
From: Dan Kuzmic <Dank@edson.ca>
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 9:32 AM
To: Ian James <ijames@williamslake.ca>
Subject: RE: WSHL Experience

Good Mornings Ian,

First off sorry for the delay had a few issues come up yesterday and totally got sidetracked. As per our phone conversation regarding the WSHL, we have been dealing with this league for three years and have found them to be easy to deal with. Some of the benefits of having a team from the WSHL are.

- Great for the community we have seen our community get behind and support them
- Added income to the facility as they rent our dead ice time during the day Mon-Fri for practice
- Bringing more people into the Facility
- They help make your facility the main hub of the community
- Brings extra income into businesses within the community gas stations, hotels, and restaurants

Ian, I have attached a couple contracts as well please feel free to reach out if you need anything more info .



Dan Kuzmic
Repsol Place Manager
Repsol Place | 1021-49th Street, Edson, AB
Phone:780-723-7665 Ext:4 | Mobile:780-728-5538

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From: Ian James <ijames@williamslake.ca>
Sent: March 25, 2021 9:22 AM
To: Dan Kuzmic <Dank@edson.ca>
Subject: WSHL Experience

Good Morning Dan,

I just wanted to send you a quick email to ensure you have my contact information.

Thank you again for sharing the Town of Edson facility rental experience with the WSHL with the City of Williams Lake.

Cheers,



Ian James

Community Services Director

☎ 250-392-1786 | 📠 250-398-7884

✉ ijames@williamslake.ca

🌐 www.williamslake.ca

📍 Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex
525 Proctor Street, Williams Lake, BC V2G 4J1

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From: Garry Roth <Garry@slavelake.ca>
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Ian James <ijames@williamslake.ca>
Subject: RE: GMHL Experience

Thanks for reaching out to us! Here's our experience with the Slave Lake Icedogs (Greater Metro Hockey League):

- Our approach to this team is that of a landlord. We rent ice (& a dressing room) to them. We don't get into the workings of their program outside of the impacts to our facility.
- Originally Town Council had concerns of the team not paying their ice usage bill. To combat this, we required the team to prepay for ice usage & have had no issues.
- We are charging the Icedogs our regular fee for youth usage for practices and adult usage for games. They also pay a monthly rental fee for their dressing room.
- There was originally scepticism of their program as they are outside of Hockey Alberta. They have had success with players going on to play college and university hockey (including full scholarships in the U.S.). I think this has helped. The team has also made steps to be involved in the community by players volunteering for various organizations (pre-COVID). They generally average around 2-300 people for games which also shows that there is support from the community.
- Originally, we had a sponsorship deal for advertising rights in one of our arenas. The Icedogs paid us a monthly fee and then assumed all advertising rights for that arena (excluding a couple pre-existing contracts). This didn't work out and the Icedogs did not renew it for the 2020-21 season. The Town is going to continue to sell advertising and sponsorship as we did before.
- Relationship with the Icedogs is like any other user group: we have had some challenges (as we do with many of our users). We continue to try to work with them. What is key is the connection with the owner / management of the team.
- We have had some challenges with the team not following COVID protocols and we have taken steps to address this with the team (just as we would with any user group).
- The Icedogs have approached us to have an extended season (into May and June). Our Town Council has asked to make that decision and our administration will be bringing a report to them on April 6 for a decision. Of course, a significant factor will be dependant upon the COVID restrictions that are in place (or any exemption, if any, granted to the GMHL).

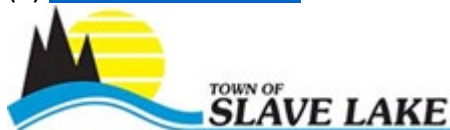
Let me know if you have any further questions. Hope this helps!

Garry Roth

Director of Community Services

(T) 780.849.8017

(E) garry@slavelake.ca



"Working Together, Building a Better Community."

I respectfully acknowledge that I live, work, and play on the traditional Indigenous territories of the Treaty 8 First Nations.

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From: Ian James <ijames@williamslake.ca>
Sent: March 25, 2021 12:30 PM
To: Garry Roth <Garry@slavelake.ca>
Subject: GMHL Experience

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click any links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Good Morning Garry,

Thank you for accepting my call this morning and for sharing the Town of Slave Lake Alberta experience with the GMHL organization with me. It sounds like our communities share similar reservations with a pay-to-play Jr. A league.

I look forward to receiving you email communication.

Regards,



Ian James

Community Services Director

☎ 250-392-1786 | 📠 250-398-7884

✉ ijames@williamslake.ca

🌐 www.williamslake.ca

📍 Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex
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Glen McCurdie, Senior Vice President, Hockey Canada response in RED to the four most asked hockey question from the community engagement survey:

1. Are Junior level hockey players able to start the season in the WSHL or GMHL and then transfer to play with a Hockey Canada Junior team in the same season?
Yes, there is an appeal mechanism for re-entry into HC programs
2. Are Hockey Canada game referees able to officiate WSHL and/or GMHL games?
Technically, by the policy they are not capable of doing this. That said, we are not monitoring arenas across the country to determine participation. If we are made aware of a particular situation our member in that area would deal with that specific situation. Our members do have the ability to make the policy more restrictive as you can see in the attachment
3. Is junior hockey in Canada pay-to-play?
Junior Hockey in Canada is a mix of pay to play and non-pay to play. The Canadian Hockey League and some Junior A Leagues, generally in the west of the country do not employ a pay to play model. There are many Junior A Leagues in Eastern Canada that do have pay to play. Most Junior B and below is pay to play but that is a general statement.
4. Can Hockey Canada members participate in hockey camps organized and operated by the WSHL and/or GMHL
The policy is silent on this.

Ian James

From: Michelle Gagno <FOIPPA Sec 22(1)>
Sent: Tuesday, March 30, 2021 7:27 PM
To: jjames@williamslake.ca
Subject: Follow up to March 30,2021 phone conversation regarding non-sanctioned and non regulated in Canada Sports Teams

Hello Ian;

Thank you for your call today regarding my email sent to the City of Williams Lake.

As discussed we will be forwarding you a letter regarding our opposition to any non-sanctioned and non-regulated sports leagues operating in Canada.

As discussed we have discovered that unfortunately these types of leagues are not accountable to any governing bodies in Canada. And further we are now aware that technically any concerns or complaints to governing bodies operating in the United States have no jurisdiction in Canada ie. Safesport USA.

Our conversation today certainly gave me faith that the City of Williams Lake would be wanting to make sure they were protecting all persons at any age participating in sports in your community. As discussed we will be including our letter of concern with factual findings to Mayor & Council for your review and to assist with an informed decision when approving or disapproving this subject. As confirmed by yourself there will be a upcoming presentation for council on April 28, 2021 in Williams Lake from a hockey league.

This letter of concern will be a fanned out as necessary to all communities for the protection against sports abuse in all levels.

Regards,

Michelle Gagnon-Ball

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

April 2, 2021

Mayors and Councillors

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: The Potential of WSHL Operating in the Community

I write this letter on behalf of a group of concerned parents and billet parents from Edson, Alberta. We are writing to you today to express our opinion about the Western States Hockey League (“**WSHL**”) and the potential operation of that hockey league in your community.

By way of background, the Edson Aeros Junior “A” Hockey Club (the “**Aeros**”) of the WSHL’s Provincial Division have been operating in our community since approximately 2018.

In our experience, the WSHL has failed to thoroughly and appropriately address several serious complaints of abuse and misconduct made against the former head coach of the Aeros, which complaints were brought forward by concerned parents and billet parents of players on the Aeros and directed to the Aeros’ local owner, and to the President/Commissioner of the WSHL.

More specifically, numerous verbal complaints and a formal, written complaint were lodged against former Aeros’ Head Coach Bernie Lynch for his alleged troubling misconduct towards players. Specifically, we shared our concerns about Mr. Lynch’s alleged physical and emotional abuse of his players, and his spending an inordinate amount of alone time with one particular player. The complainants received no communication or response from the WSHL whatsoever about the handling of the complaints, whether an investigation was commenced, or what, if any, recourse was being taken against Coach Lynch. It was our opinion that the misconduct of Coach Lynch was serious enough to merit some form of sanction, up to and including termination. At the very least, we believe that the WSHL owed the concerned parents a proper response.

