

2016/2017  
Season



# Northern Alberta Interlock

## *Terms of Reference and Regulations*



1660 Hockey League | Sturgeon Pembina Minor Hockey League  
North Central Minor Hockey Association | North Eastern Alberta Hockey League

~Established 2016~



## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Northern Alberta Interlock Committee**

1660, NCMHA, NEAHL, and SPHL

#### *Purpose:*

The 1660 Hockey League, North Central Minor Hockey Association, North Eastern Alberta Hockey League, and the Sturgeon Pembina Hockey League believe that closer co-operation, reduced travel, consistency in regulations, and standardized tiering are in the best interests of all minor hockey players in Alberta, regardless of the location of their home league or geographical location in Alberta.

In addition, this group of leagues strives to be leaders in minor hockey while promoting goals common to both this committee and Hockey Alberta of growth, retention, and a “Player First” approach to all aspects of the game.

#### *Background:*

Recent discussions amongst these leagues began in March of 2016 following a series of events that included changing league boundaries in Southern and Central Alberta, an inadequate number of teams for competitive play in most leagues, and goals to reduce travel.

Trials with interlock play in various formats, in recent years, amongst member leagues include:

- 2012-2013 Season: 1660 and NCMHA for Bantam Tier 1 and Midget Tier 1 Hockey;
- 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Season: NCMHA and Sturgeon Pembina for Bantam Tier 1 and Midget Tier 1;
- 2015-2016 Season: 1660 and Sturgeon Pembina for Bantam Tier 1 and Midget Tier 1.

#### *Committee Members:*

1660 Hockey League (1660)	Randy Mak- Chair Dody Kluttig - Recording Secretary
North Central Minor Hockey Association (NCMHA)	Stephen Holt Ryan Koehli
North Eastern Alberta Hockey League (NEAHL)	Randy Martin Kevin Gallaway
Sturgeon Pembina Minor Hockey League (SPHL)	Brad Sakowich Stacy Crossland
Ex-Officio	Nick Taylor - Scheduler

## AGREEMENT

- Composition
- 1.0 The four leagues that are included in the interlock committee include the 1660 Hockey League, North Central Minor Hockey Association, North Eastern Alberta Hockey League, and the Sturgeon Pembina Hockey League.
- Name
- 2.0 The interlock committee and league play within will be called the “Northern Alberta Interlock”.
- League Reps
- 3.0 The committee will consist of a maximum of eight (8) representatives, consisting of two (2) representatives from each league.
- 3.1 Each participating league will select its own representatives.
- 3.2 Each representative has one (1) vote.
- Chair and Secretary
- 4.0 The committee will elect a Chair and a Recording Secretary at its first meeting after April 1<sup>st</sup> annually.
- 4.1 The term of office will be one (1) year.
- 4.2 Duties of the Chair include:
- a) Arranging and chairing meetings,
  - b) Acting as the spokesperson for the committee as required,
  - c) Liaising with partners and external organizations as required,
  - d) Other duties normally associated with the duties of Chair.
- 4.3 Duties of the Recording Secretary include:
- a) Recording minutes of the meetings,
  - b) Distributing meeting agendas and minutes,
  - c) Other duties normally associated with the duties of Recording Secretary.
- Meetings
- 5.0 Meetings of the committee shall be held as determined by the committee, but shall include at a minimum:
- a) an organizational meeting in April of each year, or the first meeting following the agreement coming into effect.
  - b) a meeting in August or September of each year prior to the first meeting of the playing season for any of the four participating leagues, and
  - c) a meeting during the playing season prior to the conclusion of the regular season in any of the four participating leagues.
- 5.1 Meetings may be in person or via teleconference.
- 5.2 Notice of meetings shall be given at least three (3) weeks prior, except in the case of agreement by all to hold a meeting without proper notice.
- Quorum
- 6.0 A quorum of the committee includes at least three (3) of the leagues represented and at least five (5) of the representatives in attendance.

Tie Vote

7.0 A motion that has a tied vote is considered a defeated motion.

Treasurer

8.0 The committee shall determine one league on an annual basis to act as the Treasurer for the committee.

8.1 The term will be one (1) year or at the meeting in April.

8.2 All costs that are directly associated with the committee will be shared equally (25% each) amongst the participating leagues.

8.3 All revenue that is directly associated with the committee will be shared equally (25% each) amongst the participating leagues.

