



VANCOUVER ISLAND AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

From The Desk Of Jim Humphrey - President
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December 13, 2007

To: MHA Presidents,
All VIAHA Team Officials
All VIAHA RICs/Game Officials

Info: VIAHA Officers
VIAHA Executive Director
VIAHA Executive Assistant
League Commissioners
Managing Directors
Joe McDonald, BC Hockey District Director

Recently there was an altercation in one of the arenas involving players that had been given game misconducts and ejected from the game. The players involved were severely dealt with but the league has also been reminded that current Hockey Canada Rule 32(b) states:

"A player or team official incurring a Game Misconduct penalty shall be ordered to the dressing room for the remainder of the game and shall be reported to the President for further action."

The situation above perhaps could have been avoided if the players, once removed from the game, were supervised or made to stay in their respective dressing rooms. All will agree that it is very difficult to have a minor-aged player remain in the dressing room; if this was to happen there would also have to be two adults remaining with the player(s) so as to comply with the "two deep" rule. At the VIAHA Executive Committee meeting December 9, 2007 a policy for VIAHA was discussed and agreed upon. This policy is written below and is to be adhered to; failure to do so, shall result in all team officials listed on the HCR Roster being suspended indefinitely and an investigation completed.

- a. If a player is assessed a game/gross misconduct the game officials are to detain the player at the exit gate until such time as a team official arrives at the gate to escort the player to the dressing room. If there is more than one player then the home team player shall be escorted off first, followed by the visiting team player. The team official must be accompanied by a second adult to maintain the "two deep" rule and they must immediately escort the player to their dressing room. If a team official is not available, then two parents that have taken the Speakout course are to escort the player;
- b. The team official/adult supervisor(s) shall wait with the player until:
 - i. the game ends and the remainder of the team comes to the dressing room; or
 - ii. such time as he is changed into street clothes; they shall then escort the player back into the stands where the player ***MUST*** remain with either the team official or the player's parents. If the parent so chooses, they may remove the player from the arena but at no time shall the player remain unsupervised anywhere in the arena.

Mission Statement: To promote sportsmanship, fair competition, development and safety for minor hockey players of all skill levels

- c. If a team official is assessed a game misconduct they will have two choices: go immediately to the stands and watch the remainder of the game quietly and at the end of the game they must leave the arena and can have no contact with their team as per VIAHA 20.09. The team official may also immediately leave the arena upon receiving a game/gross misconduct.

This policy is effective immediately and shall apply to all teams, recreational or competitive. Team officials are to be advised that any deviation from this policy shall result in all rostered team officials, whether they were in attendance at the game or not, being indefinitely suspended and an investigation conducted into why the policy was not followed.

To some this may be a bit a bit harsh but the alternative to this is to revert to Hockey Canada Rule 32b, which would have the player/team official remain in the dressing room until the conclusion of the game. As has previously been mentioned, to keep a player in the dressing room it would take two adults to remain with the player to act as supervisors and comply with the "two deep" rule.

It is expected that compliance to this policy be adhered to. Again, the consequences could be severe should they not be followed and another off-ice incident take place.

Sincerely,



Jim Humphrey
President