



## **ISSUE #: 2021-011**

September 20, 2021

**TO: BC Hockey Membership**  
**FROM: Cam Hope – Chief Executive Officer**  
**SUBJECT: 2021 - 22 Minimum Suspension Guidelines - Minor/Female**

**PLEASE ENSURE EVERY MEMBER OF YOUR TEAMS, LEAGUE OR ASSOCIATION IS MADE AWARE OF THIS BULLETIN.** These minimum suspension guidelines were reviewed in consultation with the minor hockey district associations in advance of the current season.

### **I. REFEREE GAME INCIDENT REPORTING PROCEDURES**

The Referee shall submit a report by way of the Hockey Canada Game Incident Report system available on the New Hockey Canada Registry platform for all penalties incurred during BC Hockey sanctioned games as outlined below. **NOTE: The Hockey Canada Registry may not be available for game incident reports until early October, so in the meantime officials will submit reports HERE.** In the case that two (2) Referees (4-official or 2-official system) were assigned to a game, the Referee or Official responsible for making the call requiring a report shall make the online submission. If a report is required for an infraction that was brought to the attention of the Referee by a Linesperson, the report must be submitted by the Referee and the Linesperson that brought the infraction to the Referee's attention must provide the reporting Referee with an email address and phone number that they can be contacted at, should a discipline administrator be required to follow up.

#### **Reportable Incidents:**

- a) Game Ejections: Head Contact Rule 6.5 (c)
- b) All Game Misconducts (Reminder: all major penalties have an automatic Game Misconduct)
- c) All Match Penalties (**Including NEW Rule 11.3**)
- d) All Gross Misconducts
- e) All infractions under **NEW Section 11 Maltreatment (Rules 11.1 & 11.2)** resulting in:
  - Game Misconduct
  - Gross Misconduct
- f) All infractions and **allegations** under **Rule 11.4 - Discrimination**
- g) All infractions under **NEW Rule 11.5 - Physical Harassment of Officials**
- h) Violations of Rule 10.14 (Refusing to Start Play)
- i) Any unusual situations that should be brought to the attention of BC Hockey.

All reports must be submitted using the online Game Incident Report system and must be submitted no later than 8:00am on the morning following any incident(s). Officials have the option of inputting their email address as a 'recipient' within the electronic game sheet sign-off page when they verify the electronic game log or capture a clear and legible image of a paper game sheet using a smart phone or tablet; to assist with completing their report. Officials are encouraged where possible to submit the online game incident report immediately after the game if they have access to the internet from a smart phone to prevent any unnecessary delays in submission.

Should you have any questions please contact the BC Hockey office [info@bchockey.net](mailto:info@bchockey.net).

## II. HEAD CONTACT MINOR & DOUBLE MINOR PENALTY ACCUMULATIONS

**NEW as of 2020-2021 season:** Reducing head injuries is a priority for BC Hockey and strict enforcement of minimum suspensions guidelines for player identified as repeat offenders in this category are outlined below. Minor hockey leagues and discipline administrators will be required to monitor and track accumulated minutes in minor and double minor penalties assessed to players under Rule 6.5 (a) and / or (b) Head Contact.

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
6.5 (a) (b)	Receipt of a total 20 accumulated minutes of minor or double minor penalties under Rule 6.5, within the same season	1 Game
	Receipt of a total of 32 accumulated minutes of minor or double minor penalties under Rule 6.5, within the same season.	3 Games
	Receipt of a total of 40 accumulated minutes of minor or double minor penalties under Rule 6.5, within the same season.	Indefinite Suspension*
6.5 (c)	Receipt of a Game Ejection under Head Contact rule 6.5 (c)	1 Game
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Game Ejection under Rule 6.5 (c), within the same season	3 Games
	3 <sup>rd</sup> or subsequent Game Ejection under Rule 6.5 (c), within season	Indefinite Suspension*

All indefinite suspensions to a player from this section shall be no less than five (5) games

## III. MAJOR AND GAME MISCONDUCT MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS

Should a Game Misconduct associated to one (1) of the following major penalty infractions occur within the last ten (10) minutes of regular playing time or any time in overtime, Rule 4.6 (c) will also apply resulting in an additional one (1) game suspension to anything prescribed in this section.

