

# Safe Sport, Dangerous Play and Reporting

Spring 2024 revision



# Why is it important that we review this?

## Safety should always be the first priority

- Over the years, rules regarding Fouls and Dangerous Play have evolved to place a greater emphasis on overall safety.
- Players are getting seriously hurt, ending their sporting career and impacting everyday life.
- Some players may only register for leagues where they feel safe from injury , aggressive play, harassment and discrimination. This is especially important to many women.
- Feeling safe encourages players to come back the following season, helping overall league retention.

# What is SAFE SPORT?

The Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport calls for sporting environments to be free from physical, sexual and psychological abuse.

We should all do our part to make decisions that promote athletes' physical and mental wellbeing. As an organization we must be empowered to foster a culture that contributes to athlete success.



# The written rule of Dangerous Play:

## Dangerous Play:

Actions demonstrating reckless disregard for the safety of, or posing a significant risk of injury to, fellow players, or other dangerously aggressive behaviour are considered “dangerous play” and are treated as a foul.



# Key points to Fouls and Dangerous Plays:

1- It is the responsibility of **all** players to avoid contact in every way possible.



# Key points to Fouls and Dangerous Plays:

2- Dangerous play is considered a foul **regardless of whether or when the disc arrives or contact occurs.**



# Key points to Fouls and Dangerous Plays:

3- Contact is **not** required for a player to invoke this rule where there is reasonable certainty that contact would have occurred had the player not taken steps to avoid contact.



# Keep in mind:

- A dangerous play call without contact should never be made in an effort to gain an advantage. This would go against the Spirit of the Game.
- Field awareness and recognizing when you cannot get to a disc before another player without causing contact is the priority.





# What happens when a player makes a dangerous play call?

- The receiver of the dangerous play call should take a breath, then consider why the call was made.
- Would continuation of play have created contact? Did you both have a play on the viable space without contact?
- Decide to contest or not contest the call.
- Treat the outcome of the call as a foul.



How can you help promote Safe Sport and reduce injuries?



# 1- Educate Yourself



- Seek clarification on rules that you are unsure of.
- If you are a Captain, ensure your players are familiar with the updated rules, specifically those related to fouls and dangerous play.
- Ensure everyone on your team understands that safety should ALWAYS come before a play on a disc.
- Review this excellent and more detailed [slideshow](#) from HUC

## 2- Prioritize safety above all else

We play this game because it's fun, we socialize, we play with old friends and we make new ones. What isn't fun is being sidelined because someone didn't prioritize their own safety and the safety of others. The goal is always to be able come back for another day of Ultimate.



### 3- Look through the other lens

- When a call is made, consider the other person's perspective.
- Instead of taking it personally, recognise the call was made for a reason.
- Specifically to the dangerous play call, it was made to avoid injury and to highlight that the play in question was dangerous in the eyes of the person making the call. They felt their safety was in jeopardy.

# Reporting



We are often reluctant to report unless it is a very serious incident.

However, **reporting incidents is important.** It helps to establish patterns of disregard for safety, harassment, or discrimination that may require further investigation or intervention.



# Where and when to report minor issues:



## Comment section of the spirit report

A good place to report minor concerns and issues. The league coordinator and OCUA staff have access to this information.

Examples: frequently arguing about calls and not moving forward with the resolution process, frequent contact throughout the game, insulting other players, poor sportsmanship, poor communication etc.

# Where to report incidents:



## Incident Report

There are a few different methods of submitting incident reports:

- Via the Incident Report link in Zuluru when submitting your game and spirit scores
- By filling out the form on the OCUA website - <https://www.ocua.ca/incident-report>
- Emailing the Executive Director - [jeremy@ocua.ca](mailto:jeremy@ocua.ca)



# When to report incidents:



- When a player is injured or the incident is considered more serious in nature
- When harassment or discrimination occurs
- When minor issues are repetitive and continue after being raised multiple times



# Where and when to report:



## Email to the Executive Director

For ANY type of incidents; but in particular, incidents that are sensitive in nature such as discrimination or harassment. Repetitive minor incidents should also be reported to help the league establish patterns in the event the behaviour escalates.



## QUOTE FROM HUC:



“The onus is on players to take care of each other”



# Thank You!

It is the responsibility of all OCUA members to ensure a safe and inclusive environment where players trust the people they are playing with, feel safe to participate and feel welcomed.

Thank you for taking to the time to educate yourself and your team on how we can improve player safety and retention.

