

2025-2026 WSHL Constitution

Article 1: Name

This organization shall be known as the Winnipeg High School Hockey League (WSHL). It is sanctioned by the Manitoba High School Athletic Association (MHSAA).

Article 2: Membership

The WSHL shall be open to membership from any high school in Winnipeg and the surrounding area, provided its entrance is sanctioned by its school board. Membership may be acquired by written application to the WSHL Executive prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and by means of ratification by 2/3 of the membership. New team proposals / school applications for membership into the WSHL are now restricted by distance from The Forks in Winnipeg. The distance from this point to the applying school cannot exceed 65 kilometres. All current teams exceeding this distance are grandfathered into the league and will not be impacted.

Membership into the WSHL now restricts new team proposals/school applications from a central point at The Forks in Winnipeg to the school applying. The distance in kilometers cannot exceed 65 km. All current teams exceeding this distance are grandfathered into the league and will not be impacted.

Article 3: Philosophy and Objectives

The objectives of the WSHL are as follows:

To promote the aspect that the athletic arena is always a classroom with moral and educational obligations by both coaches and players. To promote high standards of courtesy, respect, fair play, and sportsmanship between players, coaches, and referees.

Article 4: Executive

The Executive members of the organization shall consist of:

- President
- Vice-President
- Director of Officials
- Statistician
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Convenors
- Special Events Coordinator
- Members at Large
- Past-President
- Competition Committee Representative
- Social Media Officer
- MHSAA Liaison

The Officers shall be elected annually at the WSHL Annual General Meeting. The Director of Officials and the Statistician will be appointed by the elected members of the Executive as non-voting Officers of the League and will report directly to the Vice-President. Each appointee will receive an honorarium from the League.

Duties:

President:

- The President shall preside at all Executive and Special meetings and perform the duties usual to the office of the President.
- The President shall exercise the powers of the Executive in case of an emergency when it is impossible for him/her to obtain a vote of the Executive.
- The President should sit on all committees as an ex officio voting member.
- The President can suspend member schools, teams, players, or coaches subject to ratification at the next meeting of the Executive.
- The President will only vote to break a tie.
- The President shall be one of the three (3) signing officers of the League.

- The President shall also act as the Liaison Representative and, in this capacity, will report to the League Executive and membership regarding issues dealing with the MHSAA and Hockey Manitoba.
- The President shall be the liaison with other provincial league executives.
- The President shall chair a search committee for the following year's Executive, with a slate of candidates to be presented to the membership no later than 30 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- The President is responsible for public relations and is the direct contact or coordinator for the League with the public and media.

Vice-President:

- The Vice-President, in the absence of the President or in the event of his/her inability to act, shall have and exercise all the powers of the President.
- The Vice-President shall be one of the three (3) signing officers of the League, along with the President and Treasurer.
- The Vice-President will oversee the rules, regulations, and procedures of the WSHL are carried out in accordance with the Constitution.
- The Vice-President shall submit a report for the Annual General Meeting.

Convenors:

- Each of the Convenors will be responsible for the organization and administration of his/her assigned teams.
- The Convenors shall enforce any suspensions in accordance with the constitution and Hockey Canada rulebook.
- The Convenors will keep a record of all suspendable offenses reported by each Convenor's assigned teams.
- The Convenors will rule on any appeals to the Appeals Committee.
- The Convenor will also clarify the interpretation of suspensions in the Constitution for his/her assigned teams.
- The Convenors shall make recommendations and inform all members of any disciplinary actions taken.
- The Convenors shall act as a liaison with the Director of Officials and the Statistician.

- The Convenors will be representatives on the Appeals Committee.

Secretary:

- The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of the WSHL Executive meetings, General meetings, and the Annual General Meeting.
- The Secretary and/or President shall notify members of all meetings.
- The Secretary will prepare the minutes for each meeting and forward a copy to the League contact person to be sent to each team's contact person.
- The Secretary will be the official communication officer for the League.
- The Secretary will maintain an accurate and current contact list of League Executive, coaches and managers.

