



# MISSISSAUGA HOCKEY LEAGUE

ESTABLISHED 1946  
INCORPORATED 1980

## REGULATIONS AND PLAYING RULES FOR THE 2022 - 2023 SEASON

Updated/Published August 2022



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OTHER MHL DOCUMENTS (found online at <https://hockey.on.ca/rules-regulations/>):

MHL BY-LAWS

MHL CODE OF CONDUCT

MHL POLICIES:

- Blood Policy
- Cell Phone / Camera Policy
- Concussion Policy
- Discipline Emphasis Policy
- Dressing Room Policy
- Goalie Equipment Policy
- Handshaking Policy
- Harassment & Abuse Policy
- Helmet & Mouth Guard Policy
- Inclement Weather Cancellation Policy
- OMHA Mouth Guard Policy
- Photography & Video Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Referee Grievance Policy
- Safety & Risk Management Policy
- Unsanctioned Tournament Policy
- Video Review Policy
- Zamboni Policy

MINIMUM SUSPENSION LIST

## LEAGUE AFFILIATION

The M.H.L. functions as an independent organization under the authority of the City of Mississauga, Community Services Department, Recreation and Parks.

It comprises the following six Area Hockey Associations within the City of Mississauga:

Applewood Hockey Association  
Heartland Hockey Association  
Meadowvale Hockey Association

Erindale Hockey Association  
Lorne Park Clarkson Hockey Association  
Port Credit Hockey Association

The MHL also maintains an affiliate relationship with the Mississauga Crusaders, who provide special-needs hockey within Mississauga, and with the Malton Shiny Program, a “learn to play” program aimed at the residents of the Malton community of Mississauga.

The M.H.L.’s immediate governing body is the Greater Toronto Hockey League (G.T.H.L.) which in turn is governed by the Ontario Hockey Federation (O.H.F.). The ultimate governing body is Hockey Canada.

## ORGANIZATION AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF PLAY

Several jurisdictions come into play, depending on the age and caliber of play involved.

U7 (formerly Tyke, 4-6 year old) programs are run entirely by each individual Association and do not fall under the administrative jurisdiction of the Mississauga Hockey League. However, registration and insurance coverage is provided through the M.H.L. affiliation.

Programs from U8 (formerly Minor Novice [7]) through to U21 (formerly Juvenile [18-20]) at the House League (Red, White, Blue, Green and Gold) level of competition, and U10 (formerly Minor Atom [9]) to U18 (formerly Midget [16-17]) at the “A” level of competition fall under the administrative jurisdiction of the Mississauga Hockey League. All levels of play in the M.H.L. are considered “recreational hockey” by Hockey Canada.

Levels more competitive than “A,” in other words “AA” and “AAA,” fall under the jurisdiction of the G.T.H.L. and have nothing to do with the M.H.L. The only interaction will be that “A” level and possibly “Red” level teams will be scouted by G.T.H.L. clubs for players of suitable caliber who can and wish to play at the G.T.H.L. level. Mississauga-based clubs playing in the G.T.H.L. include the Terriers, Jets, Braves, North Stars, and Streetsville Tigers at the “AA” level and the Senators and Rebels at the “AAA” level. AA and AAA levels of play are considered “competitive hockey” by Hockey Canada.

Each Area Association, and the M.H.L., is incorporated and has a Constitution and By-Laws governing its operations. The By-Laws of both the M.H.L. and the Area Association with which you are affiliated are available upon request from your Area Association.

For administrative purposes, the M.H.L. through its affiliation with the G.T.H.L. receives administrative guidance, insurance coverage, and a linkage with the O.H.F. and Hockey Canada. Linkage with Hockey Canada provides access to rules and regulations and is also necessary for regulation of play with other associations in Canada or internationally through the Hockey Canada’s membership in the International Ice Hockey Federation (I.I.H.F.).

## LEAGUE HISTORY

The 2020 - 2021 season marks the 74th year of the Mississauga Hockey League. The League's origins began with the Toronto Township Hockey League, which was formed in 1946 with Cooksville, Streetsville, Erindale, Clarkson, Lorne Park, Lakeview, Cloverleaf, Malton and Burnhamthorpe. There were five divisions, Intermediate, Juvenile, Minor Midget, PeeWee and Tadpole. Games were played on outdoor ice in Erindale, Burnhamthorpe, Forsters Rink in Cooksville, Dixie, Malton, Port Credit, and at Lester's Arena south of Brampton. The first President was Alf McCallum.

By 1950, there were 45 teams (46 in 1947-1948) and the League entered a Junior "B" team in the Ontario Hockey League, known as the Dixie Beehives.

The Toronto Township Hockey League affiliated with the Toronto Hockey League (now the Metropolitan Toronto Hockey League) in 1956 and by 1967 boundaries were established and 155 teams from Applewood, Burnhamthorpe, Clarkson, Cloverleaf, Cooksville, Dixie, Erindale, Lakeview, Lyndwood, Malton and Port Credit were using four covered arenas - Port Credit, Dixie, Huron Park and Streetsville.

In 1968, the Toronto Township Hockey League became the Mississauga Hockey League. By 1972, 400 teams were registered and parents were travelling to Acton, Bolton, Milton, Nobleton, Burlington, Woodbridge and Oakville for practices usually in the early hours of the morning. As Mississauga has grown and changed, so has the M.H.L. Today, parents no longer have to travel outside the City for practices and games. The league offers hockey on six different levels of skill - "A", Red, White, Blue, Green and Gold (Minor Novice and Novice only) thus ensuring that hockey is available to every youngster in the City of Mississauga.

In 1983, the New Concept "A" level was formed. This was a separate level of "A" hockey from that offered by the M.H.L Associations and was more akin to "AA" calibre. New Concept teams were not permitted to enter "A" Tournaments and could only enter "AA" or higher. New Concept teams (with sponsoring organizations in brackets) were known as the Mississauga Algonquins (Clarkson), Mississauga Cree (Cawthra Park and Dixie), Mississauga Iroquois (Erindale), Mississauga Hurons (Port Credit), Mississauga Mohawks (Malton and Meadowvale) and Mississauga Ojibwa (Lorne Park). The New Concept level merged back with the regular M.H.L. in 1988.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHING STAFF IN ARENAS

Unfortunately, there are occasions where isolated areas of conflict arise between teams and arena staff simply because of a lack of understanding, or common sense, poor communication or outright carelessness on the part of a team official. The following hopefully will assist you in avoiding any problems when in arenas and lead to a positive relationship throughout the hockey season.

1. Remember that you and your team are responsible for any damage to an arena dressing room in which you were the last known occupants. Flooded floors, marked walls and doors, broken light fittings and/or damaged plumbing facilities are usually the source of most complaints received by the M.H.L. It is your responsibility to check your assigned dressing room immediately upon arrival at an arena to ensure that no damage has been caused by the previous occupants. If something causes you concern, it should be reported to the arena staff immediately. Before and after games, please educate your players to use the garbage cans that are usually placed in the dressing rooms.
2. After each game, one member of your coaching staff should be the last person to leave the dressing room to ensure that no damage will be caused by any of your players (e.g. debris in toilets, running water, marked walls or doors etc.). Once that person leaves, the dressing room should be locked to prevent other individuals causing damage for which your team might be blamed. Any team deemed responsible for causing damage will have their Association billed by the League for the cost of the repairs and will risk further disciplinary action.
3. Team officials are also responsible for any damage inflicted in an arena by their team when it is en route between its dressing room and the players' bench.
4. Fighting in arena hallways is totally unacceptable. Any players or team officials identified as initiating or being a party to such behaviour will be required to appear before the League's Discipline Committee before being permitted to take part in any future games.
5. Please be aware that any player or team official who accosts a game official (verbally or otherwise) following a game risks severe disciplinary action. While the M.H.L. is proud of the multitude of coaches who generously donate their time and experience to benefit our community's youth, there are a few who require a reminder that their personal deportment in an arena (both inside and outside) is expected to be above reproach regardless of whatever the prevailing emotions or conditions might be. Irrational or irresponsible actions or emotions by any adult on a coaching staff only contribute to or initiate similar actions by the players. Similarly, please ensure that your team parents display an equal level of control.

# MISSISSAUGA HOCKEY LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

## 1. MISSION STATEMENT

### 1.1 (a) MHL Vision Statement

A leader in minor hockey sports programs for Mississauga.

### (b) MHL Mission Statement

The Mississauga Hockey League is committed to develop, promote, and lead hockey programs that provide fun, while developing skills of the game, life skills, and good sportsmanship in a safe environment.

### (c) MHL Core Message

“It’s more than just a game. The Mississauga Hockey League is the best choice for a well-rounded team experience. Become part of a vibrant community, while learning life skills.”

### (d) MHL Tag Line

“Welcome to Your Team!”

### (e) MHL Core Values

- **SAFETY**

You can be confident that we have your child’s safety at heart. We’re a non-contact (non-body-checking) league that promotes fair play.

- **FUN**

Above all, the MHL is about fun! Enjoy healthy competition in a pressure-free atmosphere.

- **PROFESSIONAL**

The MHL experience is second to none, above all other minor sports leagues. Your players will have access to the best trained coaches and the most knowledgeable League staff.

- **INCLUSIVE**

Everyone is welcome in the MHL. Whether you’re here to learn the game, or already experienced – we have a spot for you!

- **SKILLS**

Your players will learn hockey fundamentals, plus life skills like self-discipline, respect, and teamwork.

- **PASSION**

Kids love hockey! You can see the pride in their eyes when they put on their jersey. They can’t wait to lace up their skates and take to the ice.

- **CAMARADERIE**

The MHL is a social experience for both players and parents. You’ll make friends for life.

- **CONNECTIVITY**

The MHL is the hub of hockey in Mississauga. We unite parents, players, and businesses to create opportunities for everyone.

**1.2 Operation as a Non-profit Organization:** The League shall operate as a non-profit organization for the purposes described in its Purposes and Objectives set forth in Rule 1.1 above, and will conduct the affairs of the League without pecuniary gain to or benefit of any of its' members. The League will use all revenue solely for the promotion of these purposes and objectives. As a non-profit organization, the League will prepare its approved budget and run its operations with the intent that its annual revenues not exceed its annual expenses, other than to create and maintain such endowments, reserves and contingency funds as the Board, in its discretion and from time to time, considers necessary, appropriate or desirable and other than to ensure that the League is able to meet its financial obligations as they become due. Furthermore, to the extent that in any financial year the revenues of the League exceed its expenses, such excess revenues shall be retained by the League, shall not be distributed and shall be used following such financial year to pay expenses of the League incurred in the furtherance of its purposes.

**1.3 Publication of Financial Summary:** Within 60 days after the end of each financial year, the League will publish its audited financial statements or a financial summary that shall present, in summary fashion, the Income and Expenses Statement and Balance Sheet of the League for such then completed financial year. The audited financial statements or financial summary shall include a brief commentary from the Board, including a letter signed by two of its Officers, including the Officer who is responsible for financial matters, that confirms that the League, as of its most recent financial year-end, has continued to operate as a non-profit organization. If a financial summary is published, it shall provide at least the same level of disclosure as required of an Association by Rule 3.6. The audited financial statements or financial summary shall, in addition to any other means of publication approved by the Board, be available on the League's website. Copies shall be available to Association Officials, Team Officials, players (including any parent or guardian of such player) and media at the MHL Office. The League shall mail a copy of the audited financial statements or a financial summary to any Association Official, Team Official, player (including any parent or guardian of such player) who requests a copy.

## **2. GENERAL**

### **2.01 DEFINITIONS**

“Association” means a Community Area Hockey Association, which is incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation and operated and controlled by a duly elected Board of Directors, which is accepted for membership in the League, whose players are Mississauga Residents and which enters Teams for play in the League;

“**Association Officials**” means the officers and directors of an Association and “Association Official” means any one of them;

“**Board**” means the Board of Directors of the MHL;

“**By-laws**” means the By-laws of the MHL from time to time in force and effect;

“**CBET**” means the NCCP Competency Based Education Training programs for coaches.

“**Club**” means the same as Association.

“**Community Area Hockey Associations**” means Applewood Hockey Association, Erindale Hockey Association, Heartland Hockey Association, Lorne Park Clarkson Hockey Association, Meadowvale Minor Hockey Association and Port Credit Hockey Association and “Community Area Hockey Association” or “Area Association” means any one of them.

“**Exhibition Game**” means a sanctioned game that is not part of the regular season or playoff schedule;



**“Fair and Equal Ice Time”** means ensuring that all players get the same opportunity to contribute to the outcome of all games, regardless of skill or ability. A coach’s responsibility is to develop all players to contribute. Shortening of the bench is not permitted. All players should receive fair and as close to equal ice time, including equal opportunities on special teams.

**“Game Officials”** means the on-ice officials for each game, being either a referee and two linesmen or two referees, as applicable, and the off-ice officials for each game, being the timekeeper, ticket staff and any other official designated by the League and “Game Official” means any one of them;

**“GTHL”** means the Greater Toronto Hockey League or any organization which may be substituted therefor;

**“GTHL Office”** means the administrative office of the GTHL, which is currently located at 57 Carl Hall Rd., Toronto, ON M3K 2B6.

**“Goaltender(s)”** means all players other than skaters;

**“Head Coach”** means the person who has been registered with the MHL Office as the Coach of the Team (as opposed to the persons registered as Assistant Coaches, Trainer, Manager or other Team Official), provided that for any game in which the person who has been registered as the Coach of the Team is unable to participate on the bench at the start of such game (whether due to illness, absence, suspension or other legitimate reason resulting in that person not appearing on the bench), then it shall be the other Team Official who assumes control of the Team on the bench for such game.

The Head Coach shall be considered the individual responsible for directing and guiding the actions and efforts of the Team and for ensuring that all members of the Team, i.e. players and Team Officials, uphold the rules, regulations and policies of Hockey Canada, the OHF, the GTHL, the MHL and the Association. Along with the other Team Officials on the Team, the Head Coach is responsible for the conduct of Team members in the arena before, during and after each game.

**“Hockey Canada”** means Hockey Canada, the national governing body for hockey in Canada, formerly known as Canadian Hockey Association (CHA);

**“House League”** is defined by Hockey Canada as a community oriented minor hockey program structured to provide development and competition at the recreational level.

**“HTCP”** means the Hockey Trainers Certification Program;

**“League”** or **“MHL”** means the Mississauga Hockey League;

**“League Officials”** means the officers and directors of the League and “League Official” means any one of them.

**“League Play”** comprises all games scheduled by the League, either during the regular season or playoffs.

**“Legitimate Player”** means a player who contributes to his or her Team by way of actual material participation during League, Tournament and playoff games and, for greater certainty, approval of a Registration Certificate by the League does not verify a player as a Legitimate Player.

**“MHL Office”** or **“League Office”** means the administrative office of the League, which is currently located at 3615 Laird Rd., Unit 14, Mississauga, ON L5L 5Z8;

**“MHL Pass”** or **“Pass”** means a document which authorizes Team Officials, Association Officials, League Officials, MHL Past Presidents and members of the Hall of Fame to be behind the bench at MHL and MHL-sanctioned games;

**“Mississauga Resident”** means someone who maintains a residence, year round, within the territorial boundaries of the City of Mississauga (“Mississauga”) or a student registered in an educational institution who resides in Mississauga for at least eight months a year.

**“NCCP”** means the National Coaches Certification Program;

“**OHF**” means the Ontario Hockey Federation or any organization which may be substituted therefor;  
“**OHF Suspension List**” means the then current Minimum Suspension List published by the OHF, a copy of which will be posted on the MHL website.

“**Official Game Sheet**” means the official report of the activity from a sanctioned hockey game verified by Team Officials from each competing Team and signed at the end of the game by the on-ice Game Officials.

“**Player(s)**” means goaltenders and skaters;

“**Registration Certificate**” means, in the case of a player, a Hockey Canada or GTHL registration certificate or card which has been adopted for use by the League for the purpose of player registration and, in the case of a Team Official, a Hockey Canada or GTHL registration certificate or card which has been adopted for use by the League for the purpose of Team Official registration and, to the extent that the League adopts a form of electronic or computer-based registration for players or Team Officials, the form of registration so adopted by the League.

“**Registration Information**” means the information provided to the League concerning a player or Team Official upon completion of the Registration Certificate.

“**Rink Duty Official**” means any Team Official who is assigned responsibility by the Association with which he is registered to attend games at a specific arena in order to represent the League in an official capacity in any situation that may arise during any game or games such as calling for medical help in the case of an injury, reporting on the integrity and safety of the facilities, ensuring Teams are ready to take to the ice at the scheduled game times and reporting on the behaviour of Teams and spectators.

“**Rules and Regulations**” means the rules and regulations of the MHL passed by resolution of the Board from time to time and ratified at an annual or general meeting of members;

“**Season**” means the period of time commencing on September 1 in a given calendar year and ending on or before May 15 in the next following calendar year with the completion of Try Outs for the following Season.

“**Skater(s)**” means all players other than goaltenders;

“**Special Committee**” means a special committee of the Board, which has been appointed by the Board for a specific purpose and, for greater certainty, includes special committees of the Board formed from time to time for the purpose of conducting hearings.

“**Team**” means a hockey team entered for play in the League consisting of Team Officials and not more than the number of Legitimate Players permitted by these Rules.

“**Team Official(s)**” means all or any of the following persons involved in the management of a Team or Association registered on a Registration Certificate, and includes Coach, Manager, Assistant Coach, Trainer, President and other members of the Executive and/or board of directors of an Association. Subject to the provisions contained elsewhere in these Rules and Regulations, a maximum of five (5) Team Officials may be on the bench at any one time;

“**Tournament**” means a schedule of sanctioned games played amongst three (3) or more Teams, which follows an inter-locking schedule and leads to an eventual winner.

