

# Football Ontario

## Code of Conduct Players & Spectators



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## **Code of Conduct Players and Spectators**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to ensure a safe and positive environment by instituting a Zero Tolerance Policy. Football Ontario is committed to providing a sport environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. All Individuals will be aware that there is an expectation, at all times, of appropriate behavior consistent with the values of Football Ontario. Conduct that violates this Code may be subject to disciplinary action enforced by Football Ontario's Discipline committee.

### **Application of this Code**

This Code of Conduct applies to conduct that may arise during the course of Football Ontario business, activities and events. This includes but is not limited to its office environment, competitions, practices, training camps, tryouts, travel and any meetings of Football Ontario.

### **Responsibilities**

All Individuals have a responsibility to:

- a) Maintain and enhance the dignity and self-esteem of Football Ontario members and other Individuals by:
  - i. Demonstrating respect to individuals regardless of body type, physical characteristics, athletic ability, gender, ancestry, colour, ethnic or racial origin, nationality, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital status, religion, political belief, disability or economic status.
  - ii. Focusing comments or criticism appropriately and avoiding public criticism of athletes, coaches, officials, organizers, volunteers, employees and members.
  - iii. Consistently demonstrating the spirit of sportsmanship, sport leadership and ethical conduct.
  - iv. Consistently treating individuals fairly and respectfully.
- b) Refrain from any behavior 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.
- c) Refrain from any behavior that constitutes sexual harassment, where sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual comments and sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or conduct of a sexual nature.
- d) Comply at all times with the bylaws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations of Football Ontario.

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## **Conduct for Players and Spectators**

### **Conduct Policy for Athletes**

#### **Definition**

Anyone who participates in an athletic activity, including but not limited to practices, games and tournaments, is considered an athlete.

#### **Goal Statement**

Any athlete participating in Football Ontario sanctioned events will be expected to adhere to Football Ontario, Conduct Policy for Athletes.

#### **Actions**

Athletes will always model mature behaviour consistent with that of Football Ontario guidelines. In addition to the responsibilities of the Code of Conduct, athletes of Football Ontario will:

Adhere to all Fair Play principles.

- Participate to one's best abilities in all competitions, practices, training sessions, events, or activities.
- Properly represent oneself and not attempt to enter a competition for which one is not eligible, by reason of age, classification, or other reason.
- Participate for the love and enjoyment of the game.
- Respect the efforts and accomplishments of your teammates and your opponents.
- Respect officials, coaches, spectators and event organizers.
- Respect the facility you visit or in which you play.
- Respect the rules of the game.

## **Conduct Policy for Spectators**

### **Definition**

Anyone watching a particular athletic activity or event whether sitting or standing is considered a spectator. A spectator may be a parent, a relative, friend, teammate, opposing player, administrator or coach not directly involved in the game. Spectators are an important part of any athletic activity; however, they are not essential. Spectators should never influence the outcome of an event and must never pose a distraction to players, other spectators, timers, score keepers and referees.

### **Goal Statement**

Any spectator watching a Football Ontario sanctioned event will be expected to respect and adhere to the Spectator Conduct Policy.

### **Actions**

In addition to the responsibilities of this Football Ontario Code of Conduct, spectators of athletes and spectators at events will:

- Support the game of football.
- Encourage athletes to play by the rules and resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence
- Stress the importance of participation.
- Avoid spectator-imposed pressures to win.
- Be supportive of the athlete, team, coach, opponents and officials.
- Respect the decisions and judgments of officials and encourage athletes to do the same.
- Maintain a supportive, constructive atmosphere conducive to the athletes' personal development.
- Refrain from negative communications with players, coaches, the scorers' table or game officials.
- At no time should spectators go on to the football field or approach the team bench area. This includes the time when the players enter the field for warm up until the time when the players leave the field at the end of the game.