



Pending

Greater Toronto Hockey League
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Report of the Appeal Committee

27-Jan-2025

This report is to provide the decision of the Appeal Committee on the appeal as filed below:

Appeal # : 2564

Hearing Date : Thursday, 16-Jan-2025 07:00 PM

Filing Date : 20-Dec-2024

Time of Appeal : 07:00 PM

Name : JEFF DAVIS

Type :

Hearing Type : Section 7 - Registration, Eligibility and Release

Location of Appeal : Teams Platform

Summary Information : Please find attached the Summary of Notice of Hearing for your reference.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Decision :

See Decision

Rationale of Decision :

FACTS

1. One of the two (2) trainers for this team was admittedly not registered and approved by the OHF and Hockey Canada and yet, was on the bench for this team for 14 games up until December 6th , 2024 when he was ultimately registered.
2. This was brought to the attention of the GTHL and reviewed, resulting in the Coach being suspended for six (6) games, and the team suffering a 1-0 loss for the reported game. It became evident that this ineligible trainer had in fact been on the bench for a total of 14 games.
3. The coach and organization say they were not trying to hide anything and suggest there was a misunderstanding occasioned by phone discussions they allegedly had with someone from the GTHL offices. They would not say who their staff member was, nor did they call them as a witness. Furthermore, they did not name or call this GTHL staff member as a witness.

POSITION OF THE RATTLERS, THE COACH, AND THE TRAINER

They all rely on the portion of the Rules that could absolve the organization, the coach, and the trainer of fault if there was an "understandable mistake". Much was said of the alleged confusion created by conversation (s) with an unnamed GTHL employee with an unnamed representative of the Rattlers who allegedly called the GTHL offices for direction on the registration options for additional trainers, and allegedly received incorrect and misleading advice.

DECISION

These types of cases are always challenging for any GTHL panel because of who appears to suffer the greatest penalty when a team and organization have permitted someone to be on their bench as an "official" who is not properly registered as was clearly the case here. The players, coaches and parents have obviously done a remarkable job of building a successful team in every respect. Otherwise, they could not have achieved such a successful record, and yet, they will suffer the most it would seem if the Rules are enforced by the GTHL.

Nevertheless, the Panel is satisfied that rules and policies associated with the mandatory registration of trainers, and all officials in general, is not just an administrative requirement. Everyone in minor hockey knows, or should know, that this is a fundamental

requirement for all officials that has been in place for a long time, and for good reason. A trainer who is not registered is a liability to the team and the players. In all likelihood, the players and trainer would be without insurance, apart from the fundamental concern of proper qualifications as a trainer which in fact was not a concern here. This trainer was clearly qualified having been a registered trainer in the GTHL previously and he had also had an approved VSC in the past. However, it is just as clear that he was not properly registered in this season for a total of 14 games up until December 6th, 2024.

As a result, the panel makes the following decisions:

1. The Rattlers organization shall pay a penalty of \$1000 within 30 days of this decision for not ensuring its staff and officials were all registered as required. Leaving it to individual teams and managers to sort these important requirements out is not acceptable. Either they must hold their own training sessions prior to each season and/or ensure that their responsible officials attend the training sessions held by GTHL staff.
2. The Coach has already served a six (6) suspension. The panel is not persuaded that this penalty should be modified or removed despite the passionate argument on the part of the coach and organization to the contrary. A coach simply cannot have "officials" on their bench that are not properly registered as required, and there are fundamentally sound reasons for this.
3. The most difficult part of this decision is the mandatory penalty that we must levy against the team, a penalty that the parents and players had no responsibility for and no way to fix themselves. However, it is a difficult lesson that they must pay the price for because their leaders did not adhere to the mandatory and necessary rules put in place to protect those very players. As such all games that the team won or tied prior to the proper registration of the trainer in December will now be recorded as a 1-0 loss and the league standings will be revised accordingly.