

## **House League Policies**

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## **Governance and Scope**

Primary objectives of House League Hockey are enjoyment of the game by all concerned and development of player skills. This policy specifies procedures which the Association feels are necessary to promote these objectives. They will ensure fair and equitable competition while abiding by standards which will meet insurance conditions designed to protect everyone involved with OrilliaMHA. It is strongly recommended that each Coach hold a pre-season meeting with players and parents. This meeting provides an opportunity for the Coach to introduce him or herself, his/her approach to the game and to establish how any problems are to be handled. Balancing of Teams will take place under the direction of the Director of House League and should be completed no later than the 10th of November with the exception of U7 Division which will be completed no later than December 31st.

## **House League Operating Procedures**

All house league hockey shall operate under Hockey Canada playing rules, Ontario Minor Hockey Association and OrilliaMHA rules, with the following additions and enhancements.

1. Only carded team officials, instructors or those volunteers with OrilliaMHA who are registered and on the insurance list at the OrilliaMHA office, will be allowed to participate in on ice activities, or be on the player bench.
2. House league teams may carry a maximum of 16 players at the discretion of the House League Directors, and approval of the OrilliaMHA Board of Directors.
3. OrilliaMHA will cover the cost during the season and playoffs for House League Referee and Timekeepers. All house league exhibition games are to be paid for by the house league teams.
4. No OrilliaMHA ice for practices or games can be used for other activities such as family skates.
5. The insurance only covers OrilliaMHA approved ice time.
6. On-ice helpers who are affiliated with OrilliaMHA must be at least two years older than the players they are helping (minimum age of 9 years). A volunteer 14 years and older must wear certified helmet, skates and gloves. A volunteer under the age of 14 must wear full equipment.
7. The decision of the referee is final. They will not change their decision. If a rostered staff has concerns regarding clarification of a rule, bring the matter to the attention of the referee and allow them to handle the matter. Any disputes regarding game play must go through the Incident Resolution Process and will be forwarded to the Director of Officials and/or the OMHA.
8. There will be a three-minute warm up time set on the clock, by timekeepers, if possible, before each game to allow players the opportunity to stretch and prepare for the game.
9. The goaltender position in OrilliaMHA house league is not a guaranteed position in the U7 to U11 divisions. Teams will be responsible for ensuring that all players that are interested in playing goal have the opportunity to try the position.

## **Parent Respect in Sport Course**

In order for a player to participate in OrilliaMHA, one parent/guardian in the family must complete the online Respect in Sport Parent Program. This is a one-time online course that can be carried from sport to sport. Team rosters cannot be completed and distributed to coaches until the course is completed. The parents must review and acknowledge a document related to Rowan's Law each year.

## **Conveners**

1. Conveners are to ensure games are started on time.
2. Monitor games for fair ice time.
3. Prepare game sheet summary and distribute copies.
4. Be the "Go-to" person for parents with an issue which is not being recognized at the team level
5. Make recommendations and provide feedback the Director of House League when teams are being balanced
6. Observe coach's conduct and referee performance, if necessary; submit a written report to the Director of House League.
7. Ensure coaches and team managers appropriately address all player and coach's suspension where applicable
8. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE WILL THE CONVENOR INTERFERE WITH THE REFEREE'S CONDUCT OF A GAME.**

## **Minimum Players**

If a team cannot dress 6 players by game time, they will default the game and the game will be recorded as a 1-0 victory for the opposing team. The ice time will be used for a practice controlled by the coaches. No referees will be involved. If neither team can dress the minimum number of required players, the game will be declared a 1-1 draw. If the teams within the division agree to share players, the game will continue. The remaining ice time will be used for a practice. On the discretion of the Director of House League a team may dress 2 goalies provided they are given fair ice in the goaltending position.

## **Movement of Players**

A player with ability so significantly in advance of his own age group that the age group equality is threatened may be moved to the next older age group on authority of the Director of House League. A player with ability significantly below this age group, or a player whose size may present a threat to his wellbeing may be placed in the next youngest age group on the authority of the Director of House League. All player movement of this type must be completed by the end of October. All players moved

under the provisions of this section will revert to their original age group prior to commencement of the next season. In the event of a divisional program not being offered players may be placed in other divisions at the discretion of the Director of House League.

