**To:** ALLIANCE Hockey Associations
 **From:** Tony Martindale

**Date:** August 15, 2019

**RE:** Important Coach Information and 2019-20 OHF Minimum Suspension List

The Ontario Hockey Federation 2019-20 Minimum Suspension List has recently been released.

Link here: [2019-2020 OHF Minimum Suspension List – Minor Hockey](https://alliancehockey.com/Public/Documents/Forms/OHF_Minimum_Suspension_List_-_Minor_%282019-2020%29_-_ALLIANCE_Hockey_Version.pdf)

In addition to the Minimum Suspension List, below are seasonal reminders for all participating teams and Coaching Staffs:

**Head Coach Responsibilities**

Please review the OHF Suspension List with your team, including players and coaches. Some infractions are accumulative, such as fighting, head checks, etc. Coaching infractions can be accumulative as well. Anything identified as an indefinite suspension requires either a disciplinary hearing or review by the ALLIANCE Hockey Discipline Committee to determine the length of suspension.

**Pre-Game and Post-Game Infractions**

Pre-game infractions are defined as anything occurring prior to the opening face-off and post-game infractions are defined as occurring once the referees have released the benches prior to the post-game handshake.

The Head Coach is responsible for the conduct of their players pre-game and post-game. Infractions reflect poorly on the Head Coach and will result in a minimum 2 game suspension. In ALLIANCE Hockey, handshakes take place upon the conclusion of a contest, which is considered Post-Game. The Post-Game handshakes are consistent with ALLIANCE Hockey values of teaching participants important life skills; in this case, sportsmanship and respect.

**Discriminatory Slurs**

Hockey is about learning life skills, no matter what the level; AAA through House League. Respecting the opposition, including their RACE, ETHNIC BACKGROUND, SEXUAL PREFERENCE, GENDER AND HERITAGE is one of the many skills that we need to teach our participants.

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The minimum suspension for a Discriminatory Slur for players is **3 games** and for a Coach is **5 games**, all must be reviewed by the Discipline Committee prior to any further participation.

**Bench Management**

The Head Coach is ultimately responsible for the conduct of their bench before, during and after a game. There should only be one voice when communicating with an on-ice Official as multiple voices can cause confusion for the players and Officials and may lead to further frustration, more infractions, and a poor player experience.

Head Coaches should remind their entire Bench Staff of this Policy.

Thank you for your attention to these reminders and best of luck this season.