USA HOCKEY ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

**A. ZERO TOLERANCE**

In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all

Participants. This policy requires all players, coaches, team officials and administrators and parents/spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey-sanctioned games. Thus, the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all referees and linesmen:

***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 argues 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, he/she shall be assessed a

**game misconduct** penalty.

***Parents/Spectators***

The game will be stopped by game officials when parents/spectators displaying

inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game.

The game 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. This

inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

1. Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner 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.