

North East Recreational Hockey League (NERHL)

POLICY & LEAGUE RULES

Modernized Edition – 2025 (Aligned with Hockey Canada, BC Hockey, and Hockey Alberta Standards)

NAME

This organization shall be known as the North East Recreational Hockey League (NERHL).

Revision Procedure

Any section(s) of this manual can be revised, edited or deleted by a simple majority vote of the PRDMHA Executive. The changes must be in writing and submitted to an executive member.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the NERHL are:

1. To promote, govern, and improve organized minor hockey in alignment with Hockey Canada, BC Hockey, and Hockey Alberta standards.
2. To foster community spirit, inclusion, and respect among members, supporters, and teams.
3. To increase participation and enjoyment of the game of hockey at all age divisions, while fostering and encouraging the spirit of the game.
4. To exercise care, supervision, and direction over member associations, teams, and players.
5. To ensure that children and youth play and enjoy hockey in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment.

MEMBERSHIP & VOTING

1. The NERHL shall consist of two (2) voting representatives per member association.
2. Each association shall have two (2) votes only, regardless of team count.
3. Representatives are expected to serve for the entire season and report back to their respective associations.

MEETINGS

1. A minimum of two (2) meetings per season shall be held:
 - Kickoff Meeting in conjunction with PRDMHA.
 - Divisional Split Meeting – prior to regular season play.
 - End of season meeting
2. Attendance at scheduling meetings is mandatory.

DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner shall:

1. Review and rule on all game sheets and reports.
2. Ensure compliance with NERHL, Hockey Canada, BC Hockey, and Hockey Alberta rules.
3. Inform the President of suspensions and disciplinary actions.
4. Act as first-line arbitrator for conflicts and forfeiture issues.
5. Maintain official records and ensure timely entry of results and changes on the NERHL website.
6. Submit an annual report summarizing discipline, game operations, and statistics.
7. The Commissioner may with board approval appoint a junior (U11 & U13) and a senior (U15 & U18) director to assist and act as divisional commissioners reporting to The Commissioner to improve league operational efficiency.

FEES & PERFORMANCE BONDS Already in district constitution

1. Annual team fees shall be set at the AGM.
2. Annual association fee is \$500 for the 2025/2026 season
3. Performance bonds shall be required annually from each association to address issues such as poor sportsmanship, inadequate officiating, or forfeitures. Performance Bond fees to be set at the AGM.

EXPANSION & MEMBERSHIP

1. New member associations applications require a 2/3 majority approval at the PRDMHA AGM.
2. First three (3) years of membership shall be probationary.
3. Associations inactive for two (2) consecutive years will have their bond refunded and must reapply for membership

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE & APPEALS

1. Each association will have a NERHL representative who will be part of the discipline and rules committee which will also include the President, Vice President, and commissioner of the district.
2. Appeals must be submitted in writing within 7 days of the ruling, accompanied by a \$300 appeal fee (refundable if successful).

RULES

DIVISION STRUCTURE

- U11

- U13

- U15

- U18

1. Associations must declare team entries by October 1st of current season.
2. Divisions may be split geographically or by competitive balance.
3. A minimum 30% surplus of ice slots must be provided at scheduling. With no games being scheduled Christmas break (to be defined by school district policy).
4. Each team is allotted one blackout weekend at scheduling meeting.
5. All NERHL playoff weekends will be tentatively scheduled by November 1st of the current season.
6. Carded teams may participate in NERHL regular season games and will be excluded from NERHL playoffs. Carded teams must apply annually to participate in NERHL regular season games.

Playoff formats:

- All Divisions – Tournament-style playoff (round robin, banner final) or Two-game total point series with tiebreakers and overtime as per Hockey Canada rules.
- All Divisions – playoffs will be hosted separately with formats agreed upon at the AGM or Kickoff Meeting.
- All Divisions - The Playoff Round Robin games will be the same structure as Regular season Game Play
 - 3/4 Game Round Robin – Total Points
 - o 2 points for a win
 - o 1 point for a tie
 - o 0 points for a loss
 - In the event of a Tie at the end of the round Robin
 - o Head to head (result of head to head competition between 2 tying teams)
 - o Goals For and Against
 - o Least amount of Penalty Minutes
 - o Winner of a coin toss
 - Final Banner Game Structure
 - o 3 – 20 Minute Stop Time Periods
 - o Overtime if Needed in final game will be a 5 Minute Stop Time 5 on 5 Sudden Death period
 - o If game is still tied a 20 Minute 3 on 3 run time period will commence until a winner is declared

In Divisions with Series Round 1 – two weeks and Round 2 - Two weeks

3 teams	1	Top team has a bye, Top team plays winner of Second Round
	2	2nd plays 3rd
4 teams	1	1st plays 4th Winner of 1 plays Winner of 2.
	2	2nd plays 3rd
5 teams		Bottom team is dropped, revert to 4 team playoff
6 teams		Top 3 teams become A division, revert to 3 team playoff, Bottom 3 teams become B division, revert to 3 team playoff
7 teams		Top 4 teams become A division, revert to 4 team playoff, Bottom 3 teams become B division, revert to 3 team playoff
8 teams		Top 4 teams become A division, revert to 4 team playoff, Bottom 4 teams become B division, revert to 4 team playoff
9 teams		Bottom team MAY BE dropped, revert to 8 team playoff
10 teams		Bottom 2 teams are dropped, revert to 8 team playoff