Treasurer:

- The Treasurer shall oversee all League financial operations and shall be one of the three (3) signing officers of the League.
- The Treasurer shall present, at the annual meeting, a report of the year's operation and will provide a written report at the monthly Executive and League meetings.

Special Events Coordinator:

- The Special Events Coordinator's main role is to plan and execute the organization and running of all special events and chair their given committees: the Playoffs, the All-Star Games, the annual Rookie Tournament, and other events/committees as decided by the Executive.

Past-President:

- The Past-President will act as an advisor to the President.
- The Past-President will sit as an Executive member.
- The Past-President will be an ex officio non-voting member of all committees.

Director of Officials:

- The Director of Officials will assign on-ice officials for all WSHL exhibition, league, and play-off games.
- The Director of Officials will act as a liaison between the WSHL Executive and membership, and the on-ice officials.

- The Director of Officials will work closely with the Convenors to ensure that the on-ice officials understand the philosophy and objectives of the WSHSL.

Statistician:

- The Statistician is responsible for compiling all statistics pertinent to the operation of the League.
- The Statistician shall attend all regular League meetings, the Annual General Meeting, and Executive/Special Meetings.
- The Statistician shall be responsible for maintaining the League website.

MHSAA/Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Winnipeg Liaison:

- The Executive member holding this position will act as a liaison between the league and these three governing bodies to implement any changes to policy.

Member at Large:

- The Member at Large shall attend all regular League meetings, the Annual General Meeting, and Executive/Special Meetings.
- The Members at Large shall sit on any League committees as needed by the Executive.

Competition Committee Representative:

- The Competition Committee Representative will oversee the rules and procedures regarding the placement of teams in their appropriate divisions.
- The Competition Committee Representative shall assist in creating a formula to assign teams to divisional placements.

Article 5: Meetings

Annual General Meeting (AGM):

The Annual General Meeting of the WSHSL will be held in May at a location, date, and time to be decided upon by the Executive. Amendments to the constitution can only be made at the Annual Meeting or any special meeting of the organization, provided that ten (10) days of notice of the special amendment has been given to the President and members of the organization.

Regular Meetings:

Meetings to conduct League business will be held regularly from September to February. Teams are expected to have a school representative at all League meetings. A school may only be absent if permission is granted by the League President due to exceptional circumstances. Failure to attend will mean that a fine of \$50.00 will be levied and subtracted from the school's performance bond.

Special Meetings:

At the request of three (3) Executive members or six (6) League members, the President shall call a Special Meeting. This meeting must be held within 14 days of the request. Only the subject specified in the request may be discussed at the meeting.

Article 6: Voting

Each member school of the WSHSL shall be allowed one (1) vote. The member voting must be a teacher or a school-appointed member. All Executive members, except for appointed positions (namely, the Director of Officials and Statistician) and the Past-President, will be allowed voting privileges. No one person can have two votes. (i.e. a coach/manager representing his school and an Executive position). The voting majority shall be a simple majority of the votes cast at the meeting.

Quorums:

- Regular meeting - 40% of membership
- Special meeting - 60% of membership
- General meeting - 30% of membership
- Executive members do not count in determining a quorum.

Article 7: Eligibility

The WSHSL, being compatible with the aims of MHSAA, will follow the eligibility rules of this organization. Players must be under nineteen (19) years of age as of midnight of August 31 in the current school year. Players must be registered students at their high school. In semestered schools, a player will only be eligible

to play in the semesters during which he is a registered student. Players under suspension from the Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association (WMHA) or any other registered hockey organization will not be allowed to play until that suspension has been fully served or overturned. Players will not be allowed to register or play for another hockey team during the same season unless a proper release is acquired by the WSHL. Players who have graduated will not be eligible for further play in the WSHL. Once a student enrolls in high school, he will be allowed four (4) consecutive years of high school hockey. One of his four (4) years must be his Grade 9 year. This refers to the Letter of Agreement with the MHSAA. All eligibility appeals must be made through MHSAA. The League follows the MHSAA guidelines with respect to the eligibility of players not registered within a particular school. Only those players deemed to be eligible by the MHSAA will be allowed to play within the WSHL.

