



## OPERATIONAL Regulation Policy

**June 2025**

### Rockies Hockey League (RHL)

#### 1. EXPECTATIONS OF ASSOCIATIONS

*As per Section 102(g) of the RHL Bylaws*

- A. All LMHA (Local Minor Hockey Association) members are responsible for reading and adhering to the regulations outlined below. In accordance with Section 104(a) of the RHL Bylaws, the League will review each LMHA's team declarations and determine the number of categories within each age division.
1. Associations entering more than one team in a division are expected to distribute teams evenly across available categories.
  2. If an even split is not possible, the additional team must be placed in the category that best suits its skill level.
  3. Multiple teams placed within the same category of an age division must be built with parity—meaning the teams must be balanced in both age and skill.
- B. LMHAs must:
1. Each LMHA must appoint a delegate to represent them as per Section 102(d) of the RHL Bylaws.
  2. Delegates are expected to attend all league meetings. If attendance is not possible, a vote may be submitted via email proxy. Failure to do so will result in a \$50.00 fine.
  3. **Failure to attend or submit a proxy vote will result in a \$50.00 fine.**
  4. Provide 1 or more divisional governors as required by the league.
  5. Are responsible for providing and assigning qualified officials for all League games.
  6. Submit contact information for all team officials to the League Administrator **no later than 72 hours prior** to the team's first regular-season game.
  7. Sync their teams through the **Alberta One Portal** within the same 72-hour window.
  8. Must provide a digital copy of all their teams HCR to the league within the same 72-hour window.
  9. **Important:** No team will be permitted to play until these requirements are met.
- C. Each LMHA must provide game ice as follows:
1. **U11/U13:** 90 minutes
  2. **U15/U18:** 120 minutes
  3. Ice slot submission requirements and scheduling protocols will be determined at the preseason league meeting. Please follow this link for our ice allocation policy [HERE](#)
  4. All league games must be played **within the RHL draw zone boundaries**, unless otherwise approved by the League (see Appendix 'A' of the RHL Bylaws).

## 2. Fair Play Commitment

- A. The League operates under a "Fair Play" philosophy, which includes:
  - 1. Ensuring fair ice time for all players and teams.
  - 2. Maintaining sportsmanship and balanced competition throughout the season.

## 3. Tiering Guidelines

- A. **No team may participate in tournaments during tiering rounds.**
- B. All U9 to U18 teams must participate in a minimum of four (4) tiering games to determine final placement.
- C. The League will evaluate game data to confirm team placements in a fair and impartial manner.
- D. If the League determines that parity has not been achieved, the LMHA will be notified in writing and required to adjust the teams within **two weeks**.
- E. If an error in placement is discovered after tiering is complete (i.e., a team is too strong or too weak for a tier):
  - 1. The league can hold another tiering meeting to determine if movement can be made
  - 2. Final tier placements must be completed by **Dec 20th**
  - 3. If a team refuses re-tiering, the League — together with the LMHA—may disqualify the team from:
    - Continued league play
    - Playoffs

## 4. SCHEDULING AND LEAGUE GAMES

- A. All league games, including playoffs and rescheduled matches, shall be scheduled by the appointed League Scheduler.
- B. The League will notify teams of the target number of games before the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the schedule is released. Example: U13 Target = 12–16 Games.
- C. Some divisions may play fewer games due number of teams and ice allocation
- D. When possible, an equal number of home and away games will be scheduled based on the number of teams and ice allocation
- E. Important Dates will be provided on our website by Aug 1
- F. Scheduling will account for travel and schooling considerations. Disputes regarding ice time appropriateness will be resolved by the League President.
- G. Stop time is to be used in all periods of all games. When five (5) minutes remain on the ice permit and after the first stoppage of play thereafter, the time clock will be set to two (2) minutes and the remainder of the game will be played stop time.
- H. During regular season league play, if, after three (3) periods of play, the score is tied, NO OVERTIME shall be played.
- I. Blackout Dates & Tournament Participation
  - 1. Teams are **not permitted** to enter tournaments during **tiering or playoff periods**.
  - 2. Each team is allowed two (2) blackout weekends per season.
  - 3. Tournament dates must be submitted via the **Google Form** (this can be found on the RHL website)
    - By November 1 for tournaments in November or December.
    - By December 1 for tournaments in January or February.
- J. Game Changes & Forfeits
  - 1. Game Change Procedure:
    - Changes can be initiated by either the home or visiting team.
    - Game change requests must be submitted at least 72 hours before the scheduled game time.

