



HOCKEY CALGARY

Safety Committee Report 2022-2023 Annual Review

For the he 2022-2023 season, the safety committee was actively engaged in topics pertaining to the safety of our athletes. The media brought forth difficult events as related to some athletes within Hockey Canada sanctioned programs. Although challenging to hear of such events, the safety committee seized the opportunity to identify the needs of our member associations to tackle issues related to bullying, abuse and maltreatment in our beloved sport.

Behaviour and Culture in Hockey:

With the events highlighted in the media involving members of our national junior team, members in the WHL, amongst other similar events reported in recent years, the safety committee reviewed our policy on abuse, bullying, and maltreatment. Our policy is very detailed. Working with Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta, we aimed to provide effective, user-friendly education to enable our young members to engage in respectful ways in and out of the dressing room.

Kevin circulated the Hockey Canada Safety document for our committee to review.

[safety_teamwork_e.pdf \(hockeycanada.ca\)](#)

Following a detailed review of this document, our committee felt that Pages 4-21 of this document were quite relevant as far as background education pertaining to harassment, bullying, etc. Initially, our purpose was to derive an algorithm or road map of how to report any incidences of maltreatment within Hockey Calgary. Our discussion evolved to engaging our member associations to see if they have policies and procedures around reporting of maltreatment. We did not want to reinvent the wheel, so to speak. As a result, we met with the presidents at the one of their operations council meetings to discuss this topic and gather information on what processes currently exist with the aim of collaborating with them. At this meeting, We provided and demonstrated an overview of the Safesport Hotline introduced by Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta. We showed them how to access the link to Safesport on our website.

As a result, Kevin contacted Wayne McNeil, one of the co-founders of the Respect in Sport group. Wayne kindly provided links to their most current educational material for their Respect in Sport Activity Leader program. The content and curriculum is quite extensive. Currently, our committee is reviewing the material and will provide recommendations in the near future.

Here is a general overview of what the RIS for activity leaders program covers:



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“The *Respect in Sport Activity Leader* program is the foundational, on-line training tool for Canadian Sport and Youth-serving organizations. It educates youth leaders, coaches, camp counsellors and participants (14-years and up) to recognize, understand and respond to issues of bullying, abuse, harassment and discrimination (BAHD). The ultimate focus is to build a positive and welcoming environment for all participants. Respect Group fully updates the content and delivery platform every 4 years. The current version was launched in 2019.”

Our aim is to meet, as a committee, and provide formal recommendations for the upcoming season.

Dissemination of Research Around Player Safety:

Last season, the safety committee reviewed the idea of having a “research corner” on our website that provides a summary of research that Hockey Calgary has supported that relates to player safety and the positive outcomes that have stemmed from that. We met with representatives from the University of Calgary Sport Injury Research and Prevention Centre (SIPRC) to discuss their involvement in assisting us with this idea. They were very supportive and have offered support from their graduate students. The dissemination of research will be presented as an infographic for ease of interpretation and utility for our members. Since our time was dedicated to operationalizing education related to proper behaviours and discourse in our sport, populating ‘research corner’ was delayed. Our goal is to initiate this program for the 2023-2024 season.

Mental Health Resources:

Jody reviewed the links (related to mental health resources) on the Hockey Calgary website (Safety section) for relevance and appropriate content. Jody provided suggestions. We will move the information related to the Distress Centre to the top. This is Calgary’s version of the kids help phone. Jody also felt that there should be the addition of a national line for areas that don’t have their own. Further recommendations included the removal of shelter safe and the domestic violence collective and that we should keep the resources child/youth mental health focused.

Jody suggested that we have a second section with Hockey related resources/groups. For example, HONE, I Got Mind, and a new one 1616, which Kevin shared.

It was suggested that the pre-amble at the top involving statistics, be altered. We would like to post something more personal from Hockey Calgary as an organization. Currently the statistics may not be relevant.

Jody made the following suggestion: “Hockey Calgary is committed to supporting mental health of our athletes. We want to encourage our associations and teams



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to promote mental health and safety within our programs. If you or someone you know is experiencing mental health concerns or crisis, please reach out to the resources listed below". Further review is needed, and we are in the process of re-wording this section.

Police Checks for Board Members:

All the board members have completed the ePIC process.

In conclusion, the safety committee is proud to uphold our mandate of optimizing safety in youth ice hockey for the long-term benefit of our youth athletes.

Respectfully yours,

Geoff Schneider, Karen Pirie, Jody Forbes, Gary Makar, Chris Bright and Kevin Kobelka