



Off-Ice Officials

Unsportsmanlike Conduct & Response

Removing an abusive person from a game/arena

Should a coach, player, or spectator engage in unsportsmanlike behaviour, the on-ice official (referee) has full authority to remove the individual from the game, if warranted. However, off-ice officials and bench staff may play a role as well.

What constitutes unsportsmanlike or discriminatory behaviour?

Unsportsmanlike conduct or maltreatment encompasses disrespectful behaviours deemed rude, unpleasant, inappropriate, or unprofessional, which may offend others, whether through verbal or physical means. This also includes taunts, insults, or intimidation based on discriminatory factors such as race, religion, age, gender, marital status, genetic traits, and disability. It is essential for all officials, players, coaches, and spectators to feel safe and free from discrimination and harassment while at the arena. Some examples are:

- Challenging or disputing an official's decision in an unsportsmanlike manner
- Use of derogatory language that may be offensive to any individual.
- Deliberately spraying snow from their skates into an opponent's face (e.g. "spraying" the goaltender).
- Shooting the puck at or near the goal after the whistle.
- Shooting the puck out of the playing area, after the whistle.
- Engaging in any inappropriate or unwanted discussion with the referee before, during, or after the game.
- Any behaviour intended to incite an opponent into incurring a penalty.
- Any other display of unsportsmanlike behaviour that would be considered disorderly or contrary to the spirit of the game.

What if the individual (player, coach, or spectator) refuses to respect the official's decision to be removed from the game/arena?

The on-ice official should suspend play until the individual in question leaves the arena. Lost time will not be replaced, and the violator(s) may be subject to further disciplinary action by the respective league. A Referees options are:

- Wait at centre ice or in the penalty box for the individual to leave.
- Run the clock.
- If the individual is a spectator, find out which side the spectator is from (home or away) and ask the head coach of that team for help removing that individual.
- Ask the off-ice officials in the box to contact facility staff and/or RCMP to help with the situation.
 - Canmore Recreation Centre Facility Crew - (403)996-0325 (text ok too)
 - RCMP/Fire/EMS: 911
- The home scorekeeper and manager will need to ensure a game incident report is completed by the referee and submitted to their respective league.