

SCOTIA MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE REGULATIONS

1. PLAYING RULES

- a) In general, Hockey Canada and the Hockey Nova Scotia Minor Council (HNSMC) rules and regulations will be adopted for all games unless otherwise stated.
- b) All suspensions for infractions shall be enforced in all divisions as advised by the HNSMC Suspension Coordinator.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT

- a) Any code of conduct issues with players, coaches, officials, fans, etc are to be addressed directly with the Minor Hockey Association of the person lodging the complaint.
- b) Should additional concerns follow, Risk Management of Scotia Minor may exercise its right to provide a written warning, or suspension from league activities.
- c) Scotia Minor reserves the right to refer ongoing concerns to Hockey Nova Scotia for further disciplinary consideration.
- d) Associations, teams, parents and players must adhere to all social media policies stated by HNSMC. Any form of bullying, harassment, etc will not be tolerated.

3. TEAM COMPOSITION

- a) Teams must register a minimum of 11 skaters and 1 goaltender, as subject to HNSMC rules, unless approved by Hockey Nova Scotia.
- b) Teams may register a maximum of 17 skaters and two goaltenders, as subject to HNSMC rules, unless approved by Hockey Nova Scotia.
- c) For AP players, refer to Affiliation per Hockey Nova Scotia Guidelines.

4. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- a) Proof of the eligibility of any player may be requested at any time, when required by the SMHL. It is the responsibility of the member to provide proof of eligibility in a timely manner.
- b) To be eligible to play in the SMHL, a player must fit the age category for the division as determined by HNSMC. (Goaltenders are the only exception for moving out of a division. e.g. a SMHL goaltender may move up a division and fill in for a goaltender, but cannot move down a division).
- c) All players and bench staff must be on an official HNS team roster with copies provided to SMHL Executive Committee by December 3rd of the current year. Any changes after this date must be submitted to HNSMC for approval and a revised copy sent to the SMHL Secretary.

5. COACHING/BENCH STAFF

- a) All team officials must have certification requirements as per HNS.
- b) All team officials (coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, managers) are required to be listed on a team roster and registered with Hockey Nova Scotia in order to be insured.

6. OFFICIALS

- a) Due to insurance purposes, under no circumstances can scheduled league games be played with less than two officials.

SCOTIA MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE REGULATIONS

- b) SMHL games will be scheduled with the following number of officials:
 - U11 B to AA: 3-official system (2-officials if both teams agree, only as a last resort and must be approved by the HNSMC Region Director);
 - U13 B to AA: 3-official system (2-officials if both teams agree, only as a last resort and must be approved by the HNSMC Region Director);
 - U15 B: 3-official system (2-officials if both teams agree, only as a last resort and must be approved by the HNSMC Region Director);
 - U15 A-AA: 4 official system (3-officials if both teams agree, only as a last resort and must be approved by the HNSMC Region Director);
 - U18 B to A: 4-official system (3-officials if both teams agree, only as a last resort and must be approved by the HNSMC Region Director).
- c) Notification of reduced number of officials must be provided a minimum of 45 minutes prior to scheduled start time.
- d) Should the minimum required number of officials not be achieved, the Home team will forfeit the game (recorded as a 5-0 loss).
- e) Each minor hockey association is responsible for paying the on-ice officials directly for their Home games.
- f) It is of the utmost importance that all players, coaches and parents show respect for the officials. Without the officials, games cannot be played.

7. TEAM COLOURS

- a) Home teams are to wear white/lightest colour jerseys and the away team is always to wear darkest colour jerseys.
- b) Where there is a conflict, the Home team must change to a contrasting color.
- c) Teams which possess two sets of jerseys must wear the set that does not conflict with the opposing team.

8. GAME SHEETS

- a) The Home team is responsible for providing the game sheet.
- b) One representative from each team is responsible for maintaining copies of all game sheets. At any time, SMHL reserves the right to request to see game sheets.
- c) If Alternate Players (AP's) are used to reach team minimum players (i.e. 11 skaters and 1 goaltender) these players must be identified on the official game sheet with the letters 'AP' next to their name.
- d) If game sheet team labels are used, ensure that there is a label on all three copies. If there are any changes, ensure that changes are made to all three game sheets.
- e) Game sheets are to be completed by both teams and then given to the officials before the scheduled start of the game.

