

Philadelphia Flyers PowerPlay Team Handbook



www.philadelphiapowerplay.com

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Mission Statement

To provide a community based competitive athletic experience for people who use power wheelchairs in their daily lives. The Philadelphia Flyers PowerPlay welcomes players of all disabilities and experience levels, regardless of race, gender, religious beliefs, or ethnic origin.

Our Program

The Philadelphia PowerPlay Inc., a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, is a power wheelchair floor hockey team based in the Philadelphia Metropolitan Area. We follow the rules and regulations of the North American PowerHockey Association (NAPHA). <https://www.facebook.com/NAPHA04/about>.

We believe that competition and challenge are healthy and necessary for all people, regardless of ability. The Philadelphia Flyers PowerPlay is an adaptive sports program which provides a quality, well-organized recreational and social program within the community. Our emphasis is on teamwork, skill development, and fun. *The team is open to all persons who are competent and safe power wheelchair users. All players must also possess the cognitive skills to follow game play and rules to actively and safely participate.*

Philadelphia PowerPlay Advisory Committee

The Philadelphia PowerPlay Advisory Committee (PPAC) purpose is to assist in the development and the organization of the team in providing a quality, well organized recreational and social program for youth and adults who use power wheelchairs in their daily lives.

The Committees of PPAC are the Executive Committee, Player and Coach Committee, Recruitment Committee, and Fundraising Committee. Please refer to the team website for contact information. <https://philadelphiapowerplay.com/contact/>

Contacting the PowerPlay Advisory Committee

Submitting Questions, Suggestions, or Concerns

Any questions, suggestions, or concerns from players, parents, guardians, or community members regarding the team should be directed to the Executive Committee of the PowerPlay Advisory Committee (PPAC). All correspondence should be submitted via email for review, discussion, and comment by the committee.

Submission Process

To facilitate communication, a designated form is available on the team's website. Individuals are encouraged to complete this form and submit it as instructed, ensuring that all relevant information is provided for the committee's consideration. <https://philadelphiapowerplay.com/contact/>

Player's Responsibility:

1. Each player or Guardian needs to complete the following items before attending any team practice:
 - a) Team Registration forms include Team Handbook acknowledgement, Liability and Photo Release.
 - b) Complete Consent for Treatment form.
 - c) Pay annual registration fee.
2. The basic equipment needed is a hockey stick. A player can bring his or her own hockey stick or borrow one from the team. All sticks must be made of a plastic handle, shaft, and blade. A dowel may be inserted through the blade of the stick for players with limited ability to stickhandle. Any consultation or recommendation for adapting any equipment is available upon request.
3. Each player is responsible for wearing his or her team jersey which is supplied by the team.
4. Each player is responsible for wearing a seat belt and safety straps when playing. Shin guards are highly recommended.
5. Each player is responsible for providing/arranging all items not listed herein.
6. All players are responsible for transportation to all Philadelphia Flyers PowerPlay related events.
7. The dates and times of each game session are available on the team website. All players should allow 15 minutes for warm-up prior to each game. Note: Games will start promptly at the scheduled time. If a player is not present at the start of the game, that player will be required to sit out that period since a substitute will already be placed in that spot.
8. If you cannot attend a game, please update your status on TeamSnap by 5:00 PM on Friday so that arrangements can be made for a substitute.
9. Player Eligibility for Tournament Participation
 - a) Attendance – to be eligible for participation in tournament play, a player is required to attend at least 25% of the league games. This attendance threshold is determined based on the date of the official roster submission for the tournament.
 - b) Considerations for Special Circumstances - In situations where unforeseen circumstances arise, or when the tournament schedule presents conflicts, these factors will be taken into consideration when assessing a player's eligibility.

c) Appeal Process - If an individual wishes to contest an attendance decision, a written appeal must be submitted within 48 hours directly to the President of the Executive Committee.

d) Resolution Process – Executive Committee Oversight

The resolution process will be managed by the Executive Committee. The committee may involve players, coaches, and other individuals who are invited to participate in the process, ensuring that all relevant perspectives are considered.

