

1. RECOGNITION AND PREVENTION OF ABUSE POLICY

This policy sets out the principles and practices of The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club with regards to abusive behaviour towards participants.

A. RELATIONSHIP TO HARASSMENT/ BULLYING POLICY

Some behaviours which are defined as abuse, when a child or youth's protection is at risk, can also constitute harassment or bullying, when the behaviour breaches human rights or appropriate relationship/conduct boundaries. The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club Harassment/Bullying Policy covers such behaviours. Together, the two policies address the entire spectrum of abusive, bullying and harassing behaviours.

B. THE STREETSVILLE TIGERS HOCKEY CLUB MISSION

WE DEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE YOUTH OF OUR COMMUNITY BY PROVIDING AN ENJOYABLE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN AMATEUR HOCKEY FOR THE RECREATIONAL "AA" PLAYER. WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP BASED ON RESPECT FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS, ADHERENCE TO RULES AND LEADING BY EXAMPLE.

C. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club is part of the sporting community in our country that is committed to seeking better ways to keep our youth safe. Protecting participants from all forms of abuse and neglect, whether emotional, physical or sexual, is an important element of safety. The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club considers any form of abuse or neglect to be unacceptable and will do all it can to prevent this intolerable social problem. To this end, The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club will promote awareness of all forms of abuse and neglect by providing educational materials and programs for participants, parents, volunteers and staff members. Through the use of these strategies, The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club will send a clear message to all potential abusers and sexual predators that hockey participants are not easy targets. The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club is committed to the highest possible standards of care for its participants.

D. POLICY

It is the policy of The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club that there shall be no abuse and neglect, whether physical, emotional or sexual of any participant in any of its programs. The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club expects every parent, volunteer and staff member to take all reasonable steps to safeguard the welfare of its participants and protect them from any form of maltreatment.

1. DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE

Child abuse is any form of physical, emotional and/or sexual mistreatment or lack of care, which causes physical injury or emotional damage to a child. A common characteristic of all forms of abuse against children and youth is an abuse of power or authority and/or breach of trust. In Ontario a young person is considered a child under 18 years of age.

2. EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Emotional abuse is a chronic attack on a child's self-esteem; it is psychologically destructive behaviour by a person in a position of power, authority or trust. It can take the form of name-calling, threatening, ridiculing, berating, intimidating, isolating, hazing or ignoring the child's needs.

3. PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse is when a person in a position of power or trust purposefully injures or threatens to injure a child or youth. This may take the form of slapping, hitting, shaking, kicking, pulling hair or ears, throwing, shoving, grabbing, hazing or excessive exercise as a form of punishment.

4. NEGLECT

Neglect is chronic inattention to the basic necessities of life such as clothing, shelter, nutritious diet, education, good hygiene, supervision, medical and dental care, adequate rest, safe environment, moral guidance and discipline, exercise and fresh air. This may occur in hockey when injuries are not adequately treated or players are made to play with injuries, equipment is inadequate or unsafe, no one intervenes when team members are persistently harassing another player, or road trips are not properly supervised.

5. SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse is when a young person is used by an older child, adolescent or adult for his or her own sexual stimulation or gratification.

There are two categories:

Contact	Non-Contact
<ul style="list-style-type: none">* touched or fondled in sexual areas* kissed or held in a sexual manner* forced to perform oral sex* vaginal or anal intercourse* vaginal or anal penetration with an object or finger* sexually oriented hazing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* obscene remarks on phone/computer or in notes* voyeurism* forced to touch another person's sexual areas* shown pornography* forced to watch sexual acts* sexually intrusive questions and comments* forced to pose for sexual photographs or videos* forced to self-masturbate or forced to watch others masturbate

Harassment and Abuse - Differences and Similarities

	Abuse	Harassment
Types	Emotional, physical, sexual, lack of care	Emotional, physical, sexual; may be motivated by racial or other forms of prejudice
Victim	Any person under age of majority as determined by Provincial and Territorial Child Protection Acts; may be male or female	Person of any age; may be male or female
Offender	Any person who has power or authority over victim and /or breaches trust; may be male or female	May be peer or person with power or authority over adult victim; may be male or female
Investigation	External to organization; referred to child welfare or police	Most often internal unless referred to police in cases of suspected physical or sexual assault or criminal harassment (stalking)
Follow-up actions	Determined by Provincial and Territorial Child Protection Acts and Criminal Code; civil suits may also occur	Determined by organization's harassment policies, Criminal Code, labour tribunals, civil action and/or Provincial Human Rights Tribunals; may be used concurrently or alone
Philosophy	The victim is not to blame; offenders are responsible for their behaviour	The victim is not to blame; offenders are responsible for their behaviour

