

NEAHL Bylaws and Regulations



NORTH EASTERN ALBERTA HOCKEY LEAGUE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NEAHL BYLAWS:.....	2
1.0 MEMBERSHIP:.....	2
2.0 FEES:.....	2
3.0 WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP:.....	3
4.0 MEETINGS:.....	3
5.0 QUORUM AND VOTING:.....	4
6.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & TERM OF OFFICE:.....	4
7.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS DUTIES:	4
8.0 DIRECTORS DUTIES:	4
9.0 EXECUTIVE AND TERM OF OFFICE:	5
10.0 EXECUTIVE DUTIES:.....	5
11.0 BORROWING POWERS:.....	6
12.0 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS:	6
13.0 AMENDMENTS:.....	6
14.0 ASSOCIATION RECORDS:.....	6
VISION OF NEAHL:.....	7
NEAHL REGULATIONS:.....	7
1.0 OPERATING RULES:.....	7
2.0 CONDUCT:	7
3.0 REGISTRATION:	8
4.0 ROSTERS:.....	10
5.0 AFFILIATION:.....	10
6.0 OVER-AGE:	10
7.0 SUSPENSIONS - LEAGUE GAMES:.....	11
8.0 APPEALS OF DECISIONS OF GOVERNOR OR DEPUTY GOVERNOR:	12
9.0 POSTPONED GAMES:.....	13
10.0 LEAGUE GAMES:.....	13
11.0 PLAYOFF GAMES:.....	14
12.0 COACH/MANAGER DUTIES:	14
13.0 OFFICIALS:.....	14
14.0 GENERAL REGULATIONS:.....	15
15.0 REGULATION CHANGES	15

NEAHL BYLAWS:

1.0 MEMBERSHIP:

- A. Minor hockey associations within the geographical boundaries as set out below are eligible for membership.
- i) West: Starting at highway 12, north on highway 36 to highway 16; including Castor and Viking but excluding Killam. West on highway 16 to Vegreville, north on secondary 857 to Vilna, then north on highway 55 to include Kikino, Lac La Biche and Plamondon.
 - ii) North: Starting at Lac La Biche, south on highway 36 to highway 28. West on highway 28, not including Smoky Lake, to secondary highway 831. North on highway 831 to highway 55. East on highway 55 to secondary highway 858 to Lac La Biche. East border to be the Alberta/Saskatchewan border.
 - iii) East: Alberta/Saskatchewan border
 - iv) South: On highway 12 from Consort to Castor.

Any hockey association from outside the boundary may apply for membership on a year-to-year basis. Membership can only be obtained by a motion at the annual meeting or a regular general meeting. Therefore, out of boundary associations must get yearly acceptance.

*However, each year there can be special circumstances where associations don't have a league to play in. In those special cases, the NEAHL executive may consider special entries on a case-by-case basis. Those considerations would be communicated with the Directors of the active membership prior to the season commencing.

Any NEW teams looking to join NEAHL must commit to 2 years. If the 2 years is not fulfilled, their performance bond shall be forfeited.

- B. All members have the following equal rights:
- i) To have all teams participate in league play
 - ii) To sponsor changes to the bylaws and regulations
 - iii) To send a Director to participate and vote at the annual meetings
 - iv) To appeal the decision of a Governor or a Deputy Governor
- C. All members are responsible for behaving in accordance to the bylaws and objectives of the NEAHL.
- D. All minor hockey associations with teams registered in the NEAHL must be members in good standing of the provincial branch.

2.0 FEES:

Registration fees shall be set at the annual general meeting and be paid before the first game.

3.0 WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP:

A. Voluntary:

A member may withdraw without forfeiting their bond, if written application is received between hockey seasons. Any association out for two or more years can only regain membership by a motion at a general meeting.

B. Expulsion:

Associations that fail to pay fees, provide Executive or league Governors, or follow NEAHL rules may be expelled by either the Executive or by a motion at a general meeting. Any member may be expelled for any reason by a motion at a general meeting.

C. Three Strike Rule:

Any team or association may be expelled from the league if they are issued three strikes within the season. A strike is the result of an infraction, as determined by the Executive, and must be provided in writing from the division Governor to the member association President. Some examples of strikes:

- i) Improper team conduct
- ii) Improper fan conduct
- iii) Verbal abuse of league officials

4.0 MEETINGS:

A. Annual General Meeting:

The NEAHL shall hold an annual general meeting (Board of Directors meeting) before September 1, at a place determined by the Executive. Members will be given 21 days written notice.

