



DISCIPLINARY POLICY

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

1. MEMBERS

The following applies to all those representing SMHA at any event or location (a “Member”).

1.1 The Board of Directors shall have the authority to suspend and/or ask for the resignation of any Member for “conduct unbecoming a Member” of SMHA, which includes a matter, conduct or thing that is considered, in the judgment of the Disciplinary Committee, the Board or any other committee thereof, (a) to be unsportsmanlike, abusive, threatening, slanderous, libelous, or inappropriate, (b) contrary to the best interest of the Association, or (c) harmful to the standing of minor hockey. Suspension entails exclusion from the arena for a set time period.

1.2 Any Member, or person, acting in an unsportsmanlike or inappropriate or abusive manner during any team gathering (pre-game, game, post-game, practice, special event) may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.

1.3 Disciplinary action by the Board may include expulsion from the arena for a set time period or expulsion from the Association.

2. PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS

The following applies to all players and team officials, representing or working for SMHA at any event or location.

2.1 Hockey is to be played on the ice, not in hallways, dressing rooms or spectator areas at any arena. Abuse or damage of arena property or equipment shall result in an immediate suspension of the team or player involved until the responsibility of the cost of the incurred damage is determined and/or resolved to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors.

2.2 SMHA will uphold any suspensions imposed by Hockey Canada, BC Hockey or PCAHA. The SMHA Board of Directors has the authority to impose additional disciplinary action.

2.3 SMHA strictly prohibits the use of tobacco, vaping, drugs, or alcohol in any hockey related activity. Any player, bench official or SMHA member who is impaired or who is vaping or found using tobacco, drugs or alcohol at any SMHA game, practice or other hockey related activity will be subject to severe action.

2.4 Abusive language or explicit music in dressing rooms, hallways, player benches, penalty box or on the ice will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action.

2.5 Fighting anywhere in or outside an arena complex, before or after a game will result in disciplinary action by the Board.

2.6 Referees are not to be approached before, during or after a game by any individual other than the Referee in Chief.

3. SUSPENSIONS

3.1 When suspensions are being considered they must equal or exceed the guidelines as set out by Hockey Canada, BC Hockey or PCAHA.

3.2 According to the Code of Conduct Consequences Guidelines (Appendix I), a coach may suspend, for discipline, any player for up to one (1) game. A suspension of more than one (1) game must have approval from the Disciplinary Committee. All suspensions must be reported to the applicable Division Director.

4. TEAM OFFICIALS

4.1 All matters relating to discipline of team officials will be first handled by the SMHA Technical Director of Hockey and the Division Director responsible for the Division involved. All matters relating to discipline of players will be first handled by the Division Director, in consultation with the players' team officials.

5. PENALTIES ("C" AND REP)

5.1 All penalties shall be governed by the official rules as published by Hockey Canada, BC Hockey, PCAHA, or as varied by SMHA.

5.2 The Board may impose penalties and/or suspensions in addition to any assessed by BC Hockey or PCAHA through a formal hearing with the player, Association Vice-President of House or Rep, Disciplinary Committee, and/ or Association Risk Manager.

5.3 It is the responsibility of the team officials to ensure that all player penalties and suspensions are duly served. Team officials must notify their applicable Division Director, and each Division Director must notify the Association Risk Manager, of each misconduct or match penalty assessed against a player, within 48 hours of the penalty or suspension being incurred.

6. TEAM OFFICIALS' RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 It is the responsibility of coaches and managers to enforce procedures and instructions as published by SMHA. Team officials will be held accountable to a higher standard and will be expected to set a proper example by their conduct. Unsportsmanlike, inappropriate, or abusive behaviour will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action by the SMHA Board and/or Disciplinary Committee.

6.2 A Coach is responsible to SMHA for the conduct of his players immediately before, during and after games, practices and other hockey related activities. Parents will be held responsible for their own actions. The Board of Directors retains the right to suspend a Player for inappropriate parental action.

6.3 Players should change in their allotted dressing rooms. The Two Deep Rule, as outlined by Hockey Canada shall be abided by at all times.

6.4 Each team must have parents to act in the capacity of off-ice officials, (timekeeper/scorekeeper) and only assigned personnel should be in the players box, penalty box and time box.

6.5 In the event of an injury the team coach or manager shall be responsible to direct all necessary action. A Hockey Canada Injury report must be completed and forwarded to the Division Director and the Association Risk Manager immediately after an injury.

7. COMPLAINTS

7.1 Game Protests and Game Complaints. All game protests and appeals shall be dealt with in accordance with Section K of the PCAHA Rules and Regulations. All game protests during the regular season shall be transmitted in writing to the PCAHA League Manager within 72 hours, on Association letterhead signed by the Association President. All other game complaints must be dealt firstly with team officials (coaches and managers), and secondly with the applicable SMHA Division Director and/or applicable SMHA Vice President. The Division Director and Vice President may: (i) deal with the matter in such manner as they consider reasonable; (ii) seek the recommendation from the Technical Director of Hockey; or (iii) refer the matter to the Board of Directors for a decision.

