

Woodbridge Wolfpack



Woodbridge Wolverines



2019-2020 Policies, Rules and Regulations

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Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club Policies for All Players / Coaches / Parents

INTRODUCTION

The Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club (WWWHC) board has instituted certain rules and policies concerning all participants in the organization. The goal of these policies is to provide a clear set of guidelines to make sure that WWWHC's mission as a youth hockey club are advanced.

USA Hockey and the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association are the governing bodies over the WWWHC. Please familiarize yourselves with the rules and regulations of these governing bodies as their guidelines will be adhered to first and foremost. Should you have questions about these policies, kindly contact a Coach, Club Director or Board Member. The WWWHC Board reserves the right to revise or amend these rules and policies.

DISCIPLINARY PROTOCOL SUMMARY

The WWWHC by-laws establish a Rules and Ethics committee which oversees any complaints made against any WWWHC participant. Participants include, but are not limited to, board members, WWWHC committee members, volunteers and player parents. Each complaint filed with the WWWHC Rules & Ethics (WWWRE) Committee will follow the outlined protocol as adopted by WWWHC to include the following:

Complaints are to be submitted in writing (email or complaint form)

- No anonymous complaints.
- Each complaint will be reviewed by WWWRE Chair and assigned to a case investigator based on the validity of the charge
- Should the investigation warrant disciplinary action recommendations, the case will advance to a formal hearing.
- WWWRE Hearing protocols are to be followed.
- Upon conclusion of the hearing, a decision notice will be delivered within 7 – 10 days of the WWWRE decision to the participant charged in the complaint
- Appeals will be handled according to WWWHC protocol/policy

PLAYER CONDUCT

Players are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and responsible manner at all times including both home and away games, all tournaments and any team related functions. Any conduct deemed to not be in the best interest of the WWWHC, will be viewed as a violation of the player code of conduct by WWWHC. Benching of a player may be done on all teams when there is a breach of discipline, integrity or effort.

On the Ice – Unsportsmanlike conduct (i.e. trash talking; swearing; disrespecting the referees, opposing team or your own teammates) or the intent to injure another player (kicking, slashing, checking from behind, high sticking, etc.) will not be tolerated. Any violation of the USA Hockey/AAHA Zero Tolerance 3 Policy will be strictly enforced (see below for minimum sentencing). Any disciplinary actions taken by on ice officials, league or governing body MAY be referred to WWWRE for further review and additional sanctions may be implemented.

Off the Ice – In the locker rooms, corridors, lobbies, parking lots and elsewhere, you are a representative of your team and the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club.

Players are expected to show the highest level of respect for their teammates, officials, opponents and spectators. This means no bullying, teasing, trash talking, hand gestures, demeaning locker room antics, swearing, hazing, locker room boxing and no fighting.

Coaches and league officials also command the respect of all players, regardless of team or level affiliation and will be treated as such. Under no circumstances will a player display disrespect of a verbal or physical nature towards a member of rink staff, coach or league official when said individual gives a player verbal direction regarding inappropriate behavior.

Dress Code – All players shall adhere to the team dress code as established by the WWWHC Hockey Director. Any discipline regarding dress code violations shall be handled at the discretion of the WWWHC Hockey Director.

Reporting – Reporting of any violation can come from players, coaches, parents, and referees, league officials or WWWHC Board Members. All reporting must follow the guidelines set forth by the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club.

Disciplinary Action – Any player exhibiting behavior described above or in violation of USA Hockey's/AAHA's Zero Tolerance Policy will be required to appear with his/her parent OR guardian before the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club Rules & Ethics Committee (WWWREC). The WWWREC will examine the reported infraction/complaint and may assess sanctions against the player in the form of a "Three Strikes and You're Out" policy outlined below:

Every player will be allowed a maximum of three (3) strikes. Each instance of behavior that is deemed to have violated the above code will result in at least one (1) strike.

It is possible to earn all three (3) strikes for a single infraction. Player and parents will be notified in writing of any strikes assessed by the Chairman of the WWWREC.

- 1. Strike One – Minimum One week (minimum one game) suspension**
- 2. Strike Two – Minimum Two week (minimum two game) suspension**
- 3. Strike Three – Suspension for the balance of the regular season or expulsion from the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club**

Any violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy will result in an immediate minimum three (3) game suspension.

Appeals – Appeals may be made to a joint committee of no less than three (3) members of the Executive Committee and/or the General Membership, assembled on an ad-hoc basis by the President of WWWHC.

Disciplinary Carry Over – Any disciplinary action taken by the WWWREC that remains un-served at the end of a season will carry over to the following season, whether it is Spring or Fall/Winter. If the suspended party chooses not to return to the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club and play elsewhere, the notice of suspension will be forwarded to the new organization and they will be notified of the time remaining on the disciplinary action. It is up to said new organization to take enforcement and/or uphold the sanctions levied by WWWHC. Should a player move to another organization and NOT serve said suspension, and returns to WWWHC at a later date, the pending, un-served suspension will be re-instituted and must be served in its entirety before resuming playing privileges.

COACHES CONDUCT

As a coach in the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club (WWWHC) you are obligated to fulfill certain requirements mandated by the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association (AAHA), USA Hockey and WWWHC. This shall include each coach's personal responsibility to maintain all Coaching Education Program (CEP), Safe Sport, and Age Specific Module Training as outlined by USA Hockey.

