



USA HOCKEY Zero Tolerance Policy

In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, the USA Hockey Youth, Junior and Senior Councils have instructed the Officiating Program to adhere to certain points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship. This campaign is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, team officials, administrators and parents/spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey-sanctioned games.

Thus, the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all On-Ice Referees and Linesmen:

Players:

A minor penalty for un-sportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

- Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
- Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision. Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.

Coaches:

A minor penalty for un-sportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

- Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision including standing on the boards or standing in the bench doorway with the intent of inciting the officials, players or spectators.

Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

Officials:

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited. On-Ice officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

Parents/Spectators:

The game will be stopped by On-Ice officials when parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The On-Ice officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local Governing Body.

This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

- Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time
 - Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence
 - Throwing of any object in the spectator's viewing area, player's bench, penalty box or on the ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard
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Zero Tolerance Classifications:

A. Class 1 – Inappropriate verbal or non-verbal abuse not covered in Class 2 or Class 3.

B. Class 2 - Confrontation or reaction to specific events or triggers during Hornet Hockey Club related functions and activities.

1. Open disputing or arguing with the decision of an official, coach, administrator, spectator, or player, whether on or off the ice.
2. Obscene or vulgar language or the use of a physical act that is vulgar or obscene, racial or swearing.
3. Encouraging abusive or unsportsmanlike behavior in any player, coach, official, administrator or spectator.
4. Taunting or ridiculing of officials, coaches, players, administrators, or spectators.
5. Throwing of any object directed in the spectator's viewing area, at a person, in the playing area (including bench area), the ice, or as to create the potential of a safety hazard or issue.
6. Intentional physical contact using the body or stick after the whistle is blown or the buzzer has sounded.
7. Not stopping Zero Tolerance conduct once advised to do so.
8. Not voluntarily leaving a facility once advised to do so by any official, administrator or security personnel.

C. Class 3 - Complete loss of self-control during Hornet Hockey Club related functions and activities.

1. Off-ice physical violence or fighting, or abusive physical contact while the person is upset or angry.
 2. Threats of any nature.
 3. Returning to facility after being ejected.
 4. Any actions that require the use of third parties to control the conduct or situation, such as rink personnel, league personnel, or security personnel.
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Zero Tolerance Penalties:

A. General

1. Penalties listed are minimum and may be more severe, as in the case of aggravating circumstances or multiple offenses, or may remain at minimum if there are mitigating circumstances.
2. Suspensions and any appeals must comply with USA Hockey By-law 10 and AHAI By-laws, Rules and Regulations. Each organization should review these and specifically the Affiliate Guidelines and AHAI Rule Articles IX and X.

B. Classifications

1. Class 1 Violation Consequences generally handled within each organization with documentation required

- Minimum penalty - warning with written apology to person(s) offended
- Maximum penalty - 2 game suspension with written apology to person(s) offended

2. Class 2 Violation

- 1st occurrence Minimum suspension 3 games; 5 games for those in official capacity (Board member, coach, manager, etc.)
- 2nd occurrence Minimum suspensions at least doubled (6-10 games, as above)
- 3rd occurrence Minimum 30 day suspension
- All Class 2 violations should also include a written apology to person(s) offended

3. Class 3 Violation

- One year minimum suspension
- Reapply with the Hinsdale Hornet Hockey Club Board of Directors for reentry into the Club
- All Class 3 violations should also include a written apology to person(s) offended