# REFEREE CODE OF CONDUCT

## Introduction

No competition can take place satisfactorily without competent referees. Quality officiating ensures enjoyment of the game while respecting the rules and protecting all participants.

However, officiating decisions can sometimes cause frustration. In this context, the referee must demonstrate rigour, impartiality and integrity.

## Role and Responsibility of the Referee

An effective and respected referee must:

- Protect the integrity of the competition and the safety of all participants.
- Know the applicable rules, including their interpretation, and apply them consistently.
- Apply the rules objectively, fairly and impartially, while exercising sound judgment.
- Communicate calmly, respectfully and professionally, regardless of the situation.
- Be in an appropriate physical and mental condition to perform their duties effectively.
- Avoid imposing themselves or drawing unnecessary attention so as not to distract from the game.

## Guidelines for Interactions with Participants

The referee must plan interactions so as to avoid any isolated or private situation with a participant or another person involved in sport. This includes in-person settings (locker rooms, vehicles, rooms) and virtual settings (messaging, social media).

## Specific Rules to Follow:

- Electronic communications with a minor participant must include the parents.
- Group messages should be favoured over private messages.
- For any one-on-one meeting, the referee must request the presence of another adult.
- The referee must never transport a minor without written parental authorization, except in a clearly documented exceptional situation.
- During overnight travel:
  - Chaperones must stay in rooms close to those of the participants.
  - Room visits must be limited to persons of the same sex.
  - Room checks must be carried out by trained adults, preferably in mixed-gender pairs.

## Ethical Behaviour and Professionalism

The referee must:

- Use social media, the Internet and all electronic platforms respectfully and ethically.
  - They must not be used to provoke, disparage or intimidate a participant, coach or colleague.
- Refrain from consuming alcohol or drugs while carrying out officiating duties.
- Act in a way that treats every person with respect, fairness and impartiality, regardless of background, identity or status.
- Review the guidelines available at www.sportbienetre.ca.

## Personal Commitment

By accepting the role, the referee commits to:

- Respect this Code of Conduct at all times.
- Demonstrate professionalism in decisions and behaviour.
- Actively contribute to creating a healthy, safe and respectful environment for everyone involved in sport.