NATIVE HOCKEY COUNCIL ALBERTA

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1) SANCTION & INSURANCE:

a. NATIVE HOCKEY ALBERTA PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (NHAPC) shall be played under the official HOCKEY CANADA rules, with the exception of the HOCKEY ALBERTA (HA) and NHAPC regulation and/or rules adopted by Native Hockey Alberta (NHA) and endorsed by HA.
b. The Championships are sanctioned by Hockey Alberta.
c. Hockey Alberta certified Referees are used throughout the NHAPC. All participants (players, coaches & supporters) must respect their decision. There will be ZERO TOLERANCE on abuse of referees.

2) TEAM OFFICIALS REQUIREMENTS:

a. It is MANDATORY that the coaching staff meet the requirements of Hockey Alberta.
b. Failure to adhere will result in team being asked to stop participation in the NHAPC.
c. Female teams must have 1 female staff member on the bench and for dressing room

HA coaching certification requirement guideline

	Coach 1 Intro to Coach	Coach 2 – Coach Level	Dev. I	H.P. I	Checking Skills	Respect in Sport Coach	Safety
Initiation & Novice Half Ice	1 Team officials Per ten players*					All Team Officials	1 Team Official Per Ten Players
Novice Full Ice/Atom Male/Female		Head Coach*			Head Coach	All Team Officials	One Team Official
Peewee Male/Female		Head Coach*			Head Coach	All Team Officials	One Team Official
Bantam Bear Male/Female		Head Coach*			Head Coach	All Team Officials	One Team Official
Bantam Eagle Male/Female				Head Coach	Head Coach	All Team Officials	One Team Official
Midget Bear Male/Female		Head Coach*			Head Coach	All Team Officials	One Team Official
Midget Eagle				Head Coach	Head Coach	All Team Officials	One Team Official

- **For all divisions, where Development 1, Coach 2, or Coach 1 is required, any head coach that possesses the High Performance 1 Certification will also be deemed eligible.**
- **For all divisions, Coach 2, or Coach 1 is required, any head coach that possesses the Development 1 Certification will also be deemed eligible.**
- **For all divisions, Coach 1 is required, any head coach that possesses the Coach 2 Certification will also be deemed eligible.**

3) COMMUNITY:

a. NHAC recognizes a community to be a First Nation; Metis Settlement; Tribal Council; Town or City.
b. NHAC will also recognize minor hockey associations or athletic clubs that were established to benefit aboriginal athletes.
c. When a player has played with a community for two consecutive years the player is deemed a community player and will require a release to play for another team.
d. See Player Release Section regarding access to protected players.

4) REGISTRATIONS

a. All players must pay a registration fee within RAMP:
    i. Hockey Alberta Registered $25.00
    ii. Unregistered Players $50.00

5) NON-INSURED HOCKEY ALBERTA

a. Players not registered with Hockey Alberta for the current season must register by paying the proper registration fee when registering within RAMP.
b. Players last HCR provincial or league tier will apply to his/her status as a "B" or "A" player.

6) UNSANCTIONED LEAGUES:

a. Players playing in unsanctioned hockey leagues must notify NHAC and provide proof from the league that they are not currently suspended and serving major penalties. Players found playing without a letter will be deemed ineligible all games that specified player has played will be deemed a loss.
b. Players playing Super Leagues/Unsanctioned leagues will be deemed "A" players.

7) ROSTERS

a. All teams are allowed to register a maximum of 19 PLAYERS. (17 skaters and 2 goalies)
Initiation does not have to designate goalies.
b. NHAC team roster registration deadline must include 1 goalie, 11 skaters and 2 Coaching staff date is December 15th.
    i. Rosters will be frozen after roster deadline and roster movement will not be allowed. Only blank roster spots can be filled.
    ii. Goalies may be added on after January 10th deadline providing the following guidelines have been met. Medical note for injury of a goalie from the family doctor.
    iii. Blank roster spots can be filled until January 10th with players not on an existing roster.
    iv. All proper registration papers for player are provided.
    v. All above are met prior to add on deadline date.
    vi. Color Proof of aboriginal descent from a recognized Aboriginal Organization, birth certificate, & health care card must be submitted On-line.
c. The NHAPC roster sheet will act as the master sheet for player registration and be used to generate the score sheets.
d. After games the score sheet will be verified against the master sheet to ensure nothing has been altered.
e. Any discrepancies found will result in forfeiture of that game and any previous game. In addition, further disciplinary action will result as according to HA and Discipline Committee.
f. Arena Directors will have the right to due random ID checks to ensure proper player is playing under the name of the game sheet.
g. Teams will be notified if players are on two rosters. The roster first submitted will be deemed to have priority not withstanding all eligibility requirements have been fulfilled.

