NORTH YORK HOCKEY LEAGUE

Reminder of Expected Conduct and Respectful Behaviour Standards

Dear Players, Parents/Guardians, Coaches, Team Staff, and Spectators,

As we approach the 2026-2027 season, we would like to remind all participants of their responsibility to contribute to a safe, respectful, inclusive, and positive hockey environment.

The North York Hockey League (NYHL) fully supports and adheres to the standards established by our governing bodies of the Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL), Hockey Canada, and the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF). These organizations share a common expectation that everyone involved in hockey demonstrates respect, sportsmanship, integrity, and accountability both on and off the ice.

Our Expectations

All participants are expected to:

- Treat players, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents, and spectators with dignity and respect at all times.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and self-control, regardless of the outcome of a game or situation.
- Respect the rules of hockey, the spirit of fair play, and the decisions made by officials.
- Foster an inclusive environment that welcomes individuals of all backgrounds and abilities.
- Communicate respectfully and resolve disagreements in a constructive and civil manner.
- Represent our team, association, and the game of hockey in a positive way both in person and online.

Bullying, Harassment, and Maltreatment Will Not Be Tolerated

We are committed to providing hockey environments that are free from bullying, harassment, discrimination, intimidation, abuse, and all forms of maltreatment.
This includes:

- Verbal abuse, insults, or threatening behaviour.
- Physical intimidation or aggression.
- Social exclusion, gossip, or attempts to embarrass others.
- Cyberbullying through social media, text messages, email, or other electronic communication.

Every participant has a responsibility to help create a safe environment and to report concerns when inappropriate behaviour is observed. It is specifically stated that all participants have a duty to report incidents or suspicions of maltreatment, bullying, harassment, or misconduct.

Respect for Officials

Game officials play a vital role in our sport and deserve to be treated with courtesy and respect. Disrespectful conduct, abusive language, or harassment directed toward officials will not be accepted and may result in disciplinary action in accordance with NYHL, GTHL, OHF, and Hockey Canada policies.

Consequences of Violations

All participants are expected to uphold the standards of behaviour established by the GTHL, OHF, Hockey Canada, and our organization. Failure to meet these expectations may result in disciplinary action. Depending on the nature and severity of the incident, consequences may include:

- Verbal or written warnings.
- Mandatory meetings with team or association leadership.
- Educational or corrective measures.
- Suspension from team activities, practices, games, tournaments, or association events.
- Suspension or removal from volunteer, coaching, bench staff, or team official roles.
- Restrictions on attendance at games or events.
- Formal investigation under applicable GTHL, OHF, Hockey Canada, or Safe Sport policies.
- Additional sanctions, including longer-term suspensions or permanent removal from participation in sanctioned hockey activities, where warranted.

The OHF and Hockey Canada have made it clear that maltreatment, bullying, harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and other forms of misconduct are incompatible with a safe sport environment and may result in significant disciplinary measures. A single serious incident may be sufficient to warrant a substantial sanction.

Participants are reminded that attempts to interfere with investigations, intimidate complainants or witnesses, retaliate against individuals who raise concerns, or deliberately provide false or misleading information may result in additional disciplinary action.

Our goal is not simply to discipline inappropriate behaviour, but to preserve a positive, safe, and respectful environment where all participants can enjoy the game and reach their full potential.

Shared Responsibility

The NYHL defines participants as including players, team officials, and parents or legal guardians of minor-aged participants. Everyone has a role to play in maintaining a positive hockey experience.

We ask all members of our hockey community to:

- Lead by example.
- Support all participants in a positive manner.
- Focus on player development, enjoyment, and safety.
- Help create an environment where every participant feels valued, respected, and safe.

Thank you for your continued commitment to upholding these standards and helping us ensure that hockey remains a fun, safe, and rewarding experience for everyone involved.



Mario Aguiar
Chief Operating Officer
North York Hockey League