



OGHA Cannabis and Substance Use Policy

1. Statement of Purpose

- 1.1. The OGHA is committed to providing a safe and healthy playing environment and workplace for all of its players, parents, spectators, volunteers and officials.
- 1.2. This Policy provides guidance for all OGHA members relating to the use of cannabis, tobacco, alcohol, or any other legal or illegal drugs policy establishes the criteria and process for the formation of competitive teams within the OGHA, both of which embody the principle of Association Loyalty.

2. General

- 2.1. The OGHA prohibits the use of tobacco products, cannabis and its derivatives, alcohol, drugs and banned or restricted substances during any OGHA sanctioned events. Use and impairment resulting from the use of any of these substances are strictly prohibited at OGHA activities and sanctioned hockey events, especially ones involving youth and minors. Smoking and vaping is also prohibited at any OGHA activities and sanctioned events. Applicable Federal, Provincial and municipal By-laws shall be followed.
- 2.2. A medical certificate may exempt an OGHA member from this policy, but all decisions of this nature will be made by the OGHA Executive on a case by case basis.
- 2.3. Hockey Canada has advised that cannabis will continue to be listed as Prohibited In Competition on the World Anti-Doping Agency Prohibited List because it:
 - a. has the potential to enhance performance;
 - b. can cause harm to the health of the athlete; and
 - c. violates the spirit of sport.

Hockey Canada's Risk Management Committee stresses that cannabis should be treated like alcohol in the hockey environment, within our guidelines and codes of conduct.

- 2.4. The minimum suspension for direct violations of this policy is a minimum of 30 days' time suspension from participation in all female hockey related activities. The OGHA has the responsibility to investigate all situations, and apprise their Risk and Safety Officer of any incidents and the outcome of their actions taken.
- 2.5. A non-exhaustive list of examples or situations where cannabis and substance use is prohibited may include:
 - a. On the ice, at the players' bench, in dressing rooms or in public, non-licensed areas;



- b. In buses or cars when traveling to and from a sanctioned event;
- c. By team officials in a position of responsibility for a minor team;
- d. By anyone with the responsibility of driving persons to and from a sanctioned event;
- e. Use for the purposes of hazing, initiation or when it is forced on another person;
- f. Use by participants, team officials and volunteers during OGHA hockey events.

3. Team Responsibilities

- 3.1. Team Officials shall communicate this policy to all members of their team.
- 3.2. Team Officials must cooperatively participate in investigations and disciplinary proceedings.
- 3.3. Team Officials can remove any OGHA participant from team activities for violation of this Policy.
- 3.4. Designated Team Officials shall meet with the player and their parent or legal guardian to review the reasons for the removal.
- 3.5. Regardless of the removal, a designated Team Official shall continue their supervisory responsibilities until the player is released to the care of their parent or legal guardian.
- 3.6. Team Officials shall document the incident(s) and promptly advise the OGHA Executive, and inform the relevant authorities if required.
- 3.7. Facility staff should be immediately advised of situations that arise involving suspicious or inappropriate behaviour of spectators at rinks, sanctioned events or venues.

4. Additional Information

- 4.1. For more information on the legalization and regulation of cannabis in Canada, including the health effects of cannabis, please visit Health Canada's website Canada.ca/en/services/health/campaigns/marijuana-cannabis.
- 4.2. Additional information for parents and guardians can be sourced from the following links:
 - a. [City of Ottawa Cannabis Fact Sheet for Parents](#)
 - b. [Ville D'Ottawa Santé publique cannabis](#)
 - c. [Drug Free Kids Canada – Cannabis Talk Kit](#)
 - d. [CAA Cannabis - Impaired Driving](#)