



PARENTS OF THE MISSISSAUGA RATTLERS U16 AA GTHL WEST TEAM
GTHLletthemplay.ca

Ontario Hockey Federation rejects GTHL request to have Mississauga Rattlers appeal “summarily dismissed”.

GTHL argued that “game results are not subject to appeal”, even though it was the league itself that assigned the team 14 game losses.

Rattler’s parents say appeal must be heard by February 21 or the GTHL’s verdict needs to be stayed to protect the children.

February 19, 2025, MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO ---The parents of the Mississauga Rattlers U16 AA Team continue to fight an uphill battle to have their appeal of the Greater Toronto Hockey League’s (GTHL) decision that imposed a 14-game loss penalty over a paperwork error. While the team has raised its appeal up to the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF), the GTHL argued to the OHF that the appeal be “summarily dismissed” without a hearing. The league’s rationale was that OHF regulation 6.5.3 states “game results are not subject to appeal”. This, despite the GTHL itself having imposed the game result penalties. Having rightfully rejected that argument, the OHF can now schedule an appeal hearing.

“It is frustrating that people in a position of power, leading a youth hockey league, continue to act to protect themselves rather than the players they should be caring about.” said Jeff Davis, volunteer team manager and a parent of one of the players. “We are pleased the OHF rejected the GTHL’s argument. We now need the appeal hearing scheduled by February 21st for the players to have any hope of having this high-handed decision overturned.”

In December, the GTHL notified the team it was being penalized because one of its trainers had not been properly registered. The penalty of a one-game loss assignment and a six-game suspension for the coach was imposed without any investigation or opportunity for the team to respond, which league policy requires. After the team appealed the penalty in January, the

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GTHL increased the penalty to 16 games and added a \$1000 fine. Then, the GTHL attempted to stop the appeal from being heard at the league's provincial organization.

Davis said, "Discovering the GTHL was trying to scuttle the whole appeal process was disappointing to our families. But it is not surprising. We have felt mistreated from the beginning."

The league later reduced the penalty to 14 games over what it called a "transcription error".

"The GTHL is quite ready to forgive their own understandable mistake," said Meike Gilbert, a Rattlers parent. "They could have shown are players the same respect."

The team's online [Petition GTHL Let Them Play](#) has garnered over 2500 signatures and more than 900 messages of support. Social media videos have been viewed over 50,000 times. Other associations and the hockey community have urged the GTHL to reverse its decision.

Gilbert said, "Our children have fought so hard for so long. Any parent can imagine the emotional impact this would have on their children. When people in power abuse that power, it feels so wrong."

The team hopes the hearing is scheduled this week, or that the OHF will stay the decision by the GTHL to protect these kids until the hearing can be completed.

"The GTHL West Division playoffs will be all messed up until this is fixed. The other associations want it fixed too but the GTHL will not listen." Gilbert said.

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