

ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

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OHF Bulletin

To: OHF Members, OHF Directors, OHF Minor Hockey Associations, OHF Senior Leadership Team, OHF Member Communication Staff
From: Zack Millington – Manager, Risk, Registration and Insurance
Date: January 14th, 2026
Re: Public Update Tampering & Tampering Consequences
Bulletin ID: 26-001

The Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) is providing a public update on tampering allegations and findings since the introduction of open player movement in Minor Hockey within the OHF. In doing so, the OHF would like to remind all stakeholders of our commitment to the organizational values which include:

Safe: Commitment that all participants are comfortable participating in the game of hockey, whether that be from a mental or physical perspective all while focusing on the management and minimization of mental health issues, maltreatment and concussions.

Fun: Ensure that all individuals – regardless of level – find value and develop themselves a healthy people while staying in the game in any form.

Accessible: Ensure a broad ranging commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion principles in all our programming, as well as highlighting and target ways to invite people of different economic backgrounds, race, disabilities, and geographies into the game.

Integrity: Ensure there is always a commitment to fairness, equity, respect and honesty for all levels of the game. Make accountability a priority among our staff, board members, players, parents, coaches, etc.

Progressive: Collaborative leadership and connection of the networked organization, empowerment, learning and challenging the status quo.

Integrity is central to the OHF's revised tampering regulations that were introduced in December 2024, reinforcing our commitment to fairness, respect, and accountability across all levels of the game. By strengthening these regulations, the OHF aimed to ensure that all participants—players, bench staff, and organizations—operate within a framework of honesty and transparency, preserving the integrity of competition and upholding trust in the development process.

Since the introduction of the amended tampering regulations in 2024, the OHF has received several reports related to alleged tampering violations. A summary of cases that resulted in sanctions is attached. Actions that resulted in sanctions primarily involved improper contact between bench staff and players ahead of the player evaluation period.

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The OHF would like to remind all stakeholders that the player evaluation period is important to a structured, consistent, and fair experience for everyone (associations, bench staff, players, parents, etc.). In addition, the player evaluation period ensures that the players can focus on their growth and development during the previous season without the stress of needing to find a team for next year. Most importantly, these rules are in place to ensure that everyone has a fun experience.

To put things in perspective: Imagine showing up to the rink late in the season, or at any point in the season for that matter, already knowing you won't be part of next season's team? How would that affect your sense of belonging and your ability to contribute to the team for the remainder of the year? Would you still feel welcome and motivated to perform? How might that impact your development, both on and off the ice?

As stewards of the game, we have the responsibility to foster an environment where every player feels valued, safe, and excited to develop. When in-season recruiting happens, it can unintentionally undermine the most important and impactful values of hockey. Moreover, it can send the wrong message to young athletes about fairness, respect, and integrity – both in sport and in life.

The OHF is committed to fostering a culture of integrity, respect, and transparency in our game. In this pursuit, we strongly encourage anyone with knowledge or credible information regarding tampering to come forward and submit an allegation to the OHF for review. Tampering allegations should be sent to tampering@ohf.on.ca. The allegations will be reviewed by OHF staff, which may be followed by a hearing to address the allegations.

Your voice is vital in helping us maintain the standards that ensure fair play and accountability across all levels of hockey. By speaking up, you contribute to a healthier, more respectful environment for everyone involved in the game.

Allegations will be reviewed with care and discretion, and decisions will be rendered on the balance of probabilities. The OHF remains steadfast in our goal of continually improving the culture of hockey.

Summary of Tampering Allegations (since December 2024 announcement of open player movement through to January 8, 2026)

Tampering allegations – 52

Substantiated allegations – 16

Unsubstantiated allegations – 26

Withdrawn allegation – 3

Currently investigating – 7

In all cases of substantiated allegations, guilty parties have been suspended a minimum of 15 games (each) and the offending association has been fined \$5000. It should be noted that tampering fines are payable in full to the OHF within 15 days. Past due fines will result in the automatic suspension of the offending



Team until the fine is paid, and the Minor Hockey Association will lose access to the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR) for all teams within their organization.

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Case Number	Description	Decision	Organization
T25-001	Association announced coach prior to February 15	18 game suspension + \$250 fine	Don Mills Flyers
T25-002	Head coach had scheduled development skates for a fee prior to Evaluations	15 game suspension + \$5000 fine	Scarborough Ice Raiders
T25-005	Communication via text messages to players recruiting them to team prior to Evaluations	15 game suspension + \$5000 fine	Markham Waxers
T25-006	Communication via text messages to players recruiting them to team prior to Evaluations	15 game suspension + \$5000 fine	Richmond Hill Hockey Association
T25-007	Communication via social media to players recruiting them to team prior to Evaluations	15 game suspension + \$5000 fine	Riverside Minor Hockey Association
T25-008	Communication via emails to players recruiting them to team prior to Evaluations	15 game suspension + \$5000 fine	Streetsville Minor Hockey
T25-010	Coaches held private skates prior to Evaluations attempting to recruit and evaluate players	15 game suspension + \$5000 fine	Mississauga Beast
T25-015	Coach attempted to recruit player and offered financial aid prior to Evaluations	20 game suspension + \$5000 fine	York Mills Hockey Club



T25-016	Coach attempted to recruit players at arenas and hand out business cards	15 game suspension + \$5000 fine	Kingston Minor Hockey
T25-018	Association announced coach prior to February 15. Coach held birthday skate and attempted to recruit players prior to Evaluations	15 game suspension + \$5000 fine	West Mall Lightning
T25-019	Coach had recruited and offered spots to players prior to Evaluations	15 game suspension + \$5000 fine Players removed from team	St. Thomas Minor Hockey
T25-026	Coaches held private skates prior to Evaluations	6-month suspension + \$5000 fine	Mississauga Rattlers
T25-028	Coach offered spot to player prior to Evaluations	15 game suspension + \$5000 fine	Cambridge Minor Hockey
T25-032	Coach held private skates prior to Evaluations	15 game suspension + \$5000 fine	Pelham Minor Hockey
T25-033	Coach held private skates prior to Evaluations	15 game suspension + \$5000 fine	Aurora Minor Hockey
T25-038	Communication via text messages to players recruiting them to team prior to Evaluations	15 game suspension + \$5000 fine	Richmond Hill Hockey Association
T25-048	Coach invited player registered on another team to a team practice in attempt to recruit them	15 game suspension + \$5000 fine Player prohibited from registering or being rostered to that team	Grey Bruce Highlanders AAA MHA

Ongoing cases and unsubstantiated allegations have been removed from the list.

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In the cases of unsubstantiated allegations, the OHF received reports alleging potential tampering, including claims that development skates, private skates, or “birthday skates” had taken place, and/or that team representatives were allegedly contacting, encouraging, inviting, or offering Registered Participants the opportunity to join next season’s team prior to formal Evaluations. Upon review, however, these allegations were found to be unsubstantiated. There was insufficient evidence, on the balance of probabilities, to conclude that tampering or any breach of the OHF Tampering Regulations had occurred in these instances. Furthermore, there were some instances where an allegation was submitted anonymously and the OHF could not retrieve any further information to substantiate the information, or some instances where the allegations were received by the OHF and then subsequently withdrawn.

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