

PART I
CONSTITUTION

**As amended at the Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association on
May 14, 2011**

WHEREAS the Ontario Women's Hockey Association is a voluntary Association of members and individuals, designed to promote and foster female hockey throughout Ontario;
AND WHEREAS members and individuals participating in the activities and games sponsored by the OWHA have confidence in the judgment of the Executive of the OWHA;
AND WHEREAS it is declared that one of the purposes of this Constitution, and the Association's By-Laws, Regulations and Rules shall be to confer upon the OWHA and its Executive all of the powers of a fully self-governing organization;
NOW THEREFORE be it enacted:

ARTICLE ONE

Name

This organization shall be called the Ontario Women's Hockey Association.

ARTICLE TWO

Governing Body

- (A) This Association is the governing body of female hockey in Ontario.
- (B) This Association is a member of the Ontario Hockey Association and the Ontario Hockey Federation.
- (C) Through the Ontario Hockey Federation, this Association shall be affiliated with Hockey Canada

ARTICLE THREE

Objects

The objects of the Association are:

- (A) To promote the participation of girls and women in all aspects of female hockey;
- (B) To foster and encourage leadership programs in all areas related to the development of female hockey in Ontario; and
- (C) To promote hockey as a game played primarily for enjoyment while also fostering sportsmanship and life skills.

ARTICLE FOUR

Membership

Membership in the Association shall consist of:

- (A) Teams and Hockey FUNDamentals Programmes which:
 - i. Have applied to and been accepted by the Executive of the Association; and
 - ii. Have agreed to abide by and comply with the Constitution, By-Laws, Regulations and Rules of the Association; and
 - iii. Are in good standing.
- (B) Officers and Members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE FIVE

Officers

The Officers shall consist of the Chairperson, the Immediate Past-Chairperson, the three Vice-Chairpersons, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the President.

ARTICLE SIX

Executive Committee

- (A) The Executive Committee shall be composed of:
 - i. The Officers;
 - ii. All Regional Directors; and
 - iii. The Chairman of the Ontario Hockey Association or its authorized representative.
- (B) The Members of the Executive Committee will be elected for a one-year term at the Annual General Meeting with the exception of the Immediate Past Chairperson, the President and the Chairman of the Ontario Hockey Association, or its authorized representative.
- (C) The Members of the Executive Committee shall not be subject to any personal legal liability for any actions taken by them in that position.
- (D) The Regional Directors shall be elected by members of the Association from their respective Regions.
- (E) The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancies among the elected Officers by appointing other members of the Executive as Officers and the Executive Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies among the elected Regional Directors in extreme circumstances only.
- (F) The Chairperson may vote only when it is necessary to break a tie.

ARTICLE SEVEN

Authority of Executive Committee

- (A) The Executive Committee shall have control of the affairs of the Association and the primary responsibility for achieving its objects.

- (B) The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint such committees, as it considers necessary to assist in carrying out its responsibilities.

ARTICLE EIGHT

Board of Regents

- (A) There shall be a Board of Regents to advise and assist the Association in carrying out its objectives.
- (B) The Members of the Board of Regents shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and shall hold office at pleasure.
- (C) The appointment of Members of the Board of Regents shall be effective immediately, but subject to ratification by a majority vote at the next Annual General Meeting.
- (D) All Past Chairpersons shall be deemed to be Members of the Board of Regents.
- (E) The Members of the Board of Regents shall not be subject to any personal legal liability for any actions taken by them in that position.

ARTICLE NINE

Annual General Meeting

- (A) There shall be an Annual General Meeting with the date and location to be announced by the Executive Committee at the previous Annual General Meeting based on membership vote and encouraging rotation among regions that choose to submit a bid to host the Annual General Meeting.
- (B) The agenda for the Annual General Meeting must include:
- i. the minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting;
 - ii. the presentation of the Annual Financial statement which is in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - iii. the election of Officers and other Members of the Executive Committee; and
 - iv. the ratification of any expulsions, By-Laws, Regulations, Rules or Appointments to the Board of Regents made by the Executive Committee during the previous year.

ARTICLE TEN

By-Laws

- (A) The Executive Committee may, from time to time, set, repeal or amend such By-Laws as it deems necessary for the conduct of the business of the Association in a manner consistent with this Constitution.
- (B) Any changes to the By-Laws by the Executive Committee shall be in force but subject to ratification by a majority vote at the next Annual General Meeting.
- (C) Any changes to the By-Laws by the Executive Committee, which fail to receive ratification, may not be re-introduced and any By-Law changes made at an Annual General Meeting may not be modified by the Executive Committee, in both cases, for a period of three years.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

Regulations and Rules

- (A) The Executive Committee may, from time to time, set, repeal or amend:
- i. such Regulations as it deems necessary for the structure of leagues and teams, age categories, fees, membership, associate membership and any other matter related to the carrying out of its objective; and
 - ii. such Rules as are more restrictive than those established by Hockey Canada.
- (B) The powers in ARTICLE ELEVEN (A) of this constitution may be exercised by a majority vote at an Annual General Meeting.
- (C) Any changes to the Regulations or Rules made by the Executive Committee shall be subject to ratification by a majority vote at the next Annual General Meeting.
- (D) Any changes to the Regulations or Rules by the Executive Committee, which fail to receive ratification, may not be re-introduced, and any Regulation or Rule changes made at an Annual General Meeting may not be modified by the Executive Committee, in both cases, for a period of three years.
- (E) All hockey played under the jurisdiction of the Association shall be governed by the Association's Regulations and Rules.

ARTICLE TWELVE

Financial Year

The fiscal year of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association shall terminate on the 30th day of June each year.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN

Constitutional Amendment

This Constitution may be amended at an Annual General Meeting by a two-thirds majority of all votes cast, provided that notice of proposed amendments is announced at any time during the preceding Annual General Meeting.

PART II
BY-LAWS

ARTICLE ONE

Executive Committee

- (A) The Executive Committee shall set the policies and conduct the business of the Association.
- (B) The Members of the Executive Committee shall report to and be subject to the direction of the Executive Committee in carrying out their responsibilities.
- (C) Delegation and Committees:
 - i. Wherever appropriate, Members of the Executive Committee shall encourage broader participation in the Association through the delegation of their functions to:
 - a) Other Members of the Executive Committee; and
 - b) Other Persons in the Regions.
 - ii. Such delegation may occur through informal assignment and designation as well as through the appointment of committees pursuant to ARTICLE SEVEN (B) of the Constitution.
 - iii. When the Executive Committee appoints a committee pursuant to ARTICLE SEVEN (B) of the Constitution it shall:
 - a) Specify whether such committee is to be a standing committee of unlimited duration or an *ad hoc* committee after which time it shall cease to exist;
 - b) Specify the time frame for the work and reporting of each *ad hoc* committee after which time it shall cease to exist;
 - c) Specify the general purpose of the committee, and
 - (1) its particular objectives,
 - (2) its responsibilities by way of consultation or otherwise, and
 - (3) any resources which will be provided to assist in the carrying out of its task;
 - d) Specify whether the committee shall report through a Vice-Chairperson or directly to the Executive Committee and whether there shall be interim as well as final reporting.

ARTICLE TWO

Duties of Officers

- (A) Chairperson
 - i. The Chairperson shall serve as Chair of the Executive Committee.
 - ii. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of this Association and the Executive Committee and, at the discretion of the Chairperson, order the calling of meetings of this Association and its Committees. It shall also be the duty of the Chairperson immediately after the close of each Annual General Meeting to convene a meeting of the Executive Committee in order to discuss the business for the forthcoming year.
 - iii. The Chairperson shall exercise, in addition to powers conferred upon the Chairperson by the Constitution, By-Laws, Regulations and Rules of this Association, all duties and power of the Executive Committee when in an emergency it is impractical for the Chairperson of the Executive Committee to obtain a vote of the Executive Committee.
 - iv. Any action taken by the Chairperson under (A)iii. shall be referred to the Executive Committee for approval or rejection in whole or in part within fifteen days following the action taken.
 - v. The Chairperson shall be an *ex officio* member of any Committees appointed pursuant to ARTICLE SEVEN (B) of the Constitution.
 - vi. The Chairperson shall, from time to time, appoint persons to *ad hoc* Discipline Boards, Appeal Tribunals and Protest Committees.
- (B) Vice-Chairpersons
 - i. There will be three Vice-Chairpersons:
 - (a) First Vice-Chairperson;
 - (b) Second Vice-Chairperson;
 - (c) Third Vice-Chairperson.
 - ii.(a) The First Vice-Chairperson, in the absence of the Chairperson, shall have the authority to perform the duties of the Chairperson.
 - (b) The Second Vice-Chairperson, in the absence of the First Vice-Chairperson, shall have the authority to perform the duties of the First Vice-Chairperson.
 - (c) The Third Vice-Chairperson, in the absence of the Second Vice-Chairperson, shall have the authority to perform the duties of the Second Vice-Chairperson.
 - (d) The Vice-Chairperson(s) will perform those duties as delegated by the Executive Committee.
- (C) Secretary
 - i. The Secretary shall record and preserve the minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee and all General Meetings of the Association.
- (D) Treasurer
 - i. The Treasurer shall chair a Finance Committee to be appointed pursuant to ARTICLE SEVEN (B) of the Constitution.
 - ii. The Treasurer shall be a signing officer of the OWHA.
 - iii. The Treasurer shall keep under review the financial position of the Association and shall make recommendations to the Executive Committee for maximizing revenues and the minimizing of expenditures.
 - iv. The Treasurer shall present the budget for the approval of the Executive Committee.
 - v. The Treasurer shall present at the Annual General Meeting the financial statement which is in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- (E) President
 - i. The President shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of this Association and be answerable to the Executive Committee.

