

# MEMO



To: OHF Referees  
From: Phil McKee, Executive Director  
CC: OHF Member Partners  
Date: November 10, 2005  
Re: Media Relations

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Some of you may be aware of a recently televised news report in which a minor hockey referee was interviewed after a game on a subject that is currently before the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

The following is a timely reminder:

When representing the OHF, an OHF Member Partner or member thereof, all referees are required to uphold the OHF Code of Conduct (see attached).

In the event a referee is approached by any member of the media to make comments or respond to questions (be it formal or informal), the following is advised:

**As our referees are independent arbiters and must always be recognized publicly as such, the referees should simply (and politely) decline the opportunity and redirect the media agent to the Branch or Member Partner office.**

The following is an example of what may be said:

*"As I hope you can appreciate, my job is to referee hockey games. Beyond that, if you are looking for personal opinions or the official position of \_\_\_\_\_ on any particular subject or issues, it would be best if you contacted \_\_\_\_\_. I hope you understand."*

As a Federation, we of course understand that any individual has the right to hold personal opinions on any number of subjects. That said when acting on behalf of the OHF it is critically important not to say anything or act in a manner which could be perceived as contrary to our Code of Conduct or any other policy, so please bear the above in mind.

For a list of contacts, please see attached.

Kind regards.



## ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

202-1185 Eglinton Avenue East Toronto, Ontario M3C 3C6  
t.416.426.7249 f. 416.426.7347  
www.ohf.on.ca



## **OHF CODE OF CONDUCT**

**THE OHF BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING THE CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY. PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.**

This Code of Conduct identifies the standard of behavior which is expected of all Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) Members, including athletes, coaches, parents, directors, volunteers, staff, chaperones and others.

OHF, Member Partners and League Associations are committed to providing a sport environment in which all individuals are treated with respect. Members of the OHF shall conduct themselves at all times in a fair and responsible manner. Members shall refrain from comments or behaviors which are disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist or sexist. In particular, behavior which constitutes harassment or abuse will not be tolerated by the OHF, Member Partners or Local Associations.

During the course of all OHF, Member Partners and Local Associations' activities and events, members shall avoid behavior which brings OHF, Member Partners and Local Associations or the sport of hockey into disrepute, including but not limited to abusive use of alcohol and non-medical use of drugs.

Members shall not use unlawful or unauthorized drugs/narcotics or performance enhancing drugs or methods.

OHF members shall at all times adhere to the OHF, Member Partners and Local Associations' operational policies and procedures, to rules governing the OHF, Member Partners and Local Associations' events and activities and to rules governing any competition in which the member participates on behalf of the OHF, Member Partners and Local Associations.

Members of the OHF, Member Partners and Local Associations shall not engage in activity or behaviour which endangers the safety of others.

Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, suspension or release from membership. Such action may result in the member losing the privileges that come with membership in the OHF, Member Partners and Local Associations, including the opportunity to participate in OHF, Member Partners and Local Associations' activities.

**ORGANIZATION****CONTACT****Ontario Hockey Federation - Branch**

202-1185 Eglinton Avenue, East  
Toronto, ON M3C 3C6  
416.426.7249

Phillip McKee, Executive Director

**Alliance Hockey**

71 Albert Street  
Stratford, ON N5A 3K2  
519.273.7209

Tony Martindale, Executive Director

**Greater Toronto Hockey League**

265 Rimrock, Unit #4  
Toronto, ON M3J 3C6  
416.636.6845

Scott Oakman, Executive Director

**Northern Ontario Hockey Association**

108 Lakeshore Drive  
North Bay, ON P1A 2A8  
705.474.8851

Chris May, Executive Director

**Ontario Hockey Association**

1425 bishop Street, Unit#2  
Cambridge, ON N1R 6J9  
519.622.2402

Brent Ladds, President

**Ontario Hockey League**

305 Milner Avenue, Suite 200  
Scarborough, ON M1B 3V4  
416.299.8700

Ted Baker, Director of Hockey Operations and RIC

**Ontario Minor Hockey Association**

25 Brodie Drive, Unit #3  
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3K7  
905.780.6642

Richard Ropchan, Executive Director

**Ontario Women's Hockey Association**

5155 Spectrum Way, Unit #3  
Mississauga, ON L4W 5A1  
905.282.9980

Fran Rider, Executive Director