



ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

The USA Hockey Board of Directors has developed a Zero Tolerance Policy regarding the verbal abuse of officials and inappropriate spectator behavior. This Zero Tolerance Policy has been unanimously endorsed by the Billings Amateur Hockey League, its Board of Directors and Staff.

To make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, the USA Hockey Board of Directors has instructed the Officiating Program to adhere to certain points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship. These points were written and implemented to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey sanctioned games. This includes parking lots for the rink.

PLAYERS

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

- Openly disputes or argues about any decision by an Official.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language, including swearing, in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time, even if it is not directed at any person.
- Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with any Official's decision, in a manner that openly embarrasses the Official and/or challenges his judgment.

Any time that any player persists in any of these actions, he/she shall be assessed a Misconduct Penalty. A Game Misconduct shall result if such player continues.

COACHES

A Bench Minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

- Openly disputes or argues about 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, in a manner that openly
- embarrasses the Official and/or challenges his judgment. This includes 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, he/she shall be assessed a Game Misconduct Penalty.

SPECTATORS

On-ice officials will stop the game when the parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or participants of the game. The on-ice officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectators 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 BAHL. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

- Using obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Taunting players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threatening physical violence, or physical violence.
- Throwing any object in the spectators viewing area, players' bench, penalty box, or the on-ice surface, that in any manner creates a safety hazard.

Any violators will be escorted from the facility and not allowed to return until the next day.

In addition to the USA Hockey sanctions the Billings Amateur Hockey League has implemented the following rules:

CONSEQUENCES

PLAYERS- Our organization upholds high standards of behavior. In the event that a player receives game misconduct for Zero Tolerance abuse directed towards an official, the following disciplinary actions will be taken:

1. First Offense: If a game suspension is administered, our organization, in consultation with the player's coach, may deem it appropriate to impose an additional one (1) game suspension on top of any existing suspension the player is serving.
2. Second Offense: If a player commits a second offense of the same nature, the organization will extend the suspension by an additional three (3) games beyond any existing suspension.
3. Third Offense: A third offense will result in immediate suspension from the BAHL, and the player will not be eligible to participate in BAHL activities until they have applied for reinstatement before the Discipline Committee.

These measures underscore our commitment to maintaining a respectful and sportsmanlike environment within our organization.

All above violations have a right of appeal through the Discipline Committee.

COACHES- For a first Zero Tolerance violation, we as an organization will impose a match suspension to the suspension the coach is already serving. If there is a second offense of the same nature, that coach will receive a permanent suspension from the BAHL.

PARENTS/SPECTATORS- First Zero Tolerance offense will result in a thirty (30) day suspension. Second offense will result in a sixty (60) day suspension and a third offense will result in a permanent suspension from the BAHL. They will not be permitted to return until they apply for readmission to the

BAHL through the Discipline Committee. To clarify suspension, we mean you will not be able to watch your child skate at all.

That includes all practices, practice games, league games and tournaments. All the above violations have a right of appeal through the Executive Director.

Any disciplinary action taken or upheld by the Executive Director will be reported to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors in a timely manner, for awareness purposes.

Every skater and each of their parents must sign a Zero Tolerance Policy Statement. It confirms that they have read and agree with the policy. Skaters are not allowed to participate in league or practice games until they and their parents have signed zero tolerance statements.

Player Signature: _____ \

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____