

## SECTION H – ACCREDITED SCHOOLS

### 1. Critical Dates

- 1.1 **April 1:** Accredited Schools are permitted to start operating Recruitment Camps
- 1.2 **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.
- 1.3 **June 1:** Accredited Schools may begin registering student athletes to their teams in the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR).
- 1.4 **October 1:**
  - (a) Try-Out / Pre-Season ends, all student athletes and Team Officials must be properly registered prior to participating in any further games.
  - (b) Initial Registration Deadline.
  - (c) Final date for organizations / programs to submit Accredited School renewals and/or applications for the next season.
- 1.5 **January 10:** The final date to register and release student athletes.
- 1.6 **January 15:** Affiliations must be filed in the registry no later than 5:00 PM MST.

### 2. Team Registration

- 2.1 Registration fees in accordance with these regulations are payable upon activation of Teams.
- 2.2 Accredited Schools must submit their order for Teams as part of their “renewal” and/or application for membership on or before October 1 of the previous season.
- 2.3 Accredited School Teams and Student Athletes will be registered in accordance with HC and HA Bylaws and regulations.
- 2.4 Number of Student Athletes on a Hockey Team:
  - (a) Each Accredited School Team must register a minimum of fifteen (15) student athletes, of which two (2) must be Goaltenders.
  - (b) Each Accredited School Team will be provided with a maximum of twenty-five (25) allotments to register Student Athletes each season.
  - (c) Accredited School Teams may register a maximum of twenty (20) student athletes (of which, two (2) must be goaltenders), at any one time during the season;

**Exception:** The lowest Category and Division Team within the Accredited School may register either:

- i) an extended roster of twenty-five (25) student athletes, of which three (3) must be Goaltenders; or
- ii) Practice Players (see Affiliation, below).

- (d) Teams that have remaining, unused allotments may register eligible student athletes to those allotments until January 10.

2.5 *Imports* – Accredited Schools will be permitted to register Imports (see HC Regulations).

2.6 *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.

2.7 Registered Accredited Schools 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 Recruitment**

#### 3.1 Recruitment Camps

- (a) Accredited Schools can start operating Recruitment Camps as of April 1.
- (b) Players / Student Athletes registered to a Team that has not yet completed the current season are not eligible to be recruited and/or to participate in Recruitment Camps until their Team's season is complete.
- (c) Each Team is provided the opportunity to utilize Exhibition and Pre-Season games for the purpose of Team roster declaration.
- (d) The recruitment period ends on October 1.

#### 3.2 Education Based Shadow Days

- (a) Accredited Schools are permitted to operate Education Based Shadow Days.
- (b) Players / Student Athletes registered to an equivalent level MHA or Accredited School Team (AA or AAA) are not eligible to participate in any on-ice activities during the Shadow Day.

### 4. **Player Registration**

4.1 Accredited Schools are permitted to register Teams in the following divisions of hockey:

- (a) U18 Male / Female: For the **2025-26** season, open to Student Athletes born in **2008** and subsequent years.
  - (i) *Overage*: Overage students may be permitted to register on Accredited School U18 teams, to a maximum of five (5) per team, provided they are enrolled in **the school** within the program's structure.
  - (ii) *Underage*: The objective of all minor hockey is to develop athletes within each specific age group, and not to displace people from their proper age Division by facilitating the movement of underage athletes. All underage athletes should only be considered as an exception.

- Each Accredited School team will be permitted to register a maximum of one (1) underage student at any one time during the season, **provided the student is enrolled in the school within the program's structure.**
  - Only second year U15 aged students will be considered for acceleration to U18 hockey.
- (b) U15 Male / Female: For the **2025-26** season, open to Student Athletes born in **2011** and subsequent years.
- (i) *Underage:* The objective of all minor hockey is to develop athletes within each specific age group, and not to displace people from their proper age Division by facilitating the movement of underage athletes. All underage athletes should only be considered as an exception.
- Each Accredited School team will be permitted to register a maximum of one (1) underage student at any one time during the season, **provided the students are enrolled in the school within the program's structure.**
  - Only second year U13 aged students will be considered for acceleration to U15 hockey.
- 4.2 Accredited Schools are required to obtain a commitment, in writing, from all students prior to registering them in the Registry. To be eligible to play, all students must have signed a "Player Agreement" form.
- 4.3 Any Accredited School found to have permitted a student athlete and/or Team Official, who is not properly registered to that Team, to participate in a game may be subject to a suspension and/or a fine up to a maximum of \$500.00 per violation.
- 4.4 Every student athlete participating in 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.
- 4.5 A Player's registration in the Registry must include the Player's name, date of birth, gender, physical address, mailing address, and email address.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 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.