- ii. The salary of the President shall be negotiated with a sub-committee of the Officers of this Association.
- iii. The President shall not have a vote at any meetings of this Association.
- iv. The President shall represent the OWHA on all matters including hockey, government, public relations and other association related activities. The President shall attend all meetings as designated by the Chairperson.
- v. The President shall be the official representative of the OWHA to the Annual General Meeting of Hockey Canada.

ARTICLE THREE

Duties of Directors

(A) Regional Directors

- i. A Regional Director shall take responsibility as assigned by the OWHA Executive Committee for the Region(s) to which he/she was elected.
- ii. The Regional Director shall recommend the District Rep(s), subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.
- iii. Regional Directors shall carry out their duties by providing information, delegating duties, identifying problems and co-operating in seeking solutions in their Region(s)
- iv. Regional Directors shall ensure he/she or his/her delegate is accessible for all OWHA tournaments.
- v. Regional Directors shall encourage increased participation in female hockey.

(B) District Reps

- i. A District Rep, at the direction of her/his respective Regional Director, will assist the Regional Director in carrying out her/his duties as assigned.
- ii. A District Rep will assist the Regional Director and members in maintaining effective lines of communication with the membership.

ARTICLE FOUR

Duties of the Board of Regents

- (A) Members of the Board of Regents shall be persons who have demonstrated their support for the Objects of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association and who may be called upon, from time to time, for special advice or other assistance.
- (B) Members of the Board of Regents may attend meetings of the Executive Committee and General Meetings and may participate in discussion and debate but shall not have the power to vote.

ARTICLE FIVE

General Meetings

(A) General Meetings

- 1. A General Meeting of the Association may be called by the Executive Committee from time to time as may be required.
- 2. At least 30 days notice of such meetings shall be provided to all members of the Association together with a statement of the purpose of the meeting and the proposed agenda.

(B) Annual General Meeting

- 1. Nominating Committee: At each Annual General Meeting a Nominating Committee shall be elected, consisting of the Immediate Past Chairperson and two other members elected from the floor, whose duty shall be to present a slate of candidates for election to the Executive Committee at the next Annual General Meeting. The slate must be received in writing in the OWHA office c/o the Secretary at least 60 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting.
- 2. Other Nominations: Members may nominate additional candidates for election to the Executive Committee, in writing and received in the OWHA office c/o the Secretary at least 60 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting. All such nominations must have a nominator, a seconder and permission from the candidate. **In order to be nominated for the position of OWHA Chairperson, the candidate must have been a member of the OWHA Executive Committee for a minimum of three complete seasons. In order to be nominated for any other position on the OWHA Executive Committee, an individual must have been a volunteer within the OWHA for a minimum of three complete seasons.**
- 3. Amendments: All proposed amendments to the By-Laws, Regulations or Rules must be received in writing in the OWHA office c/o the Secretary at least 60 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting.
- 4. Notice: At least 30 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting, the Secretary must send out to all members the notice of the Annual General Meeting, the Agenda, the Nominating Committee's Slate of candidates, any other nominations which have been received and all proposed amendments to By-Laws, Regulations and Rules.
- 5. Amendments Made During the Year by the Executive Committee: All changes to By-Laws, Regulation or Rules made during the year by the Executive Committee, as authorized in the Constitution, ARTICLES TEN and ELEVEN, must be included on the list of amendments sent out by the Secretary.

(C) Voting at General Meetings

- 1. Every voting member of the Association shall be entitled to vote at General Meetings, including the Annual General Meeting. An OWHA Executive member shall not be allowed to be the voting person for a member association/league/team, nor carry any proxy votes.
- 2. The Chairperson may only vote in the event of a tie.
- 3. No *quorum* shall be required at General Meetings including the Annual General Meeting.
- 4. Every voting member of the Association shall be entitled to vote at a General Meeting, including the Annual General Meeting, by way of proxy. In order to cast a proxy vote, the person intending to vote must file with the Secretary, at the outset of the meeting, a notice in writing which includes:
 - a) the name of the absent member who or which is authorized to vote;
 - b) the name of the member who or which is authorized to cast the proxy vote at the meeting;
 - c) a statement that the member is authorized to cast the proxy vote on all matters which may arise at the meeting;

d) an authorized signature of the member referred to in ARTICLE FIVE (C)(4)(a) of these By-Laws.

The Secretary shall inform the meeting of all notices received under this provision prior to any vote taking place and shall make them available for inspection by any other member of the Association at that time.

5. The President shall not have a vote.

ARTICLE SIX

Meetings of the Executive Committee

(A) Calling, Notice and Agenda

1. The Chairperson shall call meetings of the Executive Committee as required but at least two times per year.
2. Notice of meetings shall be provided in writing at least 15 days in advance together with notice of any proposed agenda items which are known by the Chairperson at the time.
3. Any proposed amendments to the By-Laws, Regulations or Rules must be included with the notice of meeting referred to in ARTICLE SIX (A)(2) of these By-Laws.

(B) Voting

1. Every member of the Executive Committee, except the President shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the Executive Committee.
2. The Chairperson may only vote in the event of a tie.
3. A *quorum* of at least one-half of the Members of the Executive Committee is required.
4. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted at Executive Committee meetings.

ARTICLE SEVEN

Membership

- (A) New Teams and Associations – New teams must have submitted a “New Team/Association Application” form, c/o OWHA office and received approval prior to any team members participating in any team activities. Events held prior to approval are not OWHA sanctioned and/or insured.
- (B) All teams registered in the previous season are to send to the OWHA Office, by August 31st of each year, their team’s completed “Intent to Register” form together with the appropriate team registration fee. A team will also have to have submitted their “Intent to Register” form and appropriate fee in order to participate in any OWHA sanctioned tournament or league game.
- (C) Any OWHA approved Association may register teams in their applicable divisions or categories as the need arises without filling out a “New Team/Association Application” form, notwithstanding that the OWHA Executive Committee will retain its right to accept, reject or revoke membership to protect the best interests of the OWHA membership and as set out in ARTICLE SEVEN of the Constitution.
- (D) Each team may register a maximum of 17 skaters and a maximum of 2 goaltenders, except in Senior where each team may register a maximum of 18 skaters and a maximum of 2 goaltenders. Each goaltender must be designated on the “Participant Registration” form with the letter “G”.
- (E) All OWHA approved competitive teams must be registered according to the current New Membership Policies in effect, complete with player information by October 1st of each season by forwarding to the OWHA Registrar completed “Participant Registration” form(s) along with the proper Registration fee, Insurance fee, Affiliation fee and Provincial Bond. All association and independent competitive teams must register in the District/Region where they play the majority of their home games. Failure to submit the proper fees will cancel a team’s right to participate in any OWHA event.
- (F) All House League, Recreational and Masters teams and Players must be registered by November 15th of each hockey season in the same manner as competitive teams. No House League team may change categories from House League to competitive after December 31st.
- (G) All competitive teams must submit properly completed game reports of all games played (Form A) no later than a date to be set annually by the OWHA Executive Committee. The Form A must list the OWHA team numbers of opposing teams. The Form A will only be used if there is an official request in to move a team. Form B’s for competitive teams will be required to be submitted upon request only. Failure to submit reports and/or properly completed forms on time will result in the following fines and sanctions and may result in rendering the team ineligible for Provincials or render the team as a team not in good standing.
- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 to 5 days late | \$100.00 |
| 6 to 11 days late | \$200.00 |
| 12 days or more | team will be ineligible for Provincial Championship |
- Regardless of a team’s intention to participate in Provincials or not, game reports of all games must be received **on or before the above-noted deadlines.**
- (H) FUNDamentals programmes and players must also be registered by November 15th of each hockey season. Additional players may be added throughout the season to any team or FUNDamentals programme, within the limitations of ARTICLE SEVEN (D) and the restrictions on Provincial eligibility set out in REGULATION THREE.