We are avid supporters of hockey and sports of all kind in Canadian communities. However, our concerning experience with the WSHL compels us to encourage you to be cautious and conduct your own investigation into the WSHL before welcoming them to operate within your community.

As far as we have been able to ascertain, the WSHL’s operations in Canada are non-sanctioned and self-governed. More specifically, the WSHL is neither sanctioned nor governed by Hockey Canada, and accordingly, it appears to answer to no external or independent hockey body besides itself in this country. In the United States, the WSHL is governed by Safe Sport USA; however, representatives of Safe Sport USA have confirmed to us that their organization has no jurisdiction to investigate or deal with complaints about WSHL teams and operations in Canada. As such, based on these discussions, we understand that any formal complaints of any kind must be directed to the Commissioner of the WSHL in Canada, who is solely responsible for accepting and addressing complaints. Our formal complaint was lodged in January of 2020, and we have yet to receive a response to our concerns from the Commissioner of the WSHL, or anyone else at the WSHL. Is this the type of sporting league you want in your community?

We are also able to provide you with a list of the communities and team owners, together with their contact information, who have elected to leave the WSHL in the last five years should you wish to speak to more affected parties about their experience with the league before allowing the WSHL to operate in your community.

We are passionate about the prevention and eradication of player abuse, and ensuring that concerned parents, billets and players are properly heard when they make legitimate complaints. We would be willing to travel to your community to personally share our experiences with your Council, if that would be helpful.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Michelle Ball [REDACTED]

Kyla Olson [REDACTED]

on behalf of a group of Concerned Parents
and Billet Parents of the Edson Aeros

APPENDIX F



Amateur Athletic Union

ATHLETE PROTECTION HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

The Amateur Athletic Union is committed to improving the development, safety and welfare of athletes and participants involved in sport. There are a lot of reasons to play sport – at any level. A life-long activity, people often play sport to have fun and spend time with friends. Sport also encourages a healthy lifestyle, builds self-confidence; athletes also do better off the field. They learn goal-setting, teamwork and time management skills. Athletes are less likely to use cigarettes, drugs and alcohol; they have higher graduation rates and are more likely to attend college.

Here, we identify six types of misconduct: emotional, physical, sexual, bullying, harassment and hazing. All forms of misconduct are intolerable and in direct conflict with the AAU Youth Protection Handbook.

The Amateur Athletic Union publishes this handbook as a resource to guide the development, implementation and internal review of effective athlete welfare and misconduct prevention strategies for AAU leadership and its members.



Chapter 1:

Screening Staff Members and/or Volunteers

CREATING A SAFE AND POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT

APPLICANT MEMBERSHIP SCREENING

AAU members (coaches, event organizers, volunteers, and staff) must consent to, and pass, a formal applicant screening process before becoming a member of the AAU.

AFFIRMATIVE DUTY TO DISCLOSE

If, during the course of employment or membership in the AAU, an AAU member (coach, event organizer, volunteer, and staff) is accused, arrested, indicted or convicted of a criminal offense against a child, it is the duty and responsibility of the AAU member to notify the AAU National Office.



Chapter 2:

Athlete Protection Guidelines

CREATING A SAFE AND POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT

ATHLETE PROTECTION GUIDELINES

COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

Overview

In the event that any AAU member (coach, event organizer, volunteer, and staff) observes inappropriate behaviors, suspected physical or sexual abuse, or sexual misconduct, it is the personal responsibility of each person to immediately report (same day) his or her observations to local law enforcement and the AAU National Office.

The AAU is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for athletes' physical, emotional and social development and to ensuring that it promotes an environment free of misconduct.

AAU members (coaches, event organizers, volunteers, and staff) should not attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of child physical or sexual abuse allegations as a condition for reporting to appropriate law enforcement authorities. Instead, it is the responsibility of each person to immediately report suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse to the local law enforcement authorities and the AAU National Office.

The AAU recognizes that the process for training and motivating athletes will vary with each coach and athlete, but it is nevertheless important for everyone involved in sport to support the use of motivational and training methods that avoid misconduct.

Application

These Guidelines apply to

- AAU members (coaches, event organizers, volunteers, and staff)
- AAU athletes and participants

Coaches, event organizers, volunteers, staff members, athletes and participants shall **refrain from child physical or sexual abuse; bullying, harassment and hazing; and emotional, physical and sexual misconduct.**

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Sexual Abuse

Child sexual abuse includes sexual contact with a child that is accomplished by grooming, deception, manipulation, force or threat of force, regardless of the age of the participants, and all sexual interactions between an adult and a child, regardless of whether there is deception or the child understands the sexual nature of the activity. "Grooming" describes the process whereby a person engages in a series or pattern of behaviors with a goal of engaging in sexual misconduct. Grooming is initiated when a person seeks out a vulnerable minor. Once selected, offenders will then earn the

minor's trust, and potentially the trust of the minor's family. After the offender has engaged the minor in sexually inappropriate behavior, the offender seeks to maintain control over him/her. Grooming occurs through direct, in-person and/or online contact. Child sexual abuse involves any sexual activity with a child where consent is not or cannot be given.

Sexually abusive acts may include non-contact sexual acts such as verbal acts, sexually suggestive electronic or written communications, exposure or voyeurism.

Peer-to-Peer Child Sexual Abuse

Sexual contact between minors also can be abusive. Approximately 1/3 of all child sexual abuse occurs at the hands of other children and the obligation to report extends to peer-to-peer child sexual abuse. Whether or not a sexual interaction between children constitutes child sexual abuse turns on the existence of an aggressor, the age difference between the children, and/or whether there is an imbalance of power and/or intellectual capabilities.

MISCONDUCT

Misconduct refers to conduct and behaviors that are considered harmful to the psychological and physical health of athletes and other participants, regardless of age. The six individual forms of misconduct described below – emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, sexual misconduct, bullying, harassment and hazing – are considered misconduct regardless of intent.

Emotional Misconduct

- (1) A pattern of deliberate, non-contact behavior that has the potential to cause emotional or psychological harm to an athlete. Non-contact behaviors include:
 - a. verbal acts
 - b. physical intimidation
 - c. acts that deny attention or support
- (2) Any act or conduct described as emotional abuse or misconduct under federal or state law (e.g. child abuse, child neglect).

Exception

Emotional misconduct does not include professionally-accepted coaching methods of skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building, discipline or improving athletic performance.

Examples

Examples of emotional misconduct prohibited by this Guideline include, without limitation:

- (1) **Verbal Acts.** A pattern of verbal behaviors that (a) attack an athlete personally (e.g., calling them worthless, fat or disgusting) or (b) repeatedly and excessively yelling at a particular participant or participants in a manner that serves no productive training or motivational purpose.

- (2) **Physical Intimidation.** A pattern of physically aggressive behaviors, such as (a) throwing sport equipment, water bottles or chairs at, or in the presence of, participants; or (b) punching walls, windows or other objects.
- (3) **Acts that Deny Attention and Support.** A pattern of (a) ignoring an athlete for extended periods of time or (b) routinely or arbitrarily excluding participants from practice.

Physical Misconduct

- (1) Contact or non-contact behaviors that result in, have the potential to, or threaten to cause physical harm to an athlete or other sport participants; or
- (2) Any act or conduct described as physical abuse or misconduct under federal or state law (e.g. child abuse, child neglect, assault).

