

WHITEWOOD MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Constitution and Bylaws

(Rev September 29, 2019)(September 15, 2020)(May 2023)(May 2025)

Article One – Name

1. The name of the organization will be the Whitewood Minor Hockey Association.
2. Where the word “association”, the phrase “Whitewood Minor Hockey Association” or the letters “WMHA” appear in this document they shall be taken to mean “Whitewood Minor Hockey Association”.

Article Two – Purpose of the Association

It shall be the aim of the Association to provide a wholesome hockey experience for the players, coaches, managers and league officials. Sportsmanship, fair play, good citizenship, friendly competition, enjoyment and participation for all team members shall be the criteria used to judge the success of the hockey program.

All decisions of the Association shall be moderated with the reason and regard for the feelings of the individual and the team. It is our belief that this atmosphere will provide the greatest enjoyment and most wholesome experience for all concerned.

Article Three – Membership

1. Any paid player registration in WMHA includes membership for all parents or guardians.
2. Membership will be for the current hockey season only.
3. A member may be suspended or reinstated by a 2/3 majority vote at an annual meeting or special general meeting of the membership.
4. The WMHA board may grant membership to any individual upon request.
5. A person who acts as a coach or manager of a team within the Association.
6. Current members of the WMHA board.

Article Four – Registration Fees

1. The registration fee will be established by the executive prior to the beginning of the season. The fee for each division will reflect the cost of the ice time and officials.
2. Registration fees must be paid in full by October 15th of the current year. There will be a late registration fee of \$100.00 applied for any player registering after registration closes. If registration fees are not paid by that time, the player and coach/managers will be notified, and that player will not play or practice until fees have been collected. This includes any registration fees paid by third parties.
3. Registration of players from other communities will occur only with the permission of the Board and Hockey Saskatchewan along with an approved release from the home center.

Article Five – Structure of the WMHA

A. Registration

1. Every player will register and play in the division that is appropriate for his age, except where the board, in keeping with Hockey Saskatchewan and league regulations, grants special permission to play at a different level. This includes underage and overage players.
2. Players will play on one team only except when AP'd to the next age group in conjunction with a Hockey Saskatchewan ruling.
3. There will be a minimum of one goalie for U11 up to U18. If more than two goalies register in an age group, then there would be try-out, hometown goalies will take precedence if applicable. Those not selected would have the option to play out or be granted a release to play elsewhere. A unanimous decision of the coaching staff to keep more than two goalies will be acceptable.

B. Teams

1. All league teams will be classified as development.
2. Divisions shall be as follows: (ages to be taken as of December 31 in the year of registration).
 - U7 – 6 years of age & under
 - U9 – 7 and 8 years of age
 - U11 – 9 and 10 years of age
 - U13 – 11 and 12 years of age
 - U15 – 13 and 14 years of age
 - U18 – 15, 16, and 17 years of age (sometimes exception of 18 year olds that are still in high school - permission is needed from the league)
3. U7: The U7 Program is a learn to play hockey program designed to introduce beginners to the basic skills of the game in an enjoyable, carefully planned way. Formulated by the CHA, the program is intended to make a youngster's first contact with hockey a safe and positive experience. It enables participants to become contributing members to the team, to develop self-confidence and to experience a sense of personal achievement. The "Hockey for the fun Of It" approach is a no pressure introduction to our great sport. All U7 games must be played in cross-ice format.
4. U9: The U9 program should be delivered as a continuation of the U7 program, focusing on developing basic skills ensuring a positive, fun environment. All U9 games are played in half-ice format for the entire season.
5. Players (teams) in the entire WMHA will be grouped by the executive and the coaches into teams of equal strength and ability. Tiered and carded teams are permitted for the spring season with executive approval.
6. U7 and U9 may be split into 2 teams if more than 18 kids are registered. U11 and U13 may be split if more than 22 kids are registered as determined by the WMHA board.

C. Coaches and Assistant Coaches

A young person's hockey coach can be one of the most influential people in the player's life. WMHA encourages coaches to be good role models. In addition, WMHA encourages coaches to learn all they can about young people, coaching and hockey. Coaches are required to improve their knowledge and skills through attendance at Hockey Saskatchewan certification clinics.

For the purpose of this section the word "Coach" shall be taken to mean "Coach" and "Assistant Coach".

1. Selection

- Coaches will put their names forward for the position and will be chosen by a majority vote of the WMHA board.
- All coaches will be required to have the proper training in place by December 20 of the current hockey season as per Hockey Saskatchewan rules.
- Refer to the Hockey Saskatchewan guidelines for the mandated coaching requirements for all coaching staff.

2. Duties and Responsibilities

- Coaches will follow current rules and regulations of hockey as established by the Canadian Hockey Association, Hockey Saskatchewan and WMHA.
- Coaches must conduct themselves in an exemplary manner both on and off the ice. Any misconduct brought forward regarding a coach will be dealt with by the WMHA board. Suspension or dismissal of the coach is possible.
- Coaches must become familiar with the philosophy and rules of the association. Failure to follow either one or both may result in disciplinary action.
- Coaches can expect the full cooperation of the executive in dealing with players or parents who fail or refuse to comply with their reasonable expectations.

D. Managers:

1. Managers Coaches will put their names forward for the position and will be chosen by a majority vote of the WMHA board.
2. Duties and responsibilities of the manager:
 - Scheduling and phoning related to games and tournaments
 - Arrange Refs for home games
 - Arrange parent meeting at start of season and as required
 - Taking responsibility for all team equipment
 - Carrying out such other duties as required by the constitution and bylaws of the WMHA

E. Affiliated Players:

1. For a player to be affiliated they must be registered on a team.
2. A team may have affiliated with it one full team to a maximum of nineteen (19) players from a lower tier or age classification of hockey. At all times a player may only be affiliated with one team.

3. A team cannot affiliate a team, or players from a team, that are registered in the same age classification within a league that they compete against.
4. The players, parents and coaches must be notified of the intent to affiliate them.
5. The affiliation list with the players names must be filed to Hockey Saskatchewan and the Major Hockey League prior to using those players. Additions and deletions can be made to the affiliation list up to January 15th once the affiliation form is filed.

F. Player Releases:

Players will be granted a release from WMHA providing the following criteria is met:

1. The player being released is joining a team at a higher level that is not offered in the WMHA system (mandatory release required by Hockey Saskatchewan).
2. U11 Tier 1 is not recognized by Hockey Saskatchewan as higher caliber so mandatory releases do not apply. Releases will be considered on a case-by-case basis but cannot leave the team with less than 10 skaters and 1 goalie.
3. There is no current team being registered out of the WMHA in that player's age category. This includes combining teams with another center.
4. The player is the 3rd goalie.
5. The WMHA board votes unanimously to release that player.

Article Six – Executive for WMHA

A. Membership

1. The executive shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar and two members at large. All seven executive members will have voting privileges.
2. Executive positions shall be two-year terms.
 - The term starts June 1 of the current season.
 - The President, Registrar, and one member at large will be elected for two-year terms in even years. The Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the other member at large will be elected for two-year terms in odd years.
 - If there are no nominations put forward for the positions, the executive will appoint someone.

B. Duties

1. President:
 - Call and preside at all executive and membership meetings.
 - Prepare and present an agenda for each meeting.
 - Call and preside at all discipline committee meetings, except where he or she may be the subject of the meetings, in which case the Vice-President will call the meeting.
 - Call meetings of the executive, as required, to deal with emergency problems of the WMHA.

- Pass rulings and judgments on any matter pertaining to the WMHA provided that such rulings and judgements shall be in keeping with the objectives of the WMHA.
 - Attend the Spring and Fall Major Hockey League meetings or appoint someone to attend.
2. Vice President:
- Attend all executive and membership meetings.
 - Assume the duties of the President when absent.
3. Secretary:
- Keep records and reports of all WMHA meetings.
 - Circulate minutes of all executive and other meetings.
 - Act as correspondent for all Association business.
 - Keep records of changes to the Constitution.
4. Treasurer:
- Collect, or arrange for the collection of all fees.
 - Record and deposit all Association revenues.
 - Keep records of all Association expenditures.
 - Present a financial report at the monthly meetings.
5. Registrar:
- Register WMHA teams with Hockey Saskatchewan
 - Set up registration via the RAMP website and assign players and staff to their appropriate teams.
 - Set up teams as per registrations and enter them using the Hockey Canada Registry so they are insured.
 - Request releases for players and coaches as needed.
6. Members at large:
- Attend all executive and membership meetings.
 - Assist with duties as needed.
7. Referee-in-chief
- Ensure all officials are qualified and certified according to Hockey Saskatchewan regulations and guidelines.
 - Provide ongoing support and mentoring to officials to help them improve their performance.
 - Provide education and support to officials throughout the season.
8. Overall Executive:
- Conduct the business of the Association in its entirety, authorize all expenditures and have control of all minor hockey personnel registered with the Association.
 - Do its utmost to ensure that all personnel of the Association exercise fair and sportsmanlike conduct in promoting the game of hockey for players and for the Association. The executive may take any action necessary to encourage and promote this policy.
 - Remove and replace any Member considered to be acting in a manner prejudicial to the aims and objectives of WMHA, or to be seriously neglecting his or her

duties, provided that such action is in the form of a motion supported by a 2/3 majority of the executive members present at the meetings.

- Appoint persons to various committees as required.
- Select coaches, assistant coaches, and managers who are both competent and prepared to support the aims and objectives of the Association.

C. Signing Officers:

The signing officers for the WMHA shall be the Treasure, President and one other executive member. Cheques need to have two signatures.