



## MEMORANDUM

**To: All GTHL Member Organizations**

**From: Scott Oakman – Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer**

**Date: February 23, 2023**

Re: Music During Hockey Activities

Hockey Canada, the Ontario Hockey Federation, and the Greater Toronto Hockey League continue to take concrete steps to make our sport's environment more inclusive and welcoming. Those steps include eliminating discriminatory language used by participants, parents, and spectators.

GTHL Regulation 13.1 (b) reads:

*Players, Team Officials, Club Officials, Game Officials, League Officials, parents, volunteers, League employees or spectators shall refrain from comments or behaviours that show disrespect toward any participant because of their sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender identity, skin colour, religion, weight, appearance, disability, nationality or other things that are perceived to make them “different”. In particular, the GTHL will not tolerate behaviour that constitutes harassment or abuse or bullying.*

Music is often a part of warm-up and dressing-room routines for teams. This is a welcomed component of expression and team building. The use of music, however, does need to consider other individuals who are using the facility as well as members and peers within the team. These considerations must include the volume level of the music as well as the content of the lyrics. Music that may contain language that could be offensive to some, including slurs that are racial, homophobic, misogynistic, religious, as well as language that is profane or harassing is not permitted.

To clear up any uncertainty the League is providing its direction on language that can be used in music played by teams in or around team events, including games, practices, warm-ups, and off-ice training in any other environment in the GTHL:

- 1) Only radio edits of music that do not contain slurs that are racial, homophobic, misogynistic, or religious as well as language that is profane or harassing may be played in any group setting of two or more players, or in areas where the music may be heard by others. Most music streaming services such as Spotify and Apple Music offer “Radio Edit Playlists” that could be used by Team Officials to direct their teams to the content of the music that is permitted to be played.
- 2) The volume level of any music, regardless of the content, should be such that it is not disturbing others using the facility.

- 3) Supervision required by the Dressing Room Supervision Policy must be followed and this application on music is included in the supervision responsibilities.
- 4) Individual music choices can be played through personal listening devices such as earbuds or headphones.

Concerns about violations of this policy should be submitted to Michelle Fata at the GTHL Office at [MFata@GTHLCanada.com](mailto:MFata@GTHLCanada.com).

If the Dressing Room Supervision Policy is followed properly, there should be no instances in which this application is not enforced by Team Officials. Violations of this direction will be considered a violation of GTHL Regulation 13.1 (b) and be sanctioned in the same way matters under Rule 11.4 are addressed.