



DISCIPLINE AND SUSPENSIONS

2015 – 2016 Iowa City - Coralville Youth Hockey Association

Statement of Policy and Intent

It is the policy of the Iowa City - Coralville Hockey Association that all of its Members, Coaches and any other individual participating in the activities of the Association exhibit the qualities of good sportsmanship and civil behavior and abide by the Code of Conduct of the Association.

It is the intent of the Association to provide a fair and impartial review procedure to determine whether Members have been involved in misconduct while participating in activities sponsored by the Association, USA Hockey, Midwest Hockey League or any other participating event. An individual is participating in sponsored activity if he or she is a spectator, a volunteer minor game official (time-keeper, score keeper, penalty box supervisor or other off-ice official), a player or coach on an Association team or in attendance at any event sponsored by the Association.

When it is found that a Member has violated the Code of Conduct, the Association will discipline the individual in accordance with the procedures and penalties set forth in this policy and guideline.

The Iowa City/Coralville Hockey Association Discipline Committee

The Committee consists of five members. The President will appoint the committee chairperson, and the committee will consist of 4 association members (minimum of 2 board members) and the Iowa City - Coralville Hockey Association Hockey Director. The committee members shall represent each level of players. The Committee will have a term that coincides with the term of his or her elected position on the Board.

Members of the Committee serve at the discretion of the Board and any member may be suspended or removed by the Board for violations of the Code of Conduct or breach of responsibility associated with the duties of the Committee.

Duties of the Committee

1. Review allegations of misconduct;
2. Determine if an individual has violated the Code;
3. Issue penalties commensurate with the severity of the offense when the Committee finds that a violation has occurred;
4. Report to the Board regarding its activities.

The Committee will meet as necessary during the scheduled season to carry out its duties. Three members of the Committee constitute a quorum and are to be in attendance in order for a meeting to occur.

The Committee will also review all misconducts and game suspension penalties to determine if additional disciplinary action is warranted and to assure games suspensions are appropriately served and documented.

Penalties, Terms and Conditions

1. Verbal Warning
 - a. Any disrespect shown to any coach, parent, or teammate. Back talk or any other displays of disrespect will not be tolerated.
 - b. Any action that would result in a minor game penalty. Player will serve time in penalty box per on-ice coaching supervision during practice or any ICH associated activity.
2. Level 1, Written warning. Immediate removal from ice.
 - a. Repeated actions requiring additional Verbal Warnings.
 - b. Any action that would result in a Major game penalty.

3. Level 2, Written warning. Immediate removal from ice. Up to seven-day suspension.
 - a. Repeated actions requiring additional Verbal Warnings and/or Level 1 Penalties.
 - b. Any action that would result in a Game Misconduct Penalty. (Using profane and/or vulgar language or mannerisms.)
 - c. Fighting before, during or after any ICH sponsored event.

4. Level 3, Written warning. Immediate removal from Ice. Up to 14-day suspension. Additional infraction may result in termination of membership.
 - a. Repeated actions requiring additional Verbal Warnings, Level 1, or Level 2 Penalties.
 - b. Any action that would result in a Match Penalty (attempt to injure).
 - c. Throwing of any object onto the ice surface, into the player's area, or at another individual.
 - d. Harassment or abuse.
 - I) Unwelcome jokes, innuendo or teasing about a person's looks, body, attire, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation;
 - II) Condescending, patronizing, threatening or punishing actions which undermine self esteem or diminish performance;
 - III) Practical jokes, which cause awkwardness or embarrassment, endanger a person's safety or negatively affect performance;
 - IV) Unwanted or unnecessary physical contact including touching, patting or pinching;
 - V) Any form of hazing;
 - VI) Any form of physical assault or abuse;

5. Level 4, Written warning. Immediate removal from ice. Up to 30 days suspension. Additional infraction may result in termination of membership.
 - a. Taunting any player, coach, official, association or league representative, arena personnel, spectator, or parent.
 - b. Defacing or damaging property belonging to any individual, team, association, or arena.
 - c. Going on to the ice surface for any reason, unless directed by coach or other official.
 - d. Entering the bench area during a game.

