



## NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

110 LAKESHORE DRIVE  
NORTH BAY, ONTARIO P1A 2A8  
PHONE: (705) 474-8851 • FAX: (705) 474-6019  
www.noha.on.ca



### **PARENTS, COACHES, TEAM PERSONNEL, OFFICIALS – Please Take Note.**

The NOHA's goal is to eliminate all forms of harassment and abuse, including physical and sexual abuse. The NOHA recognizes that verbal and emotional harassment and abuse are far more common than physical and sexual harassment and abuse. The NOHA is determined that they should not be tolerated either.

The NOHA's first priority is to protect its' players. At the same time, coaches, parents, and officials can be the targets of harassment and abuse during their participation in the sport. The NOHA aims to eliminate ALL harassment and abuse in the NOHA, no matter who the person harassing or abusing is, and no matter who the victim is.

THEREFORE, every individual who participates in activities, including the parents, guardians or caregivers of the players, will be expected to learn, know and abide by the rules, guidelines, and Codes of Conduct (Fair Play Codes) being introduced. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, including potential expulsion.

### **IT DOES HAPPEN IN MINOR SPORT**

Some people may think the NOHA is overreacting to the dangers of harassment and abuse. The Board of Directors disagrees. Following the HC's introduction of anti-harassment and abuse efforts, numerous reports were made about incidents such as hazing rituals, underage drinking encouraged by team officials, verbal and emotional abuse following bad plays, racial discrimination, abusive physical punishment, and sexual harassment and abuse.

### **AND IT DOES HAPPEN HERE**

The NOHA has had a sexual misconduct situation. We certainly hope that no person ever becomes another victim of such abuse. The majority of NOHA activities are incident free. However, annually there are situations where parents and other spectators verbally abuse officials and team personnel. In other incidents, parents have physically accosted an official. We have had a child grabbed by the facemask following a bad shift. In yet another incident, an opposing team's parent hit a NOHA parent who was being overly aggressive at a game.

**'THESE ARE THE TYPES OF BEHAVIOUR AND ACTIONS WE ARE TRYING TO PREVENT AND ELIMINATE FROM THE NOHA.'**

### **PEOPLE IN THE DRESSING ROOM**



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- Effective September 2002, the following guidelines will govern who should be in the dressing rooms before and after games;
- At the discretion of the Coach, in consultation with his/her team personnel, may meet privately with the players for a briefing/debriefing period, before and after games. During that time, all other people are to remain outside the room. The door may be closed but not locked.
- At the Initiation, Novice and Atom levels, parents may be expected to assist their children changing before and after practices and games. Coaches are not expected to do this.
- At all other levels parents must remain outside the dressing room while the participants (players) change.