- A "Notice of Game Change" form must be completed and signed by both teams and the Division Governor prior to submission.
- The initiating team shall bear the cost of ice and officials (if applicable).
- All changes are subject to league approval and must be completed prior to the end of the regular season.

K. Forfeits:

1. Teams failing to appear at a scheduled game without valid reason (as determined by the League) will:
  - The game will be awarded to the opposing team with a score of 1- 0 and given their fair play Point
  - Be fined up to \$600
  - Be liable for ice and referee costs

L. Inclement Weather

1. Within 12 hours prior to the start of the game, the travelling team should contact the opposing team's Manager and League to inform them of the potential adverse/ severe weather conditions and planned departure time.
  - Note: Should the game start prior to 11 AM, the travelling team should contact the opposing Team's Manager and League the evening before to inform them of the potential adverse/ severe weather conditions and planned departure time.
2. Within two (2) hours prior to departure time, the travelling team must contact the opposing team's Manager and League, to declare their intent to postpone the game due to adverse/ severe weather conditions.
3. With both teams in agreement to postpone, the League will provide written approval to both Managers. MHA Presidents and local Official Assignor on the postponement and the reasons.
4. With the game postponed, the two (2) teams will split the cost of ice.
5. If the on-ice officials are contacted prior to them travelling to the arena, the cost of officials will be waived. However, should the officials be travelling to or at the arena, the cost of officials will be paid by the home team.
6. Within 48 hours of postponement, the game must be rescheduled and communicated to the League.

M. Extenuating Situations

1. If more than five minutes of the third period has been played, the game will be considered complete.
2. If less than five minutes of the third period has been played, the game will be rescheduled.

## 5. Player Eligibility

A. Affiliates

1. The league adheres to the Hockey Alberta Affiliation Rules. If there is a discrepancy between this policy and Hockey Alberta the Hockey Alberta policy shall be taken as correct.
2. As per current Hockey Alberta affiliation rules, A Hockey Team may affiliate up to nineteen (19) from a lower Division, Category, or tier in the MHA as defined by Hockey Alberta
3. Affiliation and the use of Affiliate Players will only be recognized where Affiliation has been filed in accordance with the 'Affiliation Supplement', using the team's designated tiering placement at the time of filing.
4. HOCKEY ALBERTA 'AFFILIATION SUPPLEMENT' CAN BE FOUND [HERE](#)
5. Providing Affiliation has been declared, filed and approved with the League and Hockey Alberta, Affiliates are eligible to participate in all Exhibition, Tournament, League, Playoff and Provincial Championship games.
6. Should a team be re-tiered after the filing of Affiliation and there are affiliates that are no longer from a lower Category, those affiliates will be ineligible for the remainder of the season.
7. Hockey Alberta and the Leagues reserve the right to revoke the eligibility of an Affiliate Player at any time should that player be deemed to strengthen the team they are affiliated to. To revoke the

eligibility of an Affiliate Player, the following must occur: a. A complaint is filed with Hockey and the League regarding an affiliated player(s) perceived to be strengthening a team. This complaint must come from the MHA President and include rationale to support the claim. Complaints received from anyone else other than the MHA President will be dismissed. b. Upon receipt of the complaint, the League President will consult with Hockey Alberta's Minor Leagues Chair to review the merits of the complaint and determine if any further information is required. c. Should both the League President and Hockey Alberta's Minor Leagues Chair agree to revoking the eligibility of an Affiliate Player, Hockey Alberta's Minor Leagues Chair will communicate the revoking of eligibility, with rationale, to the team, MHA and Hockey Alberta's Minor Administration Committee

