

Parent/Spectator Code of Conduct

1.0 General

The Pittsburgh Aviators Hockey Association (PAHA) expects parents and spectators to conduct themselves in a respectful manner. Parents and spectators will treat other spectators, players, family members, Coaches and team administrators with respect and dignity.

At a minimum, the PAHA will adhere to the policies and procedures set forth by [USA Hockey and Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League \(PAHL\) rules](#). Any offense will be dealt with the PAHA Board and/or PAHL Rules Committee.

Hockey is an emotional sport. The physical battles that occur as players fight for control of the puck can spill onto the bench and stands and create strong reactions from the players, Coaches, parents and other participants. This intentional emotional aspect of hockey is one of the reasons it is such an exciting and entertaining game.

For parents and spectators, it is important to separate the game's emotions from the best interests of their child's sport development. For this reason, a **24-hour rule** has been adopted by the PAHA as a "cooling off" period. Our 24-hour rule stipulates that no parent, spectator, Board member or Coach should discuss any try-out related situations, game, or game incident or situation that occurred during the event that has provoked an adverse emotional response or hostile situation until at least 24 hours after the fact.

The intent of this rule is to move an emotional and confrontational discussion away from the presence of any player, spectator, Coach or Board member. This allows the parties involved to "cool off", compose themselves, and put the provoking incident or situation into perspective before meeting to discuss it.

NOTE: this "cooling-off" rule does not apply to any SafeSport or other Player Safety issues requiring prompt evaluation. As safety is paramount, any situation, as such, should be directed to our SafeSport Director or any other member of the Board of Directors immediately so they can be adequately addressed.

2.0 Policy

Our parent/spectator code of conduct applies the USA Hockey "[Zero Tolerance Policy](#)" as follows:

- This Zero Tolerance Spectator Conduct Policy (hereinafter "Policy") aims to eliminate inappropriate, disruptive and abusive behavior by spectators directed at game officials, players, coaches, spectators and other participants during PAHA sanctioned events.
- A spectator shall include any parent, sibling, family member of a participant or fan of a Pittsburgh Aviators team or Association (hereinafter "Spectator"). Should any Spectator be removed from a USAH sanctioned event or later be found to have used inappropriate, disruptive and abusive behavior (described below in Items 1 through 3, hereinafter "Abusive Conduct") towards officials, players, coaches, spectators or other participants at a USAH sanctioned event, that Spectator shall be subject to disciplinary action as prescribed

below.

- 1. Use of obscene, profane, or abusive language or gestures towards officials, players, coaches, spectators or other participants.
 - 2. Taunting of officials, players, coaches, spectators or other participants by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
 - 3. Throwing any object in the spectators' viewing area, players' bench, penalty box or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.
- The game will be stopped by game officials when parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game.
 - The game 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 (i.e., PAHL).

Spectators shall be subject to the following disciplinary action whether the removal is by a game official, security personnel, facility personnel, or Association personnel, or if the alleged Abusive Conduct is investigated after the fact by the Association and or USAH and found to be true in accordance with the following evidentiary standard. If, after removal or upon investigation after the fact, such alleged Abusive Conduct is found to have occurred by a preponderance of evidence, the following disciplinary action shall be imposed on the Spectator(s) that were removed and/or found to have committed Abusive Conduct during a USAH sanctioned event.

3.0 Compliance

Compliance will be enforced through the SafeSport Director Board member.

4.0 Disciplinary Actions

- First Offense - a suspension from all events involving the Association for a minimum of fourteen (14) days to a maximum of thirty (30) days;
- Second Offense - a suspension from all events involving the Association for a minimum of thirty (30) days to a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) days
- Third Offense- a suspension from all events involving the association until a decision has been rendered from an USA Hockey Affiliate hearing.
- All suspension periods shall run from the date of the incident in question.
- Further, if a parent/spectator continues to receive minor violations at frequency or number that are perceived to be excessive by the Board; the parent/spectator may be referred to PAHL for investigation. The procedures within PAHL require attendance at a PAHL Rules Committee hearing(s) and can include fines of \$250.00 and suspension from games. Any fines issued are payable to PAHL.

5.0 Designation Of Spectator Monitor

- Each Team in PAHA shall be required to designate a volunteer(s) to serve as a

parent/spectator monitor during all USAH sanctioned events. This designated monitor will address inappropriate spectator behavior prior to the situation escalating to the point it has an impact on the game by notifying security personnel and/or facility personnel.

- This designated monitor shall have the full support of PAHA and may call on facility management and/or game security to remove any spectator in violation of this Policy.
- The team manager shall be responsible to oversee the parent/spectator monitors for the Association.

6.0 REPORTING

Allegations of Abusive Conduct shall be reported using the attached Incident Report Form. The identity of reporters will be kept confidential. However, reporters must provide their name and valid contact information. Anonymous reports, especially those presented without corroborating evidence such as video, may not be to be acted upon at the sole discretion of PAHA.

- The PAHA will forward all Spectator Incident Report Forms to the Mid-Am District (administrator@midamhockey.com) for establishment of a record regarding the incident alleged.
- [Pittsburgh Aviators Zero Tolerance Spectator Incident Report - Google Docs](#)

7.0 References

Parents are strongly encouraged to review the information on USA Hockey's web site. In particular: [USA Hockey Parents Code of Conduct](#) States - Do not force your children to participate in sports but support their desires to play their chosen sports. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.

- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
- Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, Coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all its participants, your child will benefit.
- Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- Know and study the rules of the game and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.
- Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat, and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice – it is destructive.
- Work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer Coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.
- If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about hockey – and volunteer.