

January 14, 2013
4:30PM

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Maria Velda and I am the Team Manager for the Woodstock Jr. Navy Vets Midget Rep Team A/AA. I am writing you today to make you aware of an incident that took place during our game on January 13, 2013 vs. Brantford-Game # SM 164.

In my opinion, the Officials were calling a very tight game both ways. However, the Brantford team received many Misconduct Penalties and had two players ejected from the game prior to the Incident for Misconduct Penalties against the Officials.

Needless to say, emotions were running high. The score was 7-2 in favor of Woodstock and with approximately 2:30 minutes left in the third period Player # 11 for Woodstock carried the puck out of our end and once over the red line dumped the puck into Brantford's end. He proceeded to chase the puck to the net and stopped abruptly in front of the goalie not making physical contact with him however, this action was perceived as "snowing the goalie".

I've observed many games where this very thing happens and the player receives an Unsportsmanlike Penalty or perhaps a shove by the goalie and it's left at that. This is not what happened during this game. The reaction of the Brantford players to the situation was extreme and unnecessary. As you will see, if you have had a chance to view the video from this game is that Player #11 is immediately blind-sided and taken down to the ground by three Brantford Players. As he attempts to get back up, Brantford Player #13 rips his helmet off his head and starts punching him repeatedly in the head. By this time three Woodstock Players #'s 8, 6 and 13 come into Player #11's aid.

Player #11 skated off the ice bleeding as did the other three Woodstock players. Player #11 was taken to Woodstock General Hospital where he was diagnosed as having a broken nose, a large goose egg on his head as well as "concussion-like" symptoms. He has been advised not to return to the game for 2-3 weeks as a result of his injuries.

My point in reliving this is that the reaction of the Brantford team to Player # 11's "Unsportsmanlike behavior" was very extreme. The coaches on the Woodstock bench were telling the players to "stay out of trouble" as they could see the tempers of the Brantford Coaches and players rising. I do not believe this was the message being given on the Brantford bench. At a time like this it is the Coaches responsibility to control their players, set the tone and calm things down.

The Brantford coaches appeared visibly and verbally agitated to the officials calls throughout the game. After the game as players were returning to their dressing rooms, Brantford players and coaches continued to yell obscenities at the officials as well as the Woodstock players entering their dressing room. Arena staff and the officials were standing in the hallway between the two dressing rooms as Brantford players were attempting to head towards the Woodstock dressing room. It was also discovered that Player # 11's stick was missing and it is believed that a Brantford player took it.

If you look over our season game sheets you will see that none of our players have been suspended for fighting. This is not our teams style of play. It was very unfortunate that this game ended the way it did. I believe that there would have been a very different outcome if the Brantford coaches would have had control of their bench.

Maria Velda
Woodstock Jr. Navy Vets Midget Rep A/AA Team Manager