

# North East Recreational Hockey League (NERHL)

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## POLICY & LEAGUE RULES

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

### **ARTICLE 1 – NAME**

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

### **ARTICLE 2 – 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.

### **ARTICLE 3 – AMENDMENTS**

The Constitution may only be amended at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Proposed changes must be submitted in writing to the Commissioner at least 21 days before the AGM. Circulation to member associations must occur 15 days prior.

### **ARTICLE 4 – 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.

### **ARTICLE 5 – MEETINGS**

1. A minimum of two (2) meetings per season shall be held:
  - Kickoff Meeting – September.
  - Divisional Split Meeting – prior to regular season play.
  - Annual General Meeting (AGM) – April/May (in conjunction with PRDMHA AGM).

2. Attendance at scheduling meetings is mandatory.

## **ARTICLE 6 – EXECUTIVE**

The NERHL Executive shall consist of:

- President
- Vice President
- Commissioner
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Non Voting Members: BC Hockey Discipline Coordinator, BC Hockey District Referee in Chief

## **ARTICLE 7 – 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.

## **ARTICLE 8 – FEES & PERFORMANCE BONDS**

1. Annual team fees shall be set at the AGM.
2. 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.

## **ARTICLE 9 – RULES COMMITTEE & APPEALS**

1. A Rules Committee shall be struck annually, consisting of the President, Vice President, and Commissioner & BC Hockey appointed Discipline Coordinator.
2. Appeals must be submitted in writing within 7 days of the ruling, accompanied by a \$300 appeal fee (refundable if successful).

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# RULES

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## SECTION 1 – DIVISION STRUCTURE

- U11 (formerly Atom)
- U13 (formerly Peewee)
- U15 (formerly Bantam)
- U18 (formerly Midget)

1. Associations must declare team entries and ice slots by the Kickoff Meeting.

2. Divisions may be split geographically or by competitive balance.

3. A minimum 30% surplus of ice slots must be provided at scheduling.

4. 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 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

- Overtime if Needed in final game will be a 5 Minute Stop Time 5 on 5 Sudden Death period
- 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 is dropped, revert to 8 team playoff	
10 teams	Bottom 2 teams are dropped, revert to 8 team playoff	

## SECTION 2 – REGISTRATION & ELIGIBILITY

1. All teams must be registered with Hockey BC or Hockey Alberta.
  2. All parents must complete Respect in Sport – Parent by December 1 annually.
  3. Players shall register within age divisions. Overage and underage movement permitted only per Hockey Canada/BC Hockey/Hockey Alberta guidelines.
  4. All roster changes must be filed with the Commissioner via the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR).
  5. Anyone moving into the area can be registered at any time prior to January 10. A new HCR roster must be filed with the Commissioner. 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.
  6. By the Wednesday BEFORE the start of NERHL play of the playing year, each NERHL team must email to the commissioner, the HCR (Hockey Canada Registration) roster which must include jersey numbers. A fine of \$ 100.00 will be levied for each team who is late. Team managers/representatives must also have the website updated at the same time. A fine of \$100.00 will be levied for each roster posted late to the website.
- The rosters sent to the NERHL Commissioner must include all team players and personnel, their names, dates of birth, HCR numbers, jersey numbers and HCR STATUS. These rosters must include all affiliates and must be updated as affiliates are added per BC Hockey and Hockey Canada Guidelines.

## SECTION 3 – 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.

### 2.a) 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.

#### b) 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. All score sheets with 5 minute, match, gross, 10 minute, game misconducts, etc. must be emailed within 24 hours to the Commissioner. The game number must appear on the game sheet! The Commissioner must issue suspension notices no later than Thursday morning of each week to the Association Representative.

## SECTION 4 – STANDINGS & POINTS

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

## SECTION 5 – POSTPONEMENTS & FORFEITS

1. Minimum 72 hours' notice required for postponements (extenuating circumstances only). Extenuating Circumstances defined as: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.

## SECTION 6 – 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.

3. 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.

## SECTION 7 – EXPANSION & MEMBERSHIP

1. New associations require a 2/3 majority approval at the AGM.

2. First three (3) years of membership shall be probationary.

## SECTION 8 – COMPLIANCE

1. Associations in arrears with dues or bonds shall lose voting rights until fully paid.

2. Associations inactive for two (2) consecutive years will have their bond refunded and must reapply for membership.

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## MODERNIZED INCLUSIONS

- Adoption of Hockey Canada Safe Sport Framework.

- Use of gender-neutral language (“players,” “teams,” “representatives”).
- Standardization of division naming (U11, U13, U15, U18).
- Enhanced clarity for appeals, suspensions, and forfeits.
- Alignment with provincial residency, roster, and affiliation rules.

End of Modernized Constitution & Rules – 2025