

Medicine Hat Ringette Association

Officials Abuse Policy

Preamble:

Everyone knows that referees are an integral part of our sport. Without them we cannot play our games. Adult referees tend to have pretty thick skin and are able to handle verbal abuse from coaches, managers, trainers and fans. However, if not dealt with these same people will not think twice about going after our younger officials. This is unacceptable in any situation. These incidents will in the end cause a referee not to return to the sport of Ringette. We need to support our officials to keep them in the sport.

Purpose:

To promote sportsmanship and provide a safe and friendly environment for officials, players, coaches and fans during the games.

Definition of Abuse:

Any verbal or physical gestures that are meant to intimidate or embarrass officials will be deemed as abuse. These may include:

- Challenging the authority or competence of an official
- Directing gestures or personal comments at an official
- Incite abuse or disrespect of an official by others

Policy:

Coaches, Managers and Trainers and minor officials – As officials when a Coach, Manager or Trainer on the bench gets out of hand, assess the proper penalty and give them a warning. If the abuse continues, eject them from the game, with no further penalty to the team. Note the time it occurred on the game sheet and continue forward. At games end, write up a game report on the back of the white copy and forward it to the MHRA Referee in Chief. All inappropriate behavior will be subject to further disciplinary action upon review by the MHRA abuse committee that will consist of:

- MHRA Referee in Chief.
- And at least four other members of the MHRA executive. To be determined at the time of the offense.

The review process may or may not include the offending party and the officials involved along with other witnesses. That review must be completed by the committee within five (5) days of the incident, or before the offending parties next scheduled game. The offending party must receive notification of the committee's decision within one (1) day of the completed hearing.

Fan Abuse – The referee must notify the team coaches that an unruly fan must be removed from the stands. The coaches will determine which team the fan belongs to and have them removed from the game (this means from the arena area). The play will not resume until the fan is removed. If, after one (1) minute has elapsed, the fan still refuses to leave, advise the coach from the team that if the fan does not leave the game will be forfeited. If the fan still refuses to leave, **END THE GAME.**

This policy will apply to all teams playing under the jurisdiction of the MHRA, including all local teams and visiting teams playing zone or exhibition games. This policy will also apply to local teams playing in the Ed Horvath Interprovincial Ringette Classic Tournament. The MHRA Tournament Committee will deal with all other abuse issues that may occur with visiting teams during the Ed Horvath Tournament.