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
6.2	Boarding	1 Game
6.2	Body Checking	1 Game
6.3	Charging	1 Game
6.4	Checking from Behind	1 Game
6.5	Head Contact	2 Games
6.6	Kneeing	1 Game
7.3	Interference / Protection of the Goaltender	1 Game
8.2	Cross-Checking	1 Game
8.4	Slashing	1 Game
Code	Accumulation Sanctions - Player	Additional Sanction
AS104	Receives two (2) Majors in the same season for any of the above	2 Games
AS105	Receives three (3) Majors in the same season for any of the above	4 Games
AS106	Receives four (4) Majors in the same season for any of the above	Indefinite Suspension*
Code	Accumulation Sanctions - Coach	Additional Sanction
AS112	Team receives three (3) Major or Match penalties in the same game	1 Game
AS113	For a 2 <sup>nd</sup> violation of the above, in the same season	3 Games
AS114	For a 3 <sup>rd</sup> violation of the above, in the same season	Indefinite Suspension*

All indefinite suspensions to a player from this section shall be no less than six (6) games

**NOTE:** For the purpose of this bulletin, all 'accumulation sanctions' are to be served in addition to the applicable minimum suspension for any original infraction.

E.g. Should a player receive a Major penalty and Game Misconduct for one (1) of the above infractions, they will receive a one (1) game suspension. Should this penalty be the player's second major penalty of the season under this section, the player will receive an additional two (2) game suspension (Code AS104), for a total of a three (3) game suspension.

Rule #	Penalty Description – Fighting Situations	Minimum Suspension
6.7 (a)	Fighting Major penalty – 1 <sup>st</sup> offence in a season	1 Game
6.7 (h)	Third player in a fight	2 Games
6.7 (h)	2 <sup>nd</sup> or subsequent fight during the same stoppage	2 Games
9.5 (b)	First player identified as leaving the players' bench during a fight	3 Games
9.5 (d)	First identified player as leaving the penalty bench during a fight	4 Games
9.5 (i)	Coach of team whose player is penalized under 9.5 (b) or (d)	3 Games
9.5 (c)	Coach whose player left the bench but was not the first to do so	1 Game
Code	Penalty Description – Instigator or Aggressor	Minimum Suspension
AS120	1 <sup>st</sup> offense (instigator or aggressor)	1 Game
AS121	2 <sup>nd</sup> offense (instigator or aggressor)	2 Games
AS122	3 <sup>rd</sup> offense (instigator or aggressor)	3 Games
Code	Pre/Post Game Altercations	Minimum Suspension
PG101	Any player involved - Majors & Game Misconducts are assessed	2 Games
PG102	Coach of team whose player(s) are penalized under PG101	Indefinite Suspension*
PG103	Coach of any team involved in a pre or post game brawl	Indefinite Suspension*
Code	Accumulation Sanctions – Player & Head Coach	Additional Sanction
AS117	Fighting Major 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offence in the season – Player	2 Games
AS118	Fighting Major 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offence in the season – Player	4 Games
AS119	Fighting Major 4 <sup>th</sup> Offence in the season – Player	Indefinite Suspension*
AS118	Coach whose team engages in three (3) or more fights in a game	1 Game
AS118	Subsequent violation of the above in the same season by a team	Indefinite Suspension*

Indefinite suspensions shall be in addition to the minimum suspension for the coach and six (6) games for the player.

#### IV. MALTREATMENT, INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR and OTHER GROSS MISCONDUCT

Should a Game or Gross Misconduct associated to one (1) of the following infractions occur within the last ten (10) minutes of regular playing time or any time in overtime, Rule 4. 6 (c) or 4.7 (c) will also apply resulting in an additional one (1) game suspension.

- All Gross Misconduct penalties will receive a minimum suspension of three (3) games, if not otherwise referenced within this Section.
- All accumulation sanctions are in addition to the minimum suspension for the original infraction [e.g. Should a player or Team Official receive a second Game Misconduct under rule 11.1 in the same season, they will receive the minimum suspension of one (1) game plus the additional two (2) games associated to the accumulation sanction, for a total of three (3) games].

