

SECTION A – INTRO TO HOCKEY

1. Critical Dates

- 1.1 **June 30:** To be recognized by Hockey Alberta, a League shall submit its Bylaws and Regulations, and a list of the names and addresses of the officers, no later than June 30 of the current Hockey Season. 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. All Players participating must be registered in the Registry.
 - (b) A Hockey Program may only register after November 15 with permission of the CEO, or designate.
 - (c) The final date to complete all required Instructor certification is November 15 of the current Hockey Season.
- 1.4 **February 10:** The final date to register a Player in an Intro to Hockey (U7 or U9) Program.

2. Program Registration

- 2.1 (a) All MHAs will register all Hockey Programs operating within their Association with the CEO, or designate.
- (b) Registration fees in accordance with these Regulations are payable with application for Programs.
- 2.2 MHAs must submit their order for Program Registration as required on or before October 15th in each Hockey Season.
- 2.3 a) All Hockey Programs must be properly registered with Hockey Alberta in the Registry prior to their first Game or November 15, whichever occurs first. All Players must be registered in the Registry.
- b) A Hockey Program may only register after November 15 with permission of the CEO, or designate.
- c) Any Minor Hockey Association 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.
- 2.4 Hockey Programs and Players will be registered in accordance with Hockey Canada Bylaws and the HA Bylaws and regulations.
- 2.5 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.

2.6 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.

2.7 Instructors participating "on the bench" with any registered Hockey Program must be duly registered in the Registry prior to participating.

2.8 Instructors/Team Officials participating "on the bench" with more than one (1) Hockey Team/Program in the same season shall be duly registered with each and every Team/Program of which he/she is a member prior to participating.

2.9 Registered Hockey Programs must not play against unregistered hockey programs at any time. All Instructors associated with any program playing against an unregistered program will be suspended and shall remain suspended until dealt with by the CEO, or designate.

3. Player Registration

3.1 Hockey Alberta governs competition in amateur hockey in various divisions, including:

- (a) U9 For the **2023-24** season, open to Players born in **2015** and subsequent years
- (b) U7 For the **2023-24** season, open to Players born in **2017** and subsequent years

Exception: Overage Players may be permitted to register in Intro to Hockey programs (U7 or U9), provided they are approved in accordance with the Minor Hockey Overage Policy.

- (c) A Player that is a maximum of one year older, by date of birth, may be permitted to register and participate within a lower age Division provided they meet the criteria outlined on the Overage Player Application Request form.
- (d) Process
 - (i) A Player must complete an Overage Player Application Request form and submit it to their Resident MHA along with a letter of support from the player's Parent or Guardian, outlining their rationale for requesting permission to participate with a team of lower age Division;
 - (ii) In cases where a Player has a physical or mental impairment that would restrict him/her from participating within their designated age Division, a Physician's statement must be included;
 - (iii) A skill assessment must be completed, and included, confirming that the Player's skill level restricts him/her from being able to participate within the designated age Division;

(iv) Statistics from the Player's previous season (including number of games played, goals, assists and penalty minutes) must be confirmed by the League.

(e) When registering U9 aged participants within the Division of U7, Minor Hockey Associations will be permitted to proceed without Hockey Alberta approval. Such cases should be based on the developmental need of the participant and have support of the player's parents/guardians. The MHA must notify the Regional Minor Administration Coordinator of any overage participant(s) registered within the U7 Division.

3.2 Residency

(a) A Player's residence shall be determined by reference to the residence of her parents/legal guardians (as defined in Hockey Canada Regulations).

(b) Players must first register in the MHA within whose Boundaries they reside where said Boundaries have been established, mutually agreed upon by associations and/or recognized by Hockey Alberta.

(c) If a Player wishing to play in an MHA other than his/her resident MHA may access the Player Movement process.

(d) A Player may not establish residency for the principal purposes of playing or practising hockey.

(e) A Player who, prior to the establishment of Boundaries, was registered with a particular MHA, and who has played all of his/her minor hockey with that MHA, will be recognized as a "resident" of that MHA.

