



Potomac Patriots



Zero Tolerance Policy

In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable, enjoyable and rewarding experience for all participants, The Potomac Patriots Hockey Organization (Patriots) has implemented an “Absolute Zero Tolerance Policy” with respect to the behavior of the players, coaches, referees, spectators and parents participating in or viewing a game. We are instructing any official who officiates a game to adhere to certain points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship.

This policy is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, team officials, administrators, spectators and parents to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all games.

We are instructing all on-ice Referees and Linesmen to carry out the following:

For 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 even if it is not directed at a particular person.
3. Any physical contact using the body or the stick after the whistle has blown.

Any “fighting” penalty in a league game will result in an “automatic” (2) league game suspension to be served in the next two consecutive league games. A player who receives a major penalty for fisticuffs for a second time in a season shall be suspended for the next five (5) league games. The player involved **MUST** appear before a Disciplinary Committee (consisting of 3 members selected by the Commissioner) prior to the automatic expiration of the fourth game suspension, for determination of additional action and to formally request reinstatement. (See CBHL Rule 5.1.1)

For Coaches:

It is our belief that a coach’s behavior determines how his players and parents will behave. Therefore, 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 at the rink before, during or after the competition.
3. Usually demonstrates 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.

Any coach that receives three or more game misconduct penalties will be referred to the Discipline Committee for review and possible suspension.

For On Ice Officials:

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an on-ice and off-ice 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.

For Off Ice Officials:

No person under the age of 18 are allowed to be in the scorer area or penalty box. Any vulgar or profane language or other misconduct directed at an off ice official will be immediately brought to the attention of the on ice officials and will be strictly penalized.

For Parents/ Spectators:

The game will be stopped by the on-ice officials when parents/spectators display inappropriate and disruptive behavior, interfere with other spectators or the conduct of the game. The on-ice officials will cause the clock to run during this process. The on- ice officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/ spectators from the spectators’ viewing and game area. Coaches of the responsible spectator will identify the individual or family relative to the officials for their USA Hockey incident report. Once removed, play will resume. Removal of parents/ spectators for a Zero tolerance violation, will be prohibited from attending the next 2 (two) league games. Lost time will not be replaced, and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the league Discipline Committee. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

Being part of the game’s officiating team [on ice and off officials are considered to be a team], the game time-keeper, the penalty bench attendants, and the official scorer may not openly cheer for either of the teams on the ice, provoke any of the players or officials, use profane language, or openly question a judgment call made by an on-ice official. Any of these actions taken by an off-ice official may result in his or her ejection and eventual replacement.

- Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time at the rink before, during or after a game.
- Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or actual physical violence.
- Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, player’s bench, penalty box or on the ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

Any parent/spectator who must be removed from the rink a second time will not be allowed to attend any league game until a hearing before the league’s Discipline Committee.

Failure to comply with the above sanctions will result in the parent/spectator’s team player not being allowed to participate while that parent/spectator is in the building.

Any decision of the League’s Discipline Committee may be appealed in writing to the League Appeals Committee. The appeal must be accompanied by a \$125.00 appeal fee. Decisions of the League Appeals Committee shall be final.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received, read, understand and agree to abide by the Potomac Patriots Hockey Organization’s Zero Tolerance Policy.

I will review this policy with the player listed below and all members of his/her family to assure they understand their responsibilities and penalties for violation of this policy.

Players Name: _____

PlayersSignature: _____

Parent/Guardian’s Name: _____

Parent/Guardian’s Signature: _____

Date: _____