



MINOR REGULATIONS

REVISED OCTOBER 2026



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Companion documents	Female Regulations; Code of Discipline 2026-27; History of Award Winners and Champions; Memorandum of Association and By-Laws. All are published at hockeynovascotia.ca .
Questions	Hockey Nova Scotia office, info@hockeynovascotia.ca .

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

Every regulation reference in blue is a link: select it to go straight to that regulation. The Contents page is clickable, and the bookmarks panel in your PDF reader lists every regulation by number and title.

Regulations are cited by number, for example Regulation 2.21. Where a regulation in this document refers to the Female Regulations or the By-Laws, it names that document.

Official Dates

MILESTONE	DATE	REGULATION
Start of season	September 1	1.23
Team registration deadline	October 15	1.23 and 5.9
Team staff submission deadline (not U7 and U9)	October 15	5.10
U7 and U9 registration date	October 31	5.10
Team staff submission deadline, U7 and U9	November 15	1.21 and 11.10
Leagues AGM deadline	June 30	2.5
U9 half-ice / cross-ice scrimmages	October 1 to December 25	19.4
U9 full-ice scrimmages allowed	December 26	19.4
Team staff certifications deadline	December 1	11.9
Team classifications by Minor Council	December	3.4
Deadline for player registration	February 10	5.12
Deadline for competitive team roster changes	February 10	5.12
End of season	April 30	1.23

The U9 dates reflect Regulation 19.4 as amended by Notice of Motion 2026-10. All other dates are carried from the March 2026 edition.

Complaint Resolution Communication

Hockey Canada and its Members want to end the culture of silence that exists in parts of hockey. To help ensure that we are a safe space for raising concerns, Hockey Canada has established a new, fully independent, and confidential reporting mechanism for all individuals regarding any incidents involving Hockey Canada sanctioned programming as outlined in the Action Plan. This reporting mechanism is known as the Independent Third Party (ITP).

The role of the ITP is to receive all hockey related maltreatment, sexual violence, harassment, abuse or discrimination complaints by anyone affiliated within Hockey Canada programs.

Complaints can be submitted by email to: complaints@sportcomplaints.ca

Contact Lines of Communication

- 1 Parent/Player with the Issue
- 2 Team Manager/Coach
- 3 Minor Hockey Association Registrar/Association President
- 4 Regional Director/League Executive
- 5 Conference Coordinator / Minor Council Chair
- 6 Hockey Nova Scotia Executive Director
- 7 Hockey Nova Scotia Executive

The 24 -Hour Rule

When an issue occurs and a party has a resulting complaint to make or issue to be resolved, they are asked to wait 24 hours, then put the issue in writing and submit it to the appropriate party. Whether this issue is labelled as coaching error, team mate interference, parent conflict or any other of a number of possible situations, it is very important that all parties involved take the full 24 hours to remove or decrease the emotional element so that the actual issue can be resolved quickly, in a civilized manner, and to everyone's satisfaction.



RAISING A CONCERN: WHERE TO START?



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Definitions

- 1.0** For the purpose of all Hockey Nova Scotia Regulations, unless otherwise defined in a specific regulation, the definitions of the words, terms and expressions contained in Hockey Canada Regulations shall apply.
- 1.1** Affiliate Player (AP) - refers to those players from club teams, affiliated teams, or specially affiliated players when such player(s) are participating with a higher Division/Category team.
- 1.2** All Stars - means a selection of exceptional players registered with various teams from a common league, association, Branch, Region or the Nation-at-Large, grouped together for a specific competition.
- 1.3** Association - Refers to Hockey Nova Scotia unless identified as a Minor Hockey Association.
- 1.4** Certification – Refers to Bench Staff / Team Officials requirements as per HNS Reg. 11.
- 1.5** "Club" - Is a local Minor Hockey Association operated and controlled by a duly elected Board of Directors, the members of which shall designate from among themselves the signing officers for that club (Hockey Canada Reg. 20).
- 1.6** Provincial Day of Champions (Doc) – Day of Champions (DoC) – HNS sponsored event at the end of the season that will declare provincial champions in the following HNSMC divisions and categories: U11 AA, A, B; U13 AA, A, B; U15 A, B; U18 A, B.
- 1.7** Exhibition Game – A game that is not part of the regular season, tournament, or play-off schedule.
- 1.8** Goaltender(s)/Goalkeeper(s) - Means all players other than skaters.
- 1.9** High School Player - A player registered in high school having played at least one regular scheduled high school game in the current school season.
- 1.10** HNS - Hockey Nova Scotia.
- 1.11** HNSMC - Hockey Nova Scotia Minor Council.
- 1.12** HNSFC - Hockey Nova Scotia Female Council.
- 1.13** 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 their designate. HNSMC games that are added to the schedule after a suspension has occurred, will not count as meaningful games. A game must take place in order to count towards a suspension.
- 1.14** MHA - Minor Hockey Association.
- 1.15** Minor Hockey Player - A minor hockey player shall be a player whose date of birth falls within the age limits (for the various divisions of minor hockey) approved by Hockey Canada.

- 1.16** Minor Hockey Bench Staff - Minor Hockey Bench staff shall be defined as one (1) Head Coach, one (1) trainer and assistant coaches up to a maximum number of bench staff (5) permitted on the bench. A minimum of two (2) certified bench staff must be on the bench to start any game.
- 1.17** Minor Hockey Season - HNS does not support and will not sanction any hockey activities outside of the normal hockey season, unless Hockey Canada or its Branches sponsor these activities. Please refer to the HNS Seasonal Structure Chart for dates and timelines.
- 1.18** New Coach - Someone who is assisting on the ice and/or the bench that has not been registered with Hockey Canada at any time previous.
- 1.19** HNS Playoff Game – A hockey game or series of games that are used to declare a league, a Regional, a Conference, a DoC, or a Provincial Championship.
- 1.20** Players - Refers to goaltenders and skaters.
- 1.21** Pre-Season - That time period prior to October 15th of the current season when Minor Hockey Association teams are permitted to play exhibition games and must receive approval from their Regional Director. In Minor Hockey all players and team officials in U11 AA, U13 AAA, U15 AA, and U18 AA must be registered on rosters approved by the Regional Director prior to participating in any game prior to October 15th.
- Travel Permits are required for all of these Pre-season events.
- It is the responsibility of the MHA President to ensure all players are properly registered with their Association during the pre-season. The Registration date for all other divisions/teams, excluding U7 and U9, is October 31st. The Registration date for U7 and U9 is November 15th.
- 1.22** Recreational (Level C) - Defined as a community-oriented minor hockey program structured to provide development and competition at the recreational level. Recreational/Non-competitive teams are not eligible for Provincial Championships.
- 1.23** Regular Season - The approved Regular Hockey Season is from September 1st to April 30th. By October 15th annually all Minor teams from U11 to U18 must register and receive approval from Regional Director prior to participation in regular season games.
- 1.24** Release - Means the discharge / release of a player from team or MHA, for tryout purposes. In all situations this must be pre-approved by the Regional Director regardless of the league where this player or team will play. All approved transfers are for current season only.
- 1.25** Representative Team - Competitive teams registered and classified under regulations defined herein, eligible for Provincial Championships and for the purposes of affiliating players.
- 1.26** Skaters - Means all players other than goaltenders.
- 1.27** Sledge Hockey - Is an innovative team sport that incorporates the same rules and discipline structure as ice hockey. Players sit on specially designed sleds, or sledges, with skate blades under the seat. Two sticks are used to not only pass, stick handle and shoot the puck, but also to propel and maneuver the sledges.

- 1.28** Tournament - A schedule of games (not including league play or playoff games) played among three (3) or more teams, which follows an inter-locking schedule and leads to an eventual winner. This must be pre-approved by the Regional Director and a Tournament Permit must be issued.
- 1.29** Quorum - The number of members of a group or organization required to be present to transact business legally, usually a majority.
- 1.30 Hockey Team or Team means a group of persons comprised of:**
1. A maximum of 20 rostered players (U15, U 13, U 11, U 9), U 18 a maximum of 25 rostered players and U 7 is unlimited. (See HNS Regulation [2.15](#))
 2. For Major U18 and U18 AA and U16 teams, a maximum of 25 players, at least two of whom must be goaltenders. (See HNS Regulation [2.15](#))
 3. For teams in an MHA that have a maximum of 23 players or fewer in a Division, permission may be granted by the Regional Director to register all 23 or fewer players to one roster in the A,B or C category, [maximum of 21 skaters and two goaltenders]. For any given game, a team may only dress 20 players including two goaltenders. HNS Regulation [2.27](#).
 4. Teams competing in National or Regional Events, a minimum of 17 players, two of whom must be goaltenders.
 5. Teams competing in HNS Provincial Play-off games, a minimum of 12 players, one of whom must be a goaltender. HNS Regulation [22.4](#).
 6. A minimum of twelve (11 skaters + 1 goalie) players in uniform on the ice and/or players bench, on each team shall be necessary for the start of any regular season league game. Teams with less than 11 + 1 can play but have permission to reschedule league games if they need to (not including tournaments). In Provincial playoff games; any team dressing less than 11 skaters and one goalie will forfeit the game.
 7. A competitive team shall be composed of a minimum of 15 players plus 2 goalies, excluding affiliate/associate players. Any alteration to these numbers must be pre-approved by HNSMC.
- 1.31** Pre-Approved Exhibition Game – A game request entered in to the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR) prior to a player suspension.
- 1.32** A game of hockey is defined as: A meeting of two teams playing for a specific length of time for the purpose of declaring a winner through the scoring of goals.
- 1.33** Meaningful and approved games- (In addition to Regulation [1.13](#)) Meaningful Games for minor hockey are regularly scheduled games, sanctioned tournament games and pre-approved exhibition games verified on the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR) by the Regional Director or their designate. Any games that are added to the schedule after a suspension has occurred, will not count as meaningful games. A game must take place in order to count towards a suspension.

Competition

- 2.1** The By-Laws, Regulations and Playing Rules of HNS along with those of Hockey Canada govern competition within HNS.
- 2.2** The normal Hockey Nova Scotia season shall be interpreted to be from September 1st to April 30th of the calendar year, during which all Hockey Canada and Hockey Nova Scotia rules must be adhered to.
- 2.3** The playing rules of the game shall be the standing rules of Hockey Canada.
- 2.4** For the purpose of these regulations, a league must consist of three (3) or more registered teams playing a minimum of 6 home games and 6 away games. (Excluding Junior and Senior).
- 2.5** Each League must hold its Annual Meeting no later than June 30th in each year.
 - a.** Leagues must follow all of the Regulations as outlined by HNS.
 - b.** A league is made up of representatives from all of the member associations.
 - c.** A league Executive must have the following minimum structure:
 - President (or Co-presidents)
 - Vice president (if no co-presidents)
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Chair or Division Rep for each division within the league
 - d.** Wherever possible, the League Executive shall not be made up of players, managers, coaches, or trainers of member teams. Special circumstances can be brought before the league executive committee for a vote if approved by the HNS Regional Director.
 - e.** A league must provide HNS with a year-end financial report.
 - f.** A league may apply for a blanket travel permit (through the Regional Director) to cover all regular season games.
 - g.** All playoffs must follow HNS approved format.
 - h.** A league is responsible for:
 - The scheduling of regular season games
 - The organization and scheduling of league championships
 - Providing a code of conduct for league executives
 - Providing a constitution outlining the purpose, structure, governing values and duties of each of the executive members
 - Recording and tracking the regular season game wins/losses of its member teams, in a timely manner

- i. A league is not responsible for:
 - Issuing discipline to players or parents
 - Organizing officials
 - Booking regular season game ice. (Exceptions for league championships can be made)
 - Determining the final classification of hockey teams
- 2.6** Each League must file with the Executive Director or designate of Hockey Nova Scotia on or before the first scheduled game complete copies of its schedule of games. This includes Minor League games.
 - 2.7** Any Minor team wishing to participate in exhibition games with member teams must first make application to the appropriate Regional Director stating when, where and against whom they wish to compete.
 - 2.8** All sanctioned games played by members and the qualifications of all players competing in such games as members of the teams shall conform with all of the Bylaws and the rules of competition.
 - 2.9** All league winners must be declared in time to meet Hockey Nova Scotia's Playoff dates. Any league that fails to declare its league winner in time to meet the playoff dates set by the Association forfeits its right to be eligible for playoffs and is liable for suspension.
 - 2.10** Any team wishing to compete in playoffs must comply with cut-down dates as established by Hockey Canada.
 - 2.11** Leagues must declare their final league winner in time to allow winners to engage in inter-branch competition.
 - 2.12** All minor hockey players and teams are required to play 10 meaningful league or scheduled Exhibition/Tournament games to be considered eligible for post season league play. Failure to play these 10 games makes the player and teams ineligible to play League Playoffs, Regional Playoffs, Conference Championships, Provincial Championships, Day of Champions or any other post season playoff events.
 - 2.13** In all divisions of Minor, (except for Major U15, U16, Major U18, U18 AA and where applicable in AAA, which can play 20-minute stop-time periods) the playing time of games shall not exceed 45 minutes normally divided into three, 15-minute straight time or stop-time periods unless approval is received from the appropriate council to change.
 - 2.14** Timeouts are only allowed in Day of Champions and Provincial qualifying games or provincial tournaments. Only one, 30-second timeout, per team, per game is allowed and if games go into overtime additional time outs are not allowed.
 - 2.15** Minor teams may dress a maximum of 20 players providing two are goalkeepers. If only one goalkeeper is dressed, the maximum number dressed is 19. Major U18 and U18 AA, U16 may dress 20. If only one goalkeeper is dressed, the maximum number dressed is 19.
 - 2.16** Any team which fails to compete in any scheduled league, tournament or playoff games may be suspended by Hockey Nova Scotia.

- 2.17** Games sanctioned by Hockey Nova Scotia must involve only teams and players registered with Hockey Nova Scotia or with a Branch of Hockey Canada or teams outside Canada, which have been approved by Hockey Canada for competition. Games with non-association teams or non-Hockey Canada teams are not sanctioned and all medical and liability insurance is void.
- 2.18** All Minor teams registering at the B and C level shall be non-checking. A team registered as B and C can only play against other teams registered as B and C.
- 2.19** All Minor teams should strive to achieve a practice to game ratio of two practices for each game played, but in all cases the number of games must not exceed the number of practices.
- 2.20** Players playing female hockey on teams or in programs comprised of all female players must be registered with an approved Female Hockey Association or Female Regional Executive Committee.
- 2.21** The maximum number of games to be played by division shall be as follows:
- U9 All Levels: Maximum 40 scrimmages and may include max sixteen (16) full-ice scrimmages after December 26
 - U11 Maximum 45 games
 - U13 Maximum 60 games
 - U15 Maximum 65 games
 - U18 Maximum 65 games
 - Minor Jr. Maximum 65 games
- Games and scrimmages noted above are defined as all exhibition, league and tournament games or scrimmages. A tournament would count as three games. The above cap would include all hockey games except for Conference, Day of Champions and Provincial and League Playoff games.
- 2.22** Provincial Leagues for U11 AA can be formed. Each year HNSMC will establish a playoff format leading to the Day of Champions where only two teams will advance to the HNSMC Day of Champions, one team from each Conference.
- 2.23** A female player will be permitted to try out for a minor team. Female players choosing to play female hockey must attend the female tryout process from the beginning and will not be permitted to be part of both a minor tryout process and female tryout process at the same time.
- 2.24** Body checking will be permitted in certain levels above the U13 Division. It will be the responsibility of each MHA to ensure all U15 Rep players and coaches have completed the HNS Checking Program. Effective 2014-15 season, all players entering U15 and U18 checking levels of hockey for the first time must have completed the Approved 2014 HNS Checking Clinic or attend an HNS Development Approved Checking Clinic. U15 B and C, U18 B and C levels will be non-checking.

- 2.25** A Minor Team wishing to compete at the U11 AA, U13 AAA, U15 AA, or U18 AA level shall advise the Regional Director in writing of their intent by September 15th of the playing year. If the team does not have the numbers in the division as per Regulation [3.7](#), they must appeal in writing through the Regional Director to the Executive Committee of Minor Council to be permitted to form a team. This must also be done by September 15th of the playing year.
- 2.26** Minor Hockey Associations can join together to form an U11 AA, U13 AAA, U15 AA or U18 AA team as follows:
- In the Highland, Western, Nova, Fundy, Cape Breton and Strait Regions, a maximum of four associations can contribute to the makeup of the team
 - In the Halifax East, Halifax West, and Dartmouth Regions, a maximum of three associations can contribute to the makeup of the team
- 2.27** Minor Hockey Associations that have a maximum of 23 players or fewer in a division may be granted permission by the appropriate Regional Director to register all 23 or fewer players (maximum 21 skaters and two goaltenders) to one roster in the A, B or C category. For any given game, a team may only dress 20 players including two goaltenders. Any teams eligible to play in Inter-Branch competition would not be permitted to exercise this regulation. No affiliations will be permitted.
- 2.28** A Minor player who wishes to play at the U11 AA, U13 AAA, U15 AA, or U18 AA classification of competition, but whose MHA does not provide that classification, may try out for those teams in that division from another Association in their Region. A player may try out for up to two of these teams per year. A U11 player may try out for only one AA team per year.
- Any U11, U13, U15 or U18 age player whose Association does not provide U11 A, U13 AA, A, U15 A or U18 A may try out for one team at these levels in another Association in their Region. Any player requesting to move from one MHA/Region to another MHA/Region shall be referred to the appropriate Regional Director. Transfer from one MHA to another within a zone in all of the teams/divisions and situations noted above must be pre-approved by the appropriate Regional Director in consultation with the Conference Coordinator.
- 2.29** In line with Regulation [2.28](#), all U13 AAA, U15 AA and U18 AA teams within the initial two-week try out period at the start of season, must sign a minimum of 11 players and one goaltender. Players and goaltenders not signed as part of this 12 may be permitted to try out for another U13, U15 or U18 team with permission from the Regional Director, to a maximum of two teams.
- 2.30** If, in the application of Regulations [2.26](#) and [2.28](#), players from more than three Minor Hockey Associations contribute to the makeup of any team, the minimum categorization of the team shall be no lower than AA.
- 2.31** Should a Minor team play ten (10) or more games against higher category teams; they will be categorized to the higher level, except where approved by the Regional Director. If the team feels that they cannot compete at this higher level, then they can appeal in writing to the Minor Council Executive explaining their reasons to be reclassified.

- 2.32** Hockey Nova Scotia emphatically endorses Hockey Canada Rule 3.6 (b): While on the ice, all players, including goalkeepers, shall wear a CSA approved hockey helmet, a Hockey Canada approved facial protector must be securely attached and not altered in any way. Any alteration to a CSA approved helmet or facial protector automatically destroys the certification. The chin-strap of the helmet shall be properly fastened under the chin. The straps of the facial protector shall also be properly fastened to the hockey helmet. Players shall remove their helmets during the playing of the anthem(s). Further, all coaches and assistants shall wear CSA approved hockey helmets while on the ice.
- 2.33** First Aid services shall be available, whenever possible, at arenas during all Minor tournaments, including Day of Champions, Provincial, Atlantic and National Championship Tournaments.
- 2.34** Hockey Nova Scotia will present a plaque and banner to any team winning a Day of Champions, Conference, or Provincial Championship.
- 2.35** a) High School hockey players who are playing in a division other than Division I, shall be permitted to register in Minor Hockey at a level no lower than B. However, in extenuating circumstances, the player may apply to register at a lower level when the only level offered in their home MHA is lower than B, and is approved by the HNS Minor Council Executive.
- b. Division I High School players shall only be permitted to register in Minor Hockey at a level no lower than U18A/U15A. However, in extenuating circumstances, the player may apply to register at a lower level when the only level offered in their home MHA is lower than A, and is approved by the HNS Minor Council Executive.
- 2.36** For other teams at the B & C levels who under exceptional circumstance may experience a shortage of players, a minimum of 10 players is required, one of whom must be a goaltender. This exception requires the approval of both the HNSMC Regional Director and the Conference Coordinator.
- 2.37** All HNS registered teams competing for Provincial Championships must play all scheduled league games unless otherwise approved by the HNSMC Regional Director or Conference Coordinator. As well, all teams must play in their League play-off tournament that leads to Qualifying for Provincial Championships; this includes teams that may be hosting the HNS Provincial Championship Tournament. Failure to comply may result in sanctions against the team or the Minor Hockey Association.
- 2.38** Hockey Nova Scotia promotes fair play and sportspersonship at all levels of competition, therefore at the conclusion of each game, unless otherwise directed by the referee, all players and coaches are to shake hands.
- 2.39** If 19 players or fewer have been registered in a division of hockey within their Minor Hockey Association, and there are not enough players to form two (2) teams, the players who do not make the team can with the approval of the Regional Director in consultation with the Conference Coordinator, move to a Minor Hockey Association within their region that is offering the same level of hockey. Any player wishing to move from one region to another must be recommended by the Regional Director to the Minor Council Executive through the Conference Coordinator. The recommendation should have the approval of both Regional Directors involved.