9. GAME TIMING PROCEDURES

- a) SMHL recognizes that not all member associations possess the same ice time, however all league and playoff games shall consist of a maximum 3 x 15-minute stop time periods
- b) Games may be shortened to fit available ice time, if agreed to by the teams opposing one another.

SCOTIA MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE REGULATIONS

- c) The Home team is responsible for providing a timekeeper to run the game clock.
- d) Timing of games:
 - Minimum 3 minute warm up as soon as the ice is ready.
 - Games are 3 x 15-minute stop time periods, with the realization that the game will end at the end of 3 periods.
 - there will be a flood between the 2nd and 3rd periods (or between the 1st and 2nd periods for facilities that cycle floods every 2-periods) to ensure that the ice surface is safe for play. At U11 the cleaning is not required between periods during regular season games.
- e) If at any time during the game the ice allotment for the game expires, the game referee may end the game. Provided two periods of play have been completed, the score at the time when the game was ended will be the final score of the game.
- f) There will never be any overtime/extra time added in the case of a tie after regulation time expires, during regular season play.
- g) Home teams must provide a minimum of 12 pucks to the visiting team for warm-up.
- h) Should a 6-goal spread occur at any point, the clock will revert to run time. The game clock may revert to stop time once if the spread is less than 6, should the score return to a 6 goal spread, run time is returned and is not reversed for the remainder of the game.

10. SCHEDULES

- a) The only official schedule is the one posted on the Scotia Minor website (scotiaminor.ca).
- b) The regular season/playoff schedules will be provided by the Scheduling Coordinator and will also be posted on the league website.
- c) There are no forfeits unless approved by the SMHL Vice President.
- d) Teams in the SMHL must give SMHL scheduled games their first priority. Scheduled games, once posted, must be played.
- e) Games between teams that are located 2 hours away should be scheduled for dates prior to December 24th where possible, to accommodate potential poor weather conditions after the holiday break.
- f) Games are not to be regularly scheduled for the 3rd weekend of January or February. These weekends will be utilized for make-up games (games that get cancelled due to poor weather)
- g) SMHL does not encourage playing two games on the same day. Should it be necessary to schedule two games on the same day, a minimum of three hours from the end of the first game to the start of the second game must be provided. This regulation may be waived if evidence is provided to the Region Director up to 24 hours prior, that both teams are in agreeance to this change.
- h) Should a team travel more than 100 km from their home rink, the game will not commence prior to 11 am and must end by 6 pm. This rule may be waived when both teams mutually agree.
- i) Member teams wanting to participate in events such as tournaments, etc., that conflict with the SMHL schedule may do so long as a plan to make up the scheduled game is received along with the request and this plan can be fit into the existing schedule. The

SCOTIA MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE REGULATIONS

absolute minimum time these requests should be received is 30 days prior to the schedule game within the league schedule.

11. POSTPONED GAMES

- a) Games may be postponed and rescheduled based on storm warnings, heavy snowfall forecasts or requests by police to stay off the roads. In all cases, the safety of the players shall take precedence.
- b) If weather conditions create a safety concern, coaches may postpone a game provided a minimum of 4-hours notice. If 4-hours is not provided and a team does not show up for the game, the Region Director must be contacted and the team failing to abide by this rule will forfeit the game. Clear and timely communication between teams involved is a must in these circumstances.
- c) Postponed games must be rescheduled within 7 days of the originally scheduled date and must be played before the end of the season. These games must be played prior to the end of the schedule involved (i.e. regular season or playoff schedule).
- d) For any postponements due to mechanical issues, power outages or arena closures, etc. beyond the control of the Home team; teams will follow the same procedures stated in 'b)' above. These games will also need to be rescheduled before the end of the season.
- e) Should an issue arise with the cancellation process the Home team must contact your Region Director via email immediately and copy the travel team on the communication. The decision of the Region Director on this issue will be final.
- f) Under no circumstances, is a coach to postpone a game 24-hours prior to game time for any other reason without the approval of the Region Director.

12. PROCEDURE FOR RESCHEDULING GAMES

- a) The Home team is responsible for rescheduling postponed games as a result of conditions noted above.
- b) Any and all schedule changes should be forwarded to your Region Director by the Home team within 7 days. The Region Director will promptly notify the Scheduling Coordinator of changes.
- c) Should a disagreement between teams arises regarding rescheduling, the Scheduling Coordinator will determine the date.
- d) Should a team not appear to play on the date and time provided by the Scheduling Coordinator, the team that does not attend the game will receive an automatic forfeit (recorded as a 5-0 loss).
- e) Communication is key. There can never be too much communication in these situations. SMHL does not want a team showing up at a rink with no one to play, no timekeepers or no referees.

