

TRUST PROGRAM

T eaching	The TRUST Program is basically the rule book for recreational hockey.
R espect	Along with suspension guidelines are player, parent, and coaches pledge
U nity	commitments. This program must be presented at the first team meeting
S afety and	of players and parents and all pledge commitments must be signed and
T olerance	returned to the team manager.

MHMHA expects full cooperation in the signing of Pledge Forms and Code of Conduct Forms. Regardless of whether either form is signed, all members are still subject to the consequences for unacceptable behaviours. The TRUST Program is a part of MHMHA bylaws and regulations and must be followed as a condition of membership.

MHMHA TRUST PROGRAM

Over the past several years it has become increasingly apparent that participation in the game has become less enjoyable due to the conduct of spectators, coaches, officials and players becoming increasingly more unacceptable both on and off the ice. Some people have left the game for the wrong reasons and with bad memories.

The MHMHA views our TRUST Program as a means of support for our many outstanding volunteers, coaches, officials and parents who are in the majority and who have always practiced and subscribed to the fundamental principles of **fun, respect and positive development of the game**. We see this program as a vehicle to assist in furthering these values and make the game even better and more enjoyable. You could view the TRUST Program as a celebration of the positive elements of the game that will overwhelm the negative. This is not a time to be defensive, but rather offensive and proactive in advocating a program that is totally positive. We encourage the majority to confidently come forward with energy and support the TRUST Program to make our game even better!

OBJECTIVES

The TRUST Program applies to all players, parents, coaches, on/off ice officials, directors, team officials, or any persons associated with MHMHA. The program will play a significant role in the development of a young person's values, morals, social maturity, physical fitness, mental fitness, and to promote acceptable conduct. Program objectives include:

- Respect for all persons
- Development of ethical conduct towards others
- Freedom to enjoy and flourish
- Protection from harm
- Caring attitudes
- Respect for the game

It is a must that every participant abides by these principles. A participant is defined as (but not limited to) a player, coach, official or spectator. **This program is not intended to be a new process for complaints about officiating of general hockey rules, but to promote and ensure acceptable behaviour.**

DEFINITION OF BEHAVIOR

An individual is displaying unacceptable behaviour if:

- they are verbally or physically harassing and/or abusing a game participant (a player, coach, spectator or official) If the abuse or harassment is severe in nature MHMHA will seek the advice of MH City Police.
- they are causing damage to or destroying any property, equipment or facility.

When there is a situation of unacceptable behaviour the responsibilities of MHMHA, coaches, spectators and on-ice officials are set out herein. The focus is on achieving the program objectives, and while confrontation should be avoided, reporting is encouraged. Reporting is an important step in attaining the objective.

INTRODUCING THE TRUST PROGRAM

At the start of the season when holding your first parent meeting please present the following:

- Present parents with information packages outlining the TRUST Program
- Detail the objectives
- Outline expectations
- Outline the consequences
- Explain the team's responsibilities
- Explain MHMHA responsibilities
- Distribute pledge forms to parents, players and coaches for completion

Once all pledge forms are completed, they must be returned to MHMHA (director or office). MHMHA will also notify the following agencies of the TRUST Program: City of Medicine Hat Recreation Department, staff at all Medicine Hat ice facilities, Medicine Hat Police.

COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES

Implementation Trigger

The reporting of unacceptable behaviour by a spectator, coach, player, director or official is the triggering event of the complaint handling procedure. This reporting process will govern the persons responsible for investigating the complaint. The methods of enforcement will vary dependant on the severity of the event.

Reporting Process

If an incident occurs which meets the definition of unacceptable behaviour and is serious enough to warrant a formal complaint, then an incident report form must be completed. The Incident Report Form should be submitted to the Game & Conduct Director (through the MHMHA office) for review within 30 days of the incident. With Incident Reports we can track history and individuals from year to year. Please note that the hockey talk and rumours that are frequent in the arenas today are not enough for MHMHA to act on, the **unacceptable actions/behaviour must be witnessed.**

RESPONSIBLE REPORTERS

On/off-ice officials

If in the opinion of an official an individual is verbally or physically harassing or abusing a game participant (coach, player or official), the official will at the stoppage of play identify the individual and through discussion with one or both coaches request that the individual ceases the behaviour. If the behaviour continues the offending individual will be requested to immediately leave the facility until ½ hour after the game has concluded. **Once the person has left the facility the play will resume.** The official will document the offense or action on an incident report form or the back of the game sheet. A copy of the write up on the game sheet will be forwarded to the Game & Conduct Director, triggering the complaint handling process.

Directors, Spectators, Coaches and Players

If in the opinion of a director, spectator, coach or player an individual is verbally or physically harassing or abusing a game participant (coach, player, official or spectator), an incident report form is to be completed and forwarded to the Game & Conduct Director. This will trigger the complaint handling procedure.