- 2.40** In all HNS games, any team found to be playing with illegal players, shall result in a win being awarded to the non-offending team. and the Coach or Team Official will be under indefinite suspension, until dealt with by the HNSMC Executive.
- 2.41** All Minor Hockey teams are required to be classified as either Competitive or Non-competitive, and teams at a higher classification are not permitted to play a team at a lower classification (example U11 AA cannot play U11 A) once their classifications have been determined. The only time this is allowed is during a relegation period where classification is being determined. In all situations, approval must be received from the local Regional Director.
- 2.42** Congruent Tryouts- HNS will allow a minor hockey association player to have 2 try outs at the same time in two different associations due to timing/schedule issues related to the try out season. In any situation where a player is able to try out for two different teams within a division, the player must try out for their home association first with the understanding that there is an obligation to make and play for their home association. Any player or team found to be in violation of Regulation [2.42](#) will be deemed ineligible for participation and any sanctions imposed will be determined by Minor Council.
- 2.43** At no time shall Minor Hockey Association be able to hold Spring or Summer Minor Hockey Evaluations in order to develop teams for the upcoming season. If an Association, Executive Member, Team, Coach or Player is found participating in this activity; HNS will suspend all parties immediately and investigate under Hockey Canada Regulation 25.20 (Incident or Behavior Detrimental to Hockey and or Player Tampering).

Classification

- 3.1** The following are the guidelines for registering/classifying players: Category Age Eligibility
- Senior Male: Open to players of any age, Jr. and above
- Junior: Open to players 21 years and younger in the current playing season
- Minor Junior (Juvenile): Open to players of nominal ages 18 to 23. Players aged 21 - 23 may not make up more than 50% of the team.
- U18: Open to players of nominal ages 15 - 17 (inclusive). U18 B and C levels may include 18-year-olds as per U18 overage policy
- U15: Open to players of nominal ages 13 - 14
- U13: Open to players of nominal ages 11 - 12
- U11: Open to players of nominal ages 9 - 10
- U9: Open to players of nominal ages 7 - 8
- U7: Open to players of nominal ages 4 - 6
- 3.2** Up to six (6) overage players are permitted in Junior C. For Junior C, overage is defined as players twenty-one (21) years of age as of December 31 of the current playing season." "For all other Junior divisions, up to four (4) overage players are permitted. Overage is defined as one (1) year past the division age restriction."
- 3.3** A player's age is determined for the current season by the player's age at December 31st of the current season. Players must be four years of age prior to January 1st of the current season in order to register with HNS. Players shall not have reached the higher nominal age for the division in which they are registered before January 1st of the current playing year, except where the Overage Player Policy is invoked.
- 3.4** The Board of Directors of Hockey Nova Scotia, through its appropriate councils, shall have sole discretion in classifying teams, team officials and on-ice officials under its jurisdiction, in accordance with Hockey Canada Regulations.
- 3.5** Minor Council shall annually determine the divisions and categories of play for competition. Such determination shall be made in December of the playing year. The following divisions and categories shall normally be recognized:

MINOR

- U11 AA, A, B, C
- U13 AAA, AA, A, B, C
- U15 AA, A, B, C
- U18 AA, A, B, C
- Minor Junior

- 3.6** For the initial registration of teams, the number of players registered by an MHA within a division will be used as follows:

DIVISION	CATEGORY	REGISTERED PLAYERS
U11	AA	+ 57 players (+110 (+/- 10) two balanced teams)
U11	A	36-56
U11	B	24-35
U13	AAA	+86
U13	AA	50-85
U13	A	24-49
U13	B	-24
U15/U18	AA	+57
U15/U18	A	36-56
U15/U18	B	24-35

If an MHA President makes a request to their HNSMC Regional Director at the start of the season to play at the highest level without meeting the required numbers, it may be permitted with discretion of the Regional Director.

- 3.7** A Minor association may register more than one team in the same classification within a division. These teams must be made up of equal skilled players and of mixed ages within the division and must be approved by the Regional Director and Manager Member Services prior to starting play.
- 3.8** At the discretion of the Minor Hockey Association and with the approval of the appropriate Regional Director, a qualified Minor or Minor Female Hockey player may be placed in a higher Division than their age would indicate with the consent of the parent(s) (see Regulation [5.4](#), [5.5](#), and [5.6](#) for exceptions). The player must make the highest-level team offered in their MHA. In order for a player to advance beyond the next highest age division in which they are eligible according to their age, they must apply for a special evaluation.
- 3.9** The final placement of all players and teams from any Minor Hockey Association into any league or Hockey Nova Scotia classification is the responsibility of the Hockey Nova Scotia Minor Council and should reflect the teams' demonstrated ability to compete at the assigned level of competition. Categorization will take place in December of each year. If a team is reclassified then all players remain part of that rostered team.
- 3.10** Players may not be released to a lower classification team, except under Hockey Canada transfer rules, after December 1st of the playing year.

Residency

4.1 It shall be the obligation/responsibility of Hockey Nova Scotia under the authority of Hockey Canada, in its sole and unfettered discretion, to implement residency registration regulations for the formation of teams within its boundaries. The residency regulation must allow for increased movement of players as the age of the player increases.

4.2 Minor and Female Hockey players must play in the Branch where their parent(s)/court appointed guardian(s) reside.

4.3 Residency is established by the following criteria:

- The parents' usual residence when the parents live in the same house, or if one of the parents is deceased, the usual residence of the surviving parent
- In cases where parents do not live in the same residence, the legal residence is the usual residence of the parent having legal custody of the player; or if both parents have legal custody, the usual residence of the parent with whom the player usually lives; or again, if the player lives equally with both parents, their place of residence shall be determined by HNS
- When legal custody has been granted to a third person, residency is the usual residence of that person
- Where the player's parent(s) reside
- Documentation must include proof of registration and on-going proof of attendance for the all minor hockey players and all of their brothers/sisters attend school within the boundary of the Minor Hockey Association.
- The majority amount of time actually spent in alleged place of residence. (4/7 days or 60% of the time)

4.4 In the case of a player who establishes a residence, other than that as described in 4.3 above, for the purpose of attending a private or public school, the player will be eligible to play at the highest level as it applies to U11, U13, U15, U18.

4.5

1. Hockey Nova Scotia, in its sole and unfettered discretion under powers invested in Hockey Canada By-Law 12 may, on application to Hockey Nova Scotia made by or on behalf of any player, deem such player to be resident in a place within Hockey Nova Scotia other than that where their parent is resident and Hockey Nova Scotia's decision in this regard shall be final and binding.

NOTE: The term "usual residence" is defined as four (4) out of seven (7) days or 60% of the time). NOTE: In the application of the above, the term "legal custody" and/or "legal guardian" refers to the granting of custody as determined by a court of law in one of the following circumstances:

- a. The application of the Divorce Act,
 - b. in the case of an order enforcing or recognizing a legal separation agreement, c. loss of parental authority,
 - d. when it is deemed the child's development is compromised,
 - e. when both (2) parents are deceased,
 - f. married or the equivalent of married.
 - 2. Hockey Nova Scotia, in its sole and unfettered discretion under the powers vested in Hockey Canada By-Law 12 may deem a non-Canadian Citizen to be a resident in Hockey Nova Scotia provided that the player is in strict accordance with Hockey Canada regulations F.1, F.2 and F.3
- 4.6** The eligibility of a player who moves without parent(s) and establishes a continuous habitual residence with someone other than their parent(s) as defined in Hockey Canada Regulation F, shall be determined by Hockey Nova Scotia based on Regulations [4.1](#) to [4.5](#) above.
- 4.7** There are no Hockey Canada residential qualifications required for players registered with Senior or Junior teams within Hockey Nova Scotia.
- 4.8** Any player who is in doubt regarding their residential status and whether they are permitted to compete in sanctioned games may request in writing a definite ruling of their status from their Regional Director. This also applies to a Minor Hockey Association contesting the residence of a player. If the player or Minor Hockey Association does not agree with the decision of the Regional Director, a request to review may be made through the Conference Coordinator to the Minor Council Executive. Once the teams have been classified for provincial playoffs, no ruling or appeal of a ruling can be made regarding the residency of a player.
- 4.9** In the event a Minor player moves during the season and establishes a legitimate habitual residence in another regional boundary prior to January 10th in any year, then such player may:
- 1. Continue to play with their current team for the remainder of that season only;
 - 2. play with a team for which they are eligible by reason of their new residence, with written approval from the Regional Director.
- 4.10** The onus of proof to establish habitual residence rests entirely with the player/parent. Hockey Nova Scotia will not accept utility bills of any kind as a form of proof of residency. Hockey Nova Scotia will not accept a lease agreement as proof of Residency. Documentation must include a signed affidavit from the new Minor Hockey Association President outlying the MHA agrees where the player lives and taking into account Regulation [4.3](#) # 6. Documentation must include proof of registration and on-going proof of attendance in school within the boundary of the Minor Hockey Association. If the parent, player or Minor Hockey Association is found to be providing false information; the player will be directed by HNSMC as to where to play and HNSMC will have the final decision. A player who is absent from home, is registered and in attendance at a Residential School where at least 75% of the students reside away from the home of the parent, may at their discretion play for a Minor Hockey team where their home is situated or with a team where the school is located. Once the teams have been classified for Provincial Playoffs, no ruling or appeal of a ruling can be made regarding the residence of a player.

The player must signify their decision in writing to Hockey Nova Scotia's Chair of Minor Council at the time of player registration. Should they choose to play for a team where the school is located, the highest level the player will be eligible to play will be AA as it applies to U11, U13, and U15, U18 AA, Minor as per HNS Regulation [4.4](#) above.

- 4.11** Situations enabling players to compete on a team in a Minor Hockey Association other than that for which they qualify under residential regulations, are exceptions and will not be permitted unless the proper process is followed and written approvals are granted.
- 4.12** Minor Council has the right, in its discretion to refuse player movement from one Minor Hockey Association to another within Hockey Nova Scotia, even when authorization has been obtained from the "Local" Minor Hockey Associations.
- 4.13** Where a release is required under Hockey Canada regulations for a Minor Hockey Age player from a Minor Hockey Association or Major U18 Team for the purpose of an Inter-Branch transfer, such release must be attained through application to the Hockey Canada Registry and approved by the Executive Director or designate.

Registration

- 5.1** All players and Team Officials must annually register with the HNS by submitting the appropriate forms and remitting 100% of the required MHA annual registration fees for the division to the HNS office. All insurance and registration fees must be remitted to the HNS office within the required time frames. "Registration" or "Registered" refers to the official acceptance by Hockey Nova Scotia, or designate, of a Hockey Canada Registration Certificate, Team, Registration Form, Nominal List or data entered on the Hockey Canada Registry. All Minor Hockey Associations must also have Director and Officer Insurance. (D&O Insurance).
- 5.2** Players registered as goaltenders on Minor Hockey representative teams (AAA, AA, A, or B) may play only goal. Goaltenders must be clearly identified on registration form/card. Exception U13 and under.
- 5.3** Minor U13 age hockey players are not permitted to register on Major U15 hockey rosters (unless successful under the Exceptional 12-Year-Old Hockey Male Player Process).
- 5.4** Minor U15 age hockey players are not permitted to register on Major U18 Hockey rosters (unless successful under the Exceptional Player Process).
- 5.5** With the permission of the Minor Council Regional Director, U13 age hockey players may register on a U15 hockey roster at the beginning of the season provided they have taken the approved 2014 HNS checking clinic and have been approved to move as per Regulation [3.8](#).
- 5.6** Minor hockey players may only sign/register with one representative Minor (AAA, AA, A, or B) Hockey team unless released by the team first signed with prior to January 10. Players signing with more than one team without a release could be suspended.
- 5.7** Players registered on Minor hockey recreational teams are also permitted to register on one (1) competitive team with the approval of the Regional Director and the Conference Coordinator. This rostering is permanent and not meant to be used to avoid Regulation [6](#) and the maximum number of games an affiliate player can be used. A player may not register on a recreation team after having been approved on a competitive team roster.
- 5.8** Players previously registered in another Branch/Province must complete an Inter-Branch transfer prior to registering with a Minor Hockey Association for the current season. Refer to Section K of Hockey Canada regulations regarding transfers. A letter must be produced from the parent or guardian that verifies qualifications under Hockey Canada regulations that a player has moved with parents. Final date for processing Inter-Branch transfers is February 10th.
- 5.9** In Minor Hockey all players and team officials in U11 AA, U13 AAA, U15 AA, and U18 AA must be registered on rosters approved by the Regional Director prior to participating in any game prior to October 15th.

The Registration date for all other divisions/teams, excluding U7 and U9, is October 31st. The Registration date for U7 and U9 is November 15th. The final date to register a team to be eligible for Minor Provincial Championships is December 1st, unless otherwise determined by HNSMC. In all cases, rosters must be entered into the HCR before any league game takes place.

- 5.10** All Minor Hockey players are required to be on either competitive or recreational rosters. Competitive teams are identified in HNS Regulation [3.6](#). Recreational teams cannot enter Provincial Championships.
- 5.11** The final date to register for Minor Hockey shall be February 10th of the current season.
- 5.12** Minor Council shall be responsible to the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors for managing the affairs of all minor hockey activities (excluding Elite Development Programs, High Performance Programs, Canada Games Programs, Female players registered under Female Hockey Council on the Hockey Canada Registry, wherein such responsibility shall be that of Hockey Nova Scotia) in accordance with Hockey Nova Scotia By-Laws, Rules and Policies approved by Hockey Nova Scotia.
- 5.13** Minor Council shall be comprised of Minor Hockey Associations that conduct and supervise Minor Hockey within their respective boundaries. No independent clubs or leagues will be accepted from towns, cities or areas having a local Minor Hockey Association.
- 5.14** U7 players are not permitted to be assessed for or participate in on ice activities at the U9 age levels except with the approval of both the Regional Director and the Conference Coordinator. See also Regulation [18.6](#).
- 5.15** It is the responsibility of the MHA to have all teams rostered in the Hockey Canada Registry (IHCR) by December 1 of each season. Each rostered team must have the appropriate number of approved coaching staff to be an eligible team. (Regulation: 11.9)

Affiliation

6.0 PURPOSE: To provide an opportunity for higher Division or category teams to dress the maximum number of players allowable for a game in accordance with the playing rules. The first priority for an affiliate player to a higher-level team is to their regular registered team, unless approved by the player's regular coach.

6.1 Teams may use one of the following systems of affiliation:

1. Team to Team Affiliation. Applicable to all divisions Senior, (male and female) Junior, Minor and Minor Female. A team may only have one affiliated team.
2. Minor Teams may only select affiliate players from a lower division or category team(s) in the same association. Major U15 teams are permitted to sign ten (10) special affiliation agreements, one of which must be a goaltender.
3. U16 AAA teams are permitted to sign ten (10) special affiliation agreements, one of which must be a goaltender.
4. Major U18 Teams are permitted to sign (13) special affiliation agreements, three of which must be a goaltender.
5. A player of a team of a lower Division or category of the same club, or of an affiliated team, or a specially affiliated player, may affiliate to a team or teams of higher Divisions and categories at any time, to a maximum of ten (10) games per season. However, if the player's registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before the player's affiliated team or teams, the player may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times. For goaltender exceptions, see Hockey Canada Regulations.
6. Exhibition and/or tournament games, which are not part of regular league games or play-off games, are excluded from the number of games referred to in Hockey Canada Regulations.
7. All such affiliations permitted under Reg. [6.1](#) shall terminate at the end of the current playing season and may not be altered during the current playing season.

6.2 Minor Hockey will follow the "Club System" as defined in 6.1 above and further defined and governed by Hockey Canada Regulations. This does not apply to Major U15, U16AAA or Major U18.

6.3 Junior and Senior teams use the special affiliate method of 19 special affiliates (as defined in 6.1(b) above and further defined and governed by Hockey Canada Regulations) and may do so provided that the 19 affiliate players are members of a registered league competing in a minimum of 12 home and 12 away games, prior to the commencement of the higher category teams' playoffs.

6.4 General Affiliation Regulations for Minor Hockey as defined in 6.1 above and in Hockey Canada Regulation are applicable, except where defined herein.

1. Only players registered on a Team Registration form, and approved by the Regional Director, may advance to a team of a higher division or category for the purpose of affiliation.
2. Movement of players is restricted as follows:

DIVISION	AFFILIATES TO
U18 AA	U18 A, B, C
U18 A	U18 B, C
U18 B	U18 C
U18 C	As approved by HNSMC
U15 AA	U15 A, B, C
U15 A	U15 B, C
U15 B	U15 C, U13 A, B
U15 C	As approved by HNSMC
U13 AAA	U13 AA, A, B, U11 AA
U13 AA	U13 A, B, U11 A, B
U13 A	U13 B, C, U11 A, B
U13 B	U13 C, U11 A, B
U13 C	As approved by HNSMC
U11 AA	U11 A, B, C
U11 A	U11 B, C
U11 B	U11 C
U11 C	As approved by HNSMC

Affiliation from all C levels to checking teams will require approval of HNSMC.

3. At no time may a player skip a Division for the purpose of affiliation.
4. Higher Division/Category Minor Teams must attain consent from the lower Division/Category team prior to using an affiliate player. Failure to comply may result in suspension of the offending team's Head Coach.
5. With the exception of U13 AAA, U11, U15 or U18 AA, teams from within amalgamated Minor Hockey Associations may only draw upon affiliates from one team. (Example - If a Minor Hockey Association has 3 "A" teams, that team must choose one "B" team only, to affiliate with). Affiliate teams are to be selected by December 1st.
6. Minor teams may use players from any combination of teams allowed within their club system affiliation.
7. For Minor Hockey Associations with 35 or fewer registered U18 players, the lowest affected team may, with approval of the Regional Director, affiliate to players in the U15 Division who are in their last year of U15 eligibility, in accordance with the club system.

8. All players above U13 must have taken the Approved 2014 HNS checking clinic before being eligible as an affiliate player at a checking level. This does not apply to goaltenders.
 9. Teams are not permitted to roster players (excluding goalies) from another association for the purposes of affiliation.
 10. Appearance of an Affiliated Player's name on the official game report of a game shall be considered participation in the game except in the case of an alternate Goalkeeper, in which case only actual participation shall be considered as taking part in the game, and such participation shall be specially noted on the official game report. For this goaltender regulation see Hockey Canada Regulations Section F, 15, e.
 11. For the purposes of affiliation, both U7 and U9 players are typically not to be affiliated to any team/division for any purpose. However, in certain situations, this can be reviewed and approved by both the Regional Director and Conference Coordinator.
 12. U23 Minor teams can only affiliate players from U18 C or U18 Recreation programs and players must be in their third year of play in the U18 division.
 13. U15 age players cannot affiliate to U18, with the exception of goaltenders, unless approved by the Regional Director.
 14. There are no affiliations between School Sports Nova Scotia (SSNS) and Hockey Nova Scotia programs.
- 6.5** Teams may affiliate to dress players in addition to their rostered players, up to the maximum allowed within the playing rules (20 players for a game).

Permits

- 7.1** Travel permits are required by any team wishing to play outside their Region. Travel permits are required for all exhibition games and tournaments whether at home or away.
- 7.2** Permits for travel within Canada are requested through the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR) and are reviewed and processed by the Regional Director.
- a.** To request a travel permit, the person requesting it must be registered with the team (for example, as a team manager or coach), must have an HCR account, and must be rostered with the team. If the team's roster is not yet complete on the HCR, contact the Regional Director for the appropriate procedure.
 - b.** Travel permits are pre-approved. A permit will show as "pending" on the HCR until the Regional Director approves it; teams are not required to wait for the permit to show as approved.
 - c.** If a permit is rejected, contact the Minor Council or Female Council Regional Director. Instructions for setting up an HCR account are posted on the HNS website.
- 7.3** Permits for travel to the United States are obtained from the Branch through the HNS Executive Director or designate. Application should be made two months in advance.
- 7.4** Permits for overseas travel are obtained from Hockey Canada by application through the HNS Executive Director or designate. Application must be made by May 1 preceding the season in which the travel is planned.
- 7.5** Permits will only be issued for sanctioned tournaments or exhibition games. It is the responsibility of the team to ensure that any games or tournaments played in are sanctioned by the Hockey Canada Branch in whose jurisdiction they wish to play.
- 7.6** Teams at the U9 level shall not be permitted to travel outside the province of Nova Scotia.
- 7.7** Teams at the U11 level shall only be permitted to travel outside the province twice per season. Tournament Permits:
- 7.8** Permits are required for tournaments hosted by Minor and Minor Female Councils to satisfy the sanction requirements of Hockey Canada.
- 7.9** Permits for tournaments involving Minor (Branch tournaments) are obtained through the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR) or from the Regional Director. There is no fee for these permits, but two weeks' notice is required.
- 7.10** Permits for tournaments involving teams from other provinces (Inter-Branch Tournaments) are obtained from Hockey Nova Scotia's Member Services Manager or designate.

