

Coaches and Team Managers,

Over the course of the first month of the OMAHA Hockey High School Hockey League there have been numerous serious incidents that need to be addressed and dealt with immediately.

Last night (17 November) OMAHA Hockey had a meeting with parents who have children that participate in the OMAHA Hockey High School Hockey League, and they had the opportunity to voice their concerns to members of the OMAHA Hockey Board, OMAHA Hockey High School Hockey League - Director, and two of the lead referees/officials that work/schedule officials for OMAHA Hockey High School Hockey League games.

First, I will address the OMAHA Hockey Boards concerns which in turn become my concerns as the OMAHA Hockey High School Hockey League Director.

- ✓ Numerous OMAHA Hockey High School Hockey League Players, exceeding all of last year, have been assessed with Misconduct/Match Penalties resulting in 3 – 5 game suspensions. **Coaches I need you to take control of your team to ensure your players understand their actions will have consequences. Players have got to be coached to skate away from conflict and play the game the way it is intended to be played. Parents I need you to address this issue with your player. The OMAHA Hockey High School Hockey League rules are very specific about “ZERO TOLERANCE” actions by players on the ice, to and from the locker rooms, in the locker rooms, in the commons area of the rink, and to and from cars in the parking lots of all High School game venues. The referees/game officials have been given very specific guidance to enforce these rules and will do so effectively immediately.**
- ✓ Leaving the locker room, going to the ice, leaving the ice, going to the locker room. **When going to the ice, and leaving the ice, players are to go directly to their locker room. The team manager needs to escort the team to the locker room door, not just the hallway, but to the locker room door to ensure all players make it to the locker room safely. Only coaches, assistance coaches, and team managers (US Hockey rules) are allowed in the locker rooms. No parents can go into the locker rooms.**
- ✓ Leaving the ice. **Players will leave the ice as a team. One of the game officials will release the teams to the team manager, or team representative, to be escorted to the locker rooms. Both teams are no longer to skate off the rink at the same time.**
- ✓ Hallway into locker rooms. **There shouldn't be anyone other than hockey players in the locker room hallway. If there are young adults (in street clothes) hanging out in the locker room hallway ask them to leave. If they don't leave ask the officer for assistance.**
- ✓ Student cheering sections. **Coaches, Team Managers, and Parents – I whole heartedly support student cheering sections, cow bells, noise makers, and cheering as long as it is in good taste. Student cheering sections can no longer beat on the glass. They can no longer bring “white boards” into the cheering section. Students have been using white boards to write derogatory comments to/about players and then hold them up to the glass only instigating problems on the ice. Students have also been writing players names/numbers and drawing pictures of the human anatomy and holding the white board up to the glass so the team/player can see it. Again, only causing more problems for the Coaches, Players, and game Officials. I will inform the Security Officer on duty to remove all white boards. I expect the student cheering sections to cheer for their respective teams in good taste...no different than if they were attending a school**

sponsored event. The student cheering sections are going to be held to the same standards they are held to if they were at a school sponsored event. ZERO TOLERANCE and they will be escorted out of the building. I need Team Managers to help enforce/control the student cheering sections. When they get out of control ask the Security Officer to have them escorted from the building.

- ✓ Parents in the stands. Again, I wholeheartedly encourage parents to cheer for the players/team. I ask that you control yourself, cheer in good taste, do not encourage bodily harm to an opposing team player, do not use profanity from the stands, and do not yell at the officials. Again, ZERO TOLERANCE, if you conduct yourself in a disrespectful manner the game officials have the authority to have you removed from the building.

Baxter Rink

- ✓ OMAHA Hockey is working on the locker room shared shower situation, the ability to lock the hockey rooms, and identifying a place for female players to use. I will update you as soon as there is some resolution.

High School Director

- ✓ I will have the US Hockey rules, Midwest Hockey Rules, and OMAHA Hockey High School Hockey League rules posted to the High School webpage.
- ✓ Provide a weekly list of players that are suspended, number of games they are suspended for, and how many games they have remaining on their suspension.

Game/Practice Schedules

- ✓ There is going to be substantial changes made to the game and practice schedules very soon. Due to player numbers, Lincoln has been approved to combine their two teams into one. Coaches and Team Managers will receive the updated schedule as soon as possible.
- ✓ Drop the 430PM practice time next season. It is just too difficult to get players to the rink at 430PM.