- B. Active member associations are expected to attend the NEAHL AGM and shall be assessed a \$500 fine if they are not represented by their Director (or an alternate) at the annual meeting. An 'active' member association is defined as an association actively participating in league games for the season prior to the Annual General Meeting.

For example, an association that participated in league play for the 2015-16 season is expected to have a Director/Representative in attendance at the 2016 AGM.

- C. Motions to amend or alter the bylaws must be made in writing to the Executive 14 days prior to the meeting date. The Secretary shall send the proposed amendment to each member 10 days before the meeting.

The order of business for Directors meetings shall be:

- a) Minutes
- b) Treasurer's Report
- c) Commissioner's Report
- d) Governor's Report
- e) Correspondence
- f) Business arising from the minutes
- g) New Business
- h) Elections (at an annual general meeting)
- i) Adjournment

D. General Meeting:

A general meeting shall be called at any time that: two-thirds of the Executive request one or one-half of the Directors request one.

E. Special Meeting:

A special Directors meeting may be called by the Commissioner with 24 hours notice.

F. Executive Meeting:

The Executive committee shall meet as necessary to operate the NEAHL according to the Bylaws and Regulations.

5.0 QUORUM AND VOTING:

A. A quorum shall be present before a vote is valid.

B. A quorum shall be one more than half of the Executive for Executive meetings and more than half the Directors for Directors meetings.

C. At Board of Directors meetings each minor hockey association with teams registered in NEAHL the previous season shall have one vote.

D. At Executive meetings each Executive officer shall have one vote except the Commissioner who shall only vote in the event of a tie.

E. Election of Executive officers shall be by secret ballot.

6.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & TERM OF OFFICE:

A. Before the NEAHL fall meeting each member Minor Hockey Association shall appoint one Director from their Executive to form the NEAHL Board of Directors. The NEAHL Secretary must be notified at least 24 hours before any Directors meetings of any change in Directors.

B. Directors will be appointed annually.

7.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS DUTIES:

A. The Board of Directors shall operate the NEAHL according to the Constitution Bylaws and Regulations.

B. The Board of Directors may by a two-thirds majority vote suspend any member whose conduct is considered detrimental to the best interests of the NEAHL.

8.0 DIRECTORS DUTIES:

A. The Directors are responsible to the NEAHL for their minor hockey associations.

B. The Directors represent and vote for their minor hockey association.

C. The Directors ensure that their association Executive, coaches and managers know the NEAHL Bylaws and Regulations.

- D. If a Director fails to perform his/her duties to the satisfaction of the Executive the Director may be removed from office by a motion at any Executive meeting and the member association asked to appoint another.

9.0 EXECUTIVE AND TERM OF OFFICE:

- A. The Executive shall consist of:
- i) Commissioner
 - ii) Secretary/Treasurer
 - iii) Past Commissioner
 - iv) Governors: (Midget, Bantam, Peewee, Atom)
- B. The Commissioner, Midget and Peewee Governors shall be elected in even-numbered years; the Secretary/Treasurer, Bantam and Atom Governors shall be elected in odd numbered years.
- C. The elections shall take place at the spring meeting with terms of two years. Nominees do not need to be Directors or minor hockey association Executive.

10.0 EXECUTIVE DUTIES:

- A. Commissioner:
- i) Preside at all meetings and perform the duties usual of a President.
 - ii) Act for the Executive in an emergency when it is impossible to obtain an Executive vote.
 - iii) Be responsible for the proper and efficient operation of the NEAHL.
 - iv) Have signing authority on NEAHL cheques.
 - v) Have custody and use of the seal.
- B. Secretary:
- i) Keep minutes of Executive and general meetings
 - ii) Send minutes and meeting notices to Directors.
 - iii) Be responsible for all NEAHL correspondence.
- C. Treasurer:
- i) Record receipts and expenditures.
 - ii) Prepare financial statements for meetings.
 - iii) Prepare a year-end financial statement, which shall be reviewed before the annual meeting.
 - iv) Have signing authority on NEAHL cheques. Any two signatures of the Commissioner, past Commissioner and Treasurer are required on cheques.
- D. Past Commissioner:
- i) Provide continuity and offer guidance in policy.
 - ii) Conduct election of Executive officers.
 - iii) Have the powers and perform the duties of the Commissioner in his absence.
 - iv) Perform such duties as requested by the Commissioner.
 - v) Have signing authority on NEAHL cheques.
- E. Governor / Deputy Governor:
- i) Governor role to be pre-empted by a minimum of one term as a Deputy Governor.
 - ii) Not to be a coach or manager in the same hockey league.
 - iii) Ensure that all players, teams, coaches and managers follow the CHA, Hockey Alberta, and NEAHL constitution, bylaws and regulations.
 - iv) Suspend any player, team, coach, or manager who does not follow the rules or displays unsportsmanlike conduct.

