

USA HOCKEY SafeSport Program

The Western Connecticut Youth Hockey Association is committed to improving the development, safety and welfare of all its players and all members involved in the organization. Therefore, it supports the USA Hockey SafeSport Program and requires all players, coaches and members to fully comply.

The WCYHA SafeSport Program information can be found [here](#).

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Disciplinary Committee

The Disciplinary Committee, a group of the WCYHA Board of Directors, and chaired by the Director of Member Safety, is charged with the overall responsibility and authority for hearing and resolving disciplinary issues involving participating players, coaches, team managers and parents/guardians of the WCYHA. This may include, but is not limited to, probation under defined terms; suspension from games or practices; exclusion from games, practices or other activities; or dismissal or disbarment from the WCYHA.

Disciplinary action against a parent may be enforced by suspending or excluding the parent's child from games or practices if the parent fails to abide by the WCYHA's action. Discipline shall be imposed fairly, consistently and in relationship to the wrongdoing, but without regard to the player's importance to his/her team.

The Role of Coaches in Establishing and Maintaining Discipline

The WCYHA Board of Directors recognizes the importance, to the coach, the team and the individual players, of a coach's role in establishing and enforcing disciplinary standards on his/her team. The Board of Directors further reaffirms the coach's authority to establish standards of conduct and fair play and to take immediate and reasonable one-game or one-practice disciplinary action, including benching or suspension, in "on-ice" situations, such as games and practices, and in "off-ice" situations, such as those involving locker rooms and tournament, in which either the coach is responsible for the players' conduct or such conduct could be detrimental to the team or the WCYHA. However, the WCYHA Board of Directors also recognizes the importance of fairness and consistency in the application of multiple game or practice disciplinary standards and has, therefore, established the mechanism outlined below.

36 Hour Rule

Hockey is an emotional sport. The physical battles that occur on the ice can spill onto the bench and stands and create strong reactions towards the coaches.

For parents, it is important to separate game emotions from the best interests of their child's development. For this reason, WCYHA has adopted the "36 Hour Rule". The intent of this rule is to move an emotional and confrontational discussion away from the presence of players, and to allow both the parents and coaches to 'cool off', compose themselves and put the provoking incident or situation that occurred in the game in perspective before meeting to discuss it.

Coaches should not discuss any try-out related situations, game, a game incident or a situation that occurred during the game that has provoked an adverse emotional response or created a hostile situation until at least 36 hours after the fact. A parent or guardian is not to approach a coach to discuss a try-out related situation, game, a game incident or a situation that occurred during the game that has provoked an adverse emotional response or created a hostile situation until at least 36 hours after the fact.

Time and Place of Meetings

The Disciplinary Committee shall meet as necessary during the year to decide matters before it. The exact date, time and location of such meetings shall be established by the Disciplinary Committee. The involved player(s), coach(es), parent(s)/guardian(s) or team manager(s), or other witnesses, may be requested to attend or provide input, as determined at the sole discretion of the Disciplinary Committee.

Membership and Quorum

Due to the sensitivity of the subject matter being covered, the Disciplinary Committee shall be composed of at least three (3) board members. Each member shall serve until the WCYHA's next annual membership meeting. Members of the Disciplinary Committee may serve multiple terms. A majority of the appointed members shall constitute a quorum. Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee shall be determined by a simple majority of voting members, provided a quorum is present. Members of the Disciplinary Committee may vote on matters involving their own teams but are expected to exercise sound judgment in determining whether a particular situation may represent a conflict. Members of the Disciplinary Committee shall recuse themselves from all matters involving him/herself or a family member.

