



CODE OF DISCIPLINE and MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS

(Revised August 2023)

REGULATION TWENTY-FIVE - CODE OF DISCIPLINE

25.1. The Association has a Code of Discipline Policy to:

- a) ensure that its members are aware of the serious nature of certain rule violations and to protect every players right to compete in hockey without fear of violence or abuse.
- b) apply a common minimum standard of discipline across the Branch, for offences that are similar in nature. That discipline may be in the form of a suspension, fine, expulsion or other sanction.
- c) make team, league and association officials, more aware of their responsibilities in controlling the conduct of their teams and applying discipline where warranted.

25.2.

- a) The Code of Discipline Policy applies to all players, teams, leagues, associations, organization and club officials who are registered members of the Association.
- b) The Code of Discipline applies to all hockey games, be they league, tournament, play-off, or exhibition, in which HNS players and team officials from HNS registered clubs are participating, including games outside the boundaries of HNS Branch
- c) A team playing in an out of Branch tournament shall abide by the out of Branch code of discipline for the duration of the tournament only. Games that players or team officials have outstanding as per the HNS Code of Discipline must be served immediately upon return to HNS.

25.3. Types Of Suspensions

- a) **GAME SPECIFIED:** The offender is removed from specified games and shall not participate in any games, including exhibition, as a player, on ice or off ice official until the suspension is served in full.
- b) **SUSPENSIONS:** The offender is removed for a specified number of games from all hockey excluding practices and tryouts. **Suspended players may participate in skills competition unless under indefinite suspension.**

25.4. When And Where For Suspensions

- a) Suspensions shall commence immediately.



- b) Teams that are members of sanctioned leagues, who have their season schedule and playoffs approved by the HNS, shall be subject to game specified suspensions. Game specified suspensions result in the offender being suspended immediately from the game the penalty was assessed. The specified games begin with the team's next meaningful game.
- c) Sanctioned tournaments may, at their discretion, use either time specified or game specified suspensions during the tournament. Suspensions extending beyond the tournament will revert to the normal disposition of suspensions the team normally plays under.
- d) In the event the team has completed all league, playoff and tournament games for the season, a time specified suspension and/or game specified suspension shall be issued for the following season by the respective HNS officials.
- e) However, any player under a game specified suspension, other than that assessed for a violation of Hockey Canada Rule 9.6, that has been carried over from a previous season shall not be prohibited from participating in pre-season tryout activities (not including exhibition games). Carry over suspensions from previous season will start being served on October 15th or when the league starts whichever occurs first.

Coaches and players who are suspended indefinitely, shall not be eligible to take part in practices or other team activities until deemed eligible by HNSMC Discipline Committee.

- f) (1) Meaningful games are regularly scheduled games, sanctioned tournament games and pre- approved exhibition games verified on the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR) by the Regional Director or his/her designate. Games approved after a suspension has occurred will not count as meaningful games. **A game must be played in order to count towards a suspension**
- (2) In exceptional circumstances a player may be unable to serve a suspension in a reasonable amount of time [ie: end of season], in those very rare circumstances the Regional Director, the Conference Coordinator, the appropriate Chair, and Referee-in-Chief TOGETHER will review such circumstances and make a decision on how this suspension will be served. Any such request to review such a suspension must come to HNS in writing from the President of the player's MHA. All HNS suspensions must be served in a MEANINGFUL manner, consistency and fairness will be critical in making the decisions on these suspensions.

