



BOW VALLEY HOCKEY SOCIETY



SUSPENSION POLICY

BVHS is committed to providing players with an opportunity to grow as individuals and gain self-esteem through a positive hockey experience that emphasizes fun, participation, development, safety, and respect.

BVHS will strive to accomplish these goals in a consistent, transparent, and collaborative environment that encourages the participation of Players, Coaches and Parents.

Coaches, parents and players are accountable for their actions and need to understand the impact suspensions have on the team, the players they are playing against and the reputation of our hockey society. This policy serves as a guideline to ensure consistent communication and support by the BVHS Board and should be well understood by all coaches, players, and parents. This policy works in conjunction with the Hockey Calgary playing rules and regulations as it pertains to the minimum suspension guidelines. It is also a supplemental document to the BVHS Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy.

Head Coaches are ultimately responsible for the actions of their players, parents, and fellow coaches. Coaches have a responsibility as leaders and role models to address concerns with discipline and emotional control.

Experience has shown that most teams who take a high level of undisciplined penalties and suspensions may also be receiving unclear messages from coaches regarding respect and safety for the opponent and treatment of officials. BVHS supports the Fair Play Code as outlined by Hockey Calgary along with the Respect in Sport program that is enforced by Hockey Calgary and initiated by Hockey Canada. The Bow Valley Hockey Society feels strongly that there is no place in the game for incidents that fall within the Hockey Alberta Maltreatment, Bullying and Harassment – section 11 of the Hockey Canada playing rules.

BVHS expects these guidelines will be a part of proper messaging and conduct when dealing with players, officials and parents while participating in any minor hockey event. To make sure this message is carried forward with all teams by the coaches, we will be implementing the following guidelines around suspensions to teams, both players, parents and coaches.

It should be noted that these are only guidelines and BVHS retains the right to impose additional suspensions above what is handed out from Hockey Calgary, Hockey Alberta and or set out herein.

Coaches

It is advised that coaches do not question, dispute or argue calls that are made by the referee. Seeking clarification on calls should be conducted respectfully and professionally, with the thought of providing a positive role model for the players on the team. If you do choose to have a discussion, be mindful that it may result in a suspension and additional consequences should the conversation not be conducted respectfully and professionally. It is imperative that the coaching staff set an example for your team and parents. If a referee is doing a job that is causing a safety issue, please complete the post game write up where you can outline the concerns you had regarding the officiating in that specific game.

If the incident needs to be addressed further, it is suggested that you work with your league chair from Hockey Calgary as to how this process works. If you decide to engage in this process, please make sure you advise the BV Director of Discipline, MHO and BV Age Group Director that this is the step you would like to take before proceeding.

1. After 1 suspension to any U7 team and after 3 suspensions to any U9 / U11 team, the BVHS Discipline Committee will meet with the Head Coach to review the suspensions. The causes of the suspensions will be discussed, as will the steps taken in the action plan to make sure the Head Coach is taking advantage of all resources as well as identifying and dealing with players who may be undisciplined, to mitigate future suspensions. At this time the Discipline Committee may elect to suspend the Head Coach from coaching for 1 game.
2. After 5 suspensions to any U13 / U15 / U18 team, the BVHS Discipline Committee will meet with the Head Coach to review the suspensions. The causes of the suspensions will be discussed, as will the steps taken in the action plan to make sure the Head Coach is taking advantage of all resources as well as identifying and dealing with players who may be undisciplined, to mitigate future suspensions. At this time the Discipline Committee may elect to suspend the Head Coach from coaching for 1 game.
3. In addition to the reviews in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, the BVHS Discipline Committee may request the Manager of Hockey Operations (MHO), Director of Coaching and or designate from the BV Board attend games, observe the Coach interaction with the team both on the bench and in the dressing room to ensure the Fair Play Code is being met not only in games but also in the dressing room. The MHO, Director of Coaching and or BV designate will report their findings to the Discipline Committee and the findings could result in further Coach Suspensions and or the replacement of the Coach.
4. BVHS will not tolerate any coaches being suspended by Hockey Calgary for abuse of an Official. All coach suspensions or complaints will be reviewed by the BVHS Discipline committee. After the review, the coach may or may not attend a meeting or hearing with the Discipline Committee. The coach may be subject to additional suspensions, may be required to write a letter of apology and or may be removed from the team. Coaches who receive multiple abuse of official penalties whether it be in the current year or past years will receive supplemental discipline as a result. An in-person hearing or meeting does not have to take place to result in an additional suspension by the BVHS Discipline committee.
5. Any coach that is suspended because of actions that fall within the Hockey Alberta Maltreatment, Bullying and Harassment, section 11 of the Hockey Canada playing rules, will be suspended for a minimum of 5 games and supplemental discipline may be added to the 5-game suspension pending the results of either a BV Hearing, and or the results of the Hockey Alberta Maltreatment investigation. BV has the right to add supplemental discipline to the suspensions given by Hockey Calgary, Hockey Alberta, and or Hockey Canada. BV has the right to suspend the coach indefinitely while the investigation takes place.
6. Any BV coach that receives two suspensions that fall under the Hockey Alberta Maltreatment, Bullying and Harassment, section 11 of the Hockey Canada playing rules, will be suspended for the remainder of the current season and may be subject to an indefinite suspension from coaching within the Bow Valley Hockey Society. These suspensions do not have to occur in the same season.

