

# **WNYHSCHL ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

Zero-Tolerance is that no inappropriate behavior will be tolerated at any time by anyone associated with High School hockey, and disciplinary action will be taken to enforce this policy. All players, coaches, and spectators are required to conduct themselves appropriately to promote the values of good sportsmanship and make ice hockey a desirable and rewarding experience for all participants. The WNYHSCHL will take action to ensure that no participant is abusive to officials or other participants. Any inappropriate conduct could result in ejection from the rink, team, player or coach suspension, or game forfeiture.

We also have a zero-tolerance social media policy that will further our mission of providing a safe and positive environment for hockey development. Any player who uses social media to engage in cyberbullying, harassment or discrimination will face disciplinary action. This includes activity on social media sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, YouTube, Tumblr, Reddit, and others.

Violators of the Zero Tolerance policy can be required to appear before the WNYHSCHL Disciplinary Committee, and subject to additional suspension or other action. The WNYHSCHL can institute disciplinary action even if no penalty is called by the referee.

## **PLAYERS**

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

- 1) Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official
- 2) Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
- 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

## **COACHES**

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero-Tolerance) shall be assessed 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.
- 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.

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. 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.

## SPECTATORS/PARENTS

On-ice officials will stop the game when the spectators/parents 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 the spectators/parents from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced, and violators will incur a minimum mandatory 3-game suspension from that team's games and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the WNYHSCHL. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

- 1) Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner 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.
- 3) Throwing of 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.

## TWENTY-FOUR HOUR RULE

The WNYHSCHL subscribes to the following "24 Hour Rule" policy regarding the reporting of a complaint or issue of concern. Please keep the intent of this rule in mind. The intent is not to discourage discussion, but to impose a period to allow emotions to cool and to allow a civil conversation to occur.

There shall be no contact with any member of the coaching staff regarding an issue of concern before, during or after a hockey game for a 24-hour period following the occurrence of an issue of concern.

Should there be an issue of concern after the 24-hour period has passed, the parent shall contact the TEAM MANAGER and schedule a meeting or discussion which may be documented and attended by the manager and coaching staff. The meeting shall be confidential, and should the coaching staff feel the manager's attendance improper, they shall utilize the assistant coaches to document the meeting. These documents shall be maintained by the coach for future reference should the need arise.

Should satisfaction not be accomplished by the meeting, the WNYHSCHL Disciplinary Committee shall be notified and meet with the parties and report to the board of directors based on the need.

Should the matter be unresolved after the coach and committee's meetings, the board of directors shall be notified and will schedule a meeting or respond in writing based on the complaint content. Should this rule be violated, the suspension under the ZERO TOLERANCE policy is 30 days.

The Player and their Parents/Guardians have read and agree to this policy.

Player Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_