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
11.1	Game Misconduct – Unsportsmanlike Conduct	1 Game
11.2	Game Misconduct Disrespectful, Abusive, Harassing Behaviour	2 Games
11.3	Match Penalty – Spitting	3 Games
11.4	Gross Misconduct – Discrimination	Indefinite Suspension*
11.5	Match Penalty - Physical Harassment of Officials	See Section V
3.6	Gross Misconduct – Removing Helmet	3 Games
Code	Accumulation Sanctions – Player or Team Official	Additional Sanction
AS110	Receiving two (2) Game Misconducts under Rule 11.1 in a season	2 Games
AS111	Receiving 3 or more Game Misconducts under Rule 11.1 in a season	Indefinite Suspension ***
AS115	Receiving two (2) Game Misconducts under Rule 11.2 in a season	4 Games
AS115	Receiving 3 or more Game Misconducts under Rule 11.2 in a season	Indefinite Suspension ***
AS116	Receiving two (2) Gross Misconducts under Rule 11.4 in a season	Indefinite Suspension ***

Indefinite suspensions under Rule 11.4 shall be in addition to five (5) games.

Indefinite suspensions under the accumulation sanctions shall be at least six (6) additional games.

**V. MATCH PENALTY MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS**

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension	
6.1 (a)	Attempt to injure (no injury results)	3 Games	
6.1 (a)	Deliberate Injury	Indefinite Suspension	
		No Injury	Injury
6.1 (b)	Head Butting	3 Games	6 Games
6.1 (c)	Kicking	3 Games	6 Games
6.1 (d)	Grabbing hair, facial protector, helmet, chinstrap or neck guard	3 Games	6 Games
6.2 (a)	Boarding	3 Games	6 Games
6.2 (b)	Body Checking	3 Games	6 Games
6.3 (c)	Charging	3 Games	6 Games
6.4 (c)	Checking from Behind	4 Games	Indefinite*
6.5 (g)	Head Contact	5 Games	Indefinite**
6.6 (c)	Kneeing	3 Games	6 Games
6.7 (e)	Wearing rings (etc.) to inflict punishment	3 Games	6 Games
7.4 (b)	Slew Footing (Tripping)	3 Games	6 Games
8.1	Butt-Ending	3 Games	6 Games
8.2 (d)	Cross-Checking	3 Games	6 Games
8.4 (d)	Slashing	3 Games	6 Games
8.5	Spearing	3 Games	6 Games
11.3	Spitting (also see Section IV)	3 Games	
11.5 (a)	<b>Physical Harassment of Officials - Threat well-being of official</b>	<b>3 Games</b>	
11.5 (b)	<b>Physical Harassment of Officials – Attempted strike of official</b>	<b>4 Games</b>	
11.5 (c)	<b>Physical Harassment of Officials – Touch, hold or push</b>	<b>6 Games</b>	
11.5 (d)	<b>Physical Harassment of Officials – Strike, trip, or body check</b>	<b>Indefinite Suspension****</b>	
<b>Code</b>	<b>Accumulation Sanctions – Player in the same season</b>	<b>Additional Sanction</b>	
AS108	Two (2) Match penalties under Rules 6.4 and / or 6.5	5 Games	
AS109	Two (2) Match penalties under Rule 11.5	Indefinite Suspension ****	
AS107	Two (2) Match penalties under any other rules within this section	4 Games	
AS109	Three (3) Match penalties under any rules within this section	Indefinite Suspension ****	
<b>Code</b>	<b>Accumulation Sanctions – Coach in the same season</b>	<b>Additional Sanction</b>	
AS107	Team that receives two (2) Match penalties in the same game	1 Game	
AS107	2 <sup>nd</sup> violation of the above in the same season	3 Games	
AS107	3 <sup>rd</sup> violation of the above in the same season	Indefinite Suspension ****	
*Indefinite suspension pending investigation under rule 6.4 (c) must be at least seven (7) games			
**Indefinite suspension pending investigation under rule 6.5 (g) must be at least eight (8) games			
***Indefinite suspension pending investigation under Rules 9.7, must be at least three (3) games			
****Indefinite suspension pending investigation under Rule 11.5 or code 107, must be at least six (6) games			

**VI. REFUSING TO START PLAY**

Team officials penalized under Hockey Canada Rule 10.14 (a, b & c), Refusing to Start Play, including withdrawing a team from play, shall be subject to an indefinite suspension pending an investigation.

**VII. DRESSING ROOMS – Hockey Canada Rule 1.13 (c)**

Team Officials penalized under Hockey Canada Rule 1.13 (c) shall be subject to indefinite suspension pending an investigation.