13. CHRISTMAS and MARCH BREAK

- a) Each year SMHL schedules will have a Christmas holiday break and a March break.
- b) The Christmas Break shall extend from at least December 24th to January 1st inclusive.

SCOTIA MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE REGULATIONS

14. TEAM STANDINGS

- a) SMHL will ensure the scores and standings are kept up to date for the benefit of all.
- b) The Home team is responsible to e-mail the results of each SMHL game immediately after the game to scores@scotiainor.ca. Results will be posted weekly on the SMHL website which will be used to determine league standings.
- c) All scores must be submitted by Monday at midnight. Failure to complete this will result in a forfeit or suspension by the Home team.
- d) All game results must be submitted and posted before finalized standings are approved by the SMHL Executive Committee.
- e) Standings will be determined using two points for a win and one point for a tie, and zero for a loss.
- f) Teams tied in total points at the end of the regular schedule will have their standing determined (in order) as follows; based on HNSMC policy:
 - Procedure for two teams tied:
 1. Wins in head to head play during the regular season; then
 2. Most wins in the regular season; then
 3. Goals for / (Goals for plus Goals against) x 100 (highest percentage is highest ranked).
 - Procedure for three or more teams tied:
 1. Most wins in the regular season; then
 2. Head to Head record against all teams tied in regular season (when equal number of games played against each other); then
 3. Goals for / (Goals for plus Goals against) x 100 (highest percentage is highest ranked).
- g) No individual statistics will be posted on the SMHL website.

15. PLAYOFFS

- a) All teams shall be included in playoffs.
- b) Playoff fees will be set by December 31; payment must be received no later than 30 days prior to the first day of the playoffs.
- c) Playoffs shall be round-robin format for all divisions.
- d) Playoffs will be scheduled to be completed prior to deadlines to submit HNS Conference Finals or HNS Provincial Playoff Tournament.
- e) Playoff League Day of Champions (DOC) locations shall be appointed by the SMHL Executive Committee and will be posted on the website by December 1. Costs associated with the Playoff League DOC (ice, officials, banners) shall be paid by SMHL.
- f) SMHL will ensure the playoff scores and standings are kept up to date daily for the benefit of all.
- g) Playoff standings will be determined using two points for a win, one point for a tie, zero points for a loss.
- h) Each team will have one 30-second timeout during playoff games.
- i) There is no overtime for round-robin tournament games; overtime will only be played for semi-final and final games.

SCOTIA MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE REGULATIONS

- j) Teams tied in total points at the end of the playoff schedule will have their standing determined (in order) as follows; based on HNSMC policy:
- Procedure for two teams tied:
 1. Wins in head to head play during the playoff tournament; then
 2. Most wins in playoff tournament; then
 3. Goals for / (Goals for plus Goals against) x 100 (highest percentage is highest ranked).
 - Procedure for three or more teams tied:
 1. Most wins in the playoff tournament; then
 2. Head to Head record against all teams tied in playoff tournament (when equal number of games played against each other); then
 3. Goals for / (Goals for plus Goals against) x 100 (highest percentage is highest ranked).
- k) During playoff semi-final and final games, if the score is tied after regulation, teams will have a 2-minute break at end of regulation, followed by:
1. One five minute 5 on 5 sudden death overtime; then if still tied,
 2. One five minute 4 on 4 sudden death overtime; then if still tied,
 3. Shootout to determine the winner.
 - Shootout format shall be as follows:
 1. The Home team will shoot first.
 2. Each team will give the officials three names for the first round of the shootout;
 3. If still tied after both teams have had three shooters, then a sudden death shootout will occur. Eleven players must shoot once before any shooter is allowed to repeat;
 4. Each team will send one shooter per round. A winner will be declared after both teams have taken their shot and only one team has scored.
- l) The top team from the Playoff League Day of Champions in each respective division will be declared the League Champion and shall advance to the HNS Conference Playoff Final or HNS Provincial Playoff Tournament.

