

Tornado Youth Hockey Association

Policy on the Prohibition of Smelling Salts

Purpose

Tornado Youth Hockey (TYH) is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and development-focused environment for all players. The use of smelling salts poses avoidable health risks and is not appropriate in youth sports. This policy establishes a clear ban on their possession and use within all TYH facilities and activities.

Scope

This policy applies to all players, coaches, team personnel, volunteers, parents/guardians, and guests participating in or attending any TYH event, including practices, games, tournaments, clinics, and team-related activities.

Policy Statement

1. **Smelling salts are strictly prohibited** in all TYH locker rooms, on benches, in training areas, and at any TYH-sanctioned event or facility.
2. No player, coach, parent, or volunteer may **possess, distribute, demonstrate, or encourage the use** of smelling salts at any time.
3. Coaches and team staff are responsible for **actively enforcing** this policy within their teams and reporting violations to the TYH Board.

Rationale

Smelling salts can pose health risks for youth athletes, including respiratory irritation, unsafe spikes in heart rate or blood pressure, and improper use as a stimulant. They also pose a risk for masking concussion symptoms. Smelling salts contradict the TYH's emphasis on safety, long-term athlete development, and responsible decision-making.

Reporting and Enforcement

- Any individual who becomes aware of a violation should report it to a coach, team manager, or a Board member.
- TYH may take appropriate action for violations, which may include warnings, parent/guardian notification, removal of the substance, or additional disciplinary measures as outlined in the TYH Code of Conduct.
- Violations may result in disciplinary actions, including potential suspension from practices or games, subject to review by the Board of Directors.

Effective Date

This policy is effective immediately and remains in force unless amended by the Tornado Youth Hockey Board of Directors.