Examples

Examples of physical misconduct prohibited by this Guideline include, without limitation:

- (1) **Contact offenses.** Behaviors that include: (a) punching, beating, biting, striking, choking or slapping an athlete; (b) intentionally hitting an athlete with objects or sporting equipment; (c) providing alcohol to an athlete under the legal drinking age (under U.S. law); (d) providing illegal drugs or non-prescribed medications to any athlete; (e) encouraging or permitting an athlete to return to play pre-maturely following a serious injury, such as a concussion, and without the clearance of a medical professional; (f) prescribed dieting or other weight-control methods (e.g., weigh-ins, caliper tests) without regard for the nutritional well-being and health of athlete.
- (2) **Non-contact offenses.** Behaviors that include: (a) isolating an athlete in a confined space (e.g., locking an athlete in a small space); (b) forcing an athlete to assume a painful stance or position for no athletic purpose (e.g. requiring an athlete to kneel on a harmful surface); (c) withholding, recommending against or denying adequate hydration, nutrition, medical attention or sleep.

Exceptions

Physical misconduct does not include professionally-accepted coaching methods of skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building, appropriate discipline or improving athlete performance. For example, hitting, punching, and kicking are well-regulated forms of contact in combat sports, but have no place in swimming.

Sexual Misconduct

- (1) Any touching or non-touching sexual interaction that is (a) nonconsensual or forced, (b) coerced or manipulated, or (c) perpetrated in an aggressive, harassing, exploitative or threatening manner
- (2) Any sexual interaction between an athlete and an individual with evaluative, direct or indirect authority. Such relationships involve an imbalance of power and are likely to impair judgment or be exploitative

- (3) Grooming: Grooming is the process whereby a person engages in a series or pattern of behaviors with a goal of engaging in sexual misconduct. Grooming can occur through direct, in-person, and/or online contact.
- (4) Any act or conduct described as sexual abuse or misconduct under federal or state law (e.g. sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, rape)

Note: An imbalance of power is always assumed between a coach and an athlete.

Sexual misconduct includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual abuse and any other sexual intimacies that exploit an athlete. **Minors cannot consent to sexual activity with an adult**, and all sexual interaction between an adult and a minor is strictly prohibited.

Examples

Examples of sexual misconduct prohibited under this Guideline include, without limitation:

- (1) **Touching offenses.** Behaviors that include:
 - (a) fondling an athlete's breasts or buttocks
 - (b) exchange of reward in sport (e.g., team placement, scores, feedback) for sexual favors
 - (c) genital contact
 - (d) sexual relations or intimacies between participants in a position of trust, authority and/or evaluative and supervisory control over athletes or other sport participants
 - i. Authority and Trust.* Once the unique coach-athlete relationship is established, the authority and trust on the part of the coach over the athlete shall be assumed, regardless of age. Accordingly, sexual interaction or intimacies between a coach and an athlete or other participant are prohibited, regardless of age, both during coaching and during that period following coaching when the imbalance in power could jeopardize effective decision-making.
 - ii. Imbalance of Power.* Factors relevant to determining whether there is an imbalance of power include, but are not limited to: (a) the nature and extent of the coach's supervisory, evaluative or other authority over the athlete being coached; (b) the actual relationship between the parties; (c) the parties' respective roles; (d) the nature and duration of the sexual relations or intimacies; (e) the age of the coach; (f) the age of the athlete or participant; (g) and whether the coach has engaged in a pattern of sexual interaction with other athletes or participants.
- (e) sexually-oriented comments, jokes, or sexual innuendos made to or about an athlete, or other sexually harassing behaviors
- (f) a coach discussing his or her sex life with an athlete
- (g) a coach asking an athlete about his or her sex life
- (h) coach requesting or sending a nude or partial-dress photo to athlete
- (i) exposing athletes to pornographic material

- (j) sending athletes sexually explicit or suggestive electronic or written messages or photos (e.g. “sexting”)
- (k) deliberately exposing an athlete to sexual acts
- (l) deliberately exposing an athlete to nudity (except in situations where locker rooms and changing areas are shared)
- (m) sexual harassment; specifically, the sexual solicitation, physical advances, or verbal or nonverbal conduct that is sexual in nature, and
 - i. is unwelcome, offensive or creates a hostile environment, and the offending individual knows or is told this
 - ii. is sufficiently severe or intense to be harassing to a reasonable person in the context

Bullying

- (1) An intentional, persistent and repeated pattern of committing or willfully tolerating physical and non-physical behaviors that are intended, or have the reasonable potential, to cause fear, humiliation or physical harm in an attempt to socially exclude, diminish or isolate the targeted athlete(s), as a condition of membership
- (2) Any act or conduct described as bullying under federal or state law

Exceptions

Bullying does not include group or team behaviors that (a) are meant to establish normal team behaviors, or (b) promote a team environment. Bullying also does not include verbal admonitions to encourage team members to train harder and to push through a difficult training regimen.

Examples

Examples of bullying prohibited by this Guideline include, without limitation:

- (1) **Physical behaviors.** Behaviors that include (a) hitting, pushing, punching, beating, biting, striking, kicking, choking, or slapping an athlete; (b) throwing at, or hitting an athlete with, objects such as sporting equipment.
- (2) **Non Physical behaviors.** Behaviors that include (a) teasing, ridiculing, intimidating; (b) spreading rumors or making false statements; or (c) using electronic communications, social media, or other technology to harass, frighten, intimidate or humiliate (“cyber bullying”).

Harassment

- (1) A repeated pattern of physical and/or non-physical behaviors that (a) are intended to cause fear, humiliation or annoyance, (b) offend or degrade, (c) create a hostile environment or (d) reflect discriminatory bias in an attempt to establish dominance, superiority or power over an individual athlete or group based on gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender expression or mental or physical disability
- (2) Any act or conduct described as harassment under federal or state law

Examples

Examples of harassment prohibited by this Guideline include, without limitation:

- (1) **Physical offenses.** Behaviors that include (a) hitting, pushing, punching, beating, biting, striking, kicking, choking or slapping an athlete or participant; (b) throwing at or hitting an athlete with objects including sporting equipment
- (2) **Non-physical offenses.** Behaviors that include (a) making negative or disparaging comments about an athlete's sexual orientation, gender expression, disability, religion, skin color, or ethnic traits; (b) displaying offensive materials, gestures, or symbols; (c) withholding or reducing playing time to an athlete based on his or her sexual orientation.

Hazing

- (1) Coercing, requiring, forcing or willfully tolerating any humiliating, unwelcome or dangerous activity that serves as a condition for (a) joining a group or (b) being socially accepted by a group's members
- (2) Any act or conduct described as hazing under federal or state law

Exception

Hazing does not include group or team activities that (a) are meant to establish normative team behaviors or (b) promote team cohesion. Examples include, without limitation:

- (1) allowing junior athletes to carry senior athletes' equipment into the locker room after practice
- (2) encouraging junior athletes to arrive early and set up training equipment
- (3) giving senior athletes first preference in team assignments, responsibilities, accommodations, facilities or equipment

Examples

Examples of hazing prohibited by this Guideline include, without limitation:

- (1) requiring, forcing or otherwise requiring the consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs
- (2) tying, taping or otherwise physically restraining an athlete
- (3) sexual simulations or sexual acts of any nature
- (4) sleep deprivation, otherwise unnecessary schedule disruption or the withholding of water and/or food
- (5) social actions (e.g. grossly inappropriate or provocative clothing) or public displays (e.g. public nudity) that are illegal or meant to draw ridicule
- (6) beating, paddling or other forms of physical assault
- (7) excessive training requirements focused on individuals on a team

WILLFULLY TOLERATING MISCONDUCT

Failure to report forms of misconduct may result in a violation of State law.

REPORTING

Although these guidelines are designed to reduce child sexual abuse and other misconduct, it can still occur. AAU members (coaches, event organizers, volunteers, and staff), and participants of the AAU shall follow the reporting procedures set forth in the AAU's Athlete Protection Handbook. **The AAU does not investigate suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse, or attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of such allegations, as a condition of reporting suspicions or allegations to the appropriate law enforcement authorities and the AAU National Office.**



Chapter 3:

Managing Training and Competition

CREATING A SAFE AND POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT

COACHES EVALUATION

All registered non-athletes will take the AAU free offered Positive Coaching Alliance educational course as part of gaining membership into the AAU.

