



BC Hockey Policy manual

Excerpt – Section 1: Branch Policy 1.40

For discussion at the development committee – Agenda item 11.3

1.40 ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Hockey is a healthy sport where we have a responsibility to the players, participants and the community to demonstrate and encourage healthy choices. BC Hockey has therefore developed this policy in the best interest of the health & safety of the players, participants, and the general public.

BC Hockey is unequivocally opposed to tobacco, alcohol and illegal drug use and is sincere in its duty to uphold the laws of the land in which its members operate. BC Hockey is similarly unequivocally opposed to the use by athletes of banned and restricted substances for the purpose of performance enhancement.

Zero tolerance means that behavior contrary to that above will not be tolerated. Incidents are to be dealt with on an individual basis. Member associations, leagues and teams are required to establish policies and procedures to deal with the consequences of non-compliance by their members.

Template Procedure for Associations

1. Expectations:

- All coaches, players and parents must sign and submit their acceptance of the applicable Code of Conduct.
- Teams, under the direction of the coach, shall develop team rules that are reasonable, fair and consistent. These rules will not contravene and may be superseded by rules of the governing bodies. These rules shall be registered with the Association.
- The policies and procedures of the governing bodies shall be observed.
- The coach has a duty to report.
- The coach participates co-operatively in disciplinary proceedings when required.

2. Legal context of alcohol and controlled substances:

- BC Hockey urges all associations and volunteers to review the Controlled Drugs Act and the Liquor Control and Licensing Act.

3. Incidents of non-compliance to zero tolerance:

- The coach informs the parent of the incident and asks direction from the parent on the removal of the player from the coach's care.
- The coach has the authority to remove a player from team activities.
- Regardless of removal from activity, the coach continues supervisory duties until the player is released from the coach's care by the parent or guardian.
- The coach informs the authorities should the incident warrant criminal investigation.
- The coach documents the incident.
- The coach forwards this documentation for filing/action with the Association.
- The coach ensures that reports and specific circumstances are kept within the parent and Association-constituted process. At no time are any proceedings made public.



- One or more members of the coaching staff shall meet, as soon as practical, with the player and a parent to review the reasons for the removal from activity.
- Suspension of the athlete is at the direction of the Association.
- If the decision is to seek suspension, the coaching staff, as soon as practical, informs the player and a parent and refers the matter to the Association. Should this happen, the process follows the suspension procedure of the Association

It is strongly encouraged that, should the incident or resulting actions be disputed, the parties to the dispute seek a resolution through direct discussions or through voluntary mediation and the exercise of common sense before resorting to review procedures. Should this not be possible, the parties should be referred to the "Association Dispute Resolution Policy".

BC Hockey Protocol

BC Hockey realizes that the severity of incidents of non-compliance to Zero tolerance will encompass an entire spectrum and may have far-reaching affects over and above the participants in the actual event. It is the duty of member associations to report to the BC Hockey risk manager if;

- The incident involves international, inter-Branch or inter-district play.
- The situation may bring embarrassment or public attention to BC Hockey and/or its members.
- The incident is such that it may affect the well-being of other members of the BC Hockey.
- The incident is precedent-setting in some fashion.
- The incident may require action by the BC Hockey or higher authority.

Crisis Counseling

Situations involving serious and sometimes catastrophic incidents may affect the mental and physical well-being of those involved, including the volunteer leaders. BC Hockey recognizes the expertise of those trained in offering after-incident support and counseling for the participants involved in serious incidents. BC Hockey will direct members, upon request, to agencies involved in these support services.

Adult Alcohol and Tobacco Guidelines

In addition to the previous zero tolerance policy in regards to minors, the BC Hockey realizes there are certain situations when the responsible use of alcohol and tobacco by adults is acceptable assuming the implementation of responsible parameters.

Alcohol is not appropriate:

- In dressing rooms or in public, non-licensed areas.
- In team settings with minors in attendance.
- In situations where minors are left unsupervised while adults attend "hospitality" type settings or where alcohol is not controlled by a server.
- Consumption in buses or cars when traveling to and from an event.
- By adults of a minor team when parents are not present.
- Consumed by anyone at minor team parties hosted by other players, parents or team officials.
- If forced on another person.
- If used for "chugging" contests or as a form of hazing or initiation for rookies.



British Columbia Amateur Hockey Association

6671 Oldfield Road Saanichton BC V8M 2A1

info@bchockey.net www.bchockey.net

Ph: 250.652.2978 Fax: 250.652.4536

Tobacco use:

Tobacco use is strictly prohibited by players/participants, coaches/leaders, parents, spectators and officials within 7.5 meters (24 ft.) of any BC Hockey facility at doorways, entryways, openable windows and air intakes. Tobacco use is strictly prohibited at the player's bench and inside dressing rooms. Tobacco use includes smoking cigarettes, cigars, cigarettos, bidis, kreteks, chew, snuff and dip.