B. Overage Players

1. The league will follow the Hockey Alberta guidelines concerning Overage players. All players must meet these guidelines and must have approval granted by Hockey Alberta.
2. Individual applications must be made in writing with the proper Hockey Alberta Overage Application form to the league executive and must be approved by the league President or any committee he may have set up to deal with the applications. Any application denied by the President or committee may be taken to a vote of the membership at the next regular meeting by requesting so in writing if such meeting is before the application deadline. All applications must meet the deadline of December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current hockey season.
3. The RHL executive can revoke the overage status if the player fails to continue to meet Hockey Alberta overage guidelines.
4. The league reserves the right to revoke the overage status of any player if the player is in the top scoring or penalty minutes or is incurring major penalties. This would be handled on a complaint basis in writing and would be decided on by the league president. The deadline for complaints would be Dec.31 and any player movements would have to be done by Jan 7.
5. Teams with Overage player(s) must properly identify the player(s) as O/A in the notes of the gamesheets app. ***Failure to correctly identify the overage player(s) will result in the team being assessed a \$25.00 fine per occurrence. Repeat offenses may result in overage status being revoked.***
6. To revoke the eligibility of an Overage Player, the following must occur: a. A complaint is filed with Hockey Alberta's Minor Leagues Chair and the League regarding an overage player(s) perceived to be strengthening a team. This complaint must come from the MHA President and include rationale to support the claim. Complaints received from anyone else other than the MHA President will be dismissed. b. Upon receipt of the complaint, the League President will consult with Hockey Alberta's Minor Leagues Chair to review the merits of the complaint and determine if any further information is required. c. Should both the League President and Hockey Alberta's Minor Leagues Chair agree to revoking the eligibility of an Overage Player, Hockey Alberta's Minor Leagues Chair will communicate the revoking of eligibility, with rationale, to the team, MHA and Hockey Alberta's Minor Administration Committee.

## 6. EXPECTATIONS OF TEAMS

- A. All participating teams must read and comply with RHL regulations.
- B. A coach, manager, or team designate must attend all mandatory RHL meetings. a penalty of \$50 fine for non-attendance.
- C. Prior to the first league game, each team must provide their Governor with valid email and phone for both the head coach and manager
- D. Both teams must have rosters verified and signed by the Head Coach in the RAMP GAMESHEETS app 10 minutes before game start. Penalty: \$50 fine per occurrence.
- E. Home Team: dark jerseys and Away Team: light jerseys. Teams with only one set of jerseys must coordinate with the opponent to avoid color conflicts. Penalty: \$50 fine for failure to confirm before the start of the game.
- F. Teams who fail to utilize the digital game sheets will be fined \$100.00
- G. A referee report (write up) is required by Hockey Alberta and the League when a player or coach is ejected. You must follow up with the ref upon completion of the game before you leave the rink.

- H. In the event of an infraction that results in a Referee Report (write up), ***within a league games*** each team must complete the following:
1. A manager or coach from each team must remain present to ensure both teams receive a copy or can see (on the gamesheet app) of the referee's report, if applicable
  2. The write-up is to be submitted electronically, via email within four hours of the game's completion to the appropriate governor.
  3. If the Referee Write-Up is completed by hand ***within a league game***, both teams are responsible for electronically via email submitting it to their Division Governor within 4 hours of the game's conclusion.
- I. Home team responsibilities
1. Entering all game information into the RAMP digital gamesheet app during the game.
  2. A \$25 fine will be imposed for each instance of missing or incomplete data.
  3. The home team manager must upload the write-up to the back end of RAMP via the league website. Failure to upload the Referee Write-Up within the 4-hour window will result in a \$100.00 fine per team.
  4. Must provide 3 people in the box
    - 1 scorekeeper
    - 1 timekeeper
    - 1 person for the penalty box door
- L. Visiting team responsibilities
1. The manager will make sure the game had been properly verified on the website with 48 hours of game compilation
  2. Must provide 2 people in the box
    - 1 person for the penalty box door
    - 1 person to verify the game in live time to ensure all penalties and scoring is enter correctly

