#  WCMHA RULES

#  REVISED Sept. 18, 2018

* 1. **OPERATING RULES**
		+ 1. The WCMHA shall operate under the rules of Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada.

**B. CONDUCT**

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

**C. CHAIN OF COMMUNICATION**

 1.Concerns must be submitted in writing and they will only be accepted from a MHA **president or designated WCMHA representative.**

 2. Concerns and/or suggestions must first be dealt with at the MHA level.

 3. Concerns between MHA’s need to be communicated with each other and all attempts to work out the situation should be made. If local MHA executives deem it necessary, they can forward it to the WCMHA president. In some instances they may bypass the WCMHA and go directly to Hockey Alberta.

 4. Referee concerns should be directed to the MHA’s referee-in-chief, and failing that, to the Hockey Alberta zone referee committee.

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

 6.

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| **WCMHA Chain of Communication Chart** |
| ***Concerning Tea Concerning Team/Game Operations*****Player/Parent 🡪 Player/Parent 🡪 Head Coach/Manager 🡪 League Governor 🡪 WCMHA Executive**  |
| ***Concerning Op Concerning Other League Matters*****Player/Parent/T Player/Parent/Team Official 🡪 Local MHA President or WCMHA Rep. 🡪 WCMHA Executive** |
| **Concern from *Concern from local MHA*****Local MHA 🡪 L Local MHA President or WCMHA Rep. 🡪 WCMHA Executive** |

 **D. PROTESTS**

1. All protests must come from the local MHA, not individuals. Protests must be telephoned, emailed or faxed to the appropriate league governor within 48 hours of the game. A written protest must be emailed or faxed to the league governor, and a certified cheque or money order for $100 mailed or delivered to the league treasurer within 60 hours. This money is non-refundable. The defending MHA or team must file their defence to the league governor in writing within 36 hours of being notified of the protest by the governor.

**E. SUSPENSIONS – WCMHA LEAGUE GAMES:**

 Minimum suspensions will follow Hockey Alberta minimum suspension guidelines.

**WCMHA additional suspension rules** shall be, but not limited to:

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

 INSTIGATOR/AGGRESSOR - Automatic 1 game suspension (added to Fighting suspension)\*

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

 MATCH PENALTIES or INDEFINITE SUSPENSIONS (Deliberate Intent to Injure) are forwarded to the Zone Discipline Coordinator – player/coach is suspended indefinitely until the matter is dealt with.

B) GROSS MISCONDUCT:

1. A minimum 3-game HA suspension and a phone call to the suspended player/coach’s WCMHA representative. Minimum HA suspensions cannot be appealed.

2. THREE UNSPORTMANLIKE MISCONDUCTS AND/OR GAME MISCONDUCTS: a

phone call and letter from the league governor. For any further offenses the player will be suspended until the matter goes to the discipline committee.

1. A WCMHA DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE shall have the authority to take all necessary action and/or assess penalties as the situation may require.

2. The coach or manager of a player receiving a major (5 minute) penalty must report the incident to the governor by telephone within 48 hours. That player will not be allowed to play any games until permission to do so is given by the governor or president. There may not be any suspension.

 3. Suspensions for one or two games shall specify the particular games for which that person is to be suspended. They must be served in the next league, provincial or tournament games. The player/coach cannot participate in exhibition or make-up game until the suspension is served.

1. The WCMHA president shall fax or email the coach/player and their MHA within 48 hours, stating the suspension and the right of appeal.
2. The WCMHA president shall report any suspension over five games to the Hockey Alberta Zone Discipline Coordinator.
3. Each governor shall give a written summary of all suspensions to the WCMHA secretary at the end of the season. Any suspensions not served at the end of the season will be reported to HA Zone Discipline Coordinator, as they will carry over to the next season.
4. The Officials involved and the appropriate Referee Zone shall report and deal with Match on Officials (Physical Abuse of Officials). Players/Coaches involved are suspended indefinitely until the matter is resolved.