(f) Siblings of Players meeting the criteria above will still be required to register in their "resident" MHA and not that of the (grand-fathered) sibling.

3.3 (a) Every Player competing in games sanctioned by HA and its MHAs shall be a member of a Hockey Program registered with HA and shall, prior to competing in their first Game, be duly registered in the Registry.

(b) In addition to the current information required for registration, a Player Movement Form must be submitted to the Regional Minor Administration Coordinator for each Non-Resident Player at the time of registration.

3.4 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.

3.5 (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 CEO (or designate) 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.
 - (d) A player applying for registration with Hockey Alberta shall provide current proof of completion of the Respect-in-Sport – Parent course. Proof of completion of the Respect-in-Sport – Parent shall be indicated by a card number showing on the player’s registration in the Registry.
- 3.6 (a) All Minor Hockey Associations must register all Players. A Player may only be registered to one Program/Team, at any one time. Players registering with more than one Hockey Program/Team without releases are suspended and shall remain suspended until dealt with by the CEO, or designate.
- (b) No Player may be registered to an Intro to Hockey Program after February 10.
- 3.7 Any player requesting registration who is neither a Canadian Citizen nor a Landed Immigrant must submit an Appeal to Transfer under Hockey Canada Bylaws and must pay any applicable fees charged by HC and HA (Contact the Hockey Alberta office for further details).

4. Leagues

- 4.1 In order for a League to have Hockey Alberta recognition, it shall submit its League Bylaws and Regulations and a list of the names and addresses of the officers not later than June 30 of the current Hockey Season to the Hockey Alberta office. Any amendments to the Bylaws and Regulations of any such League amending the approved Bylaws and Regulations must be registered with HA and approved prior to implementation.
- 4.2 All Hockey Players playing in a League must be registered with an MHA.
- 4.3 All games involving League members are deemed to be under the jurisdiction of Hockey Alberta and all Hockey Alberta rules and regulations will apply.
- 4.4 Leagues may make special regulations which differ from Hockey Alberta Regulations provided that these regulations do not contradict Hockey Alberta Regulations and the regulations have been approved by Hockey Alberta.

5. Player Movement

- 5.1 Permission for Player Movement
- (a) Players may request that their resident MHA transfer them to another MHA for the season, if:
 - (i) There is no Program in a Player’s resident MHA, at his/her age division;
 - (ii) More than one MHA must combine their registration numbers to attain a sufficient number of Players to operate a Program at the Player’s age Division;

- (iii) The family can present extenuating circumstances showing that a transfer is the best option for them in order to access an Intro to Hockey program (distance of travel, parent/guardian employment situation, location of school, etc.);
 - (iv) All Players granted permission to move for the season will be required to return to their resident MHA at the end of the current Hockey Season.
- (b) In order to obtain permission for Player Movement, a Player must first:
- (i) obtain a Player Movement Form from their resident MHA and submit it along with a letter from the Player requesting the desired Player Movement;
 - (ii) obtain permission from the MHA accepting the Player, indicating that they accept the Player as a Non-Resident Player;
 - (iii) pay any outstanding fees or other financial obligations owing to the MHA being asked for the permission;
 - (iv) provide written confirmation of the prerequisites being met to the MHA being asked for the permission;

(c) Procedure

Once the Player has met the prerequisites and the permission has been obtained, the Player must ensure that the proper form is completed and submitted at the time of registration.

- (i) failure to complete and submit the proper form at the time of registration will result in the Player being not registered and ineligible to play in any game;
- (ii) in cases where a Player is found to have played in a game without first having completed or submitted a required form, the Team Officials of the Program with which the Player has played will be subject to discipline.

5.2 Player Movement may be refused in situations where:

- (a) The Player is requesting the permission in order to attempt to register and play at what they deem to be a 'higher level' (there are no defined higher levels within the Intro to Hockey model);
- (b) The Player is requesting the permission for reasons such as the dislike of a coach, dislike of ice time, etc.