10. The team is guided by the rules of the North American PowerHockey Association (NAPHA). <https://www.facebook.com/NAPHA04/about>

Philadelphia Flyers PowerPlay Code of Conduct

1. Players Code of Conduct

To ensure that the principles of sportsmanship, fair play, skill development, and mutual respect among all players, coaches, referees, and spectators are the primary considerations governing competition in the Philadelphia Flyers PowerPlay, the following Code of Conduct has been established and adopted.

To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, the player is expected to:

- a. Know the rules and abide by them.
- b. Respect the referees and refrain from addressing them or commenting on their decisions during the play of the game. The team's coach may address the referees during the game but only within the provisions of the rules and in a courteous, respectful manner.
- c. Maintain control of his or her emotions, avoiding the use of abusive language or profanity, humiliating remarks, and/or gestures of ill temper, and physical assault upon another player, coach, umpire, or league official at any time.
- d. The player agrees that personal space and boundaries (physical, verbal, social and emotional) should not be violated. This also includes unwanted or unsolicited contact via social media, email, text, or telephone calls. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a warning, suspension, or termination from the team.
- e. Respect the coaches and the players of the opposing team and demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of every game - be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
- f. Follow all practice or game facility rules and regulations, always respecting the property of others.
- g. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy, and manners of each player.
- h. Refrain from the use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or other illegal substances both at team practices and games.

- i. Conduct him or herself in a manner befitting the founding principles of Philadelphia Flyers PowerPlay when traveling to "away" games or tournaments.

2. Coaches Code of Conduct

To ensure that the principles of sportsmanship, fair play, skill development, and mutual respect among players, coaches, referees, and spectators are the primary considerations governing competition in the Philadelphia Flyers PowerPlay, the following Code of Conduct has been established and adopted.

Each coach will ensure that his coaching conduct is that of an adult, with the best interests of every player and the Philadelphia Flyers PowerPlay, continually expressed.

To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, each coach is expected to:

- a. Know the rules and abide by them.
- b. Instruct team members in the rules and coach his/her team in such a way as to motivate each player to always compete according to the rules.
- c. Respect the referees and refrain from questioning their decisions in a disrespectful or abusive manner.
- d. Ensure that the players and spectators follow game and practice facility rules and regulations.
- e. Ensure that fans of his/her team always conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity while in attendance at game or practice sites; assist the referees in maintaining control of spectators during the games.
- f. Respect the coaches and players of the opposing team both during the play of the game and at its conclusion, win or lose.
- g. Teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.
- h. Maintain control of his/her emotions and avoid actions, language, and/or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating.
- i. The coach agrees that personal space and boundaries (physical, verbal, social and emotional) should not be violated. This also includes unwanted or unsolicited contact via social media, email, text, or telephone calls. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a warning, suspension, or termination from the team.
- j. Refrain from the use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or other illegal substances both at team practices and games.
- k. Instruct team support personnel (e.g., assistant coaches, scorekeepers, team parents) in their responsibilities in accordance with established rules and procedures.
- l. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy, and manner.

3. Spectator's Code of Conduct

To ensure that the principles of sportsmanship, fair play, skill development, and mutual respect among players, coaches, referees, and spectators are the primary considerations governing competition in the Philadelphia Flyers PowerPlay, the following Code of Conduct has been established and adopted.

Each spectator will ensure that his or her conduct at all games and practices are that of a mature adult with the best interests of every player and the Philadelphia Flyers PowerPlay, continually expressed.