“**Try Out**” means an official sanctioned activity for the purpose of player evaluation and team selection.

## 2.02 INTERPRETATION

In these Rules and Regulations unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular number or the masculine gender shall include the plural number or the feminine gender, as the case may be, and vice versa, and references to persons shall include companies, corporations, partnerships, trusts and any number or aggregate of persons.

## 2.03 ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

(a) League Organization: The League consists of member Associations. The Board administers the League. The officers of the League are the President, the Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary and Immediate Past President.

(b) Operating Staff: Day to day operations of the League are administered by an office staff comprised of, among others, an Executive Director, a Manager, Game Officials, a League Operations Co-ordinator and Scheduler and an Administrative Assistant. All office staff shall be under the supervision and control of the Executive Director and the President. The Executive Director and the President shall report to the Board.

(c) Restriction on Employment: No League Official, no Association Official and no member of any such person's immediate family may be a full-time or regular part-time member of the League's office staff, except as may be authorized by the Board.

(d) Special Powers of President: The President shall have the power, exercisable at his discretion when circumstances warrant, to suspend any player, Team Official, Association Official, Game Official, Rink Duty Official or League Official for (i) unsportsmanlike conduct; (ii) abusive, profane or discriminatory language to any player, Team Official, Association Official, Game Official, Rink Duty Official or League Official; or (iii) conduct that brings the League or any Association or Team into disrepute; whether this conduct occurs on or off the ice and whether this conduct occurs during or in relation to any exhibition, Tournament, regular season or playoff game.

(e) Powers of the Board: The Board shall have the power to set policy for and manage the affairs of the League and, without limiting the foregoing, shall have the power to:

1. determine the categorization of Teams;
2. make special rules for any category or age division or for Exhibition Games, League Play, Tournaments or playoffs;
3. determine all questions arising from emergencies not specifically provided for in these Rules (provided that at least 24 hours' notice of the time and place appointed for consideration of such questions shall be given by the Executive Director to each Association concerned);
4. suspend any player, Team Official, Association Official, Game Official, Rink Duty Official or League Official for
  - (i) continued foul play or ungentlemanly or unsportsmanlike conduct;
  - (ii) abusive, profane or discriminatory language to any player, Team Official, Association Official, Game Official, Rink Duty Official or League Official; or
  - (iii) conduct that brings the League or any or Team into disrepute; whether this conduct occurs on or off the ice and whether this conduct occurs during or in relation to any exhibition, Tournament, league or playoff game;
4. suspend any player, Team Official, Association Official, Game Official, Rink Duty Official or League Official for any failure to pay assessments, fines, levies or other amounts due to the League or for persistent contravention of the rules or regulations of the League;
5. suspend or expel any player, Team Official, Association Official, Game Official, Rink Duty Official, League Official, Team or Association for refusing to accept and obey any ruling of the Board or any Special Committee;
6. re-admit by resolution, passed by a majority vote of the Board, any player, Team Official, Association Official, Game Official, Rink Duty Official, League Official, Team or Association who or that has been under suspension;
7. appoint and provide for the payment of an Executive Director and office personnel;

8. conduct the business of the League, authorizing all expenditures in connection therewith; and
9. delegate any of the foregoing powers to any Special Committee appointed by the Board and otherwise appoint committees as the Board, in its discretion, deems necessary or desirable.

#### 2.04 GOVERNING BODY RULE CHANGES

The Board is authorized to amend the Rules and Regulations of the Mississauga Hockey League from time to time as is necessary to comply with any changes made to the Rules and/or Regulations of the Greater Toronto Hockey League and/or the Ontario Hockey Federation and/or Hockey Canada. Such changes shall not require ratification by the membership of the Mississauga Hockey League. The Board shall give members prompt notice of any such changes.

### 3. GOVERNANCE

**3.01 Each Association Must be Separately Incorporated:** Each Association must be separately incorporated and operate only one hockey organization and no other organization. As a result, each Association may operate a group of Teams under only one Association/team name. This Rule shall not, however, prohibit or prevent an Association from operating a House League organization and an associated group of competitive Teams, provided that the associated group of competitive Teams constitutes only one competitive organization that otherwise complies with all of the League's Rules.

**3.02 Provision of By-laws to the League:** Each year by June 1st, each Association shall submit to the League a full and complete copy of its then current by-laws, or if the copy of the by-laws last submitted to the League remains current, a letter signed by one of its Officers confirming that. Whenever an Association amends its by-laws during a Season, it shall, within 30 days of such by-law amendment becoming effective, file a copy of such by-law amendment with the League.

**3.03 Provision of Annual Filings to the League:** Each year by June 1st, each Association shall submit to the League a copy of the last annual filing that it has made to the Ministry of Consumer and Business Services (or its successor), together with any change notices filed since the last annual filing. Whenever an Association makes an annual filing or files a change notice with the Ministry of Consumer and Business Services (or its successor) during the Season, the Association shall deliver a copy of such annual filing or change notice to the League Office within 30 days of such filing being made to the Ministry.

**3.04 Provision of a List of Members to the League:** Each year by June 1st, each Association shall submit to the League a then current list of its members, except that if it has more than 25 members, it may instead submit a then current list of its Board of Directors or Executive Board or Committee. Whenever during the Season there is a change to the list submitted, the Association shall deliver to the League Office a written notice of such changes within 30 days of such change occurring.

**3.05 Provision of a List of Corporate Officers to the League:** Each year by June 1st, an Association shall submit to the League an up-to-date list of those persons who are its then current officers and directors for corporate purposes unless it has already done so pursuant to Rule 3.04. In any filing made with the League pursuant to Article 3.01 of the League's By-laws to designate



the Registered Representatives of an Association, no person shall be designated in such filing as holding an office unless that person holds that office for corporate purposes. Whenever during the Season there is a change in the composition of its officers or directors, an Association shall deliver to the League Office an updated listing of its officers and directors reflecting such change. Such notice shall be delivered to the League Office within 30 days of such change occurring.

**3.06 Provision of Annual Declaration of Not-for-Profit Status:** Each year by June 1<sup>st</sup>, when an Association applies for membership in the League, it shall submit, together with its application for membership, a letter signed by two of its Officers, including the Officer who is responsible for financial matters, that confirms that the Association, as of its most recent financial year-end, has continued to operate as a non-profit organization. At the same time it shall also submit a set of financial statements that includes a Statement of Financial Position (i.e. Balance Sheet) and a Statement of Operations (i.e. Statement of Revenue & Expenses) as of its most recent financial year-end. The financial statements shall also include a report thereon from a professional Accountant in the form of either a Notice to Reader, a Review Engagement Report, or an Auditor's Report. The Association's financial statement shall be made available by the Association to any participant of the Association upon request.

**3.07 Provision of Association Policies:** Each Association shall prepare in writing a set of Association Policies in whatever format it deems appropriate. The Association Policies must be made available to each player (which for this purpose, where the player is under 18 years of age, shall include at least one of the player's parents or legal guardians), prior to or at the time he signs a Registration Certificate. The player (including the parent or legal guardian to whom it has been provided), must be afforded an opportunity to review the Association Policies before a Registration Certificate is signed. For any Association that utilizes an electronic, on-line method of registration, it will be acceptable for the Association Policies to be made available for download in an electronic format subject to the on-line registration program providing the player (including the parent or legal guardian) with a mandatory check box to be completed stating that he has read and understood the Association Policies prior to completing the registration process. Each Association will be required to file a copy of its then current Association Policies with the League, or post them on the Association's website, prior to the League's try-out period. In order for an "A" Team's or Gold Team's Registration Certificates to be filed and accepted for registration by the League, each Association will be required to have an Association Official or a Team Official who has been involved with the signing of such Registration Certificate certify that the Association Policies for such Association have been made available to each player who signs a Registration Certificate with the Association, and to such player's parent or legal guardian, prior to the signing of a Registration Certificate. In the case of Registration Certificates for House League Teams or House League Select Teams in the Divisions from Tyke through Juvenile, such certification must be made by an Association Official at the time the Association makes its application for (a) House League Teams in accordance with Rule 29.02 and (b) House League Select Teams in accordance with Rule 19.03.

**3.08 Disclosure Relating to Fees:** Each Association shall provide a player and at least one of the player's parents or his legal guardian, (which for this purpose, where the player is under 18 years of age, shall include at least one of the player's parents or legal guardians) prior to or at the time he signs a Registration Certificate, with a statement in writing disclosing the full amount to be paid to the Association as registration fees for the Season and setting forth the goods, equipment and services that will be provided to the player for such amount.

**3.09 Disclosure of Payments to be made to Association or Team Officials:** Prior to or at the time a player (which for this purpose, where the player is under 18 years of age, shall include at least one of the player's parents or his legal guardian) signs a Registration Certificate, the Association shall disclose to the player whether or not it is intended that any Association Officials or Team Officials for that player's team are to be paid any amounts, beyond reimbursement of expenses, for non-Director services. Such disclosure may be made in the Association's financial statements referred to in Rule 3.06, in the team budget or statements referred to in Rule 3.11 or otherwise. Similarly, if it is intended that a Team Official will receive, directly or indirectly, any payment from or on behalf of any parent(s) of the Team, the names of the person(s) making such payments shall be disclosed to the player.

**3.10 Mandatory Disclosure of Involvement of Association and Team Officials:** Where an Association or Team does, or intends to, purchase goods or services from a supplier who is directly or indirectly in a non-arm's length position to the Association or Team, that fact should be disclosed to each player (which for this purpose, where the player is under 18 years of age, shall include at least one of the player's parents or his legal guardian) prior to or at the time he signs the Registration Certificate or as soon thereafter as it is decided that such purchase will be made. If a supplier of goods or services is chosen pursuant to an open and competitive bid process set out in the Association's Policies, the disclosure under this Rule is not mandatory.

**3.11 Management of Team Finances:** Each Association shall be responsible for ensuring that each of its Teams provides financial disclosure and financial controls with respect to the funding of the Team's activities in accordance with this Rule. Pursuant to this Rule, each Team shall:

- (a) provide an estimated budget for the Team to each player (which for this purpose, where the player is under 18 years of age, shall include at least one of the player's parents or legal guardians) (a) prior to or at the time he signs a Registration Certificate in the case of an "A" Team or a Gold Team and (b) prior to or at the second Team practice in the case of a House League Team or a House League Select Team, if applicable, which estimated budget shall be in reasonable detail and shall specify in reasonable detail the things (such as practice ice, tournaments, on-ice skills instructors etc.) on which Team monies will be spent and how it is proposed that they will be paid for;
- (b) except for items that were clearly indicated as being reasonable estimates and subject to finalization, no material adjustment shall be made to such budget or to the program described in such estimated budget without the prior concurrence of the Team Officials and a majority of the parents of players;
- (c) provide interim financial updates on or about December 15 and season-end in the case of any Team;
- (d) provide a final, year-end statement of Team revenues and expenses within four weeks of the last Team event for such Team;
- (e) require that there be at least three signing authorities for each Team bank account including at least one Team Official, and at least two parents who are unrelated to and independent from any Team Official or Association Official;
- (f) require that at least two signatures be necessary for each Team cheque or withdrawal, including the signatures of at least one of the parent representatives referred to in (e) above;
- (g) require that the season-end financial statement referred to in (d) above be signed by at least two of the signing authorities, including at least one of the parent representatives referred to in

(e) above; and

(h) require that the Team's bank account be reduced to zero at the season-end and any funds be distributed to parents, pro rata in accordance with their contribution to the Team's funding.

**3.12 Provision of Any Team Rules and Policies:** To the extent that the Association Policies permit its Teams to establish certain rules or policies for their operation, the Association shall ensure that each Team provides to each of its players (which for this purpose, where the player is under 18 years of age, shall include at least one of the player's parents or legal guardians), a statement in writing setting forth any such Team rules or policies (a) prior to him signing his Registration Certificate, in the case of an "A" Team or a Gold Team, and (b) prior to or at the second Team practice, in the case of a House League Team or a House League Select Team. Such Team rules and policies may be amended or changed from time to time, with the concurrence of the Team Officials and the approval of a majority of the Team's parents, so long as any amendments or changes to the Team rules or policies are confirmed in writing to each of its players (which for this purpose, where the player is under 18 years of age, shall include at least one of the player's parents or legal guardians), a statement in writing setting forth any such Team rules or policies (a) prior to him signing his Registration Certificate, in the case of an "A" Team or a Gold Team, and (b) prior to or at the second Team practice, in the case of a House League Team or a House League Select Team. Such Team rules and policies may be amended or changed from time to time, with the concurrence of the Team Officials and the approval of a majority of the Team's parents, so long as any amendments or changes to the Team rules or policies are confirmed in writing to each of its players (which for this purpose, where the player is under 18 years of age, shall include at least one of the player's parents or legal guardians), and the player's parents, prior to becoming effective.

**3.13 Establishment of Association Dispute Resolution Process:** Each Association shall establish a dispute resolution process within the Association's structure. Such dispute resolution process shall permit a player (which for this purpose, where the player is under 18 years of age, shall include at least one of the player's parents or legal guardians), to seek to resolve any complaint about (i) any financial matter relating to the registration fees of the Association or payment thereof, (ii) any Team fees payable by the player or payment thereof, or (iii) any other problem related to compliance with the rules and policies of the Association, as specified in the Association Policies, and have such complaint resolved. The complaint shall be heard within 15 days of receipt of the complaint by one or more directors, officers or members of the Association who are independent of the Team for which the player is registered, with a copy of the decision being forwarded to the League Office. While the exact process to be used by the Association shall be determined by the Association, the details of the process shall be set forth in the Association Policies.

**3.14 Appeal to Special Committee regarding Association Dispute Resolution Process:** - When an Association renders a decision pursuant to its dispute resolution process (including a decision not to engage its dispute resolution process) and when, but only when, it has failed:

- (i) to follow its published dispute resolution process, or
- (ii) to enforce its published rules or policies, a player (which for this purpose, where the player is under 18 years of age, shall include at least one of the player's parents or a legal guardian) may seek to have it reviewed by a Special Committee. The Association shall promptly in writing advise the player of its decision and the reasons for it and that the player must comply with the following review procedures: the application for review must be in writing, must set

out the grounds that the player believes entitle him to a review and must be delivered to the League Office within seven days of the decision being delivered by the Association to the player. An application under this Rule shall proceed in the same fashion as would an appeal pursuant Rule 5.01 and, except as may be inconsistent with this Rule, the procedures in Rule 5 shall apply. In connection with any such review, the player shall agree to be bound by the conclusions of the Special Committee, which conclusions shall be final and not subject to any right of appeal. To the extent that the decision of the Association was based solely or in part on the exercise of discretion, the Special Committee shall not be entitled to substitute its discretion for that of the Association.

**3.15 Sanctions:** The following sanctions shall apply with respect to any breach of or failure to comply with the Rules or Articles indicated:

(a) Rule 3.01 (Separate Incorporation): Any Association that fails to comply with the requirements of this rule may have its membership suspended by the Board if it has not come into compliance within 30 days after the Board has delivered to it a written notice, via registered mail, of such failure. The Board may enter into a written agreement, on terms set by the Board that provides an Association with a specified period of time to bring itself into compliance with this rule.

(b) Rules 3.02 to 3.06 (Provision of By-laws, annual filings, list of members, list of corporate officers and declaration of not-for-profit status):

(i) Any Association that fails to provide with its annual application for membership the documents required by these rules, may have its application for membership rejected and will not be considered for membership in the League unless and until such documents have been provided to the League.

(ii) Each Association Official who has knowledge of, or who acquiesces in a failure to provide the League with any updating documentation required by these rules may be suspended by the Board, or by a Special Committee, for a period of up to one year.

(iii) If at any time an Association remains in breach of these rules 30 days after the League gives it written notice via registered mail of such breach then the League shall be entitled to refuse to accept for filing its Registration Certificates until such breach has been rectified and all its Teams will be denied approvals for tournament applications that are submitted after the giving of such notice until it has made the required filings.

(c) Rules 3.07 and 3.08 (Provision of Association Policies to players/League and disclosure of fees to players/parents):

(i) Each Association Official or Team Official who has knowledge of, or who acquiesces in, an Association or Team failing to comply with the disclosure requirements of these rules may be suspended by the Board or by a Special Committee, for a period of up to one year. However, an Association Official or Team Official shall not be suspended if he or she is able to demonstrate that he or she made reasonable efforts to ensure that the Association or Team complied with these rules and that he or she did not participate in or acquiesce in the actual failure to make the required disclosure. For this purpose a written directive from the President of the Association to the Head Coach of each Team shall be sufficient evidence of compliance with this rule by the Association Officials.

(ii) Any Association Official or Team Official who supplies a false certificate pursuant to Rule 3.07 may be suspended by the Board or by a Special Committee for a period of not less than one year and up to three years. However, such suspension may be less than one year, or none at all, if the Association Official or Team Official is able to demonstrate that he or she exercised due diligence to ensure the certificate was correct and reasonably believed in good faith that it was correct.



(iii) Any Association that has not filed its then current Association Policies with the League as required by Rule 3.07 shall not be entitled to register any Registration Certificates until such filing has been made.

