



Hockey Players, Parents, Coaches, Administrators and Fans:

As we continue to evolve from a technology standpoint, there are many challenges and obstacles we face. Last year, the DSTHL instituted a [Video Review Policy](#) on an investigational basis. We are continuing to evaluate and review the necessity and purpose of this policy and plan to make adjustments as necessary. One aspect of this policy which was not addressed relates to the placement of youth hockey videos on social media. Everyone should be familiar with USAH Safesport Social Media Policy and the intent behind it. There are many facets to social media which can not be addressed in a broad based National policy.

I was recently made aware of a video post on social media of one young hockey player striking another with a stick from behind across the head. This video was posted by a hockey parent who had no involvement with either Association, Team or Player. The video captured the incident in real-time, but was subsequently edited to include additional footage of the actual striking of the other player zoomed-in and in slow-motion.

While YouTube and other social media outlets may have a default status and/or classification as items are posted, this particular video was initially classified as "comedy", and received a very limited number of views. At some point, the video was re-classified as "sports" and over the next few days, the number of views increased to 450+. The video has since been removed per DSTHL and Association(s) leadership request.

It is imperative that we recognize at all times that the use of social media should be for the encouragement and congratulations of our young athletes and not as a method to humiliate, intimidate, confront, or otherwise insult anyone. The DSTHL will not tolerate the irresponsible uses of social media by any person or persons associated with the DSTHL in ways that distract from the purpose of developing young hockey players and creating a contentious environment that is disrespectful to any one individual as well as the sport of hockey itself.

Social media outlets are periodically reviewed by the DSTHL and on an as-needed basis. Should the DSTHL be made aware of or find a posting or postings on social media that are irresponsible and/or inappropriate, the DSTHL will ask the Member Association of that individual or individuals to appropriately address these situations.

Thank you.

Paul Freudigman
DSTHL President