- g) In divisions of U13 and below and Female hockey, a minor penalty shall be assessed any player who, in the opinion of the referee, intentionally body checks, bumps, shoves or pushes an opposing player. A major penalty and game misconduct shall be assessed if such intentional body contact results in injury.
 - h) The MINIMUM suspensions listed in this Code of Discipline shall be applied by the appropriate Council official. If such official determines that the offence warrants a suspension other than that listed, he/she shall report same to the Council Discipline Committee complete with his/her recommendation. A player who is playing as an affiliate will serve the suspension with the team he/she is registered with and may not play as an affiliate again until the suspension is served.
 - i) Any incident involving a player or coach who receives a suspension of 10 games or more as a result of applied Code of Discipline infractions stemming from one incident, shall be reviewed by a committee consisting of the Chair of HNSMC, VP Operations HNS, Chair of Female Council and the Referee-in-Chief of HNS (ex officio) which will determine the final suspension.
 - j) The HNS Suspension Coordinator's position is to Receive Incident Reports from Officials, Enter in the Hockey Canada Registry and send notification to the Association Group. Any questions on suspensions should be directed to the Association.
- 25.5. The onus for control of a team rests with the officials of the team, or any person(s) acting for the designated officials of the team. They are, therefore, responsible for ensuring that, without further notice from anyone, players and/or officials serve the minimum suspensions.
- 25.6. Failure of officials to ensure that suspensions are served as assessed may result in the suspension of the officials, team, and/or Association from further play, pending review by the President or Designate of the HNS.
- 25.7. In accordance with Hockey Canada rules, no team official or player may enter the official's dressing room during or after a game on the day of the game.
- 25.8. Any registered member having been suspended by Hockey Nova Scotia and seeking reinstatement in any capacity shall not be reinstated without the approval of the Hockey Nova Scotia Executive Committee.
- 25.9. Any person placed under suspension shall not be eligible to participate in any event under the jurisdiction of Hockey Nova Scotia, Hockey Canada, International Ice Hockey Federation, or any other organization with which Hockey Nova Scotia has a formal agreement.

- 25.10. Any player suspended in Minor or Minor Female Hockey at the end of a season and is graduating to a higher division within Hockey Nova Scotia must serve his/her remaining suspension at the start of the next regular season scheduled games. The player is allowed to participate in training camps and exhibition games that are part of the tryout process. Once the team is picked the player will not be permitted to play further pre-season exhibition games until his/her suspension has been served.
- 25.11. The President or designated representative, shall have the power to suspend summarily any player, coach, manager or other team official in minor hockey or female hockey for ungentlemanly conduct on or off the ice, or for abusive language to any game participant before, during or after a game.
- 25.12. The following policies and/or minimum suspension guidelines of Hockey Nova Scotia are aimed towards ensuring high standards of skill and fair play, integrity and good sportsmanship by HNS member players, coaches and team management.
- 25.13. Any player or team official who is suspended by their MHA must have the suspension notice come through the HNS Suspension Coordinator. For any suspension dealing with any form of abuse the Suspension Coordinator must copy the Chair of Risk Management. This will ensure that the suspension records of all players and team officials are properly recorded in the suspension records of HNS and can be used for any future disciplinary action.
- ANY GAME MISCONDUCT, GROSS MISCONDUCT OR MATCH PENALTY OCCURRING IN THE LAST TEN (10) MINUTES OF A GAME, WILL RESULT IN AN EXTRA ONE (1) GAME SUSPENSION (MINIMUM 2 GAMES).
 - **See corresponding chart for Major and Match accumulation penalties**

***PLEASE NOTE ANY BENCH STAFF RECEIVING A SUSPENSION WHICH INVOLVES A GREEN ARM BAND OFFICIAL, WILL RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL ONE GAME SUSPENSION**

RULE 11 - MALTREATMENT

Rule #	Type	Penalty	Suspension
11.1(e)	Game Misconduct	Unsportsmanlike Conduct	1 game
11.2(e)	Game Misconduct	Disrespectful and Abusive Behavior	2 games



11.2(f)	Gross Misconduct	Disrespectful and Abusive Behavior	4 games
11.3(c)	Match	Spitting	5 games
11.4(f)	Gross Misconduct	Discrimination	Indefinite suspension pending a hearing (any suspension must be at least 5 games).
11.5(c)	Match	Physical Harassment of Officials	Indefinite suspension pending a hearing.
Accumulation Sanctions – Player or Team Official			
Rule #	Penalty		Suspension
11.1(e)	Receives 2 Game Misconducts under Rule 11.1 in a season		2 games
11.1(e)	Receives 3 or more Game Misconducts under Rule 11.1 in a season		Indefinite
11.2(e)	Receives 2 Game Misconducts under Rule 11.2 in a season		4 games
11.2(e)	Receives 3 or more Game Misconducts under Rule 11.2 in a season		Indefinite suspension
11.2(f)	Receives 2 Gross Misconducts under Rule 11.2 in a season		Indefinite suspension pending a hearing.
11.4(f)	Receives 2 or more Gross Misconducts under Rule 11.4 in a season		Indefinite suspension pending a hearing.