- 7.11** Permits for tournaments involving teams from other countries (International Tournaments) are obtained from Hockey Canada by application through Hockey Nova Scotia's Executive Director. The fee is established by Hockey Canada and depends on the number of out-of-country teams. Application must be made by May 1st preceding the season in which the tournament is planned.
- 7.12** All tournament hosts are required to submit a post tournament summary to the Minor Council within 30 days of the completion of the tournament. This summary should include teams that participated, scores of games and a detailed financial statement of income and disbursements.
- 7.13** Tournaments for the U9 level may not include the retention and posting of statistics, the selection of all-star teams or awards, the selection of MVP's or awards, and shall not include Championship games or any other format that declares a winner.
- 7.14** Tournament Officials are not permitted to interpret or change suspensions to player(s) or team officials. If any questions arise regarding the Code of Discipline or Regulations, the tournament Chair must refer these to the appropriate level of authority with the appropriate Council (i.e. Regional Director, Conference Coordinator (Minor) or Chair).
- 7.15** All tournaments game sheets shall be kept by the host association and made available to the Regional Director upon request.
- 7.16** Failure to comply with Regulation [7](#) will result in refusal of future tournament sanction permits.

Exhibition Games/Tours and Tournaments

- 8.1** No team shall be permitted to participate in any Inter-Branch games of any kind without permission of the Hockey Nova Scotia President or designate. All requests must be submitted in writing to the appropriate Regional Director (Minor or Female), Council Chair or the Executive Director of Hockey Nova Scotia at least 10 days prior to the event.
- 8.2** Application for permission to make National or International tours will only be considered if made by a team whose players are properly registered with Hockey Nova Scotia.
- 8.3** Exhibition Games with professional clubs may be arranged with permission of Hockey Canada and the President of Hockey Nova Scotia upon such terms and conditions as may be designated by Hockey Canada.
- 8.4** Tours outside of Canada may be arranged with the approval of Hockey Canada, through Hockey Nova Scotia.
- 8.5** Sanctioning for all tournaments under the jurisdiction of Hockey Nova Scotia must be obtained in accordance with this Regulation.
- 8.6** Application for sanctioning must be submitted to Hockey Nova Scotia's Executive Director in writing, indicating the date, location, committee chair and category of tournament (HNS, Inter-Branch, or International) applied for. Application for International Tournaments must be submitted to HNS 90 days prior to the event. Application for HNS and Inter-Branch Tournaments must be submitted to HNS 60 days prior to the event.
- 8.7** All applications for tournament sanctioning must include a detailed budget and be endorsed by the President of the Minor Hockey Association applying to host the event who is a voting member of the tournament committee, or their designate.
- 8.8** Once approved, Hockey Nova Scotia's Executive Director shall issue a Tournament Sanction Permit with one copy forwarded to Hockey Canada, one copy forwarded to the Tournament Host and one copy retained by HNS on file.
- 8.9** Hockey Canada and HNS must sanction international Tournaments. All international teams (excluding teams from USA Hockey) must have written permission from their respective Federation and approval from Hockey Canada in order to participate in any Hockey Canada/HNS sanctioned International Tournament.
- 8.10** All games must be officiated by HNS registered officials and must be played under official Hockey Canada playing rules. The only variance to the official Hockey Canada playing rules will be those that are in effect or approved by HNS at the time of application.
- 8.11** All HNS Minor tournaments and games must be approved by the Regional Director.
- 8.12** Any Tournament Sanction Permit may be withdrawn if it is found that Hockey Canada or HNS regulations pertaining to such tournaments are not being followed.

- 8.13** Subsequent permits may not be issued to any tournament host who has been found to conduct an unsanctioned tournament, which has not conformed to Hockey Canada/HNS regulations.
- 8.14** The Tournament Chair is responsible for submitting to HNS a financial statement of income and disbursements within 30 days of the completion of the tournament. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in refusal of future Tournament Sanction Permits.
- 8.15** HNS shall appoint a Branch Representative for all sanctioned tournaments. The Branch representative shall serve on the Host Committee as an ex-officio member responsible for ensuring the tournament is conducted in accordance with Hockey Canada/HNS rules and regulations. The Host Committee shall pay the expenses of the appointed Branch Representative.
- 8.16** All Minor Hockey Associations granted an International or Inter-Branch tournament permit shall sign a contract with HNS agreeing to abide by playing rules and regulations of Minor Council and shall report all penalties and suspensions daily to the appropriate persons.

Game Reports

9.1 In any game in which a match penalty has been assessed, under Rule 9.6(a), (b) or (c), the game report is to be forwarded to the Regional Director and HNS Suspensions Coordinator immediately following the game. Upon receipt of the game report in relation to rule 9.6, the Regional Director or HNS Suspensions Coordinator will forward it to the appropriate Council Chair for investigation and action.

9.2 Game Reports for pre-season, exhibition, regular season, playoffs and tournaments shall be completed in triplicate for all games played and are to be clearly legible and must contain the following: date of game, division and level of play, location of game, names of both teams competing, travel permit number, and any other important information. Officials must count the number of skaters and goaltenders on the ice and bench and compare this to the players listed on the game sheet prior to the start of the game.

The only time these game reports may vary is if the league/team or association is using an electronic game sheet.

- Copies shall be distributed as follows within seven days of the date of the game: Original
 - to the responsible authority for the game or designate
- 1st Copy - to the home team
- 2nd Copy - to the visiting team

Note: The home team is responsible for this distribution.

9.3 Any team playing out of province must send a copy of the game sheet to the Regional Director within five days upon the return of the team. There must be one game sheet for each game played.

9.4 Any regularly registered players who are not in the arena at the start of the game but may be arriving late should be discussed with the referee and the opposing coach and added to the game sheet when they arrive. The late arriving player should be noted on the game sheet with the abbreviation (LA) for late arrival.

9.5 All game sheets shall be kept by the host association and made available to the Regional Director upon request.

Protective Equipment/Insurance/Safety

- 10.1** a) All players will wear protective equipment (including a neck guard & helmets) as indicated in the Hockey Canada playing rules at any time in the field of play during practice, pre-game, and for post-game celebrations or handshake lines. Head Coach of a team whose player is identified in violation of this regulation will serve the following additional suspensions:
- 1st Offense - Written warning
 - 2nd Offense - Remainder of the game plus two (2) additional games
 - 3rd Offense - Remainder of the game plus Suspended indefinitely until dealt with by Disciplinary Committee
- b. As of the 2019-2020 hockey season, all teams below Junior A will be required to wear full facial protection.
- 10.2** All coaches and assistants must wear a CSA certified helmet, properly fastened, while on the ice conducting practice.
- 10.3** Hockey Nova Scotia is a full participant in the Hockey Canada insurance program, which includes liability, death and dismemberment, and major medical insurance. It is mandatory for all registered teams and leagues to participate in the program.
- 10.4** Hockey Nova Scotia is a full participant in the Hockey Canada Directors and Officers Liability Insurance. It is mandatory for all Minor Hockey Associations to participate in the program.
- 10.5** The STOP crest is mandatory on all jerseys for all Minor and Minor Female Hockey players participating within HNS. The STOP crest is to be worn on the back of the jersey, in the centre directly above the number and below the name of the player.

Hockey Nova Scotia Certification Requirements

- 11.1** All Coaches, including assistants, at the U11 AA, A, and B, U11 AAA, AA, A and B, U15 AA, A, B, U18 AA, A, B, and Junior B and C Divisions within HNS must be certified at the NCCP Development 1 level. All Head Coaches at the Major U15, Major U18 and Junior A levels within HNS must be certified at the NCCP High Performance 1 Certification level.
- 11.2** All instructors at the U7 Division are to be certified in the Intro Coach Program.
- 11.3** All coaches at the U9 Division are to be certified in the Intro Coach Program.
- 11.4** All coaches at Level C/Recreational from U11, U13, U15, and U18 must be certified in the minimum Intro Coach Program or former U7 Program. NCCP DEVELOPMENT I is acceptable for Level C/Rec coaches.
- 11.5** All minor hockey bench staff at the AAA, AA, and A levels in all divisions must be certified in the Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP) Level I. Bench staff includes Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and Trainer.

It is also a requirement that one bench staff member be certified in CSA Basic First Aid (often called Emergency First Aid by providers), CPR (Level C), and AED certification. The designated first aider must be available to render assistance at all times and therefore being rostered on multiple teams is not appropriate. A designated first aider can only be rostered on multiple teams with the approval of the appropriate Regional Director in consultation with and approved by the HNS Suspensions Coordinator.
- 11.6** All teams at the Level B and C/Recreational Division must have all bench staff trained at the Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP) Level I and at least one member of the bench staff certified in CSA Basic First Aid (often called Emergency First Aid by providers), CPR (Level C), and AED certification. Bench staff includes Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and Trainer. All U7 Program and U9 Teams/Groupings must have at least one coach or instructor certified in CSA Basic First Aid (often called Emergency First Aid by providers), CPR (Level C), and AED certification. This volunteer must be present for all on and off-ice team events and activities. The designated first aider must be available to render assistance at all times and therefore being rostered on multiple teams is not appropriate. A designated first aider can only be rostered on multiple teams with the approval of the appropriate Regional Director in consultation with and approved by the HNS Suspensions Coordinator.
- 11.7** It is recommended that all teams have at least one member of the bench staff seek certification at the HCSP Level II. HCSP Level II is available to individuals who hold current certification in First Aid and CPR from a recognized agency. HCSP Level II is provided once an individual provides proof of certification. There is no training clinic for this certification.
- 11.8** All Minor Hockey Associations must appoint a Development Coordinator by September 15th annually.

- 11.9** Minor Hockey Associations must check certifications and verify that all bench staff are properly certified by November 15th of each hockey season. The deadline for certification each season will be December 1st and any submissions for bench staff without certification after December 1st will not be accepted for Provincial Playdowns. No additional clinics will be conducted beyond this date.
- 11.10** A list of all Minor Hockey Association coaches, assistants, trainers, and managers must be submitted to HNS by October 15th of each season. The date for U9 and U7 is November 15th. All coaches, including assistants, trainers and managers, shall have completed the Speak Out or The Shift Forward course by December 1st.
- 11.11** All HNS registered bench staff, dressing room supervisors, and on-ice Officials must complete the screening process as outlined in the HNS Screening Policy. Coaches/Team Officials and supervisors/ on ice Officials must complete an initial Vulnerable Sector Verification (VSV) which includes a Canadian Criminal Records Check/Local Police Check through the local police or a third-party provider within 30 days of an individual's involvement with any on-ice or off-ice activity within any Association, team or League. Any member as mentioned in this regulation, having been convicted, or having charges pending, of a criminal offence in any jurisdiction, shall complete a Hockey Canada Screening Disclosure Form and submit it directly to HNS, prior to participating in any HNS activity. The responsibility lies with all Hockey Associations/Leagues/teams to ensure that all mentioned participants have completed the process as outlined in the HNS Screening Policy by December 1st of the current playing season.
- 11.12** A minimum of two certified bench staff must be on the bench to start any game/practice and/or on the roster in the case of U7 and U9 teams in order to be an approved team.
- 11.13** Any team official who is found to be in violation of any section of HNS - Regulation #11 - Coach Certification will be suspended indefinitely until certification for that official has been approved by HNS and it has been added to the HCR. The minimum suspension for a first offence is five [5] games, a second offence will result in the team official being suspended for one full calendar year. HNS, HNSMC and HNSFC reserve the right to lengthen these suspensions depending on the circumstances involved in each violation.
- 11.14** Any Team Official previously registered on the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR) with any team and who was not approved due to lack of the following: The Shift Forward, Criminal Records Check (CRC) and Vulnerable Sector Verification (VSV) will NOT be eligible to be registered with any team until these are obtained. This includes on-ice or off-ice activities. This regulation would not include Team Officials that have been approved in the past but whose CRC/VSV have expired. These Team Officials must obtain their renewals prior to December 1.
- 11.15** All Hockey Associations must create an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for each arena that they participate in. This EAP must be updated on a yearly basis and made available on the Association's website as well as submit a copy to Hockey Nova Scotia and further shared on the website of HNS.
- 11.16** Rule of Two- To best ensure safety for all participants, all minor hockey programs sanctioned by Hockey Canada and its Members are required to implement the 'Rule of Two' Hockey Canada Policy.

Fees

- 12.1** The annual fees shall be determined by the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors and approved by the eligible voting delegates at the Hockey Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting. Once approved, the schedule of annual fees shall be distributed by the HNS Executive Director (or designate) to the membership by way of Information Bulletin.
- Any member failing to pay such fees within the time prescribed shall forfeit the right to take part in playoffs and tournaments, to compete against member Minor Hockey Association teams, or to host Provincial Championship Tournaments.
- 12.2** In addition to fees established by Hockey Nova Scotia, Minor Council shall be responsible for setting their own budget to fund their annual operations, which shall be subject to approval by the eligible voting delegates at the Hockey Nova Scotia AGM.
- 12.3** All appropriate annual fees for member registration are due and payable upon registration by the applicable member according to the dates specified by Hockey Nova Scotia.
- 12.4** Associate Member teams shall pay an annual Associate Membership fee as determined by the HNS Board of Directors.

Protests/Appeals

- 13.1** In the event of any dispute, difference or question regarding any matter of any kind arising at any time and only where there is provided a right to appeal per By-laws, Rules and Regulations of HNS and Hockey Canada, a protest or appeal will be the recourse available to any member dissatisfied with a decision.
- 13.2** Upon receipt of a protest or appeal in the HNS Office, the President of Hockey Nova Scotia, or designate, will determine if the appeal or protest meets the requirements herein and if it does, will direct the HNS Appeals Committee to proceed with the hearing.
- 13.3** A cash payment or certified cheque in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) and a non-refundable administrative fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for a total of three hundred and fifty dollars (\$350.00), made payable to Hockey Nova Scotia shall accompany all protests and appeals.
- 13.4** No protest or appeal will be entertained if the fee is not included.
- 13.5** The President of Hockey Nova Scotia will determine the appropriate level of appeal and their decision in this determination will be final.
- 13.6** Having completed all points of appeal within Hockey Nova Scotia, the aggrieved may appeal to Hockey Canada if not satisfied with the decision per Hockey Canada Bylaw 12, assuming all requirements have been met.

PROTESTS

- 13.7** Protests may only be made in regard to interpretations of Rules, By-laws, Regulations, Rules of Competition and Constitutional matters, not in regard to the decision of a referee or linesman.
- 13.8** A verbal protest must be made by the captain of the aggrieved team to the referee at the first reasonable opportunity after the action or decision complained of, and in all cases must be made within 5 minutes of the close of the period in which such action or decision was made and same must be noted immediately on the official game report.
- 13.9** Written Process and Protest Procedure.
 - 1.** When a protest arises in a League game and the protesting club has complied with Regulation [13.8](#), then within 24 hours of the completion of the game protested, a fax or written protest, signed by the President or Secretary of the protesting club, must be in the hands of the Secretary of the League and must be accompanied by the required fee per Regulation [13.3](#). A copy of such fax or written protest must also be served upon the protested club within 24 hours of the completion of the game protested.
 - 2.** The club protested against shall, within 48 hours after the completion of the game protested, file its defence with the Secretary of the League and a copy of such defence

shall also be served on the President or Secretary of the protesting club within 48 hours after the completion of the game protested.

3. The League President shall fix a time and place for the meeting of the League Executive to consider the protest. Each of the clubs interested may have a person to present its case at the hearing of the protest.
4. An appeal shall be allowed from the decision of the League Executive to the HNS President in accordance with Regulation [13.9](#) - 3).

13.10 Branch Playoffs: (NOT HNSMC, HNSFC Provincials)

1. When a protest arises in any of Hockey Nova Scotia's playoff games and the protesting club has complied with Regulation [13.8](#), then within 12 hours of the completion of the game protested, a fax or written protest signed by the President or Secretary of the protesting club must be in the hands of the Executive Director of Hockey Nova Scotia and must be accompanied by a certified cheque or money order of \$350.00. A copy of such fax or written protest must also be served upon the protested club within 12 hours of the completion of the game protested.
2. The club president shall, within 24 hours after the completion of the game protested, file its defence with the Executive Director of Hockey Nova Scotia and a copy of such defence shall also be given to the President or Secretary of the protesting club within 24 hours after the completion of the game protested.
3. A reply to such defence may be entered by the protesting club at least 12 hours before the time fixed for the hearing of the protest by the Protest/Appeals Committee of Hockey Nova Scotia, if the President of Hockey Nova Scotia orders a formal hearing.
4. At the discretion of the Chair of the Committee, a Committee vote on an appeal may be taken by fax or phone. There shall be no appeal from the decision of the Protest/Appeals Committee of Hockey Nova Scotia.

13.11 Minor and Female Hockey Protest Specifics

- Written protests must be forwarded to the responsible authority as follows:
 - a. League President for league and playoff games within sanctioned leagues.
 - b. Tournament Chairperson for invitational tournament games.
 - c. Regional Directors for exhibition games
 - d. Conference Coordinator for Minor Conference playoffs and Female Regional Director for Female Conference Playoffs.
 - e. Chair Minor or Chair Female or their designate for Provincial Championship Tournaments.
- Protests to League Presidents must follow procedures outlined in the By-Laws of that League.
- Protests to Tournament Chairpersons shall follow the procedures outlined in the tournament rules.
- Protests to the Regional Directors, Conference Coordinators, shall follow the procedures outlined herein.

- Decisions on protests to Regional Directors, Conference Coordinators and the Chair Minor Council and/or Chair Female Council during Regional, Inter-Regional and or Provincial Tournaments, shall be final and binding.

APPEALS

13.12 Any member wishing to file an appeal on any matter may have their request processed by HNS, where:

- Any appeals of the By-Laws and or Regulations of HNS or Hockey Canada must first have been dealt with at the appropriate level (League, Council, etc.).
- Such decision or dispute is in conflict with the By-Laws and or Regulations and Rules of HNS or Hockey Canada.
- Procedural error was committed.
- Original decision was not within party's authority or jurisdiction.

13.13 An appeal shall:

- Be brought within 48 hours of receipt of the written decision.
- Be in writing.
- Describe the error/grounds, which provide the HNS appeals committee with jurisdiction under.

Regulation [13.12](#).

- Describe, in numbered paragraphs, the decision appealed from, the grounds for appeal and relevant facts. Pertinent documents, if any, should be attached and the appellants may not introduce any new information and the original protest must accompany the appeal.
- Be filed, with proof of delivery to the Manager of Member Services together with required fee (\$350.00) per Regulation [13.3](#).

13.14 The HNS President or designate shall:

- Determine, within seven days of receipt of the appeal, whether HNS has jurisdiction to hear the appeal and that the requirements of Regulation [13.12](#) have been met.
- Notify appellants within seven days of the receipt of the appeal, if requirements of Regulation [13.12](#) have been met.
- If requirements of Regulation [13.12](#) have been met, instruct appeals committee or chair of applicable division to convene a hearing within 14 days of the receipt of the appeal.
- If requirements of Regulation [13.12](#) have been met, notify the appellants in writing of the decision, not more than 48 hours after the appeals hearing has convened. Registration Appeals

13.15 An appeal may be filed with HNS in disputes involving:

- A refusal by a team or Minor Hockey Association to release a player for purposes of playing with another team in accordance with HNS and Hockey Canada Regulations.
- Any dispute over a ruling of residency by a Regional Director in Minor or Female hockey.

