Player Discipline & Behaviour

POLICY



VERSION HISTORY

Version	Author	Approval Date	Reason
1.0	A. Battista	2026-02-01	First version

1. PURPOSE

This policy establishes a clear, consistent, and development-focused framework for addressing unacceptable player behaviour within the Clarence-Rockland Crush (CRC) Minor Hockey Association.

The policy supports coaches in maintaining discipline while preserving the physical, competitive nature of hockey across all age groups.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all CRC players and teams across all age groups.

This policy addresses behaviour-related discipline only and does not replace Hockey Canada, HEO, or league-imposed penalties or suspensions.

3. POLICY INTENT

This policy is intentionally narrow. It applies only to behaviours that fall outside normal hockey play.

Players must be free to play physical, competitive hockey appropriate to their age group and ruleset without fear that normal hockey actions will trigger disciplinary consequences under this policy.

4. BEHAVIOURS OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THIS POLICY

- Physical contact consistent with the age group and ruleset.
- Defensive actions, including reasonable efforts to protect the goaltender.
- Incidental contact occurring within the flow of play.
- Hockey plays penalized by officials that are not unsportsmanlike in nature.

These situations are addressed through coaching instruction and normal game management, not discipline.

5. UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS

- Retaliatory actions (especially after the whistle).
- Unsportsmanlike conduct toward officials, opponents, or teammates.
- Slashing, cross-checking, or stick work intended to intimidate or injure.
- Verbal abuse, taunting, bullying, or harassment.

• Repeated refusal to follow reasonable coaching direction.
• Behaviour that compromises player safety or team culture.

6. DISCIPLINE PRINCIPLES

• Discipline is corrective, not punitive
• Discipline is progressive and proportional
• Similar behaviour warrants similar response
• Discipline focuses on behaviour, not ability or ice time
• Decisions must be timely, private, and documented

7. DISCIPLINE FRAMEWORK

Level 1 – Minor / Isolated Behaviour
Response: Verbal correction or bench discussion

Level 2 – Repeated / Disruptive Behaviour
Response: Private meeting, formal warning, possible ice-time reduction

Level 3 – Serious Behaviour
Response: Suspension from practice or game, parent notification, association notification

Level 4 – Severe Behaviour
Response: Immediate removal from team activities and mandatory association review.

8. DOCUMENTATION

For Level 2 and above incidents, coaches must document:
• Date and context
• Behaviour observed (facts only)
• Action taken

Documentation must be submitted within 24 hrs to the Director of Hockey Operations.

9. COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

Discipline discussions are conducted privately and professionally.

A 24-hour cooling-off period applies following games or incidents. Discussions focus on behaviour and accountability, not performance or ice time.

10. RELATIONSHIP TO CODE OF CONDUCT

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Clarence-Rockland Crush Code of Conduct.

Where behaviour also constitutes a breach of the Code of Conduct, the Association reserves the right to apply additional measures in accordance with that Code.

This policy does not replace or supersede the Code of Conduct. It provides operational guidance to coaches for addressing in-the-moment behaviour issues that fall outside normal hockey play.

11. ACCOUNTABILITY & OVERSIGHT

Head Coaches are responsible for applying this policy at the team level.

The Director of Hockey Operations provides oversight and supports escalation when required.

12. REVIEW CYCLE

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors.

APPENDIX A – COACH DISCIPLINE AIDE-MÉMOIRE (FLOW CHART)

Use this flow to determine whether the CRC Player Discipline & Behaviour Policy applies and what action to take. At any time if a coach is unsure of how to proceed Director of Hockey Operations shall be consulted as soon as is practicable.

STEP 1 – Identify the Action

Did the action occur within normal hockey play?

Examples:
• Physical contact consistent with age and ruleset
• Defensive play (including protecting the goaltender)
• Incidental contact
• Penalized hockey play without unsportsmanlike intent

➡ If YES → Coach it. Teach it. Move on. (Policy does NOT apply)
➡ If NO → Proceed to Step 2

STEP 2 – Assess Intent

Is there intent to retaliate, intimidate, disrespect, or harm?

Examples:
• Retaliation after the whistle
• Verbal abuse, taunting, or bullying
• Stick work intended to injure or intimidate

➡ If NO → Manage through coaching and game management
➡ If YES → Proceed to Step 3

STEP 3 – Determine Severity Level

LEVEL 1 – Minor / Isolated
• One-off emotional response
• Brief loss of composure
Action: Verbal correction or bench discussion

LEVEL 2 – Repeated / Disruptive
• Pattern of behaviour
• Repeated unsportsmanlike conduct
Action: Private meeting, formal warning, possible ice-time reduction

LEVEL 3 – Serious

• Retaliation
• Verbal abuse
• Intentional dangerous play
Action: Practice or game suspension, parent & association notification

LEVEL 4 – Severe
• Bullying or threats
• Serious safety violations
Action: Immediate removal and mandatory association review

STEP 4 – Apply Guardrails

• Address behaviour, not emotions
• Be consistent across players
• Discipline in private
• Document Level 2+ incidents
• When unsure, consult the Director of Hockey Operations