This Double-Goal Coach training program will give all team administrators, club directors, and coaches the tools they need to help youth athletes improve. PCA's online course is filled with powerful coaching tools that are based on the latest research in sports psychology and reflect the "best practices" of elite coaches and athletes, including such PCA National Advisory Board Members as Los Angeles Lakers Head Coach Phil Jackson, Boston Celtics Head Coach Doc Rivers, Naismith Hall of Fame basketball coaches Dean Smith and Larry Brown, former Kansas City Chiefs Head Coach Herm Edwards, Olympic Gold Medal Gymnast Bart Conner, Olympic Gold Medalist and former WNBA star Ruthie Bolton and Olympic Gold Medalist swimmer Summer Sanders, just to name a few.

Please visit www.aausports.org and click on PCA Coaches Test

SUPERVISION OF ATHLETES

During training and competition, the AAU strives to create two-deep leadership and minimize one-to-one interactions to create a safe training environment and to protect athletes and participants.

One-to-One Interactions

Appropriate one-on-one interactions with athletes

Individual Meetings

An individual meeting may be necessary to address an athlete's concerns, training program, or competition schedule. Under these circumstances, coaches, event organizers, volunteers, and staff members are to observe the following guidelines:

- Any individual meeting should occur when others are present and where interactions can be easily observed
- Where possible, an individual meeting should take place in a publicly visible and open area, such as the corner of a gym or pool deck
- If an individual meeting is to take place in an office, the door should remain unlocked and open
- If a closed-door meeting is necessary, the coach, staff member and/or volunteer must have another person in attendance and ensure the door remains unlocked

Individual Training Sessions

An individual training session(s) with an athlete or participant may also be desired or necessary. Under these circumstances, written permission of a minor athlete's parents or guardians is

recommended in advance of the individual training session(s), and the AAU encourages parents and guardians to attend the training session.

Prohibited one-to-one interactions with athletes

Except as set forth above, minor athletes and participants should not be left unattended or unsupervised during AAU activities. Coaches, event organizers, volunteers, and staff members are prohibited from being alone with an individual athlete or participant in any room or building. Social activities and fundraising events shall not be conducted on a one-on-one basis. These activities should include the entire team.

PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH ATHLETES

Appropriate physical contact between athletes and coaches, event organizers, volunteers, or staff members is a productive and inevitable part of sport. Athletes are more likely to acquire advanced physical skills and enjoy their sport participation through appropriate physical contact. However, guidelines for physical contact must be set to reduce the potential for misconduct in sport.

APPROPRIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT

The AAU adheres to the following guidelines in regards to physical contact with our athletes:

Common Criteria for Appropriate Physical Contact

Physical contact with athletes – for safety, consolation and celebration – has multiple criteria in common which make them both safe and appropriate. These include:

- the physical contact must take place in public
- there is no potential for physical or sexual intimacies during the physical contact
- the physical contact is for the benefit of the athlete, not to meet an emotional or other need of an adult

Safety

The safety of our athletes is paramount and in many instances we make the athletic space safer through appropriate physical contact. Examples include:

- spotting an athlete so that they will not be injured by a fall or piece of equipment
- positioning an athlete's body so that they more quickly acquire an athletic skill, get a better sense of where their body is in space, or improve their balance and coordination
- making athletes aware that they might be in harm's way because of other athletes practicing around them or because of equipment in use

Celebration

Sports are physical by definition and we recognize participants often express their joy of participation, competition, achievement and victory through physical acts. We encourage these public expressions of celebration, which include:

- greeting gestures such as high-fives, fist bumps, and brief hugs
- congratulatory gestures such as celebratory hugs, "jump arounds" and pats on the back for any form of athletic or personal accomplishment

Consolation

It may be appropriate to console an emotionally distressed athlete (e.g., an athlete who has been injured or has just lost a competition). Appropriate consolation includes:

- publicly embracing a crying athlete
- putting an arm around an athlete while verbally engaging them in an effort to calm them down (“side hugs”)
- lifting a fallen athlete off the playing surface to encourage them to continue competition

PROHIBITED PHYSICAL CONTACT

Prohibited forms of physical contact:

- asking or having an athlete sit in the lap of a coach, administrator, staff member or volunteer
- lingering or repeated embraces of athletes that go beyond the criteria set forth for physical contact
- slapping, hitting, punching, kicking or any other physical contact meant to discipline, punish or achieve compliance from an athlete
- “cuddling” or maintaining prolonged physical contact during any aspect of training, travel or overnight stay
- playful, yet inappropriate contact that is not a part of regular training, (e.g., tickling or “horseplay” wrestling)
- continued physical contact that makes an athlete obviously uncomfortable, whether expressed or not
- any contact that is contrary to a previously expressed personal desire for decreased or no physical contact, where such decreased contact is feasible in a competitive training environment.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

As part of the AAU's emphasis on athlete safety, all electronic communications between a coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

As with any communication, the content of any electronic communication should be readily available to share with the athlete's family. If the athlete is under the age of 21, any email, electronic text, social media or similar communication must copy or include the athlete's parents or guardians.

FACEBOOK, MYSPACE, BLOGS AND SIMILAR SITES

Coaches may not have athletes join a personal social media page. Athlete members and parents can friend the official club/team page and coaches can communicate to athlete members through the site. All posts, messages, text, or media of any kind between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team-oriented motivational purposes.

TWITTER, INSTANT MESSAGING AND SIMILAR MEDIA

Coaches and athletes may "follow" each other. Coaches cannot "re-tweet" athlete message posts. All posts between coach and athlete must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

EMAIL AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate. All email content between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Where the coach is a staff member and/or volunteer, email from a coach to any athlete should come from the club website email center (the coach's return email address will contain "@CLUB.com").

TEXTING AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Texting is allowed between coaches and athletes. All texts between coach and athlete must be professional and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

ELECTRONIC IMAGERY

From time to time, digital photos, videos of practice or competition, and other publicly obtainable images of the athlete – individually or in groups – may be taken. These photos and/or videos may be submitted to local, state or national publications, used in club videos, posted on club or club associated websites, or offered to the club families seasonally on disc or other electronic form. It is the default guideline of the AAU to allow such practices as long as the athlete or athletes are in public view and such imagery is both appropriate and in the best interest of the athlete and the club.

REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS OR IMAGERY

The parents or guardians of an athlete may request in writing that their child not be contacted by any form of electronic communication by coaches (photography or videography).

MISCONDUCT

Social media and electronic communications can also be used to commit misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by coaches, volunteers, administrators, officials, staff, parents or athletes are not acceptable and are considered violations of our Athlete Protection Handbook.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

The Amateur Athletic Union is concerned with locker room activities between minors, minors and adults, adults being alone with individual minors in locker rooms and changing areas, with non-official or non-related adults having unsupervised access to minor participants, and with inappropriate behavior among adults in locker rooms.

As part of the AAU's commitment to safety, the AAU recommends its clubs to publish practices for locker rooms and changing areas. Clubs should include the following information in their Locker Rooms and Changing Areas Guidelines:

- **Supervision.** CLUB must have and describe its practices for supervising and monitoring locker rooms and changing areas
- **Prohibited Conduct.** CLUB's guidelines must prohibit hazing, bullying, harassment and other forms of misconduct, as set forth in the AAU's Athlete Protection Handbook
- **User of Recording Devices.** CLUB's guidelines must prohibit the use of a device's recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras
- **Meetings.** For individual meetings with a minor participant and a coach in a locker room, the AAU recommends that at least one additional responsible adult be with the coach.

See Sample Guidelines in Appendix.

TRAVEL

As part of the AAU's commitment to athlete safety, the AAU recommends its clubs to have published practices for team travel. Team Travel is defined as overnight travel to a team activity that is planned and supervised by the CLUB. CLUB travel policies should be signed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches and other adults traveling with the club.

