



**ROANOKE VALLEY ADULT HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

Roanoke, Virginia

## *Zero Tolerance Policy*

In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, the RVAHA program has instructed the Officiating Staff to adhere to certain points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship. This campaign is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, administrators, and spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all RVAHA games.

Thus, the On-Ice Referees and Linesman must implement the following points of emphasis:

### 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 overt signs 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.

### Officials

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited.

On-ice officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

### Spectators

On-ice officials will stop the game when spectators displaying any disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The on-ice officials will identify violators to the building manager for the purpose of removing 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:

- Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
- Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, player bench, penalty box or ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_