**VIII. ALCOHOL, DRUGS, TOBACCO AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITY**

BC Hockey policy prohibits the use of tobacco, cannabis, alcohol, drugs and banned / restricted / controlled substances during BC Hockey sanctioned events hosted by BC Hockey or any Minor Hockey Association (MHA) / Member, in accordance with policy 4.06. BC Hockey is sincere in the duty to uphold the societal law in which members operate regarding illegal activities.

All incidents must be investigated and dealt with on an individual basis. The recommended minimum suspension for violations within Section VIII is 30 days from all participation within the association, this includes practices. Associations and teams have the responsibility to investigate all situations, if there are questions or concerns, please contact the MHA President or BC Hockey.

## IX. SERVING OF SUSPENSIONS

### A. General

1. The suspensions within this Bulletin are minimum guidelines and accordingly may be subject to lengthier suspensions as they relate to the severity of the infraction(s). Any of the above noted penalties may be subject to Indefinite Suspension.
2. All minimum suspensions shall commence upon the conclusion of the game in which the infraction(s) occurred.
3. There shall be no appeal of any suspension imposed that is applied in accordance with the prescribed automatic minimum suspension indicated under the rules set forth in this Bulletin.
4. For the purpose of this Bulletin when a suspension has been applied, the suspended player or team official is prohibited from participating in any **game** sanctioned by BC Hockey / Hockey Canada for the duration of the suspension.
5. Please note, team officials, players, or officials may not practice with their team during the term of the suspensions listed within this bulletin if the suspension exceeds 30 days. If a suspension would have **exceeded** 30 days but is extended due to the rules regarding carry-over suspension, BC Hockey may consider whether to grant permission for a player, team official or official to participate in practices or tryouts.
6. All suspensions will be in effect until midnight on the date of expiry in accordance with the corresponding number of days or after the number of games have been served as outlined in the chart below, whichever expires first. The 'game(s)' to 'days' ratio is applicable to all player and team official suspensions:

DETERMINATION OF SUSPENSION: GAME TO DAY RATIO	
MINIMUM SUSPENSION IN GAMES	MINIMUM SUSPENSION IN DAYS
1 Game	7 Days
2 Games	10 Days
3 Games	15 Days
4 Games	21 Days
5 Games	25 Days
6 Games	30 Days
*When minimum suspensions are applied and due to accumulations or multiple infractions the combined total exceeds the above guidelines, all additional games shall be served at a ratio of 1 game or 7 days	

7. All participant suspensions must be served according to the schedule of the team that the participant received the suspension with; primary, affiliate or dual registered team. Therefore, participants are not permitted to count games from multiple teams towards the serving of a suspension.
8. Any suspension(s) received by a participant that cannot be served due to the conclusion of their final season of participant eligibility within the minor hockey system (graduating due to age limits) must be documented on their HCR profile with an "indefinite end date." The prescribed duration of the suspension as per this bulletin must be indicated within the notes of the suspension so the suspension may be served upon any future Hockey Canada participation.

**NOTE 1:** All suspensions begin immediately upon assessment of the penalty.

**NOTE 2:** For the purposes of applying a suspension measured in days:

- a) The suspension period shall commence at 12:00am on the day following a suspendable infraction.
- b) A participant serving a suspension will be deemed ineligible until midnight on the date of expiry noted within a suspension notification.

- c) In cases where it is recommended that a single incident requires a suspension beyond the minimum prescribed within this Bulletin and the suspension is greater than 60 days, the Chief Executive Officer will impose an Indefinite Suspension and initiate an investigation [Policy 4.03.01 L].