Clubs should include the following in their Travel Guidelines:

- Club travel policies must be signed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches and other adults traveling with the club.
- Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an athlete(s) (unless the coach is the parent, guardian, sibling or spouse of that particular athlete).
- When only one athlete and one coach travel to a competition, the athlete must have his or her parents' (or legal guardian's) written permission in advance to travel alone with the coach.

See Sample Guidelines in Appendix.



Chapter 4:

Responding to Abuse, Misconduct and Guideline Violations

CREATING A SAFE AND POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT

REPORTING GUIDELINES

Any report of misconduct or suspicions of child physical or sexual abuse will be taken seriously and handled appropriately. Every AAU member (coach, event organizer, volunteer, and staff) must report suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse to both (a) **the appropriate law enforcement authorities** and to (b) the AAU National Office.

The AAU does not investigate suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse or attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of such allegations as a condition for reporting to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

REPORTING PROCEDURE

To Whom to Report

Reports must be made to local law enforcement and the AAU National Office Compliance Department.

How to Report

The AAU will take a report in a verbal or written form. Regardless of how you choose to report, it is helpful to the AAU for individuals to provide, at a minimum, (1) the name and contact information of the person making the report; (2) the type of misconduct alleged and the name(s) of the individual(s) alleged to have committed the misconduct; (3) date of the incident; (4) name of the alleged victim.

CONFIDENTIALITY

To the extent permitted by law, and as appropriate, the AAU will keep confidential the complainant's name on request, not make public the names of potential victims, the accused perpetrator or the people who made a report of child physical and sexual abuse to the authorities.

HOW REPORTS ARE HANDLED

Suspicions or Allegations of Child Physical or Sexual Abuse

Reporting to Law Enforcement and/or Child Protective Services

An independent investigation can harm youth and/or interfere with the legal investigative process. The AAU, its staff members and/or volunteers **do not attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of child physical or sexual abuse as a condition for reporting to appropriate law enforcement authorities.** As necessary, however, the AAU may ask a few clarifying questions of the minor or

person making the report to adequately report the suspicion or allegation to law enforcement authorities.

Immediate Notification

When an allegation of child physical or sexual abuse is made against a staff member, youth and/or volunteer, the AAU may immediately notify the member that he or she is ineligible to participate in any AAU activities. As necessary, the AAU may suspend or change the assignment of a staff member and/or volunteer.

All AAU members (coaches, event organizers, volunteers, and staff) are mandatory reporters. Failure to report to local law enforcement and the AAU National Office will subject the individual(s) to disciplinary procedures under the AAU Code.

VIOLATIONS

Upon receiving notification of a violation of the misconduct provisions of the AAU Athlete Protection Handbook, the Department of Compliance may refer the matter to the attention of the Chair of the National Board of Review. The Chair may:

- a) When there is uncontroverted evidence of a violation, or pending charges, void or block the offender's membership.
- b) Initiate a National Board of Review inquiry or complaint.



APPENDIX

Definitions, FAQ's, and Sample Guidelines

DEFINITIONS

Child, children, minor and youth

Anyone under the age of 21. Here, “child,” “children,” “minor” and “youth” are used interchangeably.

Child physical abuse

- Non-accidental trauma or physical injury caused by contact behaviors, such as punching, beating, kicking, biting, burning or otherwise harming a child. Child physical abuse may also include non-contact physical misconduct as described in the Athlete Protection Handbook.
- Legal definitions vary by state. To find guidelines concerning your state, visit the Child Welfare Information Gateway (www.childwelfare.gov).

Child sexual abuse

- Child sexual abuse involves any sexual activity with a child where consent is not or cannot be given. This includes sexual contact with a minor that is accomplished by deception, manipulation, force or threat of force regardless of whether there is deception or the child understands the sexual nature of the activity. Sexual contact between minors can also be abusive if there is a significant imbalance of power or disparity in age, development or size, such that one child is the aggressor. The sexually abusive acts may include sexual penetration, sexual touching or non-contact sexual acts such as verbal acts, sexually suggestive written or electronic communications, exposure or voyeurism.
- Legal definitions vary by state. To find guidelines concerning your state, visit the Child Welfare Information Gateway (www.childwelfare.gov).

Misconduct

Conduct which results in harm, the potential for harm or the imminent threat of harm. Age is irrelevant to misconduct. There are six primary types of misconduct in sport: emotional, physical and sexual misconduct, bullying, harassment and hazing.

Participants

Participants are those who participate in a sport activity through a particular club or organization. Participants may include athletes, coaches, officials or referees. Participants include (or may be) minors.

FAQ's

1. Do I purchase my membership first?

Yes you can purchase your membership first or you can purchase your membership and the club membership at the same time. NOTE: The membership and club will be pending until the membership screening process is complete.

2. Do I have to pay extra for the background check?

There is no extra fee. Your background screening is included in your membership fee.

3. Will I be background screened yearly?

Yes. It is part of the membership application.

4. I have a background check done through my Job, club, or Governing Body every year. Can you use that information?

No. Federal Law does not allow organizations to share background screening information. We cannot use any other source or data for our background screening process. You must go through our screening process. The same process must be used for all our adult members.

5. I am an adult athlete and I do not participate with youth athletes, do I still have to have the background screening done?

Yes. All adult members must be screened. No exceptions. The AAU seeks to provide a safe environment for all members.

6. I purchased a multi-year membership. My membership is good for two years. What happens now?

Any Adults with multi-year memberships will be contacted by mail with instructions on how to electronically sign the Disclosure and Authorization form (a web page). You will need to do this by August 15th or your membership status will be moved to pending until this process is completed.

7. If my membership is not approved what happens?

You can contact the AAU Compliance Department at 407-934-7200 for further instructions.

SAMPLE GUIDELINES

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

The following guidelines are designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas.

FACILITIES

The following is a description of our practice and competition facilities to allow athletes and their families to plan their use:

We practice at:

LOCATION ADDRESS

This location has: DESCRIPTION SELECTION

Sample locker room descriptions:

- (a) No locker room or changing facilities. Athletes will be expected to come dressed for practice and to change and shower at home.
- (b) A changing area that is shared with the general public. As such, there are likely to be people who are not associated with ORGANIZATION in the changing area around the time of practice.
- (c) A changing area and locker room dedicated to our athletes and teams.

Our home competitions will be held at: LOCATION ADDRESS(ES). The location(s) has (have): SAME DESCRIPTION SELECTION AS ABOVE.

When we travel for competition the facilities may differ from location to location. We will work with the host team to provide as much information about the locker room and changing areas as early as possible, and post that information as soon as it's available.

MONITORING

CLUB has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., immediately before and following practices and competitions). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this would likely make athletes uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion.

We conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before athletes arrive, post staff members directly outside of the locker rooms and changing areas during periods of use, and leave the doors open only when adequate privacy is still possible. Staff members conduct regular sweeps

inside these areas as well, with women checking on female-designated areas, and men checking on male-designated areas.

-OR-

CLUB has staggered practices, with different groups arriving and departing throughout the day. It is therefore not practical to constantly monitor locker rooms and changing areas over this extended course of time. While we do not post staff members inside or at the doors of the locker rooms and changing areas, we do make occasional sweeps of these areas. Staff members conduct these sweeps, with women checking on female-designated areas, and men checking on male-designated areas.

Coaches and staff make every effort to recognize when an athlete goes to the locker room or changing area during practice and competition and, if they do not return in a timely fashion, we will check on the athlete's whereabouts.

Given the potential discomfort of having non-coaches and non-athletes in the locker rooms and changing areas, we discourage parents from entering those areas unless it is truly necessary. Under such circumstances, only a same-sex parent should go into a locker room and changing area.

If an athlete needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear (for example, a child under the age of eight), or an athlete's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that parents let the coach or an administrator know beforehand that he or she will be helping the athlete.

MIXED-GENDER TEAMS

If the team consists of both male and female athletes, both female and male privacy rights must be given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. Where possible, CLUB has the male and female players dress/undress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single dressing room before the game or team meeting. Once the game is finished, the players may come to one locker room and then the male and female players proceed to their separate dressing rooms to undress and shower (separately), if available. If separate locker rooms are not available, then the athletes will take turns using the locker room to change.

USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER MOBILE RECORDING DEVICES

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras increase the risk for different forms of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas. As a result, **THERE WILL BE NO USE OF A DEVICE'S RECORDING CAPABILITIES IN THE LOCKER ROOMS OR CHANGING AREAS.**

SAMPLE GUIDELINES

TRAVEL

Travel will be a standard aspect of our competitive season and CLUB has established policies to guide our travel, minimize one-on-one interactions and reduce the risk of misconduct. Adherence to these travel guidelines will increase athlete safety and improve the competitive experience while keeping travel a fun and enjoyable experience.

LOCAL AND TEAM TRAVEL

We distinguish between travel to training, practice and local competition (“local travel”), and team travel involving a coordinated overnight stay (“team travel”).

Local Travel

Local travel occurs when CLUB does not sponsor, coordinate, or arrange for travel. For local travel, athletes or their parents/guardians (for minor athletes) are responsible for making all travel arrangements. In these instances, it is the responsibility of the athlete or their parents/guardians (for minor athletes) to ensure the person transporting the athlete maintains all safety and legal requirements, including, but not limited to, a valid driver’s license, proper insurance, well maintained vehicle, and compliance with all state laws.

In an effort to minimize one-on-one interactions, CLUB staff members, coaches and/or volunteers, who are not also acting as a parent, should not drive alone with an unrelated athlete and should only drive with at least two other athletes or another adult at all times, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the athlete’s parent or guardian in advance of travel. In any case where a staff member and/or volunteer is involved in the athlete’s local travel, a parental release is required in advance. Efforts must be made to ensure that staff and/or volunteers are not alone with an athlete or participant, by, e.g., picking the athletes up in groups.

Coaches, staff members and volunteers who are also an athlete’s guardian may provide shared transportation for any athlete(s). We encourage guardians to pick up their athlete first and drop off their athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement. We also recommend completing a shared travel declaration form signed by the parents/guardians of any minor athlete who is being transported as part of such a carpool arrangement.

Team Travel

Team travel is overnight travel that occurs when CLUB sponsors, coordinates or arranges for travel so that our teams can compete locally, regionally, or nationally. Because of the greater distances, coaches, staff, volunteers and chaperones will often travel with the athletes. However, no coach, staff member, or volunteer will engage in team travel without the proper safety requirements in place, including valid drivers’ licenses, proper insurance, well-maintained vehicles and compliance with all state laws. Drivers of vehicle should be age 21 or older.

CLUB makes efforts to provide adequate supervision through coaches and other adult chaperones.

Appropriate adult-to-athlete ratios will depend on the age of your athletes and other participants. Evaluate your program to determine your supervisory needs.

For team travel, hotels and air travel will be booked in advance by CLUB. Athletes will share rooms, with 2-4 athletes assigned per room depending on accommodations. CLUB will also notify hotel management should any special arrangements be warranted. For instance, we will ask hotels to block pay per view channels and we will request an additional large room or suite so that our members and athletes may socialize as a group. Meetings do not occur in hotel rooms, and we will reserve a separate space for adults and athletes to socialize.

We encourage family members who wish to stay in the team hotel to do so. If family members do not stay in the team hotel, we encourage all athletes to call parents and guardians regularly and allow for any unscheduled calls by either the athlete or parent/guardian.

INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL (For Individual Sports)

The nature of our sport and competition structure means that individual athletes may sometimes need to travel overnight without other athletes. Under these circumstances, we encourage minimizing one-on-one time between a coach and athlete by:

1. Traveling with an additional coach or chaperone
2. Inviting parents/guardians to travel with their athlete (for athletes under age 20)

For individual travel, we attempt to provide alternative guidelines. Depending on the nature of the travel and competition, these guidelines may include:

1. Compressing the travel schedule to reduce the number of nights athletes are away from home
2. Providing regular organizational check-in phone calls to the traveling athlete and coach
3. Encouraging more frequent and unscheduled check-in phone calls initiated by parents/guardians (for minor athletes)
4. Complying with reasonable parental requests when a child is a way from home without a guardian

When only one athlete and one coach travel to a competition, *the athlete must have his or her parents' or legal guardian's written permission in advance to travel alone with the coach.*

TRAVEL NOTIFICATION

When possible, CLUB will provide reasonable advance notice before team travel. Notice will include the dates, location and duration of competition. Travel notice will also include designated team hotels for overnight stays as well as a contact person within the club/team. This individual will be the point of contact to confirm your intention to travel and to help with travel details.

CLUB will post specific travel itineraries when they become available. These will include a more detailed, hour-by-hour itinerary as well as contact information for team travel chaperones.

MIXED-GENDER AND MIXED-AGE TRAVEL

CLUB is made up of male and female athletes across various ages. Athletes will only share a room with other athletes of the same sex and age group. Athletes will also be grouped by age and sex for the purposes of assigning an appropriate chaperone. We will make every effort to provide these groups at least one chaperone of the same sex. However, we rely on parents to serve as chaperones and may be limited in providing this match.

Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an athlete (unless the coach is the parent, guardian, sibling or spouse of that particular athlete). Where an adult is registered both as a coach and an athlete member of CLUB, and is functioning primarily as a coach, he or she may share sleeping arrangements with another registered coach.

COACH AND STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

During team travel, coaches and staff members will help athletes, fellow coaches and staff members adhere to these guidelines, including, without limitation, the Travel Guidelines, Locker Rooms and Changing Areas Guidelines and Reporting Guidelines.

If a coach or staff member transports an athlete or other organization member in their private car for team travel, a copy of the coach's or staff member's valid driver's license is required.

When not practicing, training, competing, or preparing for competition, coaches and staff will monitor the activities of athletes, fellow coaches and staff during team travel. Coaches and staff will:

- a. prepare athletes for team travel and make athletes aware of all expectations. Supplemental information will be given to parents/guardians of athletes who are considered inexperienced travelers, new or relatively new to team travel, or who are under the age of 14
- b. familiarize themselves with all travel itineraries and schedules before the initiation of team travel
- c. conform to, and monitor for others' adherence, the Athlete Protection Handbook and all guidelines during team travel
- d. encourage minor athletes to participate in regular, at least daily, scheduled communications with their parents/guardians
- e. help athletes be on time for all team commitments (as possible)
- f. assist with team travel logistical needs (as possible)
- g. support chaperones and/or participate in the monitoring of athletes for adherence to curfew restrictions set based on age and competition schedule as listed in travel itinerary
- h. ensure athletes are complying with hotel room restrictions based on gender or age bracket requirements
- i. make certain that athletes are not alone in a hotel room with any adult apart from a family member; this includes coaches, staff and chaperones

- j. not use drugs or alcohol in the presence of minors or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing their coaching duties
- k. immediately report any concerns about physical or sexual abuse, misconduct, or guideline violations
- l. notify parents before taking any disciplinary action against a minor athlete if the athlete is traveling without his or her parents.

CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES

Chaperones accompany team travel to ensure that the athletes, coaches, staff, and volunteers adhere to the CLUB's guidelines. While these include the travel guidelines, it also includes all other relevant policies contained in the AAU's Athlete Protection Handbook.

If a chaperone has not undergone a criminal background check, the chaperone will not be permitted to have any one-on-one interactions with athletes or other youth participants. If a chaperone has undergone a criminal background check, he or she may have appropriate one-on-one interactions as outlined in the AAU's Athlete Protection Handbook.

If a chaperone will be operating a private car for team travel, a copy of the chaperone's valid driver's license is required.

