



GTHL POLICY

Green Armband Initiative

Approved by:	Board of Directors	Date Approved:	November 2023
		Date Effective:	Immediate
Responsibility of:	Officiating Development Committee	Date of Last Revision:	N/A
		Date Initially Issued:	November 2023

Introduction

The GTHL recognizes the importance of on-ice officials being able to officiate in a safe and respectful environment. To achieve this, Participants and spectators must have control of their emotions and not impose any undue pressure, negative behaviour, intimidation, or other acts of maltreatment towards on-ice officials.

The focus of this policy is to support on-ice officials within the GTHL and Members.

Definitions

- **“GTHL”**: the Greater Toronto Hockey League.
- **“League”**: the GTHL and its Member Associations.
- **“Participant”**: any Player or Team Official.
- **“Player(s)” or “player(s)”**: the registered Participants of a Team other than Team Officials. Except where special rules apply to them, the Goaltender is to be considered a Player.
- **“Recreational Hockey”**: House League, House League Select, Competitive Development Stream (CDS) and Competitive Development Program (CDP) programming.
- **“Supplemental Discipline”**: Penalties imposed on a player or Team Official in addition to minimum suspension requirements.
- **“Team Official”**: the coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer, or other team official registered with the League.

Policy Scope

This Policy applies to all first-year on-ice officials participating in Recreational Hockey programming.



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Policy Intent

To support first-year officials and thus encourage them to remain in officiating. To address a declining number of officials, we need to ensure that those who are developing are not pushed away from the game due to maltreatment.

Policy Background and Expectations

The use of Green Armbands for first-year officials is an initiative first introduced by Hockey Québec and since adopted by Hockey Eastern Ontario and some other Branches of Hockey Canada, the Northern Ontario Hockey Association, and several hockey associations within the Ontario Hockey Federation. The initiative is designed to identify first-year officials, most of whom are under 18 years of age, so that players, Team Officials, and spectators are aware that these individuals are in the initial stages of their officiating journey. Although the program is designed so that Green Armband officials are not subject to abuse from players, coaches, or spectators, it is not intended for Participants or spectators to unleash the same behaviour on officials who are not wearing green armbands. The expectation is that the decreased abuse towards green armband officials will be extended to all officials. One of the objectives of this Policy is to challenge players, Team Officials, and spectators always to conduct themselves in a fair and responsible manner and refrain from comments or behaviours that are disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist, sexist, homophobic, or misogynistic.

Policy

1. All first-year on-ice officials are **STRONGLY** encouraged to wear one (1) green armband on their left arm, between their elbow and shoulder, when officiating any sanctioned exhibition, tournament, regular season, or playoff game.
2. If a first-year official is working as a referee in the three (3) or four (4) official system, they will continue to wear the green armband on their left arm over an existing armband if the jersey has permanently affixed armbands, or will wear the green armband in place of the left arm armband normally worn by the referee on a jersey that does not have permanently affixed armbands.
3. The green armband is to be worn regardless of the age of the players involved in the game and the competition level of the game.
4. Administrators **MUST** apply Supplemental Discipline to any Participant who is assessed a Game Misconduct, Gross Misconduct, or Match Penalty under Section 11 (Maltreatment) of the Hockey Canada Playing Rules in any game involving an official wearing a green armband.