

## **EYHA Zero Tolerance Policy**

EYHA, in conjunction with NIHL and Metro North, continues to vigorously strive for the highest standards of sportsmanship in ice hockey. Every participant, whether player, coach, referee, official, administrator, parent or spectator, has a responsibility to comply with and support Zero Tolerance and to behave in a respectable manner.

Zero Tolerance essentially means that everyone involved in ice hockey shall act in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner so that ice hockey will be a strongly desirable and rewarding experience and that disrespectful and/or unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Loss of self-control is NEVER acceptable.

In order to achieve and maintain high standards, EYHA has created the following zero tolerance policy. This policy:

- Will apply to all those associated with EYHA, including but not limited to players, parents, coaches, EYHA board members and spectators;
- Will be vigorously enforced in conjunction with the zero tolerance policies of NIHL, Metro North and USA Hockey.

**IT IS AN ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT THAT ALL INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH EYHA CONFORM TO THE ZERO TOLERANCE POLICIES OF EYHA, Metro North, NIHL AND AHAL.**

### **ZERO TOLERANCE CLASSIFICATIONS:**

There are three Zero Tolerance Classifications as enforced by EYHA. These include but are not limited to the following examples:

#### Class 1

- Inappropriate verbal or non-verbal abuse not covered in Class 2 or Class 3 during NIHL, Metro North and EYHA related functions and activities;
- Violation of the rules of the Robert Crown Center or the Zero Tolerance Policy as it relates to Robert Crown, all as outlined below.
- Any violation of the rules of any governing body of Illinois Hockey not defined elsewhere.

#### Class 2

Confrontation or reaction to specific events or triggers during NIHL related functions and activities including but not limited to:

1. Openly disputing or arguing with the decision of an official, coach, administrator, spectator, or player, whether on or off the ice.
2. Obscene or vulgar language or the use of a physical act which is vulgar or obscene, or swearing.

3. Encouraging abusive or unsportsmanlike behavior in any player, coach, official, administrator or spectator.
4. Taunting or ridiculing of officials, coaches, players, administrators, or spectators.
5. Throwing of any object directed in the spectator's viewing area, at a person, in the playing area (including bench area), the ice or as to create the potential of a safety hazard or issue.
6. Intentional physical contact using the body or stick after the whistle is blown or the buzzer has sounded.
7. Not stopping Zero Tolerance conduct once advised to do so.
8. Not voluntarily leaving a facility once advised to do so by any official, administrator or security personnel.

### Class 3

Complete loss of self control during NIHL related functions and activities:

1. Off-ice physical violence or fighting, or abusive physical contact while the person is upset or angry.
2. Threats of any nature.
3. Returning to a facility after being ejected.
4. Any actions that require the use of third parties to control the conduct or situation, such as rink personnel, league personnel, or security personnel.

### **Robert Crown and EYHA:**

EYHA is a guest of the Evanston Recreation Department in the Robert Crown Center. All EYHA players, parents, coaches and all others associated with EYHA are expected to act in a respectful manner within the grounds of the Robert Crown Center and not in a manner which will reflect negatively upon EYHA. Actions which are considered to reflect negatively on EYHA include but are not limited to:

1. Any Class 1, 2, or 3 violations which occur within or upon the grounds of the Robert Crown Center.
2. Any actions which deface or damage property or disrupt activities within or upon the grounds of the Robert Crown Center.
3. Any actions which violate the rules of the Robert Crown Center or the Evanston Recreation Department.
4. Failing to clean the locker room after use. It is the responsibility of all teams to leave the locker rooms neat and clean after use.
5. Acting in a disrespectful manner towards Robert Crown Center or Evanston Recreation Department personnel.

Examples of actions which are unacceptable include defacing the walls of locker rooms, fighting in the locker rooms or elsewhere, leaving a locker room in less than clean condition, running in the Lobby of the Robert Crown, and shooting pucks or other objects within the grounds of Robert Crown in any area other than on the ice.

Zero Tolerance Procedure:

### Reporting a Violation

All individuals associated with EYHA may report violations of the Zero Tolerance Policy. Individuals who wish to report violations may do so by reporting them to:

1. Their team Manager.
  2. To the Rules and Ethics Chair of EYHA as follows:  
Scott Kirkpatrick  
312-543-1457  
Scott.Kirkpatrick@hillandknowlton.com
  3. To the President of EYHA as follows:  
Bob Nauert  
224-639-2808  
rcnauert@aol.com
- It is the direct responsibility of all team managers, and coaches, to identify violations of the Zero Tolerance Policy and report those violations to the above identified individuals.
  - It is the direct responsibility of all members of the EYHA board of directors to identify violations of the Zero Tolerance Policy and report those violations to the above identified individuals.
  - Robert Crown Center and Evanston Recreation Department personnel may report violations at their discretion.

At the request of the EYHA Rules and Ethics Committee (the “Committee”), the reporting individual will complete and sign a Zero Tolerance Incident Report (the “Report”). In general, an unsigned report will not be acted upon.

#### Acting Upon a Violation:

Upon receipt of a Report, the EYHA Rules and Ethics Committee will meet with the involved parties and determine a course of action. The course of action may include penalties assessed by EYHA or a referral of the matter by EYHA to another governing body such as NIHL, Metro North or AHAI. Failure of the parties to appear will result in the automatic assessment of penalties, by the Committee, as outlined below.

Decisions of the Committee may be appealed to the Board of EYHA at either a special meeting of the Board called for that purpose or at a regularly scheduled meeting of the board. Upon such appeal, the Board may take such action as it deems appropriate in its sole discretion. Appeals of the Board of Directors decision, may be made to the NIHL Rules and Ethics Committee, or Metro North as appropriate.

#### Zero Tolerance Penalties

##### General:

All penalties outlined below are minimums. **The penalties for Class 2 and Class 3 violations are the minimum penalties required by NIHL.**

Increased penalties, beyond those outlined below, for violations not involving the Rules and Ethics Committee of NIHL, Metro North or AHAI, may be assessed by EYHA’s Rules and Ethics Committee in its sole discretion.

**Any disciplinary action taken by EYHA, or the Rules and Ethics Committees of NIHL or Metro North, may be requested to become a Statewide disciplinary action to the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee.**

**Class 1 Violation Penalties:**

The consequences of Class 1 violations will be resolved within EYHA. A Class 1 offense may result in the following:

- For an individual player or coach, for the first offense, the minimum requirement will be a one game suspension. For others, the minimum requirement will be a minimum of no access to the next three consecutive games.
- Repeated violations may result in an increase in the above penalties. Class 1 violations, which are considered to be of a serious nature, may result in up to a one year suspension.
- Violations which may not be attributed to one individual, such as not cleaning a locker room after a practice, may result in the suspension of multiple players or the team captain.

**Class 2 Violation Penalties:**

A first Class 2 violation will be reviewed, and a decision rendered by, the EYHA Rules and Ethics Committee. Subsequent violations will result in a referral for disposition to NIHL or Metro North as appropriate. Penalties include:

- a) 1<sup>st</sup> occurrence:  
Minimum suspension of 3 games; 5 games for those in official capacity (Board member, coach, manager, etc.)
- b) 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence:  
Minimum suspensions at least doubled (6-10 games).
- c) 3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence:  
Minimum 30 day suspension.

**Class 3 Violation:**

One year minimum suspension/ Refer directly to AHAI.