- v) Resolve small disputes regarding the league. Governors can only rule on league play; the Zone Chairman (Alberta) has jurisdiction over tournament and exhibition games. The Zone Chairman of the zone where the incident happened has jurisdiction.
- vi) Draw up an equal home and away league schedule
- vii) Make recommendations for moving teams to higher or lower categories based on their performance, prior to December 1.
- viii) See that team, coach and manager lists are received before the first league game and updated as necessary.
- ix) Send with the schedule, a list of coaches, managers, the Deputy Governors, their addresses and telephone numbers to each coach and to the NEAHL Secretary.
- x) Keep league statistics or appoint a statistician to do so, provide them to Directors and report on the league at each NEAHL meeting.
- xi) See as many games as possible and sign the game sheet on all games attended.
- xii) File an expense claim before April 30 of the current year. Annual rate of \$250 + 40c/km for Deputy Governors and \$400 + 40c/km for Governors.
- xiii) Present award to winning team at final game when possible.

11.0 BORROWING POWERS:

The NEAHL may not borrow money without a special resolution of the Board of Directors.

12.0 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS:

- A. The NEAHL fiscal year shall be from May 1 to the following April 30.
- B. An accountant shall be appointed at each annual meeting to review the financial statements and records for the following year.

13.0 AMENDMENTS:

- A. Amendments or alterations to the NEAHL constitution and bylaws shall be made at an annual general meeting by a simple majority vote. Notice to amend must be made in writing to the Executive twenty-one (21) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall send the proposed amendment to each member with the notice of meeting.
- B. Amendments (without the above notice) may also be made at any general meeting but require two-thirds majority of those member associations present.
- C. A copy of any amendments shall be sent to Hockey Alberta.

14.0 ASSOCIATION RECORDS:

- A. The Secretary and Treasurer shall keep past records of the NEAHL.
- B. NEAHL members may inspect minute books and financial records at any time convenient to the Secretary and Treasurer.
- C. An audited financial statement to be presented to members every year at the annual meeting.

VISION OF NEAHL:

Provide fair competition at all levels of hockey

While competition is important, the league strives for fair play and good sportsmanship

Hockey should be a positive experience both on and off the ice as a participant, fan or volunteer

NEAHL REGULATIONS:

1.0 OPERATING RULES:

The NEAHL shall operate under the rules and regulations of the NEAHL, CHA and Hockey Alberta.

2.0 CONDUCT:

- A. The Canadian Hockey Association has adopted a zero tolerance policy on abuse. The North East Alberta Hockey League supports this policy.
- B. The NEAHL has adopted a Zero tolerance policy on Referee Abuse.
- C. Participation in the NEAHL is a privilege, not a right. Coaches, players, parents, team officials, referees, and all participants are required to abide by the Bylaws and Regulation of the League, and their behaviour is expected to mirror the spirit of the Bylaws, Regulations and this Code.
- D. Profanity and the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and tobacco products are prohibited in all games and practices under the jurisdiction of the NEAHL.
- E. All players, coaches, managers, officials, and members shall conduct themselves in a polite and sportsmanlike manner at all times. Obvious or persistent unacceptable conduct and/or blatant disregard of the CHA, HA, or NEAHL Regulations, can result in the loss of the associations' performance bond at any time.
- F. All members and participants of the League shall respect other members, officials, parents, players, spectators, team officials, volunteers, Executive Committee members, employees and property of the league. Any inappropriate conduct, threats, harassment or abuse directed towards anyone, including game or team officials, members, parents, players, fans, spectators, volunteers, Executive Committee members, employees or damage to the property of another association will not be tolerated.
- G. All Members, fans, spectators, and participants of the NEAHL shall respect the game of hockey and shall behave in a manner so as not to make a travesty of the game.
- H. The NEAHL will not tolerate loud, obscene, obnoxious coaches, managers, players, parents, or spectators. Such individuals will be subject to disciplinary action. Disciplinary investigation and subsequent action will be completed as required. The association may be asked to report back to the NEAHL on its findings and as a result may have disciplines levied.

