

NHGHA Dangerous Play Policy

Background

In the recent report released by the Ontario Government: “Creating Rowen’s Law”, they have made the recommendation that a “Zero Tolerance” approach to removing Dangerous Play form organized amateur sports be taken. Player safety and enjoyment of the game are of the utmost importance to the North Halton Girls Hockey Association (NHGHA). We continue to look for ways to develop our athletes, without losing focus that this must be done in a fun and safe environment. It is for that reason the NHGHA has implemented a “Dangerous Play” policy applicable to ALL House League age groups.

What is Dangerous Play?

Dangerous Play can be defined as:

- “Contact” style penalties (intentional or not) that target the head or could lead to injury including head contact, boarding, hitting from behind etc.
- A player who demonstrates the inability to control their style of play and by doing so accumulates higher than normal penalties minutes in a single season, whether intentional or not.

Although it is unlikely based on past history that the league will have to administer suspensions to its players, it will however take a Zero Tolerance approach to the matter should a player meet one or more of the suspension criteria outline in the table below. We encourage our coaches and team staff members to continue to provide the same excellent guidance and support to our athletes and to remind and reiterate fair and safe play during all games. It should be noted that these suspension would be in addition to any suspensions administered by the OWHA, as outlined in the 2017/2018 Handbook.

Suspension Criteria

Infraction	Suspension	Notes
20 accumulated penalty minutes in one season	1 game	
For each additional 10 penalty minutes accumulated beyond the initial 20 minutes in one season	1 game	
5 accumulated “dangerous play” minor penalties in one season. A double minor is considered two separate penalties.	1 game	Dangerous Play penalties include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact to the Head • Boarding • Cross Checking • Charging • Spearing • Hitting from Behind • Slew Foot • Head Butt • Grabbing Face Mask/Helmet/Chinstrap
2 accumulated 5 minute major penalties in one season	1 game*	Suspension would be in addition to any suspension handed down by the OWHA
2 suspensions in one season	See notes	A player who accumulates two suspensions will need to meet with the league.