- 13.16** A cash payment or certified cheque in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) and a non-refundable administrative fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for a total of three hundred and fifty dollars (\$350.00), made payable to Hockey Nova Scotia shall accompany all protests and appeals.
- 13.17** No Registration Appeal will be entertained if the appeal fee is not included.
- 13.18** Minor Hockey registration appeals are to be forwarded to the Manager of Member Services.
- 13.19** ALL pertinent documentation must be forwarded to the Conference Coordinator or Chair Female for Minor Female proving the residency of the player. No documentation will be accepted for the purpose of the appeal hearing following the seven-day period or entertained at a hearing if convened.
- 13.20** The appellant must clearly request an "in person" hearing if desired. Failure to do so will forfeit the appellant's right to present "in person." In the event such request is not made, a conference call may be conducted.
- 13.21** On receipt of such an appeal, the Conference Coordinator for Minor, Female Chair for Female will:
- Within 24 hours fax a copy of the appeal requesting a rebuttal to the Regional Director, the Association to which the Regional Director has determined eligibility and the Association to which the player wishes to register.
 - If such rebuttal is not received within 48 hours of receipt of the request from the Conference.
 - Coordinator/Female Chair, parties named in Regulation [13.22](#)(a) shall lose their right to make a rebuttal.
 - Within 24 hours of receipt of rebuttals, courier information to the President HNS.
- 13.22** On receipt of ALL documentation from the Manager of Member Services for Minor and the Female Chair for Female, the President HNS shall:
- Within 48 hours, appoint a committee to convene a hearing to be chaired by the VP of Hockey Operations (note: appellant will have opportunity to attend the hearing ONLY if requested in writing with the appeal).
 - Set a date for a hearing that will be convened to be no later than seven days from the receipt of information from the Manager of Member Services for Minor, Female Chair for Female.
- 13.23** The VP of Hockey Operations shall report to the President HNS for approval the findings of the committee and recommendation within 24 hours of completion of the hearing.
- 13.24** Written notice of the decision shall be forwarded from the President HNS within 48 hours of receipt of the committee report and recommendation.
- 13.25** The preceding concerning timelines shall not be in effect from May 1st to July 31st of each year. Should an appeal within that time frame; a decision will be rendered by September 1st of the current season.
- 13.26** The next level of appeal for ALL Registration appeals is to Hockey Canada per Regulation [13.6](#). Board Decisions - Final and Binding

- 13.27** Any recourse to the Courts of any jurisdiction by any member, before all rights of appeal and all the rights and remedies of the By-Laws and Regulations of Hockey Nova Scotia have been exhausted, shall be deemed to be a violation and breach of the By-Laws and Regulations of Hockey Nova Scotia. This violation and breach shall result in the automatic indefinite suspension of such member from Hockey Nova Scotia, including all activities and games played under the jurisdiction of Hockey Nova Scotia or any of its members as defined herein.
- 13.28** Any member, Minor Hockey Association, Club, League, team, player, coach, manager, trainer, referee who has sought court action before exhausting all proper procedures of appeal shall be liable for all legal costs and disbursement incurred by Hockey Nova Scotia.
- 13.29** Until full legal costs are paid, at the discretion of the President of Hockey Nova Scotia, the right of membership of the said party will be suspended.
- 13.30** Any member, Minor Hockey Association, club, league, team, player, coach, manager, trainer, referee who, having exhausted the appeal procedures, proceeds with Court action will be liable for all legal costs and disbursements incurred by Hockey Nova Scotia, should be the Courts rule in favour of Hockey Nova Scotia, prior to reinstatement of said party's membership with Hockey Nova Scotia.

Amendments

- 14.1** Amendments, alterations or additions to Regulations in Hockey Nova Scotia's handbook can be made by the Directors of the Board at a Regular or Special Meeting by a "Special Resolution", that is, a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors of which notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution has been duly given.

Standing Committees and Councils

15.1 In addition to the Standing Committees listed in By -Law 9 the following are the other Standing Committees:

- Appeals/Protest Committee
- Awards Committee
- Staff Advisory Committee
- Legacy Fund Committee
- Diversity& Inclusion Committee
- Risk Management Committee
- Bylaws Review Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Finance Committee

Members of the Board of Directors will serve on the various Standing Committees listed above.

15.2 The Councils of Hockey Nova Scotia are:

- Minor Council
- Female Council
- Junior Council
- Senior/Adult Recreation Council
- Hockey Development Council

15.3 Standing Committees - Reference Bylaw 9.

15.4 Appeals/Protest Committee.

The Appeals/Protest Committee, which shall be chaired by the Past President of Hockey Nova Scotia and two members appointed by the President of Hockey Nova Scotia and at the request of the President of Hockey Nova Scotia, shall deal with:

1. Appeals relating to the Articles, By -laws, and Regulations of its members.
2. Appeals relating to registration of officials.
3. Protest games to the Branch.

15.5 Awards Committee:

Chaired by the Past President/or designate. Members of the Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President of Hockey Nova Scotia and shall be responsible for the Annual Awards presented by Hockey Nova Scotia, including the distribution of nomination forms, as well as the annual academic/ athletic awards. The Awards Committee shall also organize the

Annual Awards Banquet to be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. The Awards Committee Chair shall also co- ordinate HNS nominations for Sport Nova Scotia, Hockey Canada, and other award programs.

15.6 Staff Advisory Committee (HNS BOD Executive committee).

15.7 Legacy Fund Committee:

The Board of Directors hereby authorizes the establishment of a Hockey Nova Scotia Legacy Fund, hereinafter called "The Fund." The purpose of The Fund is to provide a source of revenue for the continued promotion, research, administration and development of amateur hockey programs in Nova Scotia.

All monies received by the Association from hosting International or National events; donations and bequests solely designated for this fund or other sources approved by the Board of Directors shall be for the express purpose of increasing The Fund. All monies and investments shall be kept at a recognized financial institution resident in Nova Scotia and shall comply with all laws of Canada and Nova Scotia.

The Fund shall be managed by a Management Committee of not less than three members, those being Hockey Nova Scotia's Vice President Finance and Administration, two non-serving HNS Board, Council or Committee Members appointed by the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors.

Hockey Nova Scotia's Executive Director shall also be a member of the Management Committee (ex-officio). The Management Committee shall report semi-annually to the Board of Directors all activity within The Fund.

All monies received shall be invested to earn income for the purpose before herein set out. The income earned by the fund shall be used to assist the funding of hockey development and Administration in Hockey Nova Scotia, with excess earnings reinvested for the purpose of increasing the fund. The reporting period for investment income of the fund shall be on a calendar year basis with the allocation being for the following fiscal year.

There shall be no withdrawal of capital from the fund for any purpose of Hockey Nova Scotia without the approval of the eligible voting members of Hockey Nova Scotia given by at least a two-thirds vote at an Annual General Meeting after notice of the purpose and the amount of the proposed withdrawal has been given to all members of Hockey Nova Scotia at least 45 days before the date of the meeting.

The interest derived from the Legacy Fund shall be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors of Hockey Nova Scotia.

COUNCILS

15.8 Minor Hockey Council:

Minor Hockey Council shall be responsible to the Board of Directors of Hockey Nova Scotia for managing the affairs of all minor hockey activities (excluding Elite). Development Programs, High Performance Programs and Canada Games Programs wherein such

responsibility shall be that of Hockey Nova Scotia) in accordance with Hockey Nova Scotia and Hockey Canada, Rules, Regulations, By Laws and Special Regulations adopted by Minor Council and approved by Hockey Nova Scotia.

- Minor Hockey Council shall be composed of Minor Hockey Associations that conduct and supervise Minor Hockey within their respective boundaries. No independent clubs or leagues will be accepted from towns, cities or areas having a local minor hockey association.
- Membership in Minor Hockey Council is purely voluntary and application for or acceptance of membership entails acceptance of the authority of such council. Such member is empowered to foster, conduct and perpetuate Minor Hockey within its respective area in a manner consistent with the By-Laws and Regulations herein.
- Each member shall adopt a Constitution and By-Laws in conformity with the By-Laws and Regulations of Hockey Nova Scotia and shall not at any time make amendments to its Constitution or By-Laws conflicting with the By-Laws and Regulations of Hockey Nova Scotia.
- The Minor Hockey Council shall consist of the following members.
 - a. Council Chair
 - b. Past Chair
 - c. North Conference Coordinator
 - d. South Conference Coordinator
 - e. Directors-At-Large (1 or 2)
 - f. Regional Directors (9), one representing each of the nine Minor Hockey Regions
- At each Regular Minor Council Meeting, each Member of Minor Council shall have one vote with the Chair only voting in case of a tie. A quorum at Council Meetings shall consist of the majority of voting members that are entitled to be present.
- The day-to-day operation of Minor Hockey Council shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee consisting of:
 - a. Chair
 - b. Past Chair
 - c. Conference Coordinators (2)
 - d. Directors at Large (1 or 2)
 - e. Manager Member Services (ex officio)
- The Executive Committee will be the final authority for all membership applications within the Minor Hockey Council.
- The Executive Committee shall appoint the Members at Large on an annual basis and it will be the sole discretion of the Executive Committee as to whether or not one or two Members at Large are appointed annually.
- To be eligible as Past Chairperson, a person must have served one complete term as Chairperson. If a Chairperson fails to complete any subsequent term of office, such person shall have the right to serve as Past Chairperson.

- If a vacancy occurs with any of the Officers of Minor Hockey Council (except for the Chair), the Executive Committee has the right to fill such vacancy until the next annual meeting.
- All members of Hockey Nova Scotia's Minor Council shall follow the Conflict of Interest Guidelines set out by Hockey Nova Scotia.

By-Law 12 HNS Conflict of Interest Guidelines

12.1. No Officer of Hockey Nova Scotia shall have any connection with or hold any position whatsoever with any club/team or league under the jurisdiction of Hockey Nova Scotia or Hockey Canada. 12.2. A potential conflict of interest is deemed to exist when an Officer of Hockey Nova Scotia is involved:

- A.** As a member of an amateur hockey association, team or league;
- B.** Receives remuneration of any amount for any position of an amateur hockey association, team or league;
- C.** In holding any position on an amateur hockey association, team or league.

12.3. No Director of Hockey Nova Scotia, member of a Council of Hockey Nova Scotia or paid employee shall hold any executive or Board position with any team, association, or league under the jurisdiction of Hockey Nova Scotia or Hockey Canada.

12.4. When a potential conflict is deemed to have arisen, the member involved:

- A.** Shall immediately notify Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors;
- B.** Shall not participate in discussions and shall withdraw/absent themselves from the meeting when any item is being discussed by the Board Member or any of its committees which the presiding chair considers a conflict;
- C.** Shall not solicit information on any such item; and
- D.** Shall not be provided any information on any such item by any committee member or employee.

- At Hockey Nova Scotia's Annual General Meeting the Minor Council Annual General Meeting shall be held. The final order of business at the Minor Council Annual General Meeting shall include the election of Council Chair and one Conference Coordinator for a two-year term. The Council Chair and South Conference Coordinator shall be elected in odd numbered years. The North Conference Coordinator shall be elected in even numbered years. Conference Coordinators
- There shall be two (2) Conference Coordinators to co-ordinate the activities of their respective Conference:
 - a.** The Northern Conference (comprised of the Fundy, Strait, Highland and Cape Breton Regions); and
 - b.** The Southern Conference (comprised of the Halifax East, Halifax West, Dartmouth, Nova and Western Regions).
- Conference Coordinators must be a resident of the Conference they coordinate and be elected by the members of the Conference at the Council's annual meeting. Nominations for the position of Conference Coordinator must be received by the HNS Executive

Director or designate no later than thirty (30) days prior to the HNS Minor Council Annual Meeting.

- When two or more are nominated for any office, and all but one declines to serve, that one shall be considered to have been elected. Should more than one ballot be necessary for the election of a Conference Coordinator, the name receiving the fewest votes shall be removed from the ballot before proceeding to another ballot.
- The Conference Coordinator shall preside over Conference meetings, Regional elections, attend Regional meetings when requested to do so by the Regional Director and co-ordinate categorization of all teams within their Conference.
 - a. Southern Conference shall be elected for two years, effective 2021.
 - b. Northern Conference shall be elected for two years effective 2020.
- Conference structures shall be as follows:
 - a. North Conference Structure
 - i. Cape Breton Region - consisting of Sydney, Glace Bay, New Waterford, Cape Breton County, and Northside District Minor Hockey Associations.
 - ii. Strait Region - consisting of Strait/Richmond, and Cape Breton West Minor Hockey Associations.
 - iii. Highland Region - consisting of Antigonish, Canso, and Pictou County Minor Hockey Associations.
 - iv. Fundy Region - consisting of Truro & Area, South Colchester, West Colchester, Parrsboro, Cumberland County, and Tatamagouche Minor Hockey Associations.
 - b. South Conference Structure
 - i. Halifax East Region - consisting of Bedford, Sackville and East Hants Minor Hockey Associations.
 - ii. Halifax West Region - consisting of Halifax, TASA and Chebucto Minor Hockey Associations.
 - iii. Dartmouth Region - consisting of Dartmouth, Cole Harbour and Eastern Shore Minor Hockey Associations.
 - iv. Western Region - consisting of Yarmouth, Shelburne, South Shore, Queen's County, and Chester Minor Hockey Association.
 - v. Nova Region - consisting of West Hants, Acadia, Western Valley and Clare-Digby Minor Hockey Associations.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

- One representative from each of the established Regions, to be known as the Regional Director, shall be duly elected by the members of that Region.
 - a. Regional Directors must reside within the Region they represent and be elected by the members of that Region.
 - b. Nominations for the various Regional Directors of the Council must be received by the HNS Executive Director in writing no later than seven days prior to the Regional

meeting set for the election. This meeting must be held prior to the Hockey Nova Scotia AGM.

- c. When two or more are nominated for any office, and all but one declines to serve, that one shall be considered to have been elected.
- d. Should more than one ballot be necessary for the election of a Regional Director, the name receiving the fewest votes shall be removed from the ballot before proceeding to another ballot.
- e. Elections shall be held on even number years for the Cape Breton, Highland, Dartmouth, Western and Halifax East Regions, and on odd number years for Nova, Halifax West, Fundy, and Strait; each shall be for a two-year term.
- f. Any Regional Director elected must be made by a clear majority vote of the delegates present and eligible to vote. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall call for a new vote until a winner is declared.
- g. The successful representative elected as Regional Director at the Regional meeting takes office as soon as the election is over.
- h. The number of delegates from any Association allowed to vote for the position of Regional Director shall be the same as the number of votes that the association had at the prior annual meeting of Minor Council.
- Minor Council Regional Director
 - a. The duties of the Minor Council Regional Director shall be to carry out the day-to-day functions of their Region in conjunction with Minor Hockey Council Chair and shall include:
 1. To be the liaison between the Council and Minor Hockey Associations in their Region; to holding Regional Meetings/Conference calls with the MHAs/League executives within their Region on a monthly basis and represent Minor Council at Provincial Championship Tournaments or series taking place within their Region.
 2. To approve all HCR transfers, team player approval requests, travel permits for within Nova Scotia, tournament hosting permits, exhibition game permits for their Region.
 3. To classify teams for Provincial play-offs and DOC play.
 4. To approve play-off schedules for League play-offs in their area.
 5. To receive requests from local Associations wishing to host Provincial Championship tournaments, forwarding same to Manager of Member Services by December 1st each year.
 6. To assist in solving disputes between local Associations in their Region; and shall ensure the boundaries for Associations within their Region are clearly defined, and any changes are completed and approved by all associations involved by August 1st of each year, permitting no change from that date until the end of the playing season.
 7. To conduct discipline investigations in conjunction with the Suspensions Coordinator and the Risk Management Committee.
 - To monitor adherence to HNS Regulations while at the Arenas.

- a. They may appoint assistants as the Directors feel are required provided prior approval is obtained from the HNS Executive Committee. Such assistants shall be recognized by the HNS Executive Committee when their name and address is filed by letter with HNS Executive Director. These letters will be authorized by and bear the Regional Director's signature. Assistants will have such powers as the Regional Director permits in their name but may not sit or vote on the Executive.

PAST CHAIRPERSON

- The Past Chairperson shall be a resource person in providing direction to the Executive on all matters relating to the past conduct of business of the HNSMC. They shall be a full member of the Executive Committee and shall have full voting privileges. They shall perform only those duties as assigned by the Chairperson.

MINOR HOCKEY COUNCIL CHAIR – RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Chair of Minor Hockey Council shall be responsible to the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors through the President and shall:
 - a. Sit on the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors and Hockey Nova Scotia Executive Committee.
 - b. Preside at all meetings of Minor Hockey Council. They shall generally perform the duties usual to the Office of the Chair, and may at their discretion, order the calling of a special meeting of the Minor Council or its Committees.
 - c. In case of emergency may exercise all the duties and powers of any of the Minor Council Officers, but such action shall be referred within fifteen (15) days to the Executive Committee of Minor Hockey for approval or rejection.
 - d. With the approval of the President of Hockey Nova Scotia, the Chair of Minor Hockey Council or a designated representative shall have the power to suspend any Minor Hockey player, coach, manager, or executive member for misconduct on or off the ice. Such suspension to be referred to the Minor Council Executive Committee within fifteen (15) days, such suspension automatically terminates at the expiration of the period of suspension. All leagues/teams will recognize such suspensions and the Minor Hockey Council's Suspensions Coordinator shall notify those necessary of such suspensions and penalties. Any person so suspended shall have the right to appeal.
 - e. Be an ex-officio member of all Minor Hockey Council committees.
 - f. Perform other duties as directed by the President of Hockey Nova Scotia.
 - g. Only vote at Minor Hockey Council Meetings in case of a tie.
 - h. Serve on committees as directed by the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors or the President.
- Director at Large
 1. To be the liaison between the Minor Council and the Risk Management Committee of Hockey Nova Scotia.
 2. To chair special projects as requested by minor council.
 3. Liaisons with committees and other organizations as needed and or as requested by minor council.

4. Review By laws, regulations and policies and make recommendations to council.
5. To be a voting member of the minor council executive committee.
6. To perform other duties as requested by the chair of minor hockey.

15.9 Junior Council

- Junior Council shall be responsible to the Board of Directors Hockey Nova Scotia for managing the affairs of all Junior Hockey activities in accordance with Hockey Nova Scotia/ Hockey Canada Rules, Regulations, By Laws and Special Regulations adopted by Junior Council and approved by Hockey Nova Scotia. Junior Council shall be comprised of:
 - i. Chair.
 - ii. One representative from each Junior Team registered with HNS, each of whom shall have a vote.
 - iii. The President from each Junior League registered with HNS who shall also sit on the Junior Council Executive Committee, each of whom shall have a vote.
 - iv. The Chair shall only vote in the event of a tie.
 - v. All members of the Junior Council shall follow Conflict of Interest Guidelines set out by Hockey Nova Scotia (see By -Law 12).

15.10 Junior Council Chair - Responsibilities

- The Chair of Junior Council shall be responsible to the Board of Directors of Hockey Nova Scotia through the President and shall:
 1. Sit on the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors.
 2. Be the official representative of Hockey Nova Scotia on the Hockey Canada Junior Council and attend its meetings.
 3. Preside at all meetings of Junior Council and all Committee Meetings. They shall generally perform the duties usual to the Office of the Chair, and may at their discretion, order the calling of a special meeting of the Junior Council or its Committees.
 4. With the approval of the President of Hockey Nova Scotia, the Chair of Junior Council or a designated representative shall have the power to suspend any Junior players, coach, manager, or executive member for misconduct on or off the ice. Such suspension to be referred to the Officers within fifteen (15) days, such suspension automatically terminates at the expiration of the period of suspension. All leagues/ teams will recognize such suspensions and Hockey Nova Scotia's Executive Director shall notify those necessary of such suspensions and penalties. Any person so suspended shall have the right to appeal.
 5. Be an ex-officio member of all Junior Council committees.
 6. Be a Board member of the MJHL.
 7. Only vote at Junior Council Meetings in case of a tie.
 8. Perform other duties as directed by the President of Hockey Nova Scotia.

9. Serve on committees as directed by the Board of Directors of Hockey Nova Scotia or the President.

15.11 Senior & Adult Recreation Council

- Senior and Adult Recreation Council shall be responsible to the Board of Directors of Hockey Nova Scotia for managing the affairs of all Risk Management, Senior/Adult Recreation hockey activities in accordance with Hockey Nova Scotia/Canadian Hockey, Rules, Regulations, By Laws and Special Regulations adopted by Risk Management, Senior/ Adult Recreation Council and approved by Hockey Nova Scotia. Senior & Adult Recreation Council shall be comprised of:
 1. Chair who shall also be responsible for Risk Management.
 2. One representative from each Senior Team registered with HNS, each of whom shall have a vote.
 3. The President from each Senior League registered with HNS who shall also sit on the Senior & Adult Recreation Council Executive Committee, each of whom shall have a vote.
- Within the Senior and Adult Recreation Council, the Chair shall only vote in the event of a tie.
- All members of the Senior and Adult Recreation Council shall follow Conflict of Interest Guidelines set out by Hockey Nova Scotia (see By-Law 12).

15.12 Risk Management, Senior and Adult Recreation Council Chair - Responsibilities

- The Chair of Risk Management, Senior/Adult Recreational Council shall be responsible to the Board of Directors of Hockey Nova Scotia through the President and shall:
 1. Sit on the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors.
 2. Be the official representative of Hockey Nova Scotia on the Hockey Canada Senior/ Adult Recreation Council and attend its meetings.
 3. Preside at all meetings of Senior/Adult Recreation Council and all Committee Meetings. They shall generally perform the duties usual to the Office of the Chair of Senior/Adult Recreation and may at their discretion, order the calling of a special meeting of the Senior/Adult Recreation Council or its Committees.
 4. With the approval of the President of Hockey Nova Scotia the Chair of Senior/Adult Recreation Council or a designated representative shall have the power to suspend any Senior players, coach, manager, or executive member for misconduct on or off the ice. Such suspension is to be referred to the Officers of Hockey Nova Scotia within 15 days, and such suspension automatically terminates at the expiration of the period of suspension. All Leagues/teams will recognize such suspensions and the Executive Director of Hockey Nova Scotia shall notify the appropriate people of such suspensions and penalties. Any person so suspended shall have the right to appeal.
 5. Shall be an ex-officio member of all Senior/Adult Recreation Council committees.
 6. Shall only vote at Senior/Adult Recreation Council Meetings in case of a tie.
 7. If for any reason the Chair is unable to complete their tenure of office, the position shall be filled by an appointment by the President on recommendation by Hockey

Nova Scotia's Board of Directors. Such appointment shall be valid until the next Annual General Meeting of Hockey Nova Scotia.

