

## **Hong Kong Touch Association Code of Conduct**

For Players, Referees, Coaches and Administrators/Officials/Media

### **1. Interpretation**

**"HKTA" means the Hong Kong Touch Association.**

"Participant" means any player, referee, side referees or other match official, selector, coach, trainer, manager or other team official, or any individual involved in the organization, administration or promotion of touch rugby including a director, other officer or employee of the HKTA, of any Member or Associate Member of the HKTA.

### **2. Objective**

All participants in the tournaments are expected to adhere to the following rules and code of ethics and conduct: -

- To: Encourage honest and open competition.  
Respect individual differences of people within the Federation.  
Display gentlemanly and ladylike characteristics.  
Support innovation and creativity.  
Share failures and celebrate success.  
Share the responsibility and work loads.  
Participate as members of a team to achieve the organizations.  
Adhere strictly to the Doping Policy

### **3. Code of Conduct**

All participants in the Game are bound:

#### **Player's Code**

1. Play by the rules at all the times.
2. Play equally intensively for yourself and your team.
3. Be equally loyal to yourself and your team.
4. Exhibit exemplary sporting like behaviour at all times.
5. Enjoy the game by giving your best at all the times.

6. Co-operate with your coach, manager, team mates and officials.
7. Respect your opponents no matter how good or bad they are.
8. Not to bet on the outcome or any aspect of a Touch match or competition.
9. Not to throw or fix a match, try to achieve a contrived outcome to a match or a competition, or otherwise influence improperly the outcome or any other aspect of a match or competition.
10. Not to seek or accept a bribe or other benefit to do anything mentioned in paragraph (2).
11. To report immediately to the HKTA any offer of a bribe or other benefit to do anything mentioned in paragraph (9), or any attempt by any person to do anything mentioned in paragraph (8) or (9);
12. Not to engage in any doping practices;
13. To comply with the HKTA's Safety Directives for Referees, Coaches and Players;
14. Not to repeatedly breach the Laws of the Game relating to Misconduct;
15. Not to abuse, threaten or intimidate, either physically or verbally, a referee, side referee or other match official, whether on or off the field, or a selector, coach, manager or other team official;
16. Not to show unnecessary obvious dissension, displeasure or disapproval towards a referee, touch judge or other match official, his or her decision or generally following a decision of a match official;
17. Not to use crude or abusive language or gestures towards referees, side referees or other match officials or spectators;
18. Not to do anything which is likely to intimidate, offend, insult or humiliate another participant on the ground of race, colour or national or ethnic origin of the person;
19. Not to conduct themselves in any manner, or engage in any activity, whether on or off the field, that would impair public confidence in the honest and orderly conduct of matches and competitions or in the integrity and good character of participants; and
20. Not to do anything which adversely affects or reflects on or discredits the Game of Touch, the HKTA, any Member or Associate Member of the HKTA, or any squad, team, competition, tournament, sponsor, official supplier or licensee, including, but not limited to, any illegal act or any act of dishonesty or fraud.

### **Referee's Code**

1. Display fairness and uniformity in applying the rules.
2. Be honest in your assessment of situations.
3. Be consistent, courteous in calling all infractions.
4. Condemn the deliberate foul as being unsporting, and promote fair play and appropriate sports behaviour.
5. Use common sense to ensure the "spirit of the game" for players is not lost by being too pedantic when applying the rules.

6. Be conscious that you are seen as a “Role Model”
7. Ensure you remain up to date with any rules changes and /or interpretation of rules as laid down by the Federation.
8. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed of sound officiating principles.

#### **Coaches’ Code**

1. Teach your players that the rules of the game are mutual agreement which no one should try to evade or deliberately break.
2. Be reasonable with your demands on players, their time, their energy and their enthusiasm.
3. Avoid over playing and/ or training your players.
4. Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards of the age, sex and ability of your team.
5. Demonstrate respect for all your players no matter what level of ability they possess.
6. Do not swear or abuse them.
7. Develop respect for the ability of your opponents, referees and all officials.
8. Make a personal commitment to keep informed on sound coaching principles and abreast of current trends.