Checking from Behind PENALTY SITUATIONS

Rule #	Type	Penalty	Suspension
7.5(a and b)	Minor/Major	Checking from behind Minor or Major	1 st Offence – 2 games 2 nd Offence – 3 games 3 rd Offence - Indefinite
7.5 (b and c)	Major/Match in Non-Checking Game	Checking from behind Major or Match in Non-checking game	1 st Offence – 4 games



			Subsequent infractions – Suspension doubles each time
7.5(c)	Match	Checking from Behind	4 games
Accumulation Sanctions			
In addition to the minimum suspension, a player accumulating 2 Match penalties in same season for any of the above infractions.			6 games
Any player receiving 3 Match penalties for any of the above infractions.			Indefinite suspension pending a hearing.

MAJOR PENALTY SITUATIONS

Rule #	Type	Penalty	Suspension
7.2(b)	Major	Boarding	2 games
7.3(b)	Major	Body Checking	2 games
7.4(b)	Major	Charging	1 game
7.5 (a)	Major	Checking from behind	See Chart above for CFB infractions
7.6(b)	Major	Head Contact	2 games
7.8(b)	Major	Kneeing	1 game
9.2(b)	Major	Cross-Checking	1 game
9.3(b)	Major	Slashing	1 game
Accumulation Sanctions - Player			
Any player receiving 2 Majors in same season for any of the above infractions			2 games
Any player receiving 3 Majors in same season for any of the above infractions			Indefinite suspension pending a hearing.
Accumulation Sanctions - Coach			
Any team receiving a combination equaling 3 penalties in the same game from a Major penalty, Match penalty or fighting infraction.			1 game

For a 2nd violation of a team receiving a combination equaling 3 penalties in the same game from a Major penalty, Match penalty or fighting infraction.	3 games
For a 3rd violation of a team receiving a combination equaling 3 penalties in the same game from a Major penalty, Match penalty or fighting infraction.	Indefinite suspension pending a hearing.

MATCH PENALTY SITUATIONS

Rule #	Type	Penalty	Suspension
7.1(c)	Match	Attempt to Injure or Deliberate Injury <i>Note: May include but not limited to head-butting, hair pulling, grabbing face mask and kicking.</i>	3 games
7.2(c)	Match	Boarding	3 games
7.3(c)	Match	Body Checking	3 games
7.4(c)	Match	Charging	3 games
7.6(c)	Match	Head Contact	4 games
7.8(c)	Match	Kneeing	3 games
8.8(c)	Match	Slew Footing	3 games
9.1(c)	Match	Butt-Ending	3 games
9.2(c)	Match	Cross Checking	3 games
9.3(c)	Match	Slashing	3 games
9.4(c)	Match	Spearing	3 games
Accumulation Sanctions			
Any player receiving 2 Match penalties for any of the above infractions			6 games



Any player receiving 3 Match penalties for any of the above infractions.	Indefinite suspension pending a hearing.
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FIGHTING SITUATIONS

Rule #	Penalty	Suspension
7.10(b)	Fighting Major Penalty	
	First Offence	5 games
	Second Offence	10 games
	Third Offence	Indefinite suspension pending a hearing.
	Fourth Offence	Indefinite suspension pending a hearing.
7.10(e)	Third player in a fight	2 games
7.10(e)	Any player receiving a fighting Major penalty, which is a result of a second or subsequent fight during the same stoppage of play.	2 games
10.4(e)	Player identified as first to leave the players' or penalty bench during a fight or for the purpose of fighting.	5 games
10.4(e)	Coach of a team whose player is identified as first to leave the players' or penalty bench during a fight or for the purpose of fighting.	3 games
10.4(e)	Coach whose player is not identified as the first to leave the players' or penalty bench during an on-ice altercation.	1 game
10.4 (f)	Team Official getting on the ice – Game Misconduct	1 st - Indefinite
7.11(a)	Instigator / Aggressor of a Fight	
	First Offense	2 games
	Second Offense	Indefinite Suspension
7.10(b)	Pre/Post Game Altercations	
	Any player involved where Majors and Game Misconducts are assessed.	2 games
	Coach of team whose players are so penalized.	Indefinite suspension
	Any team involved in a pre or post game brawl.	Indefinite suspension