Scheduler

- ✓ Thumbs up to the Scheduler, and Coach Johnson, for working out the scheduling issues and being able to post the schedule for the entire season rather than one month at a time. Greatly appreciated!

Referees/Game Officials

- ✓ The OMAHA Hockey Board decided to start using a Linesman and two referees for all future OMAHA Hockey High School Hockey League games. The Director of Officiating is working on the scheduling and this should be in place no later than Sunday (29 November).

Definitions

✓ Minor Penalty (USA Hockey Rules) Rule 402

(Note) (Except for Adults) Affiliates or governing bodies are authorized to reduce the length of minor penalties to no less than one and one-half minutes for games under their jurisdiction where the period length is reduced to 15 minutes or less.

(a) For a "MINOR PENALTY," any player, other than a goalkeeper, shall be ruled off the ice for two minutes during which time no substitute shall be permitted.

(b) For a "BENCH MINOR" penalty one player shall be ruled off the ice for a period of two minutes, during which time no substitute shall be permitted. Any non-penalized player of the team who was on the ice at the time of the infraction, except the goalkeeper, may be designated to serve the penalty by the Manager or Coach through the playing captain, and such player shall promptly take his place on the penalty bench.

(c) If the opposing team scores a goal while a team is shorthanded (below the on ice numerical strength of its opponent at the time of the goal) by one or more minor penalties, one of such penalties shall automatically terminate. The penalty that terminates automatically is the first minor or bench minor penalty (non-coincidental) then being served by the "shorthanded" team. This rule shall not apply when a goal is scored on a penalty shot or an awarded goal.

(d) When the minor penalties of two players of the same team terminate at the same time, the captain of that team shall designate which player will return to the ice first.

(e) When a player receives a major penalty and a minor penalty at the same time, the major penalty shall be served first by the penalized player. However, if the major or match penalty is assessed under the coincidental major or match penalty rules, the minor penalty will be recorded and served first.

(f) When an equal number of minor penalties (coincidental) are assessed to players from both teams, the penalized players shall take their place on the penalty bench and immediate substitution will take place for an equal number of minor penalties. The penalized players shall not leave the penalty bench until the first stoppage of play following the expiration of their penalties. Additional minor penalties assessed at the same stoppage that are not considered coincidental minor penalties shall be served in the normal manner.

Coincidental minor penalties shall not be taken into account for the purpose of a delayed penalty under Rule 408 (Delayed Penalties).

✓ Major Penalty (USA Hockey Rules) Rule 403

(a) For the first "MAJOR PENALTY" in any one game, any player, except the goalkeeper, shall be ruled off the ice for five minutes, during which time no substitute shall be permitted.

(b) For the second major penalty in the same game to the same player or goalkeeper, that player shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty in addition to the major penalty. The player or goalkeeper shall be suspended for his team's next two games. This two-game suspension is in addition to any other required suspensions incurred during the same incident.

(c) When an equal number of major penalties (coincidental), are assessed to players from both teams, the penalized players shall take their place on the penalty bench and immediate substitution will take place for an equal number of major penalties. The penalized players shall not leave the penalty bench until the first stoppage of play following the expiration of their penalties. Additional minor or major penalties assessed at the same stoppage that are not considered coincidental penalties shall be served in the normal manner.

The coincidental penalty rule shall also apply in all situations where penalties of equal duration (minor or major penalties) are assessed to both teams.

Coincidental major penalties shall not be taken into account for the purpose of a delayed penalty under Rule 408 (Delayed Penalties).

(d) (For all Youth, High School and Girls' Age Classifications) When a player is assessed a major plus misconduct or game misconduct penalty, unless immediate substitution is permitted under the coincidental major penalty Rule 403(c), the penalized team shall immediately place a substitute player on the penalty bench and such player may not be changed.

(For Adult Classifications) When a player is assessed a major plus misconduct or game misconduct penalty, unless immediate substitution is permitted under the coincidental major penalty Rule 403(c), the penalized team shall place a substitute player on the penalty bench before the penalty expires. No other replacement for the penalized player shall be permitted to enter the game except from the penalty bench upon expiration of the penalty. For violation of this rule a bench minor penalty for illegal substitution shall be imposed.

