

SECTION H – ACCREDITED SCHOOLS

1. Critical Dates

- 1.1 **April 1:** Accredited Schools are permitted to start operating Recruitment Camps
- 1.2 **June 1:** Accredited Schools may begin registering student athletes to their teams in the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR).
- 1.3 **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.
- 1.4 **October 1:**
 - (a) Try-Out / Pre-Season ends, all student athletes and Team Officials must be duly registered prior to participating in any further games.
 - (b) Initial Registration Deadline.
 - (c) Final date for organizations / programs to submit Accredited School renewals and/or applications for the next season.
- 1.5 **January 10:** The final date to register and release student athletes.
- 1.6 **January 15:** Accredited Schools may only affiliate student athletes registered to Hockey teams within their school. It should be noted however that such affiliations must be registered, filed with and endorsed by the CEO, or designate, not later than January 15 at 5:00PM MST.

2. Team Registration

- 2.1 Registration fees in accordance with Appendix "I" are payable upon activation of Teams.
- 2.2 Accredited Schools must submit their order for Teams as part of their "renewal" and/or application on or before October 1 in the previous Hockey Season.
- 2.3 Accredited School Teams and Student Athletes will be registered in accordance with HC and HA Bylaws and regulations.
- 2.4 Number of Student Athletes on a Hockey Team:
 - (a) Each Accredited School Team must register a minimum of fifteen (15) student athletes, of which two (2) must be Goaltenders.
 - (b) Each Accredited School Team will be provided with a maximum of twenty-five (25) allotments to register Student Athletes each season.
 - (c) Accredited School Teams may register a maximum of:
 - (i) Male & Female Prep rosters can include a maximum of twenty (20) student athletes (of which, two (2) must be goaltenders) at any one time during the season;

- (ii) Male & Female Roster of the lowest Category and Division Team in the HCAS will be eligible to have a maximum of nineteen (19) student athletes (of which, two (2) must be goaltenders) with an extended roster, to a maximum of twenty-five (25) players.
- (iii) All other Rosters are a maximum of nineteen (19) student athletes (of which, two (2) must be goaltenders).
- (d) Teams that have remaining, unused allotments may register eligible student athletes to those allotments until January 10.

2.5 Imports

Accredited Schools will be permitted to register Imports (see HC Regulations).

2.6 Substitute Goalkeeper

Hockey Alberta may allow during any scheduled League, Playoff or Provincial Game, the use of a goalkeeper from another Hockey Team of equal or lower Division or Category, if medical evidence shows that a replacement goalkeeper is required by the Hockey Team concerned. Permission must be obtained from Hockey Alberta.

- ## 2.7 Registered Accredited Schools 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.

3. Player Recruitment

3.1 Recruitment Camps

- (a) Accredited Schools are permitted to start operating Recruitment Camps as of April 1.
- (b) Players / Student Athletes registered to a Team that has not yet completed the current season are not eligible to be recruited and/or to participate in Recruitment Camps until their Team's season is complete.
- (c) Each Team is provided the opportunity to utilize Exhibition and Pre-Season games for the purpose of Team roster declaration.
- (d) The recruitment period ends on October 1 of the playing season.

3.3 Education Based Shadow Days

- (a) Accredited Schools are permitted to operate Education Based Shadow Days.
- (b) Players / Student Athletes registered to an equivalent level MHA or Accredited School Team (AA or AAA) are not eligible to participate in any on-ice activities during the Shadow Day.

4. Player Registration

4.1 Accredited Schools are permitted to register Teams in the following divisions of hockey:

(a) U18 Male / Female: For the **2023-24** season, open to Student Athletes born in **2006** and subsequent years.

(i) **Overage:** Overage students may be permitted to register on Accredited School U18 teams, to a maximum of five (5) per team, provided they are enrolled in High School classes within the program's structure.

(ii) **Underage:** The objective of all minor hockey is to develop athletes within each specific age group, and not to displace people from their proper age Division by facilitating the movement of underage athletes. All underage athletes should only be considered as an exception.

- Each Accredited School team will be permitted to register a maximum of one (1) underage student at any one time during the season.
- Only second year U15 aged students will be considered for acceleration to U18 hockey.

