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# **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

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# ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Any violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy constitutes conduct detrimental to hockey and makes the offender subject to disciplinary action, with possible suspension by the Northwest Chargers Rules and Ethics Committee. All violations are also subject to review by the Northwest Chargers Board of Directors, League Rules and Ethics Committee, and the AHAI Rules and Ethics Committee.

## PLAYERS SHALL NOT

- Openly dispute, argue, or protest a decision made by an official.
- Use obscene, vulgar, or racial language, even if not directed at a particular person (this includes swearing).
- Visually demonstrate any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision in a manner that openly embarrasses the official and/or challenges his/her judgment.
- Taunt any other player, coach, official, administrator, or spectator.
- Make any intentional physical contact with the body, puck, stick, or equipment of another player after the whistle has blown or the buzzer has sounded.
- Encourage abusive or unsportsmanlike behavior in any player, coach, official, administrator, or spectator.
- Continue to engage in zero-tolerance conduct once advised not to do so. If a player is asked to leave the facility by an official, administrator, rink employee, or security personnel, they must do so immediately.
- Engage in off-ice physical violence or fighting or abusive physical contact while participating in any official Northwest Charger event (e.g., practice, game, tournament, special event).

## COACHES SHALL NOT

- Openly dispute, argue, or protest a decision made by an official.
- Use obscene, vulgar, or racial language, even if not directed at a particular person (this includes swearing).
- Visually demonstrate any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision in a manner that openly embarrasses the official and/or challenges his/her judgment.
- Taunt, bait, ridicule, or threaten any official, player, or spectator.
- Make aggressive physical contact with any official, player, or spectator.
- Continue to engage in zero-tolerance conduct once advised not to do so. If a coach is asked to leave the facility by an official, administrator, rink employee, or security personnel, they must do so immediately.

## PARENTS AND SPECTATORS SHALL NOT

- Use obscene, vulgar, or racial language, even if not directed at a particular person (this includes swearing).
- Openly dispute, argue, or protest a decision made by an official.
- Taunt, bait, ridicule, or threaten (verbal or physical) any official, player, or spectator
- Approach the home or away benches, coaches, officials, or the ice surface before, during, or after play.
- Approach or enter the home or away locker rooms before, during, or after play. Limited exceptions will be made for parents/guardians of younger teams who may need to assist players with dressing/undressing or for designated, certified locker room attendants.
- Encourage abusive or unsportsmanlike behavior in any player, coach, official, administrator, or spectator.
- Continue to engage in zero-tolerance conduct once advised not to do so. If a parent or spectator is asked to leave the facility by an official, administrator, rink employee, or security personnel, they must do so immediately.
- Return to an ice facility after being ejected.
- Engage in off-ice physical violence or fighting or abusive physical contact while participating in any official Northwest Charger event (e.g., practice, game, tournament, special event).



# ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

## VIOLATIONS AND SANCTIONS

### PLAYERS

- Ice officials may assess a minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance).
- Anytime the player persists in any of these actions, he/she can be assessed a misconduct penalty by the on-ice official.
- A game misconduct penalty shall result if the player continues actions as assessed by the on-ice official.
- Any player receiving a game misconduct for a zero-tolerance infraction may receive an additional one (1) game suspension by the Northwest Chargers, in addition to the one (1) game suspension given by the on-ice official, should an investigation by the Rules & Ethics Committee deem it necessary.
- A second zero-tolerance offense will result in an additional three (3) game suspension.
- A third zero-tolerance offense will result in the Northwest Chargers suspending the player until the player applies for reinstatement before the Northwest Charger Board of Directors.

### COACHES

- The on-ice official may assess a bench minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance).
- Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, the on-ice official may assess a game misconduct penalty.
- Any coach receiving a game misconduct for a zero-tolerance infraction may receive an additional one (1) game suspension by the Northwest Chargers, in addition to the one (1) game suspension given by the on-ice official, should an investigation by the Rules & Ethics Committee deem it necessary.
- Continued penalized behavior may result in further suspensions, penalties, or fines after an investigation by the Northwest Chargers Rules & Ethics Committee.

### PARENTS AND SPECTATORS

- On-ice officials will stop the game when parents or spectators displaying inappropriate or disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or participants.
- The on-ice officials may identify the violator(s) directly and demand that they remove themselves from the facility. If a parent or spectator is asked to be removed from a game, there will be an automatic five (5) game suspension, as required by AHAI.
- The on-ice official may also identify the violator(s) to the coaches for the purpose of removing the violator(s) from the game and spectator viewing areas for the remainder of the game.
- Gameplay will not resume until the violator(s) have left the game and spectator viewing areas.
  - **Note:** *If you are asked to leave the rink (guilty or not), do it! Refusal to leave or attempts to discuss the reasons for your ejection with the official will only escalate the situation. **Leaving the rink means leaving the rink;** do not return to the seating area or attempt to watch the game through doors, hallways, etc.*
- All reported violations of the Zero Tolerance Policy shall be investigated and reviewed by the Northwest Chargers Rules & Ethics Committee, and penalties/sanctions shall be assessed based on the classifications listed below (1-3).
  - **Class 1** – A first-time offense of zero tolerance, but which shall not include a violation under Class 3, will be reviewed by the Northwest Chargers Rules & Ethics Committee. Penalty for a first time, Class 1, will be a five (5) game suspension inclusive of all team activities until the fifth game is complete.
  - **Class 2** – Any repeat offense, a violation that requires rink personnel or law enforcement to become involved, physical contact involving players, children, or other adults, or any incident that endangers others will be reviewed by the Northwest Chargers Rules & Ethics Committee and will result in suspension from five (5) games to thirty (30) days, inclusive of all team activities during the suspension period.
  - **Class 3** – Violations involving threats, physical harm, or repeated Class 2 offenses will result in a suspension of from ninety (90) days to one (1) year, inclusive of all team activities during the suspension period, and require a reinstatement hearing before the Northwest Chargers Board of Directors.
  - **Note:** *"Team activities" include all practices, scrimmages, practice games, league games, and tournament games.*
- Each case may also be reviewed and further discipline issued by USA Hockey, AHAI or the league in which the team participates.

# ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY



## RIGHT OF APPEAL

Any person sanctioned under the Zero Tolerance Policy has the option to accept the disciplinary action or has five (5) days to notify the Rules and Ethics Chairperson to request a hearing. Any disciplinary action will be imposed until such a hearing is held. Rules and Ethics will make every effort to conduct a requested hearing within ten (10) days. The Northwest Chargers Rules & Ethics Committee has the right, at the conclusion of the hearing, to modify the penalty originally assessed. Upon receiving the results of the Rules & Ethics hearing, you will have further right to appeal to the entire Northwest Chargers Board of Directors at its next scheduled board meeting. At the conclusion of the Board of Directors Appeal, the Northwest Chargers Board of Directors also has the right to modify the penalty assessed by the Rules & Ethics Committee if it feels necessary.

## POLICY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

During a player's registration prior to the beginning of league play each season, each family will be notified of this policy and required to electronically sign their acknowledgment that they have received, read, understood, and agree to abide by it. If circumstances require a change to this policy during the course of the season, each family will be informed of the change(s) and required to sign a new acknowledgment form.

Please direct all inquiries regarding this policy to the Northwest Chargers Rules & Ethics Chairperson. Contact information is available on our website: [www.nwchargers.org](http://www.nwchargers.org)