

Hong Kong Hockey Association Code of Conduct – National Squad

The Code of Conduct is applicable for athletes (male and female) selected for the Hong Kong National Squad, at senior as well as junior levels. The code is established to create awareness of and accountability of squad players in maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and conduct. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action against the athlete(s) which may include dismissal from the squad.

BEHAVIOUR

Behaviour must always be ethical and up to the highest standards of fairness, and genuine good sportsmanship.

1. Responsible and ethical behaviour* is expected of elite athletes. This includes, but is not limited to the following:-
 - a. prompt attendance at all functions
 - b. avoiding outside activities that might lead to injury
 - c. abiding by the Hong Kong and foreign laws and respecting local customs when visiting foreign countries
 - d. showing respect during playing of the national anthems
 - e. assisting with equipment
 - f. fairness to teammates and opponents
 - g. not engaging in team initiation defined as dangerous or degrading behaviour (hazing)
 - h. showing sportsmanship in and at all matches
 - i. no athlete shall engage in sexual or romantic relationships with a coach or any staff member that potentially has authority over him or her

* It is recognized that responsible and ethical behaviour may be defined differently by different people. For this reason, the HKHA will entrust the hearing committee to make judgments on behaviour when there is question.
2. Equipment or apparel issued by the HKHA is for the personal use of team members only and is not for trade or resale.
3. If any property is damaged by an athlete in a non-competitive situation, the athlete will make financial settlement for repair of the damage.
4. Alcohol is only permitted in moderation, at appropriate times and places as determined by the coach. Underage drinking (under 21 years) is never allowed. Drinking is not permitted if local laws or the rules of an event forbid it.

5. Persons having knowledge of or being present while any violation of the code of conduct occurs should attempt to address the problem with the offender/s. If they are unsuccessful in correcting the problem, they should take their concern to the coach or team representative. Everyone present during a violation of the code will be considered a participant by choice.
6. Athletes who are committed to attending a scheduled event and fail to attend after their ticket has been purchased will be responsible for the cost of the ticket. The athlete may not attend any future HKHA events until that cost is reimbursed to the HKHA. Exceptions to this policy may be made by the HKHA Council under very unusual circumstances.

MATCHES AND TOURNAMENTS

1. Athletes shall at all times conduct themselves fairly and properly on the field of play and any part of the hockey venue/accommodation. No person may conduct himself/herself in a manner or commit any act or omission which may prejudice the interest of hockey or which may bring the game of hockey into disrepute.
2. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the following shall be regarded as conduct which is improper, unfair, and unacceptable:-
 - (a) Verbal/physical abuse or hostility towards any other participant, person or any other member of the public.
 - (b) Disputing, protesting and/or reacting in a provocative or disapproving manner in an inappropriate way toward any decision made by an umpire or official.
 - (c) Charging or advancing towards an umpire or technical official in an aggressive manner when appealing.
 - (d) Using rude or abusive language or hand signals.
 - (e) Abuse of hockey equipment or clothing, venue equipment or fixtures and fittings.
3. Public statements must be fair, constructive and reasonable and must not involve a personal attack on another player, umpire, appointed official or administrator.

OFFICIAL UNIFORM

1. Athletes are required to wear the official uniform provided by the HKHA for matches/tournaments, functions and travelling to/from overseas competition.
2. Athletes will not use, nor allow authorization to use, pictures of themselves with their official uniform or equipment for the purpose of trade or advertisement without the consent of the HKHA.

3. Athletes must report to the HKHA/Team Manager as soon as possible if they are approached of an offer of sponsorship (in cash or kind). The HKHA/Team Manager will deal with the matter as appropriately.

LIABILITY

The athlete acknowledges that field hockey is an activity that involves risk of bodily injury including possible paralysis or death. The athletes knowingly and freely assumes all such risk and, on behalf of himself/herself, his/her heirs, and next of kin, releases, holds harmless and waives any claim or right to sue or hold responsible the HKHA National Squad members, coaches, staff, IOC, FIH, AHF sponsors, and officials with respect to any and all such injury except that which has resulted from gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct by any of the above.

DRUGS/BANNED SUBSTANCES

1. Use of prohibited substances or procedures to enhance performance (i.e. blood doping) shall be subject to disciplinary action.
2. The HKHA will follow the guidelines for sanctions for positive drug tests in international competitions as outlined by the FIH and IOC. This ranges from elimination of the team from the competition, to short-term suspension from play (months) to a lifetime suspension for the individual.
3. Refusal to submit to a drug test is considered a positive test and is grounds for suspension.
4. Use of illegal/illicit substances is cause for reprimand or suspension.
5. It is the athletes responsibility to verify that any drugs they are taking or might consider taking are not on the “banned list” and to further verify that they do not consume any substances or products which contain “banned substances”. This includes over the counter medications and prescription drugs. Athletes should not assume their doctor or trainer is familiar with FIH drug policies.

CRITERIA FOR REMOVAL FROM THE NATIONAL TEAM

Criteria for removal from the team may include but is not limited to the following:-

1. Performance, attitude, or discipline becomes unsatisfactory
2. Injury that prevents ongoing competition
3. Violation of code of conduct
4. Refusal to take or failure of a drug test
5. Violation or charges of violation of the law
6. Behaviour that is unbecoming of a representative of HKHA

**HONG KONG HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
ATHLETE CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT**

I have read and agree to abide by the conditions described in this document. I understand the possible consequences of violation of this document as well as my rights to appeal sanctions issued against me.

Athlete signature _____ Date _____

Athlete printed name _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____
(necessary if athlete is under 18 years of age)

Parent/Guardian printed
Name _____
(necessary if athlete is under 18 years of age)

Hon. Secretary General
Signature _____ Date _____

Hon. Secretary General printed
Name _____