



## WMHA 24 Hour Rule

The Walden Minor Hockey Association (WMHA) is committed to providing a positive sport experience for children and youth, and also for our coaches, parents/guardians, officials and other volunteers. Being a member of our hockey community should be a positive, rewarding, and enriching experience. The WMHA recognizes that in the course of its activities, differences in opinions and values can emerge. The 24 Hour Rule was endorsed to support positive communication between all members of the WMHA. This policy is intended to minimize unnecessary burden on team staff and to demonstrate respect for our volunteers who devote countless hours to our association each season.

This policy does not apply to the following situations, that must be immediately reported to the appropriate individual/agency:

1. Any physical risks and hazards should be shared immediately with the team/division trainer (e.g. broken latch on door to the bench)
2. Any complaint of abuse or suspected harm, as defined within child protection legislation, must immediately be reported to the Children's Aid Society and/or to the police.
3. All incidences of harassment, abuse, bullying and/or misconduct must be reported to the WMHA, in accordance with the WMHA Complaint Policy.

### 24-Hour Rule

Players, parents/guardians and team officials must wait 24 hours after a game or practice before communicating a hockey-related concern to the team manager. The 24 hour period provides individuals with "a cooling-off period" to assess the situation and reflect on the issue from a variety of perspectives, to ensure a calm and rational response. This is intended to reduce incidences of emotional reactions that sometimes occur within athletic team environments. After the 24-Hour period has passed, the concern should be documented in an email and sent to the team manager. In the event that a concern involves a team manager, an email may be sent to the division convenor.

### PRINCIPLES

1. Communicate with respect;
2. Only recent events;
3. Keep matters confidential (do not involve others)
4. Act in good faith; and
5. In the best interest of the team and the sport of hockey.



Team officials should consult with their convenor if they believe a player or parent/guardian has failed to comply with the 24-Hour Rule. This shall result in the following course of actions:

- 1st offense     Verbal warning from the division convenor to the individual(s) in question
  
- 2nd offense     Removal from WMHA activities including practices, games, tournaments and other events for a period of one week from the date the offence was reported.
  
- Subsequent offenses     Further offenses will be reviewed and assessed by the WMHA Board of Directors.

**Additional Policies**

WMHA Child Protection Policy

WMHA Complaint Policy