## 7. LEAGUE PENALTIES

- A. Individual Player Penalty Thresholds and Suspensions
1. Penalty minutes for all players will be monitored and tracked by the league
  2. Suspensions will be issued to those players who accumulate excessive penalty minutes during tiering and regular season league play.
  3. League threshold suspensions will not carry to playoff games they will rest and start fresh.
  4. League issued suspensions for accumulative penalty minutes can only be served during league play and do not extend outside of league games
  5. Individual Threshold are as follows
    - U11:
      - ➔ First threshold - 25 minutes = 1 game suspension
      - ➔ Second threshold - 45 minutes = 2 game suspension
      - ➔ Third threshold - 65 minutes = 3 game suspension
      - ➔ Fourth threshold - 85 minutes = 4 game suspension
    - U13:
      - ➔ First threshold - 30 minutes = 1 game suspension
      - ➔ Second threshold - 50 minutes = 2 game suspension
      - ➔ Third threshold - 70 minutes = 3 game suspension
      - ➔ Fourth threshold - 90 minutes = 4 game suspension
    - U15:
      - ➔ First threshold - 40 minutes = 1 game suspension
      - ➔ Second threshold - 60 minutes = 2 game suspension
      - ➔ Third threshold - 80 minutes = 3 game suspension
      - ➔ Fourth threshold - 100 minutes = 4 game suspension
    - U18:

- First threshold - 50 minutes = 1 game suspension
- Second threshold - 70 minutes = 2 game suspension
- Third threshold - 90 minutes = 3 game suspension
- Fourth threshold - 110 minutes = 4 game suspension

B. Penalty Minute Calculation

1. The league will use Hockey Canada guidelines when calculating the cumulative penalty minutes for teams and individual player penalty thresholds. The minutes associated to each classification of penalty are as follows:

➤ Minor/Bench Minor	2 minutes
➤ Double Minor	4 minutes
➤ Major	5 minutes
➤ Match	5 minutes
➤ Misconduct	10 minutes
➤ Game Misconduct	10 minutes
➤ Gross Misconduct	10 minutes
➤ Penalty Shot	Equivalent minutes to penalty assessed

- C. If a referee incident report is written for a member of a team's admin (Head Coach/Assistant Coach/Trainer/Manager etc) or a spectator for said team, that team will forfeit their point regardless of their penalty minutes in that game.

## 8. DISCIPLINE AND SUSPENSIONS

- A. A referee report is required by Hockey Alberta when a player or coach is ejected.
- B. Coaches and team management are fully responsible for the conduct of their players and fans. They must be familiar with Hockey Alberta's Minimum Suspension Guidelines.
- C. All suspensions will align with current **Hockey Alberta Regulations**. Any additional disciplinary actions imposed by a team's Minor Hockey Association (LMHA) must be reported to the League and will be reviewed jointly with the LMHA. Suspension guidelines will be regularly updated to reflect Hockey Alberta's standards.
- D. While Hockey Alberta's minimums will be enforced, the League reserves the right to impose further suspensions if deemed necessary.
- E. Suspension Reporting Requirements:
  1. Suspended players/coaches/managers must be clearly marked as "suspended" in RAMP notes or on the gamesheet if in a tournament for the game to count as served.
  2. Failure to properly record a suspension may result in the individual sitting an additional game and may lead to further discipline.
  3. For suspensions extending into sanctioned tournaments, game sheets showing the suspension served must be submitted to the team's Governor within one hour of the game's conclusion.
  4. All suspensions extending beyond the RHL season must be submitted to the appropriate Zone
  5. Suspended players/coaches **may not**:
    - Enter the dressing room one hour before or after the game
    - Be within 50 feet of the bench, timekeeper's box, or penalty box
  6. Suspended individuals are encouraged to attend their team's games, but must remain in compliance with the above restrictions.

## 9. OFFICIALS

- A. On ice officials
  1. Each League Member is responsible for providing and assigning qualified officials for all League games.