REGISTRATION & ELIGIBILITY

1. All teams must be registered with Hockey BC or Hockey Alberta.
2. Players shall register within age divisions. players on an integrated NERHL team may only move down if they are a 1st year player in their division and documentation of assessment by home MHA must be attached to overage application. Underage players on an integrated NERHL team may only move up if they are a 2nd year player in their division. NERHL teams are only allowed 16% of Overage their approved roster for overage or underage players.
3. All roster changes must be filed with the Commissioner via the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR).
4. Anyone moving into the area may be registered at any time prior to January 10. The NERHL will follow the Hockey Canada /Hockey BC rules regarding affiliation. A new HCR roster must be filed with the Commissioner prior to an affiliate player being added to the team.
5. By the Wednesday BEFORE the start of NERHL play, each NERHL team must ensure that HCR Files are updated on the NERHL website, with the HCR (Hockey Canada Registration) roster which must include in players full names, HCR numbers, jersey numbers, All bench staff, and HCR status. These rosters must include all affiliates and must be updated as affiliates are added per BC Hockey and Hockey Canada Guidelines. A fine of \$ 100.00 will be levied for each team who is late.

GAME OPERATIONS

1. Game durations:
 - U11 – 2x20 straight time + 1x20 stop time.
 - U13/U15/U18 – 3x20 stop time.
2. All games must use certified officials. Minimum 2 per game; 3 strongly recommended at U15/U18. For games with a two-man system, one referee must be from at least two (2) divisions higher than the play they are officiating, whereas the other referee must be from at least (1) division higher. On games with a three-man system, the referee must be from at least two (2) divisions higher than the play they are officiating, whereas the linesmen be from at least (1) division higher or the linesmen can be from the same level.
3. Game sheets must be uploaded within 72 hours. Game Sheets must be certified by the visiting team within 7 days of Game Conclusion. A \$50 fine shall be levied against teams found in contravention per instance.
4. Major Penalties, match, gross, 10 minute game misconducts will be reported to BC Hockey. The home team is responsible for sending the game sheet and any incident reports to The NERHL commissioner. Late game sheets entered into the NERHL website or sent to NERHL commissioner will be fined \$100.00 per occurrence.
5. NERHL games must have 1 person in each penalty box, 1 scorekeeper and 1 timekeeper and minimum 1 security person. Persons running the penalty box U11 through U15 must be one division age higher than the participants in the game. U18 must have adult volunteer in each penalty box.
6. Game official cost, ice cost, and personnel cost shall be equally shared by each MHA participating in the games on neutral ice.

SECTION 4 – STANDINGS & POINTS

- Win = 2 points
- Tie = 1 point
- Loss = 0 points
- Overtime: Win = 2 points, OT Loss = 1 point

POSTPONEMENTS & FORFEITS

1. Minimum 72 hours' notice required for postponements (extenuating circumstances only). Extenuating Circumstances defined as:
 - Do not travel road closure
 - GOVERNMENT Advisory level 4

2. No-shows or cancellations without valid cause may result in fines of \$500–\$1,000. \$500 for the first instance, \$750 for the second instance and \$1000 for all subsequent instances.
3. Forfeited games will be recorded as 3–0 wins for the non-offending team.
4. NERHL game change fee of 30.00 for each game change after November 15th of the current season. (scheduling errors and typos exempt prior to November 15th). All game change request will be accompanied by NERHL game change form.

DISCIPLINE & SUSPENSIONS

1. Suspensions will be administered in accordance with Hockey Canada minimum suspension guidelines or stricter, as determined by NERHL Commissioner. ALL SUSPENSIONS sustained during NERHL play shall be ***games assessed only*** with no date expiry regardless of the BC Hockey or Hockey Alberta official disciplinary notice.
2. Repeat offenders may receive additional discipline.
3. EACH ASSOCIATION IS EXPECTED to ensure that all their coaches are aware of the BC Minimum Suspension Guidelines and govern themselves accordingly. BC Minimum Suspension guidelines to be made available on the league website minimum 1 week prior to league gameplay.
4. Rule of Two, Safe Sport, and maltreatment policies of Hockey Canada will apply.
5. Any and all suspensions issued under any maltreatment rule violation are subject to fines. Players/Coaches home association to be recipient of these fines and responsible for payment with collection from offending player up to the discretion of the home association. Fines will range from \$250 - \$750. \$250 for the first offence, \$500 for the second offence and \$750 for each subsequent offence. For clarity these are rules 11.3(e) through 11.5(e) per 2024/2025 BC Minimum Suspension Guidelines.