- I. Parents and spectators are not permitted in the dressing rooms, except as expressly permitted by the coach to assist their child in changing due to age or injury.
- J. Under NO circumstance is a parent or spectator to enter the opposing teams dressing room.
- K. Coaches and other team officials, players, parents and spectators are not permitted in the official's dressing room, nor are they permitted to confront game officials about the game. The home team is responsible to ensure that nobody enters the officials room or attempts to confront them. The home team manager or delegate is the only person that is allowed to remain by the officials room to retrieve the game sheets and write-ups. Any report that may be received by the NEAHL will be forwarded to the home association. Should officials, players parents and/or spectators have questions about the officiating they are asked to either file a formal complaint through their association President or submit an informal "Referee Complaint form" that is available online to the NEAHL Governor for that level or concern.
- L. Violation by any member, spectator or participant of any provision of this Code Of Conduct may result in disciplinary action being taken by the NEAHL against the association that the individual is associated with and may include the removal of the offending team from regular season play or playoffs.
- M. Conduct of fans, spectators, and team followers; parents, hockey fans, or spectators who are abusive toward referees, game officials, players, team officials, or any other spectators may be dealt with in the following manner:
 - i) Any member of the NEAHL Executive, (ie: Governor), upon properly indentifying themselves, will instruct the referee to stop the hockey game.
 - ii) This person will then identify themselves to the offending person or persons and inform them that the hockey game will not continue until the offending person or persons have left the arena.
 - iii) In the event that the offending person or persons do not leave the arena within 10 minutes of the game being stopped, the team to which the offender(s) belongs will be declared the loser of the hockey game, regardless of the score at the time the game was stopped. The incident shall be reported to the association President with the name of the ejected person who was involved.
 - iv) The League will only review comments about off-ice incidents that are presented in a signed letter received from the associations' President. The league will request a statement from the accused associations' President. Should the league receive both statements and there is still a conflict, the league may provide representation (minimum 2) at the next game with reimbursement for travel and time for these representatives being split by both associations. League representative will not intervene, but sanctions could result from further issues.

3.0 REGISTRATION:

- A. Each minor hockey association must post a \$500.00 performance bond to the NEAHL. The league will use the interest collected for operations.
- B. This bond shall be liable for any breach of the Constitution, Bylaws, Regulations or for failure to fulfil commitments.
- C. Any assessment against a bond shall be repaid in full by the member association upon receiving the assessment.

- D. An association may be granted a year's leave of absence without forfeiting their bond, if written application is received between hockey seasons. If, after one-year leave, the association does not return to the league; the bond will be refunded upon formal written request.
- E. The bond shall be refunded if an association withdraws from the NEAHL.
- F. Scorebooks must be used for all league and playoff games. Scorebooks are provided with registration; extra books available for purchase.
- G. League play should start by the last weekend in October of that season for all tiers and divisions.
- H. Initial registration will be by mail sent in before October 1. The registration shall list all the association's teams and state the tier that they request registration in. It shall also contain the names of nominees for Executive and Deputy Governor positions in the league. Before October 10, the league will set up a meeting between the Governors, Deputies and the team representatives. Team representatives shall bring to the meeting: name of coach and manager, home ice times and any requests and supports for the level their team will be tiered at.
- I. Teams should be registered in categories where they are most competitive, not according to CHA cards. Associations with more than 2 teams shall be split evenly between all Tiers. Associations with 4 or more teams shall fill the highest tier before adding teams to the tier below (example: 4 teams = 2 Tier 1, 1 Tier 2, 1 Tier 3; 5 teams = 2 Tier 1, 2 Tier 2, 1 Tier 3 and so on). The following criteria will be used to decide which tier a team will be registered in:
- i) Tier I
 - a) Any team that is made up of the top calibre players registered in an association.
 - b) Any other team from the lower tiers that feels it is strong enough to be competitive in a given year.
 - ii) Tier II
 - a) Any team that puts all the available players from their community onto one team.
 - b) Any team whose association splits all their players into equal calibre teams.
 - c) Any tier III team that feels it can be competitive in a given year.
 - iii) Tier III
 - a) Teams that are made up entirely of players that are unable to play at a higher skill level.
- J. Teams may be realigned before December 1, if necessary, by the league Governor, Deputy Governor and the Executive. It is mandatory for teams to play five (5) games against 5 different teams prior to the retiering meeting. Teams will be moved within a category to another tier in order that all teams are relatively competitive and the players have a positive hockey experience.

