

The following factors are indicative of language or a gesture being serious:

- (i) Whether the language or gesture was excessive and/or orchestrated
- (ii) Whether the language or gesture could have caused or did in fact cause a reaction from the participant or third person

2.3.2. Serious public criticism of, or inappropriate public comment in relation to an incident occurring in a JPH Match or any Participant or team participating in any JPH Match or JPH, generally, irrespective of when such criticism or inappropriate comment is made.

Note: The following factors are indicative of “serious public criticism”:

- (i) Criticism that can reasonably be considered to be insulting
- (ii) Criticism that can reasonably be considered to be meant to humiliate
- (iii) Criticism of a threatening nature
- (iv) Criticism that is of a disparaging nature
- (v) Criticism that vilifies any Participant or team
- (vi) Breach of the FIH Gender Equality Policy

2.3.3. Any attempt to manipulate any Match or JPH Event for inappropriate strategic or tactical reasons.

Note: This is intended to prevent the manipulation of Matches for inappropriate strategic or tactical reasons (such as when a team deliberately loses a pool Match in a JPH Event in order to affect the standings of other teams in that event).

- 2.3.4. Intimidation of an Umpire or other third person whether by language or conduct (including gestures) during a JPH Match.

Note: Includes appealing in an aggressive or threatening manner.

- 2.3.5. Threat of assault or physical assault (without injury) on a Participant or any other third person.

Note: This offence is not intended to cover threats of assault, which are prohibited under Article 2.4, i.e. where directed at an Umpire or technical official.

A threat of assault includes gestures which would reasonably cause a Participant or third person to be in fear of physical harm or offensive contact

Physical assault refers to intentional or reckless physical contact with a Participant or any other person, whether by using fists, feet or equipment (including but not limited to a hockey stick or hockey ball)

- 2.3.6. 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: Article 2.3.6 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

2.4. Specific Offences – Level Three

The penalty for a Level 3 offence shall be a suspension of the individual for a minimum of five matches.

- 2.4.1. Threat of assault or physical assault (without injury) on an Umpire or Technical Official

- 2.4.2. Physical assault of another Participant or any other person (including a spectator)

- 2.4.3. Any act of violence on or off the field of play during a JPH Event.

- 2.4.4. Spitting towards another participant

- 2.4.5. 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: A threat of assault includes gestures which would reasonably cause a Participant or third person to be in fear of physical harm or offensive contact.

Physical assault refers to intentional or reckless physical contact with a Participant or any other person, whether by using fists, feet or equipment (including but not limited to a hockey stick or hockey ball).

Injury includes bruising.

An act of violence includes the causing of deliberate physical harm to any person, whether Participant, Umpire or Technical Official. Kicking, punching or fighting would be considered to be acts of violence. The force of contact and resulting injury would be indicative of the seriousness of the act of violence

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1. Applicability Period

- 3.1.1. For the purpose of this Code of Conduct, this is defined as a period of 3 months after the last JPH Event that a Participant has taken part in.

3.2. Code of Conduct

- 3.2.1. This Code of Conduct, as amended from time to time.

3.3. USAFH

3.3.1. USA Field Hockey, the national entity which is recognized by the FIH as the National Association governing the sport of hockey in the United States of America.

3.4. JPH Directors

3.4.1. The JPH Directors, JPH Technical Director, JPH Director of Umpiring, and the JPH AltiusRT Technical Director, tasked with the responsibility of overseeing the organization of JPH, and as listed on www.juniorpremierhockey.com

3.5. FIH

3.5.1. The International Hockey Federation.

3.6. Hockey

3.6.1. The sport of hockey, including both field and indoor hockey and all current and future forms, variations and/or derivatives of the game modified or derived from its traditional form, irrespective of the number of players involved, or the type of venue or playing surface used (excluding only ice-hockey).

3.7. Match

3.7.1. A hockey match of any format and duration in length in which two hockey teams compete against each other to which the JPH deems it appropriate that the Code of Conduct should apply.

3.8. JPH Event.

3.8.1. A duly sanctioned match or event contested by club representative teams.

3.9. Participants

3.9.1. Participants shall be considered as the following:

3.9.1.1. All club team members and officials including Players, Team Management, Coaching Staff, Medical Staff, Technical Support Staff and any duly appointed representatives of the clubs of the participating teams.

3.9.1.2. All JPH competition officials including the JPH Representatives, JPH staff, Site Coordinators, Tournament Director, Technical Officers, Umpires' Managers, Medical Officers, Media Officers, Judges, Umpires and any other ad hoc officials appointed by the JPH Directors.