

Forestville Hockey Club

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS OF JUNIOR HOCKEY PLAYERS

These guidelines have been developed by the Forestville Hockey Club Junior committee building on information from the Play by the Rules website and resources.

Forestville Hockey Club (FHC) was founded in 1905 and prides itself on being the oldest continually operating hockey club in Australia. FHC also prides itself on being a family orientated and welcoming club that provides hockey and social opportunities for members of all ages and abilities. Our junior members are especially important to the club, and in order to ensure that all of them enjoy their sport and continue to play hockey at Forestville, we ask that parents abide by the following guidelines when supporting their children to play hockey.

What you agree to when you register your child to play hockey

You agree to abide by Hockey Australia's and the club's behaviour guidelines and policies.

Parent behaviour expectations at games and training

Supporting players

- Support and encourage ALL players, not just your own child. Remember this is a team game
- Acknowledge good play by both teams
- Be enthusiastic, but don't scream instructions from the sidelines
- Do NOT yell at or criticise players, whether they are your own child or not
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake
- Don't get into shouting matches with anyone
- Never use bad language or harass others
- Emphasise trying hard and having fun, not only winning

Supporting officials

- Respect all officials – coaches, umpires.
- Remember everyone is a volunteer
- Leave the coaching to the coach, your job is to support them and support the children
- Leave the umpiring to the umpire, if you think you can do better we are always looking for more umpires so put your hand up to help out instead.
- Thank the coach, umpire(s) and other team after the game

Remember!

Children play sport for fun, friendship and fitness. They want to enjoy it and your job is to ensure that they do.

If you have any specific concerns regarding your child, please address them privately and respectfully with your child's coach. You can also seek support from the Junior coordinator and/or the club's Child Safe Officers (refer to the club website for contact details).

From "PaRANTING from the sidelines" by Bindy Cummings at <https://www.playbytherules.net.au/resources/articles/parenting>

You are not the coach.

The coaches you will come across are most likely volunteers who are dedicating their time and energy to helping your child develop an understanding and a love of the game. You are not the coach. Don't try to be the coach. If you want to be the coach, put your hand up next time you register your child. Unless you have been specifically asked by the coach to help, your instructions from the sidelines will be; annoying the coach; confusing the players and quite simply, not helping.

You are not the umpire.

The umpires are human and doing the best they can. Many of them are still children or very young adults. Unless they have specifically come to you at the beginning of the match and personally asked you for help, then they do not need your help. Your child may be that umpire one day. Think how you would like sideline parents to treat your child.

You are modelling behaviour.

Consider the type of sportsperson you would like your child to become. One of my recent sideline mornings involved witnessing a parent very audibly shouting at the referee, disputing decisions and becoming visibly angry and frustrated. During this game, his young son was given a yellow card for...guess what? Arguing with the ref. Enough said.

Your child doesn't want you shouting instructions from the sideline.

Unless your child has specifically asked you to let him and his team mates know where you think they should be standing and what moves you think they should be executing, then resist the temptation to do so. Your advice will more than likely earn you a reputation, not a good one... and your child will soon be asking that you no longer attend the games.

The results don't matter.

Really, they don't. Whether they win or lose, whether the umpire makes good calls or not so good ones, whether the coach plays the strongest players or not – our kids learn, we learn, we all grow. In the grand scheme of things the results really, really don't matter. Learning to grow through each experience matters. Learning to gracefully accept defeat or victory matters. Learning to respect the umpire and the coach matters. Learning how to improve matters. Learning sportsmanship and teamwork matters. Learning a love of participation matters.

If you slip up and openly blow off some regrettable steam, publicly apologise to those who witnessed it... especially the children. We all make mistakes, often. It is what we do to fix our mistakes that is important.

Above all, remember it is both a privilege and a pleasure to have a child who you can watch play sport. Families who have lost a child would give everything they have to be watching that child play a game. Enjoy it... holler encouragement and applaud the players on BOTH teams, thank the coach and the umpire EVERY time and help to foster a love of sport in all the children you are fortunate enough to cheer on from the sideline.