The following guidelines apply to all members of the Strathdale Hockey Club, including players, coaches, managers, umpires, committee member and spectators. Regardless of your role and/or membership level within the club, it is up to everyone to do their utmost to uphold our club’s good reputation of being “Good Sports”.

**Play hard, but fair** - All players are expected to give their best at all times on the field for the enjoyment of themselves, their team-mates and the opposition. As a benchmark of our success, we strive to win fairly, by perfecting our own game, skills and character and this should never be at the expense of the enjoyment of the game for the opposition or the umpires.

**Respect** - At all times members are expected to show respect for their teammates, coach, captain, umpires and all opponents. All members have a responsibility to protect the game of hockey from unseemly incidents and the Committee will act on the assumption, that it takes two sides to create an argument, no matter the provocation. There is always a choice about how we act and react to a situation. Actions of a player that constitute banging their stick on the ground or throwing the stick on returning to the dugout or audible foul language, are considered unacceptable and will be dealt with by the club. We are all responsible for our own actions.

**Umpiring Decisions** - The umpire’s decision is final and is to be accepted immediately. Whilst a captain is entitled to politely ask an umpire why the decision was made, the player must accept the explanation where one is given, and also accept the umpires’ prerogative not to give a reason and immediately play on. The use of offensive language by any member - generally in the form of disparaging or abusive remarks to an umpire or an opponent is not acceptable. The conduct of our members should be such that there can be no misunderstanding by an umpire and no excuses of that nature will be acceptable. Placing pressure on an umpire can lead to unnecessary friction between teams.

Players, officials and spectators should **maintain their integrity** at all times even when they feel the other team does not do the same. We can only be responsible for our own actions. Should the situation arise where an umpire cards a Strathdale player, that player should promptly leave the field without comment or conduct able to be interpreted as a criticism of the umpire or the decision. Whilst there will be occasions where we may not agree with the umpires decision, it is the clubs policy that all players receiving red cards will be suspended by the club for a minimum of a week.
**Training Sessions:** Junior and senior training takes place on Thursday’s. Players are expected to **attend training on time** and assist with setting up/packing up of equipment. There is an expectation that players not available to train will inform the coach or manager by text message, phone call or sending a verbal message with someone else. Team selections will take place after training and it is each player’s responsibility to ensure that the Coach/Manager is informed of their availability for the game before selections take place. **If no contact has been made it will presumed that a player is available to play.** Preference in selections will be given to players, who demonstrate a commitment to the Club and their teammates ie: by being available on a regular basis and/or participating in training and Club functions.

**Match Days:** Players are expected to arrive at the ground ready to play (minimum 20 minutes for juniors, and 30 minutes for seniors) before the commencement of play, or at the time instructed by their Coach or Manager.

**Safety:**
It is Hockey Victoria and Strathdale policy that **all players under 18 years** of age must wear safety equipment in the form of a mouth-guard and shin-guards whilst on the field. This policy will be strictly enforced by coaches and team managers. This action is to assist in ensuring the safety of our players and to meet our insurance obligation. The committee appreciates the support of parents on this issue and encourages players and parents to ensure that these vital pieces of equipment are packed in the player’s bag prior to leaving home.

To provide a positive role model to our U18 members, for personal safety and to meet insurance requirements, all players over the age of 18 are requested to wear protective gear including mouth-guard, shin-guards and masks/helmets where appropriate.

**Social Functions:** Throughout the season there will be several functions organised by the Committee. It is expected that members will make every effort to attend club functions and support our sponsors. Members are to be mindful of the fact that they are representing their club and sponsor at all functions and games.
**Communication and Use of Technology:** All Strathdale members are expected to use the internet and electronic communication appropriately, so think about what is written **before** it is posted on FaceBook or sent by sms or email. An innocent remark made by one person may be interpreted by another person as inappropriate communication and/or cyber bullying and therefore will not be tolerated.