



MHL Convening Guidelines – Divisional Chairs

The **purpose** of the MHL convening period is to review all players and teams in each House League division and age category with a view to ensuring the best possible scenarios for fair playing levels between teams.

The MHL convening period consists of first game of the HL season through to a date to be determined each season. (The Convening Period generally lasts for 5 to 6 weeks.)

Every MHL Divisional Convenor enters the convening period with a slightly different strategy, but there are some “standard operating guidelines” that we would like to see followed by all:

- Get everyone involved. You should have 6 Area Convenors working with you... gauge their level of prior experience and set a plan accordingly. If one of them appears to be a “take charge individual”, feel free to let them run with it.
- Work toward group consensus. You likely won’t every achieve 100% harmony, but if everyone can live with what your group decides, you’ve done well.
- Attend games yourself. You’ll quickly lose the cooperation of Area Convenors if they don’t see you in the rink watching games along with them.
- Provide guidance, as required, but don’t be dictatorial. These are THEIR teams and we’re just trying to establish fairness of competition.
- Oversee the process but don’t try to steer it to a pre-conceived goal. Let the stats and facts get you to where the teams belong.
- Don’t wait to establish your group strategy... establish it right way. The Convening period passes very quickly. But don’t panic either... one blow-out doesn’t necessarily mean you have a problem.
- Make sure that each Convenor within your group watches ALL levels of games. If you don’t watch some Red, some White, some Blue and some Green (as applicable) how can you tell which teams might belong in another loop?
- Make sure that all Convenors announce any conflicts of interest up-front. Perhaps they’re coaching or have a player on one of the teams in your division. This doesn’t necessarily exclude their opinion but it does need to be on the table.
- If Area Convenors aren’t getting involved, make sure this fact is noted to the Head Convenor for that Area, or the President. If that doesn’t help, make sure the MHL Head Convenors, or the MHL Office, are aware.
- Don’t move teams without ensuring that the Association(s) involved are aware. They may not concur, but they have to at least be aware of what’s happening.
- LISTEN to what the Area Convenors are saying and make sure your group COMMUNICATES.
- If in doubt, or if you’re having a problem, don’t hesitate to contact one of the MHL Head Convenors or the MHL Office for guidance.