

## **SECTION G – SENIOR FEMALE HOCKEY**

### **1. Critical Dates**

- 1.1 **April 30:** To be approved and sanctioned by Hockey Alberta to operate Junior Hockey, a League shall be an approved Member that is an incorporated society that has submitted its approved Bylaws, Regulations, and a list of the names and addresses of the officers to Hockey Alberta, no later than April 30. Any amendments to the Bylaws and Regulations must be filed with and approved by HA prior to implementation.
- 1.2 **October 15:** Senior Female Leagues must submit their order for Team Registration on or before October 15 in each Hockey Season.
- 1.3 **November 15:**
- (a) All Hockey Teams must be properly registered in the registry prior to their first League Game or November 15, whichever occurs first.
  - (b) All Players participating on a Hockey Team must be registered in the registry. Any Hockey Team whose registration is received after November 15 will not be eligible for Provincial competition.
  - (c) A Hockey Team may only register after November 15 with permission of the Office of the CEO.
  - (d) The final date to complete all required Team Official certification is November 15.
- 1.4 **January 10:** The final date to release a Player is January 10.
- 1.5 **January 15:** Requests for Affiliates must be filed in the registry no later than 5:00PM MST.
- 1.6 **February 10:**
- (a) if allotments are available, the final date for teams to register players and submit a final roster list of not more than twenty-five (25);
  - (b) the final date for the completion of player transfers.

### **2. Team Registration**

- 2.1 Member Senior Leagues must submit their order for Teams on or before October 15.
- 2.2 Registration fees in accordance with the Regulations are payable by each Team, based upon the League's application for Teams.
- 2.3
- (a) All Hockey Teams must be properly registered in the Registry prior to their first League Game or November 15, whichever occurs first. All Players and Team Officials participating on a Hockey Team must be registered in the Registry. Any Hockey Team whose registration is received after November 15 will not be eligible for Provincials.
  - (b) A Hockey Team may only register after November 15 with permission of the Office of the CEO.
  - (c) Any Team found to have permitted a Player and/or Team Official who is not properly registered to that team to participate in a game may be subject to a fine up to a maximum of \$500.00 per violation.

## 2.4 League Categorization

Senior "AA": Open to all Leagues wishing to have their member Teams compete for the Senior Female AA Provincial Championship.

Senior "A": Open to all Leagues wishing to have their member Teams compete for the Senior Female A Provincial Championship.

Senior "B": Open to all Leagues wishing to have their member Teams compete for the Senior Female B Provincial Championship.

## 2.5 Hockey Teams (Players and Team Officials) will be registered in accordance with Hockey Canada Bylaws and the HA Bylaws and Regulations.

(a) It is recommended that all Female Teams have at least one (1) female Coach registered to the Team.

## 2.6 Senior Female Teams will not enter into any player contracts or agreements, except with HA and Hockey Canada.

## 2.7 Number of Players on a Hockey Team

(a) Senior Female Teams will be provided with not more than thirty-five (35) Player registration allotments each season. Teams may not register more than twenty-five (25) Players at any one time.

(b) By January 10 at 5:00pm MST, all Teams must reduce their total roster (see specifics below) to not more than twenty-five (25), including:

- (i) the number of registered players on their roster; and
- (ii) the number of allotted but unused Player registrations.

If twenty-five (25) players are registered, at least two (2) must be goaltenders. All players not indicated on this final list are considered released.

(c) Any Team failing to meet this deadline shall be declared ineligible for further competition until the preceding outlined provisions are met. Non-compliance shall result in all Players being declared released from the Team.

(d) A Team which has the maximum number of registered Players on its roster on January 10 shall not be permitted to register any further Players during the current Season. A Team which has fewer registered Players may, if it has allotted but unused registrations, register eligible Players until February 10, but once a vacancy on the roster has been filled it may not be used again.

## 2.8 Imports

(a) Senior Female AA, A, and B Teams will be permitted to register an unlimited number of Imports.

(b) No Player having Canadian citizenship shall be classified as an Import.

- 2.9 *Emergency Goaltender* - During any scheduled Exhibition, League, Provincial, or Tournament game, a Team may be permitted the use of a goaltender from another Hockey Team of equal or lower Division or Category if medical evidence or extenuating circumstance shows that a replacement goaltender is required.

Emergency Goaltenders can only be used if all registered and affiliated goaltenders are not available. Submissions for use of an Emergency Goaltender must be filed using Hockey Alberta's online form.

- 2.10 Registered Hockey Teams must not play against unregistered hockey teams at any time. All Team Officials associated with any Hockey Team playing against an unregistered team will be suspended and shall remain suspended until dealt with by the Office of the CEO.