Criteria for moving a team are:

- i) A team loses consistently by large scores
- ii) A team wins consistently by large scores
- iii) Team appears to be more competitive in a different tier (exhibition play may be required to determine this)

Teams moving up or down a tier will be expected to play a full schedule in the new tier. All games played in the previous tier will not be considered as league games. Minor Hockey Associations are expected to place teams in tiers that they are most competitive.

4.0 ROSTERS:

- A. Governors along with their Deputies shall inspect the applicable Hockey Alberta HCR prior to placing a team into league play.
- B. Players added to a team roster shall be pursuant to Hockey Alberta regulations and applicable dates.

5.0 AFFILIATION:

- A. All affiliations must be registered and approved with Hockey Alberta before the Governor may allow the affiliation.
- B. An approved Hockey Alberta affiliation does not automatically dictate league affiliation approval. Teams should complete an affiliation sheet with registration in the league allowing the Governor to approve the affiliations for the year.
- C. League affiliation is intended for the purpose of drawing from affiliates to prevent cancelling a league game due to shortage of players. However, player development is important and such value is recognized by the league, affiliate players improve their skills by participating in a higher calibre of hockey. Therefore, teams are allowed to use affiliate players, but only up to the team's registered roster, and only for the approved reasons below. Replacing suspended players is NOT an approved reason and accordingly is not allowed.
 - The 3 approved reasons for using affiliate players are:
 - i. injury
 - ii. illness
 - iii. player absent for personal reasons (*ie: away on vacation*)
 - What is not allowed:
 - i. Affiliation of player registered on a team playing in the same level within the tier in the NEAHL
 - ii. Replacement of a suspended player with an affiliate
 - What is allowed:
 - i. Affiliate to registered numbers (per HCR)
 - ii. On small teams (11 or less) can only affiliate up to 12
 - iii. Goalies may be affiliated up to two per roster
- D. The team officials must mark the game sheet with (AP) beside the affiliate player's name and game number(s) played (1 of 10; 2 of 10 etc.).

6.0 OVER-AGE:

- A. The division Governor of the appropriate age group may endorse applications for over-age if one or more of the following circumstances exist:
 - i) Association has no team at the proper category
 - ii) Association hasn't enough players to make a team without the applicant

- iii) Association has too many players in the older category and not enough in the younger category
- iv) Applicant has health problems (certificate required from doctor)
- v) Applicant is in first year of hockey
- vi) Applicant is small in size

The division Governor will not endorse applications for any other reason.

The division Governor will not endorse an application for a player who played in the NEAHL in the previous season and at years' end did not meet the criteria for league approval.

B. Criteria for continuing league approval of over-age status:

- i) The player has not been assessed a penalty higher than a major penalty
- ii) The player has not been assessed a major penalty for anything other than fighting
- iii) The player is not in the top twenty-five players in his league scoring race
- iv) That the player remains is in the bottom $\frac{1}{4}$ (approximately) of his team in penalty minutes. This will be a discretion call by the Governor and Deputy Governor; consideration will be given to: abnormal penalty minutes at start of year and overall team penalty performance.
- v) If a team is allowed an over-age goalie and has two goalies, they must share games equally
- vi) The original circumstances for endorsement have not changed

C. Performance monitoring of over-age players

When the Governor endorses a Hockey Alberta over-age player application, they will send a copy of the league over-age report to the Deputy Governor involved. If the player is accepted by Hockey Alberta, it is the responsibility of the team officials to send a copy of the approval to the Governor. Once the Governor has the signed Hockey Alberta form, the player may play. The Governor will inform the team officials of the circumstances that lead to the approval and the criteria monitored by him for continuing league support of the over-age status. On each game sheet the team representative will mark (O.A.) behind the over-age players' name. The Governor and Deputy Governor will monitor the player's performance via the game sheets. The Governor will withdraw league approval (without appeal) at any time that the previous five criteria are not being met. The Governor will notify the team and Hockey Alberta and the player will return to his/her proper category.

