

# NHL STREET LEAGUE

## Safety & Athlete Protection Policy

### 1. PURPOSE

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This policy establishes the safety standards, athlete protection requirements, and risk management procedures for all Aurora North Athletics (ANA) NHL Street League programs. It aligns with NHL Street Athlete Safety Guidelines and ensures a safe, inclusive, and well-supervised environment for all participants.

### 2. SCOPE

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This policy applies to all individuals involved in ANA NHL Street programs, including:

- Players (Minor Athletes)
- Coaches and volunteers (Adult Participants)
- League operators and staff
- Officials and referees
- Spectators where applicable

### 3. ATHLETE PROTECTION COMMITMENT

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ANA is committed to:

- Protecting all participants from abuse, harm, and misconduct
- Providing a safe sport environment both on and off the playing surface
- Enforcing zero tolerance for any form of abuse, bullying, hazing, or harassment

*ANA adopts and aligns with NHL Street Athlete Safety Guidelines, which require prevention, education, and immediate response to any safety concerns*

### 4. DEFINITIONS

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- **Minor Athlete:** Any participant under the age of majority
- **Adult Participant:** Any coach, volunteer, staff member, or individual in a position of authority
- **In-Program Contact:** Any interaction during games, practices, events, travel, or communications

### 5. SCREENING & BACKGROUND CHECKS

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ANA requires:

- Vulnerable Sector Checks (VSC) or equivalent for all Adult Participants
- Screening prior to participation and renewal at minimum every two (2) years
- Immediate suspension of any individual under investigation involving a minor

*These requirements align with NHL Street standards requiring background checks and screening of all individuals with access to minors. This statement is supported by the NHL Street Athlete Protection Guidelines document.*

## 6. MANDATORY TRAINING & EDUCATION

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ANA requires:

- Completion of abuse awareness training for designated leadership
- Strong recommendation for all coaches and volunteers to complete training
- Ongoing education on safety, concussion awareness, and emergency response

*Education is a key component in preventing abuse and ensuring safe sport delivery.*

## 7. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

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ANA strictly prohibits:

- Child abuse (physical, emotional, sexual, or neglect)
- Bullying, hazing, and harassment
- Grooming or inappropriate relationships
- Sexual misconduct or exploitation

All individuals must comply with NHL Street Prohibited Conduct standards, and violations may result in immediate removal and reporting [filecite](#) [turn1file5](#).

## 8. ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTION POLICY

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To protect Minor Athletes:

- All interactions must be **observable and interruptible**
- Private, isolated interactions are prohibited unless authorized with consent
- Parents/guardians must be included where appropriate

*This aligns with NHL Street policy requiring safe, transparent interactions between adults and minors*

## 9. MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

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ANA requires:

- Immediate reporting of any suspected abuse or misconduct
- Reporting to appropriate authorities within required timeframes (e.g., within 24 hours)
- Notification to ANA leadership following any report

**Failure to report may result in disciplinary action and legal consequences.**

## 10. NON-RETALIATION POLICY

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ANA prohibits retaliation against any individual who reports misconduct in good faith.

## 11. CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

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ANA follows NHL Street Concussion Protocol:

- Immediate removal from play if concussion is suspected
- No same-day return to play
- Medical clearance required before return
- Gradual return-to-play progression

*Concussions are serious brain injuries and must be managed with strict adherence to safety guidelines.*

## 12. CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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ANA adopts NHL Street Cardiac Response Protocol:

- Recognize signs of cardiac arrest
- Call 9-1-1 immediately
- Begin CPR and use AED as soon as possible
- Assign trained personnel to respond and guide EMS

*Immediate action is critical in cardiac emergencies.*

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### 13. EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP)

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Each facility/session must include:

- Clearly identified emergency exits
- Access to first aid equipment
- Emergency contact information
- Designated safety lead or response team

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### 14. SUPERVISION & ENVIRONMENT

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ANA ensures:

- Adequate adult supervision at all times
- Safe and hazard-free playing environments
- Proper equipment usage and enforcement

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### 15. TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL

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- One-on-one transportation between an adult and minor is prohibited without consent
- Group travel is encouraged
- Parent/guardian approval required where applicable

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### 16. RECORD KEEPING & COMPLIANCE

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ANA will:

- Maintain records of training, screening, and incidents
- Provide documentation upon request
- Review compliance annually

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### 17. ENFORCEMENT

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Failure to comply with this policy may result in:

- Immediate removal from program
- Suspension or termination
- Reporting to governing bodies or law enforcement

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### 18. REVIEW

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This policy will be reviewed annually or as required to reflect updates to NHL Street standards, legal requirements, or operational needs.

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**Approved by:** Aurora North Athletics

**Effective Date:** April 5<sup>th</sup> 2026

**Review Date:** TBD