

CYBER BULLYING

*What is Our
Role?*

Why give attention to Cyber Bullying?

- 1.) Eighty-one percent of youth said that others cyber bully because they think it's funny.
- 2.) Almost 80 percent of teens said that they either did not have parental rules about Internet use or found ways around the rules.
- 3.) Nearly 30 percent of teens wanted to seek revenge on those who cyber bullied them.

Source: NCPC, National Crime Prevention Council, www.ncpc.org

Why give attention to Cyber Bullying?

4.) Only 11 percent of teens talked to parents about incidents of cyber bullying.

5.) Over 70 percent of teens said that being able to block cyber bullies was the most effective method of prevention.

Source: NCPC, National Crime Prevention Council, www.ncpc.org

What has this to do with Hockey?

We know the act of cyber bullying is done off the ice and frequently in the homes of athletes.

We have a social responsibility to educate all involved in hockey of the risks that exist through their involvement in our sport.

Why Get Involved?

Every person in Hockey, in every role, has the right to participate in an environment that is fun, safe and healthy, and to be treated with respect, dignity and fairness.



What are we talking about?

“Cyber Bullying involves the use of information and communication technologies such as e-mail, cell phone and text messages, instant messaging, web sites, blogs, and social network sites - to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others.”

(2004 Bullying.org Canada Incorporated)

How is Cyber Bullying Different from what we think of as typical bullying?

It is like other forms of bullying as it is about relationships, power and control. It focuses on the emotional response of a “target” making them weaker and the bully gaining influence over the behaviour of the intended victim.

**The bully wants to make
the victim feel that there
is something wrong with
them!**

**The target is often alone
and isolated in their
thoughts and pain!**

But it is different . . .

- This generation is constantly communicating through instant messaging that most adults do not understand.
- Cyber Bullies hide behind the anonymity that electronic media provides.
- The messaging is instant and viewed by a multitude of intended and unintended viewers at the same time.

It is different . . .

The act of Cyber Bullying most often goes unpunished!

It is hard to identify the Cyber Bully so they feel free of being caught.

Who's responsibility is it?

Due to the complexity identifying ownership of the issue the Cyber Bully is outside the legal reach of law enforcement, school policies, and other governing bodies.

Are Their Bystanders?

Adults can have a direct impact on ending bullying behavior but...

Cyber Bullying often occurs away from parents/adults.

Thus, witnesses or bystanders to Cyber Bullying have a very important role to play when it comes to putting an end to it.

Who Are the Bystanders?

Teammates and players' friends will know and talk about messages that are electronically posted or text messages that are spread. Adults have to listen to their kids when they tell you what is going on.

What can be done?

Parents, other adults, and friends represent social consensus and have an important role in stopping or supporting Cyber Bullying.

What can be done – Speak Out!

In a study conducted by the University of Toronto in 2008, 28 per cent of the students reported having witnessed Cyber Bullying. Of this percentage, half reacted by rising up against Cyber Bullying; the other half went along with it.

So Why Get Involved???

Hockey Alberta is an organization that will not allow or tolerate Cyber Bullying – or bullying in general, or harassment, or abuse.

Hockey Alberta's Strategy

To provide educational opportunities targeting the behaviors, attitudes and relationships that have become a negative influence on the game of hockey.

BUT...

**YOU MUST ALSO BACK
UP YOUR EDUCATION
WITH POLICY AND
PROCESSES TO SUPPORT
YOUR MESSAGE.**

What Hockey Alberta Has Done!

Hockey Alberta has developed templates for LMHA to assist in the development of Codes of Conduct and examples of policy/process that addresses negative behaviors, such as a complaint handling process.

There are Two Sides to Every Story

A transparent policy/process will address a range of inappropriate behaviors including bullying, discrimination, harassment and abuse that provides complainants a process to be heard.

Complaint Handling Process . . .

The more accessible and responsive a complaint handling process is, the more effective a potentially destructive situation can be contained.

This process can generate support for the program and confidence in the organization.

Why Handle Complaints?

Any complaint handling process should embrace the overall principal of developing a safe environment through employing good risk management strategies

The Law –

- Some forms of Cyber Bullying are considered criminal acts.
- It is also a crime to publish a “defamatory libel”
- Cyber Bullying can also violate the Canadian Human Right Act.
- Doing nothing about cyber bullying in your organization may lead you into any of the above actions.

There are other complaint processes . . .

Any complainant has the right to bring legal action directly against any organization or individual for civil remedy.

Any complainant has the right to report any incident that is a breach of law to the authorities

QUESTIONS?

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