2. Officials cannot officiate any League game should they have a member of their immediate family (same household) participating in the game as either a player, coach, manager, trainer or off-ice official. Exception: Should there be a shortage of qualified officials, the League may approve the use of an Official with an immediate family member (same household) participating in the game. Both teams must agree to providing the exception prior to approval being given by the League.
  3. Hockey Canada Rule 5.2(k) must be followed if officials are not available to officiate any League game. Rule 5.2(k): If for whatever reason, the Referee(s) or Linespersons(s) appointed are prevented from appearing, the Managers or Coaches of the two competing clubs shall agree on the Referee(s) and Linesperson(s) (must be registered team officials). If they are unable to agree, they shall appoint a player from each team who shall act as officials.
  4. Officials will be required to fill out a Game Incident Report whenever any major, game misconduct, match or gross infraction takes place during a League game. Game Incident Reports will not be required for 10 minute misconduct penalties, unless it leads directly to a game misconduct.
  5. Complaints regarding Officials must be made in writing and sent to the LMH's Referee in Chief.
- B. Off Ice Officials(box volunteers)
1. The off-ice officials in any RHL Game are an integral member of the officiating team and must act accordingly, remaining neutral just as the officials on the ice. The RHL will review any dereliction of duty or cases of unacceptable behavior by any off -ice officials. That review may result in suspension, removal of any off-ice official from further participation, assessment of a suspension for code of conduct reasons or suspension of the person(s) from RHL games indefinitely pending a review.

## 10. GAME PROTESTS

- A. Only the two teams involved shall have the right to file a protest over a game or incident connected therewith.
- B. Referees are in care and control of the game. As such protest will not be accepted when a referee has exercised their judgement in officiating the game or their interpretation of the rules.
- C. Upon receipt of the protest, the League will appoint a neutral, unbiased committee to hear the protest.
- D. Protests and all supporting evidence must be submitted to the League by the MHA President within 48 hours of the game being protested. All documentation must be accompanied by a cheque or money order, payable to the League, in the amount of \$300.
- E. All protests require that the League contact the member association submitting the protest and the Manager of the team being protested against.
- F. If the committee (whose decision shall be final) dismisses the protest, the sum deposited with the protest will be forfeited to the League.
- G. Protest decisions are final.

## 11. GOVERNORS

- A. Be responsible to ensure the online rosters for each team they govern is consistent with the HCR's submitted. The Governor will report to the Governor in Chief any discrepancies that exist.
- B. Be responsible to monitor and validate data entry for all the teams in the Division under the Governor's jurisdiction as outlined in Section. The Governor will report to the Governor in Chief any teams that are in violation of any regulation(s) in Section , and what fines are to be assessed.
- C. Be responsible to report all games with referee incident reports to the Governor in Chief within 24 hours for discipline/suspension ruling,
- D. Notify the team(s) of the suspension ruling(s) given by the governor in chief.
- E. The Governor will monitor and track the suspensions of all players/coaches to ensure they have been served and report it back to governor in chief with 24 hours
- F. Be responsible to monitor individual player penalty minutes of all players within their jurisdiction (as outlined in Section 7d, and report to the Governor in Chief any player(s) in their jurisdiction that have exceeded the penalty threshold for discipline, and notify the team(s) of the suspension ruling.
- G. May not hold the position of Coach or Team Manager for any team that plays in the Division under the Governor's jurisdiction.

- H. May not hold the position if his/her child is a registered player for any team that participates in that division, unless approved by the League.

## 12. FINES

- A. All fines outlined in these regulations are to be mandated immediately. RHL executive reserves the right to amend fine amounts mid season should infractions increase.
- B. Any fines not paid by teams or LMHA's within 30 calendar days of the fine being issued will be funded by that LMHA's League Bond and that LMHA will not have voting rights until their League Bond has been replenished.
- C. All NSF payments will be subject to a \$25.00 fee.

