



SMHA Parents & Players:

We have had a number of issues concerning behavior that goes against SMHA's and Hockey Alberta's code of conduct. We must remember that our actions represent our community, our organization, and our individual character. There are consequences for one's words and actions, regardless if they are done in person or online. Most organizations have taken a zero acceptance to these issues and have highlighted the changes in online behavior. SMHA is here to tell you that we also have that stance. We have been fortunate as an organization to have to deal with very little personal harassment or physical abuse. However, in the past 3 seasons we have had to deal with more of it and majority of it has stemmed from poor use of online and social media activity. This has mirrored issues throughout the Province and the leagues we are involved in. CAHL is currently redeveloping their own social media policy and has already stripped teams banners and suspended players over online activity. SMHA will be following suit.

SMHA's current Stettler Minor Hockey Player Code Of Conduct states:

"This Code Of Conduct identifies the standard of behaviour that is expected of all Stettler Minor Hockey Association (SMHA) members, including Players, Coaches, Parents, Directors and Volunteers.

The SMHA is committed to providing and maintaining a Minor Hockey environment where all individuals are treated with respect. Below are specific guidelines for the behaviour of Players and forms part of this Code Of Conduct. The following behaviours are strictly prohibited:

Harassment and bullying in all its forms
Language or physical act that is vulgar, obscene, racial or sexist
Abuse of Officials, Coaches or Managers
Fighting between Players on or off the ice, including play fighting in the dressing rooms
Use of alcohol or illegal drugs before or during a Minor Hockey game.

Hockey Alberta has many of these same principles in their own Social media policy and are subject to disciplinary action, such as:

- Bullying, harassment, intimidation or threats of any type.
- Making negative or derogatory comments about, or statements deemed detrimental to the welfare of, any individual or group.
- Divulging confidential information or any other matter of a sensitive nature.
- Posting photographs, video or comments promoting negative influences or criminal behavior, including but not limited to drug use, alcohol abuse, public intoxication, hazing, and sexual harassment.

- Undertaking activity that contradicts the current policies of Hockey Alberta or any of its Member organizations.
- Undertaking activity that is meant to alarm other individuals or to misrepresent fact or truth.

Social Media has placed increased pressure on everyone. News, comments and opinions are shared immediately. Your personal reputation, as well as your organization's is at stake, with every post.

Hockey Alberta also advises using the Social Media best practice of T-H-I-N-K.

T - Is it True?

H – Is it Hurtful?

I – Is it Illegal?

N – Is it Necessary?

K – Is it Kind?

SMHA has always stated phones should be kept out of the dressing rooms. We are aware this is a difficult task, but it is a rule with players that needs to be adhered to. Coaches and/or an adult representative of the team also need to be present in the dressing room, both at practices and during games.

SMHA is asking you to be aware that just as with in-person issues, there are consequences for online activity and be active in your child's social media life. Be certain what forums, groups, chats, or online activity your child is involved in. We encourage you to ask them questions, monitor, and be a part of their experience. It will keep everyone much safer and accountable. With that being said, we, as adults also need to monitor our own activity and be aware that breaking any of the above conduct may also affect your child.

When these codes of conduct are broken, SMHA is committed to having disciplinary action take place and suspensions will be one of the immediate consequences.

Please think before you act in-person or online. Follow the SMHA 24- hour rule, the proper chain of communication and the codes of conduct.

Thank you
SMHA Board