(iv) The Registration Certificates of any "A" Team or Gold Team will not be accepted for registration until its Association has filed on its behalf the certificate required by Rule 3.07 certifying that the Association Policies have been provided to the players and parents of that Team. No House League Team or House League Select Team will be accepted for competition in accordance with Rule 29.02 or Rule 19.03 until the Association has filed a similar such certificate on its behalf

(d) Rules 3.09 and 3.10 (Disclosure of payments and of involvement with suppliers):

(i) Any Association Official or Team Official who fails to provide the disclosure required by these rules, shall be suspended by the Board or by a Special Committee for a period of not less than one year and up to three years. However, such suspension may be less than one year if the Association Official or Team Official is able to demonstrate that he or she exercised due diligence to ensure the required disclosure was made and reasonably believed in good faith that it was made.

(ii) If any Association Official or Team Official or Related Person has received any payment that was not disclosed prior to such payment being made, as required by Rule 3.9, the Association Official or Team Official shall be suspended by the Board or a Special Committee for a period of not less than one year. Notwithstanding the term of such suspension, it shall not end until the amount so received has been repaid to the Team or the Association from whom such payment was made.

(e) Rules 3.11 and 3.12 (Team finances and provision of Team rules/policies): Each Association Official who knowingly permits, or who acquiesces in, any of the Association's Teams failing to comply with the requirements of these rules may be suspended by the Board or by a Special Committee for a period of up to one year.

(f) Article 3.04 of By-law Number One: Any Association that fails to operate on a non-profit basis in an open and accountable manner may be expelled from the League by the Board. Where the Board intends to so expel an Association, the League shall notify the Association in writing of such intention and the reasons for it and the Association shall be permitted an opportunity to appear and make representations before the Board.

(g) If an Association Official or Team Official is unable to fulfill any obligation under Rule 3 due to a cause beyond his control, then provided that he acts diligently and in good faith to fulfill the obligation, the time period for fulfilling the obligation shall be extended by the time during which the cause prevents him from fulfilling the obligation.

#### **4. AFFILIATION (CALL-UPS)**

4.01 All players can affiliate with Teams from the same Association providing they are from Teams:

(a) From the same age Division and a lower Category (for example, U12 White from U12 Blue), or only if a team is playing in a combined age Division (for example, U17 & U18 A teams), from that same age Division and a lower Category including players from all age groups in the combined Division. (Example: A U17/18A team would be able to call-up an affiliate player from a U17, U18 or combined U17/18 Red division team.)

(b) If U17A and U18A teams are playing games in a combined Division, affiliation between teams is not permitted.

- (c) From one age Division lower and from the same or lower Category (for example, U12 White from U11 White or U11 Blue) or one category higher (for example, U12 White from U11 Red).
- (d) From up to two age Divisions lower and from the same or lower Category or one category higher for U14 to U18. (Example: U16 White from U15 Red, U15 White, U15 Blue, U14 Red, U14 White, or U14 Blue)
- (e) U21 Red Teams are permitted to affiliate with U21 White teams and U18 Red, White and Blue Teams only. U21 White teams are permitted to affiliate with U18 White and Blue Teams only.
- (f) U8 Teams are NOT permitted to affiliate from the U7 Category.
- (g) U9 Teams are permitted to affiliate from the U8 Category ONLY up until the January half-to-full-ice switch.
- (h) U10 Teams are NOT permitted to affiliate from the U9 Category until after the January half-to-full-ice switch.
- (i) U8 Gold and U10 "A" teams may only affiliate minor-aged players from within combined minor/major age groups.
- (j) No House League team shall be allowed to affiliate a player from an "A" team or a Gold team.
- (k) No "A" team (U10 or above) shall be allowed to affiliate a player from a Gold team (U8 or U9).

Teams from the same Association that are placed in split Categories either prior, during or after Convening, but excluding Categories that have been split only for Playoff purposes, are permitted to affiliate players from Teams in the lower split Category. (For instance, a U8 Blue1 Team is permitted to affiliate players from the U8 Blue2 Team. However, Blue2 could not affiliate players from Blue1. The same applies to Red1/Red2, White1/White2, Green1/Green2, as applicable.

4.02 Goaltender Affiliation: As in Rule 4.01, plus...

- (a) From one age Division higher and from the same or lower Category (for example, U14 Red from U15 Red, U15 White or U15 Blue).
- (b) From a same-Association team playing within the same Division. In instances where these teams are scheduled to play each other, the team designated as the Home team in the schedule shall have first pick of available goaltenders.

See also Rule 16 – Goaltender Hardship.

4.03 An eligible affiliate player as defined in Rule 4.01 or 4.02 may play for a Team an unlimited number of times before and including January 10 of the hockey Season. After January 10, he can only play a maximum of 5 games for the same Team. Any player playing more than 5 games as an affiliate for the same Team after January 10 will be deemed an ineligible player. (See Rule 17.02)

For purposes of this Rule, only MHL Regular Season games, MHL Playoff games, and GTA Championship games will count toward the 5-game limit.

4.04 Appearance of a registered player's name on the Official Game Sheet shall be considered participation in the game.

4.05 Tournament, Exhibition Games, and GTHL Play Downs are excluded from the number of games referred to in Rule 4.03.

4.06 No Team shall be allowed to affiliate players that would put their roster above the number of total players listed in the Team's MHL Approved Team Roster. Approved Team Rosters include both skaters and goalies. No team shall be allowed to play a game with less than six (6) of its' rostered players participating. See also Rule 10 – Defaults.

4.07 No "A" Team shall be allowed to affiliate a skater to compensate the absence of a goaltender. This rule shall apply to those Teams that have two registered goaltenders.

4.08 All Teams playing affiliated players under this rule are required to insert "A.P." for Affiliated Player after each such player's name on the Official Game Sheet.

4.09 In order to conform to Lake Ontario Region (LOR) Agreement rules, only House League teams may affiliate import players who reside outside of the LOR. "A" teams are not allowed to sign or affiliate (i.e. call-up) import players who are not covered by the LOR Agreement. The LOR is an area or geographic subdivision that is made up of the following: GTHL (Toronto, Mississauga and Vaughan), and the surrounding OMHA area including Oakville, Brampton, Richmond Hill, Pickering, Ajax and Markham. Burlington, Milton & Georgetown are 3 examples of non-LOR municipalities.)

## **5. APPEALS**

5.01 Any player or Team Official who considers himself aggrieved with regard to his status with an Association or Team may appeal his position to the Board or a Special Committee.

5.02 Suspension Appeals must be on the form provided by the MHL and must be filed with the MHL Office not later than 72 hours exclusive of Calendar Saturdays, Sundays, and Statutory holidays after the implementation of the suspension. Suspensions can only be appealed in accordance with MHL regulation 26.20. Appeal fees must be paid in accordance with MHL Regulation 13.01. A non-refundable Appeal Fee must accompany each appeal. A meeting of the Board or a Special Committee will be scheduled as soon as practicable in order to hear the appeal. Appeals against any decision of the Board or Special Committee regarding Suspensions must be filed with the GTHL office as per MHL regulation 5.05.

5.03 Any person instituting an appeal under this Rule 5 and who desires to be represented at the hearing by legal counsel MUST give the MHL Office 14 days' written notice of such desire. In addition such person (or his parent or guardian if such person is a minor) MUST undertake in writing to be responsible for the payment of all legal costs incurred by him, the League, any Association and any other person related to the appeal, and any subsequent appeals relevant to the matter in question.

5.04 Appeals against a decision of the President or a Special Committee shall be filed with the MHL Office within seven (7) days of receipt of notice of such decision and must be accompanied by an Appeal Fee. Appeals will not be considered unless accompanied by the required fee. The Board of Directors or its designated "Appeals Committee" may hear appeals.

5.05 Any Association, Team Official or player who may feel aggrieved by the Board of Directors, a Special Committee or the Appeals Committee of the MHL may appeal to the GTHL in accordance with its Rules 15.8 and 15.9, which appeal must be filed within the specified time frame stipulated by the GTHL and be accompanied by a deposit in the amount required by the GTHL from time to time. An administration fee will be charged by the GTHL for all appeal hearings and must be paid separately from the aforementioned deposit.

## **6. ARENA ADMISSION / BENCH PASSES**

6.01 The Board of Directors will determine gate fee structures for admission to all scheduled league, playoff and other games and Minor Hockey Week events as and when necessary.

6.02 MHL Bench Passes will be issued on the following basis:

- (a) The MHL Office will issue Passes to Team Officials following approval of their Registration Certificates.
- (b) Trainers will be registered and issued a Pass on presentation of an approved, unexpired HTCP Certificate.
- (c) Each Team may register up to five (5) Team Officials. Where five Team Officials are registered, one of them must have obtained a Trainer's certificate. A maximum of five (5) Team Officials may appear on the bench at any game.
- (d) Each Association Official who is not a Team Official will be issued a Pass. Should the status of any Association Official change after the start of the Season (i.e., he or she becomes a Team Official), the League must be notified immediately of such change.
- (e) An MHL Pass will be the only documentation that will be accepted as being a valid entitlement (i.e. proof of registration and insurance) for any Team Official and /or on ice volunteer to be on the ice during a session.

6.03 Each electronic registration for Team Officials MUST include a downloaded photograph showing a head and shoulders pose of the person making application. If an electronic photograph is not available, Team Officials can have their picture taken at the MHL office.

6.04 An MHL Pass will be the only documentation that will be accepted by a Referee as being a valid entitlement (i.e. proof of registration and insurance) for any Team Official to be on the bench during a game.

6.05 A lost or stolen Pass may be replaced upon application to the MHL Office and payment of a fee of \$15.00.

6.06 Any person who allows his MHL Pass to be used illegally by another person will have his pass privilege revoked for a period of one year and be subject to a fine of \$200.

6.07 The issuance of MHL Passes to Team Officials is restricted to eligible applicants who are sixteen (16) years of age or more at the time of application. Each Association is responsible for ensuring that each Team Official is at least 16 years of age prior to submission of that person's Registration Certificate.

6.08 Volunteers will not be issued with MHL Passes. However, upon completion of an MHL Volunteer Registration Certificate, they will be issued with evidence that they are duly registered insured volunteers.

6.09 Except in the case of injury to their child, non-registered individuals are not permitted, under any circumstances, to be on the Team's bench during games. Where it is found that a non-registered individual is on the bench and is participating in the game, the game shall be recorded as a 1-0 victory for the non-offending Team. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, if the opposing Team won the game in any event, then the actual game score shall stand. Further, the Team Official found to be responsible for permitting the non-registered individual to participate in the game shall be suspended for six (6) games.

## **7. BEHAVIOUR**

### **7.01 Standard of Behaviour:**

(a) Spectators, Team Officials, Association Officials, Game Officials, League Officials, and players are expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner at all games, whether regular season, exhibition, playoff, Tournament, or Regional or OHF Championships.

(b) Spectators, Team Officials, Association Officials, Game Officials, League Officials, and players shall not use any abusive, profane or discriminatory language or gesture that is directed at any other person or is related to any sanctioned hockey activity, whether this conduct occurs on or off the ice, including any such language that is posted on internet chat lines, on social networking sites or via text messaging or other forms of electronic information transfer.

(c) Any act of physical violence, or threatened physical violence, by any spectator, Team Official, Association Official, Game Official, League Official, or player against any other person (other than physical acts that are part of the game of hockey), will not be tolerated, whether such act or threat occurs on or off the ice. For the purpose of clarity, physical violence includes, but is not limited to: "locker boxing" and hazing or other initiation practices.

(d) No Team Official, Association Official, Game Official, League Official, or player shall engage in conduct, whether on-ice or off-ice, that brings the League, any Association or Team into disrepute.

Any complaint or allegation of misconduct against an individual under this Rule 7.01 shall be brought forth in an expeditious manner without any undue or unreasonable delay.

**7.02 Ejection from Game:** Any spectator, Team Official, Association Official, League Official, Rink Duty Official or player who behaves in a manner that does not meet the standard described in Rule 7.01 may, in the Game Official's discretion, be ejected from the game or the playing area of any game. In the case of any Team Official, Association Official or player participating in the game, any such ejection may be in addition to any penalty that may be imposed by the Game Official under the rules of hockey. In the case of any ejection of a spectator, the onus of ensuring that the spectator obeys the ejection falls upon the Team to which the spectator is related. The Game Official may delay any game until any ejection is complied with.



**7.03 Damage to Arenas:** Any spectator, Team Official, Association Official or player who causes any damage to any arena or any property therein or who fails to abide by the arena's rules or regulations will be subject to such discipline as may be imposed by the Board or a Special Committee. The President shall have the power to impose any interim discipline pending a hearing before the Board or a Special Committee. In addition, the player, Team Official or Association Official responsible for the damage will be assessed the expenses related to fixing such damage and may be barred from further competition.

**7.04 Prohibition of Spectator:** Any spectator whose conduct in an arena (or in communication with MHL or Association members) is found by the Board or any Special Committee to be disruptive and not conducive to the well being of the game may be prohibited from attending games and/or from such arena(s) as determined by the Board or Special Committee for a specified period of time. The President shall have the authority to impose any interim prohibition pending a Hearing. The onus of enforcing such a prohibition falls upon the Association to which the spectator is related. In any instance where the Association has difficulty enforcing the prohibition, the Board may void the Registration Certificate or suspend the player to whom such spectator is related.

**7.05 Suspension of Team Officials, Association Officials and Players:** In addition to ejection from a particular game pursuant to Rule 7.01, any Team Official, Association Official or player whose conduct does not meet the standard required by Rule 7.01 may be required by the President to appear at a hearing before the Board or a Special Committee. Upon completion of the hearing, the Board or the Special Committee shall be entitled to impose such further suspension or discipline as it, in its discretion, considers appropriate having regard to the behaviour of the Team Official, Association Official or player.

**7.06 Suspension or Discipline of Game Officials:** Any Game Official whose behaviour does not meet the standard described in Rule 7.01 may be disciplined for such failure by the Manager, Game Officials, upon consultation with the Referee Committee, or may be required by the President to appear at a hearing before the Board or a Special Committee. Upon completion of the hearing, the Board or the Special Committee will be entitled to impose such further suspension or discipline as it, in its discretion, considers appropriate having regard to the behaviour of the Game Official.

**7.07 Disturbing Play:** Game Officials may stop play immediately whenever any spectator or group of spectators disrupts play using, for example, a whistle, air horn, laser pencil, etc. The offending spectator(s) may be ordered to leave the arena by the Game Official(s). Play will not resume until the spectator(s) leave(s).

**7.08 Prohibition on Food and Beverages:** In arenas that have snack bars, restaurants or other food and beverage facilities in operation before, during and after games, Teams are required to respect any requirement by the arena management that Teams not bring food or drink into the arena. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in suspension of the Head Coach of the Team by the Board or a Special Committee.

## **8. BODY CHECKING**

8.01 As of 2019-20 there are NO body-checking divisions in the Mississauga Hockey League.

No team within the MHL shall be permitted to participate in body checking games, including exhibition, tournament, or other games. If a non-body checking team does participate in a body checking game they will be subject to disciplinary action

## **9. CONVENING**

9.01 For the purposes of House League Convening and Team or player movement, all Associations must enter all registered players onto an MHL Team Player Form. A supply of MHL Team Player Forms will be distributed at the pre-season Coaches' Meetings held by each Association. Prior to the start of a Team's first game, the Head Coach of the Team must submit his completed MHL Team Player Form to either the Timekeeper or the MHL Convening official present at the game. This Form will represent the official Team Roster of that Team until the Final Convening Meeting.

9.02 Convening will be conducted by Divisional Committees appointed by the Chairman of the Convening Committee.

9.03 Each Divisional Committee will consist of not less than one (1) MHL Director who shall be the Chairman of that committee and at least one (1) representative from each Association that has a Team or Teams entered in that Division.

9.04 Each Divisional Committee may move Teams up or down and players up, down or laterally within the various Divisional Categories as deemed necessary and appropriate during the Convening period. All Team movements will be approved by a simple majority of the representatives present at any meeting of the Divisional Committee held to decide such movement. In the case of a tied vote, the Chairman of the Divisional Committee shall cast an additional vote to break the tie. No movement of teams or players will be permitted at the final convening meeting.

In the absence of a formal meeting, Team movement decisions may be conducted by a telephone and/or electronic mail poll of the Divisional Committee representatives.

9.05 Any proposed movement of players or Teams by a Divisional Committee must be conveyed to the Association(s) involved as soon as possible.

9.06 An Association may request and be permitted to voluntarily move a Team from a lower to a higher Category in any Division with the permission of the Divisional Committee concerned, provided that such request and permission are sought and granted at least 7 days prior to the Final Convening Meeting.

9.07 Each Divisional Committee reserves the right to request any Association to balance its Teams where required.

9.08 Unless extended by the MHL Board of Directors, the Convening period will end on the first Sunday in November at which time a Final Convening Meeting will be held for all Divisions. At this

meeting each Divisional Committee will put forth its decision on Team placement for each Category in that Division for the remainder of the Season. The decision of each Divisional Committee shall be final.

9.09 At the Final Convening Meeting, each Divisional Committee will recommend which Categories' points should be reset to zero (0) in its Division due to excessive Team movement. The MHL Scheduler will have final discretion.

9.10 Unless there is an EXTREME oversight in the Convening process in any Division, there will be no further movement of Teams after the Final Convening Meeting. For such extreme situations, the Board of Directors and Association Representatives may approve movement upon receipt of an application from the Chairman of the Convening Committee not later than fourteen (14) days following the Final Convening Meeting. In such cases, the Board of Directors and not more than 5 representatives from each Association shall decide jointly upon movement with decisions reached by simple majority vote. This decision shall be final and no further movement will be permitted following. Appeals will not be entertained.