Article 8: Roster

All teams will submit an official team roster of no more than twenty (20) players to the League Statistician and the League President prior to their first regular season game. Failure to comply will result in a \$200 fine and forfeiture of any games deemed ineligible by the League. On the date established in the MHSAA guidelines, rosters will be finalized, and only in extreme circumstances will the WSHL's Appeals Committee, in conjunction with the MHSAA, permit additions. All teams must have a minimum number of fourteen (14) players registered on the roster. There must be a minimum of 13 skaters and 1 goaltender on the roster. Teams may dress 20 players (18 skaters and 2 goalies). High schools in the WSHL may have two teams entered in league play. Any high school with two teams must have a dispersal draft/selection process to make two teams of equivalent caliber and playing ability, and they would then play in the same division, whether that be A, B, or C.

Special Circumstances:

- As per the MHSAA/Hockey Manitoba Agreement, only two grade 9 players are permitted to play unless an appeal is granted by Hockey Manitoba.
 - <https://www.mhsaa.ca/about/transfer-policy/>
 - <https://www.mhsaa.ca/about/eligibility/>
- Please refer to the MHSAA transfer rules as it pertains to grade 11s & 12s.
 - <https://www.mhsaa.ca/about/transfer-policy/>
 - <https://www.mhsaa.ca/about/eligibility/>
- Please refer to Hockey Manitoba's International Student requirements.
 - <https://hockeymanitoba.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Constitution-Regulations-Rules-of-Competition.pdf>

Article 9: Scheduling

The season will begin with three divisions: A, B, and C. Based on the Competition Committee's formula and recommendations, teams will be placed in one of these three divisions for the entire 24-game regular season. Placements in divisions may be appealed to the league Competition Committee prior to the beginning of the season. Whenever possible, all scheduled League games are to be played to their fully scheduled time, as a two (2) hour block of ice time will be made available. Whenever possible, the start time of all league games will be no sooner than 4:30 p.m.

Article 10: Game Cancellation

A minimum time frame of 48 hours is required for the cancellation or change of all league games. Any team canceling a game within 48 hours is responsible for the ice fees and game officials' fees for that game and/or the rescheduled game. If the team is not willing to endure these costs, then it must forfeit the game to the non-offending team. If the game is canceled without proper notice to cancel officials, the team canceling the game will be held liable for officials' costs. N.B.: This rule would not apply for games canceled due to unforeseen weather conditions or other special cases authorized by the League.

All games should only be rescheduled or cancelled due to weather or emergency situations, in consultation with the school division closures announced. Rescheduling a game due to missing players is not an authorized reason, a team can play with nine (9) players (including goalie), as Hockey Canada states that a game can be started with six (6) players. All game cancellations or changes shall be made through the League Conveners, Director of Officials, and Statistician to ensure that all persons concerned in handling the game are notified that a game must be postponed due to weather conditions or other special cases.

Article 11: Insurance

Members are insured through Hockey Manitoba/Hockey Canada. Members shall be responsible for ensuring that their players have adequate insurance (e.g., Blue Cross, Reliable Life, etc.) when playing non-sanctioned teams.

Article 12: Sanctioning

Exhibition games between WSHL teams may be played at the discretion of the teams concerned. On-ice officials must be assigned through the Director of Officials. The official game sheet must be sent into the Convenor within 24 hours by the home team. Suspendable infractions must be reported to the Convenors within 24 hours. A copy of the game sheet shall accompany each infraction. This applies to all league, playoff, and tournament games. Any team playing a game outside of the WSHL jurisdiction must obtain sanction from the League.

Article 13: Reporting of Game Results

Game sheets of all games (League, playoff, tournament, and exhibition) must be scanned, emailed, or sent by text by the home team to the League Statistician AND to their Divisional Convenor by the end of the next school day. Teams that are at a tournament or exhibition game(s) out of the WSHL must also submit all their game sheets to the Convenor by the end of the next school day. Failure to do so will result in a fine of \$100.00 subtracted from their performance bond. The home team for each League and playoff game is required to phone, text, or email

the results to the Secretary and Statistician before 9:00 p.m. that same night. Failure to do so may result in a fine of \$50.00 to be subtracted from their performance bond. A team official must contact the Convenor before the close of the next school day if the team's last gamesheet contained a suspendable offense. Teams in violation of **Article 13.3** may be fined \$50.00 or will have \$50.00 subtracted from their performance bond.