### **Coaches/Managers Conduct**

1. The Team Officials of all Orillia minor hockey teams shall assume the responsibility for the conduct of their players and other team officials both on and off the ice.
2. Coaches will endeavor to provide fair ice time to players. Double shifting will not be allowed. Continual non-observance of House League objectives will lead to the suspension of the Coach.
3. Failure to attempt providing equal ice time may result in a warning or suspension by the Director of House League Director. Subsequent violations will result in the offender being subject to further actions by the Incident Resolution Committee.
4. Attendance of a House League Team at a tournament without completion and approval of a Travel Permit will result in suspension of the offending Coach.
5. Regularly scheduled house league games take precedence over any tournament or exhibition games.
6. Team Officials including Coaches must not approach sponsors for financial assistance.
7. Players not wearing approved full equipment will not be allowed on the ice.
8. Coaches have authority to suspend a player from their team in consultation and approval of the Director of House League for continued profanity, abuse of referees, team officials, or their teammates.
9. Potential House League Coaches must complete a Criminal Reference Check to be eligible for a position with OrilliaMHA.

### **Player/Coach Suspensions**

Players/coaches who are under suspension are not permitted in or near the dressing room area pre, during or post game. Players can practice with their teams during this time. The coach must list the suspended player on the game sheet under suspensions and the number of games e.g. 1st game of 2 etc. If an affiliated player is suspended this will carry over to his house league team. Coaches under suspension must also be listed on the game sheet. Ensure that team labels do not extend into the suspension area of the game sheets.

### **OrilliaMHA Website and Scheduling**

The OrilliaMHA website is the official posting of schedules. This is a web-based program that the ice scheduler will load with house league division schedules. Coaches, players and fans can access the program to view game schedules. Special events can be added to the team webpage portion of the site.

## **House League Program Descriptions**

### **Tim Hortons Micro Mytes Hockey (First year skaters)**

This program is skilled based and is the Initiation Program certified through the Ontario Minor Hockey Association. The focus of the program is to develop the players skating as the program progresses through the year. Sticks and pucks are introduced, and puck handling and skill development are worked on. Should registration numbers indicate there is not enough registrations to run the Micro Myte Program, players will be incorporated into the Myte Program.

1. Programs commences after Thanksgiving
2. Program runs twice a week
3. Approximately 50 minutes on the ice each session
4. Program is sponsored by Tim Hortons
5. All players receive jersey and socks
6. Full equipment is required (not supplied) helmet, cage, mouth guard (with tether), neck protector, shoulder pads, elbow pads, gloves, hockey pants, athletic support, shin pads, skates, and hockey stick

### **Tim Hortons Mighty Mytes Division – IP Program**

This program is designed for hockey player's 5/6 years of age. The primary objective of the Myte Program is to teach skills, which will enable participants to move into the Tyke Program and play with some level of confidence and proficiency. The first half of the program will be dedicated to skating alone, initially without sticks, later with sticks, then with sticks and pucks. "Scrimmages" may take place at the end of the season depending on the progression of the group(s) as a whole. Certificates will be awarded to graduates. Three levels of achievement will be accomplished prior to graduation.

1. Program commences after Thanksgiving
2. Program runs twice a week
3. Approximately 50 minutes on the ice each session
4. All players receive jersey and socks
5. Full equipment is required (not supplied) helmet, cage, mouth guard (with tether), neck protector, shoulder pads, elbow pads, gloves, hockey pants, athletic support, shin pads, skates, and hockey stick

## **U7 Division:**

U7 Head Coaches must have Coach 1 certification and Respect in Sport Leader and Gender Identity and Expression Course prior to starting the season with the team or must obtain certification at the earliest available clinic.

The focus on this division will be on skater and coach development. This division will involve first year U7 players.

1. Division will be under the instruction of a Coaching Mentor.
2. Maximum 14 players per team.
3. Players to wear full equipment.
4. Icing will not be called.
5. Offside will not be called.
6. There is no stoppage of play after a goal has been scored.
7. The scoring team must retreat to their end giving the opposition enough time to take control of the puck.
8. Whenever the goaltender freezes the puck – attacking team must retreat to their end, giving the goaltender time to play the puck.
9. Coaches will be responsible for officiating the flow of the game.
10. 3 on 3 program shall encompass the entire season.
11. Coaches should encourage players to try the goaltender position.

**U8 Division:**

U8 Head Coaches must have Coach 1 and Respect in Sport Leader and Gender Identity and Expression Course prior to starting the season with the team or must obtain certification at the earliest available clinic.

All U8 (Minor Novice) will be played at half-ice or a maximum size of 100x85.

1. Division will be under the instruction of a Coaching Mentor.
2. Maximum 14 players per team.
3. Players to wear full equipment.
4. Icing will not be called.
5. Offside will not be called.
6. There is no stoppage of play after a goal has been scored.
7. The scoring team must retreat to their end giving the opposition enough time to take control of the puck.
8. Whenever the goaltender freezes the puck – attacking team must retreat to their end, giving the goaltender time to play the puck.
9. Coaches will be responsible for officiating the flow of the game.
10. 3 on 3 program shall encompass the entire season.
11. Coaches should encourage players to try the goaltender position.

