



**Huntsville Girls Hockey Association**  
**House League Policy**

Revision Number: 1

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## 1.0 Purpose

- To provide a consistent and transparent framework for the operation of the House League (HL) program, including criteria for establishing teams, player evaluations and team balancing, coaching requirements, tournaments, and conduct expectations.

## 2.0 General Governance

- All HL teams must follow the rules, bylaws and policies of Hockey Canada, Ontario Hockey Federation, Ontario Women's Hockey Association, Simcoe Muskoka Girls House League and Huntsville Girls Hockey Association.
- HL teams report to the House League Director, if the position is vacant the board of directors shall provide teams with an alternate contact within the board.

## 3.0 Head Coach Selection

- All candidates will complete the Head Coach application form and provide supporting documentation if requested.
- If a single coaching application is received for an age division, the House League Director shall:
  - Review the application and conduct an interview.
  - Conduct reference checks.
  - If satisfied with the interview and reference checks, shall formally recommend the appointee to the Board for approval with reasons.
- If multiple coaching applications are received for an age division, a selection committee shall be formed in accordance with HGHA by-laws.

### 3.1 Selection Committee

- The Committee will be comprised of 2-3 members, including the House League Director.
- The mandate of the committee is to recommend Head Coach appointments to the Board for approval through a fair, transparent and consistent process.
- The Committee shall:
  - Review all applications and conduct interviews.
  - Conduct reference checks.
  - Formally recommend an appointee to the Board for approval with reasons.
- Non-successful candidates will be informed of the decision by the House League Director.

## 4.0 House League Structure

- The association will aim to field teams of 15 skaters and 1-2 goalies.
- All players shall register within their age-appropriate division.
- Teams will be created as follows:

Total Players Registered	Number of Rostered Teams
8 – 17 Skaters, 0-2 Goalies	1 Team
16 - 34 Skaters, 0 - 4 Goalies	2 Teams
24 – 51 Skaters, 0 – 6 Goalies	3 Teams
32 – 68 Skaters, 0 – 8 Goalies	4 Teams

### 4.1 Evaluation and Balancing

- Players will be requested to attend 2-3 evaluation skates prior to balancing and rostering HL teams.
- Additional evaluation skates may be utilized to balance teams if required.
- Evaluation skates are not counted towards the number of team practices.
- The House League Director, Head Coaches, and additional evaluators (if required) shall evaluate players with the aim of balancing HL teams within the same division.
- The House League Director may mediate the Head Coaches balancing the team rosters, and will address any disputes between the Head Coaches, as required.

#### 4.2 Goaltender Availability

- The association will aim to roster at least one dedicated goaltender per House League team.
- In situations where a division does not have sufficient registered goaltenders, teams may operate without a full-time goaltender, and players may rotate the goaltending position on a voluntary basis.
- To support the development and recruitment of goaltenders, HGHA may provide additional resources such as goalie equipment, training opportunities, and registration incentives, subject to board approval.

#### 5.0 Player Movement

- Requests may be submitted to have a player moved out of their age-appropriate division to allow players residing in the same household to play on the same team.
- A player **will not** be moved out of their age-appropriate division unless:
  - The player has attended evaluation skates.
  - The player evaluation indicates that the player has the requisite skills.
  - The Head Coaches (from both divisions) and the parents have been consulted and agree.
  - The player's **mental and physical wellbeing** will not be adversely affected by the move.
- **Due regard must be taken with respect to the player's relationship with their peer group and the nature and maturity level of player communication, both on and off the ice, prior to approving player movement.**
- Requests to move players out of their age-appropriate division to join a sibling's division shall be made in writing prior to the evaluation skates to the House League Director and the Registrar.
- Requests for player movement between teams or divisions for other reasons, including but not limited to, carpooling or friend requests, will not be accommodated.
- The House League Director is responsible to approve player movement out of their age-appropriate division.

#### 6.0 Coaching and Staff Requirements

- Head Coaches are responsible for selecting team staff. The House League Director may assist Head Coaches if requested.

- While guidance may be provided, final staff selection remains at the discretion of the Head Coach.
- Staff must meet all OWA requirements defined in the team staff qualifications requirement document.
- Each team must have at least one Level 1 certified trainer, and it is strongly recommended that trainer be female.
- All teams must have at a minimum two designated female dressing room monitors.
- All teams must have a designated manager, if the manager is participating on the bench the manager must be rostered as staff.
- HGHA covers the rostering fees for up to 5 on ice/bench staff.
- **Team staff shall not be selected by the Head Coach prior to completion of the evaluation and balancing of teams within a division.**

### **7.0 Equipment and Uniform**

- All players must wear all required approved hockey equipment.
- HGHA will provide each team with official jerseys which they should wear for each game.
- All players should wear a matching pair of socks for games.
- Players are encouraged, but are not required to, wear Huntsville Sting branded apparel to and from games such as hoodies, track suits, jackets and hats.

### **8.0 Fundraising & Sponsorship**

- Teams may secure sponsorships for team apparel and tournament fees.
- Teams must request approval from the Director of Sponsorship & Fundraising for any fundraising activities.

### **9.0 Travel Expectations**

- Travel is a regular requirement for away games and will be determined by the SMGHL participating teams.
- Regular home games may be held in Baysville or Huntsville.
- Regular practices will occur in Huntsville. Make-up or additional practices may occur in Burk's Falls or Baysville.
- Travel to 1-2 away tournaments.

### **10.0 Tournaments**

- Teams will be required to participate in the HGHA home tournament, the cost of which is covered by player registration.
- In addition to the home tournament, teams are permitted to participate in a maximum of 2 tournaments per season, with 1 of the tournaments being within driving distance of the Town of Huntsville. Costs for these additional tournaments are to be covered by each individual team.
- All tournaments must be OWA approved/sanctioned events.
- Teams may seek permission from the Board to participate in a 4<sup>th</sup> tournament.

### **11.0 Code of Conduct and Fair Play**

- All bench staff will be requested to sign and adhere to the code.

- Violations may lead to removal from team or role.
- All Coaches will promote fair play and respect which includes:
  - Respect for playing rules, game officials and opponents.
  - Striving to develop ALL players, regardless of skill or a Coach's desire to win

### 12.0 Development Stream (If Applicable)

- Subject to OWHA approval, the Association may organize a Development Stream (DS) program for House League players.
- DS is a tryout-based program that offers an enhanced opportunity for HL players who are:
  - Looking for a development bridge to competitive hockey, or
  - Who are seeking more competition and skill development that is afforded by house league alone.
- Costs for participating on a DS team are not included in HL registration fees.
- DS teams must comply with policies and timelines set by OWHA for tryouts, team registration and game play.
- DS teams may play up to 8 exhibition games against other DS teams and are permitted to enter a maximum of 3 DS tournaments.

### 13.0 Acknowledgement

- I acknowledge that I have read and understand the House League policy. I agree to abide by all the terms and conditions set forth herein and will ensure compliance with my team.

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Team Name and Number

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Team Manager Name (print)

Date:

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Coach Name (print)

Date:

**---end of document---**