OTHER

Rule #	Type	Penalty	Suspension
4.7 C	Game Misconduct	Any player who is assessed a second 10 minute misconduct in the same game shall automatically be assessed a game misconduct penalty.	1 game
4.8(c)	Game Misconduct	Any player or team official who is assessed a Game Misconduct penalty in the last 10 minutes of regular playing time, at any time in overtime, or after the conclusion of the game will automatically be suspended for a minimum of the next regular league/play-off game. <i>Note: The 1 game suspension under Rule 4.8(c) is in addition to any suspensions applied under the minimum guidelines.</i>	1 game
4.9(b)	Gross Misconduct	Any player or team official who is assessed a Gross Misconduct penalty in the last 10 minutes of regular playing time, at any time in overtime, or after the conclusion of the game will automatically be suspended for a minimum of the next regular league/play-off game. <i>Note: The 1 game suspension under Rule 4.9(b) is in addition to any suspensions applied under the minimum guidelines.</i>	1 game
4.10	Match penalty	Any player or team official who is assessed a Match penalty in the last 10 minutes of regular playing time, at any time in overtime, or after the conclusion of the game will automatically be suspended for a minimum of the next regular league/play-off game. <i>Note: The 1 game suspension under Rule 4.9(b) is in addition to any suspensions applied under the minimum guidelines.</i>	1 game

OTHER

***ANY GAME MISCONDUCT WILL RESULT IN A MINIMUM OF ONE ADDITIONAL GAME SUSPENSION**

Rule #	Type	Penalty	Suspension
HC – F22	Hockey Canada Rule	Ineligible Player – Player or Team Official	Three years (falsifying a birth certificate or using an assumed name)
2.2	Hockey Canada Rule	Ineligible Player – Team Official	Five games (using a player unrostered, affiliated or under suspension)
7.2a	Hockey Nova Scotia Rule	Body Checking – Minor Penalty (in a Rec/C level game) *Does not apply to Female hockey	1st – 2min + 10min misconduct 2nd offence same game – 1 game
10.14 A	Hockey Canada Rule	Fails to return and start play – Team officials	Up to one year
10.14 B	Hockey Canada Rule	Fails to return and start play – Second time in same game	One to one year
10.14 C	Hockey Canada Rule	Fails to present themselves at a game for playoff provincials	Six Games
10.14 D	Hockey Canada Rule	Refusal to leave area after game misconduct assessed. Not completing game or series Pre-Game or Post Game Incidents where Majors and Game misconducts are assessed	1 st – Indefinite 1 st – Indefinite 1 st – Indefinite
Reg 11.13	Hockey Nova Scotia Regulation	Uncertified Team Official After December 1st	1 st Offence -Indefinite until certification is obtained,



			minimum 5 games [no interview required 2 nd Offence – one year
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25.14. Pre-Game, between Periods or Post Game Incidents (Junior/Senior)

Fights prior to the start of the game - teams involved will receive an automatic \$500.00 fine plus suspensions, which may occur as a result of review of the incident by the League Disciplinary Committee.

Pre-game warm-up - players are restricted to their half of the ice and must stay there for the duration of the warm-up:

Players who cross or touch the centerline with their skates will be assessed a Minor Penalty.

Players who cross the center ice line to instigate opponents will be assessed a Gross Misconduct Penalty.

Players who instigate opponents anywhere in the pre-game warm-up will be assessed a Gross Misconduct Penalty.

Note: Players can only enter their opponents half during pre-game warm-up following approval from the Game Official monitoring the warm-up.

Incidents between periods or the end of game - automatic fine of \$500.00 for each team, and if instigator identified, player(s) involved suspended a minimum of five (5) games and coach identified player(s) suspended a minimum of three (3) games, in addition to any other penalties, which may apply.

25.15. Line Brawl (Junior/Senior)

- Definition: more than two (2) fights during the same stoppage. As players involved in line brawl suspensions will be:
- Initial fight As per “Hockey Canada Rule 6.7”
- All other players involved Three (3) additional games
- Coach Five (5) additional games pending investigation by league.

