



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

December 19, 2024

MAHA / USA Hockey Protocols for Addressing Potential Rule 601 (e.3) Violations, Misconduct

As an affiliate of USA Hockey, the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) has a Zero Tolerance Policy towards any type of abusive conduct. Unfortunately, each season we continue to receive reports of misconduct involving offensive, hateful or discriminatory in nature as well as reports of racial and/or discriminatory harassment amongst participants. This type of behavior is reprehensible and has absolutely no place in our game.

With this in mind, MAHA has embraced a series of USA Hockey protocols intended to address any reported behaviors of this nature:

- Anyone assessed a penalty under USA Hockey Rule 601(e.3) for use of language that is offensive, hateful or discriminatory in nature anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game, shall be assessed an automatic Match Penalty. The participant shall be immediately suspended until a hearing is conducted by MAHA. The hearing will be conducted within 30 days of the incident and the participant may be subject to further discipline.
- In the event that an allegation of a potential Rule 601(e.3) violation is made, **but not directly heard by the official**, a penalty cannot be assessed in this circumstance. However:
 - o Officials are instructed to notify the coach of the offending team, and it is critical that the coach take immediate and appropriate action
 - o Officials must also report the incident through the game reporting system, so MAHA can review all incidents to ensure proper application of the rules (whether penalized or not penalized)
- Reports associated with racial harassment and discrimination among participants must be addressed by submitting appropriate reports through the SafeSport program

We ask all association leaders to educate their membership on these protocols, so that all critical steps are achieved when necessary. Furthermore, we encourage all parents and coaches to use these opportunities as teachable moments for your athletes. These conversations with our young players are imperative to prioritizing our hockey culture, as one of empathy and anti-racism. While the majority of hockey games played in Michigan each year are conducted in the spirit for which they were intended, we must remove offensive, hateful or discriminatory language or behavior from our game.

Thank you very much for your attention and support of these important protocols.

Sincerely,

George Atkinson

George Atkinson
President
Michigan Amateur Hockey Association

Jason Reynolds

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Michigan Amateur Hockey Association