### **3. Player Registration**

- 3.1 Hockey Alberta governs competition in amateur hockey in all divisions, including Senior Female which is open to Players of any age.
- 3.2 Every Player competing in the games sanctioned by HA shall be a member of a Hockey Team registered with HA and shall, prior to competing in their first League Game, be registered in the Registry for the current Hockey Season.
- 3.3 A player's registration in the registry must include the Player's legal address. In the case of rural Players, both the legal land location and the mailing address must be identified. In the case of urban Players, the street address or, if the street address differs from the mailing address, both the street address and the mailing address must be identified.
- 3.4 (a) A Player applying for the first time for registration with Hockey Alberta shall provide proof of age.  
 (b) Any proof of age shall be an official birth certificate legally recognized by the civil authorities in Alberta.  
 (c) In cases where it is impossible to secure birth certificates, the Office of the CEO may, if supporting evidence is considered satisfactory, accept in lieu thereof duly certified baptismal certificates issued before the age of 10 years or the age at the date of entry into this country as certified by the form filled out at the port of entry or other suitable documents.
- 3.5 (a) A Player may only register on one (1) Team, unless released by the team she first registered with prior to January 10. Players registering with more than one Hockey Team without releases are suspended and shall remain suspended until dealt with by the Office of the CEO.  
 (b) No Player may register after February 10 in any Hockey Season with any Hockey Team.
- 3.6 Players wishing to register with a Team (graduating U18 Players are exempt) other than the Team which they were registered during the last Hockey Season must first obtain permission from the Team the Player was last registered with.
- 3.7 Inter-Branch Transfer  
 (a) A Player desiring a transfer from a Team in one Branch to a Team in HA shall first obtain a release (if applicable, please review Hockey Canada Regulations)

- from the Team of which she is a member. The Team in HA will then make application in the registry to complete the transfer between the Teams involved.
- (b) The Inter-Branch transfer must be completed in the registry and approved by the Office of the CEO before the first game in which the Player is to participate.
  - (c) Inter-Branch Transfer Fees are set annually by Hockey Canada (see HC Regulations for details).
- 3.8 USA/International Transfer (For more details please contact the HA Office)
- (a) A Player who has previously registered with any other IIHF Member Federation wishing to register with a member Team of HA must first obtain a USA Transfer or an International Transfer from the last Federation in which she was registered.
  - (b) All transfers between USA Hockey and Hockey Canada shall be governed by the Hockey Canada/USA Hockey Transfer Agreement. The agreement is contained in its entirety in the Hockey Canada Regulations.
  - (c) All transfers between other Registered members of the IIHF and Hockey Canada shall be governed by the IIHF Transfer Regulations. The IIHF Transfer Regulations are contained in their entirety in the Hockey Canada Regulations.
- 3.9 For regulations pertaining to Imports, please see Team Registration.
- 4. Leagues**
- 4.1 Applications to become a Member Senior Female Hockey League must be submitted to Hockey Alberta, in accordance with Policy, on or before January 31 to be considered for the subsequent season.
- 4.2 For a League to be approved as a Member and sanctioned by Hockey Alberta to operate Senior Female hockey, Leagues shall:
- (a) be an incorporated society in the Province of Alberta;
  - (b) submit their Bylaws, Regulations, and Policies to Hockey Alberta no later than June 30 every three (3) years (*Note: any amendments to League Bylaws, Regulations and Policies must be registered with Alberta Registries and/ or HA prior to implementation*);
  - (c) submit a list of the names and contact information of the officers of the League to Hockey Alberta no later than June 30 of each year.
- 4.3 All Member Senior Female Hockey Leagues must operate in accordance with their Constitution/ Bylaws, Policies/ Regulations. Upon request, Leagues shall be required to forward to Hockey Alberta a copy of all Minutes of any meeting, whether regular or special.
- 4.4 All games involving League members are deemed to be under the jurisdiction of Hockey Alberta and all Hockey Alberta rules and regulations will apply.
- 4.5 Leagues must ensure that their respective Teams are properly registered in accordance with Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada Regulations.
- 4.6 Teams whose geographical location is outside the jurisdiction of Hockey Alberta, may be considered to participate in a Hockey Alberta Senior Female Hockey League upon application to Hockey Alberta. Applications will only be considered if

the applying team(s) are registered with a Member of Hockey Canada, or USA Hockey.