8) PLAYER RELEASE:

Player release will be required when a player wants to participate for another community

a. When the player lives in a community that is in good standing with NHA.
b. When the player is HA registered during regular season play, with a community that is in good standing with NHA.
c. All release forms must be signed by the community representative; community registrar or president; parent or guardian; & player.
d. The manager of the team is responsible for obtaining player release form when a player is in question by NHA or knowingly adding players to roster from another community.
e. The community that should have granted the player release form must make a formal written notice prior to Championships, at which time the player in question will be suspended until a ruling is made by the NHA board.

9) CATEGORIZATION:

a. Players registered with HA as AAA, AA, A, Tier 1, community A, or Junior are defined as "A" players for NHAPC
b. Players registered with HA as Tier 2 or lower, or community B, C, and D are defined as "B" players for NHAPC.
c. Midget/Bantam Only 2 A players allowed on a team in the B division if they are members from that community or registered within that minor hockey association with HA in previous years.
d. Peewee and down is all open for A players allowed on a team.
e. A player can move down from his League level of play, to play in NHAPC age permitting. However, the player will be classified an A player.
f. A player moving up an age category is considered a "B" player.

10) GAME REGULATION:

a. All teams must be at the arena at least 45 minutes prior to game time to review and sign score sheets.
b. All games will start on time with 6 players and proper certified team officials.
c. Any team unable to commence play 10 minutes after game start will forfeit game.
d. A goal will be awarded to team after 5 mins, 1 goal for every minute thereafter the team is late up to 10 mins, for a 6-0 forfeit win.
e. Teams will not be allowed in dressing room and warm ups, unless accompanied by a team official.
f. A 10 goal differential exists after the second period, the game shall be called.
g. No ties in round robin play. (with the exception of Initiation and Novice half ice)
h. Finalized ice schedule will be posted at each arena. Managers must check game schedules with arena postings.
i. NHAC reserves the right to adjust the game times with ice availability.
j. It is the Coaches responsibility to get the game sheet after the game.

11) PENALTIES:

All penalties assessed during straight times shall be:

a. Minor penalty will be 3 minutes.
b. Major penalty will be 5 minutes.
c. Penalties assessed during straight time will not commence until the puck is dropped.

12) OVERTIME:

a. Will be sudden victory, first goal wins.
b. All play will be straight time.
c. Clock will stop after each progression. So players can be removed.
d. Puck shall be dropped at center ice after each progression.
e. Overtime will run in increments for five minutes as follows:
    i. (Goaltender may be pulled at any time for an extra attacker at the discretion of the coach)
    ii. Two minutes 3 on 3 if no goal scored Penalties will be carried over to the next progression
    iii. Two minutes 2 on 2 if no goal scored
    iv. One minute 1 on 1 if no goal scored Penalty shot will be called for penalties incurred
    v. Shootout will occur:
    vi. Three players will shoot alternately if no goal scored.
    vii. One player from each team will shoot alternately until winner is decided.
    viii. Players cannot shoot again until nine players from his team have shot.

13) TIE BREAKING SYSTEM

If a tie occurs in the standings after round robin play, the following steps will occur:

If two teams tie; winner of head to head competition will determine placement.
If three teams tie; plus/minus will determine placement of all three.
If, still tied fewest penalty minutes will determine placement.

