



# COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

## OFFICE OF ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

For Release – October 4, 2006

### **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MEN'S ICE HOCKEY CLUB REMOVED FROM SUSPENSION ON APPEAL; PROBATION REDUCED TO ONE YEAR**

Columbia University Club Sports administrators have revisited the recent disciplinary action taken against the Columbia Men's Ice Hockey Club. It appears that there may have been miscommunication of existing Club Sports policy and procedures between the Club Sports Program and the Men's Ice Hockey Club.

In the absence of a formalized appeals process for Club Sports disciplinary actions, Dr. M. Dianne Murphy, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Physical Education, asked Club Sports administrators Dr. Kenneth Torrey, Associate Athletics Director for Physical Education, and Brian Jines, Director of Club Sports, to review this matter.

On Monday October 2, 2006, leaders of the Men's Ice Hockey Club and Club Sports administrators met to discuss the recent suspension of the Club, with Dr. Murphy present as a facilitator. At this meeting, members of the Men's Ice Hockey Club acknowledged accountability for their recent actions, and expressed concerns about communication of roles and responsibilities for Club Sports leaders from the Department.

After consideration of all events, the revised disciplinary action has been established:

- 1) ***The Columbia University Men's Ice Hockey Club has offered to make a written public apology to the Columbia community for the publication of the recruiting flyers.*** Members of the Club acknowledge that they did not seek approval from any Club Sports administrator prior to posting the flyers. The Club acknowledges that the recruiting poster may have caused potential insult to some members of the Columbia community. The Men's Ice Hockey Club also acknowledges that this recent incident is not the first violation of Club Sports policy and procedures in the past four years by some members of the Men's Ice Hockey Club, including those in leadership positions.
- 2) ***The Columbia University Men's Ice Hockey Club will be suspended from both of their pre-season, non-league exhibition contests.*** The Club can resume practice following the formal apology.
- 3) ***The Club will remain on probation, which has been reduced to one (1) year.*** Any violation of Club Sports policy and procedures may result in disciplinary actions, up to and including elimination of the Club from the Columbia University Club Sports Program.
- 4) ***Members of the Columbia Men's Ice Hockey Club will participate in leadership training session(s).*** Topics may include: communications, team-building, accountability and leadership succession.

As a result of this new decision, the Columbia University Men's Ice Hockey Club will be fully reinstated to the Club Sports Program.

“The Columbia Club Sports program has listened to members of the Columbia Men’s Ice Hockey Club regarding their concerns,” says Dr. Kenneth Torrey, Associate Athletics Director for Physical Education. “The Club brought forth some suggestions to improve the Club Sports Program. We appreciate their feedback and interest in improving the Club Sports Program.”

“This has been a learning opportunity for all of us,” notes Brian Jines, Director of Club Sports. “I look forward to working with all of our Club Sports leaders over the next year to ensure that they can compete and learn in a safe and respectful environment.”

“I am pleased that the Club Sports administrators and the members of the Men’s Ice Hockey Club have been able to come to an understanding on this issue,” says Dr. M. Dianne Murphy, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Physical Education.

No further comment is expected at this time.

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