(b) U15 Male / Female: For the **2023-24** season, open to Student Athletes born in **2009** and subsequent years.

(i) **Underage:** The objective of all minor hockey is to develop athletes within each specific age group, and not to displace people from their proper age Division by facilitating the movement of underage athletes. All underage athletes should only be considered as an exception.

- Each Accredited School team will be permitted to register a maximum of one (1) underage student at any one time during the season.
- Only second year U13 aged students will be considered for acceleration to U15 hockey.

4.2 Accredited Schools are required to obtain a commitment, in writing, from all students prior to registering them in the Registry. In order to be eligible to play, all students must have signed a "Player Agreement" form.

4.3 Any Accredited School found to have permitted a student athlete and/or Team Official, who is not properly registered to that Team, to participate in a game may be subject to a suspension and/or a fine up to a maximum of \$500.00 per violation.

4.4 Every student athlete participating in games sanctioned by HA 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 for the current Hockey Season.

4.5 A student's registration in the Registry must include their legal address.

(a) In the case of rural residents, both the legal land location and the mailing address must be identified.

- (b) In the case of urban residents, the street address or, if the street address differs from the mailing address, both the street address and the mailing address must be identified.
 - (c) International residents shall provide the address they reside at while in Canada.
- 4.6 A student applying for the first time for registration with Hockey Alberta shall provide proof of age.
- (a) Any proof of age shall be an official birth certificate legally recognized by the civil authorities in Alberta.
 - (b) 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.
 - (c) All minor aged students must have at least one parent/guardian that has completed the Respect in Sport – Parent program in accordance with Hockey Alberta Policy (may exclude International players).
- 4.7 A student athlete may only register on one (1) Team per season (unless released by the team he/she first signed with prior to January 10).
- Student athletes signing with more than one Hockey Team without releases are suspended and shall remain suspended until dealt with by the CEO, or designate.
- (a) No student athlete may be registered after January 10 of any Hockey Season.
- 4.8 Inter-Branch Transfer
- (a) A student athlete desiring a transfer from an MHA or Club Team in one Branch to an Accredited School in HA shall first obtain a release, if applicable (Please review Hockey Canada Regulations) from the MHA / Team of which he/she is a member. The Accredited School in HA will then make application to the Registry to complete the transfer between the MHA or Team involved.
 - (b) The Inter-Branch Transfer must be completed in the Registry and approved by the HA CEO, or designate, before the first game in which the student athlete is to participate.
 - (c) Inter-Branch Transfer Fees are set annually by Hockey Canada (refer to HC Regulations).
- 4.9 USA / International Transfer (for more details please contact the HA office)
- (a) A student athlete who has previously registered with any other IIHF Member Federation wishing to register with a member Team of HA must first obtain a USA Transfer or an International Transfer from the last Federation in which he/she was registered.

- (b) All transfers between USA Hockey and HC shall be governed by the HC/USA Hockey Transfer Agreement. The agreement is contained in its entirety in HC Regulations.
- (c) All transfers between other registered members of the IIHF and HC shall be governed by the IIHF Transfer Regulations. The IIHF and HC Transfer Regulations are contained in their entirety in the HC Regulations.
- (d) Incoming USA Transfer Fees are set annually by Hockey Canada.
- (e) Incoming International Transfer Fees are set annually by the IIHF.
- (f) For Canadian players returning from an IIHF member, please contact the Hockey Alberta Office.

5. Athlete Movement

5.1 Residency: Accredited Schools do not have boundaries therefore are permitted to register student athletes regardless of where they reside.

5.2 Permission for Movement

- (a) Prior to being transferred to an Accredited School, a student must first:
 - (i) pay any outstanding fees or other financial obligations owing to the MHA being asked for the permission;
 - (ii) sign an "Athlete Agreement" form;
 - (iii) provide written confirmation of enrollment in the Accredited School program.

6. Releases

6.1 A student athlete desiring to transfer, within season, from one Team to another must first secure a Release in writing from the Team of which he/she is a Registered Participant. (see HC Regulations).

7. Affiliation

7.1 