7.0 SUSPENSIONS - LEAGUE GAMES:

- A. League suspensions are to be dealt with by the league Governor and Deputy, or Commissioner in the Governor's absence. Zone Chairpersons are responsible for suspensions due to infractions during tournament, exhibition and provincial play.
- B. League suspensions will start the next game that the player attends. This means that the manager must understand the suspension guidelines. For example, if a player is assessed a penalty that results in a suspension Friday night, they are required to start the suspension if the team plays later that weekend, even if the Deputy Governor has not ruled on the duration of the suspension.
- C. Suspensions due to major penalties and recurrence of major penalties (penalties that do not have to be reported to Hockey Alberta) will be dealt with by the Deputy Governor.
- D. Suspensions due to match penalties (that must be reported to Hockey Alberta) will be dealt with by the league Governor, or the Commissioner in the Governor's absence.
- E. Upon notification of a major penalty or a recurrence of major penalties the Deputy Governor will inform the suspended parties within 48 hours.

- F. Any infractions that involve a player/coach, or referee or linesman, are handled by the Governor and Hockey Alberta Provincial Match Penalty Coordinator.
- G. Upon notification of a match penalty the Deputy Governor will inform the division Governor and the Zone Chairperson within 24 hours.
- H. The Governor shall send their decision in writing to the Commissioner, the Zone Chairman and the team manager within 3 days.
- I. When a suspension is incurred during league play, the suspension must be served in the next consecutive games, league play, tournament play, provincial games and Hockey Alberta sanctioned events. Exhibition games do not count as suspended games. Player cannot play exhibition games while serving a suspension.
- J. Suspended parties shall have the right to appeal the decision.
- K. Coaches and managers may be suspended for encouraging infractions of the rules.
- L. A record of suspensions shall be given to the league Secretary at the end of the season and Hockey Alberta Discipline Coordinator.
- M. Indefinite suspensions will be ruled on by the Executive or Hockey Alberta as appropriate.
- N. The Hockey Alberta Minimum Suspension Guideline is referenced for league suspensions
 - Major Penalties and recurrences (dealt with by Deputy Governor)
 - Match penalties (dealt with by Governor and reported to Hockey Alberta)
 - Coach suspensions will be dealt with by Governor
- O. Suspended players or team officials are not allowed on the bench, in the timekeepers/penalty box, dressing room and within (50) feet of the player's benches during a game.

8.0 APPEALS OF DECISIONS OF GOVERNOR OR DEPUTY GOVERNOR:

- A. An appeal must come from the local Minor Hockey Association President
- B. An appeal must be made to the NEAHL Commissioner within 15 days of the date of the decision.
- C. An appeal must be written and accompanied by a \$200.00 certified cheque or money order, which shall be forfeited if the decision is upheld and refunded if the decision is overturned.
- D. A hearing shall be held within 10 days of receiving an appeal.
- E. The Commissioner shall appoint a committee of three uninvolved Executive members or Deputy Governors to hear the appeal. They shall be from neutral associations and unbiased in the appeal they are hearing.
- F. The hearing shall follow CHA and Hockey Alberta rules.
- G. Any decisions of the NEAHL appeal committee may be appealed to Hockey Alberta.

9.0 POSTPONED GAMES:

- A. Teams will be required to complete the league schedule as drawn.
- B. Using the NEAHL "Game Change Notification Form", the request to postpone and reschedule a league game shall be made a minimum of 5 working days prior to game time to BOTH the league Deputy Governor and the opposing manager.
- C. If the teams cannot come to an agreement in rescheduling a game, the Governor may reassign venue; Governor to decide each case on its own merits. In the event that ice is unavailable in a certain location, the Governor shall arrange a location and all associated costs will be shared by the involved associations.
- D. Failure to complete league commitments may lead to assessment against an association's bond or league membership suspension.