6. DUTY TO REPORT

Abuse and neglect are community problems requiring urgent attention. The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club is committed to help reduce and prevent the abuse and neglect of participants. The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club realizes that persons working closely with children and youth have a special awareness of abusive situations. Therefore these people have a particular reporting responsibility to ensure the safety of Canada's young, by knowing their provincial protection acts and following through as required.

Every province and territory in Canada, except the Yukon, has mandatory reporting laws regarding the abuse and neglect of children and youth; the Yukon requests that concerns be reported. Consequently, it is the policy of The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club that any Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club personnel (part-time and full-time staff, volunteer, participant, team official, on-ice official) or (parent, guardian) who has reasonable grounds to suspect that a participant is or maybe suffering or may have suffered from emotional, physical abuse and neglect and/or sexual abuse shall immediately report the suspicion and the information on which it is based to the local child protection agency and/or the local police.

Those involved with The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club in providing hockey opportunities for participants understand and agree that abuse or neglect, as defined above, maybe the subject of a criminal investigation and/or disciplinary procedures. Failure to report an offence and thereby, failure to provide safety for participants may render the adult who keeps silent legally liable for conviction under the provincial child protection acts.

By educating our The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club in co-operation with Hockey Canada, The Ontario Hockey Federation and the Greater Toronto Hockey League personnel, are weaving a tighter safety web around our most precious resources... the players!

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2. THE STREETSVILLE TIGERS HOCKEY CLUB BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY

This Policy sets out the principles and practices of The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club regarding bullying and harassment.

A. RELATIONSHIP TO RECOGNITION AND PREVENTION OF ABUSE POLICY

Some behaviours, which are defined as harassment or bullying, when the behaviour breaches human rights or appropriate relationship/conduct boundaries, can also constitute abuse, when a child or youth's protection is at risk. The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club Recognition and Prevention of Abuse Policy covers such behaviours. Together, the two policies address the entire spectrum of abusive, bullying and harassing behaviours.

B. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club is committed to providing a sport and work environment which promotes equal opportunities and prohibits discriminatory practices and bullying.

Harassment is a form of discrimination which is prohibited by human rights legislation in Canada. Bullying involves a person expressing their power through the humiliation of another person. Bullying may be a form of harassment but also has some of its own defining characteristics. The sport setting is one area in which bullying occurs. In some cases coaches and players use bullying tactics deliberately to motivate performance and to weaken opponents.

The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club supports the right of all its members, whether athletes, volunteers or employees, to participate in all sanctioned hockey activities free from any form of harassment and bullying. Further, The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club emphasizes the importance of eliminating harassment and bullying in hockey as a key element in ensuring the safety of young participants. A sports environment which actively discourages harassment and bullying and builds relationships based on trust and mutual respect, is an environment which discourages the abuse of children and youth, and encourages the overall development of the individual.

In order to further these objectives, The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club will make every reasonable effort to promote awareness of the problem of harassment and bullying among all its members, and to respond quickly and effectively to complaints or disclosures of harassment or bullying.

C. POLICY

It is the policy of The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club that harassment and bullying in all its forms will not be tolerated during the course of any sanctioned hockey activity or program. Accordingly, all The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club personnel (staff, volunteers, team or on-ice officials) and partners (parents, guardians) are responsible for making every reasonable effort to uphold this commitment. Specifically, this includes refraining from harassing or bullying behaviour, responding promptly and informally to minor incidents of harassment or bullying and following local or national policy guidelines for reporting or responding to more serious complaints of harassment or bullying. Players and other participants are expected to refrain from harassing or bullying behaviour and are encouraged to report incidents of harassment or bullying.

