

# Memo

To: RMAHL Players  
From: Craig Welker  
CC: RMAHL Officials  
Date: 9/9/2009  
Re: Zero Tolerance

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Over the past two season players and officials have done a great job working together to reduce the number of zero tolerance penalties. Our league will continue to support USA Hockey's Zero Tolerance Policy to provide a safe and enjoyable league for all players, officials, and spectators. There are many games that are played at earlier times when children may be in the building and it is important that all players display good sportsmanship at all times.

Our Zero Tolerance policy is any player who is assessed a two minute penalty for abuse of official will be ejected from the game (no further suspension). This will be recorded as a 2 minute minor and game ejection for abuse of official. This penalty can also be called when the abuse is player to player. If a player receives more than one zero tolerance penalty during the season they may be subject to further discipline or removed from the league at the discretion of the league director.

In order to keep the best officials working our league I feel we need to make them want to work here. Most refs do not just officiate solely for the money; they do it because they love the game. When an official is out on the ice trying to call a fair game and is getting yelled at or pucks shot at them, they do not want to be out there. No official is perfect and they are going to make mistakes just as all of you do when you play the game from time to time. They do not deserve to be verbally abused because of their mistakes. I am sure all of you have played hockey for a while now and in all the games you have played how many times has the referee changed his/her call just because you yelled at them? I think the answer is zero. Instead of yelling at them please send the complaints to me so I can address your concerns. I assure all of you that if you do not abuse the ref and send me a complaint I will follow up on it. If however you or players on your team choose to violate the zero tolerance policy I will not listen to your complaint as you were just as wrong as the official. When players start yelling at refs and getting frustrated it usually leads to tempers on both sides getting raised and nothing good comes out of that. The games tend to get chippy and less safe once the abuse starts. Let's all try to put a stop to this before it happens.

I encourage that all managers provide me with both positive and negative feedback on officials. I always get the negative ones but really need the positive ones as well. The officials who work hard and do the best job will be the first to get the assignments and I need your feedback.

Our overall goal with the strict enforcement of Zero Tolerance is to make the Rolling Meadows Adult Hockey League the best and safest league in the Chicago area. I think that if you all put a little effort into cutting down the abuse between not only players and officials but also players and players you will see the game is a lot more fun to play.

I would also like to address injury potential penalties. This is a recreation hockey league. There is no reason why anyone should be getting major penalties. If you feel the need to commit a major or injury potential penalty then you are playing in the wrong league. Hockey is a fast paced game and from time to time players are going to bump into each other or take minor penalties. That is all part of the game. The retaliation and aggressive play is not part of the game and needs to be stopped. Our fighting rule has always been a 3 game suspension. If you get a second major for fighting it will be reviewed by the league and you may be removed with no refund. This also applies to ANY MAJOR penalty. If you get a second major penalty during the course of the season it will be reviewed and you may be subject to further discipline or removed from the league.

These policies do not apply to most of you as 98% of the players in our league hardly get a 2 minute tripping penalty. However for the remaining 2% that tend to take a few too many penalties please remember this is a recreation league and that type of play or verbal abuse will not be tolerated.

Over the past year we have seen the highest number of teams registered in both our Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer leagues. Thank you all for your continued support of our league. If there is every anything I can do to make your league a better one please do not hesitate to contact me.

Craig Welker

Senior Hockey Director

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