

“Let Them Play”

To All Parents and Coaches

The Sydney South Hockey Association adopted the *Let them Play* initiative for the 2015 season. This initiative involves consideration of parental and coaching behaviour on the sidelines.

Parental support and encouragement from the sidelines is fantastic to see in any junior sport; and we as an Association encourage parents to support their children and their team from the sidelines. However it should be known that abuse and/or disparaging comments made towards umpires, fellow team mates or the opposition in any form is unacceptable behaviour and contrary to what we are about as a hockey Association.

The *Let Them Play* initiative is a gentle reminder to all parents and coaches of what junior sport is about, having fun and for the enjoyment of the children; and therefore parents, coaches and administrators have the responsibility of creating an environment in which this can occur. A game with parents or coaches hurling abuse from the side-line presents no such environment and poorly represents both the individual involved as well as their club. Under this initiative parents and coaches who stray into forms of unacceptable behaviour will receive a reminder from Association officials and persistent offenders will be called to account for their actions by the SSHA Board through the Judiciary.

The Sydney South Hockey Association has a good record in regards to the behaviour of parents on the sideline; however we can do better. Let's get out there and support our children; but remember unacceptable behaviour is exactly that; unacceptable. It is time for us as an Association to set the standard for all our clubs to follow; to be the best Association in NSW!

Yours

Angelo Donni and Michelle Chidzey

Sydney South Hockey Association President and Umpires Convenor