As a Head Coach in the WWWHC you will report directly to the Hockey Director. Assistant Coaches will report directly to the Head Coach and therefore fall under the direct supervision of the Hockey Director. Any conduct deemed to not be in the best interest of WWWHC will be viewed as a violation of the Coaches Code of Conduct by WWWHC. Coaches are role models on and off the ice and are expected to exhibit quality leadership and enthusiastic behavior. Coaches will avoid alcohol consumption prior to taking the ice for practices or games. It is the intent of WWWHC to enjoy a variety of coaching styles and techniques, however certain types of behavior will not be tolerated:

Per USA Hockey, Safe Sport, and AAHA guidelines, the use of derogatory profanity or other verbal or physical abuse towards a player or parent will result in the offending coach being immediately suspended pending a formal WWWRE investigation, and may lead to said coach to be banned from future coaching consideration.

In addition to the aforementioned stipulation regarding coaching conduct, all coaches will refrain from engaging in the verbal abuse of all players and parents, on either team, or abusive remarks towards the referees. Such conduct will be considered a violation of the USA Hockey Safe Sport Policy and Zero Tolerance Policy and **shall** result in sanctions against the coach.

Dress Code – Each coach shall adhere to the coach's dress code as established by the WWWHC Hockey Director. Any discipline regarding dress code violations shall be handled at the discretion of the WWWHC Hockey Director.

Disciplinary Action -

Per USA Hockey and AAHA guidelines, any violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy WILL result in an immediate minimum suspension of five (5) games!

All suspensions for Zero Tolerance violations are set forth by USA Hockey and AAHA. The Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club **shall** adhere to all guidelines and sentencing recommendations set forth by these organizations. During the period of suspension, the coach shall refrain from engaging in any and all coaching duties and responsibilities including participation in practices, pre/post-game speeches and attendance of a game behind the bench. The coach may only watch the games during the suspension period from the spectator area of the ice arena.

Every Coach will be allowed a maximum of three (3) strikes. Each instance of behavior that is deemed to have violated the above code will result in at least one (1) strike.

It is possible to earn all three (3) strikes for a single infraction. Coaches will be notified in writing of any strikes assessed by the Chairman of the WWWREC.

- 1. Strike One – Minimum One week (minimum one game) suspension**
- 2. Strike Two – Minimum Two week (minimum two game) suspension**
- 3. Strike Three – Suspension for the balance of the regular season or expulsion from the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club**

Pay During Suspension – Any disciplinary action taken by the WWWREC that results in a coach’s suspension shall be referred to WWWHC Board for its determination whether the suspension also shall result in the coach’s loss of pay for the period of suspension if applicable.

Appeals – Appeals may be made to a joint committee of no less than three (3) members of the Executive Committee and/or the General Membership, assembled on an ad-hoc basis by the President of WWWHC. They must also be made within one (1) week of receiving the formal charges.

Disciplinary Carry Over – Any disciplinary action taken by the WWWREC that remains un-served at the end of a season will carry over to the following season, whether it is Spring or Fall/Winter. If the suspended party chooses not to return to the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club and coach elsewhere, the notice of suspension will be forwarded to AHAA and the new organization will be notified of the time remaining on the disciplinary action. Should a Coach move to another organization and NOT serve said suspension and returns to WWWHC at a later date, the pending, un-served suspension will be re-instituted and must be served in its entirety before resuming coaching privileges.

Responsibilities

Head coaches will be responsible for upholding the WWWHC conduct policies. Coaches shall encourage sportsmanship, a hard work ethic and teamwork. Coaches will not allow bullying, hazing or any other misconduct by players. They are responsible for enforcing the Player’s Code of Conduct. WWWHC takes this responsibility seriously and expects the Head Coach and their staff to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects on the WWWHC in the most positive way.

Coaches Code of Ethics

Each coach with the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club will provide a positive team atmosphere both on and off the ice. Each coach will provide positive support, care and encouragement for all players. Each coach will encourage good sportsmanship and lead by example, show self-control and refrain from using profanity. Per USA Hockey Coaching Code of Conduct, each coach shall cooperate with any and all disciplinary investigations by WWWREC or AAHA Suspension Review. Failure to be less than 100% compliant with any investigation may result in a violation of the Coaching Code of Ethics and may result in formal disciplinary action. Each coach will treat the on-ice officials with respect, failure to do so may result in a formal complaint filed against a coach by the AAHA. Any formal complaint will be viewed as a Zero Tolerance Policy violation. Each coach will do their best to provide positive practice and game plans to develop the overall skills of each player. Coaches will be consistent with both praise and punishment – the rules apply to everyone. Each coach will be responsible to avoid participating in verbal disputes with parents/guardians in the public eye by strictly adhering to the 24-hour rule. Each coach will do their best to be empathetic towards the concerns and constructive criticism of parents/guardians, players, referees and FSHC officials.

Coaches Guidelines

Each coach will be responsible to ensure there is no trash talking of other players or coaches. No coach will encourage hitting from behind or intent to injure another player; this will be strictly enforced and **shall** result in disciplinary action by the WWWREC, the WWWHC Executive Committee, AAHA or USA Hockey. Benching of a player may be done on all teams when there is a breach of discipline, integrity or effort.

