



# NATIVE HOCKEY ALBERTA COUNCIL

## PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

### JUNIOR DIVISION

#### RULES AND REGULATIONS 2026

- 1) NATIVE HOCKEY ALBERTA JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (NHAJC) shall be played under the official HOCKEY CANADA rules and NHAJC regulation and/or rules adopted by Native Hockey Alberta Council (NHAC).
  - a) Hockey Canada requires all players to wear CSA certified full-face protectors, properly attached to CSA certified hockey helmets. Full face protectors come in three (3) styles: wire cage, high impact polycarbonate shield or a combination of both.
  - b) All players are required to wear neck guard and ear guards. **NO** exceptions will be made.
- 2) The NHAJC will be insured through a private insurance company chosen by NHAC for all players, coaches and referees.
- 3) Certified Referees will be used throughout the NHAJC. All participants (players, coaches & supporters) must respect their decision. There will be ZERO TOLERANCE on abuse of referees.
- 4) It is MANDATORY that the following certification be on the bench at all times:
  - a) NHAC Aboriginal Coaching Module, Safety person with Emergency First Aid.
  - b) Failure to comply may result in team participation from NHAJC
- 5) **REGISTRATIONS**
  - a) **The NHAJC roster sheet will act as the master sheet for player registration.**
  - b) All players and coaches must register through the RAMP website.
  - c) All players must be of aboriginal decent and must have a Certificate of Indian Status, Metis card, or Inuit enrollment.
    - i) If this year is the first year playing in the NHAPC players can submit a letter from INAC, MNA, Metis Settlement showing that they have Indian, Metis, Inuit Status
    - ii) If a player does not have any documentation proving Indian, Metis, or Inuit Status the player can appeal to the NHAC Board using the NHAC Aboriginal Decent Form.
  - d) All players must upload a head shot of themselves, birth certificate, Certificate of Indian Status or Metis Card or Inuit status to the ramp registration website.
  - e) Players must meet one of the following criteria:
  - f) be a member of a First Nation or Metis Settlement located in Alberta and Northwest Territories (NWT)
    - i) born in Alberta and NWT
    - ii) registered on a team in Alberta and NWT.All players must pay a registration fee within RAMP.

## 6) DIVISIONS

- a) Allowed 4 Overage Players (Born in 2004)
- b) Teams are allowed to register 20 players (18 skaters, 2 goalies).
- c) U18 male and female player playing in the junior division will not be allowed to play in U18
- d) **ELITE**
  - i) WSHL, GMHL, NJHL, Junior A, College, University, Senior, WHL, JPHL, USPHL, U18 AA and U18 AAA
  - ii) Out of province players allowed (BC, Sask, Manitoba, NWT, Yukon)
- e) **COMMUNITY**
  - i) Community Player is a player that has played with the same community team for two consecutive years
  - ii) Minimum 12 Community player must be on your roster
  - iii) U18 AAA, AA goalies are allowed to play and will not be counted as an elite player
  - iv) Two Elite Players allowed (Junior A, College, University, Senior, WHL, WSHL, GMHL, NJHL, JPHL, USPHL) on Roster (From your community)
- f) **FEMALE**
  - i) Allowed 2 Out of Province Players (Sask, Manitoba, BC, NWT, Yukon)
  - ii) Players coming from U18 to Junior will be considered Community Players for their respective Community. Will not be able to play for another Community unless their Community does not have a team entered.
  - iii) Players will be allowed to jump up to ELITE without any restriction.
  - iv) Players last provincial or league tier will apply to his/her status as an Elite player.
- g) A player will be classified as 'elite' upon completing 10 or more games as an elite player (see 6.d.i)

## 7) PLAYER RELEASE

- a) Player release will be required when a player wants to participate for another community (COMMUNITY DIVISION ONLY)
- b) Required when the player has played with a community for two consecutive years, that player is deemed from that community (COMMUNITY DIVISION ONLY)
- c) All release forms must be signed by the community representative & player.
- d) The manager of the team is responsible for obtaining player release form when a player is in question.
- e) Teams will be notified if a player is on two rosters.
  - i) If the player belongs to a community (**See 7.b for clarification**) he or she will have to play for that community or require a release from that community in order to play for the other team.
  - ii) If the player does not belong to the community than the player can play on either team that he or she was double rostered on.
  - iii) The team that lost the player due to rule 7.e.ii, that team can replace that player with a player that is currently registering and not on a team or on the looking for team list.
- f) Any player caught playing on two teams will jeopardize both teams from further play at the NHAJC.
- g) Failure to obtain a properly completed release form could disqualify a player from playing in the NHAJC.
- h) **Teams found playing an ineligible player will be suspended from further play and disciplinary action will result.**

