



SYDNEY MASTERS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (Inc)

MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

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1. Purpose

- 1.1. Sydney Masters Hockey Association (SMHA) is committed to ensuring that everyone involved with Masters hockey is treated with respect and dignity and is protected from bullying, intimidation, discrimination, harassment and abuse.
- 1.2. This Policy aims to ensure the core values, good reputation, positive behaviours and attitudes of SMHA and Affiliated Clubs and Teams are maintained and enhanced.
- 1.3. This Policy aims to ensure that everyone involved in SMHA is aware of their legal and ethical rights and responsibilities as well as the standards of behaviour expected of them.

2. Application and Scope of the Policy

2.1 To whom the Policy applies

This Policy applies to:

- (a) Affiliated Member Clubs and Teams;
- (b) Players and Officials who are participants (including all representative championships, matches training and functions etc; and
- (c) Any other person, including individuals (ie spectators etc).

2.2 When the Policy applies

2.2.1 All Relevant Persons must comply with this Policy (at all times while they are a Relevant Person):

- in relation to any dealings they have with SMHA, Affiliated Member Clubs and Teams or Authorised Providers or their staff, contractors and representatives;
- wherever there is a recognised hockey, SMHA, Affiliated Member Club or Team connection, including participation in programs or events sanctioned by Hockey Australia, Hockey NSW, SMHA and/or Affiliated Member Clubs or Teams on social media where there is such a connection;
- when dealing in their capacity as a Relevant Person with other Relevant Persons; and
- in relation to their membership or standing as a Relevant Person in general.

2.2.2 The following is not within the scope of this Policy:

- interactions (including social media interactions) involving a Relevant Person and another Relevant Person where there is no direct or indirect link between the interaction and any of Hockey Australia, Hockey NSW, SMHA, an Affiliated Member Club or Team (other than the fact that one or more individuals are Relevant Persons);
- where alleged Prohibited Conduct occurs in contravention of this Policy, any subsequent conduct or interaction(s) that, while related to the original Prohibited Conduct, no longer directly relates to any of Hockey Australia, Hockey NSW, SMHA, an Affiliated Member Club or Team (even where such conduct or interaction(s) would otherwise be Prohibited Conduct); and

2.2.3 Where SMHA or a Member Organisation (as applicable) determines, in their absolute discretion, that the alleged Prohibited Conduct would be more appropriately dealt with under a different policy, it may refer the alleged Prohibited Conduct for determination under that other policy.

3. Prohibited Conduct

3.1 Prohibited Conduct

A Relevant Person must not, either alone or in conjunction with another or others, breach this Policy by undertaking any of the following conduct against one or more Relevant Persons in the circumstances outlined in clause 2.2:

- (a) Abuse;
- (b) Bullying;
- (c) Harassment;
- (d) Sexual Misconduct;
- (e) Unlawful Discrimination;
- (f) Victimization; or
- (g) Vilification.

Examples of conduct that may constitute Prohibited Conduct are outlined in the Schedule.

3.2 Additional matters

Nothing in this Policy prevents the SMHA Board from enforcing any other rules and regulations or referring any alleged Prohibited Conduct to a relevant law enforcement agency.

4. Complaints and Disputes Policy

Any alleged Prohibited Conduct under this Policy, must be reported to SMHA (Director Administration) for an investigation of the alleged Prohibited Conduct.

5. Other Obligations

5.1 SMHA and Affiliated Clubs and Teams responsibilities

SMHA and Affiliated Clubs and Teams must:

- (a) publish, distribute and promote this Policy;
- (b) recognise and enforce any decisions and/or disciplinary measures imposed under this Policy;
- (c) ensure that a copy of this Policy is available or accessible to all people to whom this Policy applies; and
- (d) monitor and review this Policy.

5.2 Relevant Person responsibilities

Relevant Persons bound by this Policy must:

- 5.2.1 make themselves aware of the contents of this Policy;
- 5.2.2 comply with all relevant provisions of the Policy;
- 5.2.3 be accountable for their behaviour; and
- 5.2.4 comply with any decisions and/or disciplinary measures imposed under this Policy.

6. Definitions

In this Policy the following words have the corresponding meaning:

Abuse means any type of abuse (including physical, emotional, psychological, sexual and inappropriate use of power) that has caused, is causing or is likely to cause harm to a person's wellbeing, whether in person or as the result of a publication viewable by any other person by any means.

Bullying means a person or group of people repeatedly and intentionally using words or actions, or the inappropriate use of power, against someone or a group of people to cause distress and risk to their wellbeing.

Harassment means any type of behaviour (including one-off incidents) towards a person that they do not want and that is offensive, abusive, belittling or threatening and is reasonably likely to cause harm to the person who is the subject of the harassment.

Person means any player, official, spectator associated with SMHA Competitions and Representative teams in accordance with the SMHA Constitution.

Policy means this Member Protection Policy including any schedules and annexures.

Prohibited Conduct means conduct in breach of clause 3 of this Policy.

Relevant Person means any of the persons identified in clause 2.1.

Sexual Misconduct means:

- (a) **Sexual Harassment**, which is any unwanted or unwelcome sexual behaviour where a reasonable person would anticipate the possibility that the person being harassed would feel offended, humiliated or intimidated; and
- (b) **Sexual Offences**, which include any criminal offence involving sexual activity or actions of indecency.

