

WCMHA REGULATIONS

REVISED September 27, 2009

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A. OPERATING RULES

1. The WCMHA shall operate under the rules and regulations of Hockey Alberta and the Canadian Hockey Association.

B. PROTESTS

2. All protests must come from the local minor hockey association. Protests must be phoned or faxed to the appropriate league governor within 48 hours of the game in question. A written protest with a certified cheque or money order for \$50 must be mailed to the league governor within 60 hours. This money shall be forfeited to WCMHA if the protest is disallowed and refunded if the protest is upheld. The defending association or team must file their defence to the league governor in writing within 36 hours of their notification of the protest by the governor.

C. SUSPENSIONS – LEAGUE GAMES:

1. Minimum suspensions will follow Hockey Alberta minimum suspension guidelines. WCMHA additional suspension rules shall be but not limited to:

A) FIGHTING Automatic 1 game suspension/ 2nd Offense – 3 game susp.*

INSTIGATOR/AGGRESSOR Automatic 1 game susp. (added to Fighting suspension)*

*The matter must also be dealt with by a discipline committee consisting of the WCMHA president (or his alternate choice), the league governor and a mutually agreed third WCMHA representative, and the hockey player.

Any Match penalties or Indefinite suspensions (Deliberate Intent to Injure) are Forwarded to the the Zone Discipline Coordinator – player/coach is suspended indefinitely until matter is dealt with.

B) GROSS MISCONDUCT:

1. A minimum 3-game suspension (2 games as per HA rules plus 1 game per WCMHA rules), a meeting with the discipline committee, and a phone call to the WCMHA representative of the player's minor hockey association.
2. THREE Unsportsmanlike MISCONDUCTS AND/OR GAME MISCONDUCTS: a phone call and letter from the league governor. For any further offenses the player will be suspended until the matter goes to the discipline committee.

THE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE shall be given WCMHA authority to take all necessary action and/or assess penalties as the situation may require.

3. The coach or manager of a player receiving a major (5 minute) penalty must report the incident to the governor by telephone within 48 hours. That player will not be

allowed to play any games until permission to do so is given by the governor or president. There may not be any suspension.

4. Suspensions for one or two games shall specify the particular games for which that person is to be suspended – they must be served in the next league, provincial or tournament games and suspensions cannot be served in exhibition – neither can the player/coach participate in exhibition play until the suspension is served.
5. A suspended person shall not participate in a make-up game if that game was scheduled while the suspension was in effect. (This would be exhibition- see above)
6. A fax or email stating the suspension and the right of appeal shall be sent to the coach, player, their minor hockey association and the WCMHA president within 48 hours.
7. Any suspension over five games shall be reported to the Hockey Alberta Zone Discipline Coordinator by the WCMHA president.
8. Suspensions may be appealed.
9. Each governor shall give a written summary of all suspensions to the WCMHA secretary at the end of the season-any suspensions not served at the end of the season will be reported to HA Zone Discipline Coordinator as they will carryover to the next season.
10. Match on Officials (Physical Abuse of Officials) shall be reported and dealt with by the Officials involved and the appropriate Referee Zone. Players/Coaches involved are suspended indefinitely until resolved.

D. APPEALS

1. An appeal must come from the local minor hockey association.
2. An appeal must be made to the WCMHA president within 7 days of the notice of the suspension.
3. The appeal must be accompanied by a \$50 certified cheque or money order, which shall be forfeited if the suspension is upheld or refunded if the suspension is reduced.
4. A hearing shall be held within five days of receiving the appeal.
5. The president shall appoint a committee of three directors to hear the appeal. They shall be from neutral towns and unbiased in the appeal they are hearing.
6. The appeal meeting shall follow CHA and HA rules for such hearings.
7. Any suspensions upheld by the WCMHA appeal committee may be appealed to Hockey Alberta.

E. REGISTRATION

1. Each minor hockey association shall post a bond of \$100 with the WCMHA.
2. This bond shall be liable for any breach of the constitution, bylaws or regulations or for failure to fulfill commitments.
3. Any part of the bond remaining shall be refunded upon withdrawal in writing from the WCMHA.
4. Any assessment against a bond shall be repaid in full by the team or their minor hockey association within 30 days of receiving an assessment.
5. A minor hockey association may apply in writing for a year's leave of absence without forfeiture of their bond. This must be approved at a general meeting.
6. Team fees shall be \$100 per team, which includes one scorebook. Extra books are \$15.

