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## GTHL POLICY

### Use of Music by Teams

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<b>Approved by:</b>	Board of Directors	<b>Date Approved:</b>	October 2023
		<b>Date Effective:</b>	Immediate
<b>Responsibility of:</b>	Chief Operating Officer	<b>Date of Last Revision:</b>	N/A
		<b>Date Initially Issued:</b>	October 2023

### Introduction

This policy shall also be known as the “GTHL Music Policy”.

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear direction on the accepted use of music during activities within the Greater Toronto Hockey League (“GTHL”).

### Principles

Hockey Canada, the Ontario Hockey Federation (“OHF”), and the GTHL continue to take concrete steps to make our sport’s environment more inclusive and welcoming. These steps include eliminating discriminatory language used by participants, parents, spectators, and others as set out in GTHL Regulation 13.1(b), which reads:

*“Players, Team Officials, Club Officials, Game Officials, League Officials, parents, volunteers, League employees or spectators shall refrain from comments or behaviours that show disrespect toward any participant because of their sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender identity, skin colour, religion, weight, appearance, disability, nationality or other things that are perceived to make them “different”. In particular, the GTHL will not tolerate behaviour that constitutes harassment, abuse, or bullying.”*

### Policy

Music is often a part of warm-up and dressing-room routines and other aspects of the game. This is a welcomed component of expression and team building. The use of music, however, does need to consider other individuals who are using the facility as well as members of, and peers within, the team.

These considerations must include the volume level of the music as well as the content of the lyrics. Music that may contain language that could be offensive to some, including slurs that are racial, homophobic, misogynistic, or religious, as well as language that is obscene, indecent, profane or harassing is not permitted.



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This policy is intended to provide direction on language that can be used in music played during activities within the GTHL including, but not limited to, team events, games, practices, warm-ups, off-ice training, social events, and any other environments in the GTHL.

- 1) Only versions of music that do not contain slurs that are racial, homophobic, misogynistic, or religious as well as language that is obscene, indecent, profane or harassing may be played in any group setting of two or more participants, or in areas where the music may be heard by others. Most music streaming services such as Apple Music and Spotify offer “Radio Edit Playlists” that could be used by Team Officials to direct their teams to the content of the music that is permitted to be played.
- 2) The volume level of any music, regardless of the content, should be such that it does not disturb others using the facility.
- 3) Supervision required by the [GTHL Dressing Room Policy](#) must be followed and adherence to this policy on the use of music is included in the supervision responsibilities.
- 4) Individual music choices can be played through personal listening devices such as earbuds or headphones.

Failure to comply with this policy will be subject to any penalties set out in the GTHL, OHF and Hockey Canada policies on dressing room supervision, Hockey Canada Playing Rule 11.4, and the Hockey Canada Safe Sport Policy, GTHL Regulations, and the GTHL Code of Conduct.

Should any facility being used by the GTHL for games or by a Team for practices or other on-ice activities have a policy on the playing of music that is stricter than this policy, then the facility’s policy will prevail.