8. Chair the Risk Management Committee (consisting of the Council Chairs or designates in addition to volunteers recommended by the Chair and approved by the President) with the following responsibilities:
 - i. develop a Branch strategy to promote Risk Management practices by all Hockey Nova Scotia's participants.
 - ii. develop, produce and distribute resource materials that will be used in the promotion of Risk and Safety Management in the Hockey Nova Scotia program.
 - iii. coordinate the delivery of information concerning the benefits of Hockey Canada Liability, Accidental Death and Dismemberment and Major Medical and Dental Insurance to Hockey Nova Scotia members.
 - iv. oversee the promotion and implementation of the STOP and The Shift Forward Programs.
 - v. recommend policy and direction to the Hockey Nova Scotia Board.
 - vi. prior to April 15 develop a budget for the following season to be forwarded to the Hockey Nova Scotia Finance Committee for inclusion in the Hockey Nova Scotia Budget.
 - vii. be the official representative for Hockey Nova Scotia on the Hockey Canada Risk and Safety Management Committee.
8. The Chair of Risk Management, Senior/Adult Recreational Council shall be appointed for a two (2) -year term by the elected members of Hockey Nova Scotia at a meeting called for that purpose following the Hockey Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting.
9. Perform other duties as directed by the President of Hockey Nova Scotia.
10. Serve on Committees as directed by the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors or the President.

15.13 Hockey Development Council (HDC)

- Hockey Development Council is responsible to the Board of Directors of Hockey Nova Scotia for the administration, coordination and conducting of development programs in accordance with Hockey Canada's National Development Program and Hockey Nova Scotia's Development Program. The Hockey Development Council shall consist of:
 1. Chair
 2. Technical Support (Staff)
 3. U7 Program Coordinator
 4. Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP) Coordinator
 5. National Coaches Certification Program (NCCP) Coordinator
 6. National Coaches Mentorship Program (NCMP) Coordinator
 7. Development Program Coordinator
 8. High Performance Program Coordinator
 9. Coordinator at Large

- Hockey Development Council shall annually conduct the High Performance Program on behalf of its members.

15.14 Hockey Development Council Chair - Responsibilities

- The Chair of Hockey Development Council (HDC) shall be responsible to the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors through the President and shall:
 1. Sit on the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors.
 2. Be the official representative of Hockey Nova Scotia at the Hockey Canada HDC meetings.
 3. Be a member of the management team of the Hockey Canada Atlantic Regional Centre (ARC).
 4. Chair the Hockey Development Council and be responsible for the delivery of the Development programs to the membership of Hockey Nova Scotia. These programs shall include but are not limited to:
 - i. The National Coaches Certification Program (NCCP)
 - ii. The U7 Program (U7)
 - iii. The Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP)
 - iv. High Performance Program (HPP)
 - v. National Coach Mentorship Program (NCMP)
 5. Shall appoint delivery network Program Coordinators prior to the AGM each year. The Program Coordinators shall be appointed for a period of one year. The Program Coordinators shall include:
 - i. U7 Program (U7) Coordinator
 - ii. Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP) Coordinator
 - iii. National Coaches Certification Program (NCCP) Coordinator
 - iv. National Coaches Mentorship Program (NCMP) Coordinator
 - v. Development Programs Coordinator
 - vi. High Performance Program Coordinator
 - vii. Coordinator at Large
 6. Provide a schedule for all development clinics prior to each season. The Program Coordinators shall be responsible to the Chair of HDC to assign and coordinate all course instructors.
 7. Shall annually conduct the High Performance Program on behalf of its members 8. Serve on any committee as directed by the Board of Directors of Hockey Nova Scotia or the President.
 9. Perform other duties as designated by the President of Hockey Nova Scotia.

15.15 Chair at Large - Special Projects - Responsibilities

- The Chair at Large - Special Projects shall be responsible to the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors through the President, and shall:
 1. Sit on the Board of Directors of Hockey Nova Scotia.

2. Attend Hockey Nova Scotia/Hockey Canada meetings as approved by the Board of Directors.
3. Be responsible for all Elite Hockey Programs in Hockey Nova Scotia.
4. Carry out any other duties/responsibilities as assigned by the Hockey Nova Scotia Officers, Board of Directors and/or President.
5. Sit as an ex-officio member of the Hockey Nova Scotia Risk Management Committee.
6. Coordinate all (research and development projects) and any other special projects assigned by the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors.
7. Perform other duties as assigned by the President of Hockey Nova Scotia.
8. Serve on Committees as directed by the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors of the President.

15.16 Director of Officiating - Responsibilities

- The Director of Officiating shall be responsible to the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors through the President for the development, administration and implementation of the Officiating Program in accordance with Hockey Canada's National Referees Certification Program (NRCP) and in addition to the duties assigned by the President shall:
 1. Sit on the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors.
 2. Be the Official Representative of Hockey Nova Scotia at the Hockey Canada Officiating meetings.
 3. Assist in the registration of all Hockey Nova Scotia Officials in conjunction with the Hockey Nova Scotia office.
 4. Establish final registration dates for referees.
 5. Recommend fees for game officials subject to the approval of the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors.
 6. Coordinate Development Opportunities for the membership.
 7. Appoint/assign volunteers to act as Officiating Administrators under the direction of the Referee-in-Chief as follows: appointment of Zone Supervisors, appointment of Area Assigners, appointment and training NRCP Instructors, appointment and training of on-ice Supervisors and assignment of Referees and Linesmen.
 8. Ensure that all Registered Officials are familiar with the NRCP, Policies and Guidelines.
 9. Recommends Strategic Direction and Objectives for all aspects of officiating.
 10. Establish and recommend Officiating Policies.
 11. Conduct a regular review of the Playing Rules and of Rule interpretations. 12) Perform other duties as designated by the President of Hockey Nova Scotia.
 12. Serve on Committees as directed by the Hockey Nova Scotia Board of Directors or the President.

Meetings of the Associations/Councils

See also By-Law 10

16.1 At the Annual Meeting of Hockey Nova Scotia, the following shall be the order of business of the Association:

1. Minutes
2. Business Arising From Minutes
3. Correspondence
4. Reports
5. Committee reports, recommendations, resolutions, etc.
6. Election of Officers (even numbered years only)
7. General and New Business
8. Adjournment (No later than 12 Noon)

16.2 Hockey Nova Scotia Minor Council Meetings:

1. The Annual Meeting of Minor Council shall be held in the same location and on the same weekend as Hockey Nova Scotia's Annual Meeting, with a minimum of 45 days' notice.
2. Special meetings may be called by the Minor Council Executive Committee, or at the request of 2/3 of the membership, upon not less than seven days' notice in Regulation [17.6](#) Voting. Such notice shall state the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting.
3. At all Annual or Special meetings of the Council, a quorum shall consist of at least 50% plus one of the eligible voting delegates at the meeting.
4. At the Annual Minor Council Congress, the following shall be the order of business:
 - i. Welcome by Chair
 - ii. Moment of silence for former members
 - iii. Opening Remarks
 - iv. Motion to close credentials Appointment of scrutineers Roll Call of Delegates v. Minutes prior meeting (AGM) Business arising from minutes
 - vi. Financial report
 - vii. Officer's reports
 - viii. Committee reports
 - ix. Resolutions
 - x. Elections
 - xi. New Business
 - xii. Adjournment

16.3 Rules of Order:

- The following are the regulations for the governing of Hockey Nova Scotia and its Councils during the time of business and the business shall be disposed of in the following order:
 1. No delegate shall speak twice on the same subject without permission of the chair unless in explanation or the mover, in reply.
 2. A delegate desiring to speak or submit a motion shall rise and remain standing and respectfully address the chair and shall confine their remarks to the question and shall not be interrupted unless upon a point of order.
 3. Upon a point of order being raised while a delegate is speaking or when called to order by the presiding officer, they shall at once take their seat when the delegate objecting shall then state the point of order. The presiding officer shall decide thereupon without debate and the delegates may then proceed.
 4. No amendment to a motion shall be in order after an amendment to an amendment.
 5. When a motion is under debate, no motion shall be entertained except to table, or amend, and these motions shall take precedence in the order named.
 6. An amendment, which entirely changes the subject of the original motion, shall not be entertained as an amendment or substituted for the motion under debate.
 7. No delegate except one, who has voted with the majority, shall be allowed to move for reconsideration, and in this connection the word majority shall apply to the vote by which the question was first decided.
 8. After the President or Presiding Officer of Hockey Nova Scotia has stated the motion, it becomes the property of Hockey Nova Scotia, but may be withdrawn at any time previous to amendment unless objected by a delegate.
 9. There shall be no debate upon any question after it has been put to the vote by the President or Presiding Officer.
 10. At all meetings of Hockey Nova Scotia or of its Committees, voting shall be by show of hands unless the meeting decides on a ballot.
 11. Decisions shall be by majority of the votes cast unless the favourable vote of a larger proportion of the votes is required by the By-Laws.
 12. Notwithstanding the above, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern Hockey Nova Scotia.

Voting

- 17.1** At the Annual, Semi Annual and Special Meetings of Hockey Nova Scotia, the following, shall be entitled to vote:
1. Officers of Hockey Nova Scotia.
 2. Board of Directors of Hockey Nova Scotia.
 3. Junior Council Official Delegates (three) the President or Designate of the Jr. Leagues.
 4. Female Council (one) to be determined by Female Council.
 5. Minor Council Official Delegates (five) to be determined by Minor Council.
 6. Elite Hockey three votes, Major U18, U16AAA and Major U15 Leagues, one vote for the president or their designate of each league.
- 17.2** Any delegate holding a credential signed by the President and Secretary of the registered league or team shall be considered the legal representative of that league or team, but in any case, a delegate cannot represent more than one league or team.
- 17.3** At all meetings of Hockey Nova Scotia, or of its Committees, voting shall be by a show of hands, unless otherwise decided.
- 17.4** Any matter, which could be voted upon by a Committee of Hockey Nova Scotia in session, may be submitted to the members of such Committee by registered or electronic mail and the members shall vote thereof in like manner, a majority in accordance with the By-Laws the votes thus received by the Hockey Nova Scotia Executive Director shall decide the matter. Such mail or fax votes shall be taken by the Executive Director under the direction of the President of Hockey Nova Scotia and the ballot of each member must be preserved by the Executive Director. Within 48 hours from the closing of the vote, the Executive Director shall advise the members of the Committee of the result of the vote.
- 17.5** The President of Hockey Nova Scotia may, of their own volition or upon written request of three members of Hockey Nova Scotia order an electronic mail or fax vote be taken by the Executive Director.
- 17.6** At the Annual, Semi Annual and/or Special meetings of Minor Council, each member association shall be represented by one official delegate, but voting shall be distributed on the following basis:
1. One (1) vote for the Minor Hockey Association.
 2. One (1) vote for each age division in which 50 or more players are registered, provided proper credentials are deposited with Hockey Nova Scotia's Executive Director or designate at the opening of the meeting.
 3. Any Minor Hockey Association that has one (1) vote only per the above, will be granted an additional vote for a total of two voting delegates.
 4. One (1) vote for each Officer of Minor Council.

5. Should Member Associations, Federations and/or Leagues be represented by one (1) delegate, such delegate will be entitled to only one (1) vote on behalf of said members.
6. All Federations and Leagues of three or more associations shall be entitled to one (1) vote at all Regional, Annual or Special meetings of the Council.
7. All official delegate credentials shall be signed by the delegates' MHA President or designate, and then approved by the appropriate Regional Director or Conference Coordinator if the Regional Director is absent. No voting credentials will be accepted if not properly authorized.

17.7 No proxy vote will be accepted.

17.8 At all meetings of the council, voting will be by show of hands unless the meeting decides upon a ballot.

U7 Program

18.1 Objectives

Hockey Nova Scotia strives to provide all players within the U7 Program with a positive learning environment that includes the opportunity to learn the basic skills of hockey, have fun, and develop self-confidence. Our goal is to teach participants the basic skills, including skating, shooting, and puck handling, while providing a positive experience for players in order to foster continued participation in the sport of hockey.

18.2 Education

Hockey Nova Scotia recommends that all member associations provide education, orientation and awareness to their membership on the benefits of the U7 Program through the use of the U7 Program Jamboree, on an annual basis. Furthermore, member associations are encouraged to seek Branch support in identifying resources to assist in the overall education of its membership on the merits of the U7 Program and the need to focus volunteers and parents on making the experience a positive one.

18.3 Curriculum

Member Minor Hockey Associations shall use the national U7 Program curriculum developed by Hockey Canada to lead their efforts in providing programming as follows:

- Level One - U7 Program Phase 1 and 2
- Level Two - U7 Program Phase 3 and 4

Players, regardless of age, should be placed at the level that is appropriate to their skill and ability. Associations shall provide for ongoing evaluation of participants and continue to place each at the level appropriate to their level of skill and ability throughout the season.

18.4 Certification

Individuals who work on-ice teaching the participants within the U7 Program shall be referred to as "instructors". All instructors involved at the four-six year age group must be certified in the four-hour Intro Coach Program Clinic offered annually by Hockey Nova Scotia. Every U7 team must have at least two registered and certified bench staff per team.

18.5 Jamborees

U7 teams may enter a maximum of four U7 jamborees per season, only one of which may be outside the region.

Permits are required for Jamborees hosted by Minor Council Associations, to satisfy the sanction requirements of Hockey Canada.

Travel permits are required by any U7 team wishing to play in Jamborees outside their Region. Teams at the U7 level shall not be permitted to travel outside the province of Nova Scotia. Permits for U7 Jamborees involving Minor teams (Branch jamborees) are obtained from the Regional Director.

There is no fee for these permits. Two weeks' notice is required.

Jamboree set-up, game play and rules for U 7 hockey are to be followed as per the Hockey Canada U 7 Program

18.6 U7 Player Age Advancement

As specified per HNS Regulation [3.9](#), at the discretion of the Minor Hockey Association and with approval of the HNSMC Regional Director and Conference Coordinator, a highly skilled player within the U7 Program may be placed in the U9 division with the consent of their parent(s) or guardians. For any movement of a player into U9 the evaluation process as outlined in Regulation [19.11](#) must be followed with the appropriate divisions outlined within that regulation. See also Regulation [5.14](#).

U9 Program

19.1 Objectives

The objective of the Hockey Nova Scotia U9 Program is to foster respect, sportspersonship and a fun atmosphere. The U9 Program shall strive to continue to develop the participants in the basic skills areas of skating, shooting, and puck handling while introducing them to competitive opportunities within an environment based on skill and ability. The intent is to continue to place a high emphasis on skill development while introducing participants to competition, playing rules, and the "team" concept.

19.2 Education

Hockey Nova Scotia recommends that all member Minor Hockey Associations continue to provide education, orientation and awareness to their membership on the benefits of skill development and the need to continue to focus on making each experience a positive one.

19.3 Competition

Players within the U9 Program shall be assigned to levels based on their skill and ability. Minor Hockey Associations shall assign participants to an appropriate learning environment based on an evaluation at the start of the season and continue to provide ongoing evaluation throughout the season to ensure each participant continues to be assigned to the appropriate skill level and most appropriate learning environment. The levels for use within the U9 Program include Level 1 (Developmental), Level 2 (Intermediate), and Level 3 (Advancing).

Minor Hockey Associations may establish leagues, which are internal to the association, for the sole purposes of scheduling competition. Any such league may not include any placement or standings, the retention or publishing of individual statistics, any playoffs or a declared league winner under any format.

Minor Hockey Associations may not join together with other Minor Hockey Associations to form leagues which involve teams from multiple participating Minor Hockey Associations and which are external to a Minor Hockey Association, under any circumstance. Teams, where appropriate based on skill and ability, may play exhibition games against similar caliber teams from other Minor Hockey Associations.

In all U9 program competition, Minor Hockey Associations shall ensure that all players are treated fairly with respect to ice time distribution and situational opportunities. To maximize ice use during competition, if a team is assessed a penalty, the offending player will sit in the penalty box, but the team shall not play a player short. The offending team shall put another player on the ice. There shall be no power plays and no team shall play a player short during any games.

19.4 U9 Seasonal Structure for All Levels

DEVELOPMENT SEASON

From the association's start date until the half-ice season begins. A minimum of four practices or skill sessions must occur before formal evaluations begin, and a minimum of three formal evaluation sessions must be delivered.

HALF-ICE / CROSS-ICE SEASON

October 1 to December 25, with a maximum of twenty-four (24) half-ice scrimmages, including jamborees. Officials may be used. All scrimmages shall be approved by the local Regional Director.

FULL-ICE SEASON

Beginning December 26, with a maximum of sixteen (16) controlled full-ice scrimmages, including jamborees, between associations or within an association, for the purpose of full-ice playing education and instruction in preparation for the U11 division. Officials may be used. All scrimmages shall be approved by the local Regional Director.

19.5 Level 1 - Developmental

The Developmental level is for players who are either new to the sport or continue to require focused development in the basic skills areas of skating, shooting, and puck handling. The objective of this level is to place a heavy emphasis on skill development while providing minimal introduction to competition. Players may participate in games at this level with a minimum practice to game ratio of 2:1. Teams may participate in a maximum of 40 scrimmages and may include max sixteen (16) full-ice scrimmages after December 26, including any exhibition and/or tournament play.

19.6 Level 2 - Intermediate

The Intermediate level is for players who possess the basic skills of skating, shooting, and puck handling but who require continued development to accomplish a satisfactory level of some or all of the skills. Players at this level should have sufficient skill and ability to be able to actively participate in a competitive environment with a satisfactory level of success.

Players may participate in games at this level with a minimum practice to game ratio of 1:1. Teams may participate in a maximum of 40 scrimmages and may include max sixteen (16) full-ice scrimmages after December 26, including any exhibition and/or tournament play.

19.7 Level 3 - Advancing

The Advancing level is for players who possess many of the basic skills, including skating, shooting, and puck handling, and demonstrate the capability to advance to more challenging levels of skill development. Players at this level should be able to participate fully in a competitive environment with a high probability of success.

Players may participate in games at this level with a minimum practice to game ratio of 1:1. Teams may participate in a maximum of 40 scrimmages and may include max sixteen (16) full-ice scrimmages after December 26, including any exhibition and/or tournament play.

19.8 Player Movement

Minor Hockey Associations and teams shall refrain from conducting “tryouts” in order to select teams or to place players on teams based on skill and ability. All players shall be grouped at the appropriate level based on their skill and ability through evaluation of their skills, which are performed during typical program activities such as games or practices.

Under no circumstances shall Minor Hockey Associations “cut” or release players from levels or teams. Minor Hockey Associations must carefully consider all aspects of the player’s skill, ability, social maturity, physical maturity, capability to compete successfully, and any other factor prior to advancing a player to the next level so as to ensure that the player continues to develop and have fun and thereby eliminating any need to release the player back to a lower level. All movement of the player within the U9 program shall be progressive.

U9 players are not permitted to register for programming in another association unless approved by the Regional Director and Conference Coordinator.

19.9 Player Assessment And Evaluation

The assessment of players throughout the season shall be conducted in a fair and objective manner at all times. Minor Hockey Associations are strongly encouraged to implement structured evaluation methods and processes to ensure that all players are treated fairly and are placed at the most appropriate level and learning environment at all times.

The assessment of players shall be done internally at the Minor Hockey Association level in consultation with the U9 Program coaches, administrators, association coaching coordinator, coach mentor coordinator, and approved by the Minor Hockey Association.

Any assessment or evaluation of any player shall not be conducted in a tryout environment. Such evaluation should be conducted while the player is permitted to function within the normal program activities such as games or practices.

19.10 Tournaments

Any tournament in which a U9 team participates must be within Nova Scotia and no U9 team shall be permitted to compete in any activity outside of Hockey Nova Scotia’s jurisdiction or Nova Scotia. Tournaments for the U9 level may not include the retention and posting of statistics, the selection of all-star teams or awards, the selection of MVPs or awards, and shall not include Championship games or any other format that declares a winner.

19.11 Player Age Advancement

As specified per HNS Regulation [3.9](#), at the discretion of the Minor Hockey Association and with approval of Hockey Nova Scotia Minor Council, a highly skilled player within the U9 Program may be placed in the U11 division with the consent of their parent(s) or guardians. For any movement of players from the U9 Program to the U11 level, the following process must be followed:

1. Parents of the player to be considered for advancement must apply in writing to their respective Minor Hockey Association, by September 1, to request that the player be considered for advancement.

