

TITLE	DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE
POLICY #	Safety 9.4
APPROVED DATE	April 25, 2024
REVISED DATE	
OWNED BY	Executive Committee

1.0 OVERVIEW

This policy will describe Banff Minor Hockey Association's (BMHA) position on drug, alcohol, smoking and vaping for both players and parents.

2.0 POLICY

BMHA Drug and Alcohol Policy takes the health and safety of its members very seriously. As such, BMHA is unequivocally opposed to illegal drug and alcohol use and we are sincere in our duty to uphold the laws of the province. Any behaviour disregarding these laws will not be tolerated.

Incidents or behaviour contrary to our policies will be addressed on an individual basis. BMHA realizes the severity of incidents of non-compliance to the Zero Tolerance policy will have far reaching effects above and beyond our members.

It is the duty of each member to report to BMHA if:

- An incident involves league play.
- The situation may bring embarrassment or public attention to BMHA and/or its members
- The incident is such that it may affect the well-being of other members of BMHA
- The incident is setting a precedent in some fashion, i.e. hazing
- The incident may require action of higher authority

3.0 Adult Alcohol and Tobacco Guidelines

In addition to the zero-tolerance policy regarding minors, BMHA realizes there are situations when the responsible use of alcohol or marijuana by adults is acceptable assuming the implementation of the following responsible parameters.

Alcohol, smoking or vaping (tobacco, marijuana or e-juice) or chewing tobacco is not appropriate:

- In dressing rooms or in public, non-licensed areas
- In team settings with minors in attendance
- In situations where minors are left unsupervised while adults attend “hospitality” type settings or where alcohol is not controlled by a server
- Consumption in buses or cars when traveling to and from an event
- By adults of a minor team when parents are not present
- If forced on another person
- If used for “chugging” contests or as a form of hazing or initiation for rookies

BMHA enforces zero tolerance for alcohol on association sanctioned bus trips. This is not only illegal, but it is unsafe and presents a negative image for everyone involved, including all BMHA membership.

Transportation of liquor 87.1

Those wishing to transport alcohol on buses fall under the same laws as passenger vehicles:

- *Liquor may be transported under section 83 of the Act only in accordance with this section.*
 - *Except as otherwise provided for in the Act or in a liquor license, no person may:*
 - *Transport liquor unless the liquor is in a container that is capped, corked or otherwise closed, whether or not the container has been previously opened;*
 - *Transport liquor in a vehicle if the liquor is within easy access of an occupant of the vehicle.*

If there are incidents regarding the illegal consumption of alcohol on bus trips booked by any BMHA team regardless of distance or any other circumstance, immediate suspensions will be

given to those involved. The suspension will include the player and family, until a formal hearing with the BMHA Board of Directors can be arranged. This means that no one from the family, including the player, will attend any BMHA sanctioned event (practices, games, tournaments, team functions, etc.) until a hearing can be conducted.

4.0. Supervisory Responsibility

Minor Hockey Associations are responsible for the reasonable safety and well-being of all minor athletes (under the age of majority) while participating in sport activities and events. Supervisory responsibilities are an integral part of a Coach's and Team Manager's role. Interaction between coaches and players must be based on the organization's code of conduct that establishes respect, dignity, health, and well-being for all athletes.

Ultimately, coaches, team managers, and guardians assume the role of parent/guardian for all athletes when traveling with teams, and must make a reasonable effort to provide adequate supervision of the players. It is imperative that the rules and that player and parent expectations are clearly defined, discussed and presented to all members. When traveling with the team it is important that coaches and team managers meet with parents to discuss that athletes and parents adhere to all team rules including drugs and alcohol, smoking, vaping, curfew, etc.

Although the coach assumes responsibility for the members of their team, it is reasonable to assume they will require "free time" and in their absence, a pre-assigned member of the supervisory staff will be appointed to assume the leadership role for players to ensure policies and procedures as previously agreed upon are adhered to by all participants.

5.0 Incidents of Non-Compliance - zero tolerance:

If there are incidents regarding the illegal consumption of alcohol, immediate suspensions will be given to those involved. The suspension will include the player and family until a formal hearing with the BMHA Board of Directors can be arranged, this means that no one from the family, including the player, will attend any BMHA sanctioned event (practices, games, tournaments, team functions etc.) until a hearing can be conducted.

The following steps should take place following any non-compliance incidents:

- The coach informs the parent of the incident and asks direction from the parent on the removal of the player from the coach's care.
- The coach has the authority to remove a player from team activities.

- Regardless of removal from activities, the coach continues supervisory care until the player is released from the coaches care by a parent or guardian.
- The coach informs the authorities should the incident warrant criminal investigation.
- The coach documents the incident.
- The coach forwards the documentation for filing/action with BMHA.
- The coach ensures that the reports and specific circumstances are kept within the parent and Association constituted process. At no time are any proceedings made public.
- One or more of the members of the coaching staff shall meet, as soon as possible, with the player and parent to review the reasons for the removal from activity.
- Suspension of the player is at the direction of the Association.

If the decision is to seek suspension, the Board of Directors will draft a letter of suspension, which will be served to the player and parent, along with a representative of the team leadership (Head Coach or Team Manager).