

SECTION I – PARA HOCKEY

1. Critical Dates

1.1 **June 30:** To be recognized by Hockey Alberta, a League shall submit its Bylaws and Regulations, and a list of the names and addresses of the officers, no later than June 30 of the current Hockey Season. Any amendments to the Bylaws and Regulations must be filed with and approved by HA prior to implementation.

1.2 **October 1:** Para Clubs must submit their order for Program / Team Registration as required on or before October 1 in each Hockey Season.

1.3 **November 15:**

(a) All Hockey Teams must be properly and duly registered with Hockey Alberta prior to their first League Game or November 15, whichever occurs first. All Players participating on a Hockey Team must be registered in the Registry. Any Hockey Team whose registration is received after November 15 will not be eligible for Provincial competition.

(b) A Hockey Team may only register after November 15 with permission of the CEO, or designate.

(c) The final date to complete all required Team Official certification is November 15 of the current Hockey Season.

1.4 **January 10:**

(a) The final date for Player registration is January 10 of the current Hockey Season.

(b) A Player may be released to another Para Club for which he is eligible to play up to and including January 10.

1.5 **January 15:** All Teams must designate Affiliated Players on the HCR by January 15 at 5:00PM MST.

1.6 **February 10:**

(a) Notwithstanding the above, Players may apply to HA through the HA CEO, or designate, for special permission to register with a Para Club if they or their family have been transferred to another locale by the employer or for any other extenuating reason acceptable to HA up to and including February 10.

(b) Hockey Teams may use Players from an affiliated Hockey Team as per Hockey Canada Regulations. It should be noted, however, that such affiliations must be registered, filed with and endorsed by the CEO, or designate, not later than February 10.

2. Player Registration

2.1 Hockey Alberta governs competition in Para Hockey in various levels, including:

(a) Junior For the **2023-24** season, open to Players of all abilities with a novice skill level, born in **2005** and subsequent years

- (b) Intermediate For the **2023-24** season, open to Player of all abilities with an intermediate skill level, born in **2005** and previous years
 - (c) Senior For the **2023-24** season, open to Players of all abilities with an advanced skill level, and open to **all ages**
- 2.2 Eligibility for competition in Para Hockey includes:
- (a) All players with an impairment that would normally preclude them from playing regular mainstream or competitive hockey are eligible to register in all levels of Para Hockey.
 - (b) An unlimited number of able-bodied players are permitted to register in all levels of Para Hockey.
- 2.3 Every Player competing in the games sanctioned by HA and its Para Clubs shall be a member of a Hockey Team registered with HA and shall, prior to competing in their first League game, be duly registered in the Registry.
- 2.4 A Player's registration in the Registry must include the Player's legal address. In the case of rural Players, both the legal land location and the mailing address must be identified. In the case of urban Players the street address or, if the street address differs from the mailing address, both the street address and the mailing address must be identified.
- 2.5
- (a) A Player applying for the first time for registration with Hockey Alberta shall provide proof of age.
 - (b) Any proof of age shall be an official birth certificate legally recognized by the civil authorities in Alberta.
 - (c) In cases where it is Impossible to secure birth certificates, the CEO (or designate) may, if supporting evidence is considered satisfactory, accept in lieu thereof duly certified baptismal certificates issued before the age of 10 years, or the age at the date of entry into this country as certified by the form filled out at the port of entry or other suitable documents.
 - (d) A minor-aged player applying for registration with Hockey Alberta shall provide proof of completion of the Respect-in-Sport – Parent course. Proof of Respect-in-Sport – Parent shall be indicated by a card number showing on the player's registration in the Registry.
- 2.6
- (a) All Para Clubs must register all their Players in their Para Club. A Player may only be registered on one (1) Team.
 - (b) A Player may only register on one (1) Team (unless released by the Para Club he first signed with prior to January 10). Players signing with more than one Hockey Team without releases are suspended and shall remain suspended until dealt with by the CEO, or designate.
 - (c) No Player may be registered after January 10 in any Hockey Season with any Para Club, unless they receive permission as outlined below.

- (d) Players who move within the borders of the Province after January 10 and up to and including February 10 may apply to the CEO (or designate) for special permission to register with a local member if they or their family have been transferred by employer or for any other extenuating reason acceptable to Hockey Alberta. Such Players are not eligible for Provincials.

2.7 Players wishing to register with a Para Club, other than the Para Club with which they were last registered, must first obtain a release from the Para Club in which the Player was last registered.

