



Parent Code of Conduct

Northern Ontario Hockey Association (NOHA)

As of 11-Sep-2025

Adopted by: _____ *Association*

Season: _____

1. Policy Statement

The NOHA expects any individuals who are considered to have a vested interest in minor hockey, and/or a strong influence on any of its members for example, parents, guardians, family members, and spectators, to conduct themselves in a fair, respectful, and responsible manner and to refrain from any behaviour — including disrespectful, abusive, racist, sexist, or otherwise harmful conduct — that is not conducive to the well-being of the game or its participants. This Code complements existing Hockey Canada, NOHA, and Association policies.

2. Background

The NOHA and Hockey Canada have taken important and necessary steps towards the prevention of abuse, bullying, and harassment within minor hockey.

Nationally, attention to incidents of violence, abuse, and poor judgments in behaviour are on the rise in the media, social networking sites, and in conversations around arenas. This rests not with the players on the ice, but parents/guardians, family members, and spectators in the stands. In order to establish a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone, parents are expected to follow a code of conduct. If you disagree with the team's philosophy, development, or coaching techniques, contact the coach or manager in a professional, proactive manner. Negative and unfounded rumors towards coaches or players create an air of discomfort for everyone. Yelling and screaming at young officials, players, or fellow parents shows poor judgment and will not be tolerated by the NOHA or any affiliated Associations.

3. Purpose

To foster a safe, enjoyable, and sportsmanlike environment for every athlete, coach, official, volunteer, and spectator across Hockey Canada-sanctioned activities. It is the intent of this policy to:

- Prevent abuse, bullying, and harassment in the sport environment.
- Engage those parents/guardians, family members, or spectators who do not adhere to safe, sportsmanlike behaviours.
- Address of parents/guardians, family members, or spectators in a firm, fair process.

4. Scope

This Code applies to parents/guardians and their family members or guests at any Hockey Canada-sanctioned practice, game, tournament, meeting, social event, online forum, or while travelling with the team.

5. Definitions

- **Association** - The named Association at the top of this document.
- **Executive Members of the Association** - Any person voted in during an annual AGM to govern in the best interest of the Association.
- **Conduct Review Hearing** - A panel hearing to address the behaviour of individuals who are not volunteers or paid staff members of the Association, for example, parents/guardians, family members, or spectators.
- **Conduct Review Panel / Conduct Review Hearing Committee** – A three-member panel appointed by executive members of the Association to consider serious or repeated misconduct.
- **Disruptive Behaviour** - Any comments or behaviours which are disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist, sexist, or any conduct not conducive to the wellbeing of the game. It also includes, but is not limited to, swearing at the officials/coaches, approaching the benches to dispute anything, and approaching the officials during or after any game for any reason other than personal friendships.

Please note that the Association reserves the right, after an initial review by the appropriate committee, to deem any other behaviour as 'Disruptive Behaviour' depending on the severity of the circumstances.

6. Expected Behaviour

At the rink

- Cheer positively; no profanity, taunting, or hostile remarks.
- Accept officials' decisions; criticism of referees is prohibited.

- Follow the **24-Hour Cool-Off** rule before raising concerns.

During travel & hotels

- Respect property, staff, and other guests; observe hotel quiet hours.

Online & social media

- Post responsibly; no harassing, defamatory, or discriminatory content.
- Share photos or videos online only after securing consent—from the individual, or from a minor's parent/guardian.

7. Disruptive Behaviour Severity Matrix & Default Responses

The table below lists the inappropriate behaviours identified by the NOHA, their assigned severity score (10 = most severe), and the default disciplinary response. Teams and Associations must apply at least the minimum response shown; they may impose stricter sanctions where warranted.

Severity	Inappropriate Behaviour	Default Response
1	Commentary on a referee's call without personal attacks	First time: Verbal Warning (with written record) from Team Manager (one-on-one discussion / quiet nudge after 24 hours) Second time: Final Warning (with written record) from Team Manager that a third offence will escalate issue to Association Third time: Team Manager escalates to Association and offender receives Formal Letter from Association
2	Cheering when the team is winning by more than 5 goals	First time: Verbal Warning (with written record) from Team Manager (one-on-one discussion / quiet nudge after 24 hours) Second time: Final Warning (with written record) from Team Manager AND documented report to Association AND Offender must re-take Respect in Sport and child is suspended until parent complies and the NOHA is notified Third time: Team Manager escalates to Association and offender receives Formal Letter from Association AND Offender must re-take Respect in Sport and child is suspended until parent complies and the NOHA is notified
3	Cheering for any play that results in injury to another player	First time: Verbal warning AND Formal Letter from Association Repeat: Offender must re-take Respect in Sport and child is suspended until parent complies and the NOHA is notified

4	TBD	TBD
5	Confrontational and/or vulgar language to a coach or referee	First time (toward referee): Referee pauses game for two minutes and tells the offender to leave the arena for the duration of the game AND offender must re-take Respect in Sport and child is suspended until offender complies and the NOHA is notified AND offender must write a letter of apology to the referee First time (toward coach): Association co-ordinates a face-to-face apology from the offender to the coach in front of a witness Repeat: Offender banned from Hockey Canada sanctioned activities, until a hearing is held and the child is unable to play if the offender violates the ban
6	Yelling at other parents or guardians	First time: Referee pauses game for two minutes and tells the offender to leave the arena for the duration of the game AND offender must re-take Respect in Sport and child is suspended until offender complies and the NOHA is notified AND offender must write a letter of apology to the other parent(s)/guardian(s) Repeat: Offender banned from Hockey Canada-sanctioned activities until hearing is held and child is unable to play if the offender violates the ban
7	TBD	TBD
8	Confrontational and/or vulgar language to a minor (player or green armband referee)	First time: Referee pauses game for two minutes and tells the offender to leave the arena for the duration of the game AND offender banned from the next 10 games and all Hockey Canada-sanctioned activities during that period
9	Threat of physical violence	Call the police to report threat of violence AND Immediate removal of offender from the premises until police/legal matters are sorted, followed by a hearing
10	Physical altercation	Call the police to report violence AND Immediate removal of offender from the premises until police/legal matters are sorted, followed by a hearing

N/A	Disruption at hotels (e.g. noise)	First Time: Warning to the individual by hotel staff along with notification to team contact. • All guests must follow staff instructions immediately. Repeat: If any disruptive behaviour continues after a warning, hotel staff will notify the tournament manager AND the individual will be asked to leave the hotel the next morning with the player forfeiting their chance to play in the tournament. Disruptive behaviour from multiple people in a team will lead to the entire team being removed from the tournament with no refunds. • Misconduct on the last night bars the team from its next tournament and forfeits that entry fee
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8. Appeals

Decisions of the Conduct Review Panel may be appealed following the respective Association's written appeal procedure.

9. Acknowledgement & Agreement

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by this Code. I understand violations may affect my and/or my child's ability to participate in NOHA activities.

Parent / Guardian Name: _____

Parent / Guardian of: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

The NOHA reserves the right to amend this Code at any time. The current version is posted on the NOHA website.