



Purpose:

The NAHL Code of Conduct has been created to promote player safety and to ensure the future health and well-being of our players. It explains regulations and consequences for targeted dangerous and illegal actions that we all want out of the game. It is critical that all NAHL Coaches, Players and Officials read and understand this document and the potential disciplinary actions contained for engaging in specific, repetitive, negative and high-risk behavior.

Background:

USA Hockey and the NAHL are seeking solutions to ensure that junior hockey is played at a high level of competition that serves as a developmental path to college and professional hockey.

The emphasis of our shared efforts in making our game better centers around the following actions – fighting, checking from behind, contact to the head and dangerous hits and/or stick infractions that can lead to significant injuries.

It is the position of USA Hockey and the NAHL that players, coaches, officials, ownership and team officials must all share in the combined efforts of improving the quality and player safety in the game while also taking responsibility for and having fair, yet clear ramifications for illegal and dangerous on-ice actions.

Role of the Official:

The primary role is to “enforce the rules of the game” to the best of your ability. Additionally, you are expected to maintain the highest standard of professional and ethical behavior both on and off the ice. Officials must also agree to abide by the rules and guidelines set forth in this document and communicate with supervisors, players and coaches accordingly. Doing so will ultimately hold individual players accountable for their own actions and will ensure the path to a safer environment for competition.

Officials are responsible to:

1. Be knowledgeable of the objectives of the Player Safety Initiative, the Code of Conduct, the Rule Supplement, the Playing Rules, their interpretations and their proper application.
2. Act in a professional and businesslike manner at all times, take their role as an official seriously, and act with honesty and integrity in every situation. Do not participate in any form of hazing, bullying, or engage in any form of unlawful or unethical conduct.
3. Understand that the NAHL Code of Conduct was created for the players safety, that controlling their actions will define them as a player and that they will be accountable for negative and unwanted behavior.
4. Respect the game, the rules, the players, the coaches, fellow officials, the volunteers and the fans.
5. Manage games according to the current ‘Standard of Enforcement’ creating a positive and safe experience for all participants.