3. Program / Team Registration

3.1 (a) All Para Clubs will register all Hockey Teams operating within their Club with the CEO, or designate.

(b) Registration fees in accordance with the 'Fees' section are payable upon application for a Team(s).

3.2 Para Clubs must submit their order for Program / Team Registration as required on or before October 1 in each Hockey Season.

3.3 a) All Hockey Teams must be properly registered with Hockey Alberta in the Registry prior to their first League Game or November 15, whichever occurs first. All Players participating on a Hockey Team must be registered in the Registry. Any Hockey Team whose registration is received after November 15 will not be eligible for Provincials.

b) A Hockey Team may only register after November 15 with permission of the CEO, or designate.

c) Any Para Club found to have permitted a Player and/or Team Official who is not properly registered to that team to participate in a game may be subject to a fine up to a maximum of \$500.00 per violation.

3.4 Hockey Teams and Players will be registered in accordance with Hockey Canada Bylaws and the HA Bylaws and Regulations.

3.5 Hockey Teams will be controlled and operated only by a Para Club and shall not enter into any player contracts or agreements, except with HA and Hockey Canada.

3.6 Team Player allotments in the Registry shall be provided in the following numbers (except where pilot projects otherwise provide):

Junior Not more than 25 allotments

Intermediate Not more than 25 allotments

Senior Not more than 25 allotments

3.7 Number of Registered Players

- (a) All Hockey Teams may register at one time a maximum of twenty-five (25) Players in the Registry. All Hockey Teams may use a maximum of seventeen (17) player in any game (exhibition, league, tournament play or Hockey Alberta sanctioned events).

Exception: A Player who could not otherwise move a para is permitted to play with a pusher in the Junior and Intermediate levels. Each Hockey Team is permitted a maximum of two (2) pushers on the ice at any one time, unless the Hockey Team has an approved exception from the League. Every pusher shall be duly registered in the Registry prior to competing in their first game (exhibition, league, tournament play or Hockey Alberta sanctioned events).

Exception: Teams may be permitted to register, at one time, more than twenty-five (25) Players upon consideration of application to the Para Hockey Committee, in consultation with the CEO; or designate.

- (b) Programs operated by a Para Club do not have a minimum or maximum number of Players that can be registered at any one time.
- (i) Programs may create a Team(s) comprised of a maximum of seventeen (17) players to participate in games (exhibition, league, tournament play or Hockey Alberta sanctioned events).

3.8 Substitute Goalkeeper

Hockey Alberta may allow during any scheduled exhibition, league, provincial or tournament game the use of a goalkeeper from another Hockey Team of equal or lower Level or Category if medical evidence or extenuating circumstance shows that a replacement goalkeeper is required by the Hockey Team concerned. Permission must be obtained from the Para Hockey Committee.

- 3.9 Team Officials participating "on the bench" with any duly registered Hockey Team must be duly registered in the Registry prior to participating with said team.
- 3.10 Team Officials participating "on the bench" with more than one (1) Hockey Team in the same season shall be duly registered with each and every Team of which he/she is a member prior to participating with the respective team(s).
- 3.11 Registered Hockey Teams must not play against unregistered hockey teams at any time. All Team Officials associated with any Hockey Team playing against an unregistered team will be suspended and shall remain suspended until dealt with by the CEO, or designate.

4. Leagues

- 4.1 In order for a League to have Hockey Alberta recognition, it shall submit its League Bylaws and Regulations and a list of the names and addresses of the officers not later than June 30 of the current Hockey Season to the Hockey Alberta office. Any amendments to the Bylaws and Regulations of any such League amending the approved Bylaws and Regulations must be registered with HA and approved prior to implementation.

- 4.2 All Hockey Players playing in a League must be registered with a Para Club.
- 4.3 All games involving League members are deemed to be under the jurisdiction of Hockey Alberta and all Hockey Alberta rules and regulations will apply.
- 4.4 Leagues may make special regulations which differ from Hockey Alberta Regulations provided that these regulations do not contradict Hockey Alberta Regulations and the regulations have been approved by Hockey Alberta.

5. Releases

- 5.1 A Release (as defined in the Definitions section) is available to be issued, via the Standard Release Form, as a method of permanent movement for special circumstances within Para Hockey (ie – conduct).

