

Responsibilities of Coaching Staffs in Arenas

Unfortunately there are occasions where isolated areas of conflict develop between teams and arena managers simply because of a lack of understanding, or common sense, poor communication, or outright carelessness on the part of one individual member of a coaching staff. The following brief points hopefully will assist you in avoiding any problems with arenas and lead to providing a positive relationship throughout the hockey season:

1. Remember that you and your team are responsible for any damage to an arena dressing room in which you were the last known occupant. Flooded floors, marked walls and/or damaged plumbing facilities are usually the source of most complaints received by the GTHL. It is your responsibility to check your assigned dressing room first to ensure that no damage has been caused by a previous user. If something causes you concern, it should be reported to the senior maintenance person or manager on duty immediately. Similarly, one member of the coaching staff should be the last person to leave the dressing room after a game to make certain that no damage has been caused by any of your players, (e.g. debris in toilet, running water, marked wall, etc.). Any team deemed responsible for causing damage will have its Club invoiced by the League for the repairs and will risk further disciplinary action.
2. Team Officials are expected to provide a safe and comfortable dressing room environment with proper supervision for the players in accordance with the Ontario Hockey Federation's Policy on Dressing Room Supervision. The OHF's policy states that when any player under the age of 19 is in the team dressing room(s) before, during and after a game or practice, a minimum of two of the following shall be present in the dressing room(s) or immediately outside the dressing room(s) with the door ajar: two Team or Club/ Association Officials, properly screened or one such Official and an adult person associated with the team. In the situation of U21 hockey the coach may use an adult player over the age of 19 to be the second adult associated with the team. Any person found to be in violation of this policy will receive a warning for a first offence, a two week suspension for a second offence, and a one year suspension for a third offence. **Note:** this policy does not apply to a player and his/her parent or legal guardian.
3. One of the greatest single complaints received by the GTHL relates to coaches (or parents) sneaking beverages into their team's dressing room either before or after a game. In arenas that have snack bars in operation, beverages or any other foodstuffs are not to be taken into the dressing room except in special circumstances where the arena manager has granted prior

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- approval. Arenas rely heavily on their snack bar sales to provide additional revenue, which in turn helps keep their ice cost increases to a minimum. Abuses by teams in sneaking beverages and food into a dressing room only reflect as an increased ice cost the following season, not to mention the occasional demand from an arena that the offending team be scheduled to another arena. During the season, any reported abuses will result in a fine being levied against the offending team's Club plus possible further action if deemed necessary. It is also a coach's responsibility to ensure that parents do not violate this policy.
4. Team Officials are responsible for any damage inflicted in an arena by their team when it is en route between the dressing room and players' bench.
 5. Players and/or Team Officials identified as initiating or being party to fighting in an arena hallway must appear before the President or Special Committee before being permitted to take part in any future sanctioned games.
 6. Please remember that any player or Team Official who accosts a Game Official (verbally or otherwise) following a game risks being assessed a minor or major penalty and/or being put on report. While the GTHL is proud of the multitude of coaches who donate their time to our sport, some still require a reminder that their personal deportment in an arena is expected to be that of a first class individual regardless of whatever the prevailing emotions or conditions might be. Irrational actions/emotions by any adult on a coaching staff only contribute to, create or initiate similar actions by the players.

GTHL Teams should be reminded that there is only one choice.
"FIRST CLASS or NO CLASS"
Thank you for your co-operation!