



ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

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Proud Branch Of



COMMUNICATION TO BE SENT TO EACH MEMBER PARTNER FOR ONWARD TRANSMISSION TO EACH ASSOCIATION/CLUB WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION.

Each Member Partner has procedures in place to deal with participants who violate its By-laws, Rules, Regulations and Policies and to assess and monitor any suspensions resulting from such violations. It is assumed that these procedures are broadly communicated to Associations and Clubs within the Member Partner's jurisdiction and, when combined with an Association's or Club's own procedures, the effect is to ensure that undesirable participants, in particular team officials, are not eligible to participate within the OHF while under suspension.

Nevertheless, it has come to the OHF's attention that there is a loophole whereby an undesirable team official might escape sanctioning at the local level and continue to participate, sometimes repeatedly, within either the Member Partner's jurisdiction or the broader OHF jurisdiction. This occurs when a local Association or Club terminates a team official for unacceptable conduct or intends to sanction that official but the official resigns prior to a disciplinary hearing being held. Oftentimes, the local organization is just glad to see the back of the individual concerned and moves on without taking any further disciplinary action. As a result, the individual escapes sanctioning and can resurface elsewhere without a blemish on his or her record, only to repeat the unacceptable conduct.

There have been instances where such an individual has escaped sanctioning on repeated occasions, which clearly presents a serious risk to the OHF and its Member Partners. Should that individual's conduct become so egregious that it comes into the public domain, the media will not hold back in its criticism of the Member Partner, the OHF and hockey in general.

Accordingly, each Member Partner is requested to remind each of its members that it is their responsibility to deal with all instances of unacceptable conduct, regardless of whether the individual concerned is terminated or resigns his or her position prior to a hearing being scheduled. It is the responsibility of the local Association/Club to schedule a formal hearing, send a written notification to the individual concerned of the date and location of the hearing, conduct the hearing and assess any sanction(s) that are found to be warranted. Should the individual choose to ignore the notification and fail to attend at the scheduled date and time, the hearing should nevertheless proceed and an indefinite suspension should be assessed against the individual, following which the Association/Club should notify its Member Partner detailing the individual's ineligibility. It is then the responsibility of the Member Partner to notify the OHF. The suspension will be recorded in the Hockey Canada Registry and the suspended individual will be notified of the suspension through a letter signed by the President or Executive Director of the OHF and delivered via Purolator so that receipt is acknowledged.

OHF Members