6. Affiliation

- 6.1 Affiliation must be declared and filed with the CEO, or designate, prior to the affiliated Player being allowed to participate in any game with the Hockey Team to which he is affiliated. Affiliations will be accepted and endorsed by the CEO, or designate, up to and including January 15 at 5:00PM MST of the current Hockey Season.
- 6.2 Affiliation will only be recognized where:
 - (a) Players are added to Teams in the Registry and identified as "Affiliates";
 - (b) the CEO, or designate, acknowledge receipt of and identify said players as approved prior to an affiliate Player participating in any game with the Hockey Team to which he/she is affiliated;
 - (c) the affiliation has been endorsed by the President of the applicable Para Club.

Note: All affiliations shall terminate at the end of the current playing season.

- 6.3 Any Player participating with a Para Club as an affiliated Player without the approval of the CEO, or designate, shall be considered an Ineligible Player and team officials subject to discipline.
- 6.4 A Hockey Team may have affiliated with it up to nineteen (19) Specially Affiliated Players:
 - (a) affiliations must be from a lower Level or Category except where Teams are equal (balanced), the teams MAY affiliate players from another equal team(s).
- 6.5 Affiliations will not be deemed to have taken place automatically without properly filing said affiliation through the Registry.
- 6.6 Affiliated players may participate in practices, tournaments, exhibition games and league games:
 - (a) players can be affiliated from a Para Club within the Province of Alberta for practices, tournaments and exhibition games;
 - (b) players can be affiliated from a Hockey Team within their Para Club for league games.

- 6.7 Providing affiliation has been properly filed, an affiliated Player may play with the Hockey Team to which the Player is affiliated up to a maximum of four (4) games, excluding exhibition and tournament games. Should an affiliated Hockey Player play more than four (4) games with the Hockey Team to which the player is affiliated, he shall be considered an "Ineligible Player". However, if the player's registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before the player's affiliated team, the player may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times.
- 6.8 Appearance of a registered Player's name on the official game report shall be considered participation in the game except in the case of an alternate goalkeeper, in which case actual participation only shall be considered as taking part in the game and such participation shall be specially noted on the official game report.

7. Exhibition Games

- 7.1 Permission must be obtained in writing from Hockey Alberta for all out of province exhibition games or exhibition games with U.S. based Teams. Permission must be granted by the Hockey Alberta office.
- 7.2 Application for permission will only be considered from Para Clubs for Teams that are properly registered with Hockey Alberta.
- 7.3 Permission may not be given to any Para Club for exhibition games with any team or teams which are not registered members of Hockey Canada or U.S. Hockey.
- 7.4 International games, other than games with U.S. Hockey, must have permission granted from Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta.
- 7.5 For exhibition games within Alberta, permission must be granted by the Hockey Alberta office.
- 7.6 Commitments to Hockey Alberta must be met before a team is allowed any exhibition games.
- 7.7 Game sheets must be submitted within 24 hours to the Hockey Alberta office by the Team (submitted to the League for league sanctioned games).

8. Non-Provincial Tournament Rules

- 8.1 Tournaments within Alberta
- (a) No Team shall be permitted to play in any tournament unless it has been given the written permission of Hockey Alberta or its Para Club. In granting such permission, Hockey Alberta and the Para Club agree to impose and enforce any disciplinary actions necessary against its team or members of the Team.
- (b) No Para Club, Team or Player registered with HA shall compete in any tournament unless that tournament has been granted a sanction permit by HA. For tournaments within Alberta involving two (2) or more Hockey Canada Branches, HA shall notify the Hockey Canada office sixty (60) days in advance of any sanction being issued for a tournament.

