

SECTION A – INTRO TO HOCKEY

1. Critical Dates

- 1.1 **April 30:** To be approved and sanctioned by Hockey Alberta to operate Minor Hockey for Member organizations, a League shall be an incorporated society and submit its approved Bylaws, its 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:** MHAs must submit their order for Program Registration as required on or before October 15 in each Hockey Season.
- 1.3 **November 15:**
- (a) All Hockey Programs must be properly and duly registered with Hockey Alberta prior to their first Game or November 15, whichever occurs first.
 - (b) All Players participating must be registered in the Registry.
 - (c) Members may only register a Hockey Program after November 15 with permission of the Office of the CEO.
 - (d) The final date to complete all required Instructor certification is November 15 of the current Hockey Season.
- 1.4 **February 10:** The final date for Player registration is February 10.

2. Program Registration

- 2.1 Players and Instructors must be registered in accordance with Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta Bylaws and Regulations.
- (a) MHAs must register all their Hockey Programs with Hockey Alberta, in the Registry.
 - (b) Registration fees in accordance with these Regulations are payable for all Programs and Players.
- 2.2 MHAs must submit their order for Program Registration on or before October 15th.
- 2.3
- (a) All Hockey Programs must be properly registered prior to their first Game or November 15, whichever occurs first.
 - (b) An MHA may only register a Hockey Program after November 15 with permission of the Office of the CEO.
 - (c) All Players participating in a Hockey Program must be properly registered in the Registry.
 - (d) Any MHA found to have permitted a Player and/or Instructor, who is not properly registered, to participate in a game may be subject to a fine up to a maximum of \$500.00 per violation.
 - (e) The final date to complete all required Instructor certification is November 15 of the current Hockey Season.
- 2.4 Intro to Hockey Programs can be registered in the following Divisions:
- (a) U9
 - (b) U7

- 2.5 Hockey Programs and Players will be registered in accordance with Hockey Canada Bylaws and the HA Bylaws and regulations.
- 2.6 Intro to Hockey Programs will be controlled and operated only by an MHA and shall not enter into any player contracts or agreements, except with HA and Hockey Canada.
- 2.7 Number of Registered Players
 - (a) Programs within the Divisions of U7 and U9 do not have a minimum or maximum number of Players that can be registered at any one time.
 - (b) Programs within the Divisions of U7 and U9 do not designate goaltenders.
- 2.8 Instructors participating "on the bench" with any registered Hockey Program must be registered in the Registry prior to participating. Instructors participating with more than one (1) Hockey Program in the same season must be properly registered with each Program prior to participating.
- 2.9 Registered Hockey Programs can only play against groups registered with an International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Member Federation. All Instructors associated with any Hockey Program that plays against a group that is not IIHF registered will be suspended and shall remain suspended until dealt with by the Office of the CEO.

3. Player Eligibility & Registration

- 3.1 Residency
 - (a) No Player shall be registered with any MHA unless that Player is a Resident of the Province of Alberta.
 - (b) No Player shall be registered as a member of, or compete for, a Hockey Program in any MHA unless that Player is a Resident Player of the MHA (a Player's residence is determined by the permanent residence of their parents/ court appointed guardians).
 - (c) Boundaries must have been established, mutually agreed upon by the MHA's, and submitted to Hockey Alberta.
 - (d) Any Player who, prior to the establishment of or an amendment to Boundaries, was registered with a particular MHA and has played all their minor hockey with that MHA will be recognized as a "resident" of that MHA. Siblings of such players, when registering in Minor Hockey for the first time, shall have a one-time choice of registering either the MHA in which they reside or the MHA in which the older sibling has always been registered.
 - (e) Any player requesting registration who is not an Alberta resident must submit an Appeal to Transfer, in accordance with the Hockey Canada Bylaws.
 - (f) Any player requesting registration who is neither a Canadian Citizen nor a Landed Immigrant must submit an Appeal to Transfer in accordance with the Hockey Canada Bylaws.
- 3.2 Players are eligible, by year of birth, for the following Divisions of hockey:
 - (a) U9 For the 24-25 season, open to Players born in **2016 and subsequent years**
 - (b) U7 For the 24-25 season, open to Players born in **2018 and subsequent years**
- 3.3 A Player registering with an MHA for the first time shall provide proof of age by way of an official birth certificate legally recognized by the civil authorities in Alberta.