ARTICLE EIGHT

Player Movement/Tryouts

- (A) (1) “Permission to Skate” forms must be filled out and signed by a designated executive member of the player’s current association/team and presented to the association/team for which the player wishes to try out before she is allowed on the ice. Failure to comply will result in a minimum two (2) game suspension for the offending player and/or head coach.
- (2) No “Permission to Skate” forms may be used for the period between January 1st and two days after all the Provincial Championships for any teams during the current season.
- (B) **OWHA TAMPERING POLICY:**
Team officials of any OWHA team shall not encourage indirectly or invite in a direct manner, or allow to participate in any training activities, practice or play in any scheduled or exhibition game a registered member of another OWHA team from the previous season or of the current season in any division or category without first having obtained permission, in writing, in the manner set forth in REGULATION THREE, Registration (E) and/or BY-LAW ARTICLE EIGHT, Player Movement/Tryouts (A)(1), from the team or club

with which such player is registered. For failure to comply with the above Regulation and/or the above policy, the responsible team and/or team official and player shall be sanctioned in any one or combination of the following manners:

- a) The head coach will be suspended for the minimum of ten (10) games;
- b) The team will be fined a sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). This fine is payable within fifteen (15) days of notification of the fine. Failure to submit the fine within the required time frame will result in automatic suspension until the fine is paid;
- c) The fine will be remitted to the OWHA;
- d) The player will not be eligible to sign with the team with which she had illegal tryouts;
- e) **A suspension.**

Teams with valid reasons to invite players to tryouts can approach team officials of her current team to request permission.

- (C) "Tampering Report" forms will be directed to the OWHA Office.

ARTICLE NINE

Fee Schedule

- (A) For Hockey FUNdamentals, the insurance fee will be as set by the insurer and affiliation fees will be as set by the OWHA Executive Committee.
- (B) All team registration fees will be \$25.00 per team and \$15.00 per team member. The insurance fee will be as set by the insurer and affiliation fees will be as set by the OWHA Executive Committee.
- (C) All teams playing under the authority of the OWHA are responsible through their local associations for defraying all costs of playing hockey in their area.
- (D) For late team registrations, the following registration fee will apply:
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 to 7 days late | Current fee + \$50.00 |
| 8 to 14 days late | Current fee + \$100.00 |
| 15 or more days late | Current fee + \$200.00 |

ARTICLE TEN

Expulsion

- (A) The Executive Committee may hold a special meeting to consider whether any member should be expelled for cause.
- (B) At least 30 days notice of such meeting shall be provided to such member and to the Members of the Executive Committee together with the reasons for the proposed expulsion. Such member shall be given full opportunity to be present and to be heard.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

Disciplinary Board, Appeal Tribunal and Protest Committee

- (A) All disciplinary matters, including suspensions, shall be dealt with by the local league or association in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Association.
- (B) Disciplinary Board:
1. Where a disciplinary matter arises out of a competition in which more than one association is represented or in national or international competition, the Chairperson shall appoint a special Disciplinary Board to deal with the matter and shall designate the person to chair the Board.
 2. A Disciplinary Board shall conduct itself with fairness and impartiality and shall provide a full opportunity for all parties to be heard.
- (C) Appeal Tribunal:
1. Where the Rules and Regulations provide for an Appeal from the decision of the local association, the Appeal shall be heard by the Appeal Tribunal.
 2. The Appeal Tribunal shall consist of three members of the Executive Committee and/or members at large, of which one member will be of the Executive Committee, appointed by the Chairperson on an *ad hoc* basis for the purpose of hearing an Appeal. One of the Tribunal Members shall be designated to chair the Tribunal. The Chairperson may choose to sit personally and to chair the Tribunal.
 3. Members of the Tribunal shall have no direct association with any of the parties involved or with the Region where the matter arose. Upon appointment to the Tribunal, Members shall not discuss the merits of the case with anyone prior to hearing the Appeal.
 4. The Appeal Tribunal shall conduct itself with fairness and impartiality and shall provide a full opportunity for all parties to be heard.
 5. The Appeal shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Association.
- (D) Protest Committee:
1. An *ad hoc* Protest Committee, consisting of three members of the Executive Committee, shall be appointed by the Chairperson to hear a protest.
 2. The protest must comply with the terms of RULE FIVE – Protests.

ARTICLE TWELVE

Amendments

A proposed amendment to the By-Laws of the Association must be initiated by the Executive Committee of the OWHA.

PART III

REGULATIONS

REGULATION ONE – Categorization

- (A) **The Standing Committee on Categorization will consist of a Chairperson, the Registrar and all Regional Directors.**
- (B) The circulated Team Application Forms (Intent to Register, ITR), due August 31st, indicates each team’s registered category and division from the previous season. If a team wishes to change its category, please note the desired category and division on the ITR form. The change will be automatically granted.
- (C) The OWHA will circulate a list of teams that are registered in a specific division at the OWHA General Meeting to authorized team delegates.
- (D) If a team wishes to submit a category change with its Roster, which is due before participation in a tournament or league game, but no later than October 1st, the change will be automatically granted.
- (E) Teams will remain in division/category as circulated unless a Request for Re-Categorization form or a Request OWHA Team Category Review form is received by the OWHA as an official position of a Team or Association.
- (F) All requests for re-categorization of your own team and all requests for a review of another team must be submitted on the applicable form, i.e. “Request for Re-Categorization” form or “Request OWHA Team Category Review” form, and submitted to the Categorization Chairperson, c/o OWHA office no later than a date to be set annually by the OWHA Executive Committee. Each individual request must be submitted on a separate “Request for Re-Categorization” form or “Request OWHA Team Category Review” form.
- (G) Upon receipt of the written Request OWHA Team Category Review form, the Categorization Chairperson, will approach the team, in writing, to make a decision to either move up or provide written rationalization as to why the team should stay in its current category.
- (H) If the team wishes to remain in its current category, the Categorization Committee will review all pertinent information and render a decision.
- (I) The OWHA will circulate an updated list of teams in a specific division no later than a date to be set annually by the OWHA Executive Committee.
- (J) Input on the circulated list from an official position of a Team or Association will be accepted no later than a date to be set annually by the OWHA Executive Committee. Such input must be on either a Request for Re-Categorization form or a Request OWHA Team Category Review form.
- (K) No movement (re-categorization) will occur unless a properly completed Request for Re-Categorization form or a Request OWHA Team Category Review form is received on or before the deadline from a Team or Association.
- (L) The Categorization Committee will meet on a date set annually by the OWHA Executive Committee, with Appeals being held no later than a date to be set annually by the OWHA Executive Committee.
- (M) Game reports, (Form A and Form B if applicable) of all games played must be received by the OWHA office on or before the dates set out in BY-LAW ARTICLE SEVEN (G). Competitive teams shall have access to scores from Form A’s received.
- (N) The OWHA Categorizing Committee has the authority to move any team at any time **notwithstanding that a team may not have been petitioned for re-categorization. In particular, the OWHA Categorization Committee reserves the right to evaluate and re-categorize teams that are ranked above teams successfully petitioned for re-categorization.**
- (O) Appeals will be heard by a committee of three people appointed by the OWHA Chairperson, c/o OWHA Office, provided that no member of the committee shall have been present or taken part in the original decision of categorization on which the appeal is based.
- (P) All appeals must be submitted in writing to the OWHA Office in accordance with the criteria of RULE SIX (B), (D) and (F).
- (Q) The committee shall immediately upon the filing of an appeal as to categorization, make all information available to the parties who made the original decision, including the Form A of any team to the party who is appealing prior to the appeal being heard, and in sufficient time for the appealing party to utilize same at the time of the hearing of their appeal. The affected team will receive in writing 3 to 4 days before the appeal hearing the written recommendation, with rationale, from the Categorization Committee.
- (R) Categories:
All teams playing within the OWHA shall play within approved OWHA categories. OWHA teams within the Province of Ontario shall play under the following categories:

COMPETITIVE Note: All ages are as of December 31st.

Senior “AAA”	Open Age	Highest category
Senior “AA”	Open Age	Lower category than “AAA”
Senior “A”	Open Age	Lower category than “AA”
Senior “BB”	Open Age	Lower category than “A”
Senior “B”	Open Age	Lower category than “BB”
Senior “C”	Open Age	Lower category than “B”
Intermediate “AA”	21 & under	Highest category
Intermediate “A”	21 & under	Lower category than “AA”
Intermediate “BB”	21 & under	Lower category than “A”
Intermediate “B”	21 & under	Lower category than “BB”
Intermediate “C”	21 & under	Lower category than “B”
Midget “AA”	17 & under	Highest category

Midget “A”	17 & under	Lower category than “AA”
Midget “BB”	17 & under	Lower category than “A”
Midget “B”	17 & under	Lower category than “BB”
Midget “C”	17 & under	Lower category than “B”
Bantam “AA”	14 & under	Highest category
Bantam “A”	14 & under	Lower category than “AA”
Bantam “BB”	14 & under	Lower category than “A”
Bantam “B”	14 & under	Lower category than “BB”
Bantam “C”	14 & under	Lower category than “B”
Pee Wee “AA”	12 & under	Highest category
Pee Wee “A”	12 & under	Lower category than “AA”
Pee Wee “BB”	12 & under	Lower category than “A”
Pee Wee “B”	12 & under	Lower category than “BB”
Pee Wee “C”	12 & under	Lower category than “B”
Atom “AA”	10 & under	Highest category
Atom “A”	10 & under	Lower category than “AA”
Atom “BB”	10 & under	Lower category than “A”
Atom “B”	10 & under	Lower category than “BB”
Atom “C”	10 & under	Lower category than “B”
Novice “A”	8 & under	Lower category than “AA”
Novice “BB”	8 & under	Lower category than “A”
Novice “B”	8 & under	Lower category than “BB”
Novice “C”	8 & under	Lower category than “B”
Masters	35 years+	

