



OPERATIONAL POLICY: MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUES
DATE ISSUED: January 26, 2023
LAST UPDATED: N/A

POLICY STATEMENT

A prospective Minor Hockey League is required to submit a formal application to Hockey Alberta and meet all application requirements if it wishes to become sanctioned to organize and operate game play for Hockey Alberta Member organizations and their teams.

BENEFITS OF REGISTERING A LEAGUE WITH HOCKEY ALBERTA

- A. Opportunity for teams to participate in Provincial, Regional and/ or National Championships where applicable.
- B. Ratification of serious league suspensions, thus prohibiting suspended players from participating in other registered or affiliated leagues.
- C. Access to Hockey Alberta resources for coaching, officiating, player development, etc.
- D. Access to Hockey Alberta registered and certified officials for game play.
- E. Opportunity to participate in the growth and governance of hockey in Alberta through committees, conferences, seminars, etc.
- F. Opportunity to be engaged in the Hockey Canada rule and regulation change processes, etc. through Hockey Alberta.
- G. Access to 'Member Pricing' through Hockey Alberta partners as well as access to grant opportunities through the Hockey Alberta Foundation and other partner groups.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. Prospective Minor Hockey Leagues must satisfy the minimum requirements as outlined herein to be considered to become a sanctioned League:
 - i. operate within the Province of Alberta;
 - ii. be a registered society/ corporation within the Province of Alberta;
 - iii. there must not be an existing sanctioned Minor Hockey League providing the same level/ type of hockey program within the geographic area;
 - iv. have a minimum of five (5) member MHAs;
 - v. not be within or part of a Minor Hockey Association.
- B. All applications must include the following information:
 - i. a copy of the prospective League's Constitution/ By-Laws;
 - ii. a copy of the prospective League's Policies/ Regulations;
 - iii. a copy of the prospective League's Certificate of Incorporation;
 - iv. the prospective League's corporate address, phone number and email addresses;
 - v. a list of the Executive of the prospective League (including phone numbers and e-mail addresses);
 - vi. a list of the member MHAs of the prospective League (including names of the main contacts, mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for each team).



-
- C. Applications to become a sanctioned Minor Hockey League must be submitted to Hockey Alberta on or before January 31 to be considered for the subsequent season (applications submitted after this date will not be considered or be deferred to the following season).
 - D. All applicants must include the following statement in their Constitution/ Bylaws:

“That where the provisions of this Constitution/ Bylaws are inconsistent with the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Regulations of Hockey Canada and/ or Hockey Alberta, the Constitution, Bylaws, Regulations and/ or Policies of Hockey Canada and/ or Hockey Alberta shall prevail”.

MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE APPROVALS

- A. The Constitution of Minor Hockey Leagues must not contain any provisions which contradict existing Hockey Canada and/ or Hockey Alberta Policies or Regulations, specifically pertaining to the following areas:
 - I. Registration;
 - II. Affiliation;
 - III. Transfers;
 - IV. Insurance;
 - V. Roster Sizes;
 - VI. Appeals;
 - VII. Suspensions;
 - VIII. Coaching Certification.
- B. The Constitution, Regulations and Policies of Minor Hockey Leagues must not contain any provisions which contradict existing Hockey Alberta standards and/ or operating procedures for Minor Hockey.
- C. In all other matters, Leagues shall be permitted to strengthen provisions which only affect the League. Strengthening shall be defined as “any provision which places further limits on individuals or teams than currently provided in Hockey Canada and/ or Hockey Alberta Constitutions, Bylaws, Regulations and Policies”. The above does not apply to playing rules.
- D. All applications to become a sanctioned League will be reviewed by Hockey Alberta and additional information and/ or recommendations for change will be communicated to the applicant prior to a decision being made.
- E. The Chief Executive Officer (or designate) shall be responsible to either approve or deny the application to become a sanctioned League.

MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE OPERATIONS

- A. Minor Hockey Leagues approved for sanctioning 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. Decisions made by sanctioned Leagues are submit to Appeal to Hockey Alberta, in accordance with Hockey Alberta’s Appeals Policy.



-
- B. All games involving League members are deemed to be under the jurisdiction of Hockey Alberta and all Hockey Alberta rules and regulations will apply.
 - C. Leagues must ensure that their respective Teams are properly registered in accordance with Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada Regulations.
 - D. Members must ensure that all exhibition and/ or tournament games that their respective Teams participate in are sanctioned by Hockey Alberta, Hockey Canada or an IIHF Member.
 - E. Teams whose geographical location is outside the jurisdiction of Hockey Alberta, may be considered to participate in a Hockey Alberta Minor Hockey League upon application to Hockey Alberta. Approval will only be given if the applying team(s) are registered with a Member of Hockey Canada, or USA Hockey.
 - F. 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.
 - G. The Constitution, Regulations and Policies of Minor Hockey Leagues must not contain any provisions which contradict existing Hockey Alberta standards and/ or operating procedures for Minor Hockey.
 - H. 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.
 - I. Any League that amends their Constitution/ Bylaws after approval has been given by Hockey Alberta must halt the implementation of any changes and the original Constitution shall be in effect for all matters pertaining to the amended section. The League must submit the amended documentation to Hockey Alberta for review and the amendment shall only be permitted to be in effect after approval has been given by Hockey Alberta.
 - J. Leagues must submit their updated listing of Executive/ Board to Hockey Alberta by June 30 on an annual basis.
 - K. Leagues must submit their Constitution/ Bylaws and Regulations/ Policies to Hockey Alberta for review by June 30 every three (3) years, whether they have made amendments to the documents or not.