Chaperones will monitor the activities of all coaches, staff members, volunteers and athletes during team travel. Specifically, chaperones will:

- a. familiarize themselves with all travel itineraries and schedules before team travel
- b. monitor for adherences to club guidelines during team travel
- c. encourage minor athletes to participate in regular, at least daily, scheduled communications with their parents/guardians
- d. help athletes be on time for all team commitments (as possible)
- e. assist coaches, staff and other volunteers with team travel logistical needs (as possible)
- f. monitor athletes for adherence to curfew restrictions set based on age and competition schedule as listed in travel itinerary
- g. ensure athletes comply with hotel room restrictions based on gender or age bracket requirements
- h. not use drugs or alcohol in the presence of minors or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing their chaperone duties
- i. make certain that athletes are not alone in a hotel room with any adult apart from a family member; this includes coaches, staff and chaperones
- j. immediately report any concerns about sexual and physical abuse, misconduct or guideline violations to local law enforcement.

Double-Goal Coach® Job Description

TO: All Coaches

DATE: _____

FROM: _____

RE: What We Expect of You

You are the most important person in our organization. You determine the kind of experience our athletes have with sports. We are committed to the principles of Positive Coaching. We expect our coaches to be “Double-Goal Coaches” who want to win and help players learn “life lessons” and positive character traits from sports. The following is what we expect from you during the coming the season.

1. Model and teach your players to Honor the Game. Teach the elements of ROOTS – Respect for: Rules, Opponents, Officials, Teammates, and one’s Self.

- Appoint a parent to be “Culture Keeper” for the team.
- Share with your players’ parents your desire for them to Honor the Game.
- Drill Honoring the Game in practice.
- Seize teachable moments to talk with players about Honoring the Game.

2. Help players Redefine what it means to be a “Winner” in terms of Mastery, not just the Scoreboard:

- Teach players the ELM Tree of Mastery (Effort, Learning, and bouncing back from Mistakes).
- Use a “Team Mistake Ritual” (like “Flushing Mistakes”) to help players quickly rebound from mistakes.
- Reward effort, not just good outcomes. Look to recognize players for unsuccessful effort.
- Encourage players to set “Effort Goals” that are tied to how hard they try.
- Use Targeted Symbolic Rewards to reinforce effort and team play.

3. Fill your players’ Emotional Tanks.

- Use encouragement and positive reinforcement as your primary method of motivating.
- Strive to achieve the 5:1 “Magic Ratio” of 5 positive reinforcements to each criticism/correction.
- Schedule “fun activities” for practices, so players will enjoy their sport.
- Use the “Buddy System” to teach players to fill each other’s Emotional Tanks.
- Develop “player coaches” by asking for player input and asking rather than telling them what to do.
- Learn to give “Kid-Friendly Criticism” so players will be able to hear it. Criticize in private, “Ask Permission,” use the Criticism Sandwich, avoid giving criticism in non-teachable moments.

4. Have Conversations during Team Meetings with your players at every practice and every game.

- Review Honoring the Game, the ELM Tree and the Emotional Tank throughout the season.
- Remind players about these three concepts before and after every game.
- Ask questions and encourage players to speak and contribute during team meetings.
- Use the Winner’s Circle after a game to reinforce the positive things players did.

At the end of the season we will survey your players and their parents to give you feedback on how you did at implementing these Positive Coaching principles during the season. We will share the results with you. Thank you for all your time and effort!

I agree _____
Coach Signature Date

For more from Positive Coaching Alliance, visit www.positivecoach.org.



AAU ATHLETE PROTECTION REPORTING FORM

Reporting Abuse

AAU requires reporting of sexual misconduct by any member and strongly encourages reporting of any concerns relating to the protection of youth athletes. AAU appreciates your willingness to report inappropriate behavior. By submitting this form, you are giving permission to AAU staff to contact you.

Out of respect for the importance of this issue and to encourage honest and effective reporting, knowingly making a false or vindictive report will not be tolerated.

Person Being Reported

Provide as much information as possible about the person you are reporting.

First Name *

Last Name *

Age or Approximate Age

Gender Female Male

Club Affiliation (or None) *

Position(s) this individual holds or held * Head Coach Assistant Coach Athlete Official
 Other

Alleged Offense Information

Provide as much specific information as you are able.

Type of Offense (*select all that apply*)* Bullying Inappropriate Communication Inappropriate Touching
 Physical Abuse Sexual Abuse Other

Did Incident Occur at an AAU Sanctioned Event? * Yes No Not Sure

If Yes, Enter Event Name & Sanction # if known:

Location that the incident(s) took place *
Enter *Unknown* or City, State, Specific Location

Date(s) of Alleged Offense *

Description of Alleged Offense (*include as much detail as possible*)

Knowledge of victim(s) involved in the alleged offense I am not aware of any victim(s) involved with the alleged offense
 I am aware of victim(s) involved

Victim or Victims

If you are the victim and wish to remain anonymous, please enter your name as Anonymous. You may also be unaware of who the victim is. In that case, please enter Unknown.

First Name *

Last Name *

Age or Approximate Age
(None) *

Gender Female Male Club Affiliation (or

Additional Information

Fill this section out if additional victims are involved.

First Name *

Last Name *

Age or Approximate Age

Gender Female Male

Club Affiliation (or None) *

Individual(s) Who May Have Additional Information

List anyone who may be able to provide additional information regarding the alleged offense. We will not identify you when we contact these individuals.

First Name *

Last Name *

Phone #
(if any)

Email Address

Club Affiliation

First Name *

Last Name *

Phone #
(if any)

Email Address

Club Affiliation

Report Submitted By

All reports are kept strictly confidential by AAU. A person reporting alleged misconduct should not fear any retribution and/or consequence when filing a report he/she believes is true.

First Name *

Last Name *

Phone #

Email Address

Date *

AAU Member* Yes No Not Sure

Club Affiliation (if any)

Relationship to victim (if any)* Self Parent/Guardian Other family member Friend or acquaintance

Club member Coach or volunteer Prefer not to say

Other

Additional Information

Enter any other information that you feel would be helpful to an investigation of the alleged offense you have reported:

This form can be submitted to the AAU National Office via:

Email: compliance@aausports.org

Fax: 407-828-0166

US Postal Service:

AAU

Compliance Department

PO Box 22409

Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830



In RE: Michelle Bell
v.
Amanda Paulkin
Bernie Lynch

File No. 21-086

Notice of Dismissal of Complaint

This matter was presented to the Board previously, and it was referred to the infractions committee of Hockey for appropriate action. The complaint was investigated and dismissed. No further timely action was taken.

Therefore, the Board has no further jurisdiction and the complaint is dismissed.

Appeal

Ms. Bell may appeal this decision to the National Board of Appeals within 30 days of this date; however, appeals do not stay this action unless an Order for Stay is issued by the Board of Appeals Chair. An appeal requires filing a written petition for appeal along with a \$500.00 appeal fee. The notice of the appeal shall be delivered to the AAU National Office Compliance Department who will notify the National Board of Appeals of the appeal request. The address of the AAU National Office is PO Box 22409, Lake Buena Vista, FL, 32830, ATTN: Compliance.

Date: April 19, 2021

/s/

Rod Seaford
Chair, National Board of Review

Distribution: M. Bell
R. White
K. Noll

File Number 21-086



HOCKEY CANADA

Action Bulletin d'action

Bulletin No.: A1915

To: Directors
Member Presidents
Member Executive Directors
Life Patrons
Hockey Canada Staff

Date: October 1, 2019

From: Michael Brind'Amour, Chair of the Board & Tom Renney, CEO

**SUBJECT: NON-SANCTIONED LEAGUES – LEAGUES OPERATING
OUTSIDE THE AUSPICES OF HOCKEY CANADA**

I. Overview – The LTAD Model

As the governing body of amateur hockey in Canada, Hockey Canada is committed to offering the best development programs in the world. Hockey Canada and our Members have invested significant resources in the development of officials, coaches, administrators and players countrywide. We have a committed strategy toward a cohesive long term athlete development (LTAD) model and we feel our programs are second to none in sport.