HOUSE LEAGUE Note: All ages are as of December 31st

Senior	Open Age
Masters	35 years+
Senior Recreational	20 years+
Senior Recreational Competitive	20 years+
Intermediate	21 & under
Midget	17 & under
Bantam	14 & under
Peewee	12 & under
Atom	10 & under
Novice	8 & under
Hockey FUNdamentals Programme (HCIP)	Open Age

- (S) A House League is one in which the eligibility of players to participate is not restricted by skill level. Typically, a House League organization accepts all individual registrations and divides the players into equal teams based on age and ability. These teams then compete against each other. Placement of players on teams and teams in league groupings is entirely at the discretion of leagues and local associations, considering local conditions, fairness, and appropriate risk management. All players must register with the OWHa according to OWHa requirements.
- (T) Senior Recreational and Senior Recreational Competitive are House League divisions in which all players are age 20 or older.
- (U) Masters is a division in which all players are age 35 or over.
- (V) The OWHa adopts the Hockey FUNdamentals Programme (Hockey Canada Initiation Program – HCIP), which stresses fun and basic technical skill development for all ages and levels, for use in its hockey programme.

REGULATION TWO

(A) Regions

For the purposes of the Association, the Province of Ontario shall be divided into eighteen (18) regions as outlined below:

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Eastern	Region A - District “1”
	Region C - District “3”
Central East	Region E - District “9”
	Region G - District “12”
	Region H - District “13”
Central	Region J - District “15”
	* Region K - District “19”
	* Region L - District “17”
Central West	Region M - District “25”
	Region N - District “21”
Western	Region O - Districts “27” and “29”
	Region R - District “31”

	Region P - District "33"
Toronto	Region Q - District "37"
Northern	Region S - District "45"
	Region T - District "46"
	Region U - District "50"
	Region W - District "55"

* Note: Division line being Derry Road

(B) For the purposes of the Association, the Province of Ontario shall be divided into **nineteen** (19) districts as outlined:

REGION

- A District "1" - Addington, Dundas, Frontenac, Glengarry, Grenville, Leeds, Lennox, Prescott and Russell, Stormont
- C District "3" - Ottawa-Carleton, Lanark, Renfrew
- E District "9" - Hastings, Northumberland, Prince Edward, Peterborough, City of Kawartha Lakes
- G District "12" - Durham
- H District "13" - York
- J District "15" - Haliburton, Muskoka, Parry Sound, Simcoe
- L District "17" - Dufferin, Peel Region North (Brampton), Halton Region North, Wellington
- K District "19" - Halton Region South, Peel Region South (Mississauga)
- N District "21" - Hamilton-Wentworth, Niagara, Haldimand, Norfolk
- M District "25" - Brant, Waterloo
- O District "27" - Bruce, Grey
- O District "29" - Huron, Perth
- R District "31" - Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford
- P District "33" - Lambton, Essex, Kent
- Q District "37" - Toronto
- S District "45" - Manitoulin, Nipissing, Sudbury
- T District "46" - Algoma, Sudbury West
(all points west of and north of Massey)
- U District "50" - Cochrane, Timiskaming
- W District "55" - Kenora, Rainy River, Thunder Bay

NOTE: Addition/Clarification – for the 2011/2012 season, the system will operate with seven Regional Directors who will be assisted by District Reps. (THIS NOTE IS NOT PART OF THE REGULATION)

REGULATION THREE

Registration

- (A) (1) All teams are able to register in the category they wish up to October 1st. This request will be granted. After October 1st, if a team wishes to change its category, the team must apply as outlined in Regulation One.
- (2) Associations may not register more than one team in the same category unless the categories above are filled, with the exceptions of House League, Senior Recreational, and Masters teams.
- (3) Except in Senior, any association/team, with only one team in a division must register a minimum of "B".
- (4) Up to two players may be added to the team's roster after November 30th and before January 1st by submitting to the OWHA Registrar the proper registration information, signatures and fees. These players will be eligible for participation in Regional Playdowns and Provincial Championships provided all provisions of RULE THREE are satisfied.
- (5) Players added to a team roster after December 31st will be eligible for tournament play but not for Regional playdowns and/or Provincial Championships. Participation in league play will be at the discretion of the league.
- (B) The OWHA will not be responsible for late or incomplete registration forms which could result in processing delays in validating or assigning a team's category or a player's eligibility.
- (C) Teams late in registering will not be eligible for the Provincial Championships.
- (D) An OWHA "Participant Registration" form must be completed and submitted by each team each season, signed by each player and team official.
- (E) In order to register with a team or organization other than the one with which she has already been registered for the current season, or with which she was registered for the previous season, a player must first obtain a signed OWHA "Player Release" form from her previous team or organization. A player may be released from one organization to another only once during a season, unless a change of the player's family domicile has taken place or with special approval from the OWHA Registrar. The signed "Player Release" form must accompany the OWHA "Participant Registration" form. If a player's request for a release is denied, the player may appeal in writing to the OWHA Executive Committee or special approval of the OWHA Registrar. Failure to comply with this Regulation will result in a two (2) game suspension for the head coach and/or player in question.
- (F) Each team taking part in Interprovincial or International leagues and/or Interprovincial or International championships must register in accordance with OWHA requirements and must submit to the OWHA Registrar c/o the OWHA office a Request for Sanction for approval.
- (G) A legal proof of age document shall accompany each player's original registration in an age-restricted category. Falsification of the player's date of birth shall result in suspension of the player or team official involved. A legal proof of age document or an OWHA membership card or the membership number assigned by the OWHA Registrar shall be considered acceptable proof of age.

- (H) University Teams: Teams which play in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) may register as house league teams and may participate in a maximum of two OWHA tournaments per year in a category no lower than Senior A. University teams that do not play in the OUA shall register in the same manner as other OWHA teams.
- (I) Insurance fees are non-transferable from one member to another.

REGULATION FOUR

- ### **Officials**
- (A) All on-ice officials must be currently registered through the Hockey Canada Officiating Program in order to be eligible to officiate OWHA games.
 - (B) All referees must provide proof of current certification in order to have valid insurance coverage.
 - (C) All on-ice officials shall act in accordance with the OWHA Officials' Code of Conduct..

REGULATION FIVE

- ### **Instructors, Coaches and Trainers**
- (A) All OWHA teams must have registered, at least one coach with a minimum certification of National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) "Coach" Level [or Hockey FUNdamentals Programme (Hockey Canada Initiation Program-HCIP) for Atom, Novice, Hockey FUNdamentals, and House League]. The OWHA recommends that all OWHA teams register at least one female coach. All OWHA teams must have at least one female staff registered. The OWHA recommends that OWHA competitive teams encourage at least one member of their coaching staff achieve NCCP Development 1 Certification. Starting at the Peewee level, all AA teams must have at least one member of their coaching staff achieve NCCP Development 1 Certification, Regulation (A) does not apply to Senior or Masters Teams. They are recommendations only for these divisions.
 - (B) All OWHA teams must have a registered trainer with a minimum of HTCP Level 1 certification present at all OWHA sanctioned events. The bench trainer's current, valid number must appear on the game sheet as proof of the trainer's certification and attendance at the OWHA sanctioned event.
Sanctioned events include games, practices and dry-land training.

REGULATION SIX

- ### **Provincial Hosting**
- A letter of intent to bid to host an OWHA Provincial Championship must be submitted to the OWHA Executive Committee by October 1st of the season preceding the Championship.
- A complete bid package must be received by December 15th of the season preceding the Championship. The OWHA Executive Committee will announce the host site at the Annual General Meeting of the same season as the proposal was submitted.

REGULATION SEVEN

- ### **Amendments**
- All proposed amendments to the Regulations must be received in writing by the OWHA Office, at least 60 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

**PART IV
RULES**

RULE ONE

(I) Rules for Competition

- (A) Hockey Canada rules shall be followed including the rules specific to female hockey.
- (B) The OWHA Executive Committee may amend Hockey Canada rules to be more restrictive in nature.
- (C) Leagues and/or Associations may amend Hockey Canada and/or OWHA rules to be more restrictive in nature.
- (D) Teams may only play against OWHA registered teams unless sanction is received from the OWHA. A written request for sanction must be submitted to the Executive Committee at least ten (10) days prior to the event. No OWHA team will be permitted to play any female Ontario hockey team that is not registered with the OWHA. Failure to comply will result in sanctions.
NOTE: In (D) above, the first two times the word “sanction” is used refer to a request for approval. The last time the word “sanction” is used refers to a consequence.
- (E) All game sheets for registered competitive teams must record the OWHA TEAM NUMBERS and be signed by all team members, prior to participating in a game. In the case of house league teams, all game sheets will list the team members and will be signed by one of the coaching staff to verify eligibility.
- (F) All OWHA teams must use the official OWHA game sheets.
- (G) The OWHA recommends that OWHA teams encourage the practice-to-game ratio as 2 to 1.
- (H) In all OWHA sanctioned games, the centre ice red line will be in play for icing infractions only.

