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# **Respect In Sport**

## **Platform of Respect**

### **Overview and Policy**



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## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Respect in Sport program is an online certification program designed to protect our youth as well as enhance Hockey Alberta's mandate of providing a safe and fun environment for all of our participants. It is Canada's leading online bullying, abuse, harassment, and negligence prevention program for parents, coaches, and community leaders. It is offered in two different streams:

**Respect in Sport Parent** – A program providing information on parents' natural influence over a child, the coach or leaders role in an activity, the role parents play in their child's enjoyment and of a sport or activity, and protecting your child when they are outside of your immediate control. The program also provides parents with tools to evaluate their own behavior by highlighting 5 key "behavioral traps" frequently exhibited by parents, particularly in competitive sports. It demonstrates negative behaviors and provides ideas of how a situation may be better handled, includes valuable information from subject matter experts delivered in a clear and concise fashion, and asks questions of parents based on scenarios presented. Specific topics included in the program are: 5 common negative parent behaviors, a child's development, nutrition and hydration, rest, injuries, as well as interacting with coaches, officials, and other parents.

**Respect in Sport Activity Leader/Coach/Officials** – Provides in-depth information on the subjects of bullying, abuse, harassment and neglect. It demonstrates negative behaviors and provides ideas of how a situation may be best handled, including valuable information from subject matter experts delivered in a clear and concise fashion, and asks questions of the leaders based on the scenarios presented. Specific topics include: definitions of bullying, abuse, harassment, neglect and discrimination, cyber-bullying, hazing, use of power, emotions, how to respond, reporting, moral and legal issues, and development.

## **THE POLICY**

In order to foster and develop a culture of mutual respect in the province of Alberta the Respect Group Inc. "Activity Leader" & "Parent Program" shall be completed by all Team Officials, Officials over the age of 18, and all players' parents. The full implementation of this platform by the **2012-13 Hockey Season** would serve as an effective risk management measure as well as a being a strong contributor to the overall safety and enjoyment of the game by all who choose to do so. This platform of proactive education for each of the stakeholders that have a direct impact on the kids in the game, (Parents, Coaches, and Officials) represents a key step towards achieving our vision and mission.



## **POLICY DETAIL**

That by December 1<sup>st</sup> of 2011-12 Hockey Season each Hockey Team in the province of Alberta must have at least two registered Team Officials be on the bench with certification in the Respect in Sport “Activity Leader/Coach” program or at least have the equivalent “Speak Out” program certification already completed.

That by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the 2011-12 Hockey Season all activity leaders in the Pond Hockey program must be certified in the Respect in Sport “Activity Leader/Coach” program or at least have the equivalent “Speak Out” program certification already completed.

**For the 2012-13 Hockey Season and beyond**, completion of the Respect in Sport “Parent Program” for each family of every player shall be a condition of their eligibility to participate on a sanctioned Hockey Team. **(Excluding Junior & Senior Divisions)**

*The Hockey Edmonton Operating Directives General Rules of Registration speaks to the requirement for all players and team officials to be registered in the Registry (HCR). Further, clause 1.8 requires that: “All players, team officials and teams are to be duly registered in the Registry prior to any on-ice activities.”*

*Therefore, Hockey Edmonton policy mandates that at least one parent or guardian of each player registered in minor hockey in Edmonton will need to complete the online RIS Parent Program as a condition of their participation prior to any on-ice activities inclusive of the first tryout skate for any team / program.*

That by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the 2012-13 Hockey Season and beyond each Official (Referee & Linesman) over the age of 18 be certified in the Respect in Sport “Activity Leader/Coach” program or at least have the equivalent “Speak Out” program certification already completed as a condition of their eligibility to officiate.

**That by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the 2012-13 Hockey Season and beyond each Hockey Team in the province of Alberta must have all registered Team Officials certified in the Respect in Sport “Activity Leader/Coach” program or at least have the equivalent “Speak Out” program certification already completed.**

*Note: The team official deadline is currently under review and is highly likely to move November 15 (pending bylaw amendment at the HAB AGM). Associations are strongly advised to encourage / require their Coaches to get this task completed in the off season – far in advance of any deadline.*