

# **Abuse Policy for Horseshoe Saskatchewan**

This policy sets out the principles of Horseshoe Saskatchewan regarding abusive behavior towards Athletes, Coaches, Volunteers, Officials and Directors. Horseshoe Saskatchewan made this policy to show that there is no place for abuse or neglect whether it is physical, mental, emotional, or sexual.

## **Statement of Purpose:**

Horseshoe Saskatchewan is a sporting community who is committed to having a safe place to play for everyone. Horseshoe Saskatchewan will not tolerate any abuse or neglect in the sport. Whether the abuse is physical, mental, emotional or of a sexual nature, abuse is not to be tolerated and we will do everything in our power to prevent this social injustice.

Horseshoe Saskatchewan is doing its best to keep all types of abuse out of the sport we love. We want our athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials, and directors all to be able to enjoy the sport they love in a safe sportsman like environment.

## **Definitions of Abuse:**

- 1) Neglect- is not allowing a human being to do have the necessities to fulfill their needs. Example: not allowed to have proper equipment to play Horseshoes, not allowed to have the proper clothing needed for competition, not allowed proper exercise, or not allowed to have breaks for nutritional needs
- 2) Physical Abuse- is the hurting a person in a physical manner by a person of authority or trust. Examples: hitting with an object, punching, spitting, or biting an individual or making them do unnecessary practicing as a form of punishment.
- 3) Emotional/ Mental abuse- is attacking a person's self-esteem. It is using psychological means of destroying a person by a person in power or trust. Examples are name calling, threatening, intimidating, or ignoring a person's needs.
- 4) Sexual Abuse- is an exploitation of a person for sexual purposes without consent. Example Contact forms: fondling, groping, intercourse, rape or asking the person to touch another in a sexual way for one's pleasure. Noncontact forms: - suggestive text messages, forced to watch porn, or watch others do sexual acts.

**Duty to report:**

Horseshoe Saskatchewan takes all forms of Abuse and Neglect as a serious problem that needs to be taken care of right away and is committed to reducing and preventing abuse and neglect of its participants.

Horseshoe Saskatchewan works closely with youth and the elderly, so we recognize that we have an obligation to report abusive situations. Horseshoe Saskatchewan works closely with many different age groups in Saskatchewan. As such our coaches, directors and volunteers must report any suspected neglect or abuse to the proper authorities within the association and if necessary to the police.

**Reporting Abuse:**

Reports of abuse that are shared in confidence with a person of Authority by a vulnerable Participant may require the person in authority to share with a parent or Guardian, Horseshoe Saskatchewan, or the police Department. A person of authority must respond to the such reports with non-Judgmental, supportive, and in a comforting manner and explain that the report must be escalated to the proper authorities.

Criminal and Vulnerable Sector Checks are required for all Board of Directors, Executive and Coaches.