Article 14: Supervision/Coaches

All teams must have a supervising school staff member present and supervising in the stands, regardless of the number of teaching staff on the bench. All coaches and managers on the bench must be current with their minimum qualifications as outlined by Hockey Canada. All non-teachers must be cleared by the Child Abuse Register. Schools are responsible for any cost and for ensuring that this occurs. All team staff (Coaches, Managers, and Safety Person) must have *Respect in Sport* Certification.

Article 15: Dues

The Executive shall set a registration fee each year at the Annual General Meeting. Each team will present on or before the Annual General Meeting date of the past year a cheque for \$200.00 as a performance bond. Any team folding operations after the schedule has been made or in violation of the WSHL Constitution bylaws will forfeit its performance bond - in its entirety - to the League. All member schools in good standing will have their performance bond carried over for the next year's operation. Teams withdrawing from the League, ceasing operations, or are suspended from the League after November 1, will forfeit their full registration fees.

Article 16: Affiliation

The WSHL is affiliated with Manitoba junior hockey leagues, such as the Manitoba Junior Hockey League (MJHL), the Manitoba Major Junior Hockey League (MMJHL) and the Capital Region Junior Hockey (CRJHL). Member teams in these Manitoba junior leagues can affiliate WSHL players up to ten (10) games

per season per league. WSHL teams are also allowed to affiliate players attending their respective schools up to ten (10) games a season from AA or lower leagues. However, if the player's registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before the player's affiliated team or teams, the player may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times.

Affiliated players must be registered with the MHSAA and Hockey Manitoba within the roster deadline requirements. A WSHL team must inform the coach of the respective team to seek permission to use the player.

WSHL players are allowed to affiliate up to ten (10) games a season to U18 or U17 AAA (for U17 AAA, only WSHL players in grade 9, 10, and 11 are eligible for affiliation). However, U18 and U17 AAA teams are to contact AAA feeder teams i.e. U15) first before contacting WSHL players. For the AAA team to use a WSHL player, they must contact that player's coach/manager to seek permission to use a player. Also, WSHL players are not permitted to affiliate to AA or lower hockey leagues.

Like our junior hockey agreements, once a WSHL team is eliminated for the season, its affiliated players can be called up indefinitely by the respective team.

The agreement will follow common Hockey Manitoba practices such as:

- Allowing for up to five (5) special affiliation players who must be actively rostered on AA or A1, A2, or A3 level teams. These five (5) affiliated players would be in addition to the maximum 20 player roster. The affiliated players must sign the Hockey Manitoba Affiliated Player document by November 1.
- An affiliated player can only be called up when the roster is below the minimum 17 player requirements.
- WSHL and Hockey Manitoba coaches shall obtain prior approval from the affiliated player's team coach before using such player for any sanctioned game. This must be done prior to each game in which an affiliated player is used (no block agreements are permitted). Affiliated players cannot be used for practice.

- When affiliate players are used, such players shall be designated on the official game report using the symbol “AP”. Affiliated Players can play a maximum of ten (10) games during the regular season and playoffs. However, if his registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before his affiliated team or teams, he may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times. Please reference the Hockey Canada variations for the Canadian Development Model (Regulation F, 53. a) – g) for additional information.
- The WSHL junior hockey agreement is the same. When affiliate players are used, such players shall be designated on the official game report using the symbol “AP”. Affiliated Players can play a maximum of ten (10) games during the regular season and playoffs. However, if his registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before his affiliated team or teams, he may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times. Please reference the Hockey Canada variations for the Canadian Development Model (Regulation F, 53. a) – g) for additional information.

