



CENTRAL ALBERTA HOCKEY LEAGUE

Executive Memorandum

March 1, 2024

To: All CAHL Directors and Teams

Re: Unauthorized game stoppage and outcomes

I am writing this letter to you and your teams due to a serious situation that developed last weekend. It has potential to cause some massive harm to the CAHL's reputation, the integrity of our processes and the potential to remove a team's eligibility to provincials. As a result, I am communicating this so it does not happen again.

It is important that every team know that the league games are always completed as we take part in a large process in the Province called Alberta One. To summarize what happened, two teams were in a playoff game (# 2 of 2), a goalie apparently got hurt at the end of the second period. Somehow, the teams just decided to end the game there and call it done, submitted a game sheet with a note but no agreement and no apparent discussion noted.

This violates Hockey Canada rule 6.18 and also brings rule 10.8 into effect shown at the end of this document. The investigation also showed that the teams felt they had authority to do this, they felt they would do it again and defiantly defended their decision without remorse or intent to not do this again. During this time, we also apparently had fabrication of an injury report and the willingness to submit this as fact.

After considerable time spent investigating the situation, meeting with Hockey Alberta Minor Leagues Committee members and Hockey Alberta representatives, a new precedence has been set for what will happen to teams involved in this in the future. Effective immediately teams failing to follow rule 3.6 and not using rule 10.8 will:

- All of the Members Minor Hockey Teams and their Local Minor Hockey Associations will be on Probation for the remaining portions of the current season and all of the following season for failing to follow proper Hockey Canada, Hockey Alberta and CAHL game rules, regulations and guidelines
- Any violation of properly completing the game processes during this period by any of your officials or your teams being involved in another event such as this will result in the following:
 - The Team(s) in question will be immediately suspended indefinitely until it is resolved to the satisfaction of the CAHL Executive. This may be up to and including a long duration suspension.
 - The Head Coach of the team(s) will face an immediate and indefinite CAHL suspension until it is resolved to the satisfaction of the CAHL Executive. This may be up to and including a long duration suspension.
 - The Team(s) in question and their Minor Hockey Association will be open to fines under the CAHL and Alberta One processes.

Please take a moment and ensure your Executive, your teams and your officials are aware of this and follow it in the future. These two CAHL Members have been assessed this sanction until the end of next season for all of their teams.

Sincerely yours;

Terry Siverson
CAHL President
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From the Hockey Canada Rule Book

Rule 6.18 Time of Game

Members and leagues may make their own rules regarding time of game for games under their jurisdiction. However, this rule must be applied in inter-Member or national competition.

Members may implement their own policy with regard to games that must be suspended due to factors beyond the control of the teams or Officials (e.g. power outage).

- 6.18 (a) Three 20-minute periods of regulation playing time, with approximately a 10-minute intermission (when the ice is flooded) between each period, will be the maximum time allowed for each game.

Note 1: Members and Leagues may make their own rules regarding regulation time for games played under their jurisdiction, granted that it does not exceed the guidelines of this rule.

- 6.18 (b) The team scoring the greater number of goals during the three regulation playing time periods will be the winner and will be credited with a "win" in the league standings.

Rule 10.8 Refusing to Start Play

A team is "refusing to start play" when:

- i. They are withdrawn from the ice and/or refuse to place the correct number of players on the ice, after being clearly warned by the Referee that such an action is no longer Delay of Game but rather Refusing to Start Play.
- ii. A player or team official refuses to leave the bench or playing area, after they have been assessed a Game Ejection, Game Misconduct penalty, Gross Misconduct or Match penalty.

At such a time, the team will be issued a two-minute warning by the Referee. The two-minute warning should be announced on the public address system, if available, and the two minutes should be placed on the clock.

If the team does not return to the ice, two minutes after being ordered to do so, the game or series will be suspended. The Referee will report full details of the incident to the appropriate Member or league.

If a team is Refusing to Start Play a second time in the same game, the two-minute warning will not be given and the game or series will be immediately suspended. The Referee will report full details of the incident to the appropriate Member or league.

- 10.8 (a) No Minor penalty may be assessed for Refusing to Start Play. However, officials are encouraged to recognize the potential for such situations and whenever possible utilize a warning, followed by a minor penalty under Rule 10.1 (vii) – Delay of Game before applying the guidelines of this rule

- 10.8 (b) A Major penalty and Game Misconduct will be assessed to the Coach of a team who returns, after they ordered to do so but before the conclusion of the two minutes.

If this action occurs in the last two minutes of regular playing time, or any time in overtime, then a Penalty Shot will also be awarded to the non-offending team.

- 10.8 (c) No Match penalty may be assessed for Refusing to Start Play.

- 10.8 (d) No Misconduct penalty may be assessed for Refusing to Start Play.

- 10.8 (e) A Game Misconduct penalty must be assessed any time a Major penalty is assessed for Refusing to Start Play, as detailed in 10.8 (b).