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.

- 3.4 Overage Players may be permitted to register in a lower age Division **if they are one birth year older than the maximum age for the Division and have a date of birth between November 1 and December 31 of that year.**

Exceptions may be considered for entry level Players that have limited skills or if there is not a Program of the appropriate age Division for the Player to register with. Submissions for exceptions must be submitted to Hockey Alberta through the online form.

- 3.5 Hockey Alberta reserves the right to revoke the eligibility of an Overage Player at any time should that player be deemed to strengthen the Program they are registered with, or it is determined the Player no longer meets the required criteria
- 3.6 A player registering shall provide proof of completion of the Respect-in-Sport – Parent course. Proof of Respect-in-Sport – Parent shall be indicated by a card number showing on the player's registration in the Registry.
- 3.7 When registering for hockey, Players must first attempt to register with the MHA in which the player resides (in accordance with approved MHA Boundaries).
- 3.8 A Player's registration in the Registry must include the Player's name, date of birth, gender, physical address, mailing address, and email address.
- 3.9 Minor Hockey Associations must register all their Players in the registry.
- 3.10 A Player may only be registered with one (1) Program at a time.

Players registering with more than one Hockey Program without proper releases and/ or transfers are suspended and shall remain suspended until dealt with by the Office of the CEO.

- 3.11 No Player may be registered after February 10 in any Hockey Season with any Minor Hockey Association.

4. Player Movement

4.1 Permission for Player Movement

- (a) A Player must obtain permission, in writing, from their Resident MHA prior to being transferred, in the Registry, to a new MHA. The written permission must be uploaded to the transfer.
- (b) If the Resident MHA does not provide permission, an application for Player Movement can be submitted to Hockey Alberta through completion of the online form.

- (c) Failure to complete the required processes outlined herein will result in the Player's registration not being completed and therefore being ineligible to play.
- (d) In cases where a Player is found to have played in a game(s) without first having completed the required processes outlined herein, the Instructors and the MHA of the Hockey Program with which the Player has played may be subject to discipline.
- (e) Permission for Player Movement can be denied if there are any outstanding fees, or other financial obligations, owing to the MHA the Player was last registered with.

4.2 Player movement does not require permission from the Player's Resident MHA in the following situations:

- (a) where the Player's Resident MHA does not offer a Program at the Player's age Division;
- (b) where two MHAs, by mutual agreement, combine participants of the same age Division in order to be able to operate a program at that age Division for the current Hockey Season;
- (c) where an application for an exception is based on extenuating circumstances and both MHA's are in agreement.

5. Releases

5.1 A Release (as defined herein) is available to be issued, via the Standard Release Form, as a method of permanent movement for special circumstances within Minor Hockey (ie – conduct).

6. Affiliation

6.1 The filing of Affiliation is not required within Intro to Hockey Divisions (U7 and U9). When needed, or when in the best interest of a player, MHA's will be permitted to use age appropriate players that are registered within their U7 and/or U9 program for any sanctioned games.

6.2 Players registered within the Intro to Hockey Divisions (U7 and U9) are eligible to be registered as affiliates with Minor Hockey Teams.

7. Exhibition Games

7.1 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.

7.2 Sanctioning will only be considered for properly registered Programs that are requesting permission to play other programs that are properly registered with Hockey Alberta, a Hockey Canada Member Branch, USA Hockey, or another IIHF Member Federation.

7.3 Games against international Teams, other than games with USA Hockey Teams, must have sanctioning approved by the IIHF, Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta.

7.4 Sanctioning for exhibition games may not be approved if there are conflicts with League play, playoffs and/ or Provincials.

7.5 Game reports for all exhibition games must be submitted through the online system within 24 hours to the appropriate Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator by the Team (submitted to the League for League Sanctioned Games).

7.6 **MHAs that 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.**

8. Tournament Rules

8.1 Tournaments within Alberta

(a) No MHA, Team or Player registered with HA shall be permitted to participate in any tournament unless it has been sanctioned by Hockey Alberta through the online system, and a sanction number has been provided.