16. PLAYOFF FORMAT

- a) The SMHL Scheduling Coordinator will create playoff schedules as soon as final standings of regular season league play are determined, using the established round-robin format (away v home). Game dates may be revised by the Scheduling Coordinator to accommodate available home ice slots.
- 2-Team Format
 - Best 3 of 5 series format for U15 divisions and below
 - Best 2 of 3 series format for U18 divisions
 - 3-Team Round-Robin Format
 - Week 1 games: seeded 2 v 1, 1 v 3, 3 v 2
 - Week 2 games: seeded 1 v 2, 3 v 1, 2 v 3
 - Week 3 semi-final: 3rd vs 2nd
 - League DOC final: Semi Winner v 1st

SCOTIA MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE REGULATIONS

- 4-Team Round-Robin Format
 - Week 1 games: seeded 2 v 1, 4 v 3, 1 v 4, 3 v 2
 - Week 2 games: seeded 3 v 1, 4 v 2
 - Week 3 semi-final: 3rd v 2nd, 4th v 1st
 - League DOC final: Semi Winner v Semi Winner (top seed is home)
- 5-Team Round-Robin Format
 - Week 1 games: seeded 2 v 1, 4 v 3, 5 v 2, 1 v 4, 3 v 5
 - Week 2 games: seeded 1 v 5, 2 v 3, 3 v 1, 5 v 4, 4 v 2
 - Week 3 semi-final: 3rd v 2nd, 4th v 1st
 - League DOC final: Semi Winner v Semi Winner (top seed is home)
- 6-Team Round-Robin Format
 - Week 1 games: seeded 4 v 1, 6 v 2, 3 v 5 1 v 6, 2 v 3, 5 v 4
 - Week 2 games: seeded 1 v 5, 2 v 4, 6 v 3 3 v 1, 5 v 2, 4 v 6
 - Week 3 semi-final: 3rd v 2nd, 4th v 1st
 - League DOC final: Semi Winner v Semi Winner (top seed is home)
- 7-Team Round-Robin Format
 - Week 1 games: seeded 5 v 1, 6 v 2, 7 v 3, 1 v 4, 2 v 5, 3 v 6, 4 v 7
 - Week 2 games: seeded 7 v 1, 3 v 2, 5 v 4, 1 v 6, 2 v 7, 4 v 3, 6 v 5
 - Week 3 semi-final: 3rd v 2nd, 4th v 1st
 - League DOC final: Semi Winner v Semi Winner (top seed is home)
- 8-Team Round-Robin Format
 - Week 1 games: seeded 5 v 1, 7 v 2, 8 v 3, 6 v 4 1 v 8, 4 v 2, 3 v 7, 5 v 6
 - Week 2 games: seeded 1 v 7, 2 v 6, 3 v 5, 8 v 4 6 v 1, 2 v 8, 4 v 3, 7 v 5
 - Week 3 semi-final: 3rd v 2nd, 4th v 1st
 - League DOC final: Semi Winner v Semi Winner (top seed is home)
- 9-Team Round-Robin Format
 - Week 1 games: seeded 6 v 1, 9 v 2, 8 v 3, 5 v 4, 1 v 7, 2 v 8, 7 v 6, 4 v 9, 3 v 5
 - Week 2 games: seeded 9 v 1, 2 v 7, 8 v 6, 4 v 3, 5 v 2, 3 v 9, 1 v 8, 7 v 5, 6 v 4
 - Week 3 semi-final: 3rd v 2nd, 4th v 1st
 - League DOC final: Semi Winner v Semi Winner (top seed is home)

17. SUSPENSIONS

- a) Suspensions are handed out by Hockey Nova Scotia according to the HNSMC regulations.
- b) When a player receives a suspension, their respective minor hockey association will notify the coach of the team receiving the suspension.
- c) The coach is required to ensure that the player receiving the suspension fulfill the HNSMC "Player-Suspension Notice" that the coach will receive.
- d) SMHL will also be notified of all suspensions that involve SMHL players/coaches and will require the team coach/manager to have this completed form available at all times.
- e) It is the coach's responsibilities to know the rules; ignorance of the rules or knowledge of player/coach suspensions is not an excuse.

SCOTIA MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE REGULATIONS

- For example: If a player is involved in a fight and receives a fighting penalty, it is an automatic suspension. Sometimes the notice of suspension of the player(s) may not reach the coach before the next game. It remains the coach's responsibility to sit that player out. If this does not occur, the coach could be subject to a suspension by Hockey Nova Scotia.