



USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy

In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, the USA Hockey Youth, Junior and Senior Councils have instructed the Officiating Program to adhere to certain points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship. This campaign is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, team officials, administrators and parents/spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey-sanctioned games.

Thus, the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all On-Ice Referees and Linesmen:

Players:

A minor penalty for un-sportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

- Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
- 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. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.

Coaches:

A minor penalty for un-sportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

- Openly disputes or disputes any decision by an official.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- 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, players or spectators.
- Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

Officials:

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited.

On-Ice officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

Parents/Spectators:

The game will be stopped by On-Ice officials when parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The On-Ice 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 Governing Body. Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.

- Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
- Throwing of any object in the spectator's viewing area, player's bench, penalty box or on the ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.