1. DEFINITION OF HARASSMENT

Harassment is defined as conduct, gestures or comments which are insulting, intimidating, humiliating, hurtful, malicious, degrading or otherwise offensive to an individual or group of individuals, and which create a hostile or intimidating environment for work or sports activities, or which negatively affect performance or work conditions. Any of the different forms of harassment must be based on the grounds prohibited in human rights legislation, such as race, ethnicity, colour, religion, age, sex, marital status, family status, disability, pardoned conviction and sexual orientation. Harassment may occur among anyone over the age of 12, between peers (i.e.: player to player of the same age group, parent to official, coach to coach) or between someone in a position of power or authority and an adult in a subordinate position (i.e.: coach to player, sports administrator to employee).

The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of harassment:

1. Unwelcome jokes, innuendo or teasing about a person's body, looks, race, sexual orientation etc.
2. Condescending, patronizing, threatening or punishing actions which undermine self-esteem
3. Practical jokes, which cause awkwardness or embarrassment, or may endanger a person's safety
4. Degrading or inappropriate hazing rituals
5. Unwanted or unnecessary physical contact including touching, patting, pinching
6. Unwanted conduct, comments, gestures or invitations of a sexual nature which are likely to cause offence or humiliation, or which might on reasonable grounds be perceived as placing a condition of a sexual nature on employment or on any opportunity for training or advancement
7. Sexual assault or physical assault

It is important to note that the behaviours described in items 5 to 7, when directed towards a child or youth, constitute abuse under child protection legislation. This may also be true of other behaviours, for example, certain hazing practices. In such cases, the duty to report provisions of the Recognition and Prevention of Abuse Policy are applicable.

2. DEFINITION OF BULLYING

Bullying involves a person expressing their power through the humiliation of another person. Bullying describes behaviours that are similar to harassment, but occur between children under the age of twelve, or behaviours between youth or between adults that are not addressed under human rights laws. Bullies are typically cruel, demeaning and hostile towards the targets of their bullying. The issue of bullying is not addressed by the law, however, bullying behaviour is similar to harassment in that it is defined as hurtful interpersonal mistreatment of a person. Bullying can be broken down into four types; physical (hit or kick victims; take/damage personal property), verbal (name calling; insults; constant teasing), relational (try to cut off victims from social connection by convincing peers to exclude or reject a certain person), and reactive (engage in bullying as well as provoke bullies to attack by taunting them). The following is a non-exhaustive list of tactics used by bullies to control their targets:

1. Unwarranted yelling and screaming directed at the target
2. Continually criticizing the target's abilities
3. Blaming the target of the bullying for mistakes
4. Making unreasonable demands related to performance
5. Repeated insults or put downs of the target
6. Repeated threats to remove or restrict opportunities or privileges
7. Denying or discounting the target's accomplishments
8. Threats of and actual physical violence

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Philosophy	The victim is not to blame; offenders are responsible for their behaviour	The victim is not to blame; offenders are responsible for their behaviour

3. RESPONSE AND REMEDIES

It is the position of The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club that harassment and bullying cannot and should not be tolerated in any environment, including hockey. Both harassment and bullying are unacceptable and harmful. The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club recognizes the serious negative impact of all types of harassment and bullying on personal dignity, individual and group development and performance, enjoyment of the game and in some cases, personal safety.

At the same time, The Streetsville Tigers Hockey Club recognizes that not all incidents of harassment and bullying are equally serious in their consequences. Both harassment and bullying cover a wide spectrum of behaviours, and the response to both must be equally broad in range, appropriate to the behaviour in question and capable of providing a constructive remedy. There must be no summary justice or hasty punishment. The process of investigation and settlement of any complaint of harassment or bullying must be fair to all parties, allowing adequate opportunity for the presentation of a response to the allegations.

Minor incidents of harassment or bullying should be corrected promptly and informally, taking a constructive approach and with the goal of bringing about a change in negative attitudes and behaviour.

More serious incidents should be dealt with according to the relevant association, branch or national policy guidelines. Complaints should be handled in a timely, sensitive, responsible and confidential manner. There should be no tolerance of reprisals taken against any party to a complaint. The names of parties and the circumstances of the complaint should be kept confidential except where disclosure is necessary for the purposes of investigation or taking disciplinary measures.

Anyone making a complaint which is found to be clearly unfounded, false, malicious or frivolous may be subject to discipline.

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