



TO: All Hockey Nova Scotia associations and members
FROM: Mike Field, Executive Director, Hockey Nova Scotia, Brad MacKinley, President, Hockey Nova Scotia, and Geoff Churchill, Chair, Risk Management Committee
DATE: Oct. 10, 2024

SUBJECT: A reminder about maintaining a positive and respectful hockey environment

Dear members,

As we begin our hockey season, we wanted to take a moment to remind everyone about the importance of maintaining a positive, respectful, and safe environment for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators.

Under the guidelines of Hockey Canada and Hockey Nova Scotia, maltreatment in any form — whether verbal, physical, or psychological— will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, the categories of maltreatment outlined in Section 11.4 of the [Hockey Canada Playing Rules 2024-26](#), which states:

11.4 Any player or team official who engages in taunts, insults, or intimidation based on discriminatory grounds will be assessed a Gross Misconduct penalty. Discriminatory grounds include the following, without limitation:

- Race, national or ethnic origin, skin colour, or language spoken;
- Religion, faith or beliefs;
- Age;
- Sex, sexual orientation or gender identity / expression;
- Marital or familial status;
- Genetic characteristics;
- Disability.

For more information on Section 11.4 of the [Hockey Canada Playing Rules 2024-26](#), [click here](#).

This is an excellent time for coaching staff and parents to have meaningful conversations with their players about these guidelines. Reinforcing the values of respect, inclusion, and sportsmanship is essential in fostering a positive atmosphere both on and off the ice. These discussions can go a long way in ensuring our players understand the importance of their role



in maintaining a safe and supportive hockey environment.

We encourage all players, parents, and volunteers to review Hockey Nova Scotia's [Maltreatment, Bullying and Harassment Protection Policy](#) and to also remain committed to fostering respect, fairness, and sportsmanship at all times on and off the ice.

Please help us uphold these values by continuing to lead by example in promoting an inclusive and supportive hockey environment.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued commitment to making the game the best it can be.

Yours in Hockey,

Mike Field
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Geoff Churchill
Chair, Risk Management Committee
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