7.2 Dealing with Player, Parent, or Spectator Complaints. Complaints regarding the conduct of a player, parent, or spectator (but not including a coach and/or manager) shall be made to the applicable Division Director, who shall have primary responsibility for investigating the matter and gathering relevant facts. The Division Director may: (i) deal with the matter in such manner as they consider reasonable; (ii) seek the recommendation from the SMHA President or Vice-President, who may refer it to the Board for discussion or the Disciplinary Committee.

7.3 Dealing with Coach and Team Official Complaints. Complaints about a Coach, Assistant or Safety (Trainer) must first be addressed to the Manager in writing. If the Manager cannot resolve the issue, they will bring it forward to the Division Director. Complaints about a Manager must first be addressed to the Coach in writing. If the Coach cannot resolve the issue, they will bring it forward to the Division Director.

Fair Play concerns should be directed to the Division Director in writing.

7.4 Dealing with Referees and Linesmen Complaints. Any serious concerns and/or complaints by coaching staff or others regarding the conduct of referees and linesmen should be reported in writing to the SMHA Referee-in-Chief and a copy to the President. Concerns and complaints about calls made during a particular game, questioning interpretations of judgement calls, and verbal complaints will NOT be heard.

7.5 Disciplinary Committee. The Committee will gather and analyze information. The Disciplinary Committee will be established annually following the Association's annual general meeting. The Disciplinary Committee will be comprised of a chairperson, who will be a member of the Board of Directors or another qualified member in good standing, as appointed by the SMHA Board. The Chairperson will nominate at minimum, two other individuals for appointment to the Committee, and such nominations must be approved by the SMHA Board.

7.6 Disciplinary Committee Procedures. Any person involved in a complaint shall be entitled to make representations in writing to the person(s) or committee reviewing the matter; and at the sole discretion of the committee appear in person or virtually before the Disciplinary Committee on the matter. The Disciplinary Committee may also request any person who was involved in the complaint or who witnessed the matter complained of, to provide the Committee with a written statement or appear in person or virtually. The Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee (or person designated as such in each instance) shall conduct all meetings with reasonable fairness, allowing all parties the opportunity to present all relevant information.

7.7 Report to the Board. The Disciplinary Committee will make a report to the Board of Directors together with its recommendation with regard to the complaint. The Board of Directors will consider the

report and decide whether or not to adopt, with or without modifications, the recommendation of the Disciplinary Committee or to otherwise make a decision as to the disposition of the matter.

8. COACH COMPLAINTS

8.1 Complaints from parents or team members regarding coaches must be made first to the applicable Division Director and Team Manager and follow the Dispute Resolution Process. If the complaint is not resolved or cannot be resolved, or it requires a decision, it must be presented in writing to the SMHA Board of Directors for resolution.

8.2 Complaints from on-ice officials regarding coaches must be made to the Referee-in-Chief and official assigner in writing. Any coach who is abusive to officials will receive a letter of reminder regarding their treatment officials from the disciplinary committee. If the same coach receives a subsequent complaint the technical director of hockey will address the complaints in person. A third complaint will result in possible non consideration for future coaching positions. All letters will be kept in the coach file.

9. APPEALS

9.1 The decision of the Risk Manager, Disciplinary Committee or Board in the above sections, may be appealed to the Disciplinary Committee. For Rep Selection Appeals, refer to SMHA Rep Hockey Policy for details.

10. NOTICE OF APPEAL

10.1 A matter may be appealed to the Disciplinary Committee by giving written notice providing a description of the matter(s) in question and stating the reasons for the appeal. An appeal shall either be delivered by hand, or electronic mail within 48 hours (including Sundays and public holidays) following notification of the decision referred to in section 8 above.

11. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE APPEAL PROCEDURES

11.1 For each matter, the designated chairperson and the disciplinary committee shall review all the relevant information, contact all parties as required at the committee's discretion and provide a decision. The Disciplinary Committee, if they deem necessary, can also have a meeting either virtually or in-person, with reasonable fairness, allowing all parties the opportunity to present all relevant information. If through misadventure, sickness or other reason, a member of the Disciplinary Committee is not able to attend an appeal meeting, the meeting shall proceed with the members present. If less than three members are present, the appellant shall be given the option of rescheduling the meeting to a convenient future date and time.

11.2 The Disciplinary Committee shall review the Appeal in a timely fashion and render its decision in writing to the applicable parties by electronic mail within 48 to 72 hours.

11.3 The decision of the Disciplinary Committee shall be final except if a further appeal is made as permitted by and in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws and Regulations of an affiliated body by which the Association has agreed to be bound.

This policy was approved by the Board on September 11, 2024.