

SECTION R: Risk Management: On-Ice Bullying

HOCKEY NOVA SCOTIA ON-ICE BULLYING POLICY

The following is the policy of Hockey Nova Scotia with respect to On-Ice Bullying:

Hockey is a fast-paced contact sport. Whether body checking is permitted or not, on-ice collisions occur and some participants are, by nature, more aggressive than others. Not all infractions on the ice can be seen or called by the officials. They are trained and certified annually to perform their job but incidents of on-going intimidation and bullying may occur and may not be noticed or called by the officials.

Bullying describes behaviour that is similar to harassment. Bullying is intentionally hurting someone in order to insult, humiliate, degrade or exclude him or her.

In these situations, Hockey Nova Scotia has put in place the following process to review and monitor these matters to ensure that all participants are able to enjoy the game free from continued bullying and harassment.

Hockey Nova Scotia will follow the process outlined below:

- 1) If a player or parent feels that a player is being bullied on the ice and the officials have not noticed or dealt with it, the player or parent should discuss the matter with the coach of their child's team after the game.
- 2) The coach will then either report the concerns to their Minor Hockey Association (MHA) President and monitor the situation to verify that the bullying is taking place (if they have not witnessed it) and report back to the parent or/and MHA President.
- 3) Once reported to the MHA President, it is their job to take the matter to the local Hockey Nova Scotia Minor or Female Council representative to review and determine the next course of action. Actions may include but are not limited to:
 - HNS rep will monitor the games
 - Speak with the MHA and Coach of the offending player/team
 - Instruct local RIC to work with local officials to monitor the games between teams
 - Meet with offending player and coach
 - Possible suspension if actions continue

It is the belief of Hockey Nova Scotia that these provisions adequately address issues of on-ice bullying and provide families of all participants an avenue to have their concerns addressed and ensure the continued enjoyment of the game of hockey by all players.