



Windsor Minor Hockey Association Press Release Apology – Dean Lapierre

April 18th, 2017

In January 2017, Dean Lapierre made comments on his personal social media accounts that were disparaging and inappropriate. As a result the Windsor Minor Hockey Association (WMHA), in conjunction with the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) worked together to address the issue. It was agreed upon that Dean Lapierre be suspended and to participate in several rehabilitative processes during the suspension. Those have been successfully completed.

We have confirmed that Dean Lapierre's has completed steps towards correcting this unacceptable behavior. Mr. Lapierre, in taking responsibility for his actions has written a letter of apology.

Further, the WMHA has undertaken a review of their policies and procedures as it relates to Abuse, Harassment & Bullying. The WMHA has drafted a Social Media Policy that will also be added to our Bylaws. As well, the WMHA will be instituting a public awareness campaign to educate members of the WMHA with respect to the handling of social media platforms. All of these initiatives will be in place for the start of the upcoming season in September 2017.

Dean Lapierre Apology Letter:

In the latter part of January 2017 I made some comments on social media that were totally inappropriate and should have never happened. I was under the mistaken belief that what I said on social media was okay but clearly it is not the case.

I know that I offended many people. I did not intend to hurt anyone and at the time I did not understand the impact that it has on some groups of people. I have spoken to many people, many of whom are professionals and I now have an appreciation of people's perspectives and opinions. I now believe that any kind of inappropriate behaviour for any reason is unacceptable and that everyone deserves the right to be treated with respect, not only on social media but anywhere else.

I also understand that as the President of the Windsor Minor Hockey that I am held to a high standard within the community and that what I say and do in my private life impacts on the Windsor Minor Hockey Association.

During my suspension, I have had a chance to reflect on my actions and have taken steps to correct my behaviour. I want to apologize for the hurt that I have caused. I know that I am not perfect and have made mistakes. I can assure you that this will never happen again.

Yours truly,

Dean Lapierre

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The WMHA contact person is Dave Pickford, the WMHA Vice President of Travel. He can be contacted at: 519-981-2364

Thank you.

Rick Paré
Executive Vice President,
Windsor Minor Hockey Association.