Players

1. If any player receives 3 suspensions through the course of the hockey season, including playoffs, that player and the player's parents will be called to a meeting to discuss the behaviour with the BVHS Discipline Committee. BVHS may suspend this player for additional games provided no additional games have already been added by Hockey Calgary as a result of the 3rd suspension. This may also result in implications for the following season.

2. If a player, who has had a meeting with the Disciplinary Committee according to paragraph 1 above, receives a further suspension, through the course of the hockey season, including playoffs, that player and the player's parents will be called to a second meeting to discuss the behaviour with the BVHS Discipline Committee. BVHS will assess an additional suspension at the meeting at the discretion of the Discipline Committee, and regardless if Hockey Calgary has assessed an additional suspension. This may also result in implications for the following season.
3. If any player who has received a team level suspension for failing to follow the team's rules, receives a second-team level suspension and BVHS has been made aware of the suspension, that player and the player's parents will be called to a meeting or hearing with the BVHS Discipline Committee and the head coach. We encourage teams to reach out to BV for support and guidance in dealing with undisciplined players, and or parents.
4. BVHS will not tolerate players being suspended by Hockey Calgary for abuse of an Official or conduct off the ice that could bring BVHS into disrepute. This would include verbal and physical altercations with opposing teams, fans and Officials. In this circumstance and notwithstanding any of the suspension guidelines above, the player and the player's parents may or may not be called to a meeting with the Discipline Committee and the player will be subject to such suspensions as deemed appropriate in the circumstances. An in-person hearing or meeting does not have to take place to result in an additional suspension by the BVHS Discipline committee.
5. Any player that is suspended because of actions that fall within the Hockey Alberta Maltreatment, Bullying and Harassment, section 11 of the Hockey Canada playing rules, will be suspended for a minimum of 5 games and supplemental discipline may be added to the 5-game suspension pending the results of either a BV Hearing, and or the results of the Hockey Alberta Maltreatment investigation. BV has the right to add supplemental discipline to the suspensions given by Hockey Calgary, Hockey Alberta, and or Hockey Canada. BV has the right to suspend the player indefinitely while the investigation takes place.
6. Any BV player that receives two suspensions within the same season (ex. 2024-2025), that fall under the Hockey Alberta Maltreatment, Bullying and Harassment, section 11 of the Hockey Canada playing rules, will be suspended for the remainder of the current season and may be subject to an indefinite suspension from playing within the Bow Valley Hockey Society.
7. Any player that receives their second suspension but not within the same season, (Ex. 2020-2021 and 2024-2025) that fall under the Hockey Alberta Maltreatment, Bullying and Harassment, section 11 of the Hockey Canada playing rules, will be brought in for a hearing and may receive supplemental discipline at the discretion of the BV Discipline Committee and may be subject to an indefinite suspension from playing within the Bow Valley Hockey Society.
8. Any suspensions received or in effect during the last week of the season may carry over to the next season based on Hockey Calgary's by-laws. All suspensions that are received or in effect in the last week of the season are subject to having additional suspensions imposed by the BVHS Discipline Committee and carried over to the following season.
9. A player may be placed on probation that may result in a suspension. The probation period may be carried over from one season to the next season.