9.11 During Convening, the Board of Directors at its discretion may decide to permit each Team in a particular Division and/or Category to have a helper on the ice during games solely in order to assist with the positioning of players for face-offs. This person MUST be a Team Official and:

- (a) once the players are set for a face-off, MUST proceed directly to the Referee's crease until the next stoppage of play;
- (b) is NOT permitted to direct play or to coach players while play is in progress;
- (c) is NOT permitted to dispute a Referee's call or question a call;
- (d) MUST wear skates and a hockey helmet. Goaltender skates or figure skates are NOT permitted.

## **10. DEFAULTS**

10.01 Any Team failing to appear or failing to ice a complete Team within ten (10) minutes following the time scheduled shall forfeit the game which shall be recorded as a 1-0 loss. Should both Teams default, the game shall be recorded as a loss to each. A complete Team shall consist of at least six (6) registered players in all Divisions with the exception of U8 and U9 House League (see below). Where six (6) players are present, the game must commence immediately and not be delayed for the full ten (10) minutes. The arena clock shall be considered as the official time for the purposes of this rule.

In the case of U8 and U9 House League, a complete team shall consist of no less than 12 players, including goaltenders (e.g. 10 skaters and 2 goaltenders).

10.02 Teams that default any games under the jurisdiction of the MHL shall be assessed a Default Fee of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) and shall forfeit the game defaulted.

10.03 Any Team defaulting a scheduled MHL game due to Tournament obligations will be subject to MHL regulation 10.02 and the Team Officials of the defaulting Team may be subject to disciplinary action as determined by a Special Committee.



10.04 Any team that defaults a game in progress, due to assessment of suspensions or removal from the game of players shall forfeit the game. If the non-offending team is winning at the time of the forfeit, the score shall be recorded as is. If the non-offending team is losing, or if the game is tied, the game score shall be recorded as a 1-0 win for the non-offending team. Any game defaulted due to the assessment of suspensions and conduct of both teams will be recorded as a loss for the participating teams with no score recorded.

## **11. EQUIPMENT/FINANCIAL**

11.01 Players accepting equipment from any Association must return same upon request. Any player failing to return an Association's equipment shall be indefinitely suspended until such time as said equipment is returned to the Association. Any player failing to return an Association's equipment within fourteen (14) days from the mailing of such request shall, in addition, be further suspended for one (1) week of regular League Play for every week the equipment has not been returned in good condition after such request is made. Such requests must be made in writing to the player quoting the GTHL Rule 6.23 in its entirety, with a copy of the letter being forwarded to both the MHL Office and the GTHL Office. Such request shall be considered sufficiently completed if mailed to the player's last known address. Failure on the part of the Association to notify both the MHL Office and the GTHL Office of the date of return of the equipment shall invalidate any suspension accumulated pursuant to GTHL Rule 6.23 and shall result in an automatic fine to the Association of \$50.

11.02 Any player who owes money (whether in respect of registration fees, Team dues, or fundraising obligations) to the Association which is in possession of the player's Registration Certificate, or any Team of that Association, will not be granted a release for any reason until the player has paid the money owing to that Team or Association. Any player who owes money (whether in respect of registration fees, Team dues, or fundraising obligations) to an Association or any Team of that Association will not be eligible to have his Registration Certificate registered with another Association or Club for the following Season until such money has been paid, provided that the Association to whom the money is owing has delivered a notice in writing, together with a statement of monies owing, to the MHL Office on or before March 31 of the Season in which the failure to pay money has occurred. The MHL Office will promptly send a copy of the notice and statement of monies owing to the player at his registered address. The statement of monies owing provided by the Association shall include the amount of money that the Association says has been paid by or on behalf of the player and the amount of registration money that the Association says remains owing by the player. Any player who wishes to dispute that any money is owing to the Association or any Team of the Association, or who feels aggrieved by the Association's claim of money owing shall be entitled to a hearing prior to the commencement of the next Season's Try Out period. If the notice required by this rule is not delivered to the MHL Office on or before March 31, the MHL Office will not, for that reason alone, refuse to register the Registration Certificate of the player for the following Season.

The above applies to any Team Official who owes money to an Association.

11.03 Any Team Official who accepts equipment and/or collateral from any Association must return same upon request. Failure to return an Association's equipment and/or collateral upon request

shall result in the offending person(s) being requested to appear before a Special Committee. Such requests must be made in writing to the Team Official with a copy of the letter being sent to both the MHL Office and the GTHL Office and such request shall be considered sufficiently completed if mailed to the person's last known address.

11.04 No regalia or other objects may be affixed or attached to any part of a player's equipment, including sweaters and socks, without the prior consent of the Board of Directors.

## **12. EXHIBITION GAMES**

12.01 Any Team wishing to play in any Exhibition Game must first advise the MHL Office of the date, time, place and opponent for the game and obtain an official sanction number. This number must be recorded on the Official Game Sheet - if not, the Referees may refuse to officiate the game.

12.02 The purpose of the sanction number and the Exhibition Game Application Form is to validate the game in order to comply with Hockey Canada insurance regulations. Insurance coverage for players, Team Officials and on-ice Game Officials is mandatory and is only validated where the game has been sanctioned by the MHL. The failure by any Team to obtain permission for an Exhibition Game shall result in disciplinary action being assessed against the Head Coach and/or Manager of the Team.

12.03 Any Team playing an Exhibition Game must use an Official Game Sheet and certified on-ice Game Officials.

12.04 A copy of the Official Game Sheet from an Exhibition Game **MUST** be forwarded to the MHL Office within forty-eight (48) hours.

12.05 Any Team Official found guilty of knowingly allowing the participation in League Play of any player who received a penalty in an Exhibition Game or a Tournament, which would result in a suspension, shall be automatically suspended. (SEE RULE 17.02).

12.06 Regularly scheduled League or playoff games cannot be changed for any reason whatsoever in order to play Exhibition Games.

## **13. FEES**

13.01 **Appeal Fee:** For any appeal under Rules 5.01 or 5.02, the Appeal Fee shall be Fifty dollars (\$50.00) non-refundable. For any appeal under Rule 5.04 the appeal fee shall be Two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00). \$200.00 will be returned for any approved appeals. Denied appeals will result in a non-refundable fee. All Appeal Fees must be paid by cheque or money order.

13.02 **Protest Fee:** The Protest Fee shall be Fifty dollars (\$50.00) for Regular Season, Two Hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) in Playoffs. Protest fees will be returned for any upheld protests. All Protest Fees must be paid by cheque or money order.

13.03 **Team Entry Fees:** All Teams shall be subject to a Team Entry Fee to be set annually by the Board no later than March 31<sup>st</sup> of the preceding season.

**13.04 Team Withdrawal Fees:** After any Team has been accepted for competition by the League, it may not be withdrawn without the consent of the Board. The penalty for team withdrawal will be based on the following scaled fines:

'A' Teams - U12 & up:

Withdrawal July 1 – July 31:	\$200.00 fine
Withdrawal August 1 – September 30:	\$400.00 fine
Withdrawal October 1 and after:	\$1,000.00 fine

'A' Teams - U11 & below:

Withdrawal July 1 – July 31:	\$200.00 fine
Withdrawal August 1 – October 15:	\$400.00 fine
Withdrawal October 16 and after:	\$1,000.00 fine

House League Teams:

If the team is withdrawn prior to the end of convening, a penalty of \$125.00 will be assessed. If a team is withdrawn after the completion of the convening period, a \$300.00 fine will be assessed.

**13.05 Missed Discipline Hearing Fees:** Failure to appear for an MHL Discipline Hearing will result in a \$50.00 fine to the offending individual and an indefinite suspension (pending payment of fine) for a first offence. A second hearing will ONLY be scheduled if payment from the first missed hearing is paid in full. A second failure to appear will result in a \$100.00 fine to the offending individual and an indefinite suspension (pending a final hearing). The MHL Office must be notified 48 hours prior to the hearing if a hearing needs to be rescheduled in order to avoid this penalty.

## **14. GAMES**

14.01 Hockey games under the jurisdiction of the MHL shall be played in accordance with the Playing Rules and Regulations of Hockey Canada, except as varied from time to time by the MHL. A referee shall have full authority and the final decision in all matters under dispute. The referee's decision shall be final on all questions of fact and not subject to appeal.

14.02 If there is a conflict between a Hockey Canada and a MHL provision, the MHL provision shall prevail, if stronger.

14.03 The playing time for hockey games under the jurisdiction of the MHL shall be as follows:

Age Group	House League	“A”/Gold	Game Details
U8	20-20	24-24	Running Time; 2-minute buzzer to signify line changes
U9 to mid-January	20-20	24-24	Running Time; 2-minute buzzer to signify line changes
U9 mid-January onward	10-10-10	12-12-12	Stop time
U10 - U13	10-10-10	12-12-12	Stop time
U14 & up	10-10-10	12-12-15	Stop time

These playing times may be varied from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors.

14.04 In the event of total failure of the time clock in any arena facility, for complete games the Referee(s) will substitute (a) three (3) eighteen (18) minute running time periods for “A” Teams and (b) three (3) fifteen (15) minute running time periods for House League Teams. Should the time clock failure occur during a game, the remaining playing time will be adjusted to the scheduled expiry of the game. Whenever this rule is invoked, Minor Penalties will be three (3) minutes running time and Major Penalties will be seven (7) minutes running time.

14.05 Three (3) minutes extra time are to be posted on the clock (i.e. the clock will show 2:00 minutes) by the Timekeeper. The on-ice Game Officials are to be at ice level at game time and are to order the clock started as soon as they go on the ice.

When two (2) minutes and thirty (30) seconds have elapsed, an on-ice Game Official is to stand at centre-ice and blow his whistle to let the Teams know they have one minute to get to their benches and get their starting line-up to centre-ice. However the clock keeps running throughout the whole three (3) minutes at which time the horn will sound. If one or both Teams are not lined up and ready to start the game at that time, a delay of game penalty may be assessed to the Team(s) not lined up and ready to start.

14.06 Off-ice warm-ups for teams and individual players will only be permitted in approved facility locations. Violation of this regulation may result in sanctions to the head coach of the team and possibly the entire team for repeat offence.

14.07 Teams must be ready to play ten (10) minutes prior to game time in the event the ice is available. This applies to regular season games and playoff games.

14.08 From the start of the third (3rd.) period onward, if the spread in the score is five (5) goals or more at any time, the game shall be running time. If the spread in the score reverts to a three (3) goal difference, the game clock will revert to stop time unless the score becomes a five (5) goal spread again, in which case the running time will resume.

14.09 Other than in combined U17 & U18 “A” divisions, there will be no Time Outs permitted in any regular season games. Combined U17/U18 “A” divisions will be allowed one 30-second Time Out per team per regular season game. Overtime during playoffs will be set out in Rule 21.

14.10 Should a significant number of games be cancelled in a day due to inclement weather, power outage or other events beyond the control of the MHL, then every effort will be made to reschedule these games later in the Season. In the event that a cancelled game has no impact on the final standings, and cannot be rescheduled due to lack of ice time, then the game will be recorded as a 0-0 tie.

14.11 Timekeepers are instructed to post goals on the score clock only where the goal spread is under six (6) goals.

14.12 All Teams must stand by to play on (18) hours' notice.

14.13 Protective Equipment:

1. All players participating in sanctioned on-ice activities, such as regular League games, playoff games, Exhibition Games, Tournament games and practices, must wear equipment as provided in Hockey Canada Rule 24, namely:
  - (a) a CSA certified Hockey helmet with the chin strap properly fastened;
  - (b) a CSA certified full facial protector properly affixed to the helmet and extending down to the chin. The straps of the facial protector must also be fastened to the hockey helmet; and
  - (c) a BNQ certified throat protector.
2. It is recommended that all goaltenders, in addition to a BNQ certified throat protector, wear a plastic throat guard adjoined to the goaltender's helmet/mask.
3. It is recommended that all players, including goaltenders, wear a colored (non-clear) internal mouthpiece, which covers all the remaining teeth of one jaw, customarily the upper and which should be attached to the facemask or helmet. It is recommended that the mouthpiece be form fitted by a Dentist or a Dental Professional.
4. All on-ice participants (players and Game Officials) are prohibited from wearing any personal jewelry (with the exception of Medic Alert identification) during any sanctioned on-ice activity in which they participate. During competition, for the first violation of this the offending Team will receive a warning from the on-ice Game Official(s) and any further violation will result in the offending Team being assessed a two-minute bench minor penalty. The offending player(s) will be prevented from further participation until such time as the jewelry is removed.
5. No Team or player on a Team shall be permitted to wear vertical striped sweaters or 'tear-away' sweaters.
6. Hockey pants with a zippered inseam shall be worn with the zipper completely closed. If a zipper is broken or if the inseam of the hockey pants is torn, then the player will be required to tape or otherwise repair the pants to produce the same effect as the zipper being closed or the tear being fully repaired. If player comes onto the ice to participate in a game with pants that do not comply with this Rule, the player shall be ordered off the ice as soon as a Game Official becomes aware of the problem. At that stoppage of play or the next stoppage of play (if this occurs during play), a warning shall be issued by a Game Official to both Teams. After such warning has been given by the Game Official to the Teams, any player who comes onto the ice to participate in the game with pants that do not comply with this Rule shall be assessed a minor penalty for illegal equipment.
7. Any player who at any time during a game deliberately removes his helmet or that of an opponent in order to fight or to challenge an opponent to fight will, in addition to any other penalties that may be assessed for the infraction, be assessed a GRM 62 Gross Misconduct penalty.

14.14 At any time during the game or at the end of a game, players are not permitted to remove their helmets until they have completely left the ice surface. Any player who does not observe this rule may be assessed a GM 99 Game Misconduct penalty. Where two (2) or more players fail to observe this rule, the Head Coach of the Team concerned may receive a GM 99 Game Misconduct penalty. A GM 99 Game Misconduct carries an automatic one (1) game suspension.

14.15 When, in the opinion of a Game Official, a player other than the goaltender is injured due to an infraction of the rules by an opponent and the offending player is assessed a Major penalty plus a Game Misconduct penalty or, alternatively, a Match penalty for deliberate injury for the infraction, the injured player shall retire to his players' bench or dressing room when the penalty/penalties are assessed and must remain out of the game for the next five minutes of playing time. If the injured player returns to the ice before the five minutes have elapsed, he shall be considered an ineligible player. If the presence of an ineligible player is brought to the attention of the Game Official prior to resumption of play following the first stoppage of play after the five minute restriction has expired, the offending team shall be assessed a Bench Minor for 'Ineligible Player'. Additionally, any goal scored by the offending team while the ineligible player is illegally on the ice shall not be allowed.

14.16 All GM20's (Disputing Call of an Official) and GM21's (Disputing Call with Verbal Abuse of Game Official) assessed to Team Officials shall be accompanied by a 2-minute minor Unsportsmanlike Conduct penalty, to be served by a player on the ice at the time of the infraction.

14.17 During a game, if a goaltender is struck in the mask/helmet with the puck, the play shall be blown dead and the goaltender's physical status reviewed. Play will resume with a face-off in the defending end zone. If a goal results from the puck hitting the goaltender's mask/helmet and then proceeding directly into the net, the goal shall be counted.

14.18 – U11 and Below Teams Players on U7, U8, U9 and U10 Teams must be provided with Fair and Equal Ice Time in all games, including regular season, playoff, tournament and exhibition games. "Fair and Equal Ice Time" means ensuring that all players get the same opportunity to contribute to the outcome of all games, regardless of skill or ability. A coach's responsibility is to develop all players to contribute. Shortening of the bench is not permitted. All players should receive fair and as close to equal as possible ice time, including equal opportunities on special teams.

Organizations are responsible to monitor compliance with this Rule 14.18 by their Team Officials. In turn, Team Officials should be aware that the League will take action where it is determined that there have been violations of this Rule.

It is recommended that all skaters rotate through all positions to ensure each player has the opportunity to try out each position (forward – LW/C/RW and defence – LD/RD) at least once.

It is recommended that all players get a chance to start the game and to start the second half. In the case of U10 and U11 teams, it is recommended that all players get a chance to start the game and play end-of-game situations.



## U7 Teams

- (a) There are no full-time goaltenders. All players get the opportunity to play goal.
- (b) There are no playoffs in U7 hockey.
- (c) The maximum size of the ice surface is 100 feet by 60 feet (100x60).
- (d) U7 games will be played cross-ice for the entire season.

## U8 and U9 Teams

- (a) There are no full-time goaltenders. All players have the option to play goal at least once before anyone gets a second chance. After the first rotation, all players who wish to get another turn in net will get a chance to play goal in games again.
- (b) There are no playoffs in U8 and U9 hockey.
- (c) For half-ice games, the maximum size of the ice surface is 100 feet by 85 feet (100x85).

## U10 and U11 Teams

- (a) Where a team has two registered goaltenders, it is recommended that:
  - (i) the goaltenders alternate games or split games to as close to 50/50 as possible;
  - (ii) the rotation schedule be done in consultation with the goaltender and parents (share games or alternate playing full games);
  - (iii) each goaltender plays the final game in an equal number of tournaments; and
  - (iv) the goaltender not playing goal in a game be permitted to participate as a player.
- (b) Playoffs must be tournament style. No elimination rounds.

## 15. GAME OFFICIALS

15.01 Any person may file an application for the position of Referee, Linesman or Timekeeper to officiate at hockey games under the jurisdiction of the MHL. The application shall be filed with the MHL Office.