6. Releases

- 6.1 A Release (as defined in the Definitions) is available to be issued, via the Standard Release Form, as a method of permanent movement for special circumstances (ie – conduct).

7. Affiliation

- 7.1 The filing of Affiliation is not required within Intro to Hockey Divisions (U7 and U9). When needed by the Team, or 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.

8. Exhibition Games

- 8.1 Permission must be obtained in writing from Hockey Alberta for all out of province exhibition games or exhibition games with U.S. based Teams. Permission must be granted by the Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator.
- 8.2 Application for permission will only be considered from MHAs for Programs that are properly registered with Hockey Alberta.
- 8.3 Permission may not be given to any MHA for exhibition games with any team or teams which are not registered members of Hockey Canada or U.S. Hockey.
- 8.4 International games, other than games with U.S. Hockey, must have permission granted from Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta.
- 8.5 For exhibition games within Hockey Alberta, permission must be granted by the Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator.
- 8.6 Commitments to Hockey Alberta must be met before a Program is allowed any exhibition games.
- 8.7 Game sheets must be submitted within 24 hours to the appropriate Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator by the Program or MHA (submitted to the League for League Sanctioned Games).

9. Tournament Rules

- 9.1 Tournaments within Alberta
- (a) No Program shall be permitted to play in any tournament unless it has been given the written permission of Hockey Alberta or its MHA. In granting such permission, Hockey Alberta and the MHA agree to impose and enforce any disciplinary actions necessary.
 - (b) No MHA, Program or Player registered with HA shall compete in any tournament unless that tournament has been granted a sanction permit by HA. For tournaments within Alberta involving two (2) or more Hockey Canada Branches, HA shall notify the Hockey Canada office sixty (60) days in advance of any sanction being issued for a tournament.
 - (c) Subsequent tournament sanctions may not be issued to any MHA which has been found to have conducted a tournament which has not conformed to the Hockey Canada or HA regulations.
 - (d) All Inter-Branch tournaments involving four (4) or more Branches and all International tournaments must be sanctioned by Hockey Canada and HA. An application form must first be submitted by the MHA requesting the tournament to

HA for approval. All applications must be made sixty (60) or more days in advance to the Hockey Alberta Office.

- (e) No MHA shall accept entries for a sanctioned tournament from any Program which is not a registered member of Hockey Alberta or Hockey Canada.
- (f) MHA tournaments shall give a minimum of two (2) weeks' notice to HA prior to the event.
- (g) Every Player competing in any sanctioned tournament must be registered, in the Registry, with that Program or be affiliated to that Program. The Program must produce such registration for inspection at all tournaments.
- (h) The host MHA will verify the eligibility of all other Programs/Teams and Players entered in the tournament.
- (i) All Programs must fulfill all prior commitments (i.e. league play) or seek readjustment of same. Failing this, the Programs concerned must be prepared to forfeit any further privileges they currently hold.
- (j) When a suspendable offence occurs involving a Player or Program, in a sanctioned tournament, a copy of the official game report with all necessary supporting evidence shall be forwarded to the Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator, the MHA, Player(s) and/or Instructor(s) involved.
- (k) 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.
- (l) All games in a sanctioned tournament shall be officiated by Referees and Linesmen registered with Hockey Alberta.
- (m) All sanctioned tournaments will be played under Hockey Canada Official Playing Rules and must comply with Hockey Alberta Bylaws and Regulations.
- (n) No Program or Players may compete in more than three (3) tournament games in one (1) day. Where tournaments do require three (3) games in one day, such games shall not be longer than three (3) periods of 15 minutes, the first two (2) of which must be straight time, and 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 10:15 p.m.

9.2 Tournaments Outside Alberta

- (a) No HA Program shall be permitted to play in any tournament outside HA unless it has been given written permission by its MHA and HA. In granting such permission, HA and the MHA agree to impose and enforce any disciplinary actions necessary.
- (b) The Branch in which the tournament is held shall have the authority to impose a suspension pending action by HA against the Program, Player(s) or Instructor(s) involved.