(II) Equipment

- (A) Required equipment for females to participate in hockey: Helmet - CSA approved, Facemask – CSA approved, Shoulder pads (chest protector), Throat Protector- BNQ approved, Elbow pads, Hockey pants or hockey girdle, Gloves, Shin Pads, Pelvic Protector (Jill), Hockey Skates, Socks, Hockey Stick and Hockey Sweater. It is recommended that every player participating in an Ontario Women’s Hockey Association sanctioned game or practice shall at all times while engaged in play or practices, practice drills or scrimmages on the ice surface wear an intra-oral mouth guard.
- (B) All team officials participating in on-ice activities must wear a properly fastened CSA hockey approved helmet. Trainers or any other team officials attending an injured player are considered exempt from this rule.

RULE TWO

Tournaments

- (A) An OWHA registered team may participate only in tournaments which have been sanctioned by the OWHA or by another governing body affiliated with the International Ice Hockey Federation.
- (B) To be eligible to participate in a tournament outside Ontario, a team must obtain written permission from the OWHA. A written request for sanction must be submitted to the OWHA Office at least twenty (20) days prior to the event.
- (C) Only **female** teams which are registered with the OWHA or another governing body affiliated with the IIHF may participate in an OWHA sanctioned tournament.
- (D) There are three (3) types of tournaments:

1. COMPETITIVE TOURNAMENTS

TEAMS	PLAYERS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teams registered Competitive with the OWHA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teams from outside Ontario properly registered with their provincial or national governing body affiliated with the IIHF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teams registered Senior Recreational or Masters with the OWHA, only if they have played in fewer than two competitive tournaments during the season and subject to the agreement of all teams in the division. House League teams are not permitted to enter a competitive tournament.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Players properly registered on the competing OWHA team (OWHA Regulation 3 – Registration) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Players from outside Ontario properly registered with their provincial or national governing body affiliated with the IIHF
<u>Ineligible Teams</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All unregistered teams <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All House League Teams	<u>Ineligible Players</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All unregistered players

2. HOUSE LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS

TEAMS	PLAYERS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OWHA House League registered teams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Players registered only House League and

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> House League teams from outside Ontario properly registered with their provincial or national governing body affiliated with the IIHF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teams registered House League within the OWHA may participate in an unlimited number of house league tournaments. <p>.....</p> <p><u>Ineligible Teams</u></p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any team registered OWHA or elsewhere as a Competitive Team <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All unregistered teams	playing House League hockey within an association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Players from outside Ontario and properly registered House League with their provincial or national governing body affiliated with the IIHF <p><u>Ineligible Players</u></p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any player also registered on an OWHA Competitive Team is <u>NOT</u> eligible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All unregistered players
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3. ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENTS

TEAMS	PLAYERS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teams made up of players who are from the same association, the appropriate age and registered with the OWHA <p>.....</p> <p><u>Ineligible Teams</u></p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any team registered as an OWHA Competitive team <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All unregistered teams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Players properly registered and from same association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pick-up form shall apply to house league players only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> May use substitute house league players of the appropriate age provided the substitute house league player is registered with, & regularly participates on another team in the same association <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Competitive players from same team are eligible <p>.....</p> <p><u>Ineligible Players</u></p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A house league player is ineligible if she is not registered with the competing team's association. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A competitive player is not eligible if she is not registered with the competing team. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A substitute who is a competitive player. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All unregistered players

In summary

HOUSE LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS: For players who play House League hockey ONLY

ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENTS: For players who may play only House League hockey or may play both House League and Competitive hockey

- (E) A registered house league team may participate in an unlimited number of house league tournaments. House league tournaments are made up of teams whose players only register on one specific house league team roster.
- (F) A registered Senior Recreational team may participate in a maximum of two competitive tournaments and an unlimited number of Senior Recreational tournaments.
- (G) A registered Masters team may participate in a maximum of two Senior competitive tournaments and an unlimited number of Senior Recreational and Masters tournaments.
- (H) Any time a centre invites more than one team to participate in any games, exhibition or otherwise, they must apply for an Ontario Women's Hockey Association tournament sanction, unless special exemption is received from the Ontario Women's Hockey Association.

- (I) An application for a permit to host a Sanctioned Tournament must be submitted to the OWHA Office at least sixty (60) days prior to the first day of the tournament. The numbered Tournament Sanction permit, if granted, shall be subject to the following conditions:
- 1) The tournament must conform to all current OWHA By-Laws, Regulations and Rules. OWHA Minimum Suspensions must be observed. All suspendible infractions occurring during the tournament must be reported as follows:
 - (a) Within 48 hours of the end of the tournament, the tournament convenor or his/her delegate, must forward to the OWHA office, the Major Penalty Report Form, with applicable complete game sheets and reports.
 - (b) The coach or team official of a team whose member commits a suspendable offence must send a copy of the game sheet immediately to the OWHA Office.
 - (c) Copies of game sheets confirming suspensions have been served, must be forwarded immediately to the Regional Director prior to the player(s) and or team officials returning to participation in any OWHA sanctioned game or event.
 - 2) The host of a Sanctioned Tournament must be a registered OWHA Association or an OWHA team. Exemptions would be made as follows:
 1. Written support from a local association;
and
 2. Approval of OWHA Tournament Committee.
 - 3) There are three (3) types of tournaments:
 1. Competitive - rep teams
 2. House League - house league registered players
 3. Association - teams made up of players who are from the same association, the appropriate age and registered with the OWHA.
 - 4) Tournaments cannot be held on the weekends of Provincial Championships without special approval.
 - 5) All teams participating in the tournament must be properly registered with the OWHA or with their appropriate provincial or national governing body affiliated with the IIHF. All OWHA teams must carry a copy of **the approved official OWHA roster**. These official rosters are not to be submitted to the Tournament Committee and are to be retained by the team only. All out of Province teams must present at tournament registration their proper approval from their governing body.
 - 6) All players participating in the tournament must be properly registered through the OWHA (or their appropriate provincial or national governing body affiliated with the IIHF) to play on the team with which they are listed, or qualified to play by a proper OWHA "Pickup Consent" form or IIHF equivalent
 - 7) No player may play on more than one team in a tournament.
 - 8) No team may compete in a lower category than the one in which it is registered with the OWHA except that a team that has been re-categorized shall have 30 days from the date it is notified of the re-categorization to play in any tournament that it is already registered in at the time of re-categorization.
 - 9) Tournament hosts must apply for a Tournament Permit specifying the divisions that are going to be offered. There will be no "OPEN" categories.
 - 10) Tournament hosts must first accept teams in their advertised OWHA category prior to accepting teams from a lower category. If teams of more than one category must be scheduled to play in the same division, the tournament host must explicitly advise all teams in the proposed division, giving them the opportunity to withdraw from the tournament with a full refund of their tournament entry fee. When competitive teams of more than one category must play in the same division, they should be adjacent categories (e.g. BB and B, or A and BB, or B and C, etc.).
 - 11) Divisions of three teams or fewer can only proceed with the permission of all teams in the division.
 - 12) All on-ice officials must be at least Level II HCOP currently registered referees, except for House League Tournaments or House League Tournament Divisions, where one Level I HCOP official will be permitted when paired with a minimum Level II official.
 - 13) The fee for hosting an OWHA Sanctioned Tournament shall be \$10.00 per participating team. If, however, the Permit Application is NOT received at least sixty days prior to the first day of the tournament, the fee shall be \$12.00 per participating team.
 - 14) For its first Sanctioned Tournament, the Host Committee must purchase an OWHA Sanctioned Tournament Banner, to be retained for use in future Sanctioned Tournaments. The purchase price of the Banner will be the current cost to the OWHA.
 - 15) The OWHA Sanctioned Tournament Permit and Banner shall be prominently displayed in the tournament arena throughout the tournament.
 - 16) The Permit Number is to be used on all advertising, invitations and correspondence regarding the tournament. The OWHA logo and name are registered trademarks and cannot be used without written permission from the OWHA Executive Committee.
 - 17) The words "Sanctioned by the OWHA" are to be used in all tournament advertising. A sample copy of all tournament invitations/information must be sent to the OWHA Tournament Chairperson, c/o OWHA Office.
 - 18) No team may compete in more than three tournament games in one day. If more than one game in a day is required, there must be a minimum of 2 (two) hours rest or 3 (three) hours scheduled between games.
 - 19) All Tournament schedules (game times, locations, divisions/categories) must be finalized and received by participating teams two (2) weeks prior to the event, and, upon request of the Regional Director, the official schedule shall be made available to him/her. Novice and Atom Divisions must have games which are scheduled to start no earlier than 7:00 a.m. and no later than 8:00 p.m. Pee Wee Divisions must have games that are scheduled to start no later than 9:00 p.m. Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$200.00 payable to the OWHA within thirty (30) days.
 - 20) Within one week following the end of the tournament the Tournament Host will forward to the OWHA Office the top copy of each game sheet, all "Pickup Consent" forms used in the tournament and a completed "Tournament Game Report" form listing the scores of all games in the tournament. The Major Penalty Report form, with applicable complete game sheets and reports, must be

forwarded to the OWHHA Office within forty-eight (48) hours following the end of the tournament. Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$200.00 payable to the OWHHA within thirty (30) days.

