



St. Catharines Female Hockey Association Cell Phone Policy

The following document outlines the SCFHA dressing room procedures that are guidelines and recommendations directed from the OWHA. These procedures are to be read by all coaching staff, players and parents prior to the start of the hockey season. The cell phone policy rules have been reviewed, discussed, approved and implemented into the current SCFHA Bylaws & Constitution. (Amended 2019) These procedures are in place to protect players from bullying, hazing, and social media misconduct. All players, coaching staff, parents, both male and female must follow the procedures set in place.

OWHA Cell Phone Recommendations

It is recommended by the OWHA that associations “prohibit the use of cell phones and personal digital assistance in all recreation facility change rooms.”

SCFHA Cell Phone Policy and Rules

Based on the OWHA cell phone recommendations, a new SCFHA cell phone policy has been developed to protect the privacy and integrity of our players and coaches within our organization.

All electronic devices with picture taking capabilities are not to be used or to be visible in any SCFHA dressing room at any time. If the coaching staff of any SCFHA team decides to expand this policy further and make the decision to prohibit all electronic devices from entering the dressing room, the SCFHA executive board of directors will support this action.

This policy is intended to include (but is not limited to) all players, coaches, team moms, parents, executive board members and anyone else who steps foot in a SCFHA dressing room. **A player's failure to comply will result in an automatic 3 game suspension.** There will be no exceptions to this policy being enforced.

Failure to comply with this policy may also result in fines being imposed by the Niagara Regional Police or OPP.

If a complaint is brought to the attention of anyone in the SCFHA organization, that a person(s) or player(s) within the organization has been caught using communication technology/social media within a dressing room, which includes but is not limited to, taking pictures and posting them on social media, email, and any form of distribution, will result in an in person meeting with the disciplinary board. As well OWHA and local police authorities will be notified of the

situation. Niagara Regional Police or OPP can impose charges at their discretion following an investigation.

Any financial costs applied to the SCFHA due to the person(s) or player(s) failure to comply with this policy will be recovered through legal action to compensate the SCFHA. There will be no financial compensation/ reimbursement to the player(s)/parents/guardians for games/tournaments/playoffs missed due to suspension prior to the players hearing. If any SCFHA athlete does not adhere to this policy, then a hearing will be set up with the Board of Directors/ Disciplinary Board to discuss the player's suspension or complete removal from the association.

Cyber Bullying

Any form of bullying including cyber bullying will not be tolerated by the SCFHA and will result in the offending person having a meeting with the SCFHA Disciplinary board to determine what action will be taken. Cyber bullying involves the use of information and communication technologies such as email, cell phones and text messaging, camera phones, instant messaging, social networking sites; and all other forms of electronic information transfer to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour by an individual or group that is intended to harm others, threaten, harass, embarrass, socially exclude or damage reputations and friendships.

In addition to the above policy, silly, disruptive play and or aggressive acts will not be tolerated. Violators will be removed from the dressing room and will be disciplined at the discretion of the coach under the direction of the Board of Directors.