**F. APPEALS ON WCMHA SUSPENSIONS**

1. Only a MHA, not an individual, can make an appeal.
2. The MHA must appeal in writing to the WCMHA president within 7 days of the suspension notice.
3. A MHA must send a $200 certified cheque or money order with the appeal, which shall be forfeited if the suspension is upheld and have $50 refunded if the suspension is reduced or removed.
4. A committee shall hear the appeal within five days of receiving it.
5. The president shall appoint a committee of three directors to hear the appeal. They shall be from neutral towns and unbiased in the appeal they are hearing.
6. Suspensions issued by WCMHA may not be appealed to HA, as they are issued on League rules.

**G. REGISTRATION**

1. Each MHA shall post a performance bond of $100 with the WCMHA.
2. The bond shall be liable for any breach of the constitution, bylaws or rules, or for failure to fulfill commitments.
3. Any fine against a bond shall be paid by the team or their MHA within 30 days.
4. The treasurer shall refund the bond on a written request to withdraw from WCMHA.
5. A MHA may apply in writing for a year’s leave of absence without forfeiting their bond. This must be approved at a general meeting.
6. Team fees are $100 per team, which includes one scorebook. Extra books are $15.
7. Directors shall bring to the October meeting: fees and 10 - 14 home game times for each team entered in the WCMHA.
8. Teams should be registered in categories where they are competitive, not according to Hockey Canada registration.

9. Each MHA must supply the name of a person willing and competent to act as a

 league governor.

 10. The WCMHA shall operate two tiers in Atom and older categories if there are six or

 more teams in each tier.

 11. Initiation and Novice categories may have two divisions, but teams will not be

 tiered. If an MHA has more than one travelling team registered in Initiation

 or Novice, and the teams are not selected equally, they will be considered to be

 tiered. If teams in a division from the same MHA are very uneven in play after several games have been played, WCMHA may request that players be interchanged to make the teams more even in strength. If this is not done, the stronger team may be asked to leave WCMHA. The League Governor and Vice President will observe the teams and bring a recommendation to a special WCMHA meeting before January 10.

 12. The league governor may realign teams after six weeks of play if necessary, but

 fewer than six teams in a tier or division must be approved at a WCMHA meeting.

**H. OFFICIALS**

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

**I. POSTPONED GAMES**

1. Teams must give at least 72 hours’ notice to postpone scheduled games, and TWO WEEKS NOTICE for attending tournaments. Teams should play the postponed games within 2 weeks. If they don’t, the game could be forfeited, in which case the score will be set at 1-0 against the offending team. The league governor and president shall decide each case.

**J. LEAGUE GAMES**

1. League and playoff games shall have priority over tournament and exhibition games. However, provincial playoffs have precedence over league.
2. Each MHA should provide a minimum of 2½ hours ice time for Midget and Bantam games; 2 hours for Pee Wee and Atom games, and 1½ hours for Novice and Initiation games. Shorter ice times must be approved at the October meeting.
3. There will be no overtime for games tied after three periods during league play.
4. League schedules may start by the middle of October. Initiation will start the first weekend in November.
5. Novice and older league schedules should end by the last week-end in February.
6. If a team drops out of WCMHA during the season, points and statistics accumulated against that team shall not be used.
7. If a team enters WCMHA during the season, it will assume the average points of the league it moved into.
8. Midweek and Sunday games for Bantams and Midgets shall start no later than 8:30pm; 6:30 pm for younger divisions.
9. Stop time shall be used in all periods of all games for Novice and older divisions.
10. If necessary, Novice games can have a minimum of 2 straight time periods but the ***last period must be stop time.***
11. Initiation games will have three periods of straight time, with line changes every 3

minutes.

 12. Initiation teams shall have off-side called for all league games.

13.Initiation and Novice teams shall play with a three-goal limit per player: that is,

after 3 goals, any other goals scored by that player are not counted; and the face-

off is outside the blue line. If a player continues to intentionally score, the bench

will get a warning followed by a penalty and/or suspension.