- 4.7 Leagues shall be permitted to make Bylaws and Regulations that will provide the most efficient administration unless specific provisions are contained in Hockey Canada and/ or Hockey Alberta Constitutions/ Bylaws and Policies/ Regulations.
- 4.8 The Constitution, Regulations and Policies of Minor Hockey Leagues must not contain any provisions which contradict Hockey Alberta Bylaws, Regulations, Policies, standards and/ or operating procedures for Senior Female Hockey.
- 4.9 Leagues that wish to declare Champions to compete in Provincial or Inter-Branch competition may not make provisions in their Constitutions/ Bylaws and Policies/ Regulations that contravene any eligibility requirements outlined by Hockey Alberta or Hockey Canada.

## **5. Player Movement**

- 5.1 Players shall be allowed to move to different teams provided they acquire a release from the Team they were previously registered with.
- 5.2 A minor aged Player who was registered with an MHA last Hockey Season must first obtain permission from that MHA prior to transferring to a Senior Female Team (permission is not required for a graduating U18 aged Player).

## **6. Releases**

- 6.1 A Player who was registered with a Junior or Senior Team last Hockey Season must first obtain a release from that Team prior to registering for the current Hockey Season with any other Team.
- 6.2 A release must be obtained prior to registering for the current Hockey Season by all Players who:
  - (a) were previously registered on a Junior or Senior team; and
  - (b) wish to register with a team other than the one they were registered with previously.
- 6.3 Prior to obtaining a Release a Player must pay any outstanding fees, or other financial obligations, owing to the Team or Association being asked for the release.

## **7. Affiliation**

- 7.1 Affiliation must be filed in the registry prior to the affiliated Player being allowed to participate in any game with the Hockey Team to which she is affiliated. Affiliations will be accepted up to and including January 15 at 5:00PM MST.
- 7.2 Minor aged Players may not affiliate to a Senior Female Team outside of the Minor Region in which they reside. Senior Female Teams are deemed to be within the region where the majority of the players on the team reside.

Note: Senior Female teams that file affiliations involving Minor aged players must adhere to the Respect In Sport requirements outlined within the Coach Education Requirements.

7.3 Affiliation will only be recognized where:

- (a) Players are requested in the registry and identified as "Affiliates".
- (b) the affiliation has been endorsed by the President/ Manager of the applicable Player's MHA or Junior or Senior Team.

Note: All affiliations shall terminate at the end of the current playing season.

Note: Registered Minor "AAA" Players are not eligible to affiliate to Senior "B" Categorized Teams.

7.4 Any Player participating in any game as an affiliated Player without the approval of the Office of the CEO shall be considered an Ineligible Player and the Team Officials may be subject to discipline.

7.5 A Hockey Team may affiliate up to nineteen (19) named Players that are registered on a lower Division or Category team.

7.6 Affiliated Players may participate in League, Exhibition, Tournament and Provincial games.

7.7 Providing Affiliation has been properly filed prior to January 15 at 5:00PM MST, an affiliated Player may play with the Hockey Team to which she is affiliated a total of ten (10) games during the regular season and playoffs. Should an affiliated Hockey Player play more than ten (10) games with the Hockey Team to which the player is affiliated, she shall be considered an "Ineligible Player". However, if her registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before her affiliated team or teams, she may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times.

7.8 Appearance of a registered Player's name on the official game report of a game shall be considered participation in the game except in the case of an alternate goalkeeper, in which case only actually playing in a game shall be considered as participation.

7.9 Affiliation shall not be used to strengthen a team.

## **8. Provincial Championships**

8.1 Provincial Championships are for the purpose of determining the championship team in each specific Division and Category.

8.2 If there are sustainable Member Leagues operating at each Category, Hockey Alberta will award Provincial Championships in the following Divisions and Categories:

- (a) Senior Female "AA"
- (b) Senior Female "A"
- (c) Senior Female "B"

- 8.3 Teams that participate within a Hockey Alberta Member Senior Female League will be eligible, if declared by the League, to represent the League and participate at the Provincial Championships at the aligned category.

## **9. Exhibition Games**

- 9.1 Sanctioning for Exhibition Games must be obtained through Hockey Alberta's online system for all in-Province exhibition games, as well as out of province exhibition games, and exhibition games with USA Hockey based Teams.
- 9.2 Sanctioning will only be considered for properly registered Teams that are requesting permission to play other Teams that are properly registered with Hockey Alberta, a Hockey Canada Member Branch, USA Hockey, or another IIHF Member Federation.
- 9.3 Games against international Teams, other than games with USA Hockey Teams, must have sanctioning approved by the IIHF, Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta.
- 9.4 Sanctioning for exhibition games may not be approved if there are conflicts with League play, playoffs and/ or Provincials.
- 9.5 Game reports for all exhibition games must be submitted through the online system within 24 hours to the Office of the CEO and/ or the Division of Hockey Chair by the Team (submitted to the League for League Sanctioned Games).
- 9.6 **MHAs that have Teams participate in Exhibition Games without obtaining proper sanctioning may be subject to a fine of up to \$500.00 and the revoking of sanctioning privileges.**

