



February 19, 2009

Dear Coach's, Players and Parents;

AS a reminder SCYH is a youth non contact recreational hockey league with the goal being to learn the game of hockey, having fun and everyone getting equal opportunity to play. With these goals in mind, behaviors unacceptable to the league are as follows; disrespect for the referees, coaches, teammates, opposing team players, this includes name calling and any use of foul language and as this is a non contact league any form of ruff play or dirty playing, such as slashing, tripping, checking, cross checking from behind etc. are all unacceptable.

This being said it has come to the attention of the executive in the last several weeks that Group D is having significant problems with respect for referees and other individuals on the ice as well as some significant chippy play plus cheap shots behind the play and referee's back. Last week on Friday, February 13, 2009 two members from the executive came out to watch both games and record the players that were not following the rules and philosophy set out by the Strathroy Caradoc Youth Hockey Association. They recorded numerous infractions not caught by the referee and disrespect being shown to the referee, this is totally unacceptable.

There was an executive meeting on Wednesday, February 18th, the Group D coaches were invited, so there input & insight could be heard. This letter is an ultimative for the teams and players that there will be a zero tolerance for this kind of play in the future. It was suggested at the executive meeting of just ending the Group D season skipping the last five weeks if the things were out of control. It was decided at this time, that this would be unfair to the players that are following the non-contact rules and showing good sportsmanship. The players who consistently are chippy and exhibit poor sportsmanship need to realize that this will not be tolerated in this league. There will be no further warnings, the referees will call penalties and will be giving out suspensions from one game & up to the rest of the season depending on what the infraction was and how many times it has happened. Observers will continue to be in the crowd recording any unacceptable plays especially those happening behind the referee. The referees cannot catch all the infractions especially when it is intentionally behind the play. We realize there is insufficient number of volunteer referees. It was suggested by coaches in Group D that when there are no referees available a coach from each team referee the game. The referee coordinators have done everything with in their power short of assigning parents or coaches a turn at refereeing a game to get referees for these games. We are asking parents to speak to their own children if they see any infraction or poor sportsmanship. The executive does believe that parents and coaches have a significant



role to play in controlling this kind of play. As coaches, you can have a great influence on your team's behavior and attitude, such as a disciplinary benching of a player, that you have seen playing dirty or exhibiting poor sportsmanship including the likelihood of a retaliation next time out, let them have a cool down on the bench even if the other team started it. It is believed that most players in the long run would rather be benched than possibly getting a penalty or suspension which hurts them as well as the whole team. It also sets the mood of the whole team when there are consequences for bad behavior.

We are asking support from the parents, coaches and players to keep the games as clean as possible. Most of all we would like **ALL** participants (players, coaches and referees) to have a fun season in a safe and secure environment.

Sincerely,

2008/09

SCYH Board Executives