Article 17: Playoffs

The playoff dates and format for the season will be set at the Annual General Meeting. The League playoffs will be organized each year by the final regular season standings of the A, B, and C divisions. At the end of each playoff round, teams will be re-seeded based on regular season standings. For all rounds of the WSHL playoffs, overtime will consist of a 3-on-3, 15-minute stop-time overtime period should the game finish in a tie after three periods. Teams will switch ends before the start of overtime. At the end of the overtime period, a three-round shootout will determine the winner of the game. If the game remains tied at the end of the five rounds, the shootout will become sudden death. Each team must exhaust their entire roster before allowing original shooters to shoot again. For example, if one team has only 15 players, then the opposing team will only use 15 players before the same shooter can be used again. The sudden death shootout

will end in the first round where one team scores and the other team does not score.

Article 18: Overtime for League Games

At the end of regular season games which end in a tie, a 3-on-3, 5-minute stop-time overtime period will be implemented. If one team receives a penalty, they will keep 3 players on the ice, and the non-penalized team will be allowed to play with 4 players. At the conclusion of the penalty, the player receiving the penalty shall be allowed to return to the ice, creating a 4-on-4 situation until the next stoppage in play, at which point 3-on-3 play will resume. If the game remains tied following this overtime period, there will be a three-round shootout. The home team will decide whether it wishes to shoot first or last. If tied at the end of the three rounds, the shootout will become sudden death. The entire roster will be used at this point. For example, if one team has 15 players, then the opposing team will only use 15 players before the same shooter can be used again.

NB. In addition, if a team is two players short at the end of regulation time, a five-on-three situation will take place in overtime following the rule of the 4-on-4 situation.

Article 19: Tie-Breaking Criteria

The tie-breaking criteria for League standings are as follows:

Where two teams have the same number of points at the end of the season, the following tie-breaking criteria will be used:

Unbalanced Schedule (where each team does not play every other team twice)

- a. Head-to-head point totals
- b. Most ROW Most ROW and shoot-out/wins
- c. Most goals for versus teams that both tied teams played twice
- d. Lowest number of team penalty minutes in all regular season games
- e. Flip a coin

Balanced Schedule (where each team does play every other team twice).

- a. Most regular time wins in the overall schedule
- b. Head-to-head point totals
- c. Most shoot-out/overtime wins that both tied teams played twice
- d. Lowest goals against total in league play
- e. Most goals for in total league play
- f. Lowest number of team penalty minutes in all regular season games
- g. Most wins against teams above you in the standings
- h. Flip a coin

Where three or more teams have the same number of points at the end of the regular season, the following tie-breaking criteria will be used:

N.B. After one criterion, teams that are still tied move onto the next criterion. The team that is still not tied will be placed accordingly.

Unbalanced Schedule (where each team does not play every other team twice)

- a. Head-to-head point totals
- b. Most ROW
- c. Most ROW and shoot-out/wins
- d. Lowest goals against teams that all tied teams played twice
- e. Most goals for versus teams that all teams played twice
- f. Lowest number of team penalty minutes in all regular season games
- g. Flip a coin

Balanced Schedule (where each team does play every other team twice)

- a. Most regular time wins in the overall schedule
- b. Head-to-head point totals
- c. Most shoot-out/overtime wins that all tied teams played twice
- d. Lowest goals against total in league play
- e. Most goals for in total league play
- f. Lowest number of team penalty minutes in all regular season games
- g. Most wins against teams above you in the standings
- h. Flip a coin

Article 20: Types of Penalties and Misconducts

A violent act related to WSHL play is subject to both a hockey suspension and a school suspension. School administrators will be asked to administer the school suspension in accordance with the school's guidelines.

Fighting	Sanction
Any player who engages in his/her 1st fight of the season	2 games (3 games if the fight occurs in the last 10 minutes of regulation time)
Any player who engages in his/her 2nd fight of the season	4 games
Any player who engages in his/her 3rd fight of the season	Indefinite suspension until the WSHL renders a decision. The suspension could carry over into future season(s)
Instigator or Aggressor	2 games

N.B. After each offense, an incident report must be issued by the team and sent to the Divisional Convenor and a game report shall be filed by the referee.

