

SECTION I – PARA HOCKEY

1. Critical Dates

- 1.1 **April 30:** To be approved and sanctioned by Hockey Alberta to operate 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 1:** Para Clubs must submit their order for Program / Team Registration on or before October 1 in each Hockey Season.
- 1.3 **November 15:**
 - (a) All Programs/ Teams must be properly registered with Hockey Alberta prior to their first scheduled Game or November 15, whichever occurs first. A Team may only register after November 15 with permission of the Office of the CEO.
 - (b) All Players participating on a Team must be registered in the Registry.
 - (c) The final date to complete all required Team Official certification is November 15.
- 1.4 **January 10:** A Player may be released from a Team and registered with a new Team, for which they are eligible to play, up to and including January 10.
- 1.5 **January 15:** Requests for Affiliations must be filed in the registry no later than January 15 at 5:00PM MST.
- 1.6 **February 10:** The final date for Player registration is February 10.

2. Program / Team Registration

- 2.1 Teams and Players must be registered in accordance with Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta Bylaws and Regulations.
 - (a) Para Clubs must register all their Hockey Teams with Hockey Alberta, in the Registry.
 - (b) Registration fees in accordance with these Regulations are payable for all Teams.
- 2.2 Para Clubs must submit their order for Program/ Team Registration on or before October 1 in each Hockey Season.
- 2.3
 - (a) All Teams must be properly registered prior to their first Game or November 15, whichever occurs first.
 - (b) A Para Club may only register a Hockey Team after November 15 with permission of the Office of the CEO.
 - (c) All Players participating on a Team must be properly registered to that Team in the Registry.
 - (d) Any Para Club 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.
 - (e) The final date to complete all required Team Official certification is November 15.

- 2.4 Teams will be controlled and operated only by a Para Club and shall not enter into any player contracts or agreements, except with HA and Hockey Canada.
- 2.5 Team Player allotments in the Registry shall be provided in the following numbers (except where pilot projects otherwise provide):
- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Junior | Not more than 25 allotments |
| Intermediate | Not more than 25 allotments |
| Senior | Not more than 25 allotments |
- 2.6 Number of Registered Players
- (a) All Teams may register at one time a maximum of twenty-five (25) Players in the Registry. All Teams may use a maximum of seventeen (17) players in any game (exhibition, league, tournament play or Hockey Alberta sanctioned events).
Exception: A Player who could not otherwise move a sled is permitted to play with a pusher in the Junior and Intermediate levels. Each Team is permitted a maximum of two (2) pushers on the ice at any one time, unless the Team has an approved exception from the League. Every pusher shall be registered in the Registry prior to competing in their first game (exhibition, league, tournament play or Hockey Alberta sanctioned events).
Exception: Teams may be permitted to register, at one time, more than twenty-five (25) Players upon consideration of application to the Office of the CEO.
- (b) Programs operated by a Para Club do not have a minimum or maximum number of Players that can be registered at any one time.
- (i) Programs may create a Team(s) comprised of a maximum of seventeen (17) players to participate in games (exhibition, league, tournament play or Hockey Alberta sanctioned events).
- 2.7 *Emergency Goaltender* - During any scheduled game, a Team may be permitted the use of a goaltender from another 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.
- 2.8 Team Officials participating "on the bench" with any registered Team must be properly registered in the Registry prior to participating with that team.
- 2.9 Team Officials participating "on the bench" with more than one (1) Team in the same season shall be properly registered to each Team prior to participating with the respective team(s).
- 2.10 Hockey Alberta registered Teams can only play against teams registered with an International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Member Federation. All Team Officials associated with any Team that plays against a Team that is not IIHF registered 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 Para Hockey in various levels, including:

- (a) Junior For the **2025-26** season, open to Players of all abilities with a novice skill level, born in **2007** and subsequent years
- (b) Intermediate For the **2025-26** season, open to Player of all abilities with an intermediate skill level, born in **2007** and previous years
- (c) Senior For the **2025-26** season, open to Players of all abilities with an advanced skill level, and open to **all ages**

3.2 Eligibility for competition in Para Hockey includes:

- (a) All players with an impairment that would normally preclude them from playing regular mainstream or competitive hockey are eligible to register in all levels of Para Hockey.
- (b) An unlimited number of able-bodied players are permitted to register in all levels of Para Hockey.

3.3 Every Player competing in the games sanctioned by HA and its Para Clubs shall be a member of a Team registered with HA and shall, prior to competing in their first League game, be registered in the Registry.