10.0 LEAGUE GAMES:

- A. League and playoff games shall have priority over tournament and exhibition games. League games must be rescheduled before going to a tournament.
- B. If a team fails to appear for a game with less than 5 working days notice, the association shall be fined \$500 by the NEAHL, unless it was due to weather or unforeseen circumstances. The Governor and Deputy Governor shall rule as to what are acceptable unforeseen circumstances. The team will also be accountable to cover cost of ice and referees to be forwarded to the host association or an assessment against the associations bond.
- C. The 'recommended' number of regular season games for each division will be as follows:
 - i) Tier 1=24 max / 18 min
 - ii) Tier 2=22 max / 16 min
 - iii) Tier 3=20 max / 14min

The division Governor will decide the final number of games and schedule. Consideration should be given for those tiers who have a minimum number of teams (for example: 4 teams total) - that a max of 4 games be played (2home/2away) against an opposing team in order to reduce conflict or animosity.

- D. Stop time shall be played in all periods of all games.
- E. Minimum ice times:
 - iv) Atom 1.5 hours
 - v) Peewee 2.0 hours
 - vi) Bantam 2.0 hours
 - vii) Midget 2.5 hours
- F. No overtime shall be played in league play.
- G. Travel time shall be considered when scheduling late games at all levels; no later than 7:00 pm unless mutually agreed. It is recommended that all games should be completed to allow the visiting team to be back home before midnight.
- H. Member associations are required to provide enough ice slots to accommodate the final schedule.

11.0 PLAYOFF GAMES:

- A. The general playoff format shall be the top 4 teams: 1 vs 4; 2 vs 3; winners play off. League play-offs shall be a best-of-three game series. Venue goes to the team that finished highest in the league standings. A consolation playoff round will be scheduled if teams agree.
- B. In any three game series the higher place team has venue to choose their first game at home or away and the higher place team also chooses the third game either home or away if necessary.
- C. A tie in league standings shall be decided in the following order:
- i) The team with the most wins in league play
 - ii) The tied team with the most wins in regular play against the other tied team
 - iii) The team with the best goal average gains the highest position. The goal average of a team is to be determined in the follow manner: Total number of goals for divided by the total number of goals for and against.
- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Example: For = 10 goals | Against = 4 goals | |
| Percentage: | $\frac{10}{10+4}$ | $= \frac{10}{14} = .714$ |
- iv) Least penalty minutes
 - v) A coin toss
- D. The NEAHL shall provide one championship banner for each tier.

12.0 COACH/MANAGER DUTIES:

- A. Coaches or managers shall submit a team, coach and manager list to the league Deputy Governor before the first league game, update it as necessary, and submit a final list before January 10.
- B. Home team managers shall submit game incident reports to the Deputy Governor within 24 hours of the game.
- C. Home team managers shall forward game sheets, to the league Deputy Governor within 24 hours of a game. Failure to do so will be considered lack of performance and a \$50.00 assessment will be taken from the association's bond.
- D. There shall be zero abuse of officials, that includes the Managers.

13.0 OFFICIALS:

- A. Atom and Pee Wee referees must be carded level 1 or higher.
- B. Bantam and Midget referees must be carded level 2 or higher.
- C. The local minor hockey association shall be responsible for providing qualified officials for all league games.
- D. It is recommended for all playoffs at the atom level, there be a two man system with at least one of the officials having a level two or higher.

- E. It is recommended for all playoffs at the peewee, bantam and midget levels there is a three man system with the official having a level two or higher.
- F. If, for whatever reason, the referee or linesmen appointed are prevented from appearing, the Managers or Coaches of the two competing clubs shall agree on a referee and one or two linesmen. The Referee and Linesmen agreed on must hold current referee certification. If no carded referees are available the game will not be played, home team forfeits and is expected to reimburse the visitors for travel expense.

14.0 GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- A. League Governors names, addresses and telephone numbers shall be posted in the referee's room of each member association.
- B. The home team shall change sweaters if colors are too close.
- C. Fan control shall be the responsibility of the home team. Referees shall ask arena management and/or home team manager to remove unruly fans.
- D. There shall be no admission charge to any NEAHL league or playoff game unless approved in writing by the NEAHL. Failure will result in loss of membership in the league.
- E. The home team will supply 20 warm-up pucks for the visiting team to use.

15.0 REGULATION CHANGES

NEAHL regulations may be revised at general or Executive meetings by a 2/3 majority vote. They should be reviewed and updated annually or as changes occur.