Specific Authorities and Responsibilities

Specific authorities and responsibilities of the Disciplinary Committee are:

- a) To hear all complaints of misconduct involving coaches, players, parents/guardians and team managers;
- b) To determine and assess disciplinary action against players, coaches, parents/guardians, and team managers, as considered appropriate in the circumstances, up to and including suspension and/or dismissal from the team and forfeiture of games;
- d) To maintain a record of and report to the WCYHA Board of Directors all actions taken;
- e) To report other matters of which the WCYHA Board of Directors should be aware that may come to its attention as a result of its activities;
- f) To compel the appearance and testimony of a player, coach, or parent/guardian or team manager at a hearing and/or compel production of score sheets, video tapes, and other documentation in the possession of a coach, player, member, or representative of the WCYHA;
- g) To solicit statements, testimony, evidence, or other documentation from interested parties other than players, coaches, and WCYHA members, as considered necessary in the sole judgment of the Disciplinary Committee; and
- h) To establish such procedures as it considers necessary to conduct its activities.

Prohibited Conduct

The Board has determined that there will be two classifications of prohibited conduct, MINOR VIOLATIONS and MAJOR VIOLATIONS. Prohibited conduct shall include, but not limited to the following.

MINOR VIOLATIONS:

1. Swearing
2. Unnecessary Roughness- This includes inappropriate use of physical force between players, coaches or parents.
3. Arguing with Players, Parents, Officials, Coaches and Board Members-This may include any participant in or outside the arena.
4. Disruptive Behavior on the ice, in the locker room or any location during a WCYHA event.

MAJOR VIOLATIONS:

1. Property Damage
2. Possession and/or use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs
3. Theft
4. Fighting
5. Verbal Abuse
6. Physical Abuse

On Ice Behavior

WCYHA will not tolerate harmful or violent behavior from its players. When faced with exceptional team or player behavior, WCYHA reserves the right to increase any of the following penalties, up to and including *ejecting the player from WCYHA without a refund*.

- *1st Game Misconduct*- Any player receiving a Game Misconduct during the season is automatically suspended for the next regularly scheduled game that the player's team plays as outlined by USA Hockey rules.
- *2nd Game Misconduct*-Any player receiving a second (2) Game Misconduct during the season may be suspended up to the next two (2) games that the player's team plays.
- *Three (3) Game Misconducts within 1 calendar year*- Any player receiving 3 Game Misconducts within a 365 day period may be suspended from WCYHA for up to 1 calendar year from the date of the 3rd penalty.

Commencement of Disciplinary Action

A disciplinary action against a coach, player, parent/guardian or team manager is commenced by submitting the matter to the WCYHA Disciplinary Committee. Requests for action by the Disciplinary Committee must be in writing, dated, with a description of the conduct alleged and the date of the involved individual's next game or practice if applicable. Matters may **not** be submitted anonymously. These procedures are intended for the protection and enhancement of the Association, players and others involved in youth hockey.

MINOR VIOLATIONS

- 1- **First Offense**- When an act prohibited by Minor Violations is committed, the involved party will be suspended from the practice or game session during which the violation occurred. He/she will leave the rink immediately. If the act occurs after a practice or game, the involved player will be suspended from the next practice or game. Depending on a coach's policy, **a missed practice without prior notification may also result in missing one to three periods of the next game.**
- 2- **Second Offense**- A second offense will result in the party being suspended from practice and games for a period of seven (7) days from the date of the violation to include the next full game.
- 3- **Third Offense**- A third offense will result in the party being suspended for a period of thirty (30) days from all Association activities, including practice and games.

MAJOR VIOLATIONS

- 1- **First Offense**- In cases of Major Violations, the party involved will be immediately suspended from playing in the next three games. Players will be expected to attend practice without exception. Failure to attend practice could result in additional

suspension from games. Players are expected to travel with their team on away games and support all teammates.

- 2- Second Offense- A second violation will result in the involved party being immediately terminated for the remainder of the season. Any party wishing to participate after the termination is completed will be on a sixty (60) day probation period.

Appeal

Decisions of the Disciplinary Committee may be appealed in writing to the WCYHA Board of Directors. The Board may decline to hear any appeal, at its sole discretion, in which case the action of the Disciplinary Committee shall stand. If any appeal will be heard, the Board shall convene a special meeting to hear the appeal within thirty (30) days of receipt of written notice of such appeal. Any actions taken by the Disciplinary Committee will continue in effect until the appeal is heard and ruled upon by the WCYHA Board of Directors.