## U9 Division Rules

U9 Coaches must have Coach 2 and Respect in Sport Leader and Gender Identity and Expression Course qualifications to start the season with the team or must obtain certification at the earliest available clinic(s).

All U9 (Novice) will be played at half-ice or a maximum size of 100x85 and can transition to full-ice after January 15th.

The goals and objectives of U9 hockey programming are to:

- Teach all of the basic skills of hockey so players can enjoy the game
- Assist in the development and enhancement of physical literacy and basic motor patterns
- Develop and encourage the concepts of being a team member through player participation in both on-ice and off-ice activities,
- Encourage the aspects of fitness, fair play and co-operation while having fun playing the game.
- Age-Appropriate - Designed practice and game play that is appropriate to the age, size and skill level of the participant

(After January 15)

1. All penalties, icings and offsides will be called from the beginning of the season.
2. 3-10-minute stop time periods with two-minute buzzer.
3. Players may be played in any position during game.
4. There is no body checking.
5. To ensure all players have fair ice time, the coach is required to change his or her entire line except the goaltender at the buzzer.
6. Every player should have the opportunity to participate in power plays and shorthanded.
7. Any player who is assessed three Minor Penalties in a game will be ejected and the third penalty will be served by a player off the ice. In the case of a goaltender receiving three Minor Penalties, there will be no ejection unless the team has another goaltender dressed. The penalties will be reviewed by the Director of House League and the Convener for possible additional suspensions.
8. All Match penalties and game misconducts will be reported to the OMHA Delegate and Regional Executive Member for review.
9. Any abuse of the referees during or after a game will be dealt with in accordance with the playing rules.
10. Any player who receives a fighting major will have the penalty reviewed by the Director of House League and the Convener for possible additional suspensions.
11. Each player is to receive as reasonable a share of ice as possible. The duty remains with every team official to ensure that each player gets a reasonable share of ice time. Failure to do so may result in a



suspension by the Director of House League.

12. Mercy rule in effect, scoreboard to reflect no more than a five-goal differential.

## **U11 Division Rules**

U11 Head Coaches must have Coach 2 and Respect in Sport Leader and Gender Identity and Expression Course certifications prior to starting the season with the team or must obtain certification at the earliest available clinic(s).

According to Hockey Canada

No practices until September 15 th

No games until November 1 st

1. There is no body checking.
2. All games to be 3-10-minute stop periods. No “buzzer”.
3. Players may be played in any position
4. Every player should have the opportunity to participate in power plays and shorthanded.
5. No shortening the bench.
6. Any player who is assessed three Minor Penalties in a game will be ejected and the third penalty will be served by a player off the ice. In the case of a goaltender receiving three Minor Penalties, there will be no ejection unless the team has another goaltender dressed. The penalties will be reviewed by the Director of House League and the Convener for possible additional suspensions.
7. All Match penalties and game misconducts will be reported to the OMHA Delegate and Regional Executive Member for review.
8. Any player receiving a third minor penalty or body checking or 4-minute head contact penalty will receive an automatic game ejection. If the third minor penalty or body checking or 4-minute head contact penalty occurs in the third period, the player will also be assessed a minimum one game suspension.
9. Any abuse of the referees during or after a game will be dealt with in accordance with the playing rules.
10. Any player who receives a fighting major will have the penalty reviewed by the Director of House League and the Convener for possible additional suspensions.
11. Each player to receive as reasonable a share of ice as possible. The duty remains with every team official to ensure that each player gets a reasonable share of ice time. Failure to do so may result in a suspension by the Director of House League.
12. Mercy rule in effect, scoreboard to reflect no more than a five-goal differential.

## **U13/ U15/ U21**

U13 and above coaches must have Coach 2 and Respect in Sport Leader and Gender Identity and Expression Course certifications prior to starting the season with the team or must obtain certification at the earliest available clinic(s).