8.4 The leagues are responsible for remitting payment to the league acting as Treasurer before April 1<sup>st</sup> at a minimum, or quarterly if requested by the league acting as Treasurer (July 1, October 1, and January 1).

8.5 All leagues will pay any fees associated with individual team registration to websites, common website management, or for interlock game scheduling services to the Treasurer who will pay for those services from that pool of money. These will not be billed equally but on an as registered basis.

Appointed Positions

9.0 The committee may appoint any individual to provide the services of a league governor, league administrator, or other support personnel. These persons may be volunteers or under contract as determined by the committee, however, these persons do not have a vote.

Regulations

10.0 "Appendix A- Regulations" contains the game operation regulations in effect for any interlock game played under this agreement.

10.1 Future proposed regulation changes will not take effect until each of the four participating leagues has approved the regulation changes in accordance with their individual league bylaws.

11.0 The agreement will be effective as of the final signature date by all four participating leagues, and will conclude on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 unless renewal by all leagues is undertaken prior to that date.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1660 Hockey League

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

North Central Minor Hockey Association

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

North Eastern Alberta Hockey League

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sturgeon Pembina Hockey League

## APPENDIX A - REGULATIONS

### *Application:*

The following are game regulations specific to interlock games played under the 1660 Hockey League, North Central Minor Hockey Association, North Eastern Alberta Hockey League, and Sturgeon Pembina Hockey League Interlock Model.

Unless otherwise specified, the following regulations will apply to:

1. All games in **Full Interlock**, and
2. **Interlock play** only in all other tiers.

### *Definitions:*

<b>“full interlock”</b>	A tier where participating teams in that tier have all league play, playoffs, and regulations under the Northern Alberta Interlock Model. Participating teams do not return to their home league (Note: for the 2016-2017 season this includes PeeWee Tier 1, Bantam Tier 1, and Midget Tier 1 only).
<b>“interlock play”</b>	Games scheduled between teams from a league other than their home league.
<b>“home league”</b>	League where an individual team registers and their LMHA has a membership.
<b>“total point method”</b>	A procedure to determine a ranked placement of two or more teams for playoffs where season ranking will be determined using the amount of points gained throughout regular season play. A team with more points, when compared to another team, will be ranked higher.
<b>“winning percentage method”</b>	A procedure to determine a ranked placement of two or more teams for playoffs where one or more teams in the tier play an unequal number of regular season games. Ranking will be determined using the teams’ total number of points divided by the total number of points available to be won. The team with the higher percentage will be ranked higher.
<b>“venue”</b>	A team who is ranked higher in standings when compared to another team will be considered the team with venue.

### 1.0 Season Timelines

- a) Critical Dates: interlock ice times and team commitments to be submitted by September 10<sup>th</sup> to the Interlock Scheduler from all leagues.
- b) Interlock Play: all interlock games will be scheduled between November 18<sup>th</sup> and February 5<sup>th</sup>, with the exception of those teams participating from the North Eastern Alberta Hockey League, in which case interlock games involving these teams will be scheduled between December 9<sup>th</sup> and February 5<sup>th</sup>.
- c) Full Interlock: the regular season will commence October 7<sup>th</sup> and end February 19<sup>th</sup> with a playoff season commencing February 20<sup>th</sup> and ending March 28<sup>th</sup>.

## 2.0 Tiering

- a) Interlock play will include 5 tiers at Atom, 5 tiers at PeeWee, 4 tiers at Bantam, and 4 tiers at Midget.
- b) Final placement for interlock play will be determined by the Northern Alberta Interlock Team Classification Committee. The Committee will include the scheduler and one representative from each of the participating leagues, as selected by the individual league. In full interlock, the participation of teams will be determined by the individual leagues.
- c) Requests for movement deadline will be November 15<sup>th</sup>.