Parents

BVHS will not tolerate abuse of an official and or our coaches by any parent or actions unbecoming by a parent. Affected parents may or may not be asked to attend a meeting or hearing with the BVHS Discipline Committee, may be subject to additional suspensions, may be required to write a letter of apology, may be removed from team activities, and may be removed from the arena.

It is advised that parents do not question, dispute or argue calls that are made by the referee. It is not a parent's responsibility to question calls made by an official. At no time does BVHS support any parent who approaches and or engages a ref during or after a game. This includes taunting, yelling and or any other action that would fall within abuse of an official per the Hockey Calgary playing rules and regulations including the fair play code.

Our parents are expected to act professionally when voicing their concerns and issues within their respective teams. Parents are to follow the BVHS Issue Resolution Guideline. The BVHS Issue Resolution Guideline clearly outlines the procedures on how to deal with Team and Society Level issues.

1. BVHS will not tolerate parents being suspended by Hockey Calgary for abuse of an Official or conduct off the ice that could bring BVHS into disrepute. This would include verbal and physical altercations with opposing teams, coaches, fans, and officials. In this circumstance and notwithstanding any of the suspension guidelines above, the parent may or may not be called to a meeting or hearing with the Discipline Committee and will be subject to such suspensions as deemed appropriate in the circumstances. An in-person hearing or meeting does not have to take place to result in an additional suspension by the BVHS Discipline committee.
2. In situations where parents refuse to follow the appropriate procedures, that parent may or may not be called to a meeting or hearing with the BVHS Discipline Committee and will be subject to such suspensions as deemed appropriate in the circumstances. An in-person hearing or meeting does not have to take place to result in an additional suspension by the BVHS Discipline committee.
3. BVHS does not support parents, coaches, or managers who directly contact other teams, associations, Central Region Referees' Committee and or Hockey Calgary. We expect our members to follow the Issue Resolution Guidelines when dealing with any concerns they may have.
4. Any parent that is suspended because of actions that fall within the Hockey Alberta Maltreatment, Bullying and Harassment, section 11 of the Hockey Canada playing rules, will be suspended for a minimum of 5 games and supplemental discipline may be added to the 5-game suspension pending the results of either a BV Hearing, and or the results of the Hockey Alberta Maltreatment investigation. BV has the right to add supplemental discipline to the suspensions given by Hockey Calgary, Hockey Alberta, and or Hockey Canada. BV has the right to suspend the parent indefinitely while the investigation takes place.
5. Any BV parent that receives two suspensions that fall under the Hockey Alberta Maltreatment, Bullying and Harassment, section 11 of the Hockey Canada playing rules, will be suspended for the remainder of the current season and may be subject to an indefinite suspension from playing within the Bow Valley Hockey Society. These suspensions do not have to occur in the same season.

For any suspension whether from Hockey Calgary or BVHS, the player or coach will be required to follow the following excerpt from the Hockey Calgary Playing Rules and Regulations under Minimum Suspensions:

A suspended coach, manager, non-player team official or spectator, is not permitted in the arena or adjoining building to the arena while they are under suspension. The use of any or all communication devices cannot be used between any suspended coach, manager, non-player team official, spectator, or player and the team is prohibited. Nor can any person so suspended utilize an intermediary to conduct such communication, either verbally or via a device. The suspension will include 1-hour before – until 1- hour after the suspended game.

A suspended coach may request spectator status while under suspension. Requests should be made to the Age Category Governor via the League Chair. Note: The Governor will have sole discretion when granting spectator status. A suspended player shall not be allowed within fifty (50) feet of any player's bench nor allowed in the dressing room 1-hour before and 1-hour after the game. Also, a suspended player may not be allowed within twenty-five (25) feet of the Referees change room or within twenty-five (25) feet of where the Officials enter or exit the ice surface.