 14.Novice players are allowed 3 penalties in a game. ***If they are assessed the 4th***

 ***penalty*** they are removed from the remainder of the game.

 15.Stop time penalties are 2 minutes and straight time penalties are 3 minutes.

16.The league governor may assessed a $200 fine and deduct 2 points when a team

 fails to play a scheduled game. Exceptions will be made for hazardous weather

 conditions and player illness.

17.Teams should report a no-show to the league governor immediately. Invoice any

 ice and referees fees incurred to WCMHA. Payment will be decided at a WCMHA

 meeting.

18.All games should start within 15 minutes of the scheduled time unless a previous

 game goes overtime.

19.The minimum goal equipment for Initiation, on top of full regular equipment, will be a goal stick, catcher, blocker, and leg pads. All other divisions must be in full HA approved equipment (no street hockey pads allowed).

**20.Any coach, manager or team official who does not follow WCMHA rules or instructs junior referees to ignore the rules will be suspended for 1 game for the first offence and 5 games for any further offenses. Not knowing the WCMHA rules is not grounds for an appeal of any suspension.**

**K. PLAYOFF GAMES, Atom & Older**

1. The top four teams shall qualify for playoffs in each league.
2. The younger teams shall have a B division playoff.
3. In the event of a tie in league standings, the tied team with the most wins in games played against the other tied team shall receive the higher standing. If still tied, goals for minus goals against, in games between the tied teams will be used; then the team with the most wins in league play; then goals for minus goals against in league play; then least penalty minutes; then toss of a coin.
4. Playoff games shall be a two-game, total-point series.
5. Venue shall go to the team that finished highest in league standings. Governors and/or coaches are not allowed to make changes in this system.
6. The playoff format shall be as follows:

 First place team vs fourth place team

 Second place team vs third place team

 Winner of 1 – 4 vs winner of 2 – 3

1. Semi-finals shall be completed by the second Sunday in March and finals shall be completed by the last Sunday in March. A team that fails to fulfill play-off commitments by these deadlines shall forfeit the series.
2. In a home-and-home, total-point series, there shall be no overtime played in the first game. If the total score is tied after the second game, overtime shall be played as follows: change ends and play stop-time sudden victory. (The first teams to score wins.)

9. Novice play-offs will be decided yearly. WCMHA shall supply one playoff or year-end banner per division.

10. Participation in league playoffs is mandatory for all WCMHA Novice and older teams, or the MHA’s performance bond may be forfeited.

**L. ALL STAR GAMES**

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

**M. LEAGUE GOVERNOR DUTIES**

League governors:

1. Cannot coach or manage a WCMHA team in the same category.
2. Must remove him/herself from any disputes if they have a child/spouse on a team in their division.
3. Must ensure that all players, teams, coaches and managers follow Hockey Canada, Hockey Alberta and WCMHA bylaws and rules.
4. Shall suspend any player, team, coach or manager who does not follow the rules or displays unsportsmanlike conduct. (see WCMHA I.-19.)
5. Shall resolve small disputes regarding their league. Governors shall rule on league play only; the H.A. zone chairman rules on tournament and exhibition games.
6. Shall handle all game change notices: **approve them** and **return them to both managers** ***prior*** to the games being played.
7. Shall see that a balanced schedule is drawn up for their league, with a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 22 games. Each team should have the same number of home and away games.
8. Shall make recommendations for moving teams to higher or lower categories based on their performance prior to December 1 of the current year.
9. Shall request team registration/affiliation forms by January 10 and notify the president if they haven’t been submitted. The president will contact those MHA’s and assess a $100 fine for each missing registration/affiliation form.
10. Shall send a list of coaches, managers, governor, their email addresses and phone numbers, to each director, coach and the WCMHA president.
11. Shall keep a record of the following league statistics and report on their league at each WCMHA meeting.
	1. games won, lost and tied, for total points
	2. goals for and against for each team
	3. penalty minutes