7. For each team entered in the WCMHA, directors shall bring to the October meeting: fees; 10 to 16 home game times: team colors; coach and managers' names, addresses and phone numbers.
8. Teams should be registered in categories where they are competitive, not according to CHA registration.
9. The WCMHA shall operate two tiers in Atom and older categories if there are six or more teams in each tier.
10. Dynamite and Novice categories may have two divisions, but teams will not be tiered. If an association has more than one travelling team registered in Dynamite or Novice, and the teams are not selected equally, they will be considered to be tiered.
11. The league governor may realign teams after six weeks of play if necessary, but any fewer than six teams in a tier or division must be approved by WCMHA board of directors.

F. OFFICIALS

1. A two or three-man system of referees shall be used for all divisions in WCMHA.
2. All referees should be at least two years older than the category they are officiating.
3. Atom and Pee Wee referees must be carded level 1 or higher.
4. Bantam and Midget referees must be carded level 2 or higher.
5. Referees may not officiate a WCMHA game if there is a member of their immediate family participating in that game.
6. The local minor hockey association shall be responsible for providing qualified officials for all league games.
7. The league governor may ask for neutral referees for play-offs.
8. If no referee is available for a game, follow the CHA rules. Both coaches must agree on the referee to be used and sign the back of the game sheet before the game starts.

G. POSTPONED GAMES

1. Scheduled games must have at least 72 hours notice to be postponed; TWO WEEKS NOTICE for attending a tournament. If the required notice is not given, the cancelling team will forfeit \$50 of their bond to WCMHA and will be fined \$100 to be paid to the offended association. Postponed games should be played within 2 weeks. Failure to do so could result in the forfeiture of the game, in which the score will be set at 1-0 against the offending team. The league governor and president shall decide each case.

H. LEAGUE GAMES

1. League and playoff games shall have priority over tournament and exhibition games. However, provincial playoffs have precedent over league.
2. Each minor hockey association should provide a minimum of 2 hours ice time for Midget and Bantam games and 1-1/2 hours for Pee Wee and Atom games. Shorter ice times must be approved at the October meeting.
3. During league play, there will be no overtime for games tied after three periods.
4. League schedules may start by the middle of October.
5. League schedules should end by the last week-end in February.

6. If a team drops out of WCMHA during the season, then points and statistic accumulated against that team shall not be used.
7. If a team enters WCMHA during the season, it will assume the average points of the league it moved into.
8. Midweek and Sunday games shall start no later than 8:30pm for Bantams and Midgets.
9. Stop time shall be used in all periods of all games for Novice and older divisions.
10. If necessary, Novice games can have a minimum of 2 straight time periods but the last period must be stop time.
11. For Dynamites there will be three periods of straight time, with line changes every 3 minutes.
12. Novice players receiving 3 penalties in one game will be suspended for the rest of the game.
13. Dynamite and Novice teams shall play with a three-goal limit per player: that is, after 3 goals, any other goals scored by that player are not counted; and the face-off is outside the blueline.
14. Dynamite teams shall have off-sides called for all league games.
15. When a team fails to play a scheduled game it may be assessed a \$150 fine and lose 2 points. (Exceptions will be made for hazardous weather conditions and properly postponed games.) Any complaint of a no-show should be reported to the league governor within 72 hours of the incident. A WRITTEN NOTICE shall be sent to the league governor and secretary within two weeks. The matter will be decided at a general meeting.
16. All games should start within 15 minutes of the scheduled time unless a previous game goes overtime.
17. For Dynamites, the minimum goal equipment on top of full regular equipment will be a goal stick, catcher and blocker.

I. PLAYOFF GAMES

1. The top four teams shall qualify for playoffs in each league.
2. The lower teams shall have a B division playoff.
3. In the event of a tie in league standings, the tied team with the most wins in games played against the other tied team shall receive the higher standing. If still tied, goals for minus goals against, in games between the tied teams will be used; then the team with the most wins in league play; then goals for minus goals against in league play; then least penalty minutes; then toss of a coin.
4. Playoff games shall be a two-game, total-point series.
5. Venue shall go to the team that finished highest in league standings. Governors and/or coaches are not allowed to make changes in this system.
6. The playoff format shall be as follows:
 - First place team vs fourth place team
 - Second place team vs third place team
 - Winner of 1 – 4 vs winner of 2 – 3
7. Semi-finals shall be completed by the second Sunday in March and finals shall be completed by the last Sunday in March. A team that fails to fulfill play-off commitments by these deadlines shall forfeit the series.
8. In a home-and-home, total-point series, there shall be no overtime played in the first game. If the total score is tied after the second game, overtime shall be played as follows: change ends and play stop-time sudden victory. (The first teams to score wins.)

