



2011-2012 OWHA SUSPENSION POLICY

On an annual basis, the Ontario Women's Hockey Association Executive Committee approves the Minimum Suspension Guidelines, which become an appendix of the OWHA constitution.

Minimum Suspension Policies

- (a) All suspensions as listed in the OWHA Handbook are treated as individual suspensions.
- (b) Multiple suspensions in a single game or over a period of time, will each be treated individually as minimum suspensions.
- (c) Any individual suspensions of seven (7) games or less may not be appealed.
- (d) All appeals must be submitted and filed with the OWHA office on the attached Appeal Application Form, together with the applicable fee within 48 hours of receipt of the suspension.

Example: A player is assessed a GM 20 and a GM 21 at the end of one game. The minimum suspension is GM20 (2 games), GM 21 (3 games) plus implied GM for second major penalty in one game (2 games). The total minimum suspension is 7 games. This is not appealable.

If the player had been suspended earlier in the season, she is considered a Repeat Offender resulting in an additional 2 game minimum. In this case the total minimum suspension is 9 games. This is not appealable.

(e) Grounds for Appeal

- (i) Supplementary game(s) above the minimum suspension added by the OWHA that takes the suspension to 8 games or more.

Example: A player is assessed a combination of 3 different penalties in a hockey game that add up to a total minimum suspension of 10 games. The 10 game suspension is not appealable. The OWHA Discipline Review Board adds 4 games for a total of a 14 game suspension. The additional 4 games may be appealed. The Appeal Tribunal has the authority to remove, lessen or add to the 4 games. The Appeal Tribunal must leave the minimum 10 game suspension in place.

- (ii) A suspension imposed by a Team, Association or League where there has been a conflict with the Constitution, By-Laws, Regulations, Rules or Policies of the OWHA; or a material procedural error; or adopted an error of fact; or did not provide a fair Hearing; or did not have the authority or jurisdiction to make the decision.

SERVING SUSPENSIONS

- Minimum suspensions are just that, minimum suspensions.
- Exhibition games are not permitted for serving suspensions. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the Discipline Chairperson and respective Regional Director. If a suspendable infraction occurs in an exhibition game, it must be reported. Minimum suspensions apply and additional suspensions may be assessed.
- Teams, associations, leagues and OWHA tournament organizers have the authority to add additional suspensions but DO NOT have the authority to lessen the suspensions.
- If it is deemed that the minimum suspension may be inappropriate due to extenuating circumstances, an approach may be made to the OWHA Executive Committee to request relief. The OWHA Executive Committee has the authority to give relief to minimum suspensions as a result of a discipline hearing.
- If any OWHA member fails to serve the minimum suspension without proper approval, the individual(s) and those others involved are subject to additional suspension.

Examples of situations where relief may be granted:

- It is proven that the official called the wrong rule or misinterpreted the rule,
- It is proven the wrong person was assessed a penalty,
- Compassionate grounds, but only in extreme circumstances,
- Where an individual wishes to participate in a professional development activity (i.e./Speak Out! Session) while under suspension, they may receive special permission for that activity.

End Of Season Suspensions

Individuals under suspension are not eligible for any involvement in Hockey Canada hockey programmes until their suspension is served.

Due to the reality of the game, rules, regulations, policies and procedures, this sometimes creates a challenge.

Case One: A player has a one game suspension for a relatively minor infraction – technically, she would miss tryouts, practices, exhibition games, team functions, etc. etc. until next season when her suspension is served – is this reasonable and effective?

Case Two: A player receives a fighting penalty because her team is eliminated and she decides to get rid of her frustrations on the nearest opponent/official. If we take no serious action, will we create a dangerous free for all at the end of each season?

POLICY

- 1) Before a suspended individual is allowed to participate in any OWHA/Hockey Canada activity, they must write a letter addressed to the OWHA Chairperson, c/o OWHA office stating why they feel he/she should be allowed to participate prior to their suspension being served.
- 2) The OWHA Chairperson, Discipline Chair and Regional Director shall review each situation and make a determination as deemed appropriate.

Until the above process has been completed, the individual(s) shall not be eligible for participation in any OWHA/Hockey Canada programmes of any kind.

TEAM OWHA

Building TRUST through HONESTY
Building RESPECT through INTEGRITY
Building STRENGTH through TEAMWORK



2011-2012 OWHA SUSPENSION PROCEDURES



The following clarifications are in addition to the information contained in the OWHA Handbook. It is the responsibility of all OWHA members to know and follow the OWHA Constitution, By-Laws, Regulations and Rules.

The OWHA wishes to see team members participate in the game of hockey. The OWHA takes a very negative view on individuals who act in a manner that is inconsistent with the Regulations, Rules and Values of this Association. These actions are costly – to the individual and team against which the infraction was committed and to the operations of the OWHA in terms of finances and human resources. Prevention is much more desirable than suspension. It is important that all stakeholders buy into the challenge and aggressively promote fair play.

Who Shares in the Responsibility for Discipline?

