



ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, AHAI has a very simple definition of Zero Tolerance and it will not be tolerated. The definition is: Any lack of Respect or Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and will be a violation of AHAI's Zero Tolerance Policy. This campaign is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, team officials and administrators, parents and spectators to comply with the Zero Tolerance Policy.

Each organization, player, coach, officials, team officials and administrators, parents and spectators are expected to enforce this Policy. In addition, AHAI has instructed the Officiating Program to adhere to certain points of interest to enforce this Policy in all USA Hockey sanctioned games.

Thus, the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all On-Ice Referees and Linesmen:

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 any 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 at all times. 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.

PARENTS/SPECTATORS

The game will be stopped by on-ice officials when the parents/spectators 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 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. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

- Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at anytime.
- Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
- 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.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY

USA Hockey shall provide an equal opportunity to amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in amateur athletic competition, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin or socioeconomic status, and with fair notice and opportunity for a hearing to any amateur athlete, coach, manager, administrator, or official before declaring such individual ineligible to participate in USA Hockey programs or competition.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

All AHAI Board of Directors and committee members who may participate in decisions where a personal gain may be possible, are required to sign a "Conflict of Interest" Statement.