2. Only players that are eight years of age and who have been competing in Level 3 – Advancing, or as approved by the regional director, are eligible to be moved to the higher level and this player must make the U11 team at the highest level offered in that Minor Hockey Association. If the player does not make this team, they must play in the U9 Program in their home association for that year.
3. If the Member Minor Hockey Association decides to consider such a request, it must form an evaluation committee of not less than four members. Committee members must be fully certified to coach as per “Hockey Nova Scotia Regulation [8](#), Certification Requirements”, and who have at least three years’ experience in coaching. Committee members, being unbiased, shall not be associated in any way to the associations’ U7 Program. One member shall be the coach of the U11 team to whom this player may advance. The committee and its members shall be approved by the Hockey Nova Scotia Minor Council upon formation and prior to any evaluations is conducted.
4. The approved committee shall evaluate the player in question to determine if the player possesses the skill and ability to compete at the higher level with a high probability of success. The committee shall also consider the social, physical and skill development impact upon the player before making such a decision. The committee shall submit its findings and recommendation in writing to the Minor Hockey Association President.
5. If the Minor Hockey Association finds that the circumstances of such a request are warranted, the Minor Hockey Association President shall submit the findings and recommendation to the Regional Director for written approval.
6. Minor Hockey Associations must ensure that once the player is advanced so that they are not released back to a lower category U11 team. However the player may be returned to the U9 division.

19.12 Travel

Minor Hockey Associations and teams wishing to travel outside of the region in which their Minor Hockey Association resides for the purposes of playing exhibition scrimmages or attending tournaments/jamborees, must have the prior approval of their Minor Hockey Association and their Regional Director. Not all Minor Hockey Association have all of the U9 levels of team classification so for relegation and classification purposes; with approval from both the Regional Director and Conference Coordinator; teams would be approved to play exhibition scrimmages to make classification determinations. The region of travel allowed for U9 program scrimmages of any kind is to be determined by the Regional Director and is not intended to be allowed for province wide travel. Travel permits are required for all scrimmages and U9 programs are only permitted two travel permits outside of their zone. U9 programs are not to exceed the games caps established in Regulation [2.21](#) for any reason.

Minor Hockey Associations or teams that fail to obtain such approval prior to any such activity shall be sanctioned as described in paragraph. 19.14, Sanctions

19.13 Certification

All coaches, including assistants, involved at the seven-eight year age group shall be certified in the four-hour Intro Coach Program Clinic as offered annually by Hockey Nova Scotia. Coaches who fail to obtain the necessary certification will not be permitted to

participate in any Hockey Nova Scotia U9 Program activity including games or practices for any team.

19.14 Sanctions

Hockey Nova Scotia, as the governing body for Minor Hockey within Nova Scotia may, through their Minor Council, impose sanctions on Minor Hockey Associations, teams and/or members who do not abide by the regulations established for the U9 Program. Any sanctions will be based on the severity of any infraction and the ranges of response, in no specific order, may vary to include written reprimand; suspension of the coach or coaches; suspension of the team; withdrawal of travel permits and/or approvals for future activities; and/or revocation of membership rights of the coach, team and/or association.

19.15 U9 General Information

1. Every individual game at every Level of U9 is to be calculated into the individual Players', as well as the individual Teams', game cap and ratio of practices to games. This will be monitored by Minor Council and sanctions imposed for non - compliance.
2. U9 Players may play within their home MHA at the recreational level after the Player Evaluation and Level Assignment to each player. However, the intent is for these Recreational Teams to have parity with each other within the MHA, and for these Recreational Teams to have as fair an assortment as possible.
3. Developmental, Intermediate, and Advancing Level Players. Also, so as to provide specific, skill-based instruction pertinent to each Level, MHAs are strongly encouraged to have the various Levels participate in segregated practices with practices and games of their 'Level' Team taking precedence over the 'Recreational' Team.
4. At every Level, U9 Games shall not have posted scores, keep statistics, select All-Stars or MVPs, or present Awards pertinent to any of these, or other, individual skills assessments which indicate the preference of one child over another.

Elite Hockey

20.1 Major U18:

A player's eligibility is based on age and residency as defined within Hockey Nova Scotia Regulations. As further definition for active Major U18 players, the following residency regulations shall apply:

- Cape Breton Mitsubishi Rush - Cape Breton Region as defined by HNS Regulation [15.8](#) (17.a.i).
- Cape Breton Islanders - Strait Region as defined by HNS Regulation [15.8](#) (17.a.ii) plus areas inclusive of the Antigonish Minor Hockey Association and Canso Minor Hockey Association commencing with the 2012/13 season.
- Weeks Major U18s - Highland Region and Fundy Region as defined by HNS Regulation [15.8](#) (17.a.iii and iv) excluding the area within the boundaries of Antigonish Minor Hockey Association and Canso Minor Hockey Association commencing with the 2012/13 season.
- Halifax - Halifax East, Halifax West and Dartmouth Regions as defined by HNS Regulation [15.8](#) (17.b.i to iii).
- Dartmouth - Halifax East, Halifax West and Dartmouth Regions as defined by HNS Regulation [15.8](#) (17.b.i to iii).
- Cole Harbour - Halifax East, Halifax West and Dartmouth Regions as defined by HNS Regulation [15.8](#) (17.b.i to iii).
- South Shore Mustangs - Western Region as defined by HNS Regulation [15.8](#) (17.b.iv).
- Valley Wildcats - Nova Region as defined by HNS Regulation [15.8](#) (17.b.v).
 - a. Evaluation camps for eligible players from their respective Regions as defined in Regulation [20.1](#), after the U15 AAA Atlantic Championship has been conducted and the NSMBHL season has ended. Spring player evaluation camps may not be conducted before April 15th or after May 30th. All participants shall be registered on a player roster that must be filed with the League Secretary who shall forward a copy to HNS Coordinator Member Services and HNS Chair Elite Hockey.
 - b. Player Selection Camps:

Major U18 teams are permitted to conduct player selection camps for eligible players and any released players that are eligible, commencing August 1st. All participants shall be registered on a player roster that must be filed with the League Secretary, who shall forward a copy to HNS Coordinator Member Services and HNS Chair Elite Hockey. Players who are not selected and signed are considered released and may be permitted to tryout with another Major U18 team in accordance with Regulation [20.1](#)(d).
 - c. Player Release

1. U18 aged players released by a Major U18 team in the Halifax/Dartmouth Regions may try out for either of the other two Major U18 teams in the Halifax/Dartmouth Regions.
2. Players released by all three Major U18 teams in the Halifax/Dartmouth Regions may try out for the South Shore Mustangs or Valley Wildcats with written request from the League President going to the HNS Coordinator Member Services and Chair Elite Hockey for approval.
3. Players from the Western Region released by the South Shore Mustangs Major U18 team may try out for any Major U18 team in the South Conference with written request from the League President going to the HNS Coordinator Member Services and Chair Elite Hockey for approval.
4. Players from the Nova Region released by the Valley Wildcats Major U18 team may try out for any Major U18 team in the South Conference with written request from the League President going to the HNS Coordinator Member Services and Chair Elite Hockey for approval.
5. Players from the Fundy Region released by Weeks Major U18 team may try out for any Major U18 team in the North Conference or any of the three Major U18 teams in the Halifax/Dartmouth Regions with written request from the League President going to the HNS Coordinator Member Services and Chair Elite Hockey for approval.
6. Players from the Highland Region released by Weeks Major U18 team may try out for any Major U18 team in the North Conference with written request from the League President going to the HNS Coordinator Member Services and Chair Elite Hockey for approval.
7. Players from the Strait Region released by the Cape Breton Islanders Major U18 team may try out for any Major U18 team in the North Conference with written request from the League going to the HNS Coordinator Member Services and Chair Elite Hockey for approval.
8. Players from the Cape Breton Region released by Cape Breton Mitsubishi Rush team may try out for any team in the North Conference with written request from the League President going to the HNS Coordinator Member Services and Chair Elite Hockey for approval.
9. Players released by all teams in their respective conference where they reside may apply to NSMMHL for approval to try - out for teams in other conferences. 20.1(e).

d. Player Registration

Major U18 teams are required to pay for twenty-five (25) players and five (5) bench staff per team to register on the Hockey Canada Registry.

Major U18 teams are permitted to sign twenty (20) players from those eligible or approved released players.

Players are not permitted to play in any regular season league game until they have been signed and approved by the NSMMHL Registrar, HNS Coordinator Member Services and Chair Elite Hockey. The HCR will be unlocked and available for team

registration on August 1st. Additional bench staff registrations may be purchased as required. Any unused player registrations may be returned for refund provided they are returned no later than January 31.

e. Registered Player Release

Registered players aged 15 may not be released to a lower division team after October 31st unless written permission is granted by the League President and approved by the HNS Chair Elite Hockey.

Registered players aged 16 and 17 may not be released to a lower division team after December 15th unless written permission is granted by the League President and approved by the HNS Chair Elite Hockey.

f. Affiliation

U18 Major teams are permitted to sign thirteen (13) Special Affiliation Agreements, of whom three (3) must be goalkeepers. The goalkeepers will include, 1 - U15 Major - 2nd year, 1 - U16AAA and 1 - U18AA. If there is no U15 Major, 2nd year goalie available then another U16AAA or U18AA goalie will be acceptable. The players (other than goalies) permitted to affiliate with U18 Major teams will include U16AAA, U18 AA and one (1) U15 Major - 2nd year player providing they meet the same criteria as all other affiliated players. The U15 Major second year player is only affiliated to the team until January 1 and after that date the player is not to take part in U18 Major games. The signing of the Special Affiliation Agreements must be completed by January 15th. Special affiliated players are not permitted to participate with the U18 Major team until their player certificate has been approved by HNS Chair Elite Hockey. The HNS Chair Elite Hockey approval will not be provided until written consent by both teams involved in the affiliation agreement is filed within the HC Registry, HNS Coordinator and HNS Chair Elite Hockey. Should a team require the use of special affiliated players prior to HNS approval; the team shall request permission from the League President who shall coordinate the approval with the HNS Chair Elite Hockey who shall determine the status of the affiliated player. Prior to using any approved special affiliated player, the U18 Major team must obtain permission in writing from the team with which the affiliated player is registered. For this purpose, 'in writing' may be interpreted as an original email or facsimile.

20.2 Major U15:

a. Regional Teams

Twelve regional areas are designated by HNS to offer a Major U15 program. These areas consist of:

- Region 1: The area comprised of the Cape Breton Region as defined by HNS Regulation [15.8](#) (17.a.i).
- Region 2: The area comprised of Strait Region as defined by HNS Regulation [15.8](#) (17.a.ii) plus the areas inclusive of the Antigonish Minor Hockey Association and Canso Minor Hockey Association.
- Region 3: The area comprised of the Pictou County Minor Hockey Association.

- Region 4: The area comprised of the Fundy Region as defined by HNS Regulation [15.8](#) (17.a.iv).
- Region 5: The area comprised of Cole Harbour Bel Ayr Minor Hockey Association and Eastern Shore Minor Hockey Association.
- Region 6: The area comprised of the Dartmouth Whalers Minor Hockey Association.
- Region 7: The area comprised of the Bedford Minor Hockey Association.
- Region 8: The area comprised of the Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association.
- Region 9: The areas comprised of the TASA Minor Hockey Association and Chebucto Minor Hockey Association.
- Region 10: The areas comprised of the Sackville Minor Hockey Association and East Hants Minor Hockey Association.
- Region 11: Western Region as defined by HNS Regulation [15.8](#) (17.b.iv) and Clare / Digby MHA.
- Region 12: Western Valley; Acadia MHA; West Hants MHA as defined by Hockey Regulation [15.8](#)(17.b.iv).

b. Member Teams

The twelve (12) teams shall be awarded a franchise by HNS for a term of two (2) years. By no later than January 31st, during the year in which the term expires, teams must notify HNS of their intention to re-apply for an extension of the term. The granting of an extension of the term shall be at the sole discretion of HNS.

c. Player Registration

Major U15 teams are required to pay for twenty-five (25) players and five (5) bench staff per team to register on the HCR.

Major U15 teams must sign a minimum of 17 players, including two goaltenders. Players are not permitted to play in any regular season league game until they have been signed and approved by the NSMBHL Registrar, HNS Manager Member Services and HNS Chair Elite Hockey.

The HCR will be unlocked and available for team registration on August 1st. Additional bench staff registrations may be purchased as required. Any unused player registrations may be returned for refund provided they are returned no later than January 31st.

d. Residency

Players must try out for the team within the Region in which the player resides. Should a player not be selected to the team within their Region, they shall have the option of trying out for one additional team in any of the other Regions as outlined in 20.2 (a).

e. Eligibility

Players must be of U15 age (nominal ages of 13 and 14) as defined by HNS Regulation [3.1](#). Underage players will not be eligible unless approved by the HNS Chair Elite Hockey, under guidelines as established in the HNS Process for Consideration of Exceptional 12-Year-Old Male Hockey Player Status.

f. Spring Player Evaluation Camps

Teams are permitted to conduct player evaluation camps for eligible players from the respective Regions as defined in Regulation [20.2a](#). The camps must not commence before fourteen (14) days after the Atlantic Championships for both U11 and U15, and must be completed by May 31st all participants shall be registered on a roster that must be filed with the League Secretary who shall forward a copy to HNS Manager Member Services and HNS Chair Elite Hockey.

g. Player Selection Camps

Teams are permitted to conduct player selection camps for eligible players and any released players that are eligible, commencing no earlier than August 15th and must be concluded no later than September 10th of each season. All participants shall be registered on a roster that must be filed with the League Secretary, who shall forward a copy to HNS Coordinator Member Services and HNS Chair Elite Hockey. Players who are not selected and signed by September 1st of each year are considered released and may be permitted to tryout with another team in accordance with Regulation [20.2\(d\)](#).

h. Affiliation

Teams are permitted to sign ten (10) Special Affiliation Agreements of whom one (1) must be a goalkeeper, with eligible players who reside within the selecting team's Region, as set forth in Regulation [20.2\(a\)](#). Selected players must be active players on a registered U15 team, within the selecting team's Region. HNS Regulation Four – Residency, and more specifically Sections 4.5 and 4.12 will apply to all affiliates. Special affiliated players are not permitted to participate for the selecting team until their player certificate has been approved by the HNS Chair Elite Hockey. Approval will not be provided until written consent by both teams involved in the affiliation agreement is filed with the HNS Manager Member Services and HNS Chair Elite Hockey. Should a team require the use of special affiliated players prior to HNS approval; the team shall request permission from the League President who shall coordinate the approval with the HNS Chair Elite Hockey who shall determine the status of the affiliated player. The signing of the Special Affiliation Agreements must be completed by January 15th. Prior to using any approved special affiliate player, the Major U15 team must obtain permission in writing from the team with which the affiliated player is registered. For this purpose, 'in writing' may be interpreted as an original email or facsimile.

20.3 Minor U16 AAA:

a. Regional Teams

The NSMMAAAHL consists of eight (8) regionalized teams located in the following regions or as otherwise prescribed by Hockey Nova Scotia. These areas consist of:

- Region 1: Dartmouth MHA, Cole Harbour Bel Ayr MHA, Eastern Shore MHA
- Region 2: Sackville MHA, East Hants MHA
- Region 3: Bedford MHA, Halifax MHA
- Region 4: TASA MHA, Chebucto MHA, Chester MHA, South Shore MHA
- Region 5: Acadia MHA, West Hants MHA, Western Valley MHA, Yarmouth MHA, Clare-Digby MHA, Shelburne, MHA

- Region 6: Pictou County MHA, Cumberland County MHA, Truro MHA, Tatamagouche MHA, Parrsboro MHA, South Colchester MHA and West Colchester MHA
- Region 7: Sydney MHA, Glace Bay MHA, New Waterford MHA, Cape Breton County MHA and Northside District MHA
- Region 8: Antigonish MHA, Canso MHA, Strait/Richmond MHA and Cape Breton West MHA

b. Member Teams

The eight teams shall be awarded a franchise by HNS for a term of two years. By no later than January 31st, during the year in which the term expires, teams must notify HNS of their intention to re-apply for an extension of term. The granting of an extension of term shall be at the sole discretion of HNS. As part of the extension, teams are required to submit team financial statements annually to the League President and HNS Chair Elite Hockey by July 31 of each year.

c. Player Registration

Minor U16 AAA teams are required to pay for 20 players and five bench staff per team to register on the HCR. Minor U16 AAA teams must sign a minimum of 17 players including two goaltenders. Players are not permitted to play in any regular season league game until they have been signed and approved by the NSMMAAHL Registrar, HNS Manager Member Services and HNS Chair Elite Hockey. The HCR will be unlocked and available for team registration on August 1st. Additional bench staff registrations may be purchased as required. Any unused player registrations may be returned for refund provided they are returned no later than January 31st.

d. Residency

Players must try out for the team within the Region in which the player resides. Should a player not be selected to the team within their Region, the released players may try out for any other league team with no limitation on how many other teams they may try out for however they are only permitted to try out for one team at a time. The Nova Scotia Minor U16 AAA hockey league is designed primarily for the 15-year-old, first-year U16 hockey player. To ensure competitive balance and to foster the development aspect of the league, the following are the rules regarding player eligibility:

THE LEAGUE IS OPEN TO ALL PLAYERS

- Who are 15 years of age prior to December 31 of the current playing year.
- All players who turn 16 years of age between the months of September and December of the current playing year.
- In addition, each team may sign a maximum of five (5) players who are 16 years old between January and August of the current playing year one of which has to be a goaltender.

e. Spring Player Evaluation Camps

Teams are permitted to conduct player evaluation camps for eligible players from the respective Regions as defined in Regulation [20.3\(a\)](#). The camps must not commence before 14 days after the Atlantic Championships for U15 and must be completed by May 31st all participants shall be registered on a roster that must be filed with the

League Secretary who shall forward a copy to the HNS Manager Member Services and HNS Chair Elite Hockey.

f. Player Selection Camps

Teams are permitted to conduct player selection camps for eligible players and any released players that are eligible, commencing no earlier than August 25th and must be concluded no later than September 20th of each season. All participants shall be registered on a roster that must be filed with the League Secretary, who shall forward a copy to HNS Coordinator Member Services and HNS Chair Elite Hockey. Players (teams to sign a minimum of 15 skaters and 1 goaltender) who are not selected and signed by September 17th of each year are eligible to be released upon player request and may be permitted to tryout with another team in accordance with Regulation [20.3\(c\)](#). Final team rosters must be filed by October 17th with the League Secretary, who shall forward a copy to the HNS Manager Member Services and HNS Chair Elite Hockey.

g. Affiliation

Teams are permitted to sign six (6) Special Affiliation Agreements of whom one (1) must be a goalkeeper, with eligible players who reside within the selecting team's Region, as set forth in Regulation [20.3\(a\)](#). Selected players must be active players on a registered Major U15 team, U15 AA (second year players), U18 AA and U18 A team within the selecting team's Region. HNS Regulation Four - Residency and more specifically Sections 4.5 and 4.12 will apply to all affiliates. Special approval must be given for affiliation of players who reside outside the selecting team's Region, as set forth in Regulation [20.3\(a\)](#). The team within the Region in which the affiliated player resides has first choice to affiliate the player to their own team and if not, then the player qualifies to affiliate for one other Minor U16 AAA team within the League.

Special affiliated players are not permitted to participate for the selecting team until their player certificate has been approved by the HNS Chair Elite Hockey. Approval will not be provided until written consent by both teams involved in the affiliation agreement is filed with the HNS Manager Member Services and HNS Chair Elite Hockey. Should a team require the use of special affiliated players prior to HNS approval; the team shall request permission from the League President who shall coordinate the approval with the HNS Chair Elite Hockey who shall determine the status of the affiliated player. The signing of the Special Affiliation Agreements must be completed by January 15.

Prior to using any approved special affiliate player, the Minor U16 AAA team must obtain permission in writing from the team with which the affiliated player is registered. For this purpose, 'in writing' may be interpreted as an original email, text or facsimile.

Non-Sanctioned Hockey Activity

21.1 Non-Sanctioned Hockey

Participation by HNS member teams in non-sanctioned hockey is not permitted during the designated Hockey Nova Scotia season. No HNS registered team shall play against a non-sanctioned hockey team.

Members of Hockey Nova Scotia who were registered in the previous season and participate in "unsanctioned hockey" are herewith advised that Hockey Nova Scotia will not be responsible for actions emanating from said activities and further, that the medical and liability insurance programs under which all members are protected will be automatically voided.

For the purposes of interpretation, non-sanctioned hockey is any program not approved by Hockey Nova Scotia.

The normal Hockey Nova Scotia hockey season is interpreted to be from September 1st to April 30th of the calendar year, during which all Hockey Nova Scotia and Hockey Canada regulations must be adhered to.

This regulation does not restrict an HNS member player from taking part in the tryout process for a private hockey program; Hockey Nova Scotia and Hockey Canada insurance does not cover the player during that activity.

21.2 Procedure for Reporting

Any complaint against a member participating in a non-sanctioned activity during Hockey Nova Scotia's year, must be in written form and signed by the coach and manager of the team and/or President of the Minor Hockey Association outlining the nature of their complaint. The evidence associated with this complaint shall be forwarded to the Executive Director of Hockey Nova Scotia, who can arrange for a hearing into this allegation.