- 4.8 A student athlete may only register on one (1) Team per season, unless released by the team they were first registered with prior to January 10. Student athletes registering with more than one Hockey Team without being released are suspended and shall remain suspended until dealt with by the Office of the CEO. No student athlete may be registered after January 10 of any Hockey Season.
- 4.9 Inter-Member Transfer
- (a) A student athlete desiring a transfer from an MHA or Club Team in one Province to an Accredited School in HA shall first be released (refer to Hockey Canada Regulations) from the MHA / Team of which they were last registered.
  - (b) The Accredited School must enter the transfer into the registry, and it must be approved by the Office of the CEO prior to the student athlete participating.
  - (c) Inter-Member Transfer Fees are set annually by Hockey Canada (refer to HC Regulations).
- 4.10 USA / International Transfer (for more details please contact the HA office)
- (a) A student athlete 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 with which they were registered.
  - (b) All transfers between USA Hockey and HC shall be governed by the HC/USA Hockey Transfer Agreement. The agreement is contained in its entirety in HC Regulations.
  - (c) All transfers between other registered members of the IIHF and HC shall be governed by the IIHF Transfer Regulations. The IIHF and HC Transfer Regulations are contained in their entirety in the HC Regulations.
  - (d) Incoming USA Transfer Fees are set annually by Hockey Canada.
  - (e) Incoming International Transfer Fees are set annually by the IIHF.
  - (f) For Canadian players returning from an IIHF member, please contact the Hockey Alberta Office.

## **5. Athlete Movement**

- 5.1 Residency: Accredited Schools are permitted to register student athletes regardless of where they reside.
- 5.2 Permission for Movement
- (a) Prior to being transferred to an Accredited School, a student must:
    - (i) pay any outstanding fees or other financial obligations owing to the organization they were last registered with;
    - (ii) sign an "Athlete Agreement" form;
    - (iii) provide written confirmation of enrollment in the Accredited School program.

## **6. Releases**

- 6.1 A student athlete desiring to transfer, within season, from one Team to another must first be released from the Team of which they are a Registered Participant. (see HC Regulations).

## 7. Affiliation

- 7.1 The purpose of affiliation is to provide an opportunity for higher Division or Category Teams to dress the maximum number of Players allowable for a game in accordance with the Playing Rules.
- 7.2 Affiliation must be filed in the registry prior to the affiliated athlete being allowed to participate in any game with the Hockey Team to which they are affiliated. Affiliation requests can be filed up to and including January 15 at 5:00PM MST.
- 7.3 Players that are registered with a local Minor Hockey Association will not be permitted to be affiliated to an Accredited School Program.
- 7.4 (a) A fourteen (14) year old and younger HCAS Registered Player may Affiliate from a HCAS Registered Team to:
- (i) a HCAS Team in the same HCAS (maximum 10 games);
- (b) A fifteen (15) year old HCAS Registered Player may Affiliate from a HCAS Registered Team to two (2) of the following:
- (i) a Major Junior Team (provided the Player is on the 50 Player list) (maximum 5 games);
  - (ii) provided the Player is a resident of Alberta, a Junior A or Junior B Team (maximum 5 games);
  - (iii) a HCAS Team in the same HCAS (maximum 10 games);
  - (iv) a second HCAS Teams in the same HCAS (maximum 10 games).
- (c) A HCAS Registered Player who is at least sixteen (16) year old may Affiliate from a HCAS Registered Team to two (2) of the following:
- (i) a Major Junior Team (provided the Player is on the 50 Player list) (maximum 10 games);
  - (ii) provided the Player is a resident of Alberta, a Junior A Team (maximum 10 games);
  - (iii) provided the Player is a resident of Alberta, a Junior B Team (maximum 10 games);
  - (iii) a HCAS Team in the same HCAS (maximum 10 games);
  - (iv) a second HCAS Teams in the same HCAS (maximum 10 games).
- 7.5 Affiliations to Accredited School Teams will only be approved if:
- (a) the athlete to be affiliated is a registered member of the Accredited School;
  - (b) the athlete to be affiliated is eligible to be an affiliate player for the specific Team;
  - (c) the request for affiliation is properly entered into the registry;
  - (d) the affiliation is properly completed/ approved in the registry.

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

- 7.6 Any person participating in any game as an affiliate without proper approval shall be considered Ineligible and said student athlete and Team Officials shall be subject to disciplinary action as stated herein.
- 7.7 A Hockey Team may have affiliated up to nineteen (19) Specially Affiliated Players from a lower Division or Category from within the Accredited School.