To satisfactorily meet these responsibilities, every spectator is expected to:

- a. Respect the rules of the game.
- b. Respect the referees, coaches and players and refrain from questioning their decisions or from addressing them in a loud, disrespectful, or abusive manner.
- c. The spectator agrees that personal space and boundaries (physical, verbal, social and emotional) should not be violated. This also includes unwanted or unsolicited contact via social media, email, text, or telephone calls. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a warning, suspension, or termination from the team.
- d. Cheer for their team in a positive, supportive manner, always refraining from making hostile, negative, or abusive remarks about the opposing team.
- e. Adhere to all practice/game facility rules and regulations.
- f. Demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of a game, win or lose.
- g. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy, and citizenship of its fans.
- h. Refrain from the use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or other illegal substances both at team practices and games.

4. Responsibility for Code of Conduct

Each team is responsible for seeing that their coaches, players, and spectators abide by the respective Code of Conduct. All coaches, players and parents or guardians of players will be provided with copies of the appropriate Code of Conduct Acknowledgment forms prior to the start of the season.

5. Code of Conduct Requirements

Code of Conduct for all spectators and players should be thoroughly discussed at a pre-season joint meeting among coaches, players, and parent/guardians of players. All sponsors, coaches, parents/guardians, and players are required to sign the Code of Conduct Acknowledgment form indicating they understand and accept their responsibilities as stated in the code. This form, with the required signatures, is to be filed with PFPP.

6. Improper Conduct Adjudicated by Philadelphia PowerPlay Executive Committee

Conduct of sponsors, coaches, players or players or spectators detrimental and contrary to the Philadelphia Flyers PowerPlay Code of Conduct may result in suspension from further participation for whatever period of time deemed reasonable and appropriate by the Executive Committee.

7. Improper Conduct Penalties

Improper conduct on the part of coaches, players or spectators may result in expulsion from the game/practice facility, or in extreme cases, forfeiture of the game. The Executive Committee reserves the authority to discipline coaches, players, or spectators during the season for conduct deemed detrimental to the good order of the team. Such actions may include warning, suspension, or termination.

8. Offensive Actions

No coach, player, parent/guardian, or spectator is to:

- a. refuse to abide by a referee's decision; or
- b. be guilty of objectionable demonstration by throwing equipment or any other forceful action: or
- c. be guilty of heaping verbal abuse upon a referee for any real or imaginary wrong decision or judgment; or
- d. be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon a player, an opposing coach, referee or spectator; or
- e. at any time, lay hands upon, push, shove or strike a referee, coach, player, or spectator; or
- f. be guilty of a physical attack as an aggressor upon any player, opposing coach, referee, spectator, or Philadelphia Flyers PowerPlay official.

9. Penalties for Offensive Actions/Ejection from Games

All ejections will be considered Code of Conduct violations, and the coach or player is automatically suspended for at least one (1) game. The PFPP will define any further appropriate penalties and must approve permission for any suspended player or coach to participate in games after the incident for which they were ejected. All rulings of the Philadelphia Flyers PowerPlay will be expedient, if both team coaches and the referees report the facts related to the ejection promptly.

A player or coach ejected from a game should be notified at the time as to the cause of the ejection; both coaches are still required to notify the PowerPlay manager when an ejection occurs. A written report by the ejecting referee explaining the reason for the ejection should be made in all situations involving ejection. Any coach, player, team representative, or parent/guardian striking or shoving a referee will be suspended from attending any Philadelphia Flyers PowerPlay activity for the remainder of the season.

10. Submission of Appeals

Appeal Process - If an individual wishes to contest a disciplinary decision, a written appeal must be submitted directly to the President of the Executive Committee. This appeal should be made within 48 hours following the issuance of the penalty decision.

Review by Executive Committee - Upon receiving the written appeal, the Executive Committee will conduct a thorough review of the case. All parties involved in the matter will be included in the review process to ensure fairness and transparency.

Final Decision - After considering all relevant information and perspectives, the Executive Committee will make a final determination regarding the appeal. The decision voted on by the Executive Committee is conclusive and cannot be challenged further.

11. Code of Conduct Committee Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction and Authority

The Executive Committee holds the responsibility for addressing violations of established rules within the organization.