



## Ontario Women's Hockey Association Non-Sanctioned Policy

### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 Non-Sanctioned Programming operate outside of the Hockey Canada sanctioned programming. The Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA) has no way of ensuring that operators of Non-Sanctioned Programming implement many of the fundamental safeguards inherent in Hockey Canada and OWHA programs. As a result, those operators may not be using the same Playing Rules that Hockey Canada has implemented to protect player safety and may not provide adequate insurance for their participants. We also cannot ensure that the quality of play in these operators matches the level advertised.
- 1.2 The OWHA respects the right of every individual to choose between participating in Hockey Canada/ OWHA sanctioned programming or Non-Sanctioned programming at the beginning of each hockey season. Every individual who makes the choice to Participate in Non-Sanctioned Programming, however, must understand the implications of that choice, as described in greater detail in Section 3 of this policy.

### 2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Capitalized definitions within this policy are noted.
- 2.2 **Association Officials** - The directors, officers, and leadership staff as designated for each Season by the Association in writing to, and in the manner and at the time prescribed by, the OWHA and shall also include any other official of the Association designated in writing to and accepted by the OWHA or submitted to the Government of Ontario for government compliance.
- 2.3 **"Cut-Off Date"** means the first Friday following Labour Day.
- 2.4 **Leadership Position** – inclusive of but not limited to specific titles: Team Officials, third-party instructors or others that are Registered within the OWHA and/or an OWHA Member.
- 2.5 **"League"** means a Non-Sanctioned League.
- 2.6 **"Non-Sanctioned League"** includes any amateur hockey league that operates in Canada outside the auspices/sanctioning of Hockey Canada/ OWHA. This currently does not include summer hockey leagues/teams, adult recreational hockey leagues/teams, OFSAA affiliated hockey teams, and/or hockey schools.
- 2.7 **"Non-Sanctioned Programming"** includes all programming that is not sanctioned and covered under Hockey Canada through the OWHA.
- 2.8 **"Non-Sanctioned Team"** includes Teams that are formed for the purpose of participation during the period of September through April that are not sanctioned by the OWHA.

- 2.9 **“Participate(s)”** means to engage, knowingly or otherwise, in an activity within a Non-Sanctioned League or a Non-Sanctioned Team that could only be engaged in within Hockey Canada/OWHA if the participant was properly registered on the Hockey Canada Registry through the OWHA RAMP Registration Portal. Such activity includes, without limitation, playing, managing, coaching, officiating, third-party instructor, Association Officials, Leadership Positions or acting as a trainer/safety person.
- 2.10 **“Participation in Game”** in a Non-Sanctioned Game will be considered to have occurred if the individual takes part in one game (including an exhibition, tournament, league or playoff game) after the Cut-Off Date.
- 2.11 **“Game”** includes any exhibition, tournament or League game that is played outside the auspices/sanctioning of the OWHA.

### **3. IMPLICATIONS OF PARTICIPATING IN A NON-SANCTIONED LEAGUE**

- 3.1 The OWHA will implement the Hockey Canada Non-Sanctioned League Policy for regional and national championship eligible programming. In addition, the OWHA has the following parameters for all other Divisions and Categories of hockey within the OWHA.
- 3.2 Any Player, Team Official or Leadership Position who Participates with a Non-Sanctioned League or Non-Sanctioned Team, is subject to the following implications:
- 3.2.1 After the Cut-Off Date will lose all privileges with the OWHA for the remainder of that season, and, subject to paragraph 3.2.2 below, may only apply for the reinstatement of those privileges after the end of that season.
- 3.2.2 Notwithstanding the consequences listed in paragraph 3.2.1, any one Player who Participates after the Cut-Off Date is entitled to seek early reinstatement of their privileges within the OWHA by, appealing to the OWHA which may grant early reinstatement if it is satisfied that special circumstances exist.
- 3.3 The implications described in this section of this policy will remain in effect even if the Non-Sanctioned League or Non-Sanctioned Team folds, or the Participant is released, suspended, quits or is fired from that Non-Sanctioned League or Non-Sanctioned Team.

### **4. ASSOCIATION REQUIREMENTS**

- 4.1 Any Association of the OWHA that knowingly allows participation of an individual that is also participating with a Non-Sanctioned League or Non-Sanctioned Team will be subject to sanctions including but not limited to the loss of attending and hosting tournaments for a period of up to three years per incident.
- 4.2 Any Association of the OWHA that knowingly supports non-sanctioned programming (support is inclusive of but not limited to, promoting participation or programming, assigning coaches to non-sanctioned for the purpose of recruiting players for following seasons, sharing of ice times) will be subject to sanctions including but not limited to the loss of attending and hosting tournaments for a period of up to three years per incident.

See also OWHA Conflict of Interest Policy – Effective June 3, 2026