



1. **MHL WEBSITE**

- <https://hockey.on.ca> – Addresses such things as...
 - Important Dates <https://hockey.on.ca/important-dates-for-2023-2024/>
 - Coaching Certification & Police Check questions <https://hockey.on.ca/certification/>
 - Discipline Updates and Suspension Procedures
 - Tournament and Exhibition game Permits, etc.
 - Games Schedule and Standings

2. **MHL YEARBOOK (i.e. MHL Rules & Regulations)**

- Available online at our website, <http://hockey.on.ca/rules-regulations/>
 - Download it to your smartphone and carry it with you
 - Please be familiar with the MHL Minimum Suspensions Listing and our various other Policies <https://hockey.on.ca/rules-regulations/>
 - If there are any questions regarding a Rule, a Policy, a suspension, etc, please contact your **Association Discipline Chair** or the MHL Office (905-607-1118, info@hockey.on.ca) ASAP.

3. **BENCH PASSES**

- Discontinued in 2021-22. Instead, one of the Rostered Coaching Staff (i.e. Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Manager, Trainer) will sign the Game Sheet before each game. This signature will denote that that individual has ensured that all players are properly registered and rostered (or properly affiliated as a call-up), and that the Coaching Staff are properly registered and certified as per MHL requirements, <https://hockey.on.ca/certification/>, and that any suspended players (or coaches) have been recorded correctly.
- House League Bench Staff will have until December 1st to be fully-credentialed. After December 1st, not-fully-credentialed Bench Staff will be considered ineligible under MHL Rule 17.

4. **POLICE CHECKS**

- Police Checks are a Hockey Canada requirement. Once the season gets underway, the process can bog down, so DON'T DELAY.
- Further details can be found on the MHL website at <https://hockey.on.ca/certification/>.
- Police Checks are "good" for 3 years of continuous service within the MHL. If you're unsure about the status of yours, contact your Registrar or call the MHL Office. (905-607-1118, info@hockey.on.ca)

5. **MHL DISCIPLINE EMPHASIS**

- Spelled-out on the last page of the Minimum Suspensions document, found at <https://hockey.on.ca/rules-regulations/>. In summary, aggressive play, fighting, unsportsmanlike or abusive verbal and non-verbal conduct, and discrimination of any kind, will not be tolerated.

6. **GAME OFFICIALS**

- Since 2016-17 special emphasis has been placed on improving communication between our Game Officials and our Bench Staff.
- Harassment or abuse of Game Officials will not be tolerated.
- Please note that there is a process to be followed for filing any complaints against Game Officials...
 - <https://hockey.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/MHL-Ref-Grievance-Policy.pdf>.
 - Coaches should review the process and know who their Association Discipline Chair is.

7. **APPEALS, PROTESTS and SUSPENSION INFORMATION**

- Coaches are reminded to review these processes (in the MHL Yearbook).
- All such actions are to be processed through your Association Discipline Chair.

8. **CONVENING**

- As in the past, Convening will take place during the first 5 to 6 weeks of the season. Any player movement between teams should take place during the first 3 weeks. A meeting of the MHL and Area Head Convenors is scheduled for September 19th and the MHL House League season begins on Sunday, October 1st.
- We appreciate your cooperation with all our Convenors during this very busy and stressful time.

9. **MHL REMINDERS**

- a) Electronic Game Sheets will be used for the 2023-2024 season.
 - o A complete training document can be found at <https://hockey.on.ca/electronic-game-sheets/>.
- b) Injury Report – please be reminded of the importance of having these forms completed and submitted for any injury. (These can be downloaded from the MHL website, <http://hockey.on.ca/forms/>). Every team should have these forms with them at all times.
- c) Body-Checking – There is no body-checking in the MHL/GTHL and no MHL teams are permitted to play in any games (exhibition or tournament) where body-checking is allowed.
- d) Helmets... Must be worn by ALL Coaches, On-Ice Volunteers, and third-party instructors (even those claiming to be self-insured).
- e) We are under pressure from the City of Mississauga to stay within our contracted ice times. As such, it is very important that our games start and end on time. Please be reminded that games CAN (and will) start up to 10 minutes early and note that the 3-minute pre-game warm-up will be rigorously followed (with Delay of Game penalties administered for non-compliant teams).

10. **TOURNAMENTS & EXHIBITION GAMES**

- MHL teams must apply for an MHL Tournament Permit to participate in any sanctioned tournament. Further, if a scheduling exemption is required, the MHL requires 6 weeks' advance notice. Full details can be found on the MHL website at <http://hockey.on.ca/tournament-permits/>.
- All MHL teams must obtain sanctioning permission prior to participating in any exhibition game. Full details can be found on the MHL website at <http://hockey.on.ca/exhibition-permit/>.
- Please note that these Permits are "no charge".

11. **WARM-UPS & Other City Notices**

- Off-ice warm-ups are not permitted in City facilities.
- Use of markers and/or chalk on surfaces other than paper/whiteboard or chalk-board is NOT PERMITTED. Any damage caused will result in the team being billed for costs by the City.

12. **MHL Playoffs**

- House League formats to remain unchanged from 2022-2023
 - o House League Championship Weekend will be March 22nd to March 25th 2024
 - o Enhanced Red League Championship Weekend will be April 5th to April 8th. 2024
- U12A-18A will remain as "point series" as in 2022-2023.
 - o U8/9Gold is "tbd" and teams will be advised the format as the season progresses
 - o U10A and U11A will be playing in the GTHL this season and will follow the format adopted by the GTHL.
- As in the past, no games will be played during March Break (Sat, Mar 9th to Sun, Mar 17th inclusive) nor on the Sunday/Monday of Thanksgiving weekend. Note that we WILL be playing on the Sunday of Family Day weekend and on Super Bowl Sunday.

13. **Covid-19 Protocols**

- Hopefully all behind us, but please remain vigilant and encourage your players and fellow volunteers to stay home if they don't feel well.

Thank you and good luck with the 2023-2024 hockey season!