

Parents/Spectator Policy (Approved 10/2/24 and added to bylaws)

All MSHSL league member teams will follow the below suspension policies, without exception (This policy supersedes all team parent/spectator policies).

Parents are expected to be a positive role model by treating all players, coaches, officials and fellow spectators with respect and support.

If a spectator/parent is disrupting the game and observed by on or off ice officials as doing so, the game may be stopped by game officials. For every home and away game, each team will designate a team official that will assist the game officials if there is a parent/spectator incident. The on ice and/or off ice officials will identify violators to both benches, the score keeper and the designated team official for the purpose of removing the parents/spectators from the rink. The MSHSL board also advises that if an officer is present, to request that the officer assist in, or take care of the removal. Once removed, play will resume, and the suspension policy will go in to effect. The incident must be reported to the VP of MSHSL/disciplinary chair within 24 hours of the incident. In some cases, the game will not be stopped, but due to the disruptive or inappropriate nature of behavior the parent/spectator, the parent/spectator will be asked to leave the rink by either security, rink staff, their team representative, or a MSHSL board member. The person in violation must leave immediately and not re-enter for the remainder of the evening, and the suspension policy will go into effect. The incident must be reported to the VP of MSHSL/disciplinary chair within 24 hours of the incident. Violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by MSHSL aside from being told to exit the rink. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

- 1) Use of racial, homophobic, obscene, profane or abusive language to anyone at any time.
- 2) Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
- 3) Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, players bench, penalty box or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

First Offense: A suspension from all events involving the Member Team and Association for a minimum of fourteen (14) days to a maximum of thirty (30) days from the date of the offense.

Second Offense: A suspension from all events involving the Member Team and Association for a minimum of thirty (30) days to a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of the offense.

Third Offense and beyond: A suspension from all events involving the Member Team and Association until a decision has been rendered from an USA Hockey Affiliate hearing.

During the suspension entry into the facilities that are hosting the Member Team and Association event is prohibited. If this occurs, Violators are subject to further suspensions. Suspension days do not include the scheduled time off for holiday weeks or the off season. Suspensions near the end of the season may be carried forward into the following season. Appeals: No appeals will be accepted, and all decisions are final.

Reporting: Violations must be reported within 24 hours by the Member Team, Association or League Official, or rink personnel. Be sure to obtain all facts of the violation, including all individual

names, team affiliation, and complete description of the violation and should also include any witnesses. (Unfortunately, allegations with independent witnesses will likely not be enforceable.) Allegations of Abusive Conduct shall be reported using the approved MSHSL Incident Report Form. If the local association (Member Team) fails to follow this written policy, the incident may be addressed by the MidAm Affiliate which may include local association (Member Team) sanctions. Violators who are affiliated with a visiting team (for example during a crossover game) will be reported to their team and their league president. This is in addition to the suspension under this policy.

Each Member Team is responsible for the conduct of their spectators and shall apply this Spectator Suspension Policy as appropriate. Association officials, security officers and rink personnel will be available for secondary support. USA Hockey and the MSHSL shall require each registered team to designate a volunteer to serve as a spectator monitor during all team events. Prior to the beginning of any game, the team (coach or board member or the designated individual) will be identified to the game officials. This monitor will, ideally, address inappropriate spectator behavior prior to the situation escalating out of control. This designated monitor shall have the full support of the Member Team, the MSHSL league, and arena management to remove any spectators in violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy.

If the MSHSL board of directors does not deem the punishment laid down by the individual member club to be appropriate, the MSHSL board of directors reserves the right to suspend the player associated with that fan showing inappropriate behavior in the stands for as many games as the disciplinary sees fit for the offense.