13. Should see as many games as possible and sign game sheet on all games attended.

 13. Shall assess a $10 fine for EACH game sheet not sent to the league governor

 by the end of the season (which is 24 hours **after the last scheduled league or**

 **playoff** **game**. This includes Initiation teams.

 14. Shall present banners to the winning team at final game.

 15. Cannot change or make any new league rules.

 16. The governor will choose a “Manager of the Year” for Initiation and Novice Leagues.

 Criteria will include: being co-operative, following the West Country Rules, and submitting all game sheets. An award may be provided to the chosen managers.

**N. COACHES/MANAGERS DUTIES**

1. WCMHA will assess a $100 fine for each team manager (mandatory attendance;

 coach voluntary) not attending any WCMHA manager/coach meeting. Directors

 should also attend.

2. All players and team officials must be properly registered on the HCR system **prior**

to their first league game, **including overaged players.**

3. Team rosters must be signed by **registered** coaching staff **before** the game. Only

 referees, time keepers and score keepers sign the book **after** the game.

 4. Make sure the game sheet is filled out properly and the game **number** is on it.

5. Home team coaches or managers shall fax or email (scans, no phone pictures)

 **league game sheets** to the league governor and enter the game sheet on the

 website within 24 hours. Major penalty referee reports must be sent to the league

 governor ***immediately*** following the game.

6. Coaches or managers shall fax or email **tournament or exhibition game sheets**

 to Hockey Alberta Zone 4 chairman **within 24 hours** of the game.

7. WCMHA will assess a $10 fine assessed for EACH game sheet not sent to the league

 governor by the end of the season **(which is 24 hours after the last scheduled**

 **league or playoff game),** including Initiation teams.

**O. DIRECTORS DUTIES**

1. Directors are responsible to the WCMHA for their MHA.

2. Directors shall represent and vote for their MHA at WCMHA general meetings.

3. WCMHA shall assess a $100 fine to member MHA’s that are not represented by their director or an alternate at WCMHA meetings.

4. **Directors shall ensure that their MHA’s executive, coaches, managers and referee in chief and know, understand and receive copies of the WCMHA Bylaws and RULES.**

**5. Directors shall post WCMHA league governors’ names and phone numbers in their MHA referee rooms.**

**P. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

* + - 1. Fan control shall be the responsibility of the home team. Referees shall ask arena management to remove, unruly fans or fans that are harassing players from the arena.
			2. The president may suspend any team or their fans guilty of harassing other teams or wilful damage to other team’s property or facilities, from participating in the WCMHA, and may forfeit their bond. The arena staff or management must notify the WCMHA president in writing (with pictures) of the damage. The guilty team or MHA shall pay the damages before any of its teams are allowed to play in WCMHA.
			3. If a governor or director fails to complete his term, his MHA shall appoint an alternate or face suspension for a year.
			4. The home team shall change sweaters if the two set are too close in color and confusing to the referee.
			5. There shall be no admission charge for any WCMHA league or exhibition game.
			6. Novice to Initiation overage applications must be signed by the parent, LMHA president & WCMHA President ~~BEFORE submission to HA~~. Overage players shall be considered on an individual basis.
			7. WCMHA shall provide each team and league governor with copies of league governors’ and coaches’ duties as outlined in the WCMHA bylaws and rules.

10. WCMHA shall pay a $100 honorarium to Initiation League Governors and $300 to Novice and Atom League Governors.

 11. WCMHA will pay a $15/team honorarium to the scheduler for each league scheduled.

 12. WCMHA will pay a $100 honorarium to the president, secretary and treasurer.

**Q. REGULATION CHANGES**

1. WCMHA members may revise regulation at general or executive meetings by a 2/3 majority vote. Rules should be reviewed and updated annually or as necessary.