- (c) Subsequent tournament sanctions may not be issued to any Para Club which has been found to have conducted a sanctioned tournament which has not conformed to those Hockey Canada or HA regulations which apply.
- (d) All Inter-Branch tournaments involving four (4) or more Branches and all International tournaments must be sanctioned by Hockey Canada and HA. An application form must first be submitted by the Para Club requesting the tournament to HA for approval. All applications must be made sixty (60) or more days in advance to the Hockey Alberta Office.
- (e) No Para Club shall accept entries for a sanctioned tournament from any team which is not a registered member of Hockey Alberta or Hockey Canada.
- (f) Para Club tournaments shall give a minimum of two (2) weeks' notice to HA prior to the event.
- (g) Every Player competing in any sanctioned tournament must be registered, in the Registry, with that Team or be affiliated to that team. The Team must produce such registration for inspection at all tournaments.
- (h) The host Para Club will verify the eligibility of all Teams and Players entered in the tournament.
- (i) All Teams must fulfill all prior commitments (i.e. league play, provincial play) or seek readjustment of same. Failing this, the Teams concerned must be prepared to forfeit any further privileges they currently hold.
- (j) When a suspendable offence occurs involving a Player or team in a sanctioned tournament, a copy of the official game report with all necessary supporting evidence shall be forwarded to the Hockey Alberta Office, the Para Club, Player(s) and/or Team Official(s) involved.
- (k) All Para Clubs hosting sanctioned tournaments will be responsible for keeping a copy of the tournament's official game reports for a period of one year.
- (l) All games in a sanctioned tournament shall be officiated by Referees and Linesmen registered with Hockey Alberta.
- (m) All sanctioned tournaments will be played under Hockey Canada Official Playing Rules and/or International Paralympic Committee Rules and Regulations with modifications, and must comply with Hockey Alberta Bylaws and Regulations.
- (n) No Team or Players may compete in more than three (3) tournament games in one (1) day. Where tournaments do require Teams or Players to play three (3) games in one day, such games shall not be longer than three (3) periods of 15 minutes, the first two (2) of which must be straight time. When a Team is required to play three (3) games in one (1) day, there shall be an interval of one and a half (1-1/2) hours between the second and third games.

No games in any tournament shall start before 7:00 a.m. or after 10:15 p.m.

8.2 Tournaments Outside Alberta

- (a) No HA Team shall be permitted to play in any tournament outside the jurisdiction of HA unless it has been given written permission by its Para Club and HA. In granting such permission, HA and the Para Club agree to impose and enforce any disciplinary actions necessary against its Team or Team Officials of the Team.
- (b) The Branch in which the tournament is held shall have the authority to impose a suspension pending action by HA against the Team, Player(s) or Team Officials involved.
- (c) Game sheets must be submitted within 24 hours to the Hockey Alberta Office by the Team (submitted to the League for league sanctioned games).
- (d) No Team or Player registered with HA shall compete in a tournament in another Branch unless that tournament has been granted a sanction permit by the Branch in whose territory the tournament is to be conducted which is recognized by HA.

9. Discipline

9.1 Fines – Para Hockey

Under no circumstances will a Para Club, League or Team be allowed to assess cash fines to Para Players for rule or regulation infractions. Violation of this policy will result in discipline as set out in the General Regulations.

9.2 Para Hockey Suspension Procedures

Hockey Alberta Responsibilities

- (a) The Hockey Alberta office is responsible for issuing and monitoring suspensions in exhibition, tournament play, provincials and Hockey Alberta sanctioned events (i.e. Western Canada Para Hockey Tournament).
- (b) Game sheets must be submitted within 24 hours to Hockey Alberta office by the Team (submitted to the League for league sanctioned games).
- (c) In the case of an Indefinite Suspension incurred during provincial, tournament or exhibition play, the Hockey Alberta office and League must be notified.

All Indefinite Suspensions shall be handled according to the General Regulations.
- (d) When a suspension is incurred in exhibition, tournament Play, provincials and Hockey Alberta sanctioned events, the suspension must be served in the next consecutive games (league, tournament, provincial play or Hockey Alberta sanctioned events).

When a suspension occurs during Provincials, the suspension must be served in the next consecutive games (provincial, league, tournament play or Hockey Alberta Sanctioned Event).

Should an On-Ice Official be suspended while participating as either a Player or Team Official for no more than one (1) game, the official will be permitted to continue to officiate with no restrictions. Should an On-Ice Official be suspended while participating as either a Player or Team Official for more than one (1) game, the official will be permitted to officiate assigned games during the day immediately following the suspension. At the conclusion of that day, the On-Ice Official will be required to serve his suspension as outlined here within.

- (e) If the suspension overlaps into league play, the Hockey Alberta office must notify the Para Club President or their designate and the League.
- (f) Exhibition games do not count as suspended games. Players cannot play exhibition games while serving a suspension.
- (g) The Hockey Alberta office will issue a suspension notice. A suspension must specify the following:
 - (i) Number of games.
 - (ii) Which games are to be served (i.e. tournament, provincial, league or Hockey Alberta sanctioned events)
 - (iii) The Hockey Alberta Appeal process.
 - (iv) The Player/Team Official must not participate in any hockey games until a written suspension notice is received.

