



McAuliffe Park Sports Club Policies

Mission Statement: The McAuliffe Park Sports Club is dedicated to fostering a positive and enriching athletic experience for all participants. We aim to develop athletic skills, promote sportsmanship, build character, and encourage a lifelong love of physical activity in a safe and supportive environment.

1. Code of Conduct

1.1. Athlete Code of Conduct:

- **Respect:** Treat coaches, teammates, opponents, officials, and volunteers with respect at all times.
- **Sportsmanship:** Exhibit good sportsmanship regardless of game outcome; celebrate successes humbly and handle losses gracefully.
- **Effort & Punctuality:** Attend practices and games regularly and on time, prepared to give your best effort.
- **Safety:** Follow all safety instructions from coaches and club officials. Do not engage in reckless or dangerous play.
- **Fair Play:** Adhere to all rules of the sport and play fairly.
- **Positive Attitude:** Maintain a positive attitude and encourage teammates.
- **Drug & Alcohol Free:** Absolutely no use or possession of illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products on club premises or at club events.

1.2. Coach Code of Conduct:

- **Prioritize Safety & Well-being:** Ensure the physical and emotional safety of all athletes.
- **Positive Role Model:** Act as a positive role model, demonstrating sportsmanship, integrity, and respect.
- **Fair Play & Development:** Emphasize skill development, participation, and fair play over winning. Provide equal opportunities for all athletes to learn and participate.
- **Respect Officials:** Show respect for officials and their decisions. Teach athletes to do the same.
- **Professionalism:** Maintain appropriate boundaries with athletes and parents. Avoid engaging in gossip or negative commentary.
- **Communication:** Maintain open and respectful communication with athletes, parents, and club administration.

- **Knowledge & Training:** Stay current on coaching techniques, rules of the game, and relevant safety certifications (e.g., first aid, concussion protocols).
- **Zero Tolerance:** Absolutely no use or possession of illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products while coaching or at club events.

1.3. Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct:

- **Positive Support:** Encourage your child and their teammates positively, win or lose.
 - **Respect Coaches & Officials:** Respect the decisions of coaches and officials. Do not engage in argumentative or confrontational behavior.
 - **Sportsmanship:** Model good sportsmanship and teach your child to do the same.
 - **Volunteerism:** Consider volunteering your time and skills to support the club.
 - **Communication:** Direct any concerns or questions regarding coaching, team selection, or club operations through appropriate channels (e.g., team manager, club administrator), not during practices or games.
 - **No Sideline Coaching:** Allow coaches to instruct players during practices and games. Avoid shouting instructions from the sidelines.
 - **Zero Tolerance:** Absolutely no use or possession of illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products on club premises or at club events.
-

2. Health & Safety Policies

2.1. Concussion Protocol:

- The club adheres to the Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education (OPASSE) concussion guidelines.
- Any athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion will be immediately removed from play and evaluated by a medical professional.
- A "Return to Play" protocol, signed by a medical professional, must be followed before an athlete can return to practices or games.

2.2. Emergency Procedures:

- Coaches will have access to a first-aid kit and emergency contact information for all athletes at every practice and game.
- In case of a serious injury, emergency services (911) will be contacted immediately. Parents will be notified as soon as possible.
- All coaches are encouraged to be certified in First Aid and CPR.

2.3. Hydration & Nutrition:

- Athletes are encouraged to bring a water bottle to every practice and game and stay hydrated.
- Parents are encouraged to provide healthy snacks for their children before and after activities.

2.4. Equipment:

- All required safety equipment (e.g., helmets, mouthguards, shin guards) must be worn by athletes during practices and games as per sport-specific regulations.
 - Equipment will be inspected regularly by coaches for damage or wear.
-

3. Registration & Financial Policies

3.1. Registration Fees:

- Registration fees are due upon registration. Late fees may apply after this date.
- Fees cover league fees, uniforms, equipment, facility rental, insurance, team photo, referee stipends and end of the year lunch and award.

3.2. Refund Policy:

- Full refunds (less a non-refundable \$40.00 admin fee) will be issued up to May 18 upon written request. After May 18, no refunds will be issued. Medical refunds with a doctor's note may be considered on a pro-rata basis.

3.3. Financial Assistance:

- The club may offer limited financial assistance or payment plans on a case-by-case basis. Inquiries should be directed to our Registrar.
-

4. Communication Policies

4.1. Preferred Communication Channels:

- Team communication will primarily occur through Powerup, email, and club website.
- Urgent announcements will be sent via Powerup App message.

4.2. Parent-Coach Communication:

- For concerns regarding an athlete or team matters, parents should first approach the team coach directly at an appropriate time (not during practice or games).
- If the issue remains unresolved, it can be escalated to a McAuliffe Park Board Member.

4.3. Social Media:

- Participants are expected to exercise good judgment and respect when posting about the club, coaches, teammates, or opponents on social media.
 - Harassment, bullying, or negative commentary will not be tolerated.
-

5. Discipline & Grievance Procedures

5.1. Disciplinary Actions:

- Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, which could include:

- Verbal warning
- Temporary suspension from practice/game
- Meeting with parents/guardians and club officials
- Permanent suspension from the club
- The severity of the action will depend on the nature and frequency of the offense.

5.2. Grievance Procedure:

- Any concerns or grievances should be submitted in writing to a McAuliffe Park Administrator/Board Member.
 - The club will review the grievance and respond within 3 business days.
 - Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.
-

6. Volunteer Policy

6.1. Volunteer Roles:

- The club relies on volunteers for various roles, including team coach, field setup, fundraising, Day of Champions assistants and board members.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to volunteer their time and skills.

6.2. Volunteer Screening:

- All volunteers who have direct contact with athletes (e.g., coaches, assistant coaches, team managers) will be required to complete a criminal record declaration.
-

7. Photo & Video Release

7.1. Consent:

- By registering with the McAuliffe Park Sports Club, parents/guardians grant permission for their child's image (photos and videos) to be used for club promotional purposes (e.g., website, social media, brochures, local news).
 - If you *do not* wish for your child's image to be used, please notify the club in writing at the time of registration.
-

Acceptance of Policies: By registering your child with the McAuliffe Park Sports Club, you and your child agree to abide by all the policies outlined above.

Date of Last Review: May 23, 2025