## 3.0 Scheduling/Ice times

- a) Interlock games will be scheduled by the Interlock Scheduler.
- b) The maximum game allotment in **Full Interlock**, per team, will be scheduled according to the table:  
\*league strives to schedule the maximum games, but circumstances may prevent us reaching that goal

<b>Full Interlock - Maximum Game Allotment Table</b> <i>(2016-2017 Season PeeWee Tier 1, Bantam Tier 1 and Midget Tier 1 only)</i>					
Division	Total Games	Ice Slot	Regular Season	Interlock Games	Ice Slots Required
PeeWee	22	2.0 hours	22	All	14
Bantam	24	2.25 hours	24	All	15
Midget	26	2.25 hours	26	All	16

- c) The minimum game ice time lengths and warmup will be according to the table:

<b>Interlock Play - Minimum Game Ice Time Lengths and Warmup</b>				
Division	Ice Slot	Periods	Flood	Warmup
Atom	As per home league regulations	As per home league regulations	At least once/game	Minimum 3 minutes Maximum 5 minutes
PeeWee	As per home league regulations	3- 20 minute stop time	At least once/game	Minimum 3 minutes Maximum 5 minutes
Bantam	As per home league regulations	3- 20 minute stop time	Twice/game	Minimum 5 minutes Maximum 7 minutes
Midget	As per home league regulations	3- 20 minute stop time	Twice/game	Minimum 5 minutes Maximum 10 minutes

- d) For any requested game changes, the authority will be:
  - i In a game played in **Full Interlock**, the tier governor.
  - ii In an **Interlock game**, both teams will agree to the change and the league governor for each involved team's home league will agree in order for the change to be approved.

## 4.0 Game Operations

- a) Website/Statistics
  - i In **Full Interlock**, the home team is responsible for posting the statistics and scores on the Northern Alberta Interlock website within 24 hours following the conclusion of the game during the regular season, and no more than 24 hours after the conclusion of a playoff game.

- ii In **Interlock Play**, each team is responsible for entering stats to their home league website within 24 hours following the conclusion of the game during the regular season, and no more than 24 hours after the conclusion of a playoff game.
- iii Each team shall provide team data on the interlock website prior to their first pre-season game.
- b) Duties of the Home Team
  - i The home team shall supply the visiting team with at least 25 pucks for pre-game warmup.
  - ii The home team will wear white or light coloured jerseys. In the case of a conflict, the home team will change colours and report the incident to the league governor.
  - iii Crowd or fan control, during and after the game, is the responsibility of the home team.
  - iv Pre-game warmup time shall begin at the time posted on the schedule for the start of the game unless both teams agree prior to. In all instances, the pre-game warmup time shall be posted on the score clock. The home team has the sole discretion for the length of the warmup, in accordance with the table.
- c) Regular Season
  - i There shall be no interlock games scheduled on Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day, Family Day, or from December 24 to January 1. Re-scheduled games may be played on these days if both teams agree.
  - ii No overtime shall be played in regular season.
  - iii Any team that fails to complete their regular season schedule in full will be removed from the playoffs.
- d) Standings
  - i In all interlock games, a win is 2 points, a tie is 1 point, and a loss is 0 points.
  - ii When teams are tied in the final standings of the regular season, the following tie-breaker procedure will apply to determine the higher ranked team:
    1. Team with the most wins overall;
    2. Team with the best record between the tied teams;
    3. Team with the highest goal ratio using the formula total goals for divided by total goals for plus total goals against;
    4. Team with the lowest penalty minutes accumulated;
    5. Single toss of the coin.
  - iii When teams have been scheduled an uneven number of regular season games, all teams within that tier of that division will use the winning percentage method as opposed to total point method to determine final standings.
- e) 4 Point Games
  - i 4-point games will require League Governor approval.
- f) Game Sheets/Referee Reports
  - i In all interlock games, the game sheet and referee report of the home team and home league will be used.
- g) Forfeits
  - i Forfeits are not permitted. Any team that forfeits a game will be fined \$200, will be required to pay ice and referee costs for the game in question, and will be removed from playoffs

5.0 Playoffs (*Full Interlock only*)

- a) The Committee will post playoff formats prior to January 15th for the upcoming playoff season.
- b) The team manager with venue must contact the team manager without venue to begin the scheduling process within 24 hours of either playoff opponents being known, or the last scheduled regular season game in that tier, whichever comes first.
- c) In all playoff series, one of the two teams will be considered to be “team with venue”. That is, the team placing higher in the final standings in comparison to their current playoff opponent.
- d) Overtime procedure: in a two game total point series, overtime will not be played in the first game. In the second game of a two game total point series or any game in a best of 3 series, Hockey Canada Overtime Rule 10.16 will be the procedure for overtime.
- e) Playoff scheduling will be done according to the table:

<b>Playoff Scheduling Format</b>		
<b>Playoff Format- both teams are from same league</b>	Team <i>without</i> venue hosts:	Team <i>with</i> venue hosts:
Two Game Total Points	Game 1	Game 2
Best of Three Series	Game 2	Game 1, Game 3*
<b>Playoff Format- teams are from different leagues or significant travel</b>	Team <i>without</i> venue hosts:	Team <i>with</i> venue hosts:
Two Game Total Points	Game 1	Game 2
Best of Three Series- one weekend involved	Game 1 - Played Friday commencing between 7:00 PM and 8:30 PM	Game 2 - Played on Saturday commencing between 2:00 PM and 8:30 PM Game 3* - Played on Sunday commencing between 12:00pm and 4:00 PM
Best of Three Series- two weekends involved, Option A	Game 1 - Played on any day during the first weekend commencing between 7:00 PM and 8:30 PM Friday, or 2:00 PM and 8:30 PM Saturday, or 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM Sunday	Game 2 - Played on Friday or Saturday on second weekend commencing between 7:00 PM and 8:30 PM Friday, or 2:00 PM and 8:30 PM Saturday. Game 3 - Played day following game 2 between 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM
Best of Three Series - two weekends involved Option B	Game 1 - Played on Friday or Saturday on the first weekend commencing, between 7:00 PM and 8:30 PM Saturday. Game 2 - played on the day following game 1 between 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM	Game 3 - Played on any day during the second weekend commencing between 7:00 PM and 8:30 PM, Friday or 2:00 PM and 8:30 PM Saturday, or 12:00 PM and 4:00 PM on Sunday
*if necessary		



- f) **Playoff scheduling Two Game Total Point Series:** in a Two Game Total Point Series, the team without venue will provide to the team with venue, two reasonable ice slots on different dates. The team with venue will select one of the two ice slots within 24 hours and provide the team without venue two ice slots to choose from for game 2. The team without venue will choose from these ice slots within 24 hours. The team managers will complete a playoff game agreement form. The league governor will have the sole discretion on what constitutes a reasonable ice slot.
- g) **Playoff scheduling Best of 3 Series:** in a Best of 3 Series, the team without venue will provide the team with venue two reasonable ice slots on different dates. The team with venue will select one of the two ice slots within 24 hours and provide the team without venue two ice slots to choose from for game 1, and two ice slots to choose from for game 2. The team without venue will choose from these ice slots within 24 hours. The team managers will complete a playoff game agreement form. The league governor will have the sole discretion on what constitutes a reasonable ice slot.
- h) In any playoff series where teams are not from the same league, the scheduling will be done within the parameters of the above Playoff Scheduling Table in 5(e).
- i) Notwithstanding anything in Section 5, common sense must prevail. If team managers are unable to reach an agreement for playoff scheduling according to the regulations due to ice availability, travel, provincial tournaments, or any other circumstance, the league governor on approval of the Chair, shall schedule the series.

#### 6.0 Discipline

- a) In **interlock play**, each league will handle discipline and suspensions of their own players, regardless of where the game is played. In **Full Interlock**, a governor will be appointed by the committee to oversee all players in the tier and handle all suspensions, administration, and discipline. Any suspension or discipline notices from games governed under this section shall be sent to the affected individuals':
  - a) Appropriate Hockey Alberta Zone Discipline Coordinator,
  - b) Team Manager,
  - c) MHA President, and
  - d) Designated official from the home league.

#### 7.0 Conduct

- a) Communication must follow the prescribed format. Any violation may result in a suspension in the case of a player or team official, a fine of up to \$100 in the case of a team or association, and referral to the local MHA in the case of a parent or spectator.

<b>Interlock Chain of Communication Chart</b>
<p><b>Concerning Interlock Team/Game Operations:</b>                      Player/Parent → Head Coach/Manager → Home League via established processes → Interlock Committee Chair or designate</p>
<p><b>Concerning Other Interlock Matters:</b>                      Player/Parent/Team Official → Local MHA President → Home League via established processes → Interlock Committee Chair or designate</p>

**Concern from Local MHA:**

Local MHA → Local MHA President → Home League via established processes → Interlock Committee Chair or designate

**8.0 Fines**

- a) All fines are due within 10 days of being issued a fine and must be paid to the offending team's home league.
- b) Failure to pay a fine on time will result in the team being removed from the schedule and will place their LMHA in bad standing with their home league.