21.3 Process

Once a complaint has been received by Hockey Nova Scotia there will be an investigation into the complaint. In the event that the President of Hockey Nova Scotia determines that sufficient information has been sent forward to act upon. If sufficient information warrants, a committee shall be struck by the President to hear the complaint.

21.4 Decisions

A player, coach, or other member who plays or practices with another team or organization, while retaining Hockey Nova Scotia membership and is proven to have participated in a non-sanctioned event will be sanctioned through any of the following means:

1. A reprimand.

2. Suspension of playing or coaching privileges from membership for a specified period of time.
3. Have their membership privileges withdrawn.
4. Such other action as the committee deems appropriate.

Conference Play-offs, Day of Champions and Provincial Championship Tournaments

- 22.1** Hockey Nova Scotia through its Minor/Female Council (HNSMC/HNSFC) shall annually facilitate playoffs leading to Provincial Championships in all competitive divisions and classifications above the U9 division.
- 22.2** In order to compete in Provincial Championship tournaments or in any HNS playoffs, a team must register a minimum of 16 players where registration numbers permit, except where Hockey Canada rules apply for Regional and National play. Further, that team must play at least 10 games with registered teams in the same division and be classified by the Regional Directors.
- 22.3** Games required for U15 AA and U18 AA for Provincials. In line with Regulation [2.12](#), leagues with U15 AA and U18 AA teams shall play a balanced schedule within their own league, with a minimum of 10 meaningful games played by each member team. Each member team must also play at least one meaningful game against each other team in the league. In conjunction with Regulation [2.16](#), teams and coaches that do not play all of the league's scheduled games may face discipline, up to and including disqualification from provincial championship play. Seeding for provincials will be based on points percentage over the first 20 scheduled league games, or over all scheduled league games where the league schedules fewer than 20. All league teams must play in the league tournament that determines provincial championship participants, including teams hosting a provincial championship.
- 22.4** A minimum of 11 skaters and one goalie in uniform on the ice and/or players bench, on each team shall be necessary for the start of any provincial playoff game. Any team dressing less than 11 skaters and one goalie will forfeit the game.
- 22.5** Minor Hockey Associations wishing to host Provincial Championship tournaments must make application to their Regional Director by December 1st of the current playing year.
- 22.6** Host Minor Hockey Associations are to ensure that a copy of HNS Rules and Regulations are at the timer's bench for all playoff games.
- 22.7** Only those players who have participated in 10 meaningful Minor games before the beginning of League Provincial Playdowns shall be permitted to compete in provincial playoff games as a player or affiliate.
- 22.8** In all HNS games, any team found to be playing with illegal players the win will be given to the non-offending team. The Coach or Team Official will be under indefinite suspension, until dealt with by the HNSMC Executive. No protest fee will be required.

For suspensions during HNS Playoffs, to be considered meaningful games, they must be scheduled League games, sanctioned Tournament games and/or Playoff games. These games must be pre-approved games by the Regional Director. Exhibition games are not

permitted.

- 22.9** One,30-second time out per team will be permitted in each HNS Playoff game, including overtime.
- 22.10** All HNS registered teams competing for provincial Championships must play all scheduled games unless otherwise approved by the HNSMC Regional Director or Conference Coordinator. As well, all teams must play in their League play-off tournament that leads to Qualifying for Provincial Championships. This includes teams that may be hosting the HNS Provincial Championship Tournament. Failure to comply will result in sanctions against the team or the Minor Hockey Association.
- 22.11** No game involving a team that must travel more than 100 km (distance between home rinks) shall start before 12 noon unless mutually agreed upon by both teams involved. This does not apply to the Hockey Nova Scotia Day of Champions event.
- 22.12** In divisions of U11 hockey and below, no game will be scheduled after 6:00 p.m. unless mutually agreed upon by both teams involved.
- 22.13** The home team will advise their Regional Director, by telephone or email, of the outcome of all playoff games and will forward the original game sheet to the Regional Director within 48 hours.
- 22.14** Games shall consist of three, 15-minute stop time periods, with ice resurfacing between the second and third periods.
- 22.15** IN PROVINCIAL PLAYOFF GAMES WHERE A WINNER MUST BE DECLARED, THE FOLLOWING OVERTIME FORMAT MUST BE FOLLOWED:
- Overtime period one: Should a game end in a tie at the end of regulation play, there will be one (1) five-minute, five-on-five sudden victory period. There will be a two (2) - minute break at the conclusion of regulation play. Teams will not change ends.
- Overtime period two: Should a game end in a tie at the end of the first overtime period, there will be one (1) five-minute, four-on-four sudden victory period. There will be a two (2) - minute break at the conclusion of the first overtime. Teams will not change ends.
- Shootout: Should a game remain tied after overtime, there will be a three-player shootout with the home team shooting first. Each team selects their own three (3) shooters.
- If still tied after the first three rounds, the shootout continues one (1) player at a time per team, moving through the roster until a winner is declared. After eleven (11) players on each team (including the original three shooters) have shot, teams may then use a shooter again going through the same process.
- Each team will be permitted one (1) timeout for the game, including overtime.
- 22.16** In the event of difficulty in scheduling playoff games, the teams involved may refer their problem to the Regional Director(s) and or the Conference Coordinator for a ruling. Any team declining to play as per the Director's/Conference Coordinator's ruling shall forfeit the series.
- 22.17** The host MHA or Zone must supply minor officials, including scorekeepers and timekeepers (no goal judges).

HNSMC PLAYOFF FORMAT

22.18 HNSMC will each year establish a Playoff Format that will include all registered teams in all Divisions and Categories within HNS minor hockey. This format will be established in early December each year after HNSMC has completed the final Classification and Categorization of all teams.

22.19 The HNSMC Playoff Format will include all teams, those involved in Leagues as well as all other teams. The Format will establish firm deadlines for the completion of all playoff games and series. This annual Playoff Format will be distributed to all MHAS and HNS stakeholders as early in December as possible.

HNSMC DAY OF CHAMPIONS (DoC)

22.20 At the conclusion of each hockey season Hockey Nova Scotia will host a Day of Champions event to declare Provincial Champions in the following HNSMC Divisions and Categories: U11 AA, A, and B; U13 AA, A and B; U15 A and B; U18 A and B.

22.21 At the Day of Champions, the teams involved will be determined by HNS Minor Council according to the team distribution across the province for each division of play.

22.22 HNSMC will establish a playoff format leading to the Day of Champions event. This format will be distributed to all Minor Hockey Associations in early December of each hockey season, this will be completed following the final Classification of all teams within the jurisdiction of HNSMC.

22.23 The games played during the DoC will be Championships consisting of one game, with the winner being declared the Provincial Champion. The HNS Provincial banner and plaque will be presented, as well as gold and silver medals.

22.24 The Rules and Regulations for the DoC games will be those outlined for the Championship games in HNS Regulation 23.

22.25 The home teams in the DoC games will alternate each year, for 2014 - 15 the team furthest west will be the home team. For the 2015 - 16 season, it will be the team furthest east geographically.

22.26 The site of the HNS DoC will be established as early in the hockey season as possible. This information will then be distributed to all Minor Hockey Associations and teams.

Provincial Championship Tournaments (U18 AA)

- 23.1** Teams competing in Provincial Championship tournaments shall be the four (4) Inter-Regional Conference winners plus the host team.
- 23.2** The format and schedule for Provincial Championship tournaments is established annually by the Executive of the HNSMC and is the responsibility of HNS. Neither format nor schedule may be changed without the prior written permission of the HNSMC Chair or designate. All games must be played as scheduled, regardless of whether or not they have a bearing on the outcome of the tournament.
- 23.3** The tournament format is single round robin with a Championship game.
- 23.4** The tournament schedule is as follows (five teams), with the last named team being designated as the home team:

FRIDAY	
11:00 am	1 vs 2
1:00 pm	3 vs 4
3:00 pm	2 vs 5
5:00 pm	4 vs 1
7:00 pm	5 vs 3
SATURDAY	
8:30 am	5 vs 1
10:30 am	2 vs 4
12:30 pm	1 vs 3
2:30 pm	Skills Competition
4:00 pm	4 vs 5
6:00 pm	3 vs 2
SUNDAY	
11:00 am	Championship Game (2nd vs 1st)

The team that finished higher in tournament play will be the home team. Team Placement:

- Team 1 will be the host team.
- The distance teams are located from the host city will determine teams 2 through 5.
- Closer teams will receive a higher placement.

d. This is to allow teams from further away time to travel to the tournament.

23.5 Games shall consist of three, 15 - minute stop time periods, with ice resurfacing between the second and third periods.

23.6 For round robin play, if a game is tied at the end of regulation time, teams shall have a two (2) - minute rest without leaving the ice, not change ends, and commence one, five(5) - minute stop - time, sudden victory period. If teams remain tied after the Overtime period, each team will receive one point.

23.7 IN PROVINCIAL PLAYOFF GAMES WHERE A WINNER MUST BE DECLARED, THE FOLLOWING OVERTIME FORMAT MUST BE FOLLOWED:

Overtime period one: Should a game end in a tie at the end of regulation play, there will be one (1), five (5) - minute, five - on - five sudden victory period. There will be a two (2) - minute break at the conclusion of regulation play. Teams will not change ends.

Overtime period two: Should a game end in a tie at the end of the first overtime period, there will be one (1) five (5) - minute, four - on - four sudden victory period. There will be a two (2) - minute break at the conclusion of the first overtime. Teams will not change ends.

Shootout: A player with time left in a penalty shall not be permitted to participate in a shootout. Should a game remain tied after overtime, there will be a three - player shootout with the home team shooting first. Each team selects their own three shooters. If still tied after the first three rounds, the shootout continues one (1) player at a time per team, moving through the roster until a winner is declared. After eleven (11) players on each team (including the original three shooters) have shot, teams may then use a shooter again going through the same process.

Each team will be permitted one (1) timeout for the game, including overtime.

23.8 Hockey Canada Registry rosters and affiliate player certification must be available and presented upon request. Each team shall designate in writing a maximum of 20 eligible players, regular, affiliated or any combination thereof who will participate in the Championships. This shall be done at the officials meeting and there will be no changes to the list for any reason after the Championships begin.

23.9 The host Minor Hockey Association must supply minor officials, including scorekeepers and timekeepers. The four (4) - person officiating system must be used for all games.

23.10 Failure to present player credentials, to appear for any game as scheduled, or to complete any game, shall result in forfeiture, and possible suspension from further play. Any game forfeited shall carry a score of 5 - 0 against the offending team. Individual records, if any, shall count in the overall statistics.

23.11 Tie Breaking Sequence Two Teams Tied.

If two or more teams are tied at the conclusion of a round robin series, then the following procedure will be used to determine the final ranking before the semi - final and final games are played. In the event that teams are tied for a playoff position, the following procedure will apply: If two teams are tied:

a. The winner of the round robin game between the two tied teams gains the higher position.

- b. The team with the most wins in the round robin gains the higher position.
- c. If the two teams are still tied after 1)a and 1)b have been applied, then the team with the best goal average gains the higher position. The goal average of a team is to be determined in the following manner:

Total number of goals for divided by the total number of goals for and against. NOTE: All round robin games are included.

Example: For = 10 goals Against = 4 goals.

Therefore, Goal Average Percentage = 10 (Goals For) divided by 10+4 (Goals For plus Goals Against) = .714.

NOTE: The higher percentage gains the higher position.

- d. If the two teams are still tied after 1)a, 1)b, and 1)c have been applied, the team with the least number of minutes in penalties throughout all of the round robin games, gains the higher position.
- e. If the two teams are still tied after 1) a., 1) b., 1) c., and 1) d. have been applied, then the team which scored the first goal in the game between the tied teams gains the higher position.
- f. If the two teams are still tied after 1)a, 1)b, 1)c, 1)d, and 1)e have been applied, a single coin toss will determine which team gains the higher position.

Three or More Teams Tied

Note: The three-team tiebreaker is used to determine the seeding of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd seed. If any step in the tiebreaker only seeds one team, that team assumes that position. The three-team tiebreaker will continue to determine the seeding of the two remaining teams. At no time will teams using this formula go back to the two-team tiebreaker.

If three teams or more are tied, the head-to-head record between tied teams will determine who advances. If the tied teams have not all played each other, proceed to 2a. NOTE: All round robin games are included Example: For = 10 goals Against = 4 goals a. The team with the most wins would gain the highest position.

- b. If teams are still tied after 2) a. has been applied, then the team with the best goal average gains the highest position. The goal average of a team is to be determined in the following manner: total number of goals for divided by total number of goals for and against.

Therefore, Goal Average Percentage = 10 (Goals For) divided by 10+4 (Goals For plus Goals Against) = .714.

NOTE: The highest percentage gains the highest position(s).

The exercise of 2)b establishes the team or teams with the highest position(s) by percentage. These teams will advance. If there are still teams tied, they go to the next step. They do not go back to the "Two Team Tiebreaker". Example:

- a. Team A - .714 = 1 seed - Advances. Team B - .500 = 3 seed - Does not advance. Team C - .650 = 2 seed - Advances.
- b. Team A - .714 = 1 seed - Advances. Team B - .500 = Still tied with team C - go to next step 2)c. Team C - .500 = Still tied with team B - go to next step 2)c.

- c. Team A – .650 = Still tied with team B – go to next step 2) c. Team B – .650 = Still tied with team A – go to next step 2)c. Team C – .500 = Does not advance.
- d. If teams are still tied after 2)a, and 2)b, the team with the fewest goals against (all round robin games played) will gain the highest position.
- e. If teams are still tied after 2)a, 2)b, and 2)c, the team with the most goals for (all round robin games played) will gain the highest position.
- f. If teams are still tied after 2)a, 2)b, 2)c, and 2)d, have been applied, the team to qualify would be the team that received the least number of minutes in penalties throughout all the round robin games.
- g. If teams are still tied after 2)a, 2)b, 2)c, 2)d, and 2)e, have been applied, a coin toss shall determine the winner. In a three-team coin toss, the odd team gains the highest position.

23.12 The Chair of the HNSMC shall appoint an officer of the council /League President or Regional Director to hear and rule without delay on any protests or disputes arising during a Provincial Championship tournament. The requirement for a protest fee is waived. However, should a participant wish to appeal a ruling of the appointed officer, the provisions of Regulation [13.12](#) must be met.

23.13 A meeting of tournament officials, coaches and managers, the referee assignor, and a representative of the HNSMC, can be held virtually on the Tuesday evening or two (2) hours before the start of the tournament in person to familiarize all parties with the rules and regulations. All teams must have a representative at this meeting. Final decision on the meeting type will be by majority. Final signed rosters are to be submitted prior to the first game of any team.

23.14 HNS shall provide appropriate individual and team recognition for the winning team. The host Minor Hockey Association will be provided with the official HNS gold, silver and bronze medallions, Championship Banner, Championship Plaque and Fair Play Banner/Plaque to be presented at the conclusion of the tournament. Fair Play banner/plaque to be selected as the “most sporting team”. HNSMC will provide funding to each Provincial host to help offset the cost of hosting. The formula for providing the funding will be determined by HNSMC Executive and announced annually when provincial hosts are selected.

23.15 The host Minor Hockey Association shall provide, as a minimum, 11 trophies as follows: all-star team (six), most valuable player (one), best goalkeeper (one), best defenceman (one), top forward (one), and sportspersonship award (one). The awards plus the bronze medals shall be given out following round robin play. Bronze medals are awarded to the third place finisher in round robin play.

23.16 An awards selection committee shall be appointed by the host Minor Hockey Association. Representatives of this committee shall attend all games to make their selection on ability displayed during the tournament. All teams involved may have representation on the awards selection committee if they request same when forwarding their team information to the organizers.

- 23.17** A tournament report, including income and expenditures, problems encountered, and recommendations shall be submitted to the HNS Regional Director within 15 days of the completion of the tournament. The information will assist Council in assessing the tournaments and providing information to associations planning to host a tournament.
- 23.18** The Host Minor Hockey Association shall conduct a tournament skills competition as a condition of hosting. The skills competition format will be provided annually by Hockey Nova Scotia's Technical Director and shall involve participants from all competing teams. The Host Minor Hockey Association shall also provide awards for each of the skills competition events. A game specified suspended player is allowed to participate in the skills competition. A player under indefinite suspension is not allowed to participate.
- 23.19** One 30-second time out, per team, will be permitted in each game including overtime.

U15 AA Provincial Championship Tournaments

- 24.1** The format and schedule for Provincial Championship tournaments is established annually by the Executive of the HNSMC and is the responsibility of HNS. Neither format nor schedule may be changed without the prior written permission of the HNSMC.

Chair or designate. All games must be played as scheduled, regardless of whether or not they have a bearing on the outcome of the tournament.

- 24.2** The following is the seven-team format to be used in U15 AA Provincials. Teams on the right column of schedule below will be home team.

THURSDAY	
12:00 to 2:00 pm	7 vs 1
2:00 to 4:00 pm	6 vs 2
4:00 to 6:00 pm	5 vs 3
6:00 to 8:00 pm	4 vs 7
FRIDAY	
8:00 to 10:00 am	2 vs 5
10:00 am to 12:00 pm	3 vs 7
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm	6 vs 4
2:00 to 4:00 pm	1 vs 5
4:00 to 6:00 pm	7 vs 2
6:00 to 8:00 pm	3 vs 6
8:00 to 10:00 pm	4 vs 1
SATURDAY	
10:00 am to 12:00 pm	1 vs 6
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm	2 vs 3
2:00 pm	Skills Competition
4:00pm to 6:00 pm	5 vs 4
SUNDAY	
8:30 to 10:30 am	4 vs 1
10:30 am to 12:30 pm	3 vs 2
2:00 pm	Championship Game

The top four teams advance to semi-finals and the two winners advance to the Championship game. Those teams are seeded based on tournament play. The highest seeded team will be the home team. Tournament Format

- a. Each team will play four games as scheduled below, with the top four teams advancing to the final four.
- b. There will be no overtime in round robin play. Overtime will only be used in the semi-finals and Championship games.
- c. The final four will then play semi-finals and be seeded based on their standings in this tournament only. The first-place team will play the fourth-place team in one semi-final and second- and third-place teams will meet in the other semi-final. The highest ranked team in each semi-final will be the home team.

SEEDING

- a. The seven teams will be seeded in ranking from one to seven based on their Possible Points.
PPP = Total Points in League Play
- b. If any teams have the same PPP, the following criteria will be used to break the tie(s):
 - i. Team(s) with the highest winning percentage (wins divided by games played).
 - ii. Still tied: Team(s) with the highest goal ration (goals for divided by goals against).

24.3 Games shall consist of three, 15 - minute stop time periods, with ice resurfacing between the second and third periods.

24.4 IN PROVINCIAL PLAYOFF GAMES WHERE A WINNER MUST BE DECLARED, THE FOLLOWING OVERTIME FORMAT MUST BE FOLLOWED:

Overtime period one: Should a game end in a tie at the end of regulation play, there will be one (1) five (5) - minute, five-on-five sudden victory period. There will be a two (2) - minute break at the conclusion of regulation play. Teams will not change ends.

Overtime period two: Should a game end in a tie at the end of the first overtime period, there will be one (1) five (5) - minute, four-on-four sudden victory period. There will be a two (2) - minute break at the conclusion of the first overtime. Teams will not change ends.

Shootout: Any player with time remaining in a penalty is not permitted to participate in the shootout. Should a game remain tied after overtime, there will be a three-player shootout with the home team shooting first. Each team selects their own three shooters.

- If still tied after the first three rounds, the shootout continues one (1) player at a time per team, moving through the roster until a winner is declared. After eleven (11) players on each team (including the original three shooters) have shot, teams may then use a shooter again going through the same process.

Each team will be permitted one (1) timeout for the game, including overtime.

24.5 Hockey Canada player cards or HNS Team Registration sheets, and affiliate player certification must be available and presented upon request. Each team shall designate in writing a maximum of 20 eligible players, regular, affiliated or any combination thereof who will participate in the Championships. This shall be done at the officials meeting and there will be no changes to the list for any reason after the Championships begin.

- 24.6** The host Minor Hockey Association must supply minor officials, including scorekeepers and timekeepers. The four (4) - person officiating system must be used for all games.
- 24.7** Failure to present player credentials, to appear for any game as scheduled, or to complete any game, shall result in forfeiture, and possible suspension from further play. Any game forfeited shall carry a score of 5 - 0 against the offending team. Individual records, if any, shall count in the overall statistics.

24.8 Tie Breaking Sequence

TWO TEAMS TIED

If two or more teams are tied at the conclusion of a round robin series, then the following procedure will be used to determine the final ranking before the semi-final and final games are played. In the event that teams are tied for a playoff position, the following procedure will apply: If two teams are tied:

- a.** The winner of the round robin game between the two tied teams gains the higher position.
- b.** The team with the most wins in the round robin gains the higher position.
- c.** If the two teams are still tied after 1)a, and 1)b, have been applied, then the team with the best goal average gains the higher position. The goal average of a team is to be determined in the following manner:

Total number of goals for divided by the total number of goals for and against. NOTE: All round robin games are included. Example: For = 10 goals Against = 4 goals Therefore, Goal Average Percentage = 10 (Goals For) divided by 10+4 (Goals For plus Goals Against) = .714

NOTE: The higher percentage gains the higher position.

