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Members of the Illinois West High School Hockey Clubs,

Welcome to the 2019/20 season of the West Division High School Hockey League. I'm sure by now your club president has or will be about to cover with you all the exciting opportunities that will be made available to you and your players through your club and the West Division League. Even though each club within the Division has their own particular rules and regulations regarding play and code of conduct, we feel that as the West Division league, we need to address a very important segment of the League's Code of Conduct, the Zero Tolerance Policy towards officials and /or opposing players and parents. During the past season, there were more issues regarding Zero Tolerance than any season prior, and we want everyone associated within the West Division to understand the consequences related to Zero Tolerance infractions. Abuse of the officials, coaches, players, and other parents/spectators attending the game will not be tolerated!

Players are expected to respect all officials on and off the ice. We have zero tolerance for abuse of the officials. We expect all West Division athletes to respect their teammates and other players and coaches as well. Sportsmanship on and off the ice is mandatory, and violations will carry stiff penalties.

Any parent/spectator reported to be in violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy by way of the Officials Incident Report will face a hearing by their club Rules & Ethics and a minimum of a three (3) game suspension from the Illinois West League for the next consecutive league games of your club (not including the game of suspension). A second offense can include further disciplinary action up to and including season suspension for all remaining games including playoffs. Established in the 2017-2018 Season, Illinois West imposes a monetary fine to the club with an escalation amount per incident.

Fans are expected to cheer for their team in a positive manner, not use foul language towards the officials or the opposing team coaches, players, or parents/spectators. The officials have been instructed to do what is necessary to help eliminate these infractions. The expectation is that as adults, we act like adults, and set the example for all. Everything we do is for the players and we want to make sure we provide for everyone's safety so everyone can enjoy the game.

We know that high school hockey games are very emotional and it is often very easy to get caught up in the drama, however, the league must take this stand to provide the best surroundings for all our coaches, players, parents/spectators, and officials. We felt it necessary to address this issue at your Parents' & Player meeting so everyone is on the same page, and informed of the consequences of infraction of the Zero Tolerance Policy. The Zero Tolerance Policy is a must and will be strictly enforced by your club and the Illinois West League. This message is being delivered to everyone involved, and there will be no exceptions. Everyone is responsible to read, understand, and adhere to the Zero Tolerance Policy

I want to personally thank you in advance for your cooperation with this very serious segment of our league rules. I wish all of you great success and a whole lot of fun in the new season!

Best Regards,

Jim McKeague
President

Illinois High School Hockey League – West Division