

Smoky Lake Minor Hockey Association (SLMHA) – Attendance Consequence Matrix

1. Purpose

To provide a consistent, fair, and transparent consequence structure for players who miss games or practices, ensuring accountability, team commitment, and clear expectations across all SLMHA teams.

2. Definitions

Excused Absence: Notification is given in advance and the reason is valid (illness, injury, family emergency, school event, religious obligation, weather/safety, pre-approved travel).

Unexcused Absence: No notification, late notification without valid reason, or reason not acceptable for team commitment (e.g., chose not to attend).

3. Guiding Principles

- Consistency across teams.
- Clear communication with parents/players.
- No punitive conditioning (aligns with Safe Sport).
- Consequences must never shame or humiliate a player.
- Player development prioritized, especially for U7–U13.

4A. Practice Attendance Consequence Matrix

Type of Absence	1st Occurrence	2nd Occurrence	3rd Occurrence	4th+ Occurrence
Excused	No consequence	No consequence	Coach discussion to confirm pattern	Parent meeting + attendance plan
Unexcused	Verbal reminder	Coach/Manager meeting (player/parent)	Loss of 1 period next game or reduced practice grouping	Loss of 1 full game or structured play reduction

4B. Game Attendance Consequence Matrix

Type of Absence	1st Occurrence	2nd Occurrence	3rd Occurrence	4th+ Occurrence
Excused	No consequence	No consequence	Coach conversation	Parent meeting
Unexcused	Meeting + warning	Reduced playing time next game	Loss of next full game	Review by Director; possible suspension from team activities

5. Special Situations & Automatic Consequences

Situation	Standard Consequence
Late to practice without notice	Counts as partial unexcused; two partials = 1 unexcused
Late to game without notice	Sit minimum 1 shift (unless safety requires otherwise)
Leaving practice/game early without reason	Counted as unexcused absence
Chronic repeated unexcused absences	Attendance plan + parent meeting + possible reduced role
Rep/Travel teams repeated missed practices	Loss of special teams roles, reduced shifts
Injury or safety-related absence	No penalty

6. Guidelines by Age Division

U7-U9: Development-focused. No playing-time penalties unless absences become chronic. Parent meeting at 3 unexcused absences.

U11-U13: Matrix fully applies. Playing-time consequences appropriate.

U15-U18: Full accountability model. All consequences apply, including loss of roles, leadership removal, and multi-game consequences.

7. Appeals / Review Process

If a parent or player believes a consequence was applied unfairly:

1. Discuss matter with Coach/Manager.
2. If still unresolved → SLMHA Executive Review.

SLMHA – Parent Attendance Expectations & Consequence Guide

What This Guide Is For

To help parents understand how attendance impacts team development, fairness, and player commitment within Smoky Lake Minor Hockey Association (SLMHA).

Why Attendance Matters

Consistent attendance helps your child develop skills, supports team chemistry, and ensures coaches can plan safe and effective practices and game lineups.

Excused vs. Unexcused Absences

Excused: Illness, injury, school, family emergency, religious or cultural events, pre-approved travel.

Unexcused: No notice given, late notice without reason, or missing hockey due to avoidable personal choices.

Quick Reference: What Happens When a Player Misses?

Situation	What Parents Should Do	Possible Team Consequences
Missing a practice (excused)	Notify coach/manager as early as possible	No consequence
Missing a practice (unexcused)	Communicate reason afterward	Discussion, possible loss of ice time
Missing a game (excused)	Provide notice early for lineup planning	No consequence
Missing a game (unexcused)	Notify ASAP if unexpected	Reduced playing time or 1-game sit-out
Repeated unexcused absences	Meet with coach/manager	Attendance plan or additional consequences

How Parents Can Support Team Attendance

- Report absences early.
- Help children remember equipment and schedules.
- Reinforce commitment and being on time.
- Ask questions if unsure about expectations.

Questions or Concerns?

Please speak with your team's Coach or Manager. SLMHA is committed to fair, child-centered development and open communication.