- 7.8 Providing Affiliation has been properly filed, an Affiliate Player may play with the Hockey Team to which they are affiliated a maximum of ten (10) games during the regular season and playoffs.

Should an affiliate play more than ten (10) games with the Hockey Team to which the athlete is affiliated, they shall be considered an “Ineligible Player”. However, if their registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before the affiliated team or teams, the Player may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times.

- 7.9 All Affiliate Players must be marked as “AP” on the official game report. Appearance of an Affiliate Player’s name on the official game report shall be considered participation in a game.

*Exception: For an alternate goaltender, actual participation in the game shall be the only consideration for taking part in the game. Such participation shall be specially noted on the official game report.*

- 7.10 A Practice Player may participate on more than one HCAS Team (maximum 10 games collectively for all HCAS Teams) as a non-Rostered Player provided:

- (a) The Practice Player is registered on the HCR; and
- (b) The Practice Player is included in the maximum number of Affiliate Players that a Team may have.

## **8. Leagues**

Hockey Alberta has identified the Canadian Sports School Hockey League (CSSHL) as the only sanctioned league to schedule / operate “Accredited School” hockey for Hockey Alberta Members.

- 8.1 For a League to be sanctioned and approved by Hockey Alberta to operate hockey for Members, 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.

- 8.2 All 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.

- 8.3 All League games involving Hockey Alberta Members are deemed to be under the jurisdiction of Hockey Alberta and all Hockey Alberta rules and regulations will apply. Decisions made by Leagues may be subject to review/ appeal through Hockey Alberta.

- 8.4 Leagues must ensure that their respective Teams are properly registered in accordance with Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada Regulations.

- 8.5 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.
- 8.6 The Constitution, Regulations and Policies of Leagues must not contain any provisions which contradict Hockey Alberta Bylaws, Regulations, Policies, standards and/ or operating procedures.
- 8.7 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.

## **9. Exhibition Games**

- 9.1 Sanctioning for Exhibition Games played amongst Teams from different Leagues 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 appropriate Regional Minor Discipline Coordinator 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.
- 9.7 Leagues are responsible for sanctioning and disciplinary action for all exhibition games played among the member teams of their respective league. For teams playing exhibition games against teams from outside their league, sanctions and discipline will be issued through Hockey Alberta.

## **10. Tournaments**

- 10.1 To host a Tournament, approval must be obtained from Hockey Alberta and any applicable Sanction fee must be paid prior to the start of the tournament. Requests for Tournament Sanctions must be made a minimum of two (2) weeks' prior to the start date of the tournament.
- 10.2 The host Team of any Tournament is responsible to verify the eligibility of all Teams and Players entered in the tournament.

- 10.3 In receiving permission to host a Tournament, the Accredited School agrees to impose and enforce any disciplinary actions necessary against the teams, or members of the Teams. When an infraction that requires a suspension occurs in a sanctioned tournament, a copy of the official game report with all necessary supporting evidence shall be forwarded to Hockey Alberta and the Player(s) or Team Official(s) involved.
- 10.4 No Team shall be permitted to play in any tournament outside Alberta unless it has been provided written permission by Hockey Alberta. To be permitted to participate in a tournament in another Province or Country, a sanction must have been provided by the Hockey Canada Member Branch or IIHF Federation in whose territory the tournament is sanctioned.
- 10.5 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 any investigation and action by HA.
- 10.6 Game reports from all out-of-province Tournament games must be submitted by the Team, within 24 hours, to Hockey Alberta and the League.

## **11. Discipline**

- 11.1 For Minimum Suspensions please refer to the Appendices.
- 11.2 Fines – Under no circumstances will an Accredited School, 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 Hockey Alberta 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 Hockey Alberta.

*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), Hockey Alberta 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 MHA may request in writing, to Hockey Alberta, 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.

- 11.13 Pre-Season Suspensions - Any Player who received a suspension in a Pre-Season Game may have their Accredited School request in writing, to Hockey Alberta, 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 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.
- 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**

### NCCP Coaching Certifications:

- All Head Coaches must be “Trained” in the High Performance 1 course by November 15 of that season and will have to be completed full “Certification” in the program by November 15 of the following season.
- All Head Coaches must have completed the Checking Skills course by November 15 of that season.

### Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP):

- All Teams must have at least one (1) Team Official registered to their team who has completed the Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP) 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.
- The HCSP 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:

- All Registered Team Officials must have completed the Respect In Sport - Activity Leader Program.
- All Team Officials applying for registration with HA shall provide proof of completion of the Respect in Sport – Activity Leader program (indicated by a certification number showing on the Team Official’s registration in the Registry).

*See General Regulations for further details.*