

Zero Tolerance Policy: In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, the USA Hockey Youth & Girls, Junior and Adult Councils have instructed the Officials program to adhere to certain points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship. This policy is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, team officials and administrators, and parents/spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey sanctioned games, events, and practices.

a. Players:

i. A minor penalty for un-sportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever players:

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.
4. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such actions.

b. Coaches:

i. A minor penalty for un-sportsmanlike 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 or players or spectators.
4. Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

c. Officials: Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial, and constructive manner at all times. Actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited. Officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

d. Parents/Spectators:

- i. The game officials will stop a game when the parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The game 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/state governing body. The Locals have the primary responsibility for crowd control behavior. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:
 1. Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner at anyone at any time.
 2. Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
 3. Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, player's bench, penalty box or on or off ice surfaces, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard. Spitting at players, officials, off ice officials, minor officials, or fans/spectators is also prohibited.
- ii. Basic rule of thumb: If you think it might be offensive to you or someone else, it probably is and should be dealt with.
 1. 1st Offense: Removal from the Ice Arena for the remainder of the day and evening and a report with name, address, and reason of the person or persons is recorded and sent to the SDAHA Discipline Committee Chairperson. A written warning will be issued to the local association. The local will give a written warning to the person or persons in violation and a copy to the Discipline Chairperson.
 2. 2nd Offense: Removal from the Ice Arena and All USA Hockey games, events, and practices for a Minimum of but not limited to a period of two weeks. If the offender violates the two weeks an additional two weeks will be added to the offender. A report with the offender's name, address, and reason for getting removed is sent to the SDAHA Discipline Committee Chairperson. A written warning will be issued to the local association. The local will give a written warning to the person or persons involved in their local and a copy to the Discipline Chairperson.
 3. 3rd Offense: Banned for the rest of the hockey season with a minimum of six weeks from all USA Hockey games, events, and practices. If there is not six weeks left in the hockey season, the remainder will be carried over to next season. A report with the offender's name, address, and reason for getting removed is sent to the SDAHA Discipline Committee Chairperson.

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e. **Local Associations:**

- i. 1st Local Association Offense: Locals in 1st violation of not following the above rules, the locals will be fined up to a maximum of \$500.
- ii. 2nd Local Association Offense: Locals in 2nd violation of not following the above rules, the locals will be fined up to a maximum of \$1,000.
- iii. 3rd Local Association Offense: Locals in 3rd violation of not following the above rules, the local will be fined up to a maximum of \$1,500 and may also lose their rights to the next eligible state tournament.

f. **Cyber Bullying:** SDAHA will not tolerate cyber bullying or threats made through electronic means of communication. Each local association will be asked to deal with each situation as a serious matter and take the appropriate disciplinary action. If the incident involves two or more locals, and an agreement as to discipline cannot be met by the locals, the case may be referred to the SDAHA Discipline Committee to hear and render a decision. The SDAHA Discipline committee will treat the incident as any other discipline issue that comes before it. A hearing will be scheduled to hear the case, at which time, all parties involved will have their opportunity to address the committee. The SDAHA Discipline Committee will render a decision. The decision may be appealed under rules already in place for appealing a decision.

g. **Personal Digital Assistant (PDA)/Cell Phone/Camera Policy:** The use of any device that can take photos is prohibited from any locker room area. Enforcement of this policy is up to each local Affiliate of SDAHA.