
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH STORMONT

Policies and Procedures No. P&R-01-2004	Effective Date: May 12, 2004
Title: Code of Conduct Policy	Department: Parks & Recreation

Research Preamble:

A trend has developed in and around the recreational facilities in Ontario, whereas more and more acts of violence are being reported to either the facilitator or the local police department. In response to this trend, municipalities have enacted a wide variety of policies and procedures to protect the facility and program users.

Preamble:

The Township of South Stormont promotes the proper conduct in the use of its recreational facilities. The policy is intended to promote appropriate and respectful behavior, and good sportsmanship. The Township strongly believes that all residents involved in sports, including coaches, player's Parents, and Spectators, should lead by example. By acting in a positive and appropriate manner at all times, as well as promoting the fundamentally positive aspects of sports, such as excellence, fair play, honest competition, effort and integrity.

1.0 Policy Statement

In an effort to make sports and recreation events in all of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities and fields of play a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, this Policy implements a Code of Conduct for Parents and Spectators who enter and use municipal recreational facilities and playing fields. The Policy is deliberate in requiring parents, spectators, coaches, officials, and players to maintain a positive, supportive and sportsmanlike atmosphere and to eliminate disruptive or abusive conduct during sporting and recreational events held at or in municipally operated sports field or facilities.

This policy realizes that although coaches, officials and players within the various leagues have their own mechanisms in place to deal with issues relating to unacceptable or disruptive behavior, the Township of South Stormont expects everyone during a sporting event to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner and abide by this Policy.

2.0 Code of Conduct Policy Agreement

Both Parents, where applicable, must sign the Code of Conduct Policy Agreement, Appendix "A", which will be provided to each league executive by the Director of Recreation, or designate, who intend to use Township Facilities and/or playing fields.

Each league executive will ensure that the appropriate parties in accordance with the spirit of this Policy, sign and return same to the executive, who will in-turn return said signed agreements to the Township Recreation Department for safe keeping for a period of up to one year.

The purpose of this Agreement is to ensure that everyone taking part in a sporting and/or recreation event at a South Stormont recreational playing field and/or Township Facility is aware of the Policy and the conduct expected during said events.

3.0 Unacceptable Behavior

Unacceptable behavior shall include but not be limited to:

- Physical violence or threats of physical violence;
- Use of obscene, vulgar, or threatening language or gestures in any manner to anyone at any time;
- Taunting of players, coaches, Officials or other Spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threatening gestures, abusive or demeaning language;
- Throwing of any object in the Spectators' viewing area, players' bench, penalty box, where applicable, or on the playing surface (field), directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard;
- Willfully damaging recreational facilities property and/or equipment.

4.0 Definitions

"Township Facility" means all South Stormont recreational facilities, including arenas, sports fields, pools, gymnasiums and playground equipment.

"Parent" means a mother or father, a guardian, or a person with whom the child ordinarily resides and who has demonstrated a settled intention to treat the child as a child of his or her family.

"Spectator" means any person who attends a sporting event at a South Stormont recreational facility but is not participating in the event.

"Executive Representative" means any person with managerial or administrative responsibility for the league.

"Official" means any person who supervises a sporting or recreation event to ensure that the competitors obey the game/sporting rules.

5.0 Making a Complaint

- 5.1 Unacceptable behavior as outlined in this Policy should be brought to the attention of an Official, league or Executive Representative for appropriate action.

- 5.2 An Official who has determined that behavior by a Parent or a Spectator is inappropriate may advise the appropriate coach or coaches of the unacceptable behavior and identify the person who is behaving in an unacceptable manner.
- 5.3 If so directed by the Official, the coach shall notify the disruptive individual that his/her conduct is unacceptable and must cease. If the Official so directs, the individual shall be asked by the appropriate coach to leave the premises.
- 5.4 Any Official has the authority to stop or interrupt the event where a Parent or Spectator is displaying inappropriate and/or disruptive behavior.
- 5.5 If the individual refuses to comply with the directions of the Official or coach, the Official may, if he/she so chooses, terminate the game.
- 5.6 When such an incident occurs, it shall be the duty of the Official and coach to record the circumstances of the complaint in writing and forward it to the league's governing body for review and investigation. Once a complaint has been made regarding the inappropriate or disruptive behavior of a Parent, Spectator, coach or player at a Township Facility the person making the complaint will receive a written acknowledgement by the league's governing body of the receipt of the complaint no later than ten (10) days after the complaint has been filed and once a decision has been made regarding the incident, a letter will be forwarded to the person who initiated the complaint explaining the course of action being taken by the league's governing body.
- 5.7 Consequences of the Parents, Spectator or players inappropriate behavior will result in the following action being taken by a league:
 - a) On a first violation, a league representative shall meet with the individual and advise of the necessity of compliance with the Policy.
 - b) On a second violation, the individual must leave the Township Facility. If necessary, the Ontario Provincial Police will be called to assist. The individual shall not return to any Township Facility until the league and the Director of Recreation, or designate, meet with the individual to discuss his/her conduct, and determine the appropriate action, which may include a suspension from attendance to South Stormont recreational facilities for a period of time, or such other consequences as the league representative and Director of Recreation, or designate, deem appropriate in the circumstances. A written acknowledgement of the disposition shall be signed by the individual and on behalf of the league and Director of Recreation, or designate, and provided to the person making the complaint.
 - c) A third violation will result in the individual being banned from attendance at all Township Facilities in South Stormont. The

Director of Recreation, or designate, in harmony with the league representative will remove the individual privileges in accordance with the *Trespass To Property Act*. The *Trespass to Property Act* requires a written registered letter be delivered to the person along with copies to the appropriate authorities to be valid.

- d) If the league and/or Executive Representatives fail to properly enforce this Policy, the Township of South Stormont may impose sanctions on the league.

For further information, contact:

Township of South Stormont
Administration Department
PO Box 340
4949 County Road 14
Ingleside, ON K0C 1M0
Phone: (613) 537-2362
Fax: (613) 537-8113
info@southstormont.ca

or

Parks and Recreation Department
Long Sault Arena
60 Mille Roches Road
Long Sault, ON K0C 1P0
Phone: (613) 534-2419
Fax: (613) 534-3836
recreation@southstormont.ca



TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH STORMONT

Township Facility *Code of Conduct Policy Agreement*

1. I will do my best to be a good sport at all times. I will not condone, permit, defend, or engage in actions, which are not consistent with good sportsmanship.
2. I will encourage my child to do his or her best, have fun and demonstrate good sportsmanship. I will teach my child how to win and lose gracefully; I will lead by example.
3. I will assist my child to understand and respect the rules of the game. I will emphasize teamwork in team sports and to think "we" instead of "me."
4. I will respect the rights and feelings of Officials, coaches, trainers, players, volunteers and administrators. I will work to support, not undermine their efforts.
5. Parents / Spectators shall refrain from comments or behaviors which are disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist, or sexist.
6. Parents / Spectators shall not engage in activity or behavior which endangers the safety of others.

Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct Policy may result in disciplinary actions including suspension from the membership and suspension from attending any games or events held in any of the Township Facilities.

I have read the Code of Conduct Policy and agree to follow the above conditions during all sporting activities or events in the Township of South Stormont's "Township Facilities".

Signature of Parent (Father or Guardian)

Date

Signature of Parent (Mother or Guardian)

Date