TEAM OFFICIAL GUIDELINES

A Team Official is defined as ANY person who serves in an off-ice capacity, be it as a Team Manager, Game Score Keeper, Game Clock Operator or Penalty Box Tender. These positions are viewed by both WWWHC and AAHA in the same capacity as a member of the coaching staff, and will fall under the same penalties should a Zero Tolerance Violation or similar USA Hockey/AAHA Rule violation occur.

The sentence for a Zero Tolerance violation by a Team Official will be a MINIMUM FIVE (5) GAME SUSPENSION.

For additional information regarding these guidelines, please see the Zero Tolerance Policy outlined below. The role of the Team Manager is to serve as the liaison between the coaching staff and the parents/guardians. Therefore, it is strongly encouraged in order to maintain the integrity of this position and the duties/responsibilities thereof, no Head Coach selects a Team Manager who will be allowed to serve in ANY coaching capacity for which they are also serving as Team Manager. By allowing this practice, it could jeopardize the ability for the Manager to fulfill their duties without bias or the perception thereof. The Team Manager is also responsible for the submission of the game score sheets to the appropriate league upon completion of each game. It is the Team Manager, and only the Team Manager, who should take sole possession of these documents upon the completion of each game. Under no circumstances should anyone other than the Team Manager or member of the Team coaching staff be in sole possession of these documents. Should there be a situation where the Team Manager is unable to perform the correspondence duties, arrangements will be made with the coaching staff to ensure the delivery (fax) of the score sheet to the appropriate league upon completion of the game and the score sheet will be returned to the Team Manager as soon as possible upon completion of said duties. All team managers are required to complete both a background screening check conducted by authorized AAHA contractors as well as complete the mandatory Safe Sport Training through USA Hockey. Failure to comply with either will negate your eligibility to continue as a manager for the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club.

PARENTAL/GUARDIAN CONDUCT

The WWWHC is a member of various leagues. The WWWHC adheres to the Parent's Code of Conduct of all leagues it is a participant of and governed by the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association and USA Hockey. Under the governance of AAHA, the WWWHC shall adopt and enforce their rules regarding parental conduct. Any conduct deemed to not be in the best interest of WWWHC will be viewed as a violation of the Parental/Guardian Code of Conduct by WWWHC. Each parent or legal guardian shall execute a **Parent's/Guardian's Pledge and Code of Conduct** prior to the start of any league or exhibition games and prior to the start of the season in the format set forth below.

WWWHC retains the right to restrict any Parent/Guardian from attending any practices, games or hockey related functions for a parent's failure or refusal to sign the Pledge or Code of Conduct. Failure to sign the Parental/Guardian Code of Conduct and Parent's Pledge does not exempt a Parent/Guardian from complying with Pledge or Code. The WWWHC Parental/Guardian Code of Conduct and Parent's Pledge are outlined below:

Parent's/Guardian's Pledge

As a parent/guardian of a young person in the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club (WWWHC), I will do my part to help respect all participants. I will not participate in any name calling or undesirable acts that detract from the game of hockey; either in person, via telephone, via email, text or any other media. I resolve to conduct myself as a parent and adult even under the most trying circumstances. I will remember that all of our children are looking to us for guidance.

It is important to remember that through hockey we are building a solid foundation for future character development. I will do my part to make this season of hockey the best for my child and our team, welcome our guests at our home rink and recognize a good play regardless of who makes it.

I will assure that my player is properly equipped to play the game of hockey including all safety equipment. Finally, I will remember that each game is for our young people, and win or lose; it's a stride in life for them.

Code of Conduct: In addition to the aforementioned guidelines, the WWWHC also requires, and I agree to, adhere to the following conduct in addition to the USA Hockey/AAHA Zero Tolerance Policy:

1. Parents/guardians will refrain from engaging in any physical altercation. Any physical altercation or unwanted physical contact with another will result in a thorough investigation and may result in extended suspension penalties or expulsion from the Fenwick High School Hockey Club for life or referral to law enforcement for appropriate prosecution of state law.
2. Parents/guardians will conduct themselves in a manner which will exemplify good sportsmanship and fair play
3. Parents/guardians will be supportive of all team players and coaches both on and off the ice.
4. Parents/guardians will refrain from negative or derogatory comments about players, coaches, Referees, and WWWHC or league officials; either in person, via telephone, via mass email or any other social media format.
5. Parents/guardians will contact their Team Manager or a WWWHC Board Member if a problem exists on their team.
6. Parents/guardians will be aware that their conduct at games is a reflection on the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club. Excessive, obnoxious or overbearing behavior which puts the WWWHC in a negative light will not be tolerated. WWWHC enforces a policy regarding the abuse and use of excessive noisemakers. Team officials shall have the responsibility to advise parents/guardians or spectators of a noisemaker violation.
7. Parents/guardians will be aware that their conduct at games is a reflection on the WWWHC. Excessive, obnoxious or overbearing behavior which puts the WWWHC in a negative light will not be tolerated. WWWHC enforces a policy regarding the abuse and use of excessive noisemakers. Team officials shall have the responsibility to advise parents/guardians or spectators of a noisemaker violation.
8. Parents/guardians shall be responsible for the conduct of any the player or parent/guardian's family members or friends that attend any club activities. Parents/Guardians will make sure that any family members or friends that attend any club activities are made aware of and abide by the USA/AAHA Zero Tolerance Policy as well as club rules and this pledge. Parents/guardians are aware that they may be subject to discipline under the club rules for the conduct of any family members or friends that attend any club activities.

