

Windy City Storm **Policies and Rules of Conduct**

Overview

What follows are key policies and rules governing Windy City Storm Hockey. The policies and rules apply to everyone, including players, coaches, team managers, parents and their friends and guests, and team management and ownership, who this note shall refer to as “participants.”

Storm’s goal is to provide an enjoyable and productive hockey experience for every participant. This means developing good, strong hockey players, fostering a strong competitive spirit, and exhibiting a commitment to teamwork. It also means behaving properly, both on ice and off ice.

Just as there are rules governing on-ice play, there are rules governing how young hockey players and the people who make up their support systems should conduct ourselves. We will be successful in developing hockey skills and winning hockey games to the extent we conduct ourselves properly in all facets of our sport.

Are you supportive of your teammates? Are you an eager and coachable player? Do you seek out the best for your team before worrying about yourself? Do you prepare yourself mentally and physically to give your maximum effort? Can you play within the rules? Can you model good conduct at the rink, in the locker room, at practice, and in your daily lives? Whether it be by parents, family members, Storm coaches, or your future college coaches, young hockey players are evaluated not only for their skill on the ice but also for their character and conduct overall.

The policies and rules governing Windy City Storm Hockey will help us all achieve our goals.

The following policies should be read and adhered to by all participants in Windy City Storm hockey.¹ They do not exhaust the rules governing Windy City Storm Hockey which also include the rules of USA Hockey (USAH) and the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois (AHAI). Links to online sources for those rules are listed below.

¹ Windy City Storm’s policies and rules are adapted from published rules established by USAH and AHAI. To the extent there is any difference, real or perceived, between our policies and rules and those promulgated by USAH and AHAI, the USAH and AHAI rules and their interpretations shall govern Windy City Storm Hockey. Where Windy City Storm imposes additional policies or rules that do not appear in USAH or AHAI policies or rules, they also shall be fully enforceable by Windy City Storm against any participant.

Windy City Storm “Zero Tolerance” Policy

Windy City Storm’s zero tolerance policy applies to the entire organization, including players, team managers, coaches, Storm management, and parents and spectators.

Zero tolerance is essentially common sense regarding how we ought to treat one another. USAH and AHAI (and therefore Windy City Storm Hockey) define violations of zero tolerance as: ***any*** lack of respect or other unsportsmanlike conduct.

The following illustrates conduct that will not be tolerated and shall violate Windy City Storm’s zero tolerance policy.

With regard specifically to **players**:

Under AHAI rules a referee may assess a minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct whenever a player:

1. openly disputes or argues any decision by an official;
2. uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person; or
3. 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.

Storm may impose additional discipline if it deems it appropriate.

With regard specifically to **coaches**:

A referee may assess a minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct whenever a coach:

1. openly disputes or argues any decision by an official;
2. uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time; or
3. 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; and
4. any time a coach persists in any of these actions, a referee may assess a game misconduct penalty.

Storm may impose additional discipline, if it deems it appropriate.

With regard specifically to **parents and spectators**:

Parents are expected to be a positive role model by treating all players, coaches, officials and fellow spectators with respect and support.

A referee may stop a game when parents or spectators display inappropriate and disruptive behavior or interfere with other spectators or the game. The referee will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents or spectators from the viewing and game area. Storm may impose additional discipline, if it deems is appropriate.

By way of illustration, inappropriate and disruptive behavior includes:

- 1) the use of obscene, profane, or abusive language to anyone at any time;
- 2) taunting of players, coaches, officials, or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence, or physical violence; or
- 3) throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, players bench, penalty box, or on ice surface, directed in any manner that may create a safety hazard.

In the AHAI Rules & Regulations, a five-game suspension is mandated for certain violations of the parent/spectator conduct rules. See below.

Windy City Storm Policy Governing Parent and Spectator Conduct

Article 21.1.14 of the AHAI Rules and Regulations imposes a mandatory five-game suspension for parent and spectator misconduct in certain circumstances. It reads in full:

“In an effort to help control inappropriate spectator behavior, the following AHAI rule is effective immediately.

