

To: All Captains & Players of the Loose Ends Hockey Association

From: The League Executive Committee

(Jason Dale, Steve Cross, Colin MacLean, Mark Stoeckle, Marc St. Rose)

Incident Ruling

Upon extensive review of the incident occurring during the November 20th game between the Flames and the Hawks, it has been decided that Mike Walker will be suspended for five games after which time he will rejoin the Hawks for the balance of the season. His first allowable game back will be January 15th.

It is the opinion of the Executive Committee that this decision correctly weighs and balances all the factors of this rather complicated case. We are most pleased that no one was hurt in this incident and we encourage all players to remember that this is a game we play for fun and that referee decisions, regardless of any sense of dispute they create, are to be respected. If you are a penalized player it is your responsibility to simply go to the penalty box and serve your time. Any other action, including yelling at the referees, uttering threats, pushing, shoving, wrestling, skating around, banging your stick, slamming doors etc. is simply not appropriate and will not be tolerated. In the event that such behaviour occurs in the future the Executive Committee reserves the right, at its sole discretion and in keeping with our league bylaws, to eject a disruptive player from the league. Please guide yourselves in the spirit of fun and respect at all times.

Referee Guidance

Colin, Jason, and Steve will be meeting with the managing referee (Basil Jones) as soon as possible. The object of this meeting will be to achieve a stronger joint understanding between the referee group and us as to what our league wants in terms of consistency, line calls, and penalties, as well as attitude, demeanour and general excellence. What we want is consistent excellence and professionalism at all times.

It is the opinion of the Executive Committee that the refereeing can be delivered more in keeping with all our expectations. Achieving this will take time but we are committed to seeing improvement in this regard as soon as possible. We know that refereeing is a difficult job and that referees make choices that will rarely make everyone happy but we do believe things can and will be better in due course. The first step is to make our expectations clear and this we will do.

Decision on Format for Future Years

The Executive Committee has decided to make the Loose Ends Hockey Association a draft league in the future. This means that for next season (2010/11) all players will be drafted onto teams. We have also decided that it would be best if the current

Captains were not the selectors for the draft so that they are not put on the hot seat with friends etc. for making choices. (However, our current group of Captains might well continue to be Captains on the new teams once formed.)

While the decision has been made to make the big change to a draft league, there are clearly many details to be sorted out between now and the end of March. Suggestions for how we can make things work well in a draft structure are most welcome. Please forward your ideas to Jason at jason_dale71@yahoo.ca or Steve at scross@threadslifestyle.com.

It is the opinion of the Executive Committee that while this decision might be unpopular with some players, it is truly the best choice for the league in terms of not only ensuring fun, balance, and an over all sense of togetherness, but also the best option for recruiting new players when needed etc. We know that this is a huge change but we are very confident that once the dust settles on the change that our league will work better than ever.

Wishing you and yours all the best for the Holidays!

Loose Ends Executive Committee

Play safe; play clean; do your best and have fun.