



POLICY NO. 8	POLICY TITLE: Spectator Code of Conduct Policy
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Policy 8- Spectator Code of Conduct Policy

Purpose

This policy helps ensure spectators/parents/guardians/caregivers know what's expected of them. HCSA wants to create an environment that's respectful, supportive, free from harassment, and enjoyable for all. Everyone is welcome and should expect to help promote an environment where people are treated in a courteous, professional, considerate and respectful manner. Spectators play an important role in maintaining a positive experience for everyone. Good behavior from spectators plays a big part in maintaining a positive experience for everyone

Scope of Application

This policy applies to spectators, parents, guardians, caregivers and other guests. It covers all activities and events run by Hamilton Challenger Sports Association.

Spectators Expected Behaviour

Respect and Inclusion

- Treat all players, coaches, volunteers, officials and fellow spectators with dignity and respect.
- Refrain from using foul, abusive, disrespectful language or gestures
- Celebrate all players' efforts – cheer positively for everyone
- Respect the cultures, beliefs and opinions of others, even when you disagree
- Avoid any form of discrimination, harassment, or exclusion based on race, gender, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or other personal characteristics

Safety and Conduct

- Refrain from hitting, spitting, or engaging in any physical aggression
- Avoid disruptive, unruly, or threatening behaviour
- Stay off the playing area and do not interfere with games or activities
- Follow all instructions from volunteers, coaches, and event staff regarding safety or emergency procedures

Substances and Animals

- Smoking, vaping, and the use of alcohol, cannabis, or other drugs are not permitted within 7 meters of outdoor activities or any indoor facilities
- No dogs or pets are allowed near activity areas (except working service animals)

Responsibility and Care

- Caregivers and parents must ensure that participants who rely on support are not left unattended
- If an event ends early caregivers must arrange timely pick-up -volunteers are not responsible for participant transportation or waiting around for caregivers to show up
- In the event of injury, parents/guardians are responsible for first aid; HCSA volunteers are not trained to provide medical care
- Treat all property, facilities, and equipment with care and ensure garbage and belongings are disposed of properly
- Maintain a fun, positive and encouraging attitude at all times

Prohibited Conduct

Spectators must not:

- interfere with the play (e.g. entering the field of play, throwing objects, distracting participants)
- engage in disruptive, threatening or violent behaviour, including verbal or physical harassment
- engage in behaviour that endangers or disrupts others' enjoyment
- post or share photos/videos of players or any volunteers without consent
- use social media to harass or harm others connected to HCSA
- display signs, symbols, or gestures that are threatening, discriminatory, or offensive

- disobey directions from HCSA staff or event volunteers
- use or be under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or cannabis at HCSA events
- damage facilities, equipment, or property
- engage in any illegal behaviour

Failure to comply with the Spectator Code of Conduct may lead to actions such as: Suspension of entry privileges, ejection, and/or notification of local authorities including police. HCSA will not tolerate unsafe, abusive, unlawful or offensive conduct at our events.

Adapted from Hamilton Wentworth District School Board Spectator Code of Conduct

Approved by Board, Nov 12, 2025