



NOHA Alcohol Policy

Date Created:	Committee:	Date Approved:
June 2006	Safety and Risk Management	June 2006

Purpose

The Northern Ontario Hockey Association (NOHA) supports the laws of Ontario as they pertain to the control, consumption and distribution of alcoholic beverages.

The law is clear that it is contrary to the laws of the Province of Ontario to consume alcohol at games or practices, in or about dressing rooms or team buses, or anywhere that is not a private residence or licenced establishment.

Participants need to be reminded of their exposure to liability and prosecution where issues of procurement of alcohol by minors, or the negligent supervision of alcohol product distribution are involved.

All members of the NOHA must respect the laws regarding the consumption of alcohol. Underage drinking will not be tolerated.

Policy

Alcohol is not appropriate:

- In arena dressing rooms
- In team settings where minors are attending

- In hotel rooms when young players are left unsupervised while the team's adults attend hospitality type setting in guestrooms or meeting rooms
- In hospitality situations where minors are present and alcohol is not controlled by a server therefore becoming available to minors
- Open in buses or cars when travelling to or from an event
- In a team environment while traveling without parents to tournaments, championships, etc.
- At team player parties hosted by other players, parents or team officials, regardless of the age of players.
- If forced on by another person.

Any formal complaints received by the NOHA regarding these issues may be referred to the local police authority.

Follow-Up

Follow-up may include:

- Police investigation and charges relative to the appropriate statutes being violated.
- Upon findings of the police investigation, appropriate disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with the NOHA policy on Alcohol, Abuse and Harassment.
- Investigation(s) completed by fact finders appointed by the NOHA Board of Directors.

Applicable Law

Liquor Licence Act, Section 30, items 1 & 8, Section 32

- No person under nineteen years of age shall have, consume, and attempt to purchase, or otherwise obtain liquor.
- No person shall drive or have the care or control of a motor vehicle as defined in the Highway Traffic Act, whether it is in motion or not, while there is contained in the vehicle any liquor, except under the authority of licence or permit.

Subsection 1 does not apply if the liquor in the vehicle:

- Is in a container that is unopened and a seal unbroken; or
- Is packed in luggage that is fastened, closed or not otherwise readily available to any person in the vehicle.

Conclusion

The NOHA will not tolerate its members consuming any alcohol prior to participating in any activity. In today's society, we promote healthy lifestyles and being active. As role models and volunteers, we will portray abstention from alcohol in hockey related events.

Should you have any questions, please contact your District Council Director.