✓ Misconduct (USA Hockey Rules) Rule 404

(a) A "MISCONDUCT" penalty involves the removal of a player, other than a goalkeeper, from the game for a period of 10 minutes with immediate substitution taking place on ice. A player whose misconduct penalty has expired shall remain on the penalty bench until the next stoppage of play.

Unless immediate substitution is permitted under the coincidental minor penalty rule 402(f), when a player receives a minor penalty plus a misconduct or game misconduct penalty at the same time, the penalized team shall immediately place an additional non-penalized player, other than a goalkeeper, on the penalty bench and such player may not be changed.

In the case where a player receives a major plus misconduct or game misconduct penalty, unless immediate substitution is allowed under the coincidental major penalty rule 403(c), the penalized team shall place a substitute player on the penalty bench immediately (*for Youth, Girls' and High School Classifications*) or before the penalty expires (*for Adult Classifications*). No other replacement for the penalized player shall be permitted to enter the game except from the penalty bench upon expiration of the penalty.

For violation of this rule a bench minor penalty for illegal substitution shall be imposed.

For the second misconduct penalty assessed to the same player during the same game, a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to that player in lieu of the second misconduct penalty.

(b) A "GAME MISCONDUCT" penalty involves the suspension of a player or Team Official for the balance of the game with immediate substitution taking place on ice.

A player or Team Official incurring a game misconduct penalty shall also be suspended for his team's next game (the game already appearing on the schedule of that team at the time of the infraction), except that when such penalty is imposed under Rule 403(b) (Second Major in Game) there shall be a minimum two-game suspension.

(Note) In all cases where a game misconduct penalty is assessed, the incident shall be reported to the proper authorities who shall have full power to impose further suspensions.

(Note 2) For all game misconduct penalties regardless of when imposed, a total of 10 minutes shall be charged in the records against an offending player.

(c) If any Team Official is assessed a game misconduct penalty, he may not remain near the bench of his team, nor in any way attempt to direct the play of his team.

✓ Match Penalties (USA Hockey Rules) Rule 405

(a) A "MATCH" penalty involves the immediate removal of a player or Team Official for the balance of the game and a five minute time penalty shall be assessed.

(Note) For all "MATCH" penalties, regardless of when imposed, or prescribed additional penalties, a total of 10 minutes shall be charged in the records against the offending player or Team Official.

(For all Youth, High School and Girls' Age Classifications) Unless immediate substitution is permitted under the coincidental major penalty Rule 403(c), the penalized team shall immediately place a substitute player on the penalty bench and such player shall not be changed.

(For Adult Classifications) Unless immediate substitution is permitted under the coincidental major penalty Rule 403(c), the penalized team shall place a substitute

player on the penalty bench before the penalty expires. No other replacement for the penalized player shall be permitted to enter the game except from the penalty bench upon expiration of the penalty. For violation of this rule a bench minor penalty for illegal substitution shall be imposed.

- (b) When coincidental match penalties have been imposed or when any combination of coincidental major and match penalties have been assessed to a player or players of both teams, Rule 403(c) covering coincidental major penalties will be applicable with respect to player substitutions.
- (c) A player or Team Official incurring a match penalty shall be suspended from participating in any USA Hockey games and practices until his case has been dealt with by the proper authorities. A hearing by the proper authorities shall be offered to be held (including any further disciplinary action) within 30 days of the incident ("30-day period") together with a decision in accordance with Bylaw 10D (Suspension Hearings/Domestic Competition Playing Rules). If extenuating circumstances prevent the proper authorities from conducting the hearing within the 30-day period, the player or Team Official shall be automatically reinstated after the 30-day period. The failure to offer the hearing shall not prohibit the hearing body from conducting the hearing after the 30-day period and imposing further disciplinary action.

(Note) The Referee is required to report all match penalties and the surrounding circumstances to the proper authorities immediately following the game in which they occur.

- (d) If any Team Official is assessed a match penalty, he may not sit near the players' bench of his team, nor in any way attempt to direct the play of his team.
- (e) Original jurisdiction in any hearing resulting from a match penalty assessed under Rule 601(f.1) (Physical Assault of Officials) shall reside with the Affiliate.