X _____ Date _____ X _____ Date _____
Parent/Guardian Parent/ Guardian

Disciplinary Action - All parents/guardians are to be reminded that their behavior sets the example for both the player and the organization. Any parent/guardian found to be in violation of the WWWHC Parental Code of Conduct may be subject to formal investigation by the WWWREC and could face formal sanctions including censure, suspension, or expulsion. Any parent/guardian found to be in violation of the USA Hockey/AAHA Zero Tolerance Policy shall receive an immediate **minimum three (3) game suspension**.

During the period of suspension, the parent shall not be allowed inside the rink to view the games. For detailed information regarding USA Hockey/AAHA Zero Tolerance Policy, see the section outlining this policy below. The WWWHC Parental Code of Conduct and the USA Hockey/AAHA Zero Tolerance Policy are separate codes enforced at WWWHC. All Zero Tolerance Policy violations and penalties set by AAHA shall be adhered to via the WWWREC and WWWHC Executive Committee.

Every Parent/Guardian will be allowed a maximum of three (3) strikes. Each instance of behavior that is deemed to have violated the above code will result in at least one (1) strike. It is possible to earn all three (3) strikes for a single infraction. Parents/Guardians will be notified in writing of any strikes assessed by the Chairman of the WWWREC.

- 1. Strike One – Minimum One week (minimum one game) suspension**
- 2. Strike Two – Minimum Two week (minimum two games) suspension**
- 3. Strike Three – Suspension for the balance of the regular season or expulsion from the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club**

PARENT/GUARDIAN/SPECTATOR EJECTIONS

Pursuant to the adopted AAHA policy regarding inappropriate spectator conduct, the WWWHC has adopted their protocol for such violations which are outlined as follows:

A game will be stopped by on-ice officials when the parents/spectators display inappropriate or disruptive behavior which interferes with the other parents/spectators or the game. The on-ice officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the parents'/spectators' viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced. Violators will incur a minimum mandatory three (3) game suspension from that team's games and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body. No matter why a spectator is asked to leave, the minimum suspension is three (3) games, no questions asked.

USA Hockey and the AAHA has also implemented a new rule that states if a parent's behavior is deemed to be inappropriate or abusive, that parent's child may be suspended for the remainder of that game and the parent may be fined based on the outcome of an investigation of the incident.

(See the AAHA Official Abuse Zero Tolerance Policy below)

Appeals – Appeals may be made to a joint committee of no less than three (3) members of the WWWHC Board.

Disciplinary Carry Over – Any disciplinary action taken by the WWWREC that remains un-served at the end of a season will carry over to the following season, whether it is the Spring or Fall/Winter. If the suspended party chooses not to return to the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club and play elsewhere, the notice of suspension will be forwarded to AAHA and the new organization will be notified of the time remaining on the disciplinary action. Should a parent/guardian move to another organization and NOT serve said suspension and returns to the WWWHC at a later date, the pending, un-served suspension will be reinstated and must be served in its entirety before resuming playing privileges.

SPECTATOR CONDUCT

In order to achieve the objective of teaching good sportsmanship to our players, it is imperative that spectators conduct themselves appropriately. The WWWHC supports the USA Hockey/AAHA Zero Tolerance Policy. No spectator shall be permitted to participate in verbal abuse of the referees, players, coaches, team officials or other spectators. Failure to do so could result in removal from the viewing area of the game, team suspension or game forfeiture. Any conduct deemed to not be in the best interest of WWWHC, will be viewed as a violation of the Spectator Code of Conduct by WWWHC. Any spectator assessed a Zero Tolerance penalty will be required to appear before the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club Rules & Ethics Committee before attending any future WWWHC activities.

REPORTING

In an effort to ensure the validity of a potential violation of the WWWHC Code of Conduct, USA Hockey/AAHA Zero Tolerance Policy or other WWWHC Guidelines, the WWWHC Rules & Ethics Committee (WWWREC) has an official complaint form that must be filled out in its entirety.

This document must be completed, or email equivalent, and submitted to the WWWHC Rules & Ethics Committee within one (1) week of the occurrence.

This document can be found on the Rules & Ethics page of the WWWHC website

and can be printed out for completion. Within the document there is room to give specifics of the alleged violation as well as listing of any witnesses who may be able to support the allegation. The reporting individual shall include their name, signature and a telephone number to be reached at for formal investigative purposes by WWWREC. Any person found to have filed a **false and/or malicious report** against another coach; player, parent or member of WWWHC by the WWWREC shall be in violation of the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club Zero Tolerance Policy.

This will lead to an immediate Step 2 violation and result in a minimum thirty-day suspension from all WWWHC related events.

Additionally, should any complainant, at their own voluntary discretion, choose to take a complaint to law enforcement, the WWWHC Rules & Ethics Committee shall have the right, but not the obligation, to bow to the higher authority and choose to NOT intervene or conduct a parallel investigation exposing the investigating body, its members, or any member of WWWHC to involvement in a criminal investigation and possible future court proceedings. WWWHC Rules & Ethics retains the right to determine if a follow up investigation conducted by, or on the behalf of WWWHC, AAHA or USA Hockey is warranted. The severity and nature of the criminal complaint will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if WWWHC Rules and Ethics Committee will intervene. However, the criminal complaint and subsequent investigation by law enforcement and any/all conclusions and outcomes of said criminal investigation will be considered final by the WWWHC Rules & Ethics Committee and a subsequent investigation will not be initiated after the fact if the law enforcement conclusions are not in favor of the complainant.