1. Three 10-minute stop time periods for U13 Division – no buzzer
2. 2 –10 / 1-15-minute stop time periods for U15, U18 & Juvenile – no buzzer  
last 2 minutes of each game “free ice” – team may ice a special line-up, which supersedes “equal ice time” requirements.
3. Every player should have the opportunity to participate in power plays and shorthanded.
4. Any player who is assessed three Minor Penalties in a game will be ejected and the third penalty will be served by a player off the ice. In the case of a goaltender receiving three Minor Penalties, there will be no ejection unless the team has another goaltender dressed. The penalties will be reviewed by the Director of House League and the Convener for possible additional suspensions.
5. All Match penalties and game misconducts will be reported to the OMHA Delegate and Regional Executive Member for review.
6. Any player receiving a third minor penalty or body checking or 4-minute head contact penalty will receive an automatic game ejection. If the third minor penalty or body checking or 4-minute head contact penalty occurs in the third period, the player will also be assessed a minimum one game suspension
7. Any abuse of the referees during or after a game will be dealt with in accordance with the playing rules.
8. Any player who receives a fighting major will have the penalty reviewed by the Director of House League and the Convener for possible additional suspensions.
9. Each player to receive as reasonable a share of ice as possible. The duty remains with every team official to ensure that each player gets a reasonable share of ice time. Failure to do so may result in a suspension by the Director of House League.
10. Mercy rule in effect, scoreboard to reflect no more than a five-goal differential.

## **AFFILIATED PLAYERS (AP) (Tournaments Only)**

OrilliaMHA fully supports the proper use of the AP list. Coaches are asked to regularly communicate with each other to facilitate the process. Coaches are asked to release players to the team that affiliate them if it does not interfere with games or practices of the player's own team. They can affiliate from division below. When no conflict exists with games, practices or injuries/suspensions of the player's own team, the affiliated player must be released to the affiliated teams. The coach of the affiliated player is not to impose any other conditions or use threats of any form to prevent players from playing. Violation of this rule may result in the player's coach being assessed a suspension by the appropriate Director. Any dispute among the coaches regarding the application of the AP rules will be referred to the appropriate Director for a decision.

Players on an AP list are to be used in the following situations:

1. When a regular player is ill.
2. When a regular player is injured.
3. When a regular player is missing for personal reasons.
4. When a regular player is serving a league suspension.
5. Under special circumstances with prior approval by the Director of Representative

Note: Affiliated player rules involving the Representative Division must adhere to the AP rules under Rep Policies.

## **EXHIBITION GAMES AND TOURNAMENTS**

### **House League Coaches**

1. Travel permits are available from the OMHA Delegate.
2. Completed Travel Permits are to be emailed to OMHA Delegate.
3. Teams will not be permitted to play against, practice with or participate in any form or controlled scrimmage with teams not Insured under the OHF insurance policies.
4. Regular scheduled games should not be changed in order to play exhibition or tournament games without the permission of the Director of House League.
5. Any team playing an exhibition game must use an official game sheet and certified officials.
6. A copy of the game sheet must be forwarded to the OMHA Delegate
7. House league teams may not play exhibition or enter tournaments with non-sanctioned teams at any level. Team officials who fail to adhere strictly to this rule may be subject to suspension by the House League Director.
8. House league teams are encouraged to participate in tournaments to a maximum of three per each hockey season. Unless approved by the Board.
9. House league teams must not enter Tournaments where body checking is permitted.

## **TEAM OFFICIALS RESPONSIBILITIES**

Team officials include individuals approved by the board and registered as Head Coach, Trainer, Manager, Assistant Coach, 2nd Assistant Coach or 2nd Assistant Trainer. OrilliaMHA will pay to register these five-carded officials for each team.

1. A Vulnerable Sector Check is required for the first year in a position and every four years thereafter. A Criminal Declaration Form will be required for the years in between.
2. The Vulnerable Sector Check will be kept on file for the four-year time period.
3. The screening person will have the right to approve or disapprove coaching staff based on the parameters given.
4. The screening person may ask all questions necessary to make the proper decision.
5. Please see Vulnerable Sector Check Policy in regards to appealing a decision made by the screening person.
6. All teams and officials should be cognizant of unbecoming conduct and causing damage to the arenas in which they play. Teams or officials who are negligent in this respect may be required to pay damages and/or be suspended from the Association resulting from such misconduct.
7. The policies are to be strictly adhered to by all team officials. The policies are available on the website.
8. Team officials will become familiar with the appropriate Director responsibilities and provide all necessary cooperation.
9. All team officials are expected to support OrilliaMHA in various fundraising endeavors.
10. If any House League team is collecting money or fundraising, they must follow the Fundraising/Finance Policy.
11. When a player requires medical attention other than of the team trainer, the team trainer must complete and send the appropriate injury report to Ontario Minor Hockey Association with a copy to the Hockey Office. A doctor's release is to be provided to the trainer before the player may return to practice or play. A copy of the doctor's release must be given to the OrilliaMHA Office

Amended Feb 7 2023LE