## **B. Carry-over Suspensions**

- i. For a suspension made pursuant to this Bulletin that is in effect immediately prior to the Christmas break or on days between the last scheduled league or tournament game prior to Christmas break shall not be included in determining the number of days served.
- ii. For a suspension made pursuant to this Bulletin that is in effect immediately prior to and does not expire prior to the conclusion of the league and / or playoff games, the suspension will be served at the start of the next season. The start of the next season shall be deemed to be:
  - a) In any district that has adopted a regulation or policy setting a start date for carry-over suspension or the start of the season, the date so specified.
  - b) In all other districts, the first scheduled exhibition or league game of the season in which the player would otherwise have been rostered to play (or, in the case of an official, in which the official would have been eligible for assignment at their level of qualification);
  - c) In any event, no later than September 1.
- iii. Any player registered as an affiliate that receives a suspension with their primary team resulting in a carry-over scenario due to the conclusion of that team's season may serve the remainder of their suspension with their affiliate team. This may be done under the guideline that the player actively participates with the affiliate team prior to the conclusion of the current season. Should the affiliate teams' season not conclude prior to the end of the prescribed suspension or upon the expiration of the suspension the player does not actively participate in a league, playoff or tournament game with the affiliate team; then the suspension shall carry-over to the following season according to the original suspension notification timelines.
- iv. Any Team Official serving a suspension under "Section IX A. 6" of this Bulletin that is registered with multiple teams must serve their suspension according to the schedule of the team with which they received a suspension. If it is not possible to serve a suspension prior to the conclusion of the current season the remainder of the suspension may be served with an additionally registered team(s).
- v. Players who have a suspension that carries over past the final game of a season shall be eligible to participate in tryouts, that occur between the conclusion of the current season and the start of the next. Tryouts would include any BC Hockey High Performance camps during the summer. However, the suspended player will be prohibited from playing in regular season games until the suspension has been served in full. Should the player's carry-over suspension have more than thirty (30) days remaining upon the conclusion of the current season, the BC Hockey Minor Discipline Coordinator must provide a recommendation of support or opposition regarding that player's participation in try-outs. A final decision will be made by the BC Hockey CEO.
- vi. For players attempting to transition from Minor to Junior hockey upon the start of a new season but they are under a carry-over suspension situation, Junior exhibition games are considered components of the tryout process. Therefore, a minor player 'trying out' for a Junior team is permitted to participate in Junior evaluations, camps and exhibition games while their suspension remains in carry-over status. The number of games and / or days remaining in the suspension will remain on hold until the conclusion of the Junior evaluation or exhibition season and the player must serve the remainder of their carry-over suspension upon the start of the regular season within the Junior league or upon the player's return to Minor hockey.

Should the suspended player's carry-over suspension have more than thirty (30) days remaining upon the start of the Junior evaluation, try out or exhibition period for the upcoming season, the BC Hockey Minor Discipline Coordinator must provide a recommendation of support or

opposition regarding that player's participation in try-outs. A final decision will be made by the BC Hockey CEO.

Should the suspended player be carded by the Junior team during the exhibition season and the team chooses to have the player begin serving the suspension during the exhibition schedule, they are permitted to do so and the carry-over suspension will recommence upon the first game that the player sits out.

### **C. Players**

A Player receiving a suspension as a result of any penalty outlined in this Bulletin may be prohibited from playing in games as well as acting as an Official or in any other capacity with a Team, League or Association within BC Hockey.

A Player receiving a suspension as a result of any penalty outlined in this bulletin shall be prohibited from playing in games as well as from acting as an Official or in any other official capacity with a Team, League or Association within BC Hockey.

### **D. Team Officials**

A Team Official receiving a suspension as a result of any penalty outlined in this Bulletin shall be prohibited from participating with their Team(s) from one (1) hour prior to any games until one (1) hour after the conclusion of any game, acting as an Official or in any other capacity with a Team, League or Association within BC Hockey.

Team Officials who have a suspension that carries over past the final game of a season shall adhere to the same suspension stipulations that applied upon the conclusion of the previous season as noted above, with the suspension continuing with start of the next season.

### **E. Officials**

An Official receiving a suspension under any regulation or policy governing the officiating program shall be prohibited from officiating until the conclusion of the suspension, plus playing in any games or acting in any official capacity with a Team, League or Association within BC Hockey.

An Official who has a suspension that carries over past the final game of a season shall be permitted to attend an HCOP clinic for certification purposes while under suspension but will be prohibited from upgrading to a higher level of certification while under suspension.

### **F. Other Suspensions**

Any Player, Team Official or Official suspended by BC Hockey or under a suspension imposed by a Team, League or Association that has been honoured by BC Hockey shall be prohibited from playing, acting as an official or acting in any capacity with a Team, League or Association within BC Hockey.

### **G. Spring/Summer Hockey**

BC Hockey sanctions Spring Hockey Tournaments and teams between April 1 and July 31. Spring/Summer sanctioned tournament games shall not be included in determining the number of days or games served as they relate to regular season exhibition, league or playoff games suspensions carried forward to the following season.

### **H. Video Review**

Please see Section 4.04 of the [BC Hockey Policy Manual](#) for qualifications, guidelines and process for submitting requests for video review.