15.02 The Schedule of Fees for Game Officials will be determined annually by the Board of Directors.

15.03 The services of a Game Official may be terminated without notice.

15.04 No one under the age of 16 shall be allowed to officiate as a Referee or Linesman at hockey games unless the Board of Directors grants prior permission nor shall he be allowed to officiate at hockey games where he is less than two years older than the age group of the Team being officiated.

15.05 A Game Official cannot be a voting member of an Association's Board of Directors.

15.06 No one is permitted to enter a Referee dressing room except Referees, Linesmen, the MHL Referee Co-ordinator, the MHL Manager, Game Officials, Referee-Supervisors, the MHL President, and the MHL Discipline Chairman and unless otherwise invited by the game officials.

15.07 To avoid conflict of interest, any game officiated by an MHL approved Referee or Linesman can be protested if a proven direct family relationship exists between the official and any member of either Team or coaching staff playing. If such protest is upheld, the game will automatically be awarded to the non-conflicting Team and therefore, it requires the officials to avoid situations where conflict of interest is evident.

## **16. GOALTENDER HARDSHIP**

16.01 A Team that is experiencing hardship such as injury, illness, vacation, transfer, suspension or any other cause beyond its control may substitute its goaltender for not more than five (5) games in a Season, providing the substitute goaltender meets the criteria spelled out in Rule 4.01 – Affiliation.

16.02 Use of a substitute goaltender for more than five (5) games in any one Season shall require the approval of the Board of Directors. A Team Official of the Team using the substitute goaltender shall note the particulars of such substitution on the Official Game Sheet.

For purposes of this Rule, only MHL Regular Season games, MHL Playoff games, and GTA Championship games will count toward the 5-game limit.

16.03 Hockey Canada “A” Registration Certificates upon which a goaltender is registered shall be clearly marked as “goaltender”. Except in the U10 and U11 divisions, a player designated as a goaltender and signed on a Hockey Canada “A” Registration Certificate marked “goaltender” shall not be permitted to play any other position. Any Head Coach who allows any designated goaltender to play in any position other than goal shall be automatically suspended for a minimum of six (6) games, without appeal. Teams in the U10 and U11 divisions who carry two goaltenders are encouraged to allow the goaltender not playing in that game to dress and play as a player.

## **17. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS (OR TEAM OFFICIALS)**

17.01 If the eligibility of a player or Team Official is challenged at any time during a hockey game by a Team Official or captain of an opposing Team, or a League official, then at the next stoppage of play the player shall be required by the Referee to insert his name, address and telephone number and signature on the reverse side of the Official Game Sheet. Refusal to comply by the opposing Team shall render the player or Team Official immediately ineligible for the remainder of that game and subject to potential further disciplinary action pending MHL review.

17.02 Should the name of a suspended or ineligible player or Team Official appear on one or more of his Team’s Official Game Sheets and should they participate in the game or games concerned, said game or games shall be recorded as a 1-0 victory for the non-offending Team. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, if the opposing Team won the game in any event, then the actual game score shall stand. The number of game defaults is determined by the duration of the suspension (i.e. 2 games missed suspension will result in only 2 game defaults). The ineligible player or Team Official will serve the required number of games as per the initial suspension, while the Team Official deemed responsible by the MHL shall be suspended for one (1) game for a first offence and a minimum of three (3) games for any subsequent offence pending a hearing with the MHL Discipline Committee.

Where the Head Coach or other Team Official deemed responsible for permitting the ineligible player or Team Official to participate in a game believes that the participation of the ineligible player or Team Official was the result of an understandable mistake (and not an error resulting from a failure to review the Official Game Sheet or a failure to clarify the nature of the penalty awarded with the game official), the Head Coach or other Team Official deemed responsible may submit a



written explanation to the Executive Director and request a hearing to determine whether or not circumstances exist for the Head Coach or other Team Official's suspension to be reduced below six games. The Executive Director will submit the request to a director for review and the director may or may not, in his or her discretion, grant a hearing before a Special Committee for the explanation to be heard. The Special Committee, upon hearing the explanation, may, in its discretion and upon being satisfied that the circumstances demonstrate that an understandable mistake occurred, reduce the suspension to a number of games that is less than six games.

Where the name of a suspended player or coach is not correctly marked on the game sheet, and the player or coach served a component of a suspension, the Team Official responsible will be required to forward an explanation and proof to the respective Association Discipline Chair for review by the Association and the MHL. This request for review must be forwarded prior to the next scheduled game. Should this request come after the next scheduled game, sanctions may be imposed as per regulation 17.02.

17.03 Any Team that plays against a Team with ineligible players or ineligible Team Officials and willfully conceals such knowledge from the League until it suits its convenience to use it in any protest which arises shall be considered equally guilty with the offending Team and shall be judged accordingly

## **18. INSURANCE**

18.01 In accordance with Hockey Canada Regulations, all players, Team Officials, on-ice and off-ice volunteers (including non-coaching Association Officials and League Officials) and Game Officials must be insured.

18.02 In order to obtain insurance coverage, all players and Team Officials must complete a valid Registration Certificate. All volunteers must complete an MHL Volunteer's Registration Certificate.

18.03 Team officials are not insured to walk on the ice before, during or after a game, unless the arena facility does not provide for access to the bench directly, or at the invitation of the Referee in order to attend to an injured player. Any Team Official violating this rule will receive a GM 99 Game Misconduct Penalty, except that if the violation should occur prior to the puck being dropped to commence the game, a Balance of Game Penalty shall be assessed. A GM 99 Game Misconduct carries an automatic one (1) game suspension.

## **19. LEAGUE COMPOSITION**

19.01

(a) The MHL shall be composed of the following Divisions, designated by age and skill categories:

<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>AGE ON DECEMBER 31 OF CURRENT SEASON</b>
U7	4 to 6 years old
U8	7 years old
U9	8 years old
U10	9 years old

U11	10 years old
U12	11 years old
U13	12 years old
U14	13 years old
U15	14 years old
U16	15 years old
U18	16 to 17 years old
U21	18 to 20 years old

CATEGORIES (not all Categories will be offered in all Divisions)

“A”	Highest skill category in the U10 through U18 Divisions
GOLD	First skill category in the U8 and U9 Divisions only
RED	Second skill category in the U8 and U9 Divisions and the first skill category in all other House League Divisions
WHITE	Third skill category in the U8 and U9 Divisions and the second skill category in all other House League Divisions
BLUE	Fourth skill category in the U8 and U9 Divisions and the third skill category in all other House League Divisions
GREEN	Fifth skill category in the U8 and U9 Divisions and the fourth skill category in all other House League Divisions

(b) A U21 Team may register a maximum of eleven (11) players or 2/3 of the team whichever is lower, who will become 20 years of age on or before December 31 of the Season.

19.02 The “GOLD” Category will only apply in the U8 and U9 age Divisions on the following basis:

- (a) An Association will only be permitted to enter one Team in each Gold Category;
- (b) Tryouts will follow the same rules as for A teams (Rule 35). Each Association must register all Gold team participants in the on-line registration system prior to participation in any on-ice activities.
- (c) An Association may register new players (i.e. from other MHL Associations or from outside the MHL) on any Gold Team
- (d) For Gold roster limits, please refer to MHL Rule 29.03(a).
- (e) Gold teams are encouraged to share the goaltending position but may dress only one goaltender for MHL games. If a Team has two goaltenders, it is encouraged to allow the goaltender not playing to dress and play as a player.
- (f) Any failure to adhere to these regulations may result in the Team(s) being denied approval to compete in the Gold Category.

19.03 – House League Guidelines

The purpose of this Article is to establish operating guidelines for House League Organizations in order to ensure the integrity and success of their house league and house league select programmes. These guidelines are intended to provide general principles that House League Organizations should apply in a manner appropriate to their community, size and the best interests of their members. By complying with these guidelines, House League Organizations can ensure that their house league programmes and house league select programmes are legitimate and meet the required standards of their governing bodies. Nothing in this Article shall be construed as preventing a House League Organization, with respect to either its house league or house league select programmes, or an

affiliated division, operating a tournament or house league select league, from imposing stricter standards than as set out in this Article.

#### 19.04 – Definitions for House League Guidelines

Hockey Canada defines a “House League” as “a community oriented minor hockey program structured to provide development and competition at the recreational level”. For the purposes of this Article, “House League Organization” means an organization that operates a House League as defined by Hockey Canada. For the purposes of this Article, a “House League Select Program” is a program where in order to be eligible to play select hockey a player must be registered with a recognized (sanctioned) House League Organization and accordingly be an active participant in a recognized (sanctioned) schedule of House League games. For the purposes of this Article, a “Minor Development Program” is a program that is not a House League Select Program and is not competitive (i.e. AAA, AA, A, B, C, D etc.). The guidelines in this Article fit these definitions and recognize both the community-oriented and recreational nature of House League programs and House League Select Programs. These guidelines also reflect the distinction made by the League between House League Select Programs and competitive programs.

#### 19.05 – Philosophy Related to House League Select Programs

The House League Select Program is a hockey program that is based in the House League and should be an extension of that program. Players and their families that choose to participate in a House League Select Program do so because it reflects the attitudes and community affiliation of the House League to which they belong and in which they participate. Therefore, the focus of a House League Select Program should not be to emulate higher levels of competitive hockey (A and above), but to offer the values of House League programs to a group of House League players participating in an advanced program.

#### 19.06 – Registration of House League Players and Team Officials

- (a) House League organizations must ensure that each player is Registered in the Hockey Canada Registry or submit a standard player’s registration form as issued by the League. Players may be Registered up to January 15 in any Season.
- (b) Team Officials of all House League and House League Select Program Teams affiliated with the League must be Registered in the Hockey Canada Registry or on the House League Registration Forms and be Registered with the League Office prior to the commencement of participation in the House League or Select Program.

#### 19.07 Operating Guidelines for House Leagues

- (a) Residency. A House League is a community-oriented program and therefore the residency of its membership should reflect the geographic area surrounding its home arena or organizational base.
- (b) Solicitation. A House League may solicit new registrants by way of general advertising. While players registered with other House League Organizations in the previous season are not prohibited from choosing to move to a different House League Organization for the next season, such players should not be specifically and individually solicited by a House League Organization or any of its officials or representatives, including select coaches, officials or representatives.
- (c) Acceptance of Players. All applicants should be accepted to play in a House League, subject to any significant physical limitation and ice availability.

- (d) **Player Registration.** All players must be registered on a recognized House League Registration Certificate. A player may play in one House League and may sign only one House League Registration Certificate in a Season (subject to release provisions).
- (e) **Team Membership.** House League players should play on the same Team all Season, subject to transfers within the House League Organization for Team balancing purposes which should be completed by a date set by each individual House League Organization. This date should be as early as possible and in any event no later than January 1.
- (f) **Team/Division Organization.** House League divisions should be organized based upon the age of the players. It is recognized that some large House League Organizations group players of various divisions into separate subdivisions based upon skill levels. This format is acceptable provided it complies with these guidelines.
- (g) **Ice Time.** All players should receive equitable ice time during games.
- (h) **Skill Development.** Players in the U7 to U11 age groups (inclusive) must be offered skill development programmes consistent with Hockey Canada's U7, U9 and U11 Player Pathways.
- (i) **Team Sweaters.** House League Teams should each have their own distinctive numbered sweaters.
- (j) **Game Schedule.** The posted schedule should consist of a minimum of 16 regular season games plus playoffs. All Teams should play at least once each week, if ice availability permits. If there is a bye Team, it should not go more than one week without a game.
- (k) **Playoffs.** All Teams should qualify for playoffs in order to reflect a House League's spirit of inclusiveness and equal play.
- (l) **Officials.** All games should be refereed by a minimum of two HCOP-certified officials.
- (m) **Game Sheets.** All games should be properly recorded on legitimate game sheets that are retained by the House League Organization's convenor for each division or subdivision.
- (n) **Membership Fees.** There should be a fixed fee for House League membership that is separate and apart from any fee related to participation in the House League Select Programme.

19.08 In the U7 Division, an Association may create a House League Select Team or Teams from among players registered in its U7 House League Division. Only players who will be 5 or 6 years of age as at December 31 of each playing Season are eligible to participate on a U7 House League Select Team.

The formation of such Teams is governed by the Operating Guidelines below.

**Operating Guidelines for House League Select Teams:**

- (a) Intent of House League Select Hockey:** House League Select Teams, while considered more competitive than House League Teams, are an extension of the House League and are intended to reflect the same spirit of community-oriented recreational hockey. Therefore, they should seek to be inclusive and provide as much opportunity as possible for House League players to participate.
- (b) House League Membership:** All House League select players must be registered and active participants in an Association's U7 House League Program. The prime and important considerations are that:

(i) Each player on a House League Select Team is playing on a legitimate House League Team whose membership is substantially different from the membership of the House League select Team.

(ii) Each player on a House League Select Team is playing on a bona-fide and posted schedule of a minimum of 16 regular season House League games, plus playoffs, that are separate and distinct from the House League Select Team's games, practices and skill sessions.

**(c) Try Outs:** All House League players should be invited to try out for their own House League Select Team. A player must first be registered in an Association's House League Program before participating in any of the Try Outs for that Association's House League Select Team. A House League Select Team shall not conduct Try Outs, nor finalize Team selection before October 1 of each playing Season. Failure to comply with any of these provisions will nullify the eligibility of the offending Team to participate in any sanctioned hockey activity.

**(d) Number and Membership of Select Teams:** The ideal norm is viewed as one select Team coming out an Association's House League division of at least four House League Teams. In these circumstances, the select players would constitute approximately 25% (less if more than four Teams) of the total number of House League players in that Association's House League division. While this is regarded as the ideal norm, it is recognized that access to participation on a House League Select Team should not be unduly restricted in situations where an Association has a lesser number of eligible House League players. Further, it is recognized that there are situations where it may be appropriate for a second select Team to be formed out of the same birth year(s). In order to accommodate these situations, the following variations from the ideal norm will be acceptable provided that the Association's House League Program and the House League Select Team are fully in compliance with both the letter and spirit of these guidelines:

(i) To be eligible to form a House League Select Team, the minimum number of House League Teams in an Association's Program is three. In this situation, one select Team is permitted to be formed from House League players in that division and the select players may not constitute more than 40% of the total number of House League players in the three Team House League division.

(ii) In a situation where there are four House League Teams, there may be a maximum of two select Teams from that division, usually with one select Team being for the older age group and the other select Team being for the younger age group

(iii) In circumstances involving a House League division of four or more House League Teams, the select players in the House League may not constitute more than 50% of the total number of House League players in the House League division.

**(e) Size of Teams:** Select Teams must carry a minimum of 15 players (including goalies) and should try to carry as full a roster as possible (consistent with the number and skill level of applicants) in order to reflect the inclusive nature of House League Select programs generally.

**(f) Team Rosters:** To be eligible to receive permissions from the MHL for Tournament and Exhibition Games, a Team roster must be filed with the MHL Office not more than 7 days following the completion of Try Outs for a House League Select Team. A Team Entry Fee will be charged in accordance with Rule 13.03.

**(g) Ice Time:** All players should receive fair and equal ice time during games.

**(h) Attendance at House League Games:** A House League Select player is expected to attend all regular House League games unless for reasons of illness or injury. A House League Select player should miss no more than three regular season House League games because



of attendance at Tournaments and should not miss any House League playoff games because of Tournaments. A House League Select player who attends less than two-thirds of his or her House League games will be considered ineligible for further participation on the House League Select Team. Associations are expected to closely monitor this provision and to only grant relief in the case of illness or injury of the player.

## **20. MEDIA**

20.01 Use of the League logo or any other current or former marks of the League on any website or any advertising or other promotional materials is strictly forbidden without written authorization from the League.

20.02 Permission to televise or broadcast any League game, or any part of a game, must be first obtained from the League. All requests must be in writing, addressed to the Executive Director. Non-authorized auxiliary lighting will not be permitted in any arena. Home video portable cameras shall be permitted (in conjunction with City of Mississauga policies).

### **20.03 Photography & Video**

(a) Only the following persons are permitted to take photographs and/or video at any game (including warm-up) or practice occurring in any facility being used by the League or any of its Area Associations:

- (i) A parent, grandparent, sibling or any other direct relative of a player participating in such game or practice;
- (ii) Team Officials and Area Association Officials of the team(s) participating in such game or practice;
- (iii) Officers, Directors, Life Members and employees of the League;
- (iv) Individuals assigned to do so by the League; and
- (v) Recognized media outlets or other qualified persons expressly authorized in writing by the League in its absolute discretion.

(b) These provisions are subject to, and shall not diminish, any rules and/or restrictions imposed by a municipality or an owner or operator of a facility.

(c) Any permission noted above may be withdrawn at any time by the League in its absolute discretion.

(d) Video taken during any League sanctioned game, or any part of a game, shall not be published on any publicly accessible internet site, any video sharing platform such as YouTube, or any social media platform without the prior written consent of the President or Executive Director.

(e) Any Team Official who violates Rule 20 may be suspended by a Special Committee or the Board for a maximum of six (6) games. Any Association Official who violates Rule 20 may be suspended by a Special Committee or the Board for a period not to exceed 30 days. Any other person who violates Rule 20 may be barred from entering arenas or facilities leased by the League for a period of time determined by a Special Committee or the Board.

(f) Unless specifically approved by the President or Executive Director, the taking of photography and/or video in the players' dressing room is strictly prohibited. Any individual(s) found to have violated this provision will be suspended indefinitely until such time as that individual(s) appear before a Special Committee. The Special Committee may impose a suspension of no less than six (6) games for each violation.

## **21. OVERTIME**

21.01 Sudden victory overtime may take place in a playoff game at the discretion of the MHL Playoff Committee. The League Official or MHL Representative present at the game will be considered the "MHL Playoff Committee" for the purpose of this Rule.

