

Points of Emphasis 2005 Through 2007 Seasons

The goal of USA Hockey is to promote a safe and positive playing environment for all participants while continuing to focus on skill development and enjoyment of the sport. To that end, all officials, coaches, players, parents, spectators and volunteers will comply with the following "Points of Emphasis" when participating in the sport of ice hockey.

Fair Play and Respect

Fair play and respect are the backbone of any successful amateur sports program. In order for a positive environment to be created, it is imperative that all participants and spectators have respect for all players, coaches, officials and the sport of hockey. Hockey is a game demanding high levels of concentration and skill.

As a player, it is necessary to play the game fairly, with respect for opponents and officials.

As a coach, it is necessary to instruct players during games and practices, ensuring that each player receives the training necessary to understand and play by the rules.

Officials should be diligent and confident when officiating the sport. Each official should enforce the playing rules fairly and respectfully.

All spectators are encouraged to support their teams while showing respect for all players, coaches, officials and other spectators.

Intimidation

Intimidation or "bullying" has no place in ice hockey. Any act that includes taunting or teasing or hazing of players, coaches, officials, or spectators by means of verbal ridicule, threat of physical violence, or physical violence itself will not be tolerated at USA Hockey events.

Coaches are responsible for instructing their players to play the sport in a safe and sportsmanlike manner. To that end, coaches are directed to teach only those skills necessary to allow for proper and legal body contact.

Players are encouraged to develop a deep sense of respect for all (opponents and officials) while endeavoring to enjoy the sport and improve their playing ability. Each player is encouraged to develop a sense of right and wrong when engaging in any type of body contact.

Stick Infractions

USA Hockey is continuing to place special emphasis on eliminating stick infractions from the game. Officials are directed to be aware of infractions such as high-sticking, slashing, hooking, cross-checking, spearing, and butt-ending and are encouraged to promptly and correctly assess the proper penalty.

Conclusion

With the goal of providing a safe and positive playing environment in mind, the Officiating and Coaching Education programs are directed to increase awareness among all officials and coaches with regard to these Points of Emphasis.