Match And Major Penalties

Match Penalties	
Infraction	Minimum Sanction
Deliberate injury	Indefinite Suspension
Kicking	3 games
Deliberate Attempt to Injure	2 games
Spearing (where a match penalty is assessed)	2 games

Butt Ending (where a match penalty is assessed)	2 games
Spitting	2 games
Head Butting	2 games
Hair Pulling	2 games
Pulling/Grabbing Face Mask (where a match penalty is assessed)	2 games
Physical Abuse of Official	Indefinite Suspension
Checking from Behind (match)	2 games
Checking to the Head (match)	2 games
Slew Footing	2 games

N.B. After each offense an incident report must be issued by the team and sent to the Divisional Convenor and a game report shall be filed by the referee.

First Offense: The player will serve the remainder of the game, plus one additional game. If the penalty occurs in the last 10 minutes of regulation or during overtime, the player will serve two additional games.	Second Offense: The player will serve the remainder of the game, plus three additional games. If the penalty occurs in the last 10 minutes of regulation or during overtime, the player will serve four additional games.	Third Offense: The player will face an indefinite suspension until the league renders its decision.
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Major Penalties	Minimum Suspension
Boarding	1 game
Charging	1 game
Checking from behind	2 games
Head Contact	2 games
Elbowing	1 game
Kneeing	1 game
Tripping	1 game
Cross-checking	1 game
Slashing	1 game
Roughing	1 game

N.B. After each offense an incident report must be issued by the team and sent to the Divisional Convenor and a game report shall be filed by the referee.

Accumulation of Major/Match Penalties	Sanction
2 major/match penalties in a season for any of the above infractions	2 additional games
3 major/match penalties in a season for any of the above infractions	Indefinite suspension pending a hearing

N.B. After each offense an incident report must be issued by the team and sent to the Divisional Convenor and a game report shall be filed by the referee.

Minor Penalties	Infraction
<p>Checking from Behind: (2 minutes and a Game Misconduct)</p>	<p>1st and 2nd Offences: Player is removed from the remainder of the game. If the penalty occurs in the last ten (10) minutes of regulation time or any time in overtime, the player is suspended for one (1) game.</p> <p>3rd Offence: Two (2) game suspension: three (3) if penalty occurs in last ten (10) minutes of regulation time or any time in overtime</p> <p>4th Offence: Indefinite suspension until the League renders a decision</p>
<p>10-Minute Misconducts</p>	<p>If 10-minute misconduct occurs during the last 10 minutes of regulation, the player is removed from the game. No subsequent suspension. The player will receive 1 game suspension for the accumulation of 3 - 10-minute misconducts throughout the pre-season, regular season, exhibition games and all tournaments (in province, country and out of country). Each succeeding 10-minute misconduct will consist of a 1 game suspension.</p>

N.B.: After each offense an incident report must be issued by the team and sent to the Divisional Convenor and a game report shall be filed by the referee.

Gross Misconducts

Any player who is given a Gross Misconduct for travesty of the game and/or disrespect for the officials will be immediately removed from the remainder of the game.

- **First Offense:** Three (3) game suspension not including the game in which the infraction occurred: four (4) games if the penalty occurs in the last ten (10) minutes of regulation time or any time in overtime
- **Second Offense:** An indefinite suspension until the League renders a decision

N.B.: After each offense an incident report must be issued by the team and sent to the convenor and a game report shall be filed by the referee.

Racial/Ethnic/Homophobic Slurs and Derogatory Comments

Any player who is given a Gross Misconduct for making any of the above types of inappropriate comments towards any person during a game will be indefinitely suspended until the WSHL renders a decision regarding the length of suspension. See rule 11.4 from Hockey Canada: <http://rulebook.hockeycanada.ca/english/part-ii-gameplay-fouls/section-11/rule-9-3/>

N.B.: After each offense, an incident report must be issued by the team and sent to the convenor.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct or Harassment/Abuse of Officials by a Team Official

Where a Game Misconduct has been assessed to a team official for Unsportsmanlike Conduct or Harassment/Abuse of Officials:

- **First Offense:** the team official will serve the remainder of the game and one additional game suspension. In addition, the WSHL will review the incident and may take further action.
- **Second Offense:** indefinite suspension pending a review by the WSHL disciplinary committee.