25.16. Involvement with Fans - Players or Team Officials

- Team Official(s) penalized for any incident involving a fan(s)



- Indefinite suspension pending investigation by the League Disciplinary Committee.
- Player(s) penalized for any incident involving with a fan(s)
- -Indefinite suspension for a maximum of five (5) games, pending investigation by the League Disciplinary Committee.
- Any Player or Team Official making derogatory remarks in public, or through the media regarding 1) the HNS &/ or representatives, 2) the MINOR COUNCIL &/ or representatives, 3) Hockey Canada &/ or representatives, 4) Governing League &/ or representatives, or 5) Game Officials shall be fined \$200.00.

Note:

- i. Suspensions for regulation 10 (I) represent minimum suspensions. Disciplinary Committee may apply additional suspensions upon review.
- ii. All **players**, coaches or team officials suspended, for any reason, will not be permitted in the dressing room or players area from one hour before game time until one hour after the conclusion of the game. They shall also be seated in an area of the arena as designated by the League or governing body until the suspension has been served. Any violation will result in additional suspension for the coach and a fine of \$1,000.00 to team.
- iii. Definition - “Coach” – Head Coach or his Designate – in the event the Head Coach is under suspension or not present.
- iv. “Fines do not apply for Minor Hockey teams, according to Hockey Canada Rules & Regulations.”
- v. All fines, with the possible exception of that of derogatory remarks (payable to HNS), will be payable to the Governing League.

25.17. Rule 4.6 - Game Misconduct

- 1st Offense - Remainder of the game plus One (1) additional game
- 2nd Offense - Remainder of the game plus Two (2) additional games
- 3rd Offense - Remainder of the game plus Three (3) additional games
- 4th and Subs. - Remainder of the game plus Suspended indefinitely until dealt with by Disciplinary Committee

25.18. Rule 4.8 - Match Penalties



- 1st Offense - Remainder of the game plus Three (3) additional games
- 2nd Offense - Remainder of the game plus Six (6) additional games
- 3rd Offense - Remainder of the game plus Disciplinary Committee

25.19. Incident or Behavior Detrimental to Hockey

Offender shall be automatically suspended from all hockey activities under the jurisdiction of Hockey Canada, HNS and MINOR COUNCIL until dealt with by proper Disciplinary Committee.

Offenses could include, but are not limited to:

- “Playing under suspension”
- “Playing suspended or illegal players” “Removal of team from ice”
- “Travelling without a travel permit”
- “Unacceptable conduct on and off the ice”

25.20. Coaches Registered with 2+ Teams/Leagues

Coaches registered in more than one league must serve their suspension in the league in which they were suspended. In addition, they will not be permitted to coach in any registered league until the suspension is served.

25.21. Registration Suspensions

- A. Any player, Team Official, or Executive Member of a team or Minor Association found guilty of falsifying a birth certificate, or having been party to, or having knowledge of such, shall be indefinitely suspended until dealt with by the HNSMC Executive Committee.
- B. Any Team Official who adds an unregistered player’s name to a game sheet will be suspended for one year, and games defaulted whether said player played or not.
- C. Any player proven guilty of falsifying a birth certificate, Hockey Canada registration certificate, or playing under an assumed name or having had knowledge that same had been falsified, or of playing on other than his own birth certificate shall be automatically suspended from playing hockey with any team affiliated with Hockey Canada for a period of not less than one year and not more than three years from the date of his/her suspension.
- D. Any Team or Minor Association Executive Member, proven guilty of having been a party to, or having had such knowledge of such falsification, shall be automatically suspended for life from playing or holding office with any team, club or association affiliated with Hockey Canada.

- E. Any player who refuses to provide reasonable identification as to his person when requested by a Minor/Female Director, or designate, supervising a game, series or any Minor/Female competition, shall be suspended for a period of not less than one (1) year and not more than three (3) years.
- F. Any Team or Minor Association Executive Member who advises a player to conceal his identity once asked by an official of Minor/Female Council shall be automatically suspended for life from playing or holding office with any team, club or association affiliated with Hockey Canada.