



# Newfoundland And Labrador Volleyball Association



## Spectator Code of Conduct

The NLVA strives to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for all athletes, spectators, parents, coaches, officials and staff members who wish to participate in the sport of volleyball across the province. This code of conduct aims to outline expectations of spectators and educate on what behaviors are accepted in our competition environments. Negative displays of behavior and disrespect (such as incidences of harassment and obscene gestures) create an uncomfortable and upsetting atmosphere for all those involved.



# What is harassment?

## Definition:

Harassment can take many forms but can generally be defined as behavior including comments and/or conduct which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, hurtful, malicious, degrading or otherwise offensive to an individual or group of individuals. Harassment usually creates an air of discomfort when conducted in any environment, no matter what the intent behind the action.

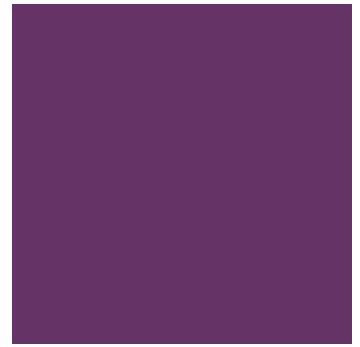
## Examples:

- Physical Assault
- Physical conduct such as touching, kissing, patting, grabbing etc.
- Sexually oriented comments
- Written or verbal abuse or threats
- Displaying of sexually explicit, racist or other offensive material
- Vandalism
- Unwelcome remarks, jokes, slurs, innuendoes, or taunting about a person's body, attire, age, marital status, ethnic or racial origin, religion etc.
- Offensive gestures
- Patronizing behavior that undermines or affects the playing/working conditions of the athletes, and/or the coaches/referees.
- Practical jokes which cause awkwardness or embarrassment that endanger athlete safety or affects performance

## + Top 10 Expectations for Spectators:

1. Enjoy an athlete's participation in sport. The athlete is enrolled to become more physically active, learn a new skill and to have fun.
2. Encourage athletes to participate, work hard and listen to coaches/referees. Do not pressure an athlete beyond his/her capabilities as this will result in a negative experience with the sport.
3. Support and respect coaches/staff/other spectators. Communicate any concerns clearly and professionally, away from any athletes/spectators in a private or semi private environment.
4. Never verbally or physically harass an athlete, coach, referee, or event staff member.
5. Refrain from disciplining an athlete in the presence of the team.
6. Be a full time spectator and cheer positively. Refrain from ridiculing or yelling at a team, coach, referee or athlete for making a mistake or losing a game.
7. Do not coach or yell directions from the stands. Allow the coach to do their job as his/her decisions are in the best interest of the team.
8. Show appreciation for volunteers/ staff that give their time to coach and referee.
9. Remember that the players/coaches and referees are not professionals and cannot be judged by professional standards. They are not playing to entertain you, but rather to better themselves.
10. Respect all referees and their decisions. Encourage participants to do the same.





## How Do I Approach A Coach With An Issue?

If you feel that there are issues of which the coach must be made aware, it is suggested that you:

- 1) Approach the team contact/manager with any concerns. The team contact/manager is in place to act as a buffer between coaches and parents/spectators. This allows for any concerns to be communicated in the conflict-free zone and will facilitate all persons involved to reach a resolution to those concerns.
- 2) If there is no parent contact/ manager for your team parents should not approach either coach before, during or directly after a game or practice. Issues should be submitted in writing after waiting a minimum period of 24 hours to allow both parties to cool off. If you feel the need to talk in person, do not approach the coach until 48 hours after the incident and another impartial party must be present. No good will come out of discussing a negative issue when emotions are running high.

# + Parent Contract

If the coach desires, this portion is to be signed and returned to a coach/manager/parent contact. It is not a requirement, but up to the individual team.



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I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Parent/Guardian Name), have read, understood and agree to abide by the behavioral expectations outlined in this “Spectator Code of Conduct.” I understand that this Code of Conduct is supplied to give all who may participate in the sport of volleyball in Newfoundland and Labrador a safe and enjoyable experience, free from conflict. I understand that any infringement on this code of conduct at an event or practice may result in my removal from the immediate playing area or other escalating consequences depending on the severity of my actions.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date



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“Give your child honest praise, don’t instruct from the sidelines, be loyal and applaud the kids’ effort, don’t criticize the referee and set a bad example, let the coach do the job he/she volunteered for and ignore the scoreboard. Focus on the fun your child is having.” – Richard Ginsburg, PhD