

USA HOCKEY RULE 601(E.3)



Step 1

What the Rule Prohibits

Rule 601(e.3) strictly prohibits the use of **language that is offensive, hateful or discriminatory**, including:

- Racial slurs
- Ethnic slurs
- Religious insults
- Sexual orientation or gender identity slurs (#1 Most Common is "fag" or derivative of that word)
- Disability-related insults (#2 Most Common is "retard")
- Any disrespectful or demeaning language targeting someone's identity

Step 2

Penalty for Violation

Match Penalty is assessed immediately

- Player is **removed from the game**
- Player receives an **automatic 5-minute penalty, game ejection, and is reported for disciplinary review**

Step 3

Suspension Guidelines

A **minimum 5-game suspension** is typically issued, subject to review by the league or governing body

Repeat offenses can lead to **longer suspensions** or **season-long bans**

Step 4

Zero Tolerance Policy

USA Hockey enforces a **zero-tolerance stance** on all discriminatory or abusive language, regardless of intent.

- Officials are required to take **immediate action** when such language is heard or reported
- Leagues are responsible for **enforcing suspensions** and tracking repeat violations

Step 5

Related to Rule 411

If a player repeatedly receives match/game misconducts for abusive language, these may be tracked under **Rule 411 (Progressive Suspensions)** as well.

Step 6

Why it Matters

This rule promotes a **safe, respectful, and inclusive environment** for all players, coaches, officials, and fans. There is **no place for hate or discrimination** in hockey.