Enforcement

After investigating, the MHMHA President shall have the power to suspend any **player, coach, trainer, manager, official or spectator** of any team under the auspices of the MHMHA for any on or off ice conduct which is deemed to be unbecoming or detrimental to the game of hockey (this will be done under the sole discretion of MHMHA President). The MHMHA President has the power to prevent a spectator from viewing any game for any conduct which is deemed by the President as unbecoming or detrimental to the game of hockey and has the power to suspend the player, coach, official or team which the spectator is attached. This allows for quick action against unbecoming conduct. MHMHA is prepared to enforce these provisions as required.

Appeal Process

The President of MHMHA must receive the appeal within 5 days of the offence, upon receiving a request for an appeal the MHMHA will establish a Special Committee of 3 members to hear the appeal related to a discipline or action as a result of an investigation. Appeals will be heard within 7 days and the appeal must contain a clear and concise summary of the grounds for the appeal. If the appeal is denied, further appeals can be made to Hockey Alberta under the normal appeal process.

SUSPENSION GUIDELINES

When suspensions arise, the team manager and coach shall implement the corresponding consequence immediately. **Suspensions apply to all league and tournament games ONLY, if an exhibition game is scheduled during a suspension the suspended player will not be allowed to play nor shall it count as a game served.** Players that are suspended shall be included on game sheets with the abbreviation “**SUSP**” by their name on the roster. **If the suspended player is affiliated to another team, that player is not allowed to practice or play with that team until the suspension has been served.** In the case of on ice incidents involving competitive teams, the rules governing the league in which the competitive team participates in shall apply. However, any incidents occurring away from the ice surface between local teams the TRUST Program will be followed. **MHMHA will issue the following suspensions in conjunction with Hockey Alberta Regulations.**

MATCH PENALTIES

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|--|-----------------------|
| • Molesting an official or deliberate injury | Indefinite suspension |
| • Checking from behind (with match penalty) | 4 games |
| • Deliberate attempt to injure, kicking | 3 games |
| • Spitting on an opposing player | 3 games |
| • Spearing, butt ending | 3 games |
| • Hair pulling, head butting | 2 games |
| • Grabbing the face mask, gross misconduct | 2 games |

GAME MISCONDUCT

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • Verbal abuse of an official (rule 47) | 2 games |
| • In the last ten minutes | 1 game |
| • 2 nd offence (anytime during the game) | 1 game |
| • 3 rd offence | 2 games |
| • 4 th offence | 3 games |

MISCONDUCTS

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| • 1 st offence | 10 min penalty |
| • 2 nd offence | 10 min penalty |
| • 3 rd offence | 1 game |
| • 4 th offence | 3 games |

Further offences will be subject to an indefinite suspension

FIGHTING

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| • 1 st offence | 1 game |
| • 2 nd offence | 3 games |
| • 3 rd offence | Indefinite suspension |

- Player who leaves the bench for the purpose of fighting 5 games
- Leaving the penalty box for the purpose of fighting 5 games
- Coach who leaves the bench for the purpose of fighting 3 games
- Third man in a fight 3 games
- A 2nd fighting major during the same stoppage of play 5 games

All fighting majors will be reviewed by the General Manager and any further penalty shall be at his discretion

INSTIGATOR WITH A FIGHT

- 1st offence 5 games
- 2nd offence Indefinite suspension

PRE/POST GAME ALTERCATIONS

- Any time majors or game misconducts assessed 3 games
- Coach of a team whose players as above Indefinite suspension
- Any team involved in a pre/post game brawl Indefinite suspension

CHECKING FROM BEHIND

Where a 5 minute major is assessed

- 1st offence Game misconduct + 1 game
- 2nd offence Game misconduct + 2 games
- 3rd offence Indefinite suspension

Where a 2 minute minor is assessed

- 1st offence Game misconduct
- 2nd offence 1 game
- 3rd offence 2 games
- 4th offence Indefinite suspension

CHECKING TO THE HEAD

Where a 5 minute major is assessed

- 1st offence Game misconduct + 1 game
- 2nd offence 2 games
- 3rd offence Indefinite suspension

Where a 2 minute minor is assessed

- 1st offence 10 min misconduct
- 2nd offence 1 game
- 3rd offence indefinite suspension

MAJOR PENALTIES

- 1st offence 5 min + Game misconduct
- 2nd offence 5 min + Game misconduct + 1 game
- 3rd offence 2 games
- 4th offence 3 games

COACH SUSPENSIONS

- 2nd Game misconduct 1 game
- 3rd Game misconduct Indefinite suspension

OTHER SUSPENSIONS

- Destruction of property or equipment 5 games + restitution
- Coach of above Under review
- Smoking or chewing tobacco at facility Review and indefinite suspension
- Use of alcohol or illegal drugs Review and indefinite suspension
- Failing to ensure adult supervision Review and potential suspension
- Hazing/Harassment/Cyber-Bullying Review and indefinite suspension
- verbal abuse towards off-ice officials Review and indefinite suspension
- **Cell phones in the dressing room** Review and indefinite suspension

THREE PENALTY RULE

- Any players participating in the recreational programs in Peewee, Bantam or Midget, that receive three or more penalties in a single game will receive a game ejection penalty.
- No suspension will follow and no misconduct will be issued on a game ejection unless the penalties called warrant more severe discipline under the suspension guidelines.