

## Irish Youth Hockey League's (IYHL) Zero Tolerance Spectator Conduct Policy

This Zero Tolerance Spectator Conduct Policy (hereinafter "Policy") aims to eliminate inappropriate, disruptive, and abusive behavior by spectators directed at game officials, players, coaches, spectators and other participants during IYHL's sanctioned events.

A spectator shall include any parent, sibling, family member of a participant or fan of an IYHL team or Association (hereinafter "Spectator"). Should any Spectator be removed from a USAH sanctioned event or later be found to have used inappropriate, disruptive and abusive behavior (described below in Items 1 through 3, hereinafter "Abusive Conduct") towards officials, players, coaches, spectators or other participants at a USAH sanctioned event, that Spectator shall be subject to disciplinary action as prescribed below.

1. Use of obscene, profane, or abusive language or gestures towards officials, players, coaches, spectators, or other participants.
2. Taunting of officials, players, coaches, spectators, or other participants by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
3. Throwing any object in the spectators' viewing area, players' bench, penalty box or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

Spectators shall be subject to the following disciplinary action whether the removal is by a game official, security personnel, facility personnel, or Association personnel, or if the alleged Abusive Conduct is investigated after the fact by the Association and/or USAH and found to be true in accordance with the following evidentiary standard. If, after removal or upon investigation after the fact, such alleged Abusive Conduct is found to have occurred by a preponderance of evidence, the following disciplinary action shall be imposed on the Spectator(s) that were removed and/or found to have committed Abusive Conduct during a USAH sanctioned event.

### DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

All spectator policy reported violations will be reviewed by the IYHL Disciplinary Committee. The Committee will determine if an incident reaches the level of disciplinary action. Offenses will follow the below guidelines; however, the severity of the offense may warrant progressing to a more severe penalty. Violations will follow a 365 calendar from date of initial incident that is determined to be in violation of the policy.

First Offense - written warning of the violation and/or up to thirteen (13) days suspension from all events involving the association.

Second Offense - a suspension from all events involving the Association for a minimum of fourteen (14) days to a maximum of thirty (30) days.

Third Offense - a suspension from all events involving the Association for a minimum of thirty (30) days to a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) days.

Fourth Offense- a suspension from all events until a decision has been rendered from an USA Hockey Affiliate (Mid-Am) hearing.

All suspension periods shall run from the date of the incident in question.

#### SPECTATOR MONITORING:

All spectators are responsible for monitoring their own behavior as well as behavior of other spectators during all USAH sanctioned events. Rink personnel or security shall be alerted to inappropriate behavior prior to the situation escalating to the point it has an impact on the game. The IYHL will fully support facility management and/or game security's removal of any spectator in violation of this Policy.

#### REPORTING:

Allegations of Abusive Conduct shall be reported using the attached Incident Report Form. The identity of reporters will be kept confidential. However, reporters must provide their name and valid contact information. Anonymous reports, especially those presented without corroborating evidence such as video, may not be to be acted upon at the sole discretion of the IYHL.

The IYHL will forward all confirmed Spectator Incident Report Forms to the Mid-Am District for establishment of a record regarding the incident alleged.

Adopted 10/22/23