The LTAD model is intended to optimize athlete development and performance. Excessive on-ice activity, particularly in high-intensity games may: (a) hinder athlete development; (b) cause repetitive strain injuries and (c) lead to athlete burn-out. The LTAD model sets out specific parameters for weekly on-ice participation, to ensure that players are not over-competing and under training and have sufficient time for rest and recovery. The goal of the LTAD model is to keep as many players playing at as high a level as possible for as long as possible.

Hockey Canada's LTAD model includes a competitive stream and a recreational stream. The model is age appropriate, with increasing levels of on-ice activity (games and practices) as an athlete grows older. Players within the same age group engage in different levels of on-ice activity, depending on the stream in which they are participating.

The commitment level required to play on a team that is eligible to compete for a Regional

or National Championship is significant. Under the LTAD model, an athlete participating at the competitive level as a 15 year old will, on average, be on the ice at least four times per week during the hockey season. That frequency can increase even further for Junior aged players.

II. Non-Sanctioned Hockey and its Impact on the LTAD Model

Despite, or perhaps because of, our success in delivering quality programming throughout Canada, other organizations operating outside our structure form leagues from time to time that offer various levels of amateur hockey programming. These “non-sanctioned” organizations do not support the development of Hockey Canada or Member programs. Further, they operate with limited, or no consideration to the impact of their programs on minor, junior, senior, adult recreational hockey, officiating development, female hockey, coaching development or administrator development in Canada. These Non- Sanctioned Leagues choose instead, in many instances, to utilize resources already developed by Hockey Canada and its Members.

Because these Non-Sanctioned Leagues operate outside of our structure, Hockey Canada has no way of ensuring that those Leagues implement many of the fundamental safeguards inherent in Hockey Canada programs and the LTAD model. Those Leagues may not be using the same Playing Rules that Hockey Canada has implemented to protect player safety and may not provide adequate insurance for their participants. Hockey Canada also cannot ensure that the quality of play in these Leagues matches the level advertised.

III. Definitions

“**Bench Staff**” means coaches, assistant coaches and trainers.

“**Cut-Off Date**” means September 30 of the hockey season in question.

“**League**” means a Non-Sanctioned League.

“**Non-Sanctioned League**” includes any amateur hockey league that operates in Canada outside the auspices/sanctioning of Hockey Canada, or in any other country outside the auspices/sanctioning of the Member National Association of the International Ice Hockey Federation in that country. This currently does not include summer hockey leagues/teams, adult recreational hockey leagues/teams, high school hockey, college or university hockey, and/or hockey schools.

“**Participate**” means to engage, knowingly or otherwise, in an activity within a Non-Sanctioned League that could only be engaged in within Hockey Canada if the participant was properly registered on the Hockey Canada Registry. Such activity includes, without limitation, playing, managing, coaching, officiating, or acting as a trainer.

“**Participation**” in a Non-Sanctioned League will be considered to have occurred if the individual takes part in one game (including an exhibition, tournament, league or playoff game) after the Cut-Off Date.

IV. Consequences of Supporting or Participating in a Non-Sanctioned League

Hockey Canada respects the right of every individual at the beginning of each hockey season to choose between participating in a league sanctioned by Hockey Canada, or in a Non-Sanctioned League. Participating in both a Non-Sanctioned Hockey League and a sanctioned league, however, is inconsistent with the LTAD model, particularly for players and Bench Staff in Hockey Canada's competitive stream. Every individual who makes the choice to Participate in a Non-Sanctioned League, therefore, must understand the ramifications of that choice on their ability to participate in Hockey Canada's programming, as described in greater detail below.

A. Players Participating in a Non-Sanctioned League in Canada

- 1) In recognition of the high level of commitment required from players participating in the competitive stream under our LTDP model, Hockey Canada Regulation M.3 only allows those players to register with one team, if that team is eligible to compete for a Regional or National Championship. Consistent with those Regulations, any player who chooses to participate in a Non-Sanctioned League after the Cut-Off Date will be ineligible to register with or affiliate to a Hockey Canada team that is eligible to compete for a Regional or National Championship for the remainder of that season, subject to paragraph (2) below.
- 2) Notwithstanding the consequences listed in paragraph 1), any player who Participates in a Non Sanctioned League after the Cut-Off Date and ceases that Participation at some point during the hockey season, is entitled to seek early reinstatement of their privileges within Hockey Canada prior to February 10 by appealing to Hockey Canada's Non-Sanctioned Hockey Reinstatement Committee, which may grant early reinstatement only if it is satisfied that: (a) special circumstances exist; and (b) the player seeking reinstatement will not be displacing a player from the team of the roster he or she is seeking to join.
- 3) In an effort to be as inclusive as possible, and in recognition of the fact that a lesser commitment level may be required of players not playing on a Regional or National championship eligible team, the provisions of this section IV.A shall only apply to players who are seeking to play on teams are eligible to compete for a Regional or National Championship. In accordance with Hockey Canada By-Law 10.2 Members shall have the right to apply the policy more restrictively, as described in section V of this Policy, to meet the unique program delivery issues within their respective geographic regions.

B. Players Participating in a Non-Sanctioned League Outside Canada

Hockey Canada's Regulations prescribe the manner in which players are permitted to move from teams registered with other Member National Associations (MNA) of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) to Hockey Canada. For leagues that choose not to register with the Member National Association in their country, Hockey Canada must implement appropriate measures to control orderly player movement from those leagues to Hockey

Canada teams.

Any individual who participates in a Non-Sanctioned League outside Canada after the Cut-Off Date, and wishes to register with *any* Hockey Canada team after the Cut-Off Date must follow the reinstatement process described in section IV.A.2 above.

C. Non-Player Participants (Bench Staff)

Hockey Canada believes that it is important for its Registered Participants, particularly those involved in the game in the competitive stream, to subscribe to and support the principles found in the LTAD Model. This includes Bench Staff, who are expected to be role models for the players, and champions of the LTAD model. If a non-player Participant chooses to Participate in a Non-Sanctioned League after the Cut-Off Date, they will not be permitted to be a member of the Bench Staff of any Hockey Canada team for the remainder of that season.

D. Non-Player Participants (Officials)

On-Ice Officials, including referees and linesmen, are representing Hockey Canada when they officiate Hockey Canada sanctioned games. It is expected, therefore, that they will be strong supporters of Hockey Canada's LTAD model and will not generally engage in officiating in Non-Sanctioned Leagues. If any Official chooses to officiate Non-Sanctioned League games, that participation may be taken into account in determining whether that Official will be granted assignments for Hockey Canada sanctioned programming for the remainder of that season.

V. Further Restrictions re. Non-Sanctioned Hockey

Members may implement more restrictive Non-Sanctioned Hockey policies for Divisions and Categories of hockey that do not compete for Regional or National Championships. Any Member implementing such a policy must take appropriate measures to ensure that no player who has Participated in a Non-Sanctioned League after the Cut-Off Date, is able to play on a team that is eligible to compete for a Regional or National Championship, either through registration with, or affiliation to, that team, for the remainder of that season, without following the reinstatement procedure described in section IV.A.2 of this Policy.

VI. Other Considerations

This Policy should only be applied to individuals who are Participants in Non-Sanctioned Leagues. A parent or sibling should not be prevented from participating fully in Hockey Canada programming solely because their child, brother or sister is playing in a Non-Sanctioned League.

As the governing body of amateur hockey in Canada, and in the interests of bettering the game of hockey in our country, Hockey Canada recognizes that its mission to lead, develop and promote positive hockey experiences, extends to the sharing of its expertise with anyone who might benefit from it, including those who have chosen to Participate in hockey programming in a Non-Sanctioned League. Individuals should be permitted to participate in Hockey Canada coaching, officiating, and trainer clinics, therefore, even if they are currently Participating, or intend to Participate, as a coach, official, or trainer in a Non-Sanctioned League. Members may wish to consider charging Participants in Non-Sanctioned Leagues a higher fee for these clinics, as a means of illustrating the value of being a Registered Participant of Hockey Canada.

The consequences described in this Bulletin will remain in effect even if the Non-Sanctioned League or team folds, or the Participant is released, suspended or fired from that League or team.