Reporting of Violations from Outside Organizations

Should anyone witness an incident which is deemed to be a violation of the Parental Code of Conduct or Zero Tolerance Policy, and the offender is a member of a visiting club, said violation should be reported to WWWREC via the reporting guidelines outlined above. However, each complainant should understand that WWWREC has NO JURISDICTION over the alleged violation. As such, WWWREC will serve in the capacity as report taker for said violation and tender the report to the proper jurisdiction (Team R&E Committee or AAHA). Should the violation require a more in depth investigation, WWWREC will work in conjunction with the outside organization officials to ensure the matter is investigated to the fullest extent without bias or prejudice.

USA HOCKEY/AAHA ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

The Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club (WWWHC), in accordance with USA Hockey and the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association (AAHA), adopts and adheres to all aspects of the Zero Tolerance Policy. The Zero Tolerance Policy applies to coaches, players, parents and spectators. While the majority of the policy deals with conduct during a game, mostly directed at conduct towards the on-ice officials, the 24 Hour Rule also falls under this policy. For complete Zero Tolerance guidelines, refer to the **USA Hockey/AAHA** web sites. For 24 Hour Rule Guidelines, see the section below.

Anyone found to be in violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy will receive the following **minimum sanctions**;

1. **Step One** (First Violation) – Coach/Team Official (**5 games**), Player/Parent/Spectator (**3 games**)
2. **Step Two** (Second Violation) – All individuals **thirty (30) days**
3. **Step Three** (Third Violation) – **Lifetime Expulsion from Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club**

Team Officials – The Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club exists and thrives due to the gracious efforts of its membership, coaches, managers and volunteers. The vast majority of the positions held within WWWHC are volunteers. While we understand that the efforts of our parents who unselfishly volunteer their time to make the WWWHC Hockey experience a positive one, each parent who volunteers their time needs to be aware of the definitions of what constitutes a Team Official. A WWWHC Team Official is **NOT** reserved for the coaching staff alone. Any parent who serves WWWHC in an official capacity during any/all WWWHC sanctioned events is representing both WWWHC and their respective teams. **Therefore, when serving as a WWWHC Board Member, Official Score Keeper, Time Keeper, Penalty Box Manager, Team Manager or in any other capacity which represents WWWHC, you will be viewed as a Team Official while conducting those duties.** Any infractions of the USA Hockey/AAHA Zero Tolerance Policy while engaged in said duties will carry the mandatory minimum suspension of five (5) games.

AAHA OFFICIATING ABUSE ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY (Approved August 26, 2019)

All spectators, including parents, grandparents, guardians, siblings, relatives and friends are an important part of any athletic competition, including hockey. Spectators should be in attendance to support the athlete and the team, not to taunt, berate or belittle the on-ice or off-ice official(s) assigned to the game. The officiating ranks are diminishing and the reason most often cited is abuse by spectators, coaches and players. Officiating abuse has a direct impact on the recruitment of new officials and the retention of the existing ranks. This diminishing population has the potential to jeopardize the ability to provide adequate officiating coverage for the increasing number of games in our geographic footprint. The Atlantic Affiliate of USA Hockey (AAHA) will not tolerate spectators, coaches, players or team administrators who do not conduct themselves in sportsmanlike and professional manner while attending or participating in games or events sanctioned USA Hockey, its Affiliates, Leagues and Clubs. The following behaviors/actions will not be tolerated and may be penalized under this Zero Tolerance Policy, in addition to any other penalties assessed by the game official(s):

- Verbal abuse of official(s);
- Harassing comments, behavior or threats directed or inferred towards on-ice and off-ice official(s);
- Physical abuse of official(s); and
- Any issue concerning crowd control which results in the summoning of the police.

The process for identifying/documenting the above referenced behavior(s) is as follows: The USA Hockey Online Game Incident Report shall be used to document and communicate the removal of any person(s) attending a USA Hockey sanctioned game. These Incident Reports are automatically electronically distributed to the AAHA (and where applicable, the AAHA sanctioned League Commissioner) as soon as they are submitted by the on-ice Official(s).

Violations of this Officiating Abuse – Zero Tolerance policy will be managed as follows:

AAHA OFFICIATING ABUSE SANCTIONS FOR NON-PARTICIPANTS (Spectators and all those not on an approved USA Hockey Roster)

If the non-participant is removed from a sanctioned youth hockey event by an on-ice or off-ice Official (i.e. Referee, League or Affiliate Administrator or Arena personnel), or is otherwise reported for abusive behavior by any person(s) in attendance at the sanctioned event (and substantiated by a preponderance of proof), the minimum suspension will be issued for those offenses investigated and adjudicated by the AAHA (notwithstanding any other sanctions imposed by the Clubs or sanctioned Leagues) as listed below. The AAHA maintains a strict Zero Tolerance Policy with NO appeal available to non-participant(s) removed from an event. The penalties will be as follows:

FIRST OFFENSE: Two week suspension from ALL “Team Activities” and a \$150.00 fine payable to the AAHA, with the fine issued to the Club of the offending non-participant’s team. Individual will be placed on probation for one year, which commences at the end of the suspension period.