League Responsibilities

- (h) The league is responsible for issuing/monitoring suspensions for league play only.
- (i) Game sheets must be submitted within 24 hours to the appropriate League representative by the specified time given by the League.
- (j) When a suspension is incurred during league play, the suspension must be served in the next consecutive games, league play, tournament play, Provincials and Hockey Alberta Sanctioned events.
- (k) If a suspension overlaps into tournaments, Provincials or Hockey Alberta Sanctioned Events, the League representative must notify the Hockey Alberta office.
- (l) Exhibition games do not count as suspended games. Players cannot play exhibition games while serving a suspension.
- (m) In the case of an Indefinite Suspension incurred during league play, the League representative must notify the Hockey Alberta office. All Indefinite Suspensions shall be handled according to the General Regulations.

- (n) The League representative will issue a suspension notice. A suspension notice must specify:
 - (i) Number of Games.
 - (ii) Which games are to be served (i.e. league play, provincial play or Hockey Alberta Sanctioned Events).
 - (iii) The League Appeal process.
 - (iv) The Player / team official must not participate in any hockey games until a written suspension notice is received.
- (o) If a league suspension extends into tournament games, Provincials or Hockey Alberta Sanctioned Events, the League President or their designate is responsible for notifying the Hockey Alberta office.

General Responsibilities

- (p) Any infractions that involve a Player/Coach on a referee or linesman (Rule 11.5) are handled by the Hockey Alberta Provincial Match Penalty Officer(s).
- (q) No suspended Player or Team Official is allowed on the bench, in the timekeepers/penalty box, dressing room or within fifty (50) feet of the players' benches during a game.
- (r) Any Player incurring a suspendable infraction with either his/her registered team or affiliated Team is suspended from all sanctioned hockey games until the suspension is served with the team they are registered with. If that Team is finished hockey for the season, this Player would be allowed to serve such suspension with his/her affiliated Team. The Player and the suspension must be listed on game sheets.
- (s) Any Team Official registered with more than one (1) Hockey Team who incurs a suspension is ineligible to participate in any sanctioned hockey game until the suspension has been served with the Team with which the suspension was incurred.
- (t) Suspended Players/team officials must be noted on the game sheet during the games comprising the suspension.
- (u) **Early Seasons End Suspensions**

Any player who has not served a suspension from the current playing season may request in writing through their Para Club to the Hockey Alberta office to have that suspension served in an exhibition game(s) if it cannot be served in league, tournament or provincial play at seasons end.

(v) Carry-Over Suspensions

Any player who has not served a suspension from the previous season may request in writing through their Para Club to the Hockey Alberta office to have that suspension deferred for any exhibition, pre-season, tiering, or tournament game that is sanctioned to take place prior to October 15 of the current hockey season (Note: these deferred games will not count as games served for the incurred suspension).

(w) Pre-Season Suspensions

Any Player who received a suspension in a Pre-Season Game may request in writing through their Para Club to the Hockey Alberta office to have the suspension(s) served in the next Pre-Season game(s). The Hockey Alberta office may approve or deny such requests.

9.3 Minimum Suspensions (please see Appendices)

9.4 In all Hockey, any Player or Team Official who is assessed a Minor Penalty and a Game Misconduct or a Major and a Game Misconduct or any other infraction resulting in a Game Misconduct/Gross Misconduct penalty that occurs in the last ten (10) minutes of regular time or any overtime or at the conclusion of the game and prior to the Player or Team Official entering his/her dressing room shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of the next regular league/playoff/pre-Season/tournament/provincial game. This is in addition to any other suspensions directed by Hockey Alberta.

9.5 Any Player, Team Official found guilty of falsifying a birth certificate or having been party to or having any knowledge of such shall be suspended until dealt with by HA.

9.6 Any Team Official who is party to or had knowledge of or adds an unregistered or Ineligible Player's name or unregistered team official or trainer's name to a game sheet for the purpose of competing in a game:

(a) may be suspended for a period of three (3) years, or as determined by the Committee, from playing or holding office with any team, club or association;

(b) shall have games defaulted whether said Player(s) played or not.

9.7 Any Player who falsifies a birth certificate, registration certificate or forges a signature and plays under an assumed name or having knowledge that same had been falsified or playing on other than his own birth certificate shall be automatically suspended from playing hockey for a period of not less than one (1) year and not more than three (3) years from the date of suspension.

9.8 If a Team Official or Player participates in a game or if his name appears on the score sheet while under suspension, the Team Official responsible for an Ineligible Player or official may be subject to immediate discipline and the Team may forfeit any games using an Ineligible Player or official.

10. Coach Education Requirements

See General Regulations for further details.