#### **Administrator’s/ Officials’ Code**

1. Ensure that equal opportunity for participation is available to all regardless of ability, size, shape, gender, age, ethnic origin or disability.
2. Ensure equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate to the ability level of all the participants.
3. Establish that adequate supervision is provided by qualified and competent coaches and officials capable of developing appropriate sports behaviour and specific skill technique.
4. Provide a balance in sports programs, avoiding them becoming primarily spectator and / or participant entertainment only.
5. Focus on the needs of the participant and the enjoyment of the spectator.
6. Provide opportunity aimed at improving the standards of coaching and officiating, with an emphasis on appropriate sports behaviour and skill technique.
7. Ensure the parents, coaches, sponsors administrators, officials, physicians and participants understand their responsibilities regarding fair play in sport.
8. Ensure on and off the field behaviour is consistent with the principles of good Sportsmanship.
9. Modify rules and regulations to match the needs of the players and the level and nature of the competition.
10. Publicly encourage rule changes which will reinforce the principles of participation, fun, safety and enjoyment for all.
11. Distribute a code of behaviour to all participants.

### **Media's Code**

1. Provide fair coverage of competition
2. Place in proper perspective the isolated incidents of behaviour that is unsporting like, rather than make such incidents the “highlight” of the event.
3. Focus upon participants fair play and their honest efforts.
4. Focus on the positive (skilful attack – brilliant defence) rather than on the negatives) poor attack – mistakes in defence)
5. Identify and report on the problems people have participating in organized sport and illustrate the violations and distortions of their rights as participants.
6. Be aware of the differences between the goals of amateur sports and those of professional sports. Make the readers, viewers and listeners aware of these differences, such as the professional is an entertainer and wage earner and thus is reflective in the professional athlete's behaviour.

### **4. Duty to Comply**

Each Member or Associate Member of the HKTA is obliged:

1. To comply with, and to require all persons in membership with it or affiliated to it to comply with this Code of Conduct; and
2. To adopt appropriate procedures for monitoring compliance with, and imposing sanctions for breaches of, this Code of Conduct by participants in membership with it or affiliated to it.

### **5. Procedure**

1. Upon becoming aware, from whatever source, that an alleged breach of this Code of Conduct has occurred, the HKTA may set up a Sub Committee to consider the matter.
2. The Sub Committee will proceed to review and consider the alleged breach. The Sub Committee may consider any evidence which may be available and call for representations from the Member(s) or Associate Member(s) concerned as to the circumstances of the breach and may require the Member(s) or Associate Member(s) to provide relevant information.
3. If it considers it appropriate so to do, the Sub Committee may direct the Member(s) or Associate Member(s) to make inquiry into the alleged breach and report back to the Sub Committee.
4. When reporting back to the Sub Committee regarding the alleged breach, the Member(s) or Associate Member(s) must provide details of the investigations and enquiries made, the evidence gathered, the proposed findings and the proposed sanctions to be imposed.

5. The Sub Committee will review the report from the Member(s) or Associate Member(s). If it thinks it appropriate so to do, the Sub Committee may make further inquiry into the alleged breach.
6. The Sub Committee may (i) confirm the proposed findings and proposed sanctions, or (ii) vary the proposed findings and/or the proposed sanctions. The Member(s) or Associate Member(s) will comply with and implement all such decisions of the Sub Committee.
7. If the Sub Committee is dissatisfied with the manner in which a Member or Associate Member has conducted itself in respect of the investigation of or inquiry into an alleged breach, the Sub Committee may impose such sanctions as it thinks appropriate against that Member or Associate Member.
8. A Member or Associate Member may appeal to the Committee of the HKTA against any decision of the Sub Committee. The ruling of the Committee of the HKTA will be final.