SECOND OFFENSE: Four week suspension from ALL “Team Activities” and a \$300.00 fine payable to the AAHA, with the fine issued to the Club of the offending non-participant’s team. Individual will be placed on probation for two years, which commences at the end of the suspension period.

THIRD OFFENSE: Suspended from ALL “Team Activities” indefinitely until individual completes a certified anger management class and provides the AAHA a certificate of completion or other documentation satisfactory to the AAHA. Individual will be placed on probation for three years, which commences at the end of the suspension period.

“Team Activities” are defined as games (whether League, non-League or tournament), practices (dry land and ice), and any other team activity that may be considered a part of the usual team experience. Fines collected by the AAHA as a result of the above offenses will be segmented from the General Funds of the AAHA and used to fund recruiting, retention and training of officials between the ages of fifteen (15) and twentyfive (25).

NOTE: AAHA sanctioned Leagues shall have the authority to enforce a League approved Officiating Abuse Zero Tolerance policy, which shall include reasonably similar guidelines, enforcement and consequences. The AAHA will work closely with its sanctioned Leagues to support Officiating Abuse Zero-Tolerance.

AAHA OFFICIATING ABUSE SANCTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS (Club Administrators, Players & Coaches)

Coaches are well aware of Playing Rule 601, which addresses “Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct.” Coaches, in conjunction with their Club, prior to the start of their season, shall conduct a meeting with their players and parents to set appropriate expectations, guidelines and penalties to discourage

officiating abuse. Such policy shall be in writing and issued to all players and parents. Team personnel (coaches and players) collectively receiving three or more penalties under the Playing Rule 601, which specifically identify as physical or verbal abuse of a game official, shall be subject to AAHA Disciplinary Review, as provided in Rule 410, and such discipline shall include;

- 1) Suspension of coach(es) not to exceed 180 days
- 2) Suspension of player(s) not to exceed 180 days
- 3) Team declared ineligible for post-season play (State, Districts and/or Nationals)
- 4) Team (by birth year) and or Club losing Tiering Status for the following season

ABUSE ENFORCEMENT (Officials)

USA Hockey provides its registered Officials specific playing rules to discourage and enforce Officiating Abuse. All Officials within the AAHA are compelled to enforce such rules with very little latitude. All AAHA on-ice Officials shall use this policy as defined below:

- 1) In accordance with Rule 601, physical and/or verbal abuse by a participant must be called if it is evident. While we understand that an Official may sometimes believe that providing some latitude is appropriate "game management," that approach has, in part, created the necessity where "Zero Tolerance" must actually mean "ZERO TOLERANCE." Official(s) refusing to enforce Rule 601 violations shall be disciplined according to the current AAHA and USA Hockey requirements.
- 2) At the first sign of any inappropriate, hateful or abusive remarks by non-participants, the on-ice Official(s) shall first report the conduct to the head coach of both participating teams and issue a warning. The Official(s) shall also advise that the head coach should direct an assistant coach to address their attending non-participants.
- 3) Should hateful or abusive remarks continue after the warning, the on-ice Official(s) shall advise the head coach of the home team to immediately contact arena management to clear the spectators from the arena.
- 4) All warnings and subsequent issues shall be documented by the on-ice Official(s) through the USA Hockey Online Game Incident Report.
- 5) AAHA sanctioned Leagues may impose additional duties of their game Officials related to the enforcement of Zero Tolerance, which may be subject to AAHA RIC approval.

LOCKER ROOM CONDUCT

The use of the locker room facility at all ice arenas, both home and away is a privilege bestowed upon our teams, not a right. Therefore, when using a locker room (as a player, coach and parent/guardian) WWWHC insists we treat these facilities with respect. This is our home and we expect to have the ability to have our guests use a clean and functional facility while they are here. Coaches, players and parents/guardians are expected to pick up after themselves (i.e. tape, bottles, wrappers, etc.). The intentional destruction or vandalism of these facilities can result in the offending player or team losing their locker room privileges. If there is intentional damage to the facility, the responsible person(s) may face prosecution for Criminal Damage to Property.

The Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club adheres to the State of New Jersey Wire-tapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act 2A:156A-3. Therefore, **NO VIDEO EQUIPMENT WILL BE USED IN THE LOCKER ROOMS OF ANY RINK AT ANY TIME.** This will include cameras, video cameras, cell phones or any other media collecting format. It shall be the responsibility of the players

and parents to ensure that these devices remain unused. Any intentional and unauthorized video taken within the confines of any locker room at any time shall be viewed as a Zero Tolerance Violation. Any unlawful video will be reviewed by the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club Rules & Ethics Committee (WWWREC) and if warranted, the matter may be referred to Law Enforcement for formal criminal investigation and prosecution.

It shall be the policy of WWWHC that **no parents, siblings, relatives, friends, etc. shall be allowed in the locker room unless given express permission by the head coach or trainer.** This will give the coaching staff the necessary time to prepare/debrief after a game or practice. Any infraction of this policy will be viewed as a Zero Tolerance violation. Sanctions against the offending individual will be enforced by the WWWREC and **shall include a minimum three (3) game suspension.**

24 HOUR RULE

As parents/guardians we will not always agree with a coach's decision. However, it is important to recognize that a coach's role is to make decisions for the team first and player second. Often, we tend to recognize our coaching staff's decisions through our player first and team second. Also, we need to understand that most players are not aware of any problems until we, as parents/guardians, bring it to their attention.