22.1.14.1 A game will be stopped by on-ice officials when the parents/spectators displaying inappropriate or disruptive behavior interfere with other parents/spectators or the game. The one ice officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the parents’/spectators’ viewing and game area.

22.1.14.2 Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced. Violators will incur a minimum mandatory 5-game suspension from that team’s games and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body.”

Windy City Storm Policies Against Physical or Sexual Abuse

Physical abuse of or by any participant in Windy City Storm hockey shall not be tolerated.

Physical abuse means physical contact with a participant that intentionally causes the participant to sustain bodily harm or personal injury. Physical abuse also includes physical contact with a participant that intentionally creates a threat of immediate bodily harm or personal injury.

Physical abuse does not include physical contact that is reasonably designed to coach, teach, or demonstrate a hockey skill. Permitted physical contact may include, but is not limited to, shooting pucks at a goaltender, demonstrating checking or other hockey skills, and

communicating with participants during a game or practice, by touching them in a non-threatening and/or non-sexual manner.

Sexual abuse of or by any participant in Windy City Storm hockey shall not be tolerated.

Sexual abuse of a minor participant occurs when an employee, volunteer or independent contractor touches a minor participant for the purpose of causing the sexual arousal or gratification of either the minor participant or an employee, volunteer or independent contractor.

Neither a minor's consent to sexual contact, an aggressor's mistake or lack of knowledge regarding a participant's age, nor the fact the sexual contact did not take place at a hockey function are excuses for or defenses to sexual abuse claims.

Upon proof of violation of this policy, the aggressor will be permanently banned or suspended from all AHAI/USA Hockey sanctioned programs and/or the programs of its Affiliate Associations.

Windy City Storm Hockey shall report violations of this sexual abuse policy to appropriate authorities and shall recommend criminal charges against any aggressor.

Windy City Storm Adheres to the Oversight by the U.S. Center for SafeSport

All Windy City Storm Hockey activities are subject to the SafeSport program. USAH has adopted SafeSport, stating in terms that apply fully to Windy City Storm:

"The safety of its participants is of paramount importance to USA Hockey. USA Hockey Safe Sport is the organization's program related to off-ice safety.

USA Hockey has long had systems in place to protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse and other types of abuse and misconduct that can be harmful to youth hockey players and other participants. These include without limitation Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Screening, Locker Room Supervision and Hazing Policies, in addition to Codes of Conduct applicable to administrators, coaches, officials, parents, players and spectators. The USA Hockey Safe Sport Handbook is intended to update and collect USA Hockey's various policies to protect its participants from all types of misconduct and abuse.

Any persons banned or suspended by the Center for SafeSport as a result of a SafeSport violation" will appear in a national database.

For greater detail regarding this important program please see:

<https://www.usahockey.com/SAFESPORTPROGRAM>

In addition, AHAI provides, like USAH, guidelines for reporting potential violations. No one wishing to report a potential SafeSport violation is required to confer with Windy City Storm coaches or management, as the reporting information below provides for direct reporting to SafeSport and/or USAH. In all circumstances, however, if requested, Windy City Storm officials shall assist any participant in reporting a potential SafeSport violation.

“How to Report:

USA Hockey’s Reporting Policy is a vital part of its Safe Sport Program, and an effective reporting policy is crucial to preventing abuse. Section IV of the Safe Sport Handbook contains specifics on the Reporting Policy – for more information on making a report, please also see: www.usahockey.com/makingareport.

The Center has exclusive jurisdiction to investigate and resolve allegations of sexual misconduct within USA Hockey programs. The Center also has the discretion to accept jurisdiction over other types of misconduct, but for the most part allegations of other types of misconduct, including emotional or physical abuse, bullying, hazing, threats or harassment, or violations of the MAAPP, are investigated and resolved by USA Hockey and its regional Affiliates.