N.B.: After each offense, an incident report must be issued by the team and sent to the convenor and a game report shall be filed by the referee.

Where a Gross Misconduct has been assessed to a team official:

- Any team official receiving a Gross Misconduct is indefinitely suspended pending a review by the WSHL disciplinary committee.

N.B.: After each offense, an incident report must be issued by the team and sent to the convenor and a game report shall be filed by the referee.

Season-Ending Infractions:

Any player assessed a penalty for a suspendable offence in his team's final WSHL game of the season shall receive a suspension of up to 10 games, which will carry over to the following season of play in the event that the player returns to the WSHL if the on-ice and League officials determine that the player displayed a complete disregard for the safety of opposing players and the integrity of the game. The purpose of this special playing rule is to deter blatantly dangerous play at the end of a team's season.

N.B.: After each offense an incident report must be issued by the team and sent to the convenor and a game report shall be filed by the referee.

Removal of Players from a Game:

Once a player is removed from a game, he shall not return to the proximity of the ice surface and shall not have contact with any member of the opposing team for the remainder of the game.

Removal of Coaches from a Game:

If any coach is removed from a game as a result of a game misconduct, they will incur an additional game suspension. A second offense will invoke an indefinite suspension pending a review by the WSHL disciplinary committee.

Article 21: Appeals and Suspensions

Appeal/Suspension Committee

The Appeal / Suspension Committee shall consist of the three divisional Convenors, Director of Officials, and the League President - unless a conflict of interest arises.

Appeals

- Appeals will only be heard for infractions carrying a 2 or more game suspension
- Appeals will not be heard for a 1 game suspension during the regular season
- 1 game suspensions may be appealed for playoffs.
- Suspended players must sit during the appeal process, with the only exception for out-of-town tournaments, and only with permission of the divisional Convenor
- All appeals regarding matters shall be made in writing accompanied by a non-refundable \$50 fee and submitted to the divisional Convenor for review by the Appeal/Suspension Committee
- All appeals shall be made by writing to the divisional Convenor within 48 hours
- Teams may send in video review with their appeals when disputing suspensions where they deem the call was not worthy of the punishment. While teams may not all have the same ability to video their games, those that do must make the video available to both teams participating

Suspensions

Game suspensions can be served:

- In regular League games
- In sanctioned tournament games
- In exhibition games which had been scheduled prior to the infraction in question, and which satisfy **Article 12** (Sanctioning), excluding pre-season exhibition games
- Suspensions shall be enforced from one playing season to another

- Any player or team official under suspension from any other sanctioned hockey League must serve his suspension before participating in any capacity in the WSHSL
- All suspended players and/or team officials must start serving their game(s) suspension(s) with the next scheduled game that the team plays

N.B.: All teams are responsible for ensuring that all suspension offenses are recorded and reported to the Convenor of their division before the close of the next school day (Article 13.3).

Consequences for not reporting:

- Any team who fails to sit a suspended player and/or team official in the game(s) immediately after the game in which the suspension occurred shall be fined \$100.00
- Any game(s) in which the suspended player and/or team official participated while on suspension will result in the game(s) being forfeited and points awarded to the opposing team
- The player will also have to immediately serve the remainder of the suspension
- There may be additional penalties against the team, coaches, and/or player if it is determined that the suspended player was deliberately used

Indefinite Suspension:

In any indefinite suspension, the league will render a decision on a case-by-case basis. The League may rule on a season-ending suspension; conversely, circumstances may warrant a suspension of a lesser nature.

Expanded Authority and Requests for Review:

The Appeal/Suspension Committee shall have the power to:

- Issue suspensions for infractions that occurred during a game, penalized or not, when review shows serious or dangerous conduct.