21.02 In the "A" divisions, all overtime periods will be 10 minutes stop time in length.

21.03 In the House League divisions, if a Championship Round game is tied at the end of regular time:

(a) Teams will NOT change ends between the 3<sup>rd</sup> period and the first overtime period, but will change ends for each subsequent overtime period (as required).

(b) A ten (10) minute sudden victory overtime period will be played. The format will be 5 skaters on 5.

(c) If still tied, another ten minute sudden victory overtime period will be played, 5 on 5 as above.

(d) If a winner is still not determined, there will be a three player shoot-out (one player from each team shooting at the same time). The first 3 shooters per team will be selected by the applicable Head Coaches once the shoot-out becomes necessary. The sequence of shooters will be recorded on the Game Sheet. Players who were serving penalties at the end of OT WILL be allowed to participate in the shoot-out. However, players previously ejected from the game will not be allowed to return.

(e) If a winner is still not determined, a sudden victory shoot-out will occur, one player from each team at a time (shooting at the same time), until a winner is determined. No player may shoot a second time until all skaters from their respective teams have taken a turn. The sequence of shooters must remain the same until a winner is determined.

(f) "Championship Round games" represent all Semi-Final, Bronze, and Gold/Silver-Final games.

## **22. PLAYOFFS**

22.01 The final playoff format will be confirmed by the Chairman of the Playoff Committee no later than August 31 prior to the next current playing Season. The Playoff Committee will consist of five (5) League Officials and three (3) Association Officials.

22.02 Qualifying Teams will be scheduled according to their final standings. Ties in standings will be determined according to Rule 31.

22.03 Playoffs are set up according to the number of Teams involved in the Category. ALL TEAMS QUALIFY FOR THE PLAYOFFS.

22.04 Teams must be ready to play ten (10) minutes prior to game time in the event the previous game ends early.

22.05 Teams must stand ready to play on EIGHTEEN (18) HOURS NOTICE.

22.06 The scheduling of games during the playoffs will not take “home ice” into consideration. Any scheduling resulting in “home ice” for a particular team during playoffs would be the result of coincidence. However, the MHL Scheduler will make his best effort to have one “Home” game per team during the Playoffs.

### **23. PROTESTS**

23.01 Protests based on technicalities that do not affect the actual result of the match will not be entertained. A protest of a Referee’s decision will not be considered unless it concerns a question regarding interpretation of the rules of the game.

Any team wishing to protest any game, be it regular season or playoffs, shall advise the Referee at the time of the decision to make the protest. The Referee shall record this protest on the Game Sheet and will then advise the opposing team of the details as well. The Referee will also make the MHL Office aware of the protest when calling-in the day’s scores. The applicable Protest Fee, per Rule 13.02, shall be submitted to the MHL Office by 3:00pm the next business day.

23.02 The MHL Office will review the details of the protest and provide details of the status thereof to both parties by noon the day after the protest. In the case of the protested Team, the President, Secretary, Discipline Director or any other Executive Officer of the Association concerned shall be deemed a representative.

23.03 The Team protested against shall file its written defence not later than twenty-four (24) hours to the MHL Office after the receipt of the copy of the protest. Delivery of the defence shall be made in the same manner as provided for in the delivery of protests. If no defence is filed within the proper time frame, the protest will be automatically upheld.

### **24. REGISTRATION**

24.01 Each Association must register each of its players on a Registration Certificate and ensure that all required Registration Information is provided. The last day in any Season for registration is January 15.

24.02 Except as provided in Rule 19.01(a), the minimum age for players participating in MHL League Play shall be seven (7) years of age as of December 31 of the hockey Season.

The minimum age for players participating in an Association’s U7 House League/Initiation Program shall be four (4) years of age as of December 31 of the playing Season.

Except as provided in the following sentence, no player younger than nine (9) years of age (as of December 31 of the hockey Season for which the player is being registered) will be eligible to play with any “A” Team in the MHL. Notwithstanding the restriction in the previous sentence, each U10 “A” Team in the MHL may register up to three (3) players who will be younger than nine (9) years



of age as of December 31 of the hockey Season provided that such players will, as of that date, be eight (8) years of age. In such cases, the Team must submit a request to the GTHL for approval for such underage player to register with the Team for that Season.

24.03 Any Mississauga Resident who meets the minimum age requirements set out in Rule

24.02 and who is an amateur in good standing shall be entitled to register as a player with an Association.

24.04 When a player is under eighteen (18) years of age at the time the Registration Certificate is signed by the player, the Registration Certificate must also be signed by the player's parent or legal guardian and the parent's or legal guardian's current residential telephone number must appear on the Registration Certificate.

24.05 No Team Official, player, parent or legal guardian shall knowingly provide or allow false information to appear on a Registration Certificate. Any Team Official or player who allows false information to appear on a Registration Certificate or who knowingly makes a false representation to the League shall be suspended for a period to be determined by the President, the Board or a Special Committee. Where the false information is provided by or allowed to appear on a Registration Certificate by a parent or legal guardian required to sign the Registration Certificate, any suspension shall apply to the player.

24.06 A player shall register and play for only one Team (other than a school Team). A player may initially register with any Association without the requirement to obtain a release for the current playing Season (excepting players eligible to play U15 and up and who have signed a Hockey Canada Registration Certificate).

No player can be registered with another hockey club or association that is directly affiliated with another hockey league (e.g. GTHL, Ontario Minor Hockey Association, Ontario Womens Hockey Association) while registered with the Mississauga Hockey League.

Any player determined to have falsified information and knowingly registered with more than one Team will be subject to sanctions as determined by the MHL Board of Directors or Special Committee as guided by Hockey Canada rule F22.

24.07 After December 15 new House League registrations will be accepted only if there is available space, and their being subject to all Convening rules.

24.08 House League players registering after the final convening meeting and on or before January 15 of the playing Season shall be subject to the approval of the MHL Registrar and two (2) MHL Directors, one of which must be the Chairman of the Convening Committee.

24.09 The provisions of this Rule 24 shall also apply to all players participating in pre-season Tournament or Exhibition games played under the sanction or jurisdiction of the MHL.

24.10 Every player applying for the first time for registration shall submit a birth certificate issued by the Registrar-General of the Province of birth of the player.

Where a player was born in a country other than Canada, he may provide a document from Employment and Immigration Canada, which verifies his date of birth and such document will be accepted as being equivalent to a birth certificate.

24.11 A player whose name is shown on the final approved players' list, or whose name is subsequently added to the final approved players' list, shall be deemed to be a registered player. No players may be added to a Team roster after January 15.

24.12

(a) Any player with a physical disability e.g. vision, hearing, etc. shall at the time of registration provide a certificate from a medical doctor which states that the player may safely engage in the level of hockey for which the player is being registered. Such medical certificate must accompany the player's Registration Certificate.

(b) Any player with special needs requiring special consideration or assistance during the season, shall at the time of registration provide detailed information to the Association for review. Additional information or medical certificates may be required.

24.13 No player who has previously signed a Hockey Canada Registration Certificate for the current playing Season will be permitted to play on a Category less than Red in the Mississauga Hockey League. The only exception is if the Chairman of the Convening Committee (with the unanimous prior consent of all Association Presidents) approves the request prior to January 10<sup>th</sup>.

24.14 Subject to Rules 11.01, 11.02 and 11.03 players who have been registered on an "A" Team are deemed to be released from such Teams and are "free agents" at the conclusion of each Season. Accordingly, these players are free, subject to compliance with all of the League's Rules, to register with any Association's or Club's Team for the following Season.

24.15 All "A" Teams in the age Divisions of U13 and below are required to register one goaltender, but may register two goaltenders. All "A" Teams in the age Divisions of U14 and above are required to register two goaltenders. In order to be considered as a goaltender for the purposes of this Rule, a player must be registered on a Hockey Canada Registration Certificate marked "GOALTENDER".

24.16 Except in the U10 and U11 divisions, a player registered as a GOALTENDER on a Hockey Canada Registration Certificate cannot play any other position. Any player registered on a Hockey Canada Registration Certificate that is not marked "GOALTENDER" is eligible to dress and play as a goaltender, but only in circumstances where one or both of the registered goaltenders is absent, ill or injured or has quit the Team but has not been released by the Association. Teams in the U10 and U11 divisions who carry two goaltenders are encouraged to allow the goaltender not playing in that game to dress and play as a player.

24.17 No person whose age makes him eligible to participate in an age Division from U14 to U18 (inclusive) may be registered as a player on a Team that is more than two years beyond the lowest age division in which he is eligible to participate as a player. No person whose age makes

him eligible to participate in age division from U7 to U13 (inclusive) may be registered as a player to participate on a Team that is more than one year beyond the lowest age division in which he is eligible to participate as a player. U8 Gold teams are limited to a maximum of two U7-aged players. All upward player movement in the U7, U8 & U9 categories (i.e. U7 to U8, U8 to U9, U9 to U10) is subject to approval by the GTHL.

24.18 Subject to Rules 11.01, 11.02 & 11.03, players who have been registered on an “A” or Gold team are deemed to be released from such Teams and are “free agents” should that team fold. Accordingly, these players are free, subject to compliance with all of the League’s Rules, to register elsewhere.

## **25. RELEASES**

25.01 Releases are required when a player currently registered with one Association wishes to register with a different Association or Club.

For further clarification regarding the documentation required for tryouts and releases, please refer to the MHL website.

25.02 A player who is not registered with a Team for the current Season, and who has been denied a release by a Team of which he was a member for the prior Season, may apply to the League to be granted a release from the Team of which the player was a member during the prior Season. A hearing will be held in respect of such application.

At the hearing, the player and the Team concerned shall have the right to be represented and heard.

25.03 A player who has been granted a release and plays for a registered Team in an Association other than where he initially registered shall play only in the new Association for the balance of that hockey Season including playoff games.

25.04 No Association may grant a release after November 15 of the current playing Season to an “A” or a “House League” player. In the case of an “A” player, for any such release to be considered valid it must be delivered to the GTHL Office by not later than the close of business on November 15. Player releases after November 15, and up until January 10, shall require approval by the MHL Board of Directors.

25.05 Players released after November 15, and up until January 10, have until January 15 to register and may be accepted to play for the current playing Season subject to review by the MHL Convening Committee.

## **26. SUSPENSION PROCEDURES**

26.01 Registered players and Team Officials are under the jurisdiction of the League during the entire time present in or upon the arena property, and misconduct off the ice is reportable and subject to disciplinary action.

26.02 A player or Team Official ejected from a game for a Balance of Game, Game Misconduct, Gross Misconduct or Match Penalty must immediately leave the playing area and proceed quickly and quietly to the dressing room, then out of the arena.

26.03 The ejected person is not permitted to return to the playing or spectators' area for the duration of the day.

26.04 Ejected persons should be escorted to the dressing room by a Team Official.

26.05 Continued misconduct, or refusal to leave, must be reported by the Referee for further disciplinary action.

26.06 A suspended person must not enter the players' area (dressing rooms, corridors, or players' bench) during the period of suspension. Suspended players and Team Officials are restricted to the approved area(s) of each arena as outlined in Appendix C.

26.07 Suspended players and officials must not communicate with the Team or other officials while in the arena. Coaching from the stands or sidelines is specifically prohibited.

26.08 A person under suspension may not coach or play with any other Team or act as a Game Official, or League Official during the term of such suspension without permission from the Board of Directors or a Special Committee.

26.09 Penalties may still be assessed after the game has ended. Where feasible, such additional penalties should be reported by the Referee to one of the Team Officials of the Team concerned but in order to ensure that the Team concerned is aware of the additional penalties, a verbal report MUST be made within 24 hours to the MHL Office which in turn will advise the Association President and/or the Association Discipline Director of the Team concerned.

26.10 Any player, including a goaltender, ejected from a game while playing with an affiliated Team must serve his suspension with his registered Team.

26.11 To receive credit for serving a suspension, the name of the suspended player or Team Official must be shown as suspended on the Official Game Sheet in the space provided at the bottom of the Team line-up. Failure to show the required information may be cause for disallowing the credit.

26.12 Credit for serving a suspension in a scheduled special event or exhibition game(s) will not be allowed, nor may a suspended player or Team Official participate in scheduled special events or exhibition game(s).

26.13 Credit for a Game Misconduct, Gross Misconduct, or Match Penalty does not include the game in which the suspension was incurred.

26.14 Team officials and players must be fully acquainted with the OHF Suspension List and impose the applicable suspension automatically without further notice from other sources.

### 26.15 BALANCE OF GAME MISCONDUCT

This rule allows a Referee to eject a player or Team Official for the balance of the game in play. No further suspension applies beyond the game in question.

### 26.16 GAME MISCONDUCT

Includes the following infractions:

Goaltender refusing to remove mask for identification, fighting, instigator or aggressor, continued retaliation, leaving the players or penalty bench during a fight, second major penalty in a game, second misconduct in a game, goal-keeper leaving the crease to join a fight, player refusing to move to a neutral area during fight, joining fight or peacemaker, interfering with players or officials from bench including throwing objects onto the ice, using obscene, profane or abusive languages or gestures, Team Official walking on the ice before, during or after a game other than at the invitation of the Referee in order to attend to an injured player.

### 26.17 GROSS MISCONDUCT PENALTY

Includes the following infractions:

Deliberately breaking stick or refusing stick measurement, making a travesty of the game and/or the MHL Rules and Regulations (for example: refusing to leave the bench or ice surface after being ejected from a game, returning to the bench or ice surface after being ejected, throwing sticks or water bottles on to the ice, making obscene gestures), persistent foul and/or abusive language, uttering racial or discriminatory slurs.

### 26.18 MATCH PENALTY

Includes the following infractions:

Grabbing facial protector or chin strap, deliberate injury or attempt to injure, head butting, hair pulling, injuring or attempting to injure by cross check, fighting with rings or tape on hands, molests, strikes, threaten or attempts to strike officials, spitting, injuring by slashing and/or high sticking, spearing, butt ending, kicking, instigating a fight after stoppage of play.

### 26.19 MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS

All minimum suspensions shall be in accordance with the OHF Suspension List (Appendix A) or as otherwise indicated in these Rules and Regulations. It should be noted that the automatic minimum suspensions described in the OHF Suspension List are only the MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS that are applicable for these infractions and these may be increased if the Board or a Special Committee so rules.

Associations will be advised of any suspensions in excess of those described in the OHF Suspension List within 48 hours of the ruling(s) and prior to the completion of the related automatic minimum suspension(s). Any suspensions in excess of the automatic minimums described in the OHF Suspension List may be appealed.

All Suspensions must be served in the next regularly scheduled league and/or playoff game or games. Failure to do so will result in additional suspensions for the player involved as well as disciplinary action as seems reasonable by a Special Committee upon the Head Coach of the Team. The game during which the infraction leading to the suspension occurred does not count as part of the suspension earned.

26.20 The total OHF minimum suspension may not be appealed.

Where multiple minimum suspensions are issued to a player or Team Official, all such suspensions must be served consecutively and not concurrently. For example, a player receives the following penalties in a game, all in the second period:

GM21	2 games
GRM61	2 games
GM33	1 game
TOTAL	5 games

In this example, the player must serve all 5 games. The suspension would only be eligible for appeal if the accumulation were to be seven (7) games or more.

NOTES:

1. Should the discipline record of any player or Team Official indicate an unacceptable accumulation of Game Misconduct penalties, this may result in further disciplinary action to the player or Team Official.
2. Probation: a person, Team or organization “on probation” may expect that any further infractions occurring during that probationary period will be dealt with more severely than it would had it not been on probation.

26.21 Where any Team Official is assessed a suspension in excess of ten (10) games, either through an accumulation of minimum suspensions or a suspension in excess of the minimums, his Pass must be returned to the MHL before the term of the suspension will commence.

26.22

(a) Any player or Team Official who incurs a suspension in League Play, an Exhibition Game or a Tournament game must serve the suspension with the Team with which the player or Team Official is registered until the suspension has been served.

(b) Games that are approved to serve suspensions are:

1. League games
2. A Hockey Canada sanctioned Tournament (which for this purpose includes an approved international tour or series of games) for which the Team obtained a Tournament Approval prior to the occurrence of the event giving rise to the suspension. In order to access the relief granted by this paragraph (b 2), Official Game Sheets for the Tournament games must be submitted to the MHL office within 48 business hours following the completion of the Tournament.

(c) A player who has incurred a suspension as a result of being assessed a Match Penalty shall for all purposes be and remain suspended until the President of the League or a Special Committee has made a determination as to whether or not to impose any suspension in excess of the minimum suspension imposed by the OHF Suspension List. Accordingly, a player who incurs a suspension as a result of being assessed a Match Penalty shall not be eligible to participate in Hockey Canada sanctioned Tournament game, notwithstanding having served the number of games specified in the OHF Suspension List, prior to the commencement of such Tournament the President or a Special Committee has not made a determination as to whether or not impose a suspension greater than the minimum prescribed by the OHF Suspension List.

(d) Any suspension received as a result of a Match Penalty prior to participation in a Branch or Provincial Playdown must be fully served prior to such player being deemed eligible for participation in such Playdown.



(e) If a player or Team Official receives a suspension that is not served fully by the completion of League play and playoffs, that suspension will “carry over” for the next Season. The player is eligible to try out and the Team Official is eligible to participate in Try Outs. However once the player commitment form and/or a player or Team Official Registration Certificate has been signed, the player’s or Team Official’s suspension must be served. He or she is not eligible to participate in any Hockey Canada on-ice events until the suspension has been fully served. The player or Team Official may serve such carry over suspensions in Hockey Canada sanctioned Tournaments scheduled after August 1 of the following Season. In order to access the relief granted by this paragraph (b 2), Official Game Sheets for the Tournament games must be submitted to the MHL office within 48 business hours following the completion of the Tournament.