## **10. Non-Provincial Tournament Rules**

- 10.1 No Team shall be permitted to play in any tournament unless it has been sanctioned by Hockey Alberta, another Hockey Canada Member Branch, USA Hockey, or another IIHF Member Federation.
- 10.2 Teams shall be required to request permission from Hockey Alberta to host any tournament. All tournaments requested must be submitted a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the event. In receiving sanctioning, the Team agrees to impose and enforce any disciplinary actions necessary against participating Teams, Team Officials, and/or Players.
- 10.3 Teams shall be required to request permission from Hockey Alberta to travel to any tournament. For Tournaments within Canada or the USA, permits must be requested a minimum of one (1) week prior to the event. For International Tournaments, the formal request for an International Tour must be submitted a minimum of sixty (60) days prior to the event. In granting permission, the host IIHF Federation will be responsible to impose and report any disciplinary actions necessary against participating Teams and/or Players.
- 10.4 Subsequent tournament sanctions may not be issued to any Team which has been found to have conducted, or participated in, a tournament which has not conformed to the Hockey Canada or HA regulations.

- 10.5 All Tournaments hosted by an HA registered Team that involve International Teams must be sanctioned by Hockey Canada through HA. An application form must be submitted to HA by the Team requesting to host the tournament at least sixty (60) days in advance.
- 10.6 No sanctioned Tournament shall accept Teams to participate unless the Team is a registered member of Hockey Alberta, another Hockey Canada Member Branch, USA Hockey, or another IIHF Member Federation.
- 10.7 Every Player competing in any sanctioned tournament must be registered, in the Registry, with that Team or be affiliated to that team. The host Team is responsible to verify the eligibility of Teams and Players. The Team must produce such registration for inspection at all tournaments.
- 10.8 Game sheets must be submitted within 24 hours of the conclusion of the Tournament to HA's appropriate Division of Hockey Chair.
- 10.9 All Teams must fulfill prior commitments for league play and provincial play (or obtain permission to reschedule) prior to committing to attend a Tournament. Failing to do so will result in the Team being prepared to forfeit any further privileges they currently hold.
- 10.10 When a suspendable offence occurs involving a Player or team official in a sanctioned tournament, the host Team is responsible for applying the Minimum Suspensions, informing the offending party of the consequences and forwarding a copy of the official game report, with all necessary supporting evidence, to HA (via the Division of hockey Chair or designate).
- 10.11 All Teams hosting sanctioned tournaments will be responsible for keeping a copy of the tournament's official game reports for a period of one year
- 10.12 All games in a sanctioned tournament shall be officiated by Referees and Linesmen registered with Hockey Alberta.
- 10.13 All sanctioned tournaments hosted in Alberta will be played under Hockey Canada Official Playing Rules and must comply with Hockey Alberta Bylaws and Regulations.

## **11. Discipline**

- 11.1 For Minimum Suspensions please refer to the Appendices.
- 11.2 Fines – Under no circumstances will League or Team be allowed to assess cash fines to Players for rule or regulation infractions. Violations of this policy will result in discipline as set out in the General Regulations.
- 11.3 The Office of the CEO, and/ or the Division of Hockey Chair is responsible for issuing and monitoring suspensions incurred in exhibition games, tournaments, and Provincials.

The League is responsible for issuing and monitoring suspensions for League play.

- 11.4 All Indefinite Suspensions, regardless of the type of game they were incurred in (League, Provincial, Tournament or Exhibition), must be submitted to the Office of the CEO and/ or the Division of Hockey Chair for investigation.



*All Indefinite Suspension investigations shall be handled according to the HA General Regulations.*

- 11.5 All suspensions must be served in the next consecutive League, Tournament, Play-off or Provincial games. Exhibition games do not count as suspended games, and Players cannot play in exhibition games while serving a suspension.
- 11.6 **All Participants (Players, Team Officials, and/ or Officials) that incur a suspension must serve that suspension in the same capacity that it was incurred. Suspended Participants can continue to participate in sanctioned game play in another capacity, and are not eligible to serve suspended games in another capacity.**

*Example: A suspended Player is permitted to continue participating as an Official or Team Official while serving the suspension.*

***Exception: If a Participant is suspended for any 11.4 or 11.5 infraction, they are suspended from all participation until the suspension is completely served with the Team with which the suspension was incurred.***

- 11.7 Depending on the jurisdiction (see above), the Office of the CEO, the Division of Hockey Chair, or the League will issue a suspension notice. The Participants must not participate in any hockey games until a written suspension notice is received.