- (J) No team/player may participate in more than one hockey tournament on the same dates.
- (K) Pickup Players:
 - (1) Pickup players are permitted for tournaments only, and not for Regional Playdowns or Provincial Championships.
 - (2) Pick up players are not permitted to replace suspended players.
 - (3) For each pickup player used in a tournament, a team must:
 - (a) disclose in writing on the official game sheet that the player is a pickup player; and
 - (b) present the Tournament Host with a "Pickup Consent" form signed by the official contact of her team authorizing her to be a pickup for the specific tournament.
 - (4) A team may use a maximum of three (3) pickup players from a lower category of the same age division, lower category and/or lower age division, same category or lower to bring the total team strength up to, but not to exceed the number of registered players on the team. (examples: Bantam AA can pick up players from Bantam A, BB, B, C, House League, Peewee AA, A, etc. Bantam C can pick up players from Bantam House League, Peewee C, Peewee House League, etc.) House League teams may pick up a maximum of three (3) players laterally within the same category, same or lower age division.
 - (5) Pickups are to be registered OWHHA players only and the pickup player may only participate with one team during the tournament.
 - (6) The OWHHA Registrar may authorize lateral movement of a goaltender in any emergency situation.
 - (7) A player's own team must honour any suspension incurred by that player while acting as a pickup player for another team.
- (L) In the case of Association tournaments, the above noted provisions relating to "pickup players" and the requirements of the "Pickup Consent" form shall apply to house league players only. Any player registered as competitive may not be used as a substitute. If an Association team requires substitute players for a tournament because the team's regular players are unavailable, it may use substitute players of the appropriate age provided the substitute is registered with and regularly participates on another House League team in the same association. The tournament organizers will still require a fixed roster for each team prior to commencement of the tournament. Further, the tournament organizers may reject a team application by reason of the manner in which the substitutes are chosen.
- (M) The Regulation regarding Pickup Players and the use of the "Pickup Consent" form shall not apply to Senior Recreational Tournaments. Any substitute players used by a Senior Recreational team for a tournament must be registered with other Senior Recreational teams or House League teams. The roster submitted in advance to the tournament must indicate the team with which each substitute player is registered. This roster must be forwarded by the tournament host to the OWHHA Registrar, c/o OWHHA Office for verification two weeks before the tournament.
- (N) "AA" and "A" category teams in Atom, Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget and Intermediate will not be allowed to enter "C" divisions of the next older age groups in a Sanctioned Tournament. Intermediate "AA" & "A" teams may compete in Senior "AAA", Senior "AA" and Senior "A" divisions of tournaments.
- (O) The host of a Sanctioned Tournament must submit a list of participating teams to the OWHHA Office, and must send written confirmation to teams of their acceptance or refusal, at least four (4) weeks in advance of the tournament. Failure to comply may result in a fine of \$200.00
- (P) Tournament Withdrawal
 - (1) Written notice of withdrawal from a tournament must be received by the Tournament Host four (4) weeks prior to the tournament. Failure to comply will result in a fine of \$200.00 payable to the OWHHA within 30 days.
 - (2) If a team withdraws from a tournament other than as specified in RULE TWO (I)(10), the following fines will be levied by the OWHHA, to be divided 60% to the OWHHA and 40% to the tournament host. All fines are in addition to the fine levied in #1 above.

7-10 days prior to tournament	\$100.00
2-6 days prior to tournament	\$150.00
0-1 day prior to tournament	\$200.00
No show	\$300.00
 - (3) Penalized teams may appeal these penalties on the grounds of unavoidable accident or unforeseen circumstances as per Appeal Procedures.
 - (4) The Tournament Host is entitled to retain the tournament entry fee of any team which withdraws 4 weeks or less prior to the tournament.
 - (Q) The OWHHA may sanction a tournament involving a non-member or private enterprise entity so long as the OWHHA Association or Team obtaining the sanctioning is the official OWHHA host and maintains a material involvement in the planning, operation and financial oversight of the tournament. A full financial report must be received in the OWHHA office within sixty (60) days after the completion of the tournament. Such non-member or private enterprise entity must have in place and file with the OWHHA appropriate and adequate insurance coverage for the duration of the tournament.

RULE THREE

Regional Playdowns and Provincial Championships

MISSION STATEMENT: The OWHHA Provincial Championship is an annual competition to determine a Champion in each Division and Category and to provide an opportunity for each Region in the province to have representation.

(A) Team and Player Entry and Eligibility for Regional Playdowns and Provincial Championships

- (1) (a) Competitive teams wishing to qualify for Regional Playdowns and Provincial Championships must submit a performance bond of \$150.00 which must accompany their completed registration forms which are due October 1st.
- (b) The Provincial Championship estimated fees will be set at the OWHHA September General Meeting. All teams advancing to Provincials must submit the set fee (minus the \$150.00 bond) within 7 days of being notified of advancing to the Provincial Championships.

- (2) The Registrar will forward to each Regional Director a list of all teams in every region who are eligible to participate in Regional Playdowns. Before February 15th Regional Directors will forward to each team a list in writing, of all teams in Ontario eligible for Regional Playdowns in their category. All eligible teams must have enough ice and ensure their calendar is clear to make room for enough playdown games to be held between February 1st and the second Sunday in March, except for eligible teams participating in the early set of Regional Playdowns and/or Provincials who must have enough ice and ensure their calendar is clear to make room for enough playdown games to be held between December 15th and January 15th. All teams should assume they will have playdowns. Regional Directors have the authority to resolve any and all conflicts, to ensure all requirements are met. If a team is unable to provide the required amount of reasonable ice time, the team will be ineligible for Regional Playdowns.
- (3) Each Regional Director MUST notify all participating teams no later than February 1st of the Regional Playdown format to be used, except for teams participating in the early set of Regional Playdowns and/or Provincials which will be notified no later than December 15th.
- (4) Any team that has been re-categorized will have up to 7 days from the date it is notified of its re-categorization to request a refund of its Provincial performance bond. (Refer to REGULATION ONE – Categorization).
- (5) Any teams withdrawing from the Regional Playdowns after the playdown notification date, February 1st, will lose their bond money, except for teams participating in the early set of Regional Playdowns and/or Provincials. Teams withdrawing from the Regional Playdowns after the playdown notification date, December 15th, will lose their bond money. Any team withdrawing from the Provincial Championships after the closing date of Regional Playdowns will be assessed a \$500.00 fine.
- (6) To be eligible for Regional Playdowns and/or Provincial Championships, all players must have played a minimum of 5 of their OWSA sanctioned games with their team against other teams in their registered category, or a minimum of five OWSA sanctioned games with their team with one or two of them being against teams one category higher and the rest being against other teams in their registered category prior to January 15th. Exemptions may be granted at the discretion of the OWSA Executive Committee. The team must have participated in at least one OWSA sanctioned tournament or play in a recognized competitive league with teams in their registered category prior to January 15th. All “AA” and “AAA” teams are exempt from the tournament participation requirement. Teams unable to meet criteria, must apply in writing to the OWSA Executive Committee, c/o OWSA Office prior to December 15th.
- (7) Eligibility for Provincial Championships: A Player must have participated in the Regional Playdowns in order to be eligible for the Provincial Championship. If a player is unable to meet this criteria, the designated team official must apply in writing to the OWSA Office for exception.
- (8) According to BY-LAW ARTICLE SEVEN (G), teams which submit their Form A or Form B more than eleven days late will become ineligible for Provincial Championships.
- (9) Pickup players are not eligible for Regional Playdowns or Provincial Championships. However, in certain circumstances, a team may be permitted to pick up a goaltender. If a team’s goaltender is injured or unavailable for a legitimate reason, that team must apply, with proper documentation, to the OWSA Registrar, c/o OWSA Office for permission to pick up a goaltender. The OWSA Registrar and the Regional Director will decide whether to grant such permission. If permission is granted, the team’s designated goaltenders will be ineligible to play. The pickup goaltender must be currently registered with an OWSA team, either in the same category or a lower one.
- (10) The Senior “AAA” OWSA Provincial Championship winner will be eligible to represent Ontario in the National Senior Women’s Hockey Championship. In the event the winner of the OWSA Senior “AAA” Provincial Championship cannot attend the National Senior Women’s Hockey Championship, the second place team at the OWSA Senior “AAA” Provincials will represent Ontario.
- (11) A team wishing to lodge a protest must have the protest lodged by a registered team official of that team to the referee before the teams leave the ice after the game in question. A \$200.00 fee must be issued to a member of the protest committee immediately following the game. The protest will be dealt with by the OWSA. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld.
- (12) The Provincial Championships shall be held no earlier than the last weekend in February for teams participating in the early set of Regional Playdowns and/or Provincials pending availability of ice time and satisfactory financial review by the OWSA Executive Committee.
- (13) If re-categorization results in an association having more than one team eligible for playdowns at the same category, the teams will be treated as any teams playing down in the same district. One of the teams may choose to request a re-categorization upwards, if they would prefer not to compete against another team from the same association.

