



6.24 SUPERVISION OF PLAYERS

i) EFFECTIVE DATE

Rev. 0 February 2010

Rev. 1 February 2015

Rev. 2 July 2016

Rev. 3 May 2019

Rev 28 Nov 2023

ii) PURPOSE

Hockey Canada (HC) and Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO) work diligently to protect all participants from all forms of Maltreatment including, but not limited to, bullying, harassment, and abuse whether emotional, physical or sexual. HC and HEO consider any form of bullying, harassment and/or abuse to be totally unacceptable and will do everything possible to prevent this behavior from taking place within all Minor Hockey settings. To this end HC/HEO will promote awareness of all forms of bullying, harassment and/or abuse by providing educational materials and programs for participants, parents, coaches, volunteers, and staff members.

It is the Policy of HC/HEO that there shall be no bullying, harassment or abuse or maltreatment of any kind permitted whether physical, emotional, or sexual of any participants in any of the HC/HEO Programs. HC/HEO expects every parent, coach, volunteer, and staff member to safeguard the welfare of all participants and to protect them from any form of violence.

iii) ACCOUNTABILITY

Every Team Official and volunteer, who is an adult, has an inherent responsibility to maintain safe and sportsmanlike environments for our participants/players. It is important that team officials and volunteers understand their “duty of care” as it pertains to civil liability.

Team Officials are responsible for the safety and welfare of their players at ALL times during our sanctioned events; this includes on ice activities such as games and practices, off-ice activities including when players are changing in the dressing room both prior to and after on-ice activities, other team-related events being held away from the arena, such as dry land training or fundraising campaigns and team related activities while attending out of town tournaments. This is covered in all of our clinics given that player supervision is the single most effective method of prevention when it comes to conduct based issues. It is also referenced in the Shift Forward Program.

iv) APPLICATION

If it is a “team-related” event, organized by team officials, then there needs to be appropriate adult supervision in place. Regarding out-of-town tournaments, team officials should be meeting with parents prior to the road trip to discuss player supervision. It is recommended that both the team official and parent define their roles, outlining when they’re specifically responsible for a child’s supervision. For example, the team official is responsible for a player’s supervision in the change room prior to the game, on the ice and at the bench during competition and immediately after the game in the change room. The parent becomes responsible when his/her child exits the change room after the game into their care. Parents of all players should be made aware of the “Rule of Two” and avoid letting their children into unsupervised dressing rooms.

HEO requires all Coaches/Bench staff and member Minor Hockey Associations (MHAs) to provide supervision for all Minor Hockey dressing rooms before, during and after all games and practices. HEO requires that Minor players should be always supervised, HEO requires MHAs and their coaches to follow the “**Rule of Two**” method of supervision recommended by Hockey Canada. A lone personnel member should never be in the dressing room with players at any time, especially when players are showering or changing: two adults should be present together, this is called the “**Rule of Two**” method of supervision. Supervising personnel must be members of the team staff or adults who have completed either “Speak Out” or “Shift Forward”, the Gender Identity and Expression Course, and have submitted their record checks [VSC &/or CRC] to their MHA. Parents of all players should be made aware of the “Rule of Two” method and avoid letting their children into unsupervised dressing rooms.

All Minor Hockey Associations within HEO are required to develop a Dressing Room Supervision Policy that supplements this HEO policy and this it is to be communicated to all members within that Association.

Failure to comply with this HEO Policy will result in Disciplinary action being taken by the Appropriate District. A **first Offence** will result in a letter of reprimand being issued to the Head Coach and copied to the team’s Minor Hockey Association. A **Second Offence** will result in an Indefinite Suspension being issued to the Head Coach and an investigation being conducted by the Chair of the HEO Standards Committee.

All Team officials are responsible for their players’ well-being during our sanctioned events, simply not being in the change room, or not in the vicinity of an off-ice activity does not absolve one from this responsibility.