Unlawful Discrimination includes:

- (a) **Direct Discrimination**, when a person or group of people is treated less favourably than another person or group, because of a personal characteristic; and
- (b) **Indirect Discrimination**, when an unreasonable rule or policy applies to everyone but has the effect of disadvantaging some people because of a personal characteristic they share,

where such personal characteristics are protected by applicable anti-discrimination legislation.

Victimisation means subjecting a person, or threatening to subject a person, to any unfair treatment because the person has made, or intends to pursue their right to make, a complaint or lawful disclosure, including under applicable legislation or this Policy, or for supporting another person to take such action.

Vilification means a public act, conduct or behaviour that incites hatred, serious contempt for, or revulsion or severe ridicule of, a person or group of people because of a particular characteristic they hold, as covered by applicable legislation, including their race or religion, or homosexuality, transgender or HIV/AIDS status.

SCHEDULE

Examples - Prohibited Conduct

1. **Abuse** may include:
 - (a) bullying or humiliation;
 - (b) physical abuse and assault including hitting, slapping, pushing, punching or scratching, kicking, destroying property and throwing things, sleep and food deprivation, forced feeding, physical restraint, spitting or biting;
 - (c) sexual abuse including rape and assault, using sexually degrading insults, forced sex or sexual acts, deliberately causing pain during sex, unwanted touching or exposure to pornography, sexual jokes, using sex to coerce compliance;
 - (d) emotional abuse such as intentional embarrassment in public, name calling, telling someone what to wear, preventing someone from seeing their friends and family, stalking, humiliation and intimidation;
 - (e) verbal abuse such as insults, name calling, continuous criticism, swearing and humiliation, attacks on someone's intelligence, body or parenting, yelling;
 - (f) financial abuse such as restricting access to bank accounts, taking complete control of finances and money, forbidding someone from working, taking someone's pay and not allowing them to access it;
 - (g) neglect of a person's needs; and
 - (h) stalking.
2. **Bullying** may include:
 - (a) keeping someone out of a group (online or offline);
 - (b) acting in an unpleasant way near or towards someone;
 - (c) giving nasty looks, making rude gestures, calling names, being rude and impolite, and constantly negative teasing;
 - (d) spreading rumours or lies, or misrepresenting someone (i.e., using their social media account to post messages as if it were them);
 - (e) silly behaviour that goes too far;
 - (f) harassing someone based on their race, sex, religion, gender or a disability;
 - (g) intentionally and repeatedly hurting someone physically;
 - (h) intentionally stalking someone; and
 - (i) taking advantage of any power over someone else,but does not include legitimate and reasonable:
 - (a) management action;

- (b) management processes;
- (c) disciplinary action; or
- (d) allocation of activities in compliance with agreed systems.

3. **Harassment** may include:

- (a) telling insulting jokes about particular racial groups;
- (b) sending explicit or sexually suggestive emails or text messages;
- (c) displaying racially offensive or pornographic images or screen savers;
- (d) making derogatory comments or taunts about someone's race;
- (e) asking intrusive questions about someone's personal life, including his or her sex life;
- (f) harassment or sexual harassment in the workplace by employers, co-workers and other workplace participants;
- (g) harassment in the workplace based on or linked to a person's disability or the disability of an associate; and
- (h) offensive behaviour based on race or racial hatred, such as something done in public that offends, insults or humiliates a person or group of people because of their race, colour or national or ethnic origin.

4. **Sexual Misconduct** may include:

- (a) unwelcome touching;
- (b) staring or leering;
- (c) suggestive comments or jokes;
- (d) showing or sharing sexually explicit images or pictures;
- (e) unwanted invitations to go out on dates;
- (f) requests for sex;
- (g) intrusive questions about a person's private life or body;
- (h) unnecessary familiarity, such as deliberately brushing up against a person;
- (i) insults or taunts based on sex;
- (j) sexually explicit physical contact;
- (k) sending or sharing sexually explicit or suggestive emails, texts or other electronic/social media messages;
- (l) displaying pornographic images or screen savers;
- (m) asking intrusive questions about someone's personal life, including about his or her sex life; and
- (n) criminal offences such as rape, indecent or sexual assault, sexual penetration or relationship with a child under the age of 16 and possession of child pornography.

5. **Unlawful Discrimination** may include unfair treatment based on a person's:
- (a) age;
 - (b) disability;
 - (c) race, colour, national or ethnic origin or immigrant status;
 - (d) sex, pregnancy, marital or relationship status, family responsibilities or breastfeeding; and
 - (e) sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.
6. **Victimisation** may include:
- (a) dismissal of an employee or disadvantage to their employment;
 - (b) alteration of an employee's position or duties to his or her disadvantage;
 - (c) discrimination between an employee and other employees;
 - (d) repeated failure to select an individual on merit;
 - (e) a reduction in future contract value; and
 - (f) removal of coaching and other financial and non-financial support.
7. **Vilification** may include:
- (a) speaking about a person's race or religion in a way that could make other people dislike, hate or ridicule them;
 - (b) publishing claims that a racial or religious group is involved in serious crimes without any evidence in support;
 - (c) repeated and serious verbal or physical abuse about the race or religion of another person;
 - (d) encouraging violence against people who belong to a particular race or religion, or damaging their property; or
 - (e) encouraging people to hate a racial or religious group using flyers, stickers, posters, a speech or publication, or using websites or email.