

## Norwalk Youth Field Hockey Policies, Rules & Guidelines

### **Code of Conduct:**

Norwalk Youth Field Hockey (NYFH) expects the highest standard of conduct by all participants including players, coaches, referees, parents and spectators at all times. This will provide for and promote a safe athletic environment, positive role models and a sense of community spirit.

By adhering to this code, NYFH will demonstrate that good conduct and teamwork can bring out the very best in competitive sports.

Everyone will:

1. Respect all players, coaches, referees, parents and spectators.
2. Respect the property of others including all fields.
3. Refrain from taunting, booing, or making negative comments about any players, coaches, referees, parents and spectators.
4. Never argue with the referee's call.
5. Remember that sports for children should be about having fun, sportsmanship and doing your best.
6. Keep in mind that at all times you are representing NYFH and the City of Norwalk.

Players will:

1. Play for fun and give 100% effort at all practices and games.
2. Always respect teammates, opponents, coaches and referees: no taunting, booing, making negative comments about any player(s), coaches, or referees.
3. Work hard to improve skills, learn the game and play by the rules.
4. Follow coaches' directions and instructions.
5. Wear the required equipment at all games and practices, and keep your equipment well maintained.
6. Support teammates at all times.
7. Shake hands with opponents after the game.

Parents & Spectators will:

1. Remember that children participate in athletics to have fun.
2. Remember that the game is for the children, not the adults.
3. Remember that they are not the coach and refrain from yelling instructions out onto the field.
4. Speak to the coach in private with any concerns and never in front of the children or on the field.
5. Be a positive role model by respecting all players, coaches, referees, parents and spectators at all times.
6. Value skills development, fair competition and good effort. Recognize that the efforts of all children, your own team and opponents, are more important than the outcome of the game.
7. Cheer for all children on the team, not just your own child.
8. Not encourage any behaviors or tactics that would endanger the health and well-being of anyone.

Coaches will:

1. Make skill development, sportsmanship, teamwork, fun and learning the game the goals of the team.
2. Be a positive role model by respecting all players, coaches, referees, parents and spectators at all times.
3. Teach the rules of Field Hockey, and abide by those rules in practices and games.
4. Never argue with a referee's call.
5. Never lose your temper.
6. Be generous in any praise, emphasizing the children's efforts over the outcome of the game.
7. Be fair, honest and consistent in coaching philosophies and practices.
8. Recognize that children learn differently and adapt coaching style to each child's needs accordingly.
9. Communicate clearly to players and parents about goals for the team and what behavior is appropriate.
10. Provide a safe environment for the children to play.

## **Weather Cancellations**

From time to time, we may need to cancel or reschedule NYFH events due to conflicts or weather. Highschool events, athletics and testing, take priority over youth sports. Severe weather can also impact our clinics, practices, games and events.

If we need to cancel or change our schedule unexpectedly, we will attempt to notify parents at least 60 minutes prior to an event starting. These changes will be messaged to all parties and reflected in the NYFH calendar and team schedules. Although, in less obvious situations we may hold our decision as long as possible. We must wait at least 30 minutes from the last lightning/thunder before returning to the field.

If there is foul weather in the forecast, and we do attempt to have the game or practice, please be on standby should we need to cancel or end the session early.

Cancellation decisions are not made by the coaches, but rather by members of the NYFH directors. Please monitor team communications and (**our new website**) for updates.

## **Equal Playing Time**

All NYFH teams adhere to the concept of equal playing time. As part of their role, our coaches focus on ensuring each athlete see their fair share of playing time in every game.

If for whatever reason an athlete or parent believes playing time has not been evenly distributed, please wait 24 hours before contacting the coach and please do so via email. Please do not approach the coach on the turf immediately following a game.

If the matter cannot be resolved directly with the coach, please contact [norwalkyouthfieldhockey@gmail.com](mailto:norwalkyouthfieldhockey@gmail.com)

## **Non-Norwalk Resident Athletic Participation**

NYFH is a member of the Fairfield County Youth Field Hockey League (FCYFHL). Per league policy, athletes may only participate in their town or municipalities local field hockey program.

Exceptions:

- The athlete's parent is a NYFH coach.
- An athlete's local community does not offer a program for their age level.

**Refunds**

Refunds of registration fees will be issued for registrants cancelling ON OR BEFORE August 15<sup>th</sup> less any fees incurred by Norwalk Youth Field Hockey.

Any late fees assessed during the registration process are non-refundable.

Any uniforms purchased during registration that have already been ordered by NYFH are non-refundable.

For all refund requests made after August 15<sup>th</sup> an incremental fee of 50% of the total registration fee will be assessed.

ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> **NO** refunds will be issued unless due to relocation or injury with a medical note, and are subject to approval by the NYFH Board of Directors.

All refund requests must be made in writing via email. Please send your refund request to [norwalkyouthfieldhockey@gmail.com](mailto:norwalkyouthfieldhockey@gmail.com).