- d.** If the two teams are still tied after 1)a, 1)b, and 1)c have been applied, the team with the least number of minutes in penalties throughout all of the round robin games, gains the higher position.
- e.** If the two teams are still tied after 1)a, 1)b, 1)c, and 1)d have been applied, then the team which scored the first goal in the game between the tied teams gains the higher position.
- f.** If the two teams are still tied after 1)a, 1)b, 1)c 1)d, and 1)e have been applied, a single coin toss will determine which team gains the higher position.

Three or More Teams Tied

Note: The three-team tiebreaker is used to determine the seeding of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd seed. If any step in the tiebreaker only seeds one (1) team, that team assumes that position. The three-team tiebreaker will continue to determine the seeding of the two (2) remaining teams. At no time will teams using this formula go back to the two (2) - team tie breaker.

If three (3) teams or more are tied, the head-to-head record between tied teams will determine who advances. If the tied teams have not all played each other, proceed to 2a.

- a.** The team with the most wins would gain the highest position.

- b. If teams are still tied after 2)a, has been applied, then the team with the best goal average gains the highest position. The goal average of a team is to be determined in the following manner: total number of goals for divided by total number of goals for and against.

NOTE: All round robin games are included

Example: For = 10 goals Against = 4 goals

Therefore, Goal Average Percentage = 10 (Goals For) divided by 10+4 (Goals For plus Goals Against) = .714 NOTE: The highest percentage gains the highest position(s). The exercise of 2)b. establishes the team or teams with the highest position(s) by percentage. These teams will advance. If there are still teams tied, they go to the next step. They do not go back to the "Two Team Tiebreaker" Example:

- i. Team A - .714 = 1 seed - Advances Team B - .500 = 3 seed - Does not advance Team C - .650 = 2 seed - Advances.
 - ii. Team A - .714 = 1 seed - Advances Team B - .500 = Still tied with team C - go to next step 2)c. Team C - .500 = Still tied with team B - go to next step 2)c.
 - iii. Team A - .650 = Still tied with team B - go to next step 2)c. Team B - .650 = Still tied with team A - go to next step 2)c. Team C - .500 = Does not advance.
- c. If teams are still tied after 2)a, and 2)b. The team with the fewest goals against (all round robin games played) will gain the highest position.
 - d. If teams are still tied after 2)a, 2)b, and 2)c, the team with the most goals for (all round robin games played) will gain the highest position.
 - e. If teams are still tied after 2)a, 2)b, 2)c, and 2)d, have been applied, the team to qualify would be the team that received the least number of minutes in penalties throughout all the round robin games.
 - f. If teams are still tied after 2)a, 2)b, 2)c, 2)d and 2)e have been applied, a coin toss shall determine the winner. In a three (3) - team coin toss, the odd team gains the highest position.

24.9 The Chair of the HNSMC shall appoint an officer/League President or Regional Director (Add) of the Council to hear and rule without delay on any protests or disputes arising during a Provincial Championship tournament. The requirement for a protest fee is waived. However, should a participant wish to appeal a ruling of the appointed officer, the provisions of Regulation [13.12](#) must be met.

24.10 A meeting of tournament officials, coaches and managers, the referee assignor, and a representative of the HNSMC, can be held virtually on the Tuesday evening or two (2) hours before the start of the tournament in person to familiarize all parties with the rules and regulations. All teams must have a representative at this meeting. Final decision on the meeting type will be by majority. Final signed rosters are to be submitted prior to the first game of any team.

- 24.11** HNS shall provide appropriate individual and team recognition for the winning team. The host Minor Hockey Association will be provided with the official HNS gold, silver and bronze medallions, Championship Banner, Championship Plaque and Fair Play Banner/plaque to be presented at the conclusion of the tournament. Fair Play banner/plaque to be selected as the "most sporting team". HNSMC will provide funding to each Provincial host to help offset the cost of hosting. The formula for providing the funding will be determined by HNSMC Executive and announced annually when provincial hosts are selected.
- 24.12** The host Minor Hockey Association shall provide, as a minimum, eleven (11) trophies as follows: all-star team (six), most valuable player (one), best goalkeeper (one), best defenceman (one), top forward (one), and sportspersonship award (one). The awards plus the bronze medals shall be given out after completion of the cross over games. Bronze medals are awarded to the highest seeded team that loses in the semi final round.
- 24.13** An awards selection committee shall be appointed by the host Minor Hockey Association. Representatives of the committee shall be at all games to make their selection on ability displayed during the tournament. All teams involved may have representation on the awards selection committee if they request same when forwarding their team information to the organizers.
- 24.14** A tournament report, including income and expenditures, problems encountered, and recommendations shall be submitted to the HNSMC Chair within fifteen (15) days of the completion of the tournament. The information will assist Council in assessing the tournaments and providing information to Minor Hockey Associations planning to host a tournament.
- 24.15** The Host Minor Hockey Association shall conduct a tournament skills competition as a condition of hosting. The skills competition format will be provided annually by Hockey Nova Scotia's Technical Director and shall involve participants from all competing teams. The Host Minor Hockey Association shall also provide awards for each of the skills competition events. A game specified suspended player is allowed to participate in the skills competition. A player under indefinite suspension is not allowed to participate.
- 24.16** One (1) 30-second time out, per team, will be permitted in each game including overtime.

Code of Discipline

- 25.1** The Hockey Nova Scotia Code of Discipline and Minimum Suspensions is a separate document, the Hockey Nova Scotia Code of Discipline 2026 - 27, published alongside these Regulations at hockeynovascotia.ca. Suspension notices will be forwarded to the local MHA and will include the following directions that are to be provided to the suspended player or coach.
- 1.** The suspended member will not be permitted to participate in any capacity whatsoever in exhibition, jamboree, tournament, league or play-off games until midnight on the Date of Expiry listed below or for the number of games listed below, whichever expires first.
 - 2.** The suspended member may not act in any capacity within the confines of our Association or Affiliated Organizations until midnight on the Date of Expiry listed below or for the number of games listed below, whichever expires first.
 - 3.** Meaningful and approved games - (In addition to Regulation [1.13](#)) 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 their designate. Any games that are added to the schedule after a suspension has occurred, will not count as meaningful games. A game must take place in order to count towards a suspension.

Officials

- 26.1** On-ice officials (referees and/or linesmen) must be registered and in good standing with HNS.
- 26.2** Minor Hockey Associations through their Director of Officiating are responsible for assigning capable officials for all games within their jurisdiction. This should take into consideration maturity and physical capabilities as well as the level of certification held by an official. During inter Minor Hockey Association games on-ice officials shall not be a member of the executive of the Minor Hockey Association of either of the competing teams except by mutual written consent of the head coach of the participating teams.
- 26.3** Referees and linesmen should be appropriately dressed for their role, including black (or dark blue) and white striped sweater, black (or dark blue) pants, and CSA approved hockey helmet, preferably black with a clear plastic half-face shield.
- 26.4** Minor Hockey Associations and leagues may use either the two-man or three-man officiating system for exhibition, league and tournament games within their jurisdiction with the approval of the Regional Director. Does not apply to U18, U16, U15 Major, U15 AA and U13 AAA.
- 26.5** The three-man system (consisting of one (1) referee and two (2) linesmen) must be used for all Regional, Inter-Regional and Provincial playoff games (exception: four (4) officials must be used for U13 AAA, U15 AA, U15 Major, U16 and all U18 excluding C). The referee for these games must have at least Level 3 certification and the linesmen Level 2. If officials with these qualifications are not available, the appropriate authority (Zone Supervisor for Officials, Regional Director, Conference Coordinator, or Chair of Minor/Female) may approve assignment of officials with a lower skill level or the use of the two-man system. No protests will be allowed in this respect.
- 26.6** All hockey at U18 B and above (Minor and Female) must be officiated using four (4) officials. A minimum of three (3) officials must be used for U18 C. It is highly recommended that the four (4) official system also be used at U18 C.
- 26.7** Unless unavoidable, and only if agreed to by coaches in writing, a referee or linesman shall not officiate in any game in which a participant is related in any way.
- 26.8** Officials (referees) shall report all Minor/Female game misconducts, gross misconducts and match penalties which lead to a suspension under the HNS Code of Discipline to the HNSMC Suspensions Coordinator at suspensions@hockeynovascotia.ca

- 26.9** All Minor Hockey Associations, through their President and Director of Officiating, must ensure that officials playing both Minor Hockey and officiating hockey, only referee games up to one division below the level they presently play. (These officials may continue to act as a linesman for games within REGULATION TWENTY-Six: OFFICIALS the division in which they play hockey. EXAMPLE - A U18 player could do lines for any U18 game, but only referee U15 and below.) Associations who find this taxing their officiating resources may make application to the Officiating Committee for exception. We expect applications for exception would only be submitted from smaller Minor Hockey Associations because of their limited resources.
- 26.10** All Minor Hockey Associations, through their Association President, shall appoint or elect a Director of Officiating who is either a registered referee with HNS or retired referee previously registered with the Hockey Canada/HNS officiating system.

Releases and Transfers

- 27.1** Releases only apply to players in the Major U18, Major U15 and Female U18 AAA leagues. There may be unusual circumstances where a player who does not play in one of these leagues needs a release. Such requests along with documentation outlining why a release is necessary must be sent to the Executive Director of HNS. The request with the documentation will be forwarded to the appropriate committee for review and action.
- 27.2** A player desiring to move from a team in their geographical boundaries to another within HNS must first secure a release in writing from the club or team of which they are a member. Such release shall be filed with the HNS Executive Director along with the new registration data. In the event of a team using a player not properly registered, HNS shall have the right to discipline the team as they see fit.
- 27.3** Even though a release has been obtained, the HNS Executive shall have the right, in its discretion, to refuse the release from a team within HNS to another team within HNS.
- 27.4** Where the release of a player is required, it shall be effective only if signed by the President and Secretary or by the designated signing Officers of the team of which the player is a member.
- 27.5** All releases shall be unconditional (subject to Regulation [27.3](#)). A player receiving a release shall have the right to remain with the new team if they wish. If they wish to return to their original team at the end of the playing season to try out for the team for the next season, they have that right. No player receiving a release can be forced to return to their original team. A player that transfers to another team after being released must notify the league registrar of their intent to return to their home association/regional team by April 12th, otherwise they will remain with their current team.
- 27.6** Transfers are for players who do not play in one of the leagues referred to in Regulation [27.1](#) and shall be for no longer than one playing season. At the end of that season, the player automatically returns to their home minor hockey association. A player who wishes to transfer in a subsequent season must re-apply each year. The request, with documentation of the reason, must be forwarded to the appropriate Regional Director. For Minor, the Regional Director will consult the Conference Coordinator; for Female, the Female Regional Director will consult the Chair, Female Council, before a decision is made. The receiving hockey association must have agreed to the transfer.

- 27.7** Player releases from the Nova Scotia U18 Major and U15 Major hockey leagues. The release of a signed player from a U18 Major or U15 Major team is governed by that league's own regulations (U18 Major Player Eligibility Regulation 6.6; U15 Major Regulation 8.3), as amended by the league from time to time. Those regulations set the dates after which a player may not be released to a lower division and the approvals required. A minor hockey association receiving a released player shall confirm the current league rule with the league president before registering the player.

Season note (updated each August by the Chair, Elite Hockey): For 2026-27, U18 Major: players aged 15 may not be released after October 31, and players aged 16 and 17 after December 15, without written permission of the League President approved by the HNS Chair, Elite Hockey. U15 Major: releases only in exceptional circumstances (illness, injury, or a move out of province), with League President approval, before November 30.

U13 AAA Provincial Championship Tournaments

28.1 Play - off Round

At the conclusion of the NSU13AAA League play, there will be a play - off round to determine teams who then advance to a Provincial Championship tournament. (Provincial host will not play in the play - off round).

FORMAT AS FOLLOWS

Wild card Game: Teams 15 and 16 will play a one game play - off to determine who advances to the play - off round as seed number 14. Playoff Round: Lower seed will host game 1. Higher seed will host games 2 and 3 (if necessary). Series will be best 2 out of 3. Each team winning their playoff round will advance to Provincials.

Wild card Team 15 vs Team 16

Playoff round 1 vs 14
 2 vs 13
 3 vs 12
 4 vs 11
 5 vs 10
 6 vs 9
 7 vs 8

If at the conclusion of the NSU13AAAHL Regular Season two or more teams are tied for a play - off position then the HNSMC Executive committee will make a tie breaking decision, the method used to make the decision is in the order as follows;

28.1.1 The team with the highest number of wins during the regular season;

28.1.2 The record of the teams in games against each other, [total points]

28.1.3 If still tied, the higher standing will be determined based on the ratio of total number of goals for divided by the total number of goals for and against to three decimal places. In calculating this ratio only the records of the teams against each other will be considered. The higher ratio will be given the higher standing.

28.1.4 If still tied, the goal spread in games between the tied teams only. [Goals for minus goals against]

28.1.5 If still tied, the team scoring the most goals in the games against each other will finish higher.

28.1.6 If still tied, repeat steps 2 to 4 but include the records of all teams in the league.

28.1.7 If still tied, a single game will be played to determine the highest placed team, at a site to be determined by the HNSMC Executive Committee, each team will share the cost or surplus revenue, whichever is applicable.

28.2 Provincial Tournament

The seven Playoff-winning teams and the host will advance to the HNS Provincial Championship Tournament. They will form two divisions of 4 teams each. Regular season Teams ranked 1, 3, 5 and 7 form division A. Regular season Teams ranked 2, 4, 6, and 8 form division B. (Host team is assigned seed #8).

Each division plays a 3-game round robin within their division. Top two Teams cross over with other division in the Semi Finals, winners proceed to Final. No bronze game played. All games must be played as scheduled, regardless of whether or not they have a bearing on the outcome of the tournament.

Home Teams in round robin are pre-determined in appendix A.

Home Teams for Semi-finals will be seed #1 in each pool.

Home Teams in Gold Medal game will be highest seed or if same, highest seed in Regular season standings will be denoted as Home Team.

28.2.1 Games shall consist of three, 15-minute stop time periods, with ice resurfacing between the second and third periods.

28.2.2 IN U13AAA PROVINCIAL PLAYOFF GAMES WHERE A WINNER MUST BE DECLARED (Semi-Finals and Finals) THE FOLLOWING OVERTIME FORMAT MUST BE FOLLOWED: Overtime period one: Should a game end in a tie at the end of regulation play, there will be one (1) five (5)-minute, five-on-five sudden victory period. There will be a two (2)-minute break at the conclusion of regulation play. Teams will not change ends.

Overtime period two: Should a game end in a tie at the end of the first overtime period, there will be one (1) five (5)-minute, four-on-four sudden victory period. There will be a two (2)-minute break at the conclusion of the first overtime. Teams will not change ends.

Shootout: Any player with time remaining in a penalty is not permitted to participate in the shootout. Should a game remain tied after overtime, there will be a three-player shootout with the home team shooting first. Each team selects their own three shooters.

If still tied after the first three rounds, the shootout continues one (1) player at a time per team, moving through the roster until a winner is declared. After eleven (11) players on each team (including the original three shooters) have shot, teams may then use a shooter again going through the same process.

28.2.3 Each team will be permitted one (1) timeout for the game, including overtime.

28.2.4 Hockey Canada player cards or HNS Team Registration sheets, and affiliate player certification must be available and presented upon request. Each team shall designate in writing a maximum of 20 eligible players, regular, affiliated or any combination thereof who will participate in the Championships. This shall be done at

the officials meeting and there will be no changes to the list for any reason after the Championships begin.

28.2.5 The host Minor Hockey Association must supply minor officials, including scorekeepers and timekeepers. The four (4) -person officiating system must be used for all games.

28.2.6 Failure to present player credentials, to appear for any game as scheduled, or to complete any game, shall result in forfeiture, and possible suspension from further play. Any game forfeited shall carry a score of 5-0 against the offending team. Individual records, if any, shall count in the overall statistics.

28.2.7 Tie Breaking Sequence: Two Teams Tied:

If two or more teams are tied at the conclusion of a round robin series, then the following procedure will be used to determine the final ranking before the semi-final and final games are played. In the event that teams are tied for a playoff position, the following procedure will apply:

- 1.** If two teams are tied:
 - a.** The winner of the round robin game between the two tied teams gains the higher position.
 - b.** The team with the most wins in the round robin gains the higher position.
 - c.** If the two teams are still tied after 1)a, and 1)b, have been applied, then the team with the best goal average gains the higher position. The goal average of a team is to be determined in the following manner:
 Total number of goals for divided by the total number of goals for and against. NOTE: All round robin games are included.
 Example: For = 10 goals Against = 4 goals Therefore, Goal Average Percentage = $10 \text{ (Goals For) divided by } 10+4 \text{ (Goals For plus Goals Against)} = .714$
 NOTE: The higher percentage gains the higher position.
 - d.** If the two teams are still tied after 1)a, 1)b, and 1)c have been applied, the team with the least number of minutes in penalties throughout all of the round robin games, gains the higher position.
 - e.** If the two teams are still tied after 1)a, 1)b, 1)c, and 1)d have been applied, then the team which scored the first goal in the game between the tied teams gains the higher position.
 - f.** If the two teams are still tied after 1)a, 1)b, 1)c 1)d, and 1)e have been applied, a single coin toss will determine which team gains the higher position.

THREE OR MORE TEAMS TIED

Note: The three-team tiebreaker is used to determine the seeding of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd seed. If any step in the tiebreaker only seeds one (1) team, that team assumes that position. The three-team tiebreaker will continue to determine the seeding of the two (2) remaining teams. At no time will teams using this formula go back to the two (2) -team tie breaker.

2. If three (3) teams or more are tied, the head-to-head record between tied teams will determine who advances. If the tied teams have not all played each other, proceed to 2a.
 - a. The team with the most wins would gain the highest position.
 - b. If teams are still tied after 2)a, has been applied, then the team with the best goal average gains the highest position. The goal average of a team is to be determined in the following manner: total number of goals for divided by total number of goals for and against. NOTE: All round robin games are included
 Example: For = 10 goals Against = 4 goals Therefore, Goal Average Percentage = 10 (Goals For) divided by 10+4 (Goals For plus Goals Against) = .714 NOTE: The highest percentage gains the highest position(s). The exercise of 2)b. establishes the team or teams with the highest position(s) by percentage. These teams will advance. If there are still teams tied, they go to the next step. They do not go back to the "Two Team Tiebreaker."
 Example: i. Team A - .714 = 1 seed - Advances Team B - .500 = 3 seed - Does not advance Team C - .650 = 2 seed - Advances.
 ii. Team A - .714 = 1 seed - Advances Team B - .500 = Still tied with team C - go to next step 2)c. Team C - .500 = Still tied with team B - go to next step 2)c.
 iii. Team A - .650 = Still tied with team B - go to next step 2)c. Team B - .650 = Still tied with team A - go to next step 2)c. Team C - .500 = Does not advance.
 - c. If teams are still tied after 2)a, and 2)b. The team with the fewest goals against (all round robin games played) will gain the highest position.
 - d. If teams are still tied after 2)a, 2)b, and 2)c, the team with the most goals for (all round robin games played) will gain the highest position.
 - e. If teams are still tied after 2)a, 2)b, 2)c, and 2)d, have been applied, the team to qualify would be the team that received the least number of minutes in penalties throughout all the round robin games.
 - f. If teams are still tied after 2)a, 2)b, 2)c, 2)d and 2)e have been applied, a coin toss shall determine the winner. In a three (3) - team coin toss, the odd team gains the highest position.

28.3 U13 AAA Provincial Schedule

THURSDAY (12:00 pm - 9:00 pm)	
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm	5 (V) vs. 1 (H)
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	6 (V) vs. 2 (H)
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	7 (V) vs. 3 (H)
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Opening Ceremonies
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	8 (V) vs. 4 (H)
FRIDAY (10:00 am - 8:00 pm)	
10:00 am to 12:00 pm	7 (V) vs. 5 (H)
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm	4 (V) vs. 2 (H)
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	3 (V) vs. 1 (H)
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	8 (V) vs. 6 (H)
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Skills
SATURDAY (10:00 am - 7:00 pm)	
10:00 am to 12:00 pm	2 (V) vs. 8 (H)
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm	1 (V) vs. 7 (H)
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm	5 (V) vs. 3 (H)
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm	6 (V) vs. 4 (H)
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Awards Ice
SUNDAY (9:00 am - 3:00 pm)	
9:00 am to 11:00 am	Semi 1: 1st (H) Pool A vs. 2nd (V) Pool B
9:00 am to 11:00 am	Semi 2: 1st (H) Pool B vs. 2nd (V) Pool A
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Championship Game