- Extend suspensions where the intent or severity of the infraction warrants additional discipline.
- Either team or member of the league disciplinary committee, a coach on committee involved in matters will recuse themselves, may request a review within 48 hours of the incident.
- Video evidence must be submitted for all reviews, including those seeking new or increased suspensions. Each team involved in the matters must share the video submitted to the opposing team.
- The player under investigation will continue playing until a decision has been rendered by the committee, unless a major penalty and an automatic suspension have already been assessed by the referee. The appeals committee will attempt to render a timely decision, but allowance must be made for the committee to meet for deliberation.
- The cost of the appeal to levy or extend a suspension will be \$150 per incident. This non-refundable fee is paid by the appealing team at the time of the appeal.
- Teams will be limited to two such appeals per season.
- To clarify, this type of appeal (that is, to levy or extend a suspension) will consider incidents where the offending player's conduct appears to be an intentional attempt to injure or otherwise is so reckless that player safety of the opponent has been seriously compromised.
- All rulings by the Committee on suspension changes are final.

Article 22: Player Substitution - Icing & Defensive Zone

- Line changes may occur after puck out of play occurs, except when over the glass.
- If the defending team directly shoots the puck over the glass while in the defensive zone, all players on the defending team must remain on the ice.

- If a time-out is called, the offending team may not change and all players who were on the ice when the icing was initiated must remain on the ice for the ensuing faceoff
- If the defending team directly shoots the puck out of play while within the defensive zone, all players on the defending team must remain on the ice. No line changes may occur.
- For pucks deflected out of play, at the referee's discretion, the defending team may execute a change

Faceoffs

Following an icing or a penalty, the attacking team may choose which of the two faceoff circles they would like the ensuing faceoff to take place.

Article 23: League Games Length of Games

- The game will consist of two (2) 15-minute stop-time periods and a twenty (20) minute stop time third period
- There will be overtime during regular season play (**Article 19**)
- If there is insufficient time left to complete the game, the timekeeper will notify the referee at approximately the five (5) minute mark and the clock set to the two (2) minute mark.
- **Mercy Rule** - when a team is winning by five (5) or more goals with less than five (5) minutes to play, the balance of the game shall be played in running time.
- Running time shall continue regardless of the number of additional goals scored.
- Each team is entitled to one 30-second time-out per game. This time-out can be used during an overtime period.

Number of Games:

Each hockey team will play no more than a total of forty-two (42) games beginning with League play and excluding playoffs.

- League play will consist of no more than twenty-six (26) games per year and no fewer than twenty-two (22) games

- Each tournament a team enters counts as three (3) games
- Pre-season games and tournaments prior to the start of the season schedule are not counted in the forty-two (42) games total
- Teams in violation of rule 2a forfeit their rights to participate in the League championship playoffs

Article 24: Pre- or Post-Game Off-Ice Conduct

Any member involved in a pre-, or post-game off-ice altercation, including damage to arena property or incidents involving opposing team members, team supporters, or officials, and including threats and taunts via text message, social networking sites or any other method of contact, shall be indefinitely suspended until the WSHSL renders a decision.

Article 25: Racial / Ethnic / Homophobic Slurs / Ableist and Derogatory Comments

Any member who is involved in making any of the above types of inappropriate comments towards any opposing team members, team supporters, or officials after a game either in person or via social media, will be indefinitely suspended until the WSHSL renders a decision regarding the length of suspension. League officials will be considered as off-ice officials for the purpose of reporting infractions.

Article 26: Off-Ice Team Requirements

All teams must submit team photos (individual and headshots) to the League Statistician on or before the date determined at the September General Meeting. All teams must submit nominations for WSHSL Awards by the established deadline. All teams must have players in attendance at the Leadership Workshop and at the WSHSL Awards banquet. Failure to comply with any of the above requirements will result in the removal of \$100 from their team's performance bond.

Article 27: Social Media

All WSHSL member-affiliated social media accounts (e.g. Instagram) must be actively monitored by an assigned school staff member, such as a teacher or

administrator. Each school team or organization account must have a designated school staff member responsible for oversight. Accounts without an assigned teacher or administrator will be reported to the school's administration.