



259 Commodore Drive  
Dartmouth, N.S. B3B 0M1  
902.454.9400  
hockeynovascotia.ca

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**TO:** All Hockey Nova Scotia members  
**FROM:** Hockey Nova Scotia Risk Management Committee  
**DATE:** February 3, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Unacceptable language and behaviour at the rink

It has come to our attention that there has been an upward trend in reports of verbal abuse on and off the ice at our rinks in Nova Scotia.

Some members of the hockey community commonly refer to this as **chirping**. Unfortunately, we have been receiving reports of on-ice insults involving race, religion, and sexual orientation. Over the last several months, the **Hockey Nova Scotia Risk Management Committee** has been dealing with serious allegations of verbal abuse including specific incidents that have involved racial slurs.

This type of language is **unacceptable** in our communities and it is **unacceptable** in our rinks.

Hockey Nova Scotia views the game of hockey as an opportunity to promote both good sportsmanship and competition. We take these allegations of verbal abuse very seriously and believe that this behaviour has no place in our game. Those who perpetrate such actions will be subject to our **discipline committees** which will enforce our regulations that oversee decency and respect among our players.

We believe that everyone has the right to compete in a safe environment without being subject to verbal attacks and discrimination by other players, parents or coaches. We encourage anyone who has experienced this type of verbal abuse to report it through the proper Hockey Nova Scotia channels by using our **complaint intake form**. It can be found at on our website at [www.hockeynovascotia.ca](http://www.hockeynovascotia.ca) by clicking on *Complaints/Investigations* under the *Risk Management* tab.

Please ensure that all coaches and parents in your association receive this memo and that all players and coaches have a conversation about unacceptable behaviour.

Hockey Nova Scotia looks forward to continuing to work with our new **Hockey Nova Scotia Diversity and Inclusion Task Force** to begin a genuine process of understanding to make our game better. Racism and discriminatory behaviour will not be tolerated in our sport.

Sincerely,

Risk Management Committee  
Hockey Nova Scotia