

Tewksbury Youth Skating Association Zero Tolerance Policy

PURPOSE

In an effort to provide participants with a healthy, safe and developmental athletic environment that encourages fair play, effort, teamwork and sportsmanship, TYSA and USA Hockey support a Zero Tolerance Policy for players, parents, coaches, game officials, referees, team officials, league administrators and spectators. This policy requires that a sportsmanlike and developmentally positive atmosphere exist before, during and after all TYSA and/or USA Hockey sanctioned events.

POLICY

All TYSA players, coaches, team officials, league administrators and parents are expected to conduct him/herself in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner at all times before, during and after TYSA and/or USA Hockey sanctioned events. Good conduct is expected to extend to referees, game officials, spectators, as well as to opposing players, coaches and parents.

The following is USA Hockey's Zero Tolerance Policy:

Players

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
3. Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision. Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.

Coaches

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

1. Openly disputes or disputes any decision by an official.
2. Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
3. Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision including standing on the boards or standing in the bench doorway with the intent of inciting the officials, players or spectators. Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

Officials

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited. On-Ice officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

Parents/Spectators

The game will be stopped by On-Ice officials when parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The On-Ice officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local Governing Body.

- Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat or physical violence or physical violence.
- Throwing of any object in the spectator's viewing area, player's bench, penalty box or on the ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

In addition, the following Codes of Conduct for parents and spectators should be adhered to:

Parents:

Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desire to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.

Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.

Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit.

Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the younger age levels.

Know and study the rules of hockey, and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.

Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice. It is destructive. Work toward removing physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.

Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.

If you enjoy the game, learn all you can and dedicate time as a volunteer!

Spectators:

Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials.

Act appropriately; do not taunt or disturb other fans. Enjoy the game together.

Cheer good plays of all participants, avoid booing opponents.

Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive.

Help provide a safe and fun environment; throwing objects on the ice surface can cause injury to players and officials.

Do not lean over and pound on the glass; the glass surrounding the ice surface is part of the playing area.

Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.

Be responsible for your own safety and remain alert to help prevent accidents.

Respect locker rooms as private areas for players, coaches and officials.

Be supportive after the game, win or lose. Recognize good efforts, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Failure to abide by TYSA's and/or USA Hockey's Zero Tolerance Policies may result in disciplinary actions against the player(s), parent(s) and/or spectator(s) involved, at the sole discretion of the TYSA Board of Directors.