(B) Playing Rules and Regulations for

Regional Playdowns

- (1) Teams, local associations, or groups of associations may submit bids to host a “tournament-style” regional playdown in one or more categories. Bids should be submitted to the Regional Director by October 1st of the playing season. Based on the Regional Director’s recommendations, the OWSA Executive will either approve a bid or announce that regional playdowns for a specific category and region will be determined as in the rest of Rule Three (B). Regional playdowns may be held as part of a sanctioned tournament, but must follow all rules governing regional playdowns.
- (2) Regional Playdown game(s) will be allowed to be played during regularly scheduled and playoff league association games(s) if mutually agreed upon by both participating teams and their Regional Director.
- (3) The Regional Director is responsible for coordinating Regional Playdowns, held for the purpose of determining a Regional Champion in each category. Each game of the series will be of the same duration with three stop-time periods of at least 10 minutes in length based upon the unanimous decision of the teams involved with no overtime except for RULE THREE (B)(8)(b). There will be no curfew.
- (4) It is mandatory to use minimum Level II HCOP currently registered referees.
- (5) Gate fees shall not be charged for OWSA District and Regional playdown games.

- (6) Commencing at Bantam, all categories A and higher (Bantam A, Bantam AA, Midget A, Midget AA, Intermediate A, Intermediate AA, Senior A, Senior AA, Senior AAA) must use the three official system in Regional Playdowns. Under exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association Executive, other arrangements may be made.
- (7) One 30 second timeout will be permitted per team/per game in all categories of OWHA Regional Playdowns.

(8) **FOR TWO TEAMS:**

Upon mutual agreement, two teams involved in a district or regional playdown may select either a two of three or three of five games format to determine the winner. If agreement cannot be reached then the two of three format will be used. Prior to the series beginning, the home ice advantage for the third game may be determined by a coin toss or ice availability.

Win	-	2 points
Tie	-	1 point
Loss	-	0 points

Prior to the series starting, the decision will be made by the Regional Director and the teams involved whether they will follow RULE THREE (B)(8)(a) or RULE THREE (B)(8)(b) format. If the teams cannot agree with the format, RULE THREE (B) (8) (a) will be used.

- (a) If the series is tied in points after three (or five) games, the following tie-breakers will be used:

- i. Goals scored minus goals against in three (or five) games;
- ii. Fewest goals allowed in three (or five) games;
- iii. Most periods won in three (or five) games;
- iv. Fewest penalty minutes in three (or five) games;
- v. First goal scored in series;
- vi. Flip of a coin.

OR

(b) If the series is tied in points after three (or five) games, a fourth (or sixth) game will be played, with provision of two 10 minute stop time sudden victory overtime periods. If still tied in points, after regulation time and overtime, then a shoot out will take place using three shooters on each team, alternating with the home team having the option to shoot first. If still tied, the remaining players will shoot until the same numbered shooter has scored and the other has not.

(9) **FOR THREE, FOUR AND FIVE TEAMS:**

- (a) District Playdowns, which must be completed by February 15th, will precede all Regional playdowns, where applicable. District playdowns for teams participating in the early set of Regional Playdowns and/or Provincials, which must be completed by January 1st will precede all Regional Playdowns, where applicable.
- (b) Prior to start of round-robin series, a decision will be made by the Regional Director and the teams involved whether they will follow RULE THREE (B)(9)(c) or RULE THREE (B)(9)(d).
- (c) A single round robin will be completed. The winner will be the team with the most points. If tied in points, the following tie-breakers will be followed:
- i. Number of wins;
 - ii. Record against other tied teams;
 - iii. Goals scored minus the goals against in round robin games;
 - iv. Fewest goals allowed in round robin play;
 - v. Most periods won in round robin play;
 - vi. Fewest penalty minutes in round robin play;
 - vii. First goal scored in series;
 - viii. Flip of a coin.
- (d) A double (home and home) round robin will be completed, if all participating teams have the required ice and agree to this format unanimously. If tied in points, the tie-breakers in RULE THREE (B)(9)(c) will be followed.

In case of more than two teams, tie-breakers will follow the numerical order until all ties are broken.

(10) **FOR SIX OR MORE TEAMS:**

- (a) District Playdowns, which must be completed by February 15th, will precede all Regional playdowns, where applicable. District Playdowns for teams participating in the early set of Regional Playdowns and/or Provincials, which must be completed by January 1st, will precede all Regional Playdowns, where applicable.
- (b) The Regional Director will establish the Playdown format to be used.
- (c) If tied in points, the following tie-breakers will be used:

- i. Number of wins;
- ii. Record against other tied teams;
- iii. Goals scored minus the goals against in round robin games;
- iv. Fewest goals allowed in round robin play;
- v. Most periods won in round robin play;
- vi. Fewest penalty minutes in round robin play;
- vii. First goal scored in series;
- viii. Flip of a coin.

In case of more than two teams, tie-breakers will follow the numerical order until all ties are broken.

- (11) In all divisions except for teams participating in the early set of Regional Playdowns and/or Provincials, Regional Playdowns must be completed by the 2nd Sunday in March, using the current criteria, otherwise the Regional Director shall have the authority to declare a Regional Champion. The Provincial Championship shall be a competition among the declared representatives of each region.
- (12) Home team must **submit** the score to the OWHA within 24 hours of the game. Game sheet must be faxed or e-mailed within 48 hours of the game to the OWHA office.
- (13) Teams are required to bring two sets of sweaters (light and dark) to Regional Playdown games. The home team will wear their light-coloured sweaters. Goalies must dress in the same colour sweater as the team is wearing. Any conflict in sweater colour will result in the home team having to change.
- (14) All players of each team must wear the same identically coloured hockey socks on both legs, goalies excepted.
- (15) A team wishing to lodge a protest must have the protest lodged by a registered team official of that team to the referee before the teams leave the ice after the game in question. A \$200.00 fee must be issued to a member of the protest committee immediately following the game. The protest will be dealt with by OWHA. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld.
- (16) Protests dealing with judgments or dealing with calls that do not deal directly with the outcome of the game will not be heard.
- (17) Any violation of the above rules and regulations will result in a \$200.00 fine per occurrence.

(C) Playing Rules and Regulations for Provincial Championships

- (1) It is mandatory to use minimum Level II HCOP currently registered referees.
- (2) Commencing at Bantam, all categories A and higher must use the three official system in Provincial Championships. Under exceptional circumstances and with the approval of Ontario Women's Hockey Association Executive, other arrangements may be made.
- (3) The Provincial Championship shall be a competition among the declared representatives of each region.
- (4) All games except the championship will consist of a minimum of three (3), ten (10) minute stop time periods, except for Senior "AAA", Intermediate "AA" and Midget AA, which will be determined annually.
- (5) There will be no overtime played in round robin series, except in Senior "AAA", which will be determined annually. Points will be awarded as follows: two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and no points for a loss. In quarter finals, semi-finals, consolation and championship games, if the game is tied at the end of regulation play then teams will play ten (10) minute stop time sudden victory periods until a goal is scored. Teams will not switch ends for the first overtime period but will switch ends after each successive period until a winner is declared.
- (6) If there is a tie in points after round robin games, the following tie-breakers will be used to break the tie:
 - i. Number of wins;
 - ii. Record against other tied teams;
 - iii. Goals scored minus the goals against in round robin play;
 - iv. Fewest goals allowed in round robin play;
 - v. Most periods won in round robin play;
 - vi. Fewest penalty minutes in round robin play;
 - vii. First goal scored in series;
 - viii. Flip of a coin.

In case of more than two teams, tie-breakers will follow the numerical order until all ties are broken.

- (7) One 30 second timeout will be permitted per team/per game in all categories of OWHA Provincial Championships.
- (8) All disciplinary matters will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Board of the OWHA.
- (9) There will be a three (3) minute warm up prior to each game, starting as soon as the ice resurfacers gates are closed, but no earlier than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled start time. The length of warm up for Senior "AAA" will be determined annually.
- (10) Floods (addition or deletion) will be at the discretion of the OWHA and/or the referee on the ice if the need arises (i.e. overtime, weather conditions, etc.).
- (11) Teams are required to bring two sets of sweaters (light and dark) to the Provincial Championships. The home team will wear their light-coloured sweaters. Goalies must dress in the same sweater colour as the team is wearing. Any conflict in sweater colour will result in the home team having to change.
- (12) All players of each team must wear the same identically coloured hockey socks on both legs, goalies excepted.
- (13) Any violation of (11) and (12) above will result in a warning for the first offence and forfeit of the game for a second offence.