## 13. STANDINGS

- A. League play standings will be calculated as follows:
  - 1. Win.....2 points
  - 2. Loss.....0 points
  - 3. Tie.....1 point
  - 4. Respect Point.....1 point
  - 5. Team Penalty Minute Thresholds
- B. During league play each team shall earn 1 Respect point per completed game providing they do not exceed the penalty threshold below:
  - U11: 12 minutes
  - U13 / U15: 14 minutes
  - U18: 16 minutes
- D.. The following procedure shall take place to determine Final Regular Season Standings in the event teams are tied following the Regular Season Schedule:
- E. If two (2) teams are tied at the end of the regular season:
  - 1. The team with the most wins in the Regular Season in games played between the two (2) tied teams.
  - 2. The team with the most wins during the Regular Season including Respect points. Note: Should the two (2) tied teams play an unequal number of Regular Season games, this rule will not apply.
  - 3. The team with the least losses.
  - 4. The team with the most Respect points earned in league play
  - 5. The team with the most goals for.
  - 6. The team with the least goals against.
  - 7. Coin toss.
- F. If three (3) or more teams are tied:
  - 1. The team with the most wins during the Regular Season including Respect . Note: Should the three (3) or more tied teams play an unequal number of Regular Season games, this rule will not apply. Please proceed to next step

## 14. PLAYOFFS

- A. Playoff dates and formats will be determined by the League and communicated by Jan 1st of the current season. Please look for full rules on the website after Jan 1st

## 15. COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

- A. RHL Communication Flow Chart:
  - Player/Parent >> Coach/Manager >> LMHA RHL Representative >> Governor >> Governor in Chief >> Vice President >> President >> Hockey Alberta
- B. Any deviation from the communication flow chart will result in a written warning to the LMHA, President of that Association and the Executive



- C. A second infraction will result in a possible \$250.00 fine, pending review by the executive and LMHA.

## 16. Complaint Management Process

- A. Prior to reporting and or filing a complaint all members must wait 24 hours before submitting their concern to their prospective Governor. This will be strictly enforced.
- B. A league complaint must consist of the following criteria:
- Must have happened on the ice within a league allotted game time.
  - Team placement
  - Tiering games and what happens on the ice
  - Playoff games and what happens on the ice
  - Standings
  - Penalties
  - Suspension
  - Players/Coaches actions and behaviors while on the ice
- C. All League complaints must be submitted by the Association's RHL Representative (It is also expected that The complaint also has the approval or support of their LMHA President) to the President of the league
- D. The complaints process will generally follow:
1. Upon receipt of a complaint, a detailed review of the complaint will be completed by the responsible President & Vice President. A formal request could be made for a response statement from all parties involved and they will have 3 days to provide that information. The complaint will be entered into the established Complaints Record Spreadsheet for recording of issues, incidents and complaints at this time.
  2. Then the GIC will establish if there is any violation of the RHL Bylaws, and Policies. If violations of the RHL Bylaws, Policies have been proven or clearly identified, the Governor in Chief or President or Vice President (or a combination of both or all three) may:
    - Complete further investigation including requests for additional information as they feel are required.
    - Assess the specified penalty in whole or part to the parties named in the complaint as per outlined in the Bylaws, Policies.
    - Assess the specified penalty in whole or part to the party that forwarded the complaint if it is identified they also caused a violation of the RHL Bylaws, Policies.
    - Apply another resolution or penalty recommended by the RHL GIC, President and Vice President with the support of the majority of the RHL Executive Committee
    - In addition to the above; in the event that the RHL does not directly have a Bylaw, Policy that directly applies to the situation or it is a fan or facility control issue; the RHL President may choose to do one or more of the following:
      - ➔ Assign the task of resolving the complaint to the LMHA Presidents and RHL Rep of the Two Member Associations involved, monitored by a RHL Executive, and give them 7 days to submit an agreed upon resolution to this complaint.
      - ➔ Assign League Volunteers or Member Representatives to jointly attend the involved teams' next game to monitor for any issues. If either party refuses, the game(s) will be postponed indefinitely until the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the RHL Executive Committee. Note: Additional actions may be taken against repeat offenders or individuals frequently involved in complaints, as determined by the RHL Executive. All decisions are subject to appeal under current RHL policies.
      - ➔ Once a final resolution is reached, the complaint will be closed. The event records will then be forwarded to the RHL Secretary for filing in

the Members folder, and the complaint outcome will be recorded in the official spreadsheet.