MHAs shall request Tournament sanctions at least two (2) weeks' in prior to the event date.

(b) In receiving sanctioning, the MHA agrees to impose and enforce any disciplinary actions necessary against the team, or members of the Team.

(c) For tournaments within Alberta involving Teams from outside Alberta, MHAs must request sanctioning at least sixty (60) days in advance of the tournament.

(d) No MHA shall accept Teams into a sanctioned tournament that are not registered member Teams of Hockey Alberta, another Hockey Canada member branch, or a Member IIHF Federation.

(e) Every Player competing in any sanctioned tournament must be registered with that Team, or be affiliated to that team. The Team must produce such registration for inspection at all tournaments and the host MHA will verify the eligibility of all Teams and Players in the tournament.

(f) All Teams participating in a Tournament must ensure they reschedule and complete any conflicted league, playoff and/ or provincial games. Failure to do so may result in the Team forfeiting any further privileges to participate in Tournaments.

(g) When an infraction that carries a suspension occurs in a Tournament, a copy of the official game report and all necessary supporting evidence shall be forwarded to the Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator, League, MHA, and Team involved.

(h) All MHAs hosting sanctioned tournaments will be responsible for keeping a copy of the tournament's official game reports for a period of one year.

(i) All games in a sanctioned tournament shall be officiated by Referees and Linespersons registered with Hockey Alberta.

(j) All sanctioned tournaments will be played under Hockey Canada Official Playing Rules and must comply with Hockey Alberta Bylaws, Regulations, and Policies.

- (k) No Team or Players may compete in more than three (3) tournament games in one (1) day, unless such games are not longer than three (3) periods of 15 minutes, the first two (2) of which must be straight time. When a Team is required to play three (3) games in one (1) day, there shall be an interval of one and a half (1-1/2) hours between the second and third games.

No games in any tournament shall start before 7:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m.

- (l) Subsequent tournament sanctions may not be issued to any MHA or Team which has been found to have conducted/ participated in a tournament which has not conformed to the applicable Hockey Canada and/ or HA regulations.

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.

8.2 Tournaments Outside Alberta

- (a) No Team shall be permitted to play in any tournament outside Alberta unless it has been provided written permission by Hockey Alberta.
- (b) No Team shall compete in a tournament in another Province or Country unless that tournament has been granted a sanction permit by the Hockey Canada Member Branch or IIHF Federation in whose territory the tournament is sanctioned.
- (c) In receiving permission, the MHA agrees to impose and enforce any disciplinary actions necessary against the team, or members of the Team.
- (d) The Hockey Canada Member Branch or IIHF Federation in which the tournament is held shall have the authority to impose suspensions against Teams, Players, and/ or Team Officials, pending and investigation and action by HA.
- (e) Game reports from all out-of-province Tournament games must be submitted by the Team, within 24 hours, to the appropriate Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator, League, and MHA.

9. Discipline

- 9.1 For Minimum Suspensions please refer to the Appendices.
- 9.2 Fines – Under no circumstances will an MHA, League or Team be allowed to assess cash fines to Minor Hockey Players for rule or regulation infractions. Violations of this policy will result in discipline as set out in the General Regulations.
- 9.3 The Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator 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.

- 9.4 All Indefinite Suspensions, regardless of the type of game they were incurred in (League, Provincial, Tournament or Exhibition), must be submitted to the appropriate Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator for investigation.

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

- 9.5 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.

- 9.6 **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.

- 9.7 Depending on the jurisdiction (see 12.3 above), the Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator or 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.

- 9.8 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).

- 9.9 **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.**

- 9.10 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.

- 9.11 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.

- 9.12 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 MHA may request in writing, to the Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator, to have the suspension deferred for a maximum of three (3) games to allow participation in Exhibition, Pre-Season, Tiering, 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.

- 9.13 Pre-Season Suspensions - Any Player who received a suspension in a Pre-Season Game may have their MHA request in writing, to the Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator, to have the suspension(s) served in the next Pre-Season game(s).

Team Officials are not eligible for this exception.

- 9.14 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.
- 9.15 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.
- 9.16 Any MHA 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.
- 9.17 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.

10. Coach Education Requirements

See the General Regulations section for further details.