

Game and Conduct Report – October 2013

I am pleased to announce that Special Committee has Darrell Martindale returning to round out the members that make up this group. I wish to thank Darrell, Ian Corkin, Ward Stene, Rick Robertson, and Deb Loomer for stepping forward to help with a difficult, but necessary, role.

This year I am hopeful we can bring down the number of indefinite suspensions brought before this committee for hearing. One infraction stands out the most to me and is something that absolutely can be controlled. This has been sent out in a bulletin, but I cannot stress enough the importance of education regarding this matter.

Over the past few years a disturbing trend has emerged regarding discriminatory slurs being overheard more frequently by officials.

This particular infraction 9.2(f) accounted for a large portion of the disciplinary hearings heard by the Special Committee last year. Please be advised that this issue should be addressed at the team level, by the coaches, at the beginning of each season to ensure players understand the repercussions of the action.

Rule 9.2

(f) Any player or team official who engages in verbal taunts, insults or intimidation based on discriminatory grounds (race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, language) shall be assessed a Gross Misconduct penalty and the Referee shall report full details of the incident to the President.

This infraction is deemed an indefinite suspension which will first require a disciplinary hearing at Hockey Calgary offices, and then a recommendation sent on to Hockey Alberta. The average length of suspension handed down by Hockey Alberta can range from **4 - 12 games** depending on the outcome. Coaches do need to educate their teams, but participants also have to take responsibility and stop this discriminatory behaviour, or be prepared to face the consequences.

I know we can get this message out – but it does need to get to the player level – and for that I do need everyone to help.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Cameron
Director – Game and Conduct