- Parents
- Team
- Association
- Coach
- Self
- Players
- Peers
- Game Officials
- Leagues

Goals and Objectives

- Safe and fun environment
- Responsibility
- Stay out of Court
- Buy into the responsibility by stakeholders including coaches
- Education
- Process to address offending participants & highly penalized teams
- Discipline committees within associations
- Fairness and consistency
- Respect for others (Good Citizenship)
- Fair Play
- Integrity
- Clearly defined chain of command needed
- Clearly defined decision-making

Process for the delivery of discipline within the OWHA

When a suspendable action occurs:

1. The team must report every incident to the OWHA Regional Director c/o the OWHA office within 48 hours of the occurrence.
2. An OWHA on-ice official must forward the original copy of the game sheet for all match penalties and gross misconduct penalties to the OWHA office by fax or e-mail no later than 12:00 noon the following day and by regular mail within 24 hours.
3. It is the responsibility of the team management to ensure a suspended individual does not participate in OWHA activities. If in doubt please check with the OWHA Regional Director before participation.
4. Upon receipt of a potential disciplinary situation, the OWHA Discipline Chairperson will determine a process as follows:
 - A) Any Match Penalty or Gross Misconduct Penalty, (suspendable offense to a Repeat Offender any individual who receives a second or subsequent suspendable offence in one season), a suspendable offense to an OWHA member currently on probation and/or a violation of the OWHA Code of Conduct shall be handled by the OWHA Discipline Chairperson who will appoint a Disciplinary Panel. The individual will not be allowed to participate in any sanctioned OWHA activities until there has been a decision rendered by the OWHA, to that effect.
 - B) Any suspendable offense not alisted in 4 (A) that occurs in an OWHA sanctioned house league with all individuals and teams involved being members of one association shall be reviewed and ruled on by that association. OWHA minimum suspensions apply. **All such incidents must be reported by the house league team as per number 1 above.** The decision of the association in regards to the length of suspension must be reported, in writing, to the OWHA office within 48 hours of the determination of the suspension.

- C) Any suspendable offense not listed in Number 4 (A) that occurs in a regular season or playoff game of a recognized OWHA League, shall be reviewed and ruled on by the League. OWHA minimum suspensions apply. All such incidents must be reported, by the team as per number 1 above. The decision of the League in regards to the length of suspension must be reported, in writing, to the OWHA office within 48 hours of the determination of the suspension.
- D) Any suspendable offense that does not fall under 4 (A), (B), or (C), (i.e./exhibition game, out-of-province tournament, etc.) shall be reported as per number 1. A determination shall be made by the OWHA Discipline Chairperson in cooperation with the OWHA Executive Committee in regards to action deemed appropriate.
- E) In addition to number 4 (A), (B), (C), and (D), the OWHA Executive Committee reserves the right to take additional action as deemed appropriate.
- F) Appeals may be made to the OWHA in accordance with the OWHA Handbook.



Hockey Canada Regulation “O-6”

“Any Hockey Canada player, coach or other official, who is under suspension by a Hockey Canada Branch, league or Minor, Junior, Senior, or Female Hockey Association is suspended from any and all involvement in Hockey Canada sanctioned games. The suspension may, pursuant to Branch Regulations, include suspensions up to and including all Hockey Canada activities for the duration of his/her suspension. Any individual who violates the terms of his/her suspension will be subject to discipline by Hockey Canada, or the member Branch, league or Minor, Junior, Senior, or Female Hockey Association.”

OWHA Interpretation and Policy due to Hockey Canada Regulation “O”:

- 1) Any player or team official currently under suspension is not eligible to participate in any OWHA and Hockey Canada sanctioned games.
- 2) In cases where a player or team official is serving a suspension that does not require a hearing and is a maximum of 2 games, that player or team official may participate in all OWHA sanctioned activities except hockey games for the duration of the suspension. The suspended individual is not permitted on or near the bench or dressing room during these games. Violations of the OWHA Code of Conduct or any incidents occurring while under suspension will result in additional suspensions being assessed.
- 3) In cases where a player or team official appears before a discipline panel/committee, it shall be the responsibility of that panel/committee to rule on both the length of the suspension and whether the suspended individual will be permitted to practice and/or participate in other sanctioned activities while under suspension. All such incidents must be reported to the OWHA office within 48 hours of the decision.

OWHA VALUES

FAIR PLAY

FUN

EXCELLENCE

GOOD CITIZENSHIP

INTEGRITY AND HONESTY

EQUITY

IMPORTANT: Multiple offences will NOT be tolerated
2nd suspendable offence in one season – minimum plus two (2) and shall not participate in any OWHA sanctioned activity until permission granted by OWHA Discipline Chairperson.
3rd, 4th, 5th, etc. suspendable offence in one season – indefinite - minimum plus four (4) and shall not participate in any OWHA sanctioned activity until permission is granted by the OWHA Discipline Chairperson.

Note: Previous years' suspensions are subject to review and consideration

PLAYER / TEAM OFFICIAL MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED TO APPEAR BEFORE AN OWHA DISCIPLINARY BOARD.

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.

No person shall participate in any capacity in an OWHA sanctioned game or event while under suspension. (i.e. if suspended while playing, the player cannot act as a coach, referee, etc., until the suspension is completed as a player. If suspended as a coach, the person cannot play, referee, etc., until the suspension is completed as a coach, and so on.) **Persons found participating while under suspension will be subject to further suspensions.**

RESPONSIBILITY OF TEAM OFFICIALS

It is the responsibility of each team manager and/or coach to ensure her/his players and/or team staff sits out their suspensions. If a team plays twenty (20) games or less during the season including playoffs, and tournaments, the person will sit out the minimum suspensions 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.

Copies of game sheets for suspensions must be sent immediately to the OWHA Office.

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.