RULE FOUR

Suspensions

- (A) All OWHA members must follow the OWHA Minimum Suspension guidelines as circulated prior to the commencement of each hockey season. Refer to OWHA Minimum Suspension guidelines attached as Appendix "F".
- (B) The OWHA Chairperson or designate shall have the power to suspend summarily any player, coach, manager, person, team, member or individual for any breach or violation of any of the provisions of the OWHA Constitution, By-laws, Regulations, Rules, Values, **Code of Conduct**, playing rules or any decision or ruling of the OWHA Board of Directors, or for unsportsmanlike conduct on or off the ice, or for abusive language to any of the officials, or for the alleged infraction of the amateur definition, provided that the Chairperson is satisfied that such player, coach, manager, person, team, member or individual as the case may be has committed such breach or violation, such suspension to be automatically and continuously effective until dealt with by the OWHA Executive Committee who shall deal with such suspension within fifteen days thereof.
- (C) (1) Any suspendible offense which occurs in any OWHA game (league, tournament, exhibition and/or Regional Playdown or Provincial Championship in or outside of Ontario) during the current season must be reported to the appropriate Regional Director

within forty-eight (48) hours of the infraction(s) by the coach or other team official. In the absence of the Regional Director, the infraction(s) must be reported to the OWHA Discipline Chairperson.

- (2) Additional suspensions will be imposed wherever conditions and circumstances warrant.
- (3) Leagues, local associations, individual teams and the OWHA may assess additional suspensions if warranted.
- (4) **PLAYER/TEAM OFFICIAL MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED TO APPEAR BEFORE AN OWHA DISCIPLINARY BOARD.**
- (5) Once a player or team official has been suspended/ejected from a game, she/he cannot return to the ice to participate in any post-game ceremonies (hand shaking, medal presentations, etc.). If the suspended person does return to the ice, further suspensions will be issued.
- (6) It is the responsibility of each team manager and/or coach to ensure his/her players and/or team staff sit out their minimum suspensions. If a team plays twenty (20) games or less during the season, the person will sit out the minimum suspension or three weeks, whichever is less. When in doubt as to the relevant suspensions, contact your Regional Director or in the absence of your Regional Director, contact the OWHA Discipline Chairperson. If you are unable to contact your Regional Director or the OWHA Discipline Chairperson, sit player(s) and/or team officials in question until clarification can be obtained.
- (7) Any player or team official currently under suspension (three games or more) is not eligible for any OWHA activity until his or her suspension has been completed. Note that Hockey Canada Regulation "O" states that suspensions are valid in all branches of Hockey Canada.
- (8) Any individual suspension of seven (7) games or less may not be appealed to the OWHA Executive Committee, **except MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS CANNOT BE APPEALED.**
- (9) The OWHA Executive Committee will uphold additional suspensions issued by teams, leagues and/or associations upon written notification to the appropriate Regional Director and the OWHA Office.
- (10) The coach or team official of a team whose member commits a suspendible offence must send a copy of the game sheet immediately to the OWHA Office.
- (11) Copies of game sheets confirming suspensions have been served, must be forwarded immediately to the Regional Director prior to the player(s) and/or team officials returning to participation in any OWHA sanctioned game or event.

RULE FIVE

Protests

- (A) OWHA member teams may file a protest on any OWHA sanctioned game.
- (B) Matters that may be protested are:
 - (1) a game official's interpretation of a rule which in the opinion of the aggrieved team may have given the opposition team a distinct advantage.
 - (2) an improperly registered, an unregistered, ineligible or a suspended player or team official participating in a game or being on the player's bench during a game.
- (C) Time allowed for filing a protest:
A protest must be filed within 48 hours of the starting time of the game in question.
- (D) To protest a team must:
 - (1) (a) with respect to protest relating to the interpretation of a rule, notify the referee verbally of the protest before, during, or at the end of the game, before they leave the ice,

OR

- (b) with respect to an improperly registered, unregistered, ineligible, or suspended player or team official, notify the Regional Director within 48 hours of the starting of the game.
- (2) prepare the protest in writing.
- (3) file the protest with the OWHA Office.
- (4) Accompany the protest with a \$200.00 protest fee, refundable if protest is upheld.
- (5) Deliver or send by registered mail a copy of the protest to the protested team within 48 hours.
- (E) Within 5 calendar days of a protest being filed, the OWHA Chairperson shall set a date for hearing the protest. The hearing date will be no more than 10 days after the filing date.
- (F) The OWHA Chairperson shall notify all parties to the protest as soon as the hearing date is set. This notice shall inform the parties of the time, place and date of the hearing.
- (G) To defend against a protest a team must:
 - (1) prepare a rebuttal in writing.
 - (2) file the rebuttal with the OWHA Chairperson within 48 hours of receiving the protest.
- (H) If the protest is based on a game official's interpretation of the rules, the team against whom the protest is filed need not defend against the protest. The protest committee (as per ARTICLE ELEVEN (D) of the By-Laws) will hear the matter on the strength of the protest submission, with both teams and the game officials present.
- (I) Protests at Provincial Championships must be dealt with at the time of the protest.

RULE SIX

Appeals

- (A) Matters that may be appealed:
 - (1) for a player's release.
 - (2) a suspension of more than 7 games imposed by the OWHA Disciplinary Board, League, Team or Association.
 - (3) a decision by a League, Team or Association.
 - (4) a decision made by an OWHA member or committee.

- (5) any issue dealing with Harassment and Abuse shall be handled in accordance with Hockey Canada policies and procedures and, as such, any application for appeal to the OWHA may or may not be heard in accordance with policies and procedures established by the OWHA Executive Committee.
- (B) To appeal, an individual, team, league, or association must submit written documentation stating the reasons for the appeal and facts supporting the appeal to the OWHA Office.
- (C) Time allowed for filing an appeal:
- (1) for a player's release an appeal may be filed at any time
 - (2) for a suspension of more than 7 (seven) games, **except for a minimum suspension which cannot be appealed**, an appeal must be filed within 48 hours of receipt of the suspension.
 - (3) All other appeals must be filed within 7 calendar days of receipt of notice of a decision.
- (D) A \$200.00 Appeal Fee must accompany the appeal. The \$200.00 Appeal Fee may be refundable at the discretion of the Appeal Committee. The fee does not apply to RULE SIX (A) (1).
- (E) Within 5 calendar days of the appeal being filed the OWHA Chairperson shall set a date for hearing the appeal. The hearing date will be no more than fifteen (15) days after the filing date. The OWHA Chairperson shall notify all parties 24 hours in advance of the appeal as soon as the hearing is set.
- (F) The OWHA Chairperson shall notify all parties to the appeal as soon as the hearing date is set. His/her notice shall inform the parties of the time, place and date of the hearing.
- (G) The appeal tribunal (as provided for in ARTICLE ELEVEN (C) of the By-Laws) has the authority to uphold, increase, or decrease a suspension.
- (H) The Appeal Tribunal shall render its decision not more than 5 (five) days after the hearing.

RULE SEVEN

Amendments

All proposed amendments to the Rules must be received in writing by the OWHA Office, at least 60 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

OWHA Mission Statement

Through a provincially unified, collective voice, the OWHA promotes, provides and develops opportunities for girls and women to play female hockey in Ontario.



OWHA Values

FAIR PLAY * FUN
EXCELLENCE* GOOD CITIZENSHIP
INTEGRITY & HONESTY * EQUITY

PART V

GLOSSARY

THE ASSOCIATION: In this document, “the Association” refers to the Ontario Women’s Hockey Association.

AN ASSOCIATION: For purposes of this document, “an association” refers to a local association which provides OWHA registered teams and/or a FUNdamentals programme for girls and/or women.

CATEGORY: Each OWHA registered team has a category. The category includes the age division and the distinction between house league and competitive, and for competitive teams also includes the competitive level expressed as a group of letters between AA (AAA for senior) and C. See Regulation One.

COMPETITIVE TEAM: A competitive team is registered as one of the age group or senior competitive categories described with letters, according to Regulation One (R).

HOCKEY FUNDAMENTALS PROGRAMME: A hockey FUNdamentals programme is an instructional programme following a curriculum developed by Hockey Canada. This programme is not considered a team or teams.

HOUSE LEAGUE TEAM: A house league team is registered with the OWHA as one of the House League categories listed in Regulation One (R). This category includes Senior Recreational, Senior House League, and Masters, as well as the various age group divisions listed.

INDEPENDENT TEAM: An independent team is an OWHA registered team that is not part of a local association.

PICKUP PLAYER: Pickup player refers to a player used in a tournament under Rule Two (K).

TEAM: Within the jurisdiction of the OWHA, a team is a group of players and staff registered with the OWHA as a competitive team or a house league team according to Regulation Three.