9. WCMHA shall supply one playoff or year-end tournament banner per division for Novice and up, to a maximum cost of \$100 each. WCMHA travelling trophies will be presented as well.
10. Participation in a league playoff tournament is mandatory for all WCMHA Novice teams, or the association's performance bond may be forfeited.

J. ALL STAR GAMES

1. Midget and Bantam all-star games shall be held in mid-January.
2. Teams shall be invited to nominate a number of players according to their league standing at the time.
3. When enough players have been selected, two teams shall be formed by drawing names.
4. Players with excessive major penalty minutes shall be disqualified from the all-star teams.
5. Admission may be charged at all-star games to offset costs.

K. LEAGUE GOVERNOR DUTIES

1. Can not coach or manage a WCMHA team in the same category.
2. Ensure that all players, teams, coaches and managers follow the CHA, Hockey Alberta and WCMHA bylaws and regulations.
3. Suspend any player, team, coach or manager who does not follow the rules or displays unsportsmanlike conduct.
4. Resolve small disputes regarding their league. Governors shall rule on league play only; H.A. zone chairman has jurisdiction over tournament and exhibition games.
5. See that a balance schedule is drawn up for their league, with a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 22 games. Each team should have the same number of home and away games.
6. Make recommendations for moving teams to higher or lower categories based on their performance prior to December 1 of the current year.
7. See that teams submit a registration/affiliation form to the league governor by January 10.
8. Send with the schedule, a list of coaches, managers, governor, their addresses and phone numbers, to each director, coach and the WCMHA president
9. Keep a record of the following league statistics or appoint a statistician to do so, provide them to coaches and report on his league at each WCMHA meeting:
 - a. games won, lost and tied, for total points
 - b. goals for and against for each team
 - c. penalty minutes
10. Should see as many games as possible and sign game sheet on all games attended.
11. File an expense claim before April 30 of the current year. Travel expenses will be paid at \$.28/km to a maximum of \$300 for Novice, Atom and Pee Wee; \$500 for Bantam and \$1000 for Midget. Governors must submit a detailed statement with receipts which must be approved by the executive.
12. Present award to the winning team at final game.
13. Shall not change or make any new league regulations.

L. COACHES/MANAGERS DUTIES

1. Home team coaches or managers shall fax or email league gamesheets and major penalty referee reports to the league governor within 24 hours.
2. Coaches or managers shall fax or email tournament or exhibition gamesheets to Hockey Alberta zone 4 chairman within 24 hours of the game.
3. There will be a \$10 fine assessed for EACH gamesheet not sent to the league governor, including Dynamite teams.
4. All players and team officials must be properly registered on the HCR system prior to their first league game.

M. CONDUCT

1. Profanity and the use of alcohol and drugs are prohibited in all games and practises under the jurisdiction of the WCMHA.
2. All officers, coaches, managers, officials and players shall conduct themselves in a polite and sportsman-like manner at all times.

N. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. Fan control shall be the responsibility of the home team. Referees shall ask arena management to remove from the arena, unruly fans or fans that are harassing players.
2. Any team or their fans guilty of harassment to other teams or wilful damage to other team's property or facilities may be suspended by the president from participating in the WCMHA and shall forfeit their bond. In the event of a dispute between teams or associations regarding damage to property, the president shall head a committee of three directors appointed from neutral towns to investigate the damage. The guilty team or association shall pay the damages before any of its teams are allowed to play in the WCMHA.
3. Member associations that are not represented at WCMHA meeting by their director or an alternate shall be assessed a \$100 fee against their bond. If a governor or director fails to complete his term, his association shall appoint a new one or face suspension for a year.
4. The home team shall change sweaters if the two set are too close in color and confusing to the referee.
5. There shall be no admission charge for any WCMHA league or exhibition game.
6. Overage players shall be considered on an individual basis.
7. WCMHA league governor's names and phone numbers shall be posted in referee rooms of members associations.
8. League governors' and coaches' duties as outlined in the WCMHA bylaws and rules shall be provided to each team and league governor.

O. REGULATION CHANGES

1. WCMHA regulations may be revised at general or executive meetings by a 2/3 majority vote. They should be reviewed and updated annually or as changes occur.