

**OAHE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**  
**League Player Substance Abuse Policy**  
Adopted by the Board on April 16, 2018

The Oahe Hockey Association exists to help every player reach his or her full potential through engaging, safe, and fun programs. The ultimate goal is to assist young players to become team and community leaders by demonstrating good behavior, sportsmanship, and making healthy choices.

**Section 1: League Player Banned Substances**

The Oahe Hockey Association designated hockey season runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. During this time period, league players shall not:

1. Possess or consume any alcoholic beverage;
2. Use or possess any form of tobacco products, including synthetic and smokeless tobacco;
3. Use or possess any marijuana, controlled drugs without a prescription, or other substances banned by statute;
4. Knowingly be present in any place where the illicit use of any of these substances is occurring.

**Section 2: League Player Disclosure Requirements**

During the designated hockey season, league players shall:

1. Report any violation of the policy by the league player to the player's head coach within 24 hours of the violation. Note that an arrest and/or conviction need not occur to be a violation of this policy. When the use, possession, consumption, etc., occurs, the policy has been violated.
2. If the athlete does not self-report any violation of the policy within 24 hours, as noted above, there will be an additional two-game suspension added to the appropriate sanction outlined in Section 3.
3. Oahe Hockey Association Board members having knowledge of an alleged violation outlined in Section 1 will individually confer with either a member of the Discipline Committee or the player's head coach regarding the alleged violation. Upon notification the head coach will confer directly with the player regarding the alleged violation. If the player admits the violation, the penalty will be immediately imposed pursuant to Section 3. The coach shall, in any instance of violation, inform the Chair of the Discipline Committee of such penalty.
4. If the player denies the alleged violation, the coach may refer the matter to the Chair of the Discipline Committee for hearing. A hearing on the alleged violation will occur within 10 business days of the denial and it shall be conducted pursuant to USA Hockey Bylaw 10 "Procedure for Suspension and Discipline of Members." Such hearings will be heard by an independent panel and the player(s) subject to the hearing is required to attend such a hearing, even if he/she is represented by other parties. Failure by the player to appear at a hearing may result in additional penalties as determined by the Discipline Committee or the Oahe Hockey Association Board.
5. A player shall be suspended for an additional 5 games beyond the sanctions imposed in Section 3 if the player denies the violation, is allowed to participate, and then is subsequently found to be in violation of the policy.

6. As part of the disclosure requirements, league players agree to provide a laboratory report analysis of the player's blood, breath, or urine, for the presence of any banned substances referenced in Section 1 of this policy when requested to do so by the player's head coach, Director of Coaching, or the Chair of the Discipline Committee.
7. League players agree to provide written authorization upon request for the disclosure of any and all law enforcement reports.
8. League players refusing to provide blood, breath, or urine report analysis, and/or denying to provide written authorization for law enforcement reports shall be deemed to be in violation of the Substance Abuse Policy and required to participate in a hearing as outlined in Section 2, paragraph 4, to determine potential sanctions.
9. The Oahe Hockey Association will provide reimbursement for any out-of-pocket costs associated with any alcohol or chemical testing occurring as a result of a request for the testing under this policy and testing occurring at Avera Clinic. The reimbursement is only for test results disclosed under this policy.

### **Section 3: Sanctions for Violations**

The discipline committee may impose a different period of sanction as provided below.

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Violation of Season

For all banned substances other than tobacco products, the player shall be suspended for a total of 25% of the season in consecutive games. Such games include but are not limited to league games, tournament games, and all other games including the State Tournament. For a first tobacco products violation, the player shall be suspended for two consecutive games as defined above. The player is required to attend all practices during this suspension.

2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Violation of Season

For all banned substances other than tobacco products, the player shall be suspended for a total of 50% of the season in additional consecutive season games. This suspension is in addition to (above and beyond) the games served for the first violation. Such games include but are not limited to league games, tournament games, and all other games including the State Tournament. For a second tobacco products violation, the player shall be suspended for an additional four consecutive games as defined above, and this sanction shall be above and beyond what was served in the first violation. The player under this violation is required attend all practices during the suspension unless otherwise directed.

Prior to returning to game play, the player shall obtain an alcohol or chemical dependency evaluation and provide proof of completion of any required treatment. This evaluation does not apply to tobacco products violations.

3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Violation of Season

For all banned substances other than tobacco products, the player shall be suspended for the remainder of the games in the season. Such games include but are not limited to league games, tournament games, and all other games including the State Tournament. For a third tobacco violation, the player shall be suspended for eight additional consecutive games beyond what was served in the first and second violations. The player will attend all practices during the suspension if directed to do so by the head coach.

Prior to returning to play in the subsequent season, if applicable, the player shall be required to meet with the Discipline Committee to determine if sanctions are to be carried across seasons and if any other requirements to reinstatement are to be met prior to the return to league practice and play. These additional requirements will be at the sole discretion of the Discipline Committee and may include such items as proof of successful substance abuse treatment, completion of any potential sentencing issues, and other such measures as deemed appropriate by the Discipline Committee.

4. Carry Forward Provisions

It should also be noted that if any of the sanctions imposed exceeds the number of games scheduled to be played during the remainder of that designated season, the player shall serve the remainder of the penalty beginning with the first scheduled game of any type to be played during the subsequent designated season until the penalty is served in full. This carryover is subject to the additional provisions outlined in Section 3, Paragraph 3, if necessary.

**Section 4: Additional Terms and Conditions**

1. A player who has received a sanction in another sport for the same incident may have the sanctions imposed by Section 3 modified by the Discipline Committee. Any player or parent requesting such a modification under this provision must provide proof of the sanction or penalty from the other sport's governing body.
2. Violations accumulate through the season but do not carry over to the following season.
3. Penalties for violations committed in one season shall carry over to the following season if not completely served as set forth in Section 3, Paragraph 4.
4. A copy of this policy will be provided at the time of annual registration for the new hockey season. It is also posted online at the Oahe Capitals website. It is the responsibility of the player and his/her family to read this policy and understand each provision. If either the parents or the player do not understand the policy, they should direct questions to the Chair of the Discipline Committee or their head coach.
5. Coaches may set curfew hours for their teams and require all players to display appropriate conduct to coaches, parents, officials and other players. Disciplinary action for violations of curfew hours and player conduct shall be at the coaches' discretion.

**Section 5: Appeal of Decisions**

1. An appeal of any decision made by the Discipline Committee may be made to the Oahe Hockey Association Board of Directors. A written request to appeal must be received by the President of the Board within 10 business days of the notification of suspension. A check in the amount of \$100 shall be made payable to the Oahe Hockey Association and accompany the written request to appeal.
2. The Oahe Hockey Association Board will meet within 10 business days of receipt of the request and payment to consider the appeal.
3. Appeal of any Oahe Hockey Association Board of Directors decision may be made pursuant to South Dakota Amateur Hockey Association and/or USA Hockey bylaws.