## 8) GAME REGULATION

- a) All teams must be at the arena at least 45 minutes prior to game time.
- b) All games will start on time.
- c) Teams must start the game once 6 players or 5 players and goalie are on the ice
- d) Any team unable to commence play 10 minutes after game start will forfeit game.
- e) Teams will not be allowed in dressing room and warm ups, unless accompanied by a team official.
- f) If a 10-goal differential exists, the game shall be called.
- g) No ties in round robin play.
- h) Finalized ice schedule will be posted at each arena. Match program schedule with arena postings.
- i) NHAC reserves the right to match the game times with ice availability
- j) STOP TIME: 2 Goals or less within the last 5 mins of the Game (All Games)
- k) 30 sec Timeout each team (STOP TIME ONLY)
- l) **It is the Coaches responsibility to verify and sign game sheets prior to game time and get a copy of the game sheet after the game.**

## 9) TIE BREAKING SYSTEM

- a) If a tie occurs in the standings after round robin play, the following steps will occur:
  - i) If two team's tie; winner of head to head competition will determine placement.
  - ii) If three team's tie; plus/minus will determine placement of all three.
  - iii) If still tied fewest penalty minutes will determine placement.

## 10) FIGHTING

- a) One fight allowed per player
- b) Major Penalty and a Game Misconduct shall be assessed
- c) Fighting major assessed in the last 10 min of game will result suspension of next game and a review from NHAC (further discipline may be assessed)
- d) Instigator and/or Aggressor shall be assessed a minor penalty
- e) Rule 7.10 Fighting of the Hockey Canada Rules shall be enforced

## 11) PENALTIES

- a) All penalties assessed during straight times shall be:
  - i) Minor penalty will be 3 minutes.
  - ii) Major penalty will be 7 minutes.
- b) Penalties assessed during straight time will not commence until the puck is dropped.
- c) Stop time minor penalty will be 2 minutes, and major penalty will be 5 minutes

## 12) OVERTIME

- a) Will be sudden victory, first goal wins.
- b) All play will be straight time.
- c) Goaltender may be pulled at any time for an extra attacker at the discretion of the coach
- d) Overtime will run-as follows;
  - i) Three minutes 3 on 3 if no goal scored Shootout will occur:
  - ii) Three players will shoot alternately if no goal scored.
  - iii) One player from each team will shoot alternately until winner is decided.
  - iv) Players cannot shoot again until nine players from the team have shot.

### 13) DISCIPLINE

- a) All disciplinary rulings shall be final
- b) Managers and coaches will be deemed responsible for the behavior of their teams and supporters.
- c) The NHAC minimum suspension guidelines will be used for suspensions, with the exception of the following.
  - i) A player assessed two fighting majors will be suspended for the remainder of the NHAJC.
  - ii) Retaliator will be suspended for the next game.
  - iii) Checking from behind with intent to injure will result in suspension for remainder of NHAJC.
  - iv) A Gross Misconduct or Match Penalty assessed will result in suspension for remainder of NHAJC from the Disciplinary Committee and further review from NHAC Board
  - v) Player may receive suspension beyond the NHAC minimum guidelines based on the severity of the infraction.
- d) Any player, coach, manager who receives a 9.6 (a) (b) or (c) penalty, will be suspended from remainder of NHAJC and will be reported to NHAJC Disciplinary Committee for further disciplinary action.
- e) Disciplinary Committee and NHAC will review all major infractions and discipline accordingly.
- f) NHAC may continue a suspension to any NHAC sanctioned event and may include the following year.
- g) It is the responsibility of coaches and managers to report and record any suspensions to NHAC.
- h) Any coach and/or manager that does not disclose that a player is serving a suspension will be suspended for the remainder of the tournament
- i) It is the responsibility of the coaches to make sure a player assessed a suspension does not participate in the next game.
- j) Please have someone from coaching staff pick up copied Score Sheet and Write-Up for your records.

### 14) RULE CHALLENGE

- a) The Referee must be informed of Rule Challenge at the beginning of the game and/or during the game up to the end of the first period.
- b) The Rule Challenge must be received in writing along with a \$500 cash Challenge fee (non-refundable) to the Director of the Junior Division by the start of the second period.
- c) Must have documentation to go with the Rule Challenge
- d) One Rule Challenge per \$500 fee
- e) All rulings are final and are not subject to appeal.

**HAVE FUN AND SHOW GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP!**  
**ANYTHING YOU DO IS A REFLECTION OF YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY**

OFFICIAL RULES Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