Many sports throughout the United States have adopted the 24 hour rule in an effort to address significant concerns, while attempting to remove the emotional concerns, particularly in the presence of the WWWHC athlete.

The Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club subscribes to the 24 Hour Rule.

Briefly, this means that parents/guardians are not allowed to **confront** a coach, team or league official to discuss any "negative" game or practice situation with the coaching and management staff until at least 24 hours has passed from the completion of the game or practice.

If the parent/guardian feels the issue of concern remains and has not been appropriately addressed, the parent/guardian may schedule a meeting with the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverine Hockey Club Director of Hockey and/or Rules & Ethics Committee Chairman.

Please respect the significance of the 24 Hour Rule Policy. If we all honor this concept, concerns will be moved away from an audience with our children, a possible ill-timed discussion, and issues will be viewed in the proper perspective.

Violation of the 24 Hour Rule will be addressed as a Zero Tolerance Violation by the Rules & Ethics Committee and result in an immediate elevated Step 1 violation and a minimum suspension of five (5) games!

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

It is the position of the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club (WWWHC) that ALL participants and family members of WWWHC shall refrain from participating in any form of electronic cyber communications that are deemed by WWWHC to be negative, threatening, harassing, derogatory, defaming or otherwise interpreted as cyber harassment as defined by New Jersey Statutes 2c:33-4.1. These forums include, but are not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, internet blogs or any other public online forum. Per the USA Hockey/AAHA Safe Sport manual:

“...All electronic communication of any kind between coach and player, including social media, must be non-personal in nature and be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team oriented motivational purposes and should include the player’s parent or guardian in the communication. Social media and other means of electronic communication can be used to commit abuse and misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by any employee, volunteer, independent contractor or other participant of a USA Hockey/AAHA Program will not be tolerated and are considered violations of USA Hockey/AAHA’s Safe Sport Program.” In this era of social media, WWWHC believes its membership needs to be held to the highest standard of integrity. Participation in negative, or defamatory online chat room discussions, “tweets”, and/or postings as defined by ANY member of WWWHC or their family members will not be tolerated. Violations may be reported to law enforcement with the potential of formal criminal complaints to follow.

Anyone found to be in violation of the Social Media Policy will receive the following **minimum sanctions**;

1. **Step One** (First Violation) – **Three (3) game suspension**
2. **Step Two** (Second Violation) – **Thirty (30) day suspension**
3. **Step Three** (Third Violation) – **Lifetime Expulsion** from Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club.

Take notice that it is possible for an individual to accumulate three (3) or more violations in the course of a single investigation that may result in a Step-Three violation and lead to a lifetime expulsion from WWWHC.

The Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club subscribes to the following USA Hockey/Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association (AAHA) Policies. Violations will be reviewed and investigated by the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club Rules & Ethics Committee (WWWREC):

PHYSICAL ABUSE POLICY

It is the policy of AAHA that there shall be no physical abuse of any of its or its Affiliate’s sanctioned programs, its Tournaments or events, its Training Camps, Hockey Clinics, Coaches Clinics, Referee Clinics, District and National Tournaments, or other AAHA/USA Hockey events by an employee, volunteer or independent contractor. Physical abuse means physical contact with a participant that intentionally causes the participant to sustain bodily harm or personal injury. Physical abuse also includes physical contact with a participant that intentionally creates a threat of immediate bodily harm or personal injury. Physical abuse does not include physical contact that is reasonably designed to coach, teach or demonstrate a hockey skill. Permitted physical contact may include, but is not necessarily limited to, shooting pucks at a goaltender, demonstrating checking or other hockey skills, and communicating with participants during the course of a game or practice, by touching them in a non- threatening, non-sexual manner. Anyone who violates this policy may be in violation of NJ 2c:12-1f and can be charged with Assault under this statute.

SEXUAL ABUSE POLICY

It is the policy of AAHA that there shall be no sexual abuse of any minor participant involved in any of its or its Affiliate’s sanctioned programs, its Tournaments or events, its Training Camps, Hockey Clinics, Coaches Clinics, Referee Clinics, District and National Tournaments, or other AAHA/USA Hockey events by an employee, volunteer or independent contractor.

Sexual abuse of a minor participant occurs when an employee, volunteer or independent contractor touches a minor participant for the purpose of causing the sexual arousal or gratification of either the minor participant or the employee, volunteer or independent contractor. Neither consent of the player to the sexual contact, mistakes to the participant's age, nor the fact the sexual contact did not take place at a hockey function are defenses to a complaint of sexual abuse. The accused will be in violation of NJ:2c-14-1-4. Upon proof of violation of this policy, the violator will be permanently banned or suspended by AAHA/USA Hockey sanctioned programs and/or the programs of its Affiliate Associations. **WWWHC will also notify the appropriate authorities and recommend criminal charges are brought against anyone found in violation of either the Physical Abuse or Sexual Abuse policies.**

VERBAL ABUSE

It is the policy of WWWHC that there shall be no verbal abuse of any kind of it's Affiliate's sanctioned programs, games, it's Tournaments or events, it's Training Camps, Hockey Clinics, Coaches Clinics, Referee Clinics, District and National Tournaments, or other AAHA/USA Hockey events by any WWWHC employee, volunteer, independent contractor, player or parent. Examples of this abuse are, but are not limited to, Ethnic or Racial slurs, Homophobic slurs, Threatening language, insulting comments and the like. Upon proof of violation of this policy, the violator may face suspension by the WWWHC from it's AAHA/USA Hockey sanctioned programs and/or the programs of its Affiliate Associations.

