



NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

110 LAKESHORE DRIVE
NORTH BAY, ONTARIO P1A 2A8
PHONE: (705) 474-8851 • FAX: (705) 474-6019
www.noha-hockey.ca



Update on Maltreatment – As of December 6, 2022

Background

Beginning the 2021/2022 season, Hockey Canada introduced a new Maltreatment playing rule.

The playing rule brought all forms of maltreatment under one section of the rulebook and providing guidelines for escalating penalties based on the severity of the inappropriate behaviour from players and team officials.

The rule also focuses on efforts to eradicate discrimination of all forms from the game, both on the ice and outside of game play. The new rule includes, but is not limited to, discrimination based on race, ethnic origin, skin colour, religion, race, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability.

See Hockey Canada's press release here: [Hockey Canada announces new maltreatment playing rule for 2021-22 season](#)

2021/2022 Season

Last week, Hockey Canada released data on the number of Maltreatment cases that were reported across the country. The report can be found here: [Hockey Canada publishes report on Rule 11.4 - Discrimination](#)

In addition, information relating to the number of Maltreatment cases are available here: [Risk Management | Ontario Hockey Federation \(ohf.on.ca\)](#)

Within the NOHA, there were nine (9) situations relating to discrimination (Rule 11.4) called on the ice, and an additional eight (8) reported allegations.

2022/2023 Season

As of December 6, 2022, there have been a total of 15 penalty calls relating to discrimination or allegations of discrimination within the NOHA. With more than four (4) months to go in the hockey season, we are likely going to see a significant increase in the number of 11.4 calls over last season.

This is concerning in many ways; it appears that there needs to be further education amongst Players/Families/Team Officials that discrimination and maltreatment are not acceptable, and it is also rather demanding on the volunteers who must handle these situations as each of them either requires an investigation, or a hearing.



NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

110 LAKESHORE DRIVE
NORTH BAY, ONTARIO P1A 2A8
PHONE: (705) 474-8851 • FAX: (705) 474-6019
www.noha-hockey.ca



The minimum number of games that can be assessed for a Gross Misconduct under Rule 11.4. is five (5) games. So far this season, the Maltreatment Committee has assessed more than the minimum number of games in all but one (1) situation. This number of games missed when many team schedules are 20-25 games is significant.

Reporting Discrimination On-Ice

Of the discrimination allegations reported to the NOHA so far this season, a few of them have not been reported to the Officials, per the established protocol.

In the situations where there is an allegation that is not heard by the On-Ice Officials, it must be addressed, and it is reported to the Referee. It is then the Referee's responsibility to report the individual(s) to an appropriate member of each team's bench staff.

The Referee is also responsible for completing a game incident report, including the full details and shall submit the report to the NOHA.

It is important to note that regardless of whether the Officials witnessed the incident, Team Officials are part of the accountability mechanism for their Players and should hold their Players accountable.

Education/Resources

Hockey Canada and the NOHA have provided several resources, including presentations, to Associations and Coaches, so to better educate their Players about the Maltreatment rule.

We need to continue to educate our participants and ensure that all understand that the NOHA takes the Maltreatment rule – including discrimination – very seriously.

We would encourage all NOHA participants to review the resources and video that are available on the NOHA website: [Hockey Canada Rule 11 Video & Resources \(noha-hockey.ca\)](http://www.noha-hockey.ca).

Should any Associations wish to host a presentation on the Maltreatment rule for their participants, please contact the NOHA Office (jmarchand@noha-hockey.ca).