



Findlay Adult Hockey League Player Safety Team Handbook

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Introduction

Welcome to the Findlay Adult Hockey League Player Safety Team handbook. This document contains information regarding the composition and roles and responsibilities of the FAHL Player Safety Team. The intent of this document is to set high-level parameters for this team's roles and responsibilities and standard procedures for ensuring player safety throughout the league.

Purpose

The purpose of the FAHL Player Safety Team is to prevent player injury and discourage players from breaking rules in the future. To accomplish this purpose, the team is empowered to issue supplemental discipline to players following the completion of a game. Everyone playing in the FAHL somehow provides for themselves and/or family and needs to be able to get up and go to work the next day. This team intends to do everything within their power to allow that to happen.

Chapter 1: Team Composition

Members

The Player Safety Team will consist of three members:

- Commissioner: will be the head of the team
- Referee Coordinator
- Another member of the leadership team

Appointment

The Commissioner and Referee Coordinator are appointed to this team by default when they assume these roles. They may not elect to abstain from participation on the team. The additional member of the team, chosen from among the FAHL Leadership Team, will be appointed by the Commissioner. This team member may elect at any time to cease participation on this team, although a two month notice is requested.

Chapter 2: Procedures

Cases to be Reviewed

The Player Safety Team will review the following cases:

- Major penalties, 10-minute, and game misconducts unless a misconduct was issued due to a player receiving too many penalties in a game.
- A player was injured on the play.
- At the team's discretion, they may review requests from individual players, including members of the Player Safety Team.

Investigation Procedure

In the event an investigation is required, the Player Safety Team will gather the needed information to determine, as best they can, what happened on the play and whether supplemental discipline is required. Relevant information may include video replays, eye-witness testimonies, and/or a hearing with one or more players involved in the incident. Video replay is the preferred method, but in the event eye-witness testimonies are needed, the team will attempt to gather testimonies from unbiased sources such as officials and the scorekeeper as well as from members of both teams. Once all required information is gathered, it will be shared with the whole team. To issue supplemental discipline, the Commissioner and at least one other member of the Player Safety Team must agree on the discipline issued. The goal is to finish and post the results of the incident investigation within 48 hours of the incident.

In the event one of the members of the Player Safety Team is involved in the incident, that team member will not attempt to influence and will abstain from voting on the action taken by the team. To issue supplemental discipline, the remaining two team members must agree on the discipline issued.

Forms of Supplemental Discipline

The following forms of supplemental discipline may be issued by the Player Safety Team depending on the severity of the incident:

- A hearing with at least two members of the Player Safety Team

- A monetary fine
- Game or multi-game suspensions
- Time-based suspension (such as a year or two years)
- Indefinite suspension

Repeat offenders may receive additional discipline per the penalty progression section of the FAHL Player Handbook.

Communication to Players

A report will be written and sent to all players, team captains, and referees involved in the incident and will be posted on the Incident Reports page of the FAHL website.

Appeals

Players may appeal supplemental discipline to the Commissioner by written notice within 48 hours of the incident report publication. The Player Safety Team may consider new evidence relating to the incident if such evidence was not available at the time of the initial supplementary discipline decision. However, the supplemental discipline will remain in effect unless overturned through the appeals process.

Chapter 3: Questions and Answers

When considering supplemental discipline, does it matter if there was a penalty called on the ice? No, supplemental discipline may be assessed to any player regardless of whether or not the infraction was penalized by an on-ice official.

If a penalty is called, does the supplemental discipline have to match the call by the on-ice official? No, an infraction that leads to a suspension or a fine can be categorized differently than the call on the ice. In addition, supplemental discipline for breaking multiple rules can be imposed on a specific play.

Is the Player Safety Team required to hold a hearing for a player who appeals supplemental discipline? No, the Player Safety Team may elect to hold a hearing for a player, but is not required to hold a hearing.