- (c) Game sheets must be submitted within 24 hours to the appropriate Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator (submitted to the League for League Sanctioned Games).
- (d) No Program or Player registered with HA shall compete in a tournament in another Branch unless that tournament has been granted a sanction permit by the Branch in whose territory the tournament is to be conducted which is recognized by HA.

10. Discipline

10.1 Fines – Intro to Hockey

Under no circumstances will an MHA, League or Program be allowed to assess cash fines to Players for rule or regulation infractions. Violation of this policy will result in discipline as set out in the General Regulations.

10.2 Intro to Hockey Suspension Procedures

Discipline within the Intro to Hockey model will be determined through Hockey Alberta's Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator, through consultation with the Minor Hockey Association and League (if applicable). Hockey Alberta's Minimum Suspensions may be used when determining discipline.

Hockey Alberta Responsibilities

- (a) The Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator is responsible for issuing and monitoring suspensions in all play, including League.
- (b) Game sheets must be submitted within 24 hours to the appropriate Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator and League representative (if applicable).
- (c) All suspensions must be served in the next consecutive games (exhibition, league, or tournament).
- (d) The Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator will issue a suspension notice. A suspension must specify the following:
 - (i) Number of games;
 - (ii) The Hockey Alberta Appeal process (if applicable);
 - (iii) That the Participant must not participate in any hockey games until a written suspension notice is received.

General Responsibilities

- (e) Any infractions that involve a Player or Instructor on a referee or linesman (Rule 11.5) are handled by the Hockey Alberta Provincial Match Penalty Officer(s).
- (f) No suspended Player or Instructor is allowed on the bench, in the timekeepers box, penalty box, dressing room or within fifty (50) feet of the players' benches during a game.

- (g) Any Player incurring a suspendable infraction with either his/her registered program or affiliated Program/Team is suspended from all sanctioned hockey games until the suspension is served with the Program they are registered with. If that Program is finished hockey for the season, this Player would be allowed to serve such suspension as an affiliate player. The Player and the suspension must be listed on game sheets.
 - (h) Any Instructor/Team Official registered with more than one (1) Hockey Program/Team, who incurs a suspension, is ineligible to participate in any sanctioned hockey game until the suspension has been served with the Program with which the suspension was incurred.
 - (i) Suspended Players / Instructors must be noted on the game sheet / report during the games comprising the suspension.
- 10.4 Any Player or Instructor who is assessed a Minor Penalty and a Game Misconduct, or a Major and a Game Misconduct, or any other infraction resulting in a Game Misconduct or Gross Misconduct penalty that occurs in the last ten (10) minutes of regular time, or any overtime, or at the conclusion of the game, and prior to the Player or Instructor entering his/her dressing room, shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of the next Exhibition, League or Tournament game. This is in addition to any other suspensions directed by HA Minimum Suspensions.
- 10.5 Any Player or Instructor found guilty of falsifying a birth certificate or having been party to or having any knowledge of such shall be suspended until dealt with by HA.
- 10.6 Any Instructor who is party to or had knowledge of, or adds an unregistered or Ineligible Player's or Instructors name to a game sheet for the purpose of competing in a game:
- (a) may be suspended for a period of three (3) years from playing or holding office with any team, club or association;
 - (b) shall have games defaulted whether said Player(s) played or not.
- 10.7 Any Player who falsifies a birth certificate, registration certificate or forges a signature and plays under an assumed name or having knowledge that same had been falsified or playing on other than his own birth certificate shall be automatically suspended from playing hockey for a period of not less than one (1) year and not more than three (3) years from the date of suspension.
- 10.8 If an Instructor or Player participates in a game or if his/her name appears on the score sheet while under suspension, the Instructor(s) responsible may be subject to immediate discipline and the Program may forfeit any games using an Ineligible participant.

11. Coach Education Requirements

See the General Regulations section for further details.