14) DISCIPLINE:

a. Hockey Alberta 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.
b. All disciplinary rulings shall be final as handled by an independent Disciple Committee with representation from Hockey Alberta.
c. The only person eligible to approach the Disciple Committee is the Community Representative.
d. Communication needs to happen in a non-threatening manner if the committee feels threatened the team challenging will be removed from the Provincial Championships.
e. Managers and coaches will be deemed responsible for the behavior of their teams and supporters.
f. The HA minimum suspension guidelines will be used for suspensions, with the exception of the following:
    i. Fighting instigator or aggressor will be suspended from remainder of NHAPC.
    ii. Retaliator will be suspended for the next game.
    iii. Checking from behind with intent to injure will result in suspension for remainder of NHAPC.
g. Any player, coach, manager who receives a 9.6 (a) (b) or (c) penalty, will be suspended from remainder of NHAPC and will be reported to HA for further disciplinary action.
h. NHAC and HA will review all major infractions and discipline accordingly.
i. NHAC may continue a suspension to any NHA sanctioned event and may include the following year.
j. It is the responsibility of coaches and managers to report and record any suspensions to NHA.
k. It is the responsibility of the coaches to make sure a player assessed major penalties does not participate in the next game.
f. Any player caught playing on two teams will jeopardize both teams from further play at the NHAPC.
g. Failure to comply with official rules could disqualify a player from playing in future NHAPC.

RULES FOR HALF-ICE GAME PLAY

15) INITIATION

a. 5 vs. 5 format – plus each team with a goaltender
b. Three-minute warm-up
c. Rink set-up:
    i. One set of barriers or two sets of barriers with a space in between for spare players
d. Game length – 52 minutes
e. Two 24-minute halves
f. Shift length – three minute in duration with an automatic buzzer or whistle sounding to indicate players change. The clock continues to run throughout the 24-minute half.
g. One coach from each team must be on the ice with skates and helmet to officiate and instruct players on the ice.
h. On ice coaches must maintain control and have all players off the ice at end of games to maintain the schedule.
i. Players change on three minute buzzer
j. There will be two face-offs during the game:
k. The first face-off will start the game.
l. The second face-off will start the second half.
m. Puck to be thrown into the corner after every goal and three minute buzzers.

16) NOVICE

The rules for half-ice game play have been created to maximize player engagement by increasing opportunities to interact with the puck and other players. A simplified version of the game allows younger players to focus on elements of the game they enjoy most.

16.1) PLAYING RULES

a. 4 vs. 4 format – plus each team with a goaltender
b. Each team is required to have two goaltenders, one for each half of the ice
c. Three-minute warm-up
d. Rink set-up:
    i. One set of barriers or two sets of barriers with a space in between for spare players
e. Game length – 52 minutes
f. Two 24-minute halves
g. Shift length – two minute in duration with an automatic buzzer or whistle sounding to indicate players change. The clock continues to run throughout the 26-minute half.
h. Both games are synchronized
i. Officials work together to keep the games synchronized.
j. Players change on the fly
    i. If there are fewer than four players on the bench, the active player designated to stay out for the following shift must tag up at the bench prior to continuing play.
k. There will be two face-offs during the game:
l. The first face-off will start the game.
m. The second face-off will start the second half.

16.2) SHIFTS

a. Player shifts are recommended to be two minute in length. A buzzer or whistle will sound to signal line changes.
b. On the buzzer/whistle sounds, players must relinquish control of the puck immediately and vacate the ice. The new players enter the ice immediately.
c. Failure to immediately relinquish control of the puck or new players entering the ice surface prematurely may result in a penalty (see below) for the offending team.

16.3) CHANGE OF POSSESSION

a. Goaltender freezes the puck – the official blows the whistle to indicate the attacking team backs off and defending team gets possession.
b. Puck shot out of play – the offending team backs off and the official gives the non-offending team a new puck.

16.4) PENALTIES

a. Minor penalties are noted with the official briefly raising their arm to indicate a penalty will be assessed. At the conclusion of the shift, the official notifies the coach of the infraction and the number of the offending player.
b. If the offending team controls the puck after the infraction, the official blows the whistle and calls for a change of possession; the non-offending team is given room to play the puck (three-metre cushion).
c. The offending player will sit out the next shift, but the team will play even strength.
d. Should an infraction occur that would normally require a player to be ejected from the game (game misconduct, match penalty or gross misconduct), the player will be removed from the remainder of that game. Even under these circumstances, teams will not play shorthanded and no game incident report will be required.

Have fun and show Good Sportsmanship!
Bad Sportsmanship by players, team officials can impact future Participation in NHAC events…

OFFICIAL RULES

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