6. Level 5, may result in termination of membership, indefinite suspension, or suspension up to 180 days.
 - a. Taunting or threatening any player, coach, official, association or league representative, arena personnel, spectator, or parent.
 - b. Making physical contact with any player, coach, official, association or league representative, arena personnel, spectator or parent.
 - c. Entering the locker room of any opposing team or obstructing their access or exit from said room or arena.
 - d. Entering the locker room of any official or obstructing their access or exit from said room or arena.
 - e. Being involved with any activity that would warrant the summoning of law enforcement officials.

7. Level 6, Immediate dismissal and permanent ban from Iowa City - Coralville Hockey Association
 - a. Any sexual assault (automatic report to local law enforcement)

8. A combination of multiple lower level infractions may result in a higher-level disciplinary action. The Disciplinary Committee retains the right to make this determination.

9. The Disciplinary Committee may also issue a letter delineating behavioral expectations of the involved Member. Failure to sign or abide by this agreement may result in termination of membership.

10. If a player is suspended for any length of time during the season for reasons relating to violations of the Code of Conduct, including removal from the Association, no refunds of any kind shall be made.

Any member receiving a Level 3,4, or 5 penalty must submit a written apology to the person or persons affected, meet with the Discipline Committee and obtain approval from the Executive Board members before returning to involvement within the Association.

REPORTING INFRACTIONS

All members of Iowa City - Coralville Hockey association are encouraged to report any behavior issues promptly before they are allowed to escalate into larger problems. Assistant Coaches should report to Head Coaches and Head Coaches report to parents and Hockey Director. Hockey Director reports to Discipline Committee. Incidents involving the above mentioned people can be reported to a higher level including the Executive Board Members.

NOTICE OF MEETING

- 1) All persons requested to attend a discipline hearing will be given forty-eight (48) hours advance notice of a scheduled hearing;
- 2) Notice of request to attend a discipline hearing will be arranged by the ICH and may be communicated by telephone, letter, electronic or other suitable means;
- 3) Should a participant be unable to attend a scheduled hearing a written statement of fact may be submitted by the participant to the Discipline Committee prior to the hearing being held.
- 4.) Minutes will be taken during a discipline hearing and must be forwarded within forty-eight (48) hours of a hearing being concluded to the Executive Committee for review.

APPEAL OF DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE SUSPENSIONS

- a) Suspensions issued by a League Discipline Committee may be appealed through the Executive Committee;
- b) Suspensions issued by the Executive Committee may be appealed through the Board of Directors at their next scheduled Board of Directors meeting;
- c) Notice of Appeal must be forwarded in writing to the Iowa City - Coralville Hockey Association President within forty-eight hours of receiving a letter of suspension from a Discipline Committee hearing indicating the reason for the Notice of Appeal.
- d) The Executive Committee will meet within fourteen days (14) to review the reason for the Notice of Appeal;
- e) The Executive Committee may decide to reject the Notice of Appeal outright, may reduce or increase the penalty imposed under the original decision or may set the decision aside altogether;
- f) Results of the Executive Committee decision will be forwarded in writing to the party making the appeal within twenty-four (24) hours of the review.

24 Hour Rule: Coaches should not discuss a game, a game incident or a situation that occurred during the game that has provoked an adverse emotional response or created a hostile situation until at least 24 hours after the fact. A Member is not to approach a coach to discuss a game, a game incident or a situation that occurred during the game that has provoked an adverse emotional response or a hostile situation until at least 24 hours after the fact.

Note to 24 Hour Rule: Hockey is an emotional sport. The physical battles that players fight for control of the puck can spill on to the bench and stands and create strong reactions from coaches. This intense emotional aspect of hockey is one of the reasons it makes exciting entertainment.

For parents, it is important to separate game emotions from the best interests of their child's sports development. For this reason, Iowa City - Coralville Hockey Association has adopted the "24 Hour Rule". The intent of the rule is to move an emotional and confrontational discussion away from the presence of the players, and to allow the parties to "cool off", compose themselves and put the provoking incident or situation that occurred in the game in perspective before meeting to discuss it.