

## **Maulers Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy**

Maulers Hockey continues to vigorously strive for the highest standards of sportsmanship in ice hockey. Every participant; whether player, coach, referee, official, administrator, parent, or spectator, has a responsibility to comply with and support Zero Tolerance and to behave in a respectable manner. Zero Tolerance essentially means that everyone involved in ice hockey shall act in a respectful and sportsmanship like manner so that ice hockey will be a strongly desirable and rewarding experience and that disrespectful and/or unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Loss of self-control is NEVER acceptable. Education and enforcement begins at the club level. Every organization is required to take a strong stand against Zero Tolerance violations and aggressively enforce stated penalties.

This policy was derived from the NIHL and AHAI Zero Tolerance policies. Future versions may also include guidelines on consumption abuse, hazing, and physical and sexual abuse. Any future updates to this policy will be communicated to the members of the Maulers Hockey organization.

## **Maulers Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy**

### **I. Zero Tolerance Classifications (including, but not limited to the following examples)**

#### **A. Class I Inappropriate verbal or non-verbal abuse not covered in Class 2 or Class 3 during Maulers Hockey related functions and activities**

#### **B. Class 2 Confrontation or reaction to specific events or triggers during Maulers Hockey related functions and activities**

##### **1. Open disputing or arguing with the decision of an official, coach, administrator, spectator, or player, whether on or off the ice**

a. For a Class 2 violation, disputing or arguing must be persistent. A possible indication of persistence is issuance of an additional major misconduct penalty and/or ejection (by referee, coach, or parent) from the game.

b. If persistence is not demonstrated, a Class 1 or no violation is more appropriate.

##### **2. Obscene or vulgar language or the use of a physical act which is vulgar or Obscene, or swearing**

a. With respect to obscene or vulgar language, a distinction should be made between swearing (perhaps out of frustration) not directed at any individual and language which is directed to any individual associated with the game or hockey function.

b. Swearing not directed at any individual should be considered a Class 1 violation when the issue is persistent at a game or function or if the violator shows chronic behavior.

c. Occasional swearing can be considered no violation with a warning to prevent the behavior from becoming chronic.

d. Swearing directed to any individual should be considered a Class 2 violation. Persistent or chronic behavior of this type need not be necessary for disciplinary action to take place.

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### **3. Encouraging abusive or unsportsmanlike behavior in any player, coach, official, administrator or spectator**

- a. This is minimally a Class 2 violation and may be Class 3, if encouragement leads to physical violence or fighting. See Class 3-1 violation.

### **4. Taunting or ridiculing of officials, coaches, players, administrators, or spectators**

- a. Need not be chronic or persistent. Should be Class 2 violation in most cases.

### **5. Throwing of any object directed in the spectator's viewing area, at a person, in the playing area (including bench area), the ice, or as to create the potential of a safety hazard or issue**

- a. Should always be minimally a Class 2 and a Class 3 violation if resulting in injury.

### **6. Intentional physical contact using the body or stick after the whistle is blown or the buzzer has sounded**

- a. Should always be minimally a Class 2 violation and a possibly a Class 3 violation if resulting in injury. Not all contact after the whistle is blown or horn is sounded would be considered a Zero Tolerance violation. An R&E investigation should be triggered by issuance of a major, misconduct, or game misconduct penalty.

### **7. Not stopping Zero Tolerance conduct once advised to do so**

- a. This indicates a chronic or persistent problem and should be a Class 2 violation.

### **8. Not voluntarily leaving a facility once advised to do so by any official, administrator or security personnel**

- a. This is always minimally a Class 2 violation. Could be a Class 3 violation, if complete loss of self-control is demonstrated or if violence occurs. See Class 3 violations.

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### **C. Class 3 Complete loss of self-control during Maulers Hockey related Functions and activities**

#### **1. Off-ice physical violence or fighting, or abusive physical contact while the person is upset or angry**

- a. This is always a Class 3 violation.

#### **2. Threats of any nature**

- a. Threats can be verbal or physical in nature.

#### **3. Returning to facility after being ejected**

- a. This is always a Class 3 violation, since this behavior can lead to further issues including violence.

#### **4. Any actions that require the use of third parties to control the conduct or situation, such as rink personnel, league personnel, or security personnel**

## **II. Zero Tolerance Penalties**

### **A. General**

#### **1. Penalties listed are minimum and may be more severe, as in the case of aggravating circumstances or multiple offenses, or may remain at minimum if there are mitigating circumstances**

#### **2. Suspensions and any appeals must comply with USA Hockey By-law 10 and AHAI By-laws, Rules and Regulations. Each organization should review these and specifically the Affiliate Guidelines and AHAI Rule Articles IX and X.**

### **B. Classifications**

#### **1. Class 1 Violation Consequences generally handled within each organization with documentation required**

- a. Minimum penalty - warning with written apology to person(s) offended
- b. Maximum penalty - 2 game suspension with written apology to person(s) offended

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### **2. Class 2 Violation**

- a. 1st occurrence Minimum suspension 3 games; 5 games for those in official capacity (Board member, coach, manager, etc.)
- b. 2nd occurrence Minimum suspensions at least doubled (6-10 games, as above)
- c. 3rd occurrence Minimum 30 day suspension
- d. All Class 2 violations should also include a written apology to person(s) offended

### **3. Class 3 Violation**

- a. One year minimum suspension
- b. Refer directly to AHAI
- c. All Class 3 violations should also include a written apology to person(s) offended

## **III. Organizations Responsibilities**

### **A. Define Zero Tolerance Policy/ Code of Conduct**

**1. The NIHL and AHAI Zero Tolerance policies are the MINIMUM of acceptable policies.**

**2. Individual organizations must comply with these Zero Tolerance standards. In addition, they are required to develop their own written Zero Tolerance Policy.**

**3. Develop a Code of Conduct**

### **B. Have a Rules and Ethics Committee - The Enforcing Body for Zero Tolerance**

### **C. Education**

**1. Mandatory pre-season meeting(s) for parents, players, coaches, board members to define and explain:**

- a. Zero Tolerance Policy, Rules, Definitions and Classifications
- b. The absolute requirement to comply with Zero Tolerance policies
- c. Penalties/Disciplinary Action

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**2. Signed Code of Conduct for every parent, player, coach and board member must include:**

- a. The Zero Tolerance Policy and Code of Conduct of your organization
- b. Zero Tolerance classifications and minimum penalties

### **D. Enforcement**

**1. The Organization has the ultimate organizational responsibility and authority to enforce Zero Tolerance penalties, including the enforcement that all persons associated with their organization comply with the Zero Tolerance Policies**

## **IV. Individual Responsibilities**

### **A. General**

**1. All individuals must comply with the Zero Tolerance Policies, by-laws, rules, regulations and policies of all governing bodies (Maulers Hockey, NIHL and AHAI)**

**2. In addition, the following are some specific areas of responsibilities**

### **B. Coaches**

**1. On-ice tolerance issues**

**2. Mutual respect of officials, coaches and opposition**

**3. Strict control of players both on and off ice**

### **C. Player**

**1. Strict and complete self-control both on and off ice at all club functions**

**2. Mutual respect of officials, coaches and opposition**

### **D. Parent**

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- 1. Mutual respect of officials, coaches, players, opposition, parents, and spectators.**
- 2. Absolute self-control**
- 3. Work with officials, coaches and NIHL, league and organization personnel to assure a positive experience for all**
- 4. Remember that minor officials (e.g. timekeepers, penalty box monitors) are to be professional, impartial, respectful and sportsmanlike**