Reports to U.S. Center for SafeSport:

If an Adult Participant reasonably suspects that an incident(s) of Child Abuse or Sexual Misconduct has occurred, they must immediately report the incident(s) to the Center as well as applicable law enforcement authorities. Reports to the Center may be made by (1) completing an online report to the Center at www.uscenterforsafesport.org/reporta-concern/ or by (2) calling 833-587-7233.

Reports to USA Hockey:

Reports of any allegation of misconduct or other inappropriate behavior that may violate Safe Sport Policies other than Sexual Misconduct or Child Abuse, should be made immediately to USA Hockey or the applicable Affiliate Safe Sport Coordinator, or may also be made to the Center. Reports to USA Hockey may be made by: (1) clicking on the “Report to USA Hockey” link on the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program webpage (www.usahockey.com/makingareport), (2) emailing to usahockeysafesport@usahockey.org, or (3) calling 800-888-4656. The USA Hockey Safe Sport Program webpage contains contact information for each Affiliate Safe Sport Coordinator.”

Windy City Storm Locker Room Policy

Locker rooms, at home and on the road, are for players and their coaches only. To maintain player privacy while changing, no parents, family members, friends, or others should enter locker rooms prior to, during, or after games.² Team coaches shall be responsible for determining when it is appropriate for them to enter locker rooms to address their teams.

Neither players nor coaches (nor anyone else) may use phones or any audio or visual recording device while a player or players are using a locker room. It is a violation of this policy to take photographs in locker rooms at any time. It is also a violation of this policy to share or disseminate photos taken in locker rooms.

² The only exceptions are in cases of medical or physical emergencies and/or at the express invitation of a team coach.

The only exception to the ban on phones and recording devices in locker rooms is when and if a team coach expressly authorizes it and a team coach is present to supervise any such permitted use. In addition, with express permission from a team coach, players may use a phone or similar device for playing music, but only for such purpose and no other.

To protect player privacy, Windy City Storm will impose appropriate discipline, up to and including suspensions from all Storm activities, on any person who violates these rules.

Windy City Storm Social Media Policies

All Windy City Storm Hockey participants shall refrain from all communications (verbal, pictorial, or otherwise) that Windy City Storm determines to be negative, threatening, harassing, derogatory, defaming, bullying, retaliatory, hazing, or abusive (including emotionally, sexually, or otherwise), by, in, or through any conceivable form of media, including without limitation social media, blogs, so-called chat rooms, and all other electronic or other forms of communication or broadcasting of any kind.

The use of social media and other forms of communication to share experiences participating in Windy City Storm hockey activities in a constructive and positive light, demonstrating in all respects adherence to the zero tolerance policy, is permitted.

Windy City Storm will impose appropriate discipline, up to and including suspensions from all Storm activities, who violates these rules.

Windy City Storm Rules & Ethics Committee

The Rules & Ethics Committee is charged with educating all Storm participants about the policies and rules governing its program, including directing them to their sources, and investigating alleged violations of the governing policies and rules, and where violations are found imposing appropriate discipline. For more information about the Rules & Ethics Committee, please go to: **[internal link]**

Links to Governing Rules

The policies highlighted here are important and deserve special attention from every Windy City Storm participant. Nonetheless, they do not contain all of the policies and rules governing Windy City Storm Hockey. For further, more detailed information, participants should consult these important sources of information provided online by USAH and AHAI:

US Hockey: <https://www.usahockey.com/>

This site provides a wealth of information regarding youth hockey, including game rules, rules and policies (like SafeSport) governing the safety and security of participants, educational modules, coaching ethics, and so on. Windy City Storm Hockey is governed by all applicable USAH rules and policies.

The Amateur Hockey Association Illinois: <https://www.ahai.org/>

This site provides still more information regarding game rules, participant conduct rules, and player safety rules and policies.

Of particular note are AHAI's rules and regulations, and its policies which are all accessible here: <https://www.ahai.org/page/show/6335118-by-laws-rules-and-regulations-policies>

Windy City Storm Hockey is governed by all applicable AHAI rules and policies.