

Each year Hockey Alberta reviews environmental changes and trends from the past season to identify potential regulation changes for the future. As part of this process, recommendations for changes to the Minor Hockey Regulations are also solicited from Member Minor Hockey Associations (MHA's), sanctioned Leagues, and operational committees. Prior to any decisions being made by Hockey Alberta's management, recommendations are evaluated against the Vision, Mission, Core Values, and Strategic Direction of the organization.

These changes are accompanied by an FAQ sheet that provides more detailed examples of how the changes may impact the delivery of hockey within your MHA.

Regulation Amendments

Team Registration: Hockey Teams may register at any one time a maximum of twenty (20) Players.

Hockey Canada has increased the maximum size of a roster, and the maximum number of players that can be dressed for a game to align all levels of hockey at 20.

Team Registration: Minor Hockey Teams can be registered in the Categories of AAA, AA, A, B, C, or D.

To create consistency across the country, Hockey Canada has mandated the use of letters for all categories of hockey within the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR). All Teams will include one of these letters when being created in the HCR. Tiers of hockey will still exist and will be determined by the League that each team plays within.

Discipline: All Participants (Players, Team Officials, and/ or Officials) that incur a suspension must serve that suspension in the same capacity that it was incurred. Suspended Participants can continue to participate in sanctioned game play in another capacity and are not eligible to serve suspended games in another capacity.

To create consistency and clarity for serving suspensions, a suspended Player will now be permitted to continue participating as an Official or Team Official while serving the suspension incurred as a Player, and vice versa. The exception to this regulation is if a Participant is suspended for any 11.4 or 11.5 infraction, they will remain suspended from all types of participation until the suspension is completely served with the Team with which the suspension was incurred.

Minimum Suspensions: Any "Attempt to Injure" penalty where a Match Penalty is called will move from three (3) games to an Indefinite Suspension.

Moving to an indefinite provides the ability to investigate the incident and determine the appropriate suspension as opposed to assuming all infractions are of the same severity and issuing a minimum.

Affiliation: The purpose of affiliation is 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.

This is not new, just re-set and clarified to the original purpose that has been set by Hockey Canada. Any reference to sick, injured or otherwise unavailable players has been removed. Teams will be permitted to dress up the maximum number of players permitted in accordance with playing rules. Guidance for which teams Player can be affiliated from remains within the "Affiliation Supplement".

Overage Players: An Overage Player may be permitted to register with a lower age Division Minor Hockey Team if the Player is only one birth year older than the maximum age for the Division and has a date of birth between November 1 and December 31 of that year. AA and AAA Teams are not eligible to register Overage Players. Eighteen-year-old (18) Players are only eligible for Overage status if they are still enrolled in high school. Exceptions may be considered for entry level Players that have limited skills or if there is not a Team of the appropriate age Division for the Player to register with.

Creating consistency across all divisions and categories, and to eliminate unnecessary administrative work, the regulation has been amended to provide the ability for MHAs to register Overage Players that meet the stated criteria without an application process. Applications can still be submitted for exceptions. If a complaint claims that an Overage Player is strengthening a team, Leagues continue to have the ability to investigate the claims and deem the player ineligible, if necessary.

Tournaments: MHAs that have Teams participate in Tournaments without obtaining proper sanctioning may be subject to a fine of up to \$1,000.

To provide transparency in the potential disciplinary action that could result from a violation of the regulations, the maximum consequence has been outlined within the regulation.

Elite Female Hockey Model:

- The ability for MHAs to use Player Agreement commitments is being changed from five (5) players and one (1) goalie to six (6) players.
- Players who were registered with a U18 Female AAA team in the previous season must declare by May 30 that they wish to return to their current team for the next season.
- Teams can now host Spring ID camps as early as April 1st. Players that have not finished their current season remain ineligible to attend any camp until their season is completely finished.
- The maximum number of first year players that a U18 Female AAA team can register has moved from 5 to 7.
- Each Team within the Elite Female Hockey Model is able to register a maximum of one (1) underage Player, provided the Player is a second-year U15 Player (14 year old), has participated in tryouts with the team, and is otherwise eligible to be registered to the team. Underage Players are not eligible for a second tryout at the accelerated Division.
- The deadline to request expansion or contraction of the number of AA or AAA teams being operated by an MHA is December 1.
- The process for AA and AAA Player Movement applications has been aligned across all levels. The application process will open May 1, and remain open until July 1 for all AA and AAA hockey. Applications received in May will be reviewed in June, and applications made in June will be reviewed in July.

Elite Male Hockey Model:

- Teams can now host Spring ID camps as early as April 1st. Players that have not finished their current season remain ineligible to attend any camp until their season is completely finished.
- The deadline to request expansion or contraction of the number of AAA teams being operated by an MHA is December 1.

- The process for AAA Player Movement applications has been aligned across all levels. The application process will open May 1, and remain open until July 1 for all AAA hockey. Applications received in May will be reviewed in June, and applications made in June will be reviewed in July.
- Host MHAs are permitted to use daytime ice for AAA team practices and/ or supplemental skill development.

AA Hockey Model:

- Teams can now host Spring ID camps as early as April 1st. Players that have not finished their current season remain ineligible to attend any camp until their season is completely finished.
- The deadline to request expansion or contraction of the number of AA teams being operated by an MHA is December 1.
- The process for AA Player Movement applications has been aligned across all levels. The application process will open May 1, and remain open until July 1 for all AA hockey. Applications received in May will be reviewed in June, and applications made in June will be reviewed in July.
- Host MHAs are permitted to use daytime ice for AA team practices and/ or supplemental skill development.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why are teams now being registered as A,B,C,D and does that mean there will only be 4 tiers outside of AAA & AA?

Hockey Canada engaged in a process to create national consistency around team naming and registration within the HCR. Leagues will continue to complete the tiering process, and the total number of tiers operated by each League will continue to be determined by each League. Hockey Alberta and the Leagues will continue to work together to ensure clarity and consistency in the team name, category, and tier to best align with HCR consistency requirements.

2. If a coach is registered with a U11 team and a U13 team, and is suspended while coaching the U11 team, can they still coach the U13 team while serving the suspension with the U11 team?

Yes, that coach must serve their suspension with the U11 team that they received their suspension with and can continue coaching with their U13 team as long as the suspension was not for an 11.4 or 11.5 infraction.

3. Does the change to affiliation mean that a team with 15 registered players could access affiliates to bring their roster size to 20 for a game?

Yes, in accordance with Hockey Canada's defined purpose for affiliation, a team can access affiliates to dress a maximum of 20 players for any game, even if the team has less than 20 registered players. The affiliates must be eligible (in accordance with all Affiliation regulations), properly registered and properly affiliated. To ensure transparency, we recommend that MHAs educate parents and coaches about how and when you want affiliation to be used for your registered teams.

4. A U18 player with a December birthday will be 18 years old this year. Can they register as an overaged player?

Yes, if the player has a birthday between November 1st and December 31st and is registered in high school fulltime they may register for tiered hockey.