



This policy is intended to formalize and expand the procedure that has existed on an informal basis for many years within the Southwest Ohio Inline Hockey Association (SOHA). This policy has been developed as a pro-active response to events that have gained notoriety in the media over the past few years. This policy does NOT result from incidents or events that are occurring or have occurred SOHA programs.

Objective of Policy

SOHA is committed to providing safe, enjoyable, and educational programs in which its players are treated with respect and dignity.

Purpose of Policy

This policy has been adopted by SOHA to make it clear that sexual or physical harassment or abuse will not be tolerated; to educate volunteers, parents and players as to what might constitute physical or sexual harassment or abuse; to establish procedures for the expeditious and effective handling of complaints relating to such matters; and to ensure conformity of this policy with human rights legislation.

Application of Policy

This policy applies to all persons involved in the Southwest Ohio Inline Hockey Association programs including executive members and team officials (i.e. head coaches, assistant coaches, managers). This policy applies to all times and in all locations including league games, tournaments, practices, social functions, instructional conferences, and seminars. This policy is not intended to restrict or prevent reasonable or appropriate interaction between volunteers and players. Rather, this policy is intended to ensure that such interaction is appropriate.

It is the policy of SOHA that there shall be no sexual abuse of any minor participant involved in any of its or its Affiliates sanctioned programs, its tournaments or events, its Training Camps, Hockey Clinics, Coaches Clinics, Referee Clinics, or other SOHA events by an employee, volunteer, or independent contractor.

Sexual abuse of a minor participant occurs when an employee, volunteer or independent contractor touches a minor participant for the purpose of causing the sexual arousal or gratification of either the minor participant or the employee, volunteer or independent contractor.

Sexual abuse of a minor participant also occurs when a minor player touches an employee, volunteer or independent contractor for the sexual arousal or sexual gratification of either the minor participant or the employee, volunteer or independent contractor, if the touching occurs at the request or with the consent of the employee, volunteer or independent contractor.

Neither consent of the player to the sexual contact, mistake as to the participant's age, nor the fact that the sexual contact did not take place at a hockey function are defenses to a complaint of sexual abuse.

Upon proof of violation of this policy, the violator will be permanently banned or suspended from SOHA sanctioned programs and/or the programs of its Affiliate Associations.

Physical Abuse Policy

It is the policy of SOHA that there shall be no physical abuse of any of its members or its Affiliates sanctioned programs, its tournaments or events, its Training Camps, Hockey Clinics, Coaches Clinics, Referee Clinics or other SOHA events by an employee, volunteer, or independent contractor.

Physical abuse means physical contact with a participant that intentionally causes the participant to sustain bodily harm or personal injury. Physical abuse also includes physical contact with a participant that intentionally creates a threat of immediate bodily harm or personal injury.

Physical abuse does not include physical contact that is reasonably designed to coach, teach or demonstrate a hockey skill. Permitted physical conduct may include, but is not necessarily limited to, shooting pucks at a goaltender, demonstrating other hockey skills, and communicating with or directing participants, during the course of a game or practice, by touching them in a non-threatening, non-sexual manner

Equal Opportunity Policy

SOHA shall provide an equal opportunity to amateur athletes, coaches, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in high school inline hockey athletic competition, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin, and with fair notice and opportunity for a hearing to any high school athlete, coach, manager, administrator, or official before declaring such individual ineligible to participate in SOHA programs or competition.

SOHA has determined that it is not in the best interest of its programs and the sport of hockey, and has therefore prohibited any conduct detrimental to hockey to do with any of the following while participating in or affecting the sport of high school inline hockey:

- (a) Discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin,
- (b) Consume, use, sale, give or abuse mood altering substances, other than in accordance with a Doctor's prescription,

For purposes of this policy, the words "mood altering substances" shall include the following:

1. Intoxicating beverages, including, but not limited to, alcohol.
2. Non-prescription or prescribed controlled substances.
3. Prescription or prescribed controlled substances when used to an excess in violation of doctors orders, or to produce the state of intoxication in the participant.
4. Abuse, (including but not limited to ethnic, racial, sexual, physical or mental). another person or player.

Any violation resulting from non-compliance of above policy could result in suspension and/or termination of ANY privileges as determined by the Executive Board.