A suspension notice must specify:

- (i) the Participant's name;
- (ii) the reason/ infraction that the Participant is suspended;
- (iii) the number of games the Participant is suspended for;
- (iv) which games suspensions can be served in;
- (v) reference to the Hockey Alberta Appeals policy.

- 11.8 Any infractions that involve a Player or Team Official acting against a referee or linesman (Rule 11.5) are handled by the Hockey Alberta Match Penalty Officer(s).
- 11.9 **No suspended Player or Team Official is allowed on the players' bench, in the timekeeper's box or in the penalty box during a game.**
- 11.10 Any Player incurring a suspension with their Registered Team, or a Team they are Affiliated to, must serve the suspension with their Registered Team. Players are not eligible to play with their Registered Team or any Teams they are Affiliated to until the suspension is completely served.

If a Player's Registered Team has finished hockey for the season, the Player would be permitted to serve the remainder of the suspension with a Team they are Affiliated to. All games being served as an Affiliate Player must be listed on a game report.

- 11.11 Any Team Official registered with more than one (1) Hockey Team who incurs a suspension must serve the suspension with the Team that the suspension was incurred with. **A Team Official is eligible to participate with their other registered Team(s) while serving the suspension with the Team the suspension was incurred with.**

***Exception: If a Team Official is suspended for any 11.4 or 11.5 infraction, they are suspended from all participation until the suspension is completely served with the Team with which the suspension was incurred.***

**If the Team the Team Official incurred a suspension with has finished their season, the Team Official would be permitted to serve the remainder of the suspension with their other registered Team. All games being served must be listed on a game report.**

- 11.12 Carry-Over Suspensions - Any player who has not served a suspension from the previous season will have that suspension carried over to the next season.

A Player's Team may request in writing, to the Office of the CEO or Division of Hockey Chair, to have the suspension deferred for a maximum of three (3) games to allow participation in Exhibition, Pre-Season, and/ or Tournament games that take place prior to October 15 (deferred games will not count as games served for the incurred suspension).

Team Officials are not eligible for this exception.

- 11.13 Pre-Season Suspensions - Any Player who received a suspension in a Pre-Season Game may have their Team request in writing, to the Office of the CEO or Division of Hockey Chair, to have the suspension(s) served in the next Pre-Season game(s).

Team Officials are not eligible for this exception.

- 11.14 Any Player or Team Official who is assessed a Game Misconduct or Gross Misconduct penalty in the last ten (10) minutes of regular playing time, at any time in overtime, or after the conclusion of the game will automatically be suspended for a minimum of the next regular League, Playoff, Pre-Season, Tournament or Provincial Game. This is in addition to any other suspensions directed by Hockey Alberta.

- 11.15 Any Team Official who is party to, or had knowledge of, permitting an unregistered or ineligible Player or Team Official to participate in a game shall be suspended until dealt with by HA. The Team may also forfeit any games played while using an Ineligible Player or Team Official.

- 11.16 Any Team who is party to, or had knowledge of, permitting an unregistered or ineligible Player or Team Official to participate in a game may be fined by HA.

- 11.17 Any Player or Team Official who is party to the falsification of a birth certificate or registration certificate, or who participates under an assumed name, or has knowledge of someone doing so shall be automatically suspended until dealt with by HA.

## **12. Coach Education Requirements**

### **Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP)**

All Hockey Alberta teams must have one (1) Team Official registered to their team who has completed the Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP).

Teams must have a registered and eligible (as defined below) safety person by November 15 of the current Hockey Season. Teams failing to adhere to this regulation may jeopardize their eligibility for Provincial, Regional and National Playoffs.

An eligible safety person is defined as a person who has successfully completed the requirements for the Hockey Canada Safety Program. This program is valid for a period of three (3) hockey seasons from the date of the clinic attended to August 1 of the third hockey season.

*Respect In Sport - Coach*

Senior Female teams are exempt from Respect in Sport (RIS), UNLESS they have a Minor aged player or Minor aged Affiliate registered on their team. If they have a Minor aged player or Affiliate, then the Respect In Sport program must be taken as outlined below.

By November 15 of the current Hockey Season, each Hockey Team in the province of Alberta must have all registered Team Officials complete the Respect in Sport - "Activity Leader/Coach" program.

*See General Information section for further details.*