



PORT COLBORNE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION INC.

Zero Tolerance for Violence Policy

Statement of Principle:

The rules of the game exist to protect the players. Referees / officials are charged to ensure the fair and even application of the rules and to ensure the safety of the player. Our volunteers are charged with the education of our youth on the ideals of sportsmanship, fair play and appropriate behaviour. Violent or abusive behaviours are not to be tolerated during P.C.M.H.A events and immediate actions must be taken when individuals engage in violent or abusive behaviours.

Goals of the policy:

1. To increase the level of understanding among spectators and fans of the importance of creating a positive and supportive environment.
2. To promote positive cheering behaviours among spectators and fans.
3. To reduce or eliminate violence and abusive behaviours from the arena facilities.

Definition of Violence:

The focus of the policy is on the behaviour of non-players, except for those situations in which a player engages in a violent act off-ice. For the purpose of this policy violence includes, but is not limited to, the following behaviours:

- Loud verbal assaults
- Threats and attempts to intimidate
- Throwing of articles in a deliberate or aggressive manner
- Aggressive approaches to another individual
- Physical striking of another individual
- Attempts to goad or incite violence in others
- Vandalism to building or property
- Racial or ethnic slurs

PRO-active approach

P.C.M.H.A. Inc will undertake a promotional and educational campaign aimed at raising awareness among parents, volunteers and spectators. P.C.M.H.A. Inc. will also put in place measures to reduce conflict situations that can lead to violence.

This component includes

- Posters - provided by the OMHA
- Prevention Service Clinics available to all parent and volunteers
- An elected parent representative acts as a liaison between the coaching staff and parents
- Limiting access to the dressing room area, coaches' room and referee room

Consequences:

Individuals who engage in any of the above behaviours will be subject to immediate ejection from the arena. The incident must be reported to the P.C.M.H.A. Executive. Those individuals who are identified will be subject to suspensions as per the following:

- A mandatory suspension from P.C.M.H.A. events for a period of time not less than two weeks. (including games, practices and team functions) This period may be extended.
- Individuals who are identified and suspended can further be prohibited from holding any positions affiliated with P.C.M.H.A. Inc for a period of up to two years.
- Incidents may be reported to the Regional Police Services and criminal charges may follow.
- Where vandalism has been perpetrated, individuals will also be responsible for the cost of repair or replacement.

The Executive members of P.C.M.H.A. Inc. will take primary responsibility for the behaviour of all its members. As an organization, every member must work together to continually raise awareness of the policy and ensure maximum enjoyment and the maintenance of a safe and positive environment for our players.