3.4 A Player's registration in the Registry must include the Player's name, date of birth, gender, physical address, mailing address, and email address.

3.5 A Player registering 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.

3.6 A minor-aged 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 certification number showing on the player's registration in the Registry.

- 3.7
- (a) A Player may only be registered to one (1) Team at a time. Players registering with more than one Team without being released are suspended and shall remain suspended until dealt with by the Office of the CEO.
 - (b) No Player may be registered after January 10 in any Hockey Season with any Para Club, unless they receive permission as outlined below.
 - (c) Players who move within the borders of the Province after January 10 and up to and including February 10 may apply to the Office of the CEO for special permission to register with a local member if they or their family have been transferred by employer or for any other extenuating reason acceptable to Hockey Alberta.

- 3.8 Players wishing to register with a Para Club, other than the Para Club with which they were last registered, must first be released from the Para Club in which the Player was last registered.

4. Releases

- 4.1 A Release (as defined herein) is available to be issued as a method of permanent movement within Para Hockey.

5. Affiliation

- 5.1 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.

- 5.2 Affiliation must be filed in the registry prior to the affiliated Player being allowed to participate in any game with the Team to which they are affiliated. Affiliation requests can be filed up to and including January 15 at 5:00PM MST.

- 5.3 Affiliations to Para Teams will only be approved if:

- (a) the athlete to be affiliated is eligible to be an affiliate player for the specific Team;
- (b) the request for affiliation is properly entered into the registry;
- (c) the affiliation is properly completed/ approved in the registry.

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

- 5.4 Any person participating in any game as an affiliate without proper approval shall be considered Ineligible and the player and Team Officials shall be subject to disciplinary action as stated herein.

- 5.5 A Team may have affiliated with it up to nineteen (19) Specially Affiliated Players from a lower Level or Category.

Exception: where Teams are equal (balanced), a Para Club may affiliate players from another equal team(s).

- 5.6 Affiliated players may participate in practices, tournaments, exhibition games and league games:

- (a) players can be affiliated from a Para Club within the Province of Alberta for practices, tournaments and exhibition games;
- (b) players can be affiliated from a Hockey Team within their Para Club for league games.

- 5.7 Providing affiliation has been properly filed, an affiliated Player may play with the Team to which the Player is affiliated up to a maximum of four (4) games, excluding exhibition and tournament games.

Should an affiliated Hockey Player play more than four (4) games with the Hockey Team to which the player is affiliated, the player shall be considered an "Ineligible Player". However, if the player's registered team completes its regular season and playoffs

before the player's affiliated team, the player may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times.

- 5.8 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.

6. Leagues

- 6.1 Applications to become a sanctioned League must be submitted to Hockey Alberta on or before January 31 to be considered for the subsequent season.
- 6.2 In order for a League to be sanctioned and approved by Hockey Alberta to operate hockey for Member MHAs, 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 All games involving League members are deemed to be under the jurisdiction of Hockey Alberta and all Hockey Alberta rules and regulations will apply. Decisions made by Leagues may be subject to review/ appeal through Hockey Alberta.
- 6.5 Leagues must ensure that their respective Teams are properly registered in accordance with Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada Regulations.
- 6.6 Teams whose geographical location is outside the jurisdiction of Hockey Alberta, may be considered to participate in a Hockey Alberta League upon application. Applications will only be considered if the applying team(s) are registered with a Member of Hockey Canada, or USA Hockey.
- 6.7 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.
- 6.8 The Constitution, Regulations and Policies of Leagues must not contain any provisions which contradict Hockey Alberta Bylaws, Regulations, Policies, standards and/ or operating procedures.

- 6.9 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.

7. Exhibition Games

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 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.
- 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 by the Team.
- 7.6 Para Clubs 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.
- 7.7 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.

8. Tournaments

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 The host Team of any Tournament is responsible to verify the eligibility of all Teams and Players entered in the tournament.
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 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.

- 8.5 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.
- 8.6 Game reports from all out-of-province Tournament games must be submitted by the Team, within 24 hours, to Hockey Alberta and the League.

9. Discipline

- 9.1 For Minimum Suspensions please refer to the Appendices.
- 9.2 Fines – Under no circumstances will a Para Club, 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.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 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.

- 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 above), Hockey Alberta or the League will issue a suspension notice. The Participant(s) 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 Para Club 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.

- 9.13 Pre-Season Suspensions - Any Player who received a suspension in a Pre-Season Game may have their Para Club 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.

- 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 Para Club 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 General Regulations for further details.