PARTICIPANT CONSUMPTION ABUSE POLICY

It is the consideration of the Board of Directors of WWWHC, AAHA and USA Hockey that consumption/use/abuse of mood altering substances is detrimental to the healthy state of mind, body and spirit of an athletic participant. This is especially true of those participants aspiring to develop their talents in the furtherance of their playing, coaching, or officiating careers in the sport of ice hockey. Therefore, with the best interests of its participants in mind, the WWWHC, AAHA and USA Hockey prohibits the use/abuse by any participant of mood altering substances during AND AWAY FROM active participation in its programs, and upon discovery of any violation, shall take action to remove the participant from participation in its programs for a reasonable period of time until a full investigation by WWWREC can be completed

Further, AAHA hereby recommends each and all of its teams, associations and affiliates adopt reasonable regulations concerning the prohibition of consumption/use/abuse of mood altering substances and a reasonable enforcement procedure thereafter, in order to maintain the health of our athlete participants, the integrity of our programs, and the eligibility of all our competitors for national, international and collegiate competition. For the purposes of this policy, mood altering substances shall include, but may not be limited to the following:

1. Intoxicating beverages, including but not limited to alcohol.
2. Non-prescription or prescribed controlled substances.
3. Prescription or prescribed controlled substances when used to an excess in violation of doctor's orders in order to produce a state of intoxication in the participant.
4. Electronic Smoking Devices of any kind by a minor participant.

Further, a participant shall include players, coaches, referees, and all persons involved in the conduct of an ice hockey contest. USA Hockey and AAHA, through their Safety and Protective Equipment Committees, will develop a program of drug abuse awareness for players of all ages through 20 years, their parent and/or guardians and coaches of those players.

PLAYER EQUIPMENT POLICY

It is the policy of the WWWHC to support and enforce the proper use of all player equipment that is required by USA Hockey, AAHA, or leagues that WWWHC teams participate in. **This includes the mandatory use of neck guards and mouth guards for ALL players, aged Bantam and higher regardless of position.** Though neck guards are not mandatory for younger players, it is highly encouraged that they wear them. Mouth guards are encouraged at the Squirt-Pewee levels.

Uniform Standards

In order to keep a uniform standard across our entire club, the Hockey Director may establish helmet, pant, and glove standards. Players who do not meet the standard will not be allowed to play in games for the 2019/2020 season and beyond, until they comply. Currently compliance means any HECC Certified helmet that is either Navy Blue or Black in color with preference being Navy Blue.

MEMBER FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

By taking a roster spot within the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club, members are committing to the season fees, including tournament fees, established for the team that your child is selected to play for. The contract which is signed upon accepting membership to the organization is binding and outlines all the provisions that need to be met for continued participation in the program.

RIGHT OF REFUSAL OF SERVICE AND REGISTRATION

In an effort to maintain the highest standards of sportsmanship and to demonstrate WWWHC as a leader in New Jersey Youth Hockey both on and off the ice, the WWWHC reserves the right to not accept registration for participation in any, and all WWWHC programming; including but not limited to all sanctioned leagues, summer camps, on-ice developmental programming, off-ice conditioning programming, or any other program authorized and originated by the WWWHC should the WWWHC Board of Directors, through a simple majority vote, determine said registration jeopardizes the goals and mission statement of the organization. The basis of any refusal of service may be based on past or present conduct by the individual attempting to register, or any member of their family, extended family, former marital relationships, or social network which has engaged in conduct which resulted in any disciplinary action taken by the WWWHC, AAHA, USA Hockey or law enforcement resulting in a conviction or finding of guilt, or which the WWWHC Board of Directors deems to not be in the best interest of WWWHC. Any refusal of service will be provided to the applying athlete in writing with an explanation outlining the decision and WWWHC board vote. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club shall not deny service based upon race, religion, ethnicity, creed or sexual orientation.

While this document provides a great deal of information pertaining to the guidelines, policies and procedures of the Woodbridge Wolfpack/Wolverines Hockey Club it is not all-encompassing. Throughout the course of a season, if you feel you have witnessed a violation of the WWWHC Rules & Regulations it is imperative that you, as a responsible adult, follow the procedures set forth in this document. The WWWHC Board, Director of Hockey and Rules & Ethics Committee will take all complaints seriously and if needed investigate them to the fullest extent. Upon completion of all investigations, any disciplinary action taken will be in the best interest of WWWHC hockey in general. These Rules and Policies are separate from Fenwick High School's rules and policies. Any Student Athlete or Parent may be subject to additional or separate disciplinary action of Fenwick High School and these rules are not intended to supplant or supersede Fenwick High School's rules, regulations or policies. FHSCH honors all disciplinary action of Fenwick High School that makes a player participant ineligible to