(f) Any suspension incurred by any player or Team Official during a Tournament shall be reported to the MHL Office prior to the close of business on the third business day following the last day of the Tournament. Any Team failing to report any suspension within this period of time shall be fined \$100.00 dollars. Any Tournament game used to serve a suspension will not count for the purpose of League Play until such time as the Official Game Sheet for such Tournament game has been submitted to the MHL Office. (Example: if a player completes serving a suspension in games in a weekend Tournament, and his Team has a League game scheduled for the following Monday, the relevant Official Game Sheets must be submitted to the MHL Office on Monday for the player to be eligible to play that Monday evening.) Suspensions may be reported to the MHL Office for the purposes of this rule by phone call, voicemail or email, provided such notice is received during normal business hours.

26.23 To give effect to any relief provided in paragraphs (b), (c), (d) and (f) of Rule 26.22, original copies of the Team’s Tournament Official Game Sheets MUST be delivered to the MHL Office within forty-eight (48) hours following the Team’s return from the Tournament. Failure to comply shall result in the Team being denied future Tournament permissions and shall result in a minimum 3-game suspension to the Head Coach of the Team, without appeal.

26.24 The Referees are required to report all Gross Misconduct and Match Penalties and the surrounding circumstances to the MHL Office immediately following the game involved, but in any event not later than 48 hours after the official game time. Any official who fails to do so will be subject to disciplinary action. In the above situations, the Referees have been notified to inform the Head Coach and/or Manager in charge of the Team in question of the infraction. The Head Coach of the Team will then be responsible to see that the player honours the suspension.

26.25 Upon the outbreak of a fight, the Referee or the League Official present may at his discretion advise the Timekeeper to start the clock. The clock will be stopped at the first whistle following resumption of play.

26.26 Any player assessed a TOTAL OF FOUR OR MORE PENALTY INFRACTIONS OF ANY KIND IN A GAME or a TOTAL OF THREE STICK INFRACTIONS (Cross Checking, Slashing, High Sticking, Spearing or Butt-ending) shall be ejected from that game only, (receiving a GE56) notwithstanding any suspensions which may occur as a result of the assessment of another type of game ejection penalty as the fourth penalty or subsequent penalties in the same game. (Double minor stick penalties will be counted as one stick infraction. Double minor head contact penalties will be counted as one infraction.)

26.27 If there are 30 minutes or more of minor and major penalties for either Team (excluding 10 minute Misconducts) at the end of the first two periods or at any time thereafter, the third period or the remainder thereof will be running time.

26.28 If there are 37 minutes or more of minor and major penalties combined for one Team (excluding 10 minute Misconducts) in a game, the Head Coach will receive a GM99 (one (1) game misconduct penalty).

## **27. SWEATERS AND SOCKS**

27.01 The sweaters and socks worn by players during league and playoff competition shall be of a colour and design that the MHL has approved.

All Association “A” Teams are required to wear their dark-coloured sweaters and socks for games where they are the “home” Team. Matching Team sweaters and socks in the defined Team colours must be worn at all times. Matching Team socks are not applicable to goaltenders or where long pants are worn.

(a) Unless otherwise approved by the League, matching Team sweaters (including logos, numbering and lettering attached thereto or printed thereon, but excluding sponsor names) and socks in the defined Team colours must be worn at all times. Matching Team socks are not applicable to goaltenders. In the event of a conflict, the Referee will make the final decision if the Teams are unable to resolve it.

(b) Only where 2 Teams from the same Association, Division and Category (other than “A”) play against each other will one of the Teams be permitted to wear alternative sweaters. In such a circumstance, it is the home Team’s responsibility to wear the alternative sweaters. Alternative socks do not need to be worn. If alternate jerseys are not supplied by the home Team, MHL regulation 10.01 will apply.

(c) During a game, a violation of Rule 27.01(a) will be appealable by the opposing bench, but only if the offending player is on the ice at the time of appeal and only on a stoppage of play. The player must leave the game and not return until the correct sweater and/or socks are worn.

(d) For reasons of safety, players may not wear their socks upside down. Any player doing so will be requested to leave the game by the Referee and may not return until the socks are worn correctly.

(e) Notwithstanding Rule 27.07(b), House League Red teams may wear white-based jerseys in any MHL House League game in which they are identified as the Visitor (except in games against Applewood who have white-based jerseys.)

27.02 Only legal first or family names can be placed on Team sweaters. Violation of this rule by use of “nicknames” etc. on Team sweaters will result in the forfeiture of any game played under conditions of the violation. The Board of Directors may grant approval for use of non-offensive short form names or abbreviations on an individual basis.

27.03 All Teams shall be required to wear or have embossed on their sweaters a standard Canadian Flag patch either on their left sleeve or on the upper right chest.

27.04 Change in Association Sweaters, Colours, Name or Logos: An Association shall not make any material changes to its Team sweaters (style or colour), Team colours, name or logos without

the prior approval of the MHL Board and Association Presidents no later than the February MHL Board of Directors meeting of the season prior to intended use, which approval shall not be withheld unless the MHL Board and Association Presidents, acting reasonably, concludes that there are unresolved intellectual property rights issues, that the Team sweaters and/or Team colours and/or Association name and/or logo would be confusing similar to that of another Association, or that the name or logo is inappropriate for a minor hockey association. Presentations must be made at a prior Area Association meeting in accordance with the listed deadline. Where the MHL Board and Association vote intends to deny any such approval, it shall notify the Association at the time of the request and the reasons for it.

#### 27.05 Memorial Patches or Armbands:

The patch must not exceed 2.5 inches in diameter

The patch must be round

The patch must be base colour black with white writing

The patch must be positioned on the left arm, below the shoulder

The arm band must not exceed 2.5 inches in width

The arm band must be worn on the left arm

Memorial ribbons (e.g. pink ribbon for Breast Cancer) must not exceed 2.5 inches in size and must be affixed to the front of the jersey in a manner so as not to fall off during the game.

## 28. TAMPERING

28.01 Tampering is defined as any attempt or act, directly or indirectly, by any Team Official or Team Officials or individuals, to recruit a player away from the Team/Association with which the player is currently registered, provided that tampering shall not exist when the action to recruit the player occurs after the applicable Association Official for the Team with which the player is registered has provided a consent in writing to the other Team Official, which consent authorizes such Team Official to speak with the player or his or her parents for the purpose of recruiting such player. For greater certainty, tampering includes any skating session organized during the Season by or on behalf of a Team Official or a prospective Team Official (whether or not such Team Official or prospective Team Official is on the ice or not and whether or not the ice rental is in the name of the Team Official) at which one or more of the players on the ice are not registered with the Team with which the Team Official is registered and the purpose of which is to permit the Team Official to evaluate the players on the ice for recruiting purposes. Tampering shall not include any regularly scheduled skating session held by a legitimate skating or hockey skills instructor who in the ordinary course operates a school for the teaching of skating or hockey skills, provided that such skating session is part of the program ordinarily offered by such instructor, such skating session is made available to the general public and such skating session has been advertised publicly for not less than 60 days prior to being held and provided that such instructor or the instructor's business is legitimately insured to protect the participants against injury or accident.

28.02 During the Season, any player who, while registered with one Team, participates in any training camp, practice or on-ice skating session of the kind prohibited by Rule 28.01 above that is organized by or on behalf of a Team Official with any Team with which the player is not registered shall not be permitted to register with that Team for the balance of the current Season or for a period that may include the following Season. The player may be subject to such further disciplinary action as may be imposed by the Board or a Special Committee.

28.03 Any Team found to have violated any portion of Rule 28 shall be assessed a fine of up to \$1,000 and the Team Official(s) involved shall be suspended for a period of up to one year. Any individual not currently registered with an Association or a Team, and who is found guilty of tampering or complicity in tampering, will not be permitted to register with any Association or Team for the balance of the current season and for a period that may include the following Season. In addition to the penalty provided in Rule 28.02, any player who, while registered with one Team, participates in any training camp, practice or on-ice skating session of the kind prohibited by Rule 28.01 above that is organized by or on behalf of a Team Official with any Team with whom the player is not registered shall be suspended for the period commencing with the start of the following Season to and including November 15 of that Season.

28.04 Any charges for an alleged violation of any section of Rule 28 must be submitted in writing, within twenty-one (21) days of the alleged violation, to the MHL Office accompanied by a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fee (which will be refunded if the charge is validated), and including:

- (a) Nature of the alleged infraction or charge;
- (b) Date and location of the alleged infraction;
- (c) Names of Team Official(s), individual(s) and player(s) involved; and
- (d) Names of Team(s)/Association(s)/Club(s)/ organization(s) involved.

## **29. TEAM ENTRY**

29.01 Each Association must submit its application for Teams for all “A” Categories and the Minor U8 and U9 Gold Categories to the MHL Office not later than February 1 for the next following Season. The Board will consider all applications for Teams and its decision shall be final and binding, subject only to an appeal to the Board. The Board shall determine which appeals will be heard. The MHL Office shall ensure that Clubs are notified by March 15th of the Teams that have been approved for the next following Season. With the exception of U18 “A”, no Association may field more than one Team in any “A” or Gold Category, unless otherwise approved by the Board.

No entry at U8 Gold will be considered unless that Association ran a U7 Select program during the immediately prior season.

29.02 Team entry applications for all House League Categories, other than U8 and U9 Gold, must be submitted to the MHL Office by the second Wednesday following Labour Day of the playing Season. Applications received after that date may be accepted, subject to availability. Attempts will be made to schedule any deficient games, caused by any late Team entry, if possible and practicable under the prevailing circumstances. Team entry fees for all House League Teams subject to Convening and all U7 Teams must be paid within 21 days after the Final Convening Meeting.

29.03(a) Team entries will not be considered if the following minimum number of players are not registered:

- “A” teams - 15
- Gold teams: U8 – 13; U9 – 14
- House League – U8 – 16 (recommend 18)
- House League – U9 - 16
- House League teams in the divisions U10 through U15 – 13
- House League teams in the divisions U16 and U18 - 14

The Board of Directors may, at its sole discretion, agree to waive this requirement where they deem there to be extenuating circumstances.

29.03(b) Teams below the minimums above will not be entered into the MHL Schedule.

29.04 Teams entered in the MHL will be grouped in Divisions for League Play and, if necessary, subdivided or combined into categories of practical size and ability.

29.05 The Board of Directors may reject any Team entry or cancel any Team registration at any time if it is considered by the Board to be in the best interests of the MHL.

29.06 The maximum number of registered players per Team under the jurisdiction of the MHL is nineteen (19). Where the maximum number of players is dressed, TWO OF THE PLAYERS DRESSED MUST BE GOALTENDERS.

29.07 A U21 Team may register up to a maximum of twenty-five (25) players, but may only dress nineteen (19) players in a game as provided in Rule 29.06.

29.08 If for any reason a Team dresses in excess of the maximum number permitted, the game shall be recorded as a 1-0 victory for the non-offending Team with the offending Head Coach to be suspended pending a hearing by a Special Committee. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, if the opposing Team won the game in any event, then the actual game score shall stand.

29.09 Each Team participating in games under the jurisdiction of the MHL shall play only those players who are eligible for the applicable Division and Category and who are registered pursuant to the provisions of Rule 24.

### **30. TEAM OFFICIALS**

30.01 A Team Official shall be responsible for the conduct of players under his jurisdiction during the period the players are in attendance at an ice arena for the purpose of participating in a hockey game. This responsibility extends to players both on and off the ice.

30.02 Prior to each game, a Team Official shall complete the Official Game Sheet listing the players and Team Officials participating in that game (Note: A Team Official who will not participate in a game by being on the bench during the game should not be listed). The Head Coach of the Team is responsible for ensuring that the Game Sheet has been correctly completed in accordance with the requirements of this Rule 30.02 and, even if the Game Sheet has been completed by another Team Official, shall verify such correctness by signing the Game Sheet in the box provided for verification. Players who are affiliated players should be designated as "AP" or "API", as appropriate. Each Team shall be permitted to designate one captain and up to three alternate captains. Players who are designated as the captain or alternate captains shall be designated on the Game Sheet as "C" or "A", as appropriate. While a Team may use pre-printed team lists, the Head Coach shall ensure that players who do not participate in the game are crossed off on the list and that a team list is affixed to every sheet that comprises the Official Game Sheet. Players and Team Officials not participating in a game should be listed on a Game Sheet as absent using the designation "ABS"



(except in the case of a player who appears to be late and is expected to arrive and participate in the game, in which case, such player's name should be included on the Game Sheet prior to the game commencing but without the "ABS" designation). Players or Team Officials who are suspended should be listed as such in the appropriate location on the Game Sheet. Team Officials who are participating in the game by being on the bench should be prepared to present their Team Official Pass for verification to the Game Officials. A Team Official who is not on the bench at the commencement of a game may not join the bench until a stoppage of play during which an on-ice Game Official has been notified of the Team Official joining the bench. When that Team Official joins the bench with the consent of the on-ice Game Official, the Team Official's name shall be added to the Game Sheet. Any failure to comply with the requirements of this Rule 30.02 with respect to the completion of a Game Sheet may result in a suspension of the person who was the Head Coach for that game.

30.03 The Game Sheet for MHL games will be supplied by the team designated as the "Home" team within the MHL Scheduling system. Upon completion of their side of the Game Sheet, the Home team will forward it to the "visiting" team for them to complete. The completed Game Sheet will then be forwarded to the Timekeeper prior to the start of the game. Extra Game Sheets can be obtained from the MHL Office or from your Area Association. Any failure to comply with this rule may result in a suspension for the Head Coach.

30.04 All Team Officials must be registered with the League.

30.05

(a) No person under the age of sixteen (16) shall be registered as a Team Official unless prior permission is granted by the Board of Directors nor shall any Team Official be registered with a Team where the Team Official's age is less than two (2) years greater than the Team registered for.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) above, in the case of the U21 Division the minimum age for any Team Official shall be at least 25 years of age and in addition there shall be at least one Team Official of at least 35 years of age.

30.06 A person who is registered as a Team Official in one Season may not, without the consent of the Association with which such person is registered as a Team Official, be registered or appear on the bench in the immediately following Season as a Team Official for a Team in the immediately higher age division of another Association or Organization (in this context "Organization" would include any Club that is a member of the GTHL or any of its Divisions). In the case of U18 and U21, this restriction also applies to Teams in the same age division. The consent of an Association required by this Rule 30.06 must be sought and granted by that previous Association prior to the new Association announcing, publicizing and appointing an individual. The permission must be provided in writing and be signed by one of its officers or be provided to the MHL Office by an Association officer or be provided by email sent by an Association official to the email address of the League Office. An Association may withhold its consent in its sole and absolute discretion, however the M.H.L Board of Directors or a Special Committee thereof may make special rulings in situations in reference to this Rule 30.05 where it is deemed that an Association has acted in a manner that is inconsistent with the proper administration of minor hockey in any jurisdiction under the auspices of Hockey Canada. The new Association may not advertise (either in writing or orally) that a person



who requires consent under this Rule will be a Team Official for that Association nor is that individual permitted to participate in tryouts for the new Association unless written consent has been granted by either the former Association, the Board, or a Special Committee prior to the advertising and/or tryouts being conducted. Any Association that violates this provision will be subject to a fine of \$1,000 and the Team Official will not be permitted to register with that Association for that season.

30.07 All “A” Team players signed at Try Outs must be provided with a signed commitment form that states the player WILL NOT be cut from that Team for the balance of the Season. In the event that a commitment form is not presented to the player, the MHL will, for purposes of ruling, accept the Registration Certificate as a commitment from the Team Official and Association. Violation of this Rule will cause the Head Coach of the Team to be suspended pending a hearing by a Special Committee.

30.08 Each team must have a Trainer possessing a valid HTCP (Hockey Trainers Certification Program) certification as follows:

- i) HTCP Level 1 for all “A”, Gold level teams; and
- ii) HTCP Level 2 for all “A” teams in the categories from U13 to U18.

It is strongly recommended that all other Teams have a certified Trainer registered to the Team staff.

30.09 Except in the case of injury to their child, non-registered individuals are not permitted, under any circumstances, to be on the players’ bench during games. Where it is found that a non-registered individual is on the bench and is participating in the game, the game shall be recorded as a 1-0 victory for the non-offending Team. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, if the opposing Team won the game in any event, then the actual game score shall stand. Further, the individual found to be responsible for permitting the non-registered individual to participate in the game shall be suspended for six (6) games.

30.10 All Team Officials (including on-ice Volunteers) must provide a valid Criminal Record Check, with Vulnerable Sector Search, and be certified in the Hockey Canada Harassment & Abuse (“Speak Out” or “Respect in Sport Activity Leader/Coach”) Program, and complete the OHF’s “Gender Identity and Expression Course”. Bench passes will be distributed upon confirmation of certification.

30.11 The Head Coach of each Team at the U10 to U11 “A” categories must be Development 1 trained, and at the U12 to U18 “A” categories must be Development 1 certified.

All individuals registered as an Assistant Coach at the “A” level must be Development 1 certified.

30.12

- (a) each U7 and each House League Team in the Divisions of U8 through U11 must include at least one Team Official who at a minimum is trained at the Coach 1 Level; and
- (b) each House League Team in the Divisions of U12 and above must include at least one Team Official who is trained at the Coach 2 Level.

To cover those situations where a Team’s coaching staff is new to the MHL, the effective date for such certification will be December 15 of each Season.

30.13 Except for persons who have received special permission from the MHL Board of Directors, no Team official registered with one Association can be registered as a Team Official with any other Association.

To obtain a special ruling, any Team Official registered with one Association who additionally wishes to be registered as a Team Official with another Association must make a formal application to the MHL together with letters from each of the affected Associations that acknowledge each party's awareness of the request and its approval or otherwise thereof. At its next scheduled meeting the MHL Board of Directors will make a decision on the request, which shall be final.

A person registered as a Team Official with an Association may participate as a Team Official in any game of any Team of the Association with which the person is registered as a Team Official subject to the restrictions set out in Rule 30.06.

30.14 In accordance to GTHL Rule 6.13, "No carded Team/Club official shall appear on any other Organizations Team/club roster(s) or on another Team/Club's coaching staff." However, the GTHL Board of Directors may make special rulings in reference to their Rule 6.13.

To obtain a special ruling from the GTHL, any Team Official registered with a GTHL club who additionally wishes to be registered as a Team Official with another Association or vice versa, must make a formal application to the GTHL together with letters from both the affected GTHL Club and MHL Association that acknowledge each party's awareness of the request and its approval or otherwise thereof. At its next scheduled meeting the GTHL Board of Directors will make a decision on the request, which shall be final.

## **31. TIES IN STANDINGS**

31.01 In case of a tie for any placing at the end of the Season, final standings of Teams will be determined using the following:

- (a) Team with the most WINS.
- (b) Team with the least LOSSES.
- (c) Team with the best record against each other over the entire Season.
- (d) Team with the fewest penalty minutes (PIM).
- (e) Team with the higher GOAL AVERAGE.
- (f) Team with the most GOALS FOR.
- (g) Team with the least GOALS AGAINST.
- (h) MHL DESIGNATE will flip a coin.

The above tie breaking formula will take into account all regular season games played according to standings.

The goal average of a Team is determined by dividing the total number of goals for and against into the total goals for. The Team with the highest percentage takes the highest position. Example: goals for 10; goals against 4;  $10 \div 14 = 71.4\%$

## **32. TOURNAMENT ENTRY**

32.01 Any Team wishing to enter a Tournament must first submit to the MHL Office a Tournament Permission Form.

Where an MHL Schedule exemption is required, the Tournament Permission Form must be marked as such, and:

- (a) House league teams must submit a Tournament Permission Form at least 5 weeks prior to the tournament start date.
- (b) "A" teams must submit a Tournament Permission Form at least 6 weeks prior to the tournament start date.

Any team who enters a tournament without a Tournament Permission Form will be subject to sanctions by the MHL Board of Directors or Special Committee including denied future Tournament permissions and may result in the suspension of Team staff.

32.02 Permission will only be granted for a maximum of two (2) Tournament entries per Team where league game scheduling changes would be required to enable the Team to attend said Tournaments. Permission may be granted to enter additional Tournaments only on the strict understanding that no scheduling changes would be required. THIS RULE WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE MHL WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

U8, U9, U10 and U11 teams are limited to a maximum of four (4) tournaments in a season, one of which may be taken during the Development Phase with the remainder being taken during regular season play and following the conclusion of Playoffs.

32.03 A Team involved in the playoffs may be granted permission to enter GTHL, OMHA and Minor Hockey Alliance sanctioned Tournaments only, conditional on keeping their MHL playoff schedule commitments. Failure to do so will result in the Team being suspended from further playoff games and subject to such disciplinary and financial action as is provided in the MHL Rules and Regulations.

32.04 Each Team granted permission to enter a Tournament must submit copies of the Official Game Sheets from the Tournament to the MHL Office within forty-eight (48) hours of the Team's return so that any player and/or Team Official infractions may be properly dealt with by the MHL disciplinary procedures. Failure to comply with this Rule 32.05 will result in the Team being denied future Tournament permissions and may result in the suspension of the Team staff.

32.05 A Team may not enter two (2) Tournaments at the same time.

32.06 The Head Coach of any Team, once accepting an invitation to a Tournament, who fails to notify the Tournament Chairperson that the Team cannot meet its obligation to the Tournament at least 3 weeks before the Tournament, or withdraws during the Tournament, may be suspended up to 6 games. In addition, the Association may face a fine of up to \$500.00.

32.07 Any Team wishing to make an overseas trip must make application to the GTHL Office no later than 90 days prior to the Team's scheduled departure date. All such applications must comply with GTHL Rules 11.5 and 11.6 and Hockey Canada overseas trip rules shall apply unless stated otherwise.

32.08 Teams wishing to host a Team from overseas must submit a formal letter of application to the GTHL Office, with copy to the MHL Office, no later than ninety (90) days prior to the overseas Team's proposed arrival, such letter of application to include:

- (a) name, age level and classification of overseas Team;
- (b) name, age level and classification of hosting Team;
- (c) confirmation of affiliation with the I.I.H.F. or its Member Federation;
- (d) places and dates of proposed games, if available, at time of application;
- (e) hosting fee of \$100; and
- (f) a listing of any other Teams the host will be contacting regarding playing a game against such overseas Team.

32.09 No Team shall compete in any Tournament unless that Tournament has been granted a Hockey Canada Tournament Sanction Permit by the minor hockey Branch in whose territory the Tournament is to be conducted or the minor hockey committee or association that is recognized by the Branch. For purposes of clarification of this Rule, a Tournament being hosted by the minor hockey association in Gravenhurst would require a Tournament Sanction Permit issued by the Ontario Minor Hockey Association.

### **33. TOURNAMENT HOSTING**

33.01 The approval of the GTHL must be obtained in order for any Association to host a Tournament. An Association wishing to host a Tournament that will begin at any time between pre-season and December 31, inclusive, must submit its "Tournament Hosting Application" form no later than January 31 of the calendar year in which the Tournament is to be hosted. An Association wishing to host a Tournament that will begin between January 1 and April 15, inclusive, must submit a "Tournament Hosting Application" form no later than the March 31 preceding the Tournament date. Each Tournament Hosting Application shall be submitted to the GTHL Office, with a copy to the MHL Office, accompanied by the applicable Tournament sanction fee.

33.02 All Tournaments sanctioned by the GTHL must declare a Referee-in-Chief and a Discipline Committee. The Chairman of the Discipline Committee and the Referee-in-Chief must be approved by the MHL.

33.03 No sanctioned Tournament shall include the involvement or participation of any unrecognized (non-Hockey Canada) hockey organization or committee unless approved by the GTHL Board of Directors. Non-compliance will automatically terminate the application, Hockey Canada Tournament Sanction Permit and component rights granted therein.

33.04 Full game schedules must be provided to the MHL Manager, Game Officials at least three (3) weeks prior to the start of the Tournament. Failure to comply will result in an administrative fee of \$250. No changes to game schedules will be permitted within one (1) week of the start of the Tournament.

33.05 The Tournament Chairperson must send written confirmation of acceptance or non-acceptance to the Tournament to all applicant Teams at least six (6) weeks in advance of the Tournament. Failure to comply may result in a fine of up to \$500.00. If the hosting organization decides to cancel a category for any reason, it must offer a full refund to any Team that did not cause the cancellation. Full refunds must also be given to Teams which decline to play up a category.

33.06 For each International Tournament, there shall be a minimum sanction fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) plus fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each Team from outside Canada. (Hockey Canada Regulation).

33.07 For each Inter Branch Tournament, there shall be a minimum sanction fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) plus ten dollars (\$10.00) for each Team from outside Canada. (Hockey Canada Regulation).

33.08 All MHL and/or GTHL Executive Passes must be honoured as a paid admission to all MHL Hosted Tournaments sanctioned by the GTHL. The penalty for failing to comply will be the forfeiture of all Tournament sanctions for the following Season.

33.09 All Tournaments are required to submit a financial statement of income and disbursements to the GTHL Office within sixty (60) days following the Tournament. The statement must be signed by the Tournament Chairman and the Association President.

33.10 Failure to submit a financial statement within sixty (60) days shall result in a fine of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) levied by the GTHL and shall also result in the refusal by the GTHL to sanction any further Tournaments until the fine has been paid.

33.11 During the MHL schedule, including playoffs, there will be no more than one (1) Tournament at any age group or category on any given weekend.

33.12 The Tournament Hosting Application must show a specific number of Teams. If the Tournament falls short of the specific number requested, the Tournament request for the following Season may possibly be approved only for the number of Teams that participated the previous Season.

33.13 Any Association that hosts a Tournament and exceeds the number of Teams sanctioned without the prior permission of the GTHL Executive Director or, in his absence, the GTHL Executive Committee, the Association involved will lose its hosting privileges for the next Season, without exception. It is recognized that in some cases the number of Tournament participation applications may exceed the approved number and that it is to the Association's benefit to consider increasing the level of participation. Any approved Tournament may therefore arbitrarily increase the number of approved Teams by applying the following formula:

- (i) for Tournaments approved for 6 to 39 Teams – up to 2 extra Teams;
- (ii) for Tournaments approved for 40 to 60 Teams – up to 4 extra Teams;
- (iii) for Tournaments approved for 61 to 80 Teams – up to 6 extra Teams;
- (iv) for Tournaments approved for 81 to 120 Teams – up to 8 extra Teams;
- (v) for Tournaments approved for over 120 Teams – up to 10 extra Teams.

However, any such increase in the number of Teams MUST be reported to the GTHL not less than four (4) weeks prior to commencement of the Tournament. Should the Association wish to increase by more than the applicable option shown above, then the approval of the GTHL Board of Directors is required and this must be applied for at least eight (8) weeks prior to commencement of the Tournament.

33.14 No Tournament will be allowed to accept applications from Teams of divisions and/or categories other than the Tournament divisions/categories approved by the GTHL without the prior permission of the GTHL Executive Director or, in his absence, the GTHL Executive Committee.

33.15 No Association can host a Tournament division and/or category in which they do not have an identical division/category Team(s) participating in the same Season.

33.16 Permission to fill a vacancy in any Tournament by a lower category Team will be based on that Team's standings at the time the request is made. (The Team should be in the top four positions in its division). It is recognized that in some instances a Tournament may be in need of a limited number of non-category aligned Teams to "round out" its scheduling for the sake of economy and efficiency. Therefore for MHL purposes, this would mean the following:

- (i) In the case of a "AA" Team participating in an "A" Tournament, the "AA" Team can only be from the age group immediately below the Tournament category within which it is seeking participation.
- (ii) In the case of an MHL Gold or Red Team or non-MHL Select Team participating in an "A" Tournament, such Team must be one of the top four (4) Teams in the standings in its own category at the time of application to participate in the Tournament.

33.17 Any Association hosting a Tournament may include such non-aligned category Teams at its own discretion based on the following formula:

- (i) for Tournaments approved for 6 to 39 Teams – 2 such Teams;
- (ii) for Tournaments approved for 40 to 60 Teams – 3 such Teams;
- (iii) for Tournaments approved for 61 to 80 Teams – 4 such Teams;
- (iv) for Tournaments approved for 81 to 120 Teams – 5 such Teams;
- (v) for Tournaments approved for over 120 Teams – 8 such Teams.

33.18 A Tournament is to be hosted and operated only by and for the benefit of the Association making application and not by any private enterprise or non-related organization. (Exceptions authorized by the GTHL are the Timmy Tyke and Bell Challenge Cup Tournaments.)

33.19 Tournament applications will be approved by the MHL and sanctioned by the GTHL based on the longevity of the Tournament. If a Tournament does not operate in any particular year or loses its sanction, it loses its seniority.

33.20 No approval will be given by the GTHL to any new hosting organization for a Tournament that will compete or conflict with the Paul Coffey, Don Mills Flyers U12, North York Hockey League U8 and U15 and Bell Challenge Cup Tournaments during the Christmas break, unless any of these Tournaments has reached capacity or does not operate in a particular year.



33.21 No Team or any of its players may compete in more than three (3) Tournament games in one day.

33.22 The GTHL Executive Director or, in his absence, the GTHL Executive Committee will convey in writing the decision rendered on any Tournament Hosting Application within seven (7) days.

33.23 No G.T.H.L sanctioned Tournament shall offer a cash prize to be paid to a Team or Club or Association or a cash sponsorship donation to be made to a Team or Club or Association based upon its results or placing in the Tournament. This rule shall not prohibit gift certificates or merchandise awarded to a single member of a Team who is selected as the player of the game (or equivalent) or the giving of gift certificates or merchandise that have been donated by sponsors of the Tournament for distribution to all players and Team Officials participating in the Tournament.

33.24 An Association hosting a tournament in the U7, U8 and U9 age groups must ensure that the tournament is either jamboree or festival format.

A jamboree is designed to engage players in a fun environment; it is the coming together of players who are then placed onto teams. Games may or may not be competitive and the emphasis is on fun and fair play.

A festival is designed to engage players in a fun environment; it is the coming together of teams to participate in games and fun activities. Games may be competitive but no standings are kept.

33.25 Failure to comply with the rules or conditions pertaining to Tournament hosting will result in the GTHL refusing to sanction the Tournament for the next Season.

## **34. TROPHIES**

34.01 A set of individual awards will be presented to the players and Team Officials of the first place Team in each Category at the end of the regular Season.

34.02 The championship Team in the playoff series in each Category will be presented with a trophy, known as the Scotiabank Cup, and each player and Team Official will also receive an individual award. Scotiabank Cups are the property of the MHL.

34.03 Scotiabank Cups and Category awards will be presented at times to be determined by the Board of Directors. Any Team Officials who refuse to allow their Team to remain on the ice for a Category or Scotiabank Cup presentation or any other presentation shall be suspended for the balance of the Season and may not have their registrations accepted for the following Season.

34.04 All Scotiabank Cups must be returned to the MHL Office not later than December 1 of each hockey Season. No extensions to this date will be granted. The President of each Association is responsible for the return of all Scotiabank Cups. Failure to return Scotiabank Cups by December 1 will result in a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) fine being levied against the Association for each such Cup plus the cost of replacement if any missing Cup has still not been returned by December 31.

## 35. TRY OUTS

### 35.01 Tryouts or Other On\_Ice Sessions

- a) Tryouts for the U10 and U11 age groups will be held on the dates as set out in OHF Regulations and must be comprised on a minimum of three (3) formal player evaluation / selection or tryout sessions. No more than one tryout per day may be scheduled.
- b) Tryouts for the U12 to U18 age groups will start on the Monday immediately following the OHF Championship weekend.
- c) Tryouts will be held in sequential order with AAA tryouts being held first, then AA tryouts, and finally A tryouts.
- d) Tryouts will be subject to the provisions contained in the LOR regulations.

35.02 Try Outs can only be conducted, and Teams can only skate (including practices, on-ice sessions and Exhibition Games) during the allocated time frame above. No Try Outs shall be scheduled prior to 5:00 p.m. on a school day.

35.03 After the entire 21-day Try Out period has ended, Teams may conduct practices, and may continue to fill any positions that are available on their rosters. Any advertising for Try Outs, practices and/or on-ice sessions for dates after the permitted Try Out period will constitute a violation of this rule. This rule shall not prevent a Team from placing a "Players Wanted" advertisement after the Try Out period has ended, so long as the advertisement does not specify a specific Try Out time.

35.04 The penalty for conducting Try Outs and practices or any on-ice sessions outside the allocated time period, and/or making prohibited advertising is as follows:

- (a) The Head Coach will be suspended until November 1 of the ensuing Season.
- (b) The Association will be fined \$2,000.00.

35.05 Teams and Associations shall not advertise the time, date or location of Try Outs or the name of Team Officials for the following Season prior to March 15. For this purpose, any form of printed, whether public or private, solicitation (including promotional articles about existing Teams) that contain this information shall be considered as a form of advertising; however, responding to inquiries from individuals as to names of Team Officials for the following season will not be considered "advertising". The Team Official or Association Official found responsible by the Board or a Special Committee for the publication of such prohibited advertising shall be suspended for a period of not less than 15 games or such further period of time as considered appropriate by the Board or Special Committee. The Association in respect of whom the prohibited advertising has been placed will be fined up to \$500.00.

## **AUTHORIZED AREAS FOR SUSPENDED INDIVIDUALS (APPENDIX “A”)**

Burnhamthorpe (Chic Murray) Arena:	Bleachers and upstairs glassed-in area.
Carmen Corbasson Arena:	East & West - Upstairs snack bar & glassed in viewing area. The only area at ice level is in the bleachers.
Clarkson Arena:	Main lobby and bleachers.
Erin Mills Arena:	Rink 1 & 2 - Bleachers, snack bar & lobby on main floor and the upstairs lobby/glassed in viewing area.
Paramount Fine Foods Centre:	Lobby area and enclosed upstairs viewing area.
Huron Park Arena:	Bleachers (except areas immediately behind penalty boxes), upstairs glassed- in area including snack bar and ticket taker area.
Iceland Arena:	Rinks 1,2,3 & 4 - Ground floor lobby, snack bar area, upstairs bleachers, and enclosed upstairs viewing area outside Rinks 3 & 4.
Paul Coffey Arena:	Snack bar and bleachers.
Meadowvale Arena:	Rinks 1 & 2 - Bleachers in Rink areas only, Main lobby and snack bar.
Mississauga Valleys Arena:	Snack bar and upstairs lobby and glassed in viewing area and bleachers.
Port Credit Arena:	The snack bar and all the seating areas.
Tomken Arena:	Rinks 1 & 2 - Bleachers, snack bar and lobby on main floor and the upstairs lobby/glassed in viewing area.