

PIHL Zero Tolerance Spectator Conduct Policy

This PIHL Zero Tolerance Spectator Conduct Policy (hereinafter “Policy”) aims to eliminate inappropriate, disruptive and abusive behavior by spectators directed at game officials, players, coaches, spectators and other participants during PIHL sanctioned events.

A spectator shall include any parent, sibling, family member of a participant or fan of a PIHL team or Association (hereinafter “Spectator”). Should any Spectator be removed from a PIHL sanctioned event or later be found to have used inappropriate, disruptive and abusive behavior (described below in Items 1 through 3, hereinafter “Abusive Conduct”) towards officials, players, coaches, spectators or other participants at a PIHL sanctioned event, that Spectator shall be subject to disciplinary action as prescribed below.

1. Use of obscene, profane, or abusive language or gestures towards officials, players, coaches, spectators or other participants.
2. Taunting of officials, players, coaches, spectators or other participants 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.

Spectators shall be subject to the following disciplinary action whether the removal is by a game official, security personnel, facility personnel, or Association personnel, or if the alleged Abusive Conduct is investigated after the fact by the PIHL and found to be true in accordance with the following evidentiary standard. If, after removal or upon investigation after the fact, such alleged Abusive Conduct is found to have occurred by a preponderance of evidence, the following disciplinary action shall be imposed on the Spectator(s) that were removed and/or found to have committed Abusive Conduct during a PIHL sanctioned event.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

First Offense - a suspension from all PIHL events involving the Association for a minimum of thirty (30) days to a maximum of ninety (90) days;

Second Offense - a suspension from all PIHL events involving the Association for a minimum of sixty (60) days to a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) days;

Third Offense - a suspension from all PIHL events for a period of one (1) year.

All suspension periods shall run from the date of the incident in question.

The Spectator shall also be required to pay for and complete a certified anger management class. The Spectator shall provide the Association with a certificate of completion, or other documentation from the course evidencing completion, to be eligible to be a Spectator at a future PIHL event. Suspensions shall include all activities, including practices (on-ice, dry land and meetings), tournaments and games with the respective PIHL Association.

ABUSIVE CONDUCT DIRECTED AT MINORS: Should the Abusive Conduct occur in a game where the conduct is directed specifically at game officials, players, or spectators who are 18 years of age or younger, the Disciplinary Action stated herein shall be doubled, e.g., a Third Offense would result in a suspension for a period of two (2) years.

ARENA ENTRY EXCEPTION: A suspended parent/guardian shall be permitted to enter the rink if their child has been injured and needs the parent/guardian's assistance to assess their child's well-being and ability to return to play or assist the child in undressing to leave the arena for medical evaluation. Should the player return to the ice or player's bench, the suspended parent/guardian must exit the building immediately.

REPORTING: Allegations of Abusive Conduct shall be reported using the attached Incident Report Form at the link listed below. The identity of reporters will be kept confidential. However, reporters must provide their name and valid contact information. Anonymous reports, especially those presented without corroborating evidence such as video, may not be to be acted upon at the sole discretion of the PIHL.

The PIHL will forward all Spectator Incident Report Forms to the Mid-Am District for establishment of a record regarding the incident alleged.

REPORTER LINK: **Need to establish link on PIHL website to upload incident report.**

DESIGNATION OF SPECTATOR MONITOR: Each Association shall be required to designate a volunteer(s) to serve as a parent/spectator monitor during all PIHL sanctioned events for each team in the Association. This designated monitor will address inappropriate spectator behavior prior to the situation escalating to the point it has an impact on the game by notifying security personnel and/or facility personnel. This designated monitor shall have the full support of the Association and the PIHL and may call on game security and/or facility management to remove any spectator in violation of this Policy.

The President of each Association shall be responsible to oversee the parent/spectator monitors for the Association. The President shall also be responsible for filing Spectator Incident Report Forms with the PIHL. Parent/spectator monitors shall be identified on the Association's Contact List.

The President of each Association shall be required to sign an acknowledgment form acknowledging the Policy has been received and disseminated throughout their respective Association.

The PIHL reserves the right to modify or revise this Policy as it, in its sole discretion, deems necessary.

PIHL Zero Tolerance Spectator Incident Report

Date/Time of Incident:

(Rink) Location:

PIHL Game #:

Team (Home):

Team (Away):

Security on Site:

Description of Incident (please provide a detailed description):

Did incident involve a player, coach, spectator or referee?

Were the police called? If so, what is the report number?

Anyone injured? Was an ambulance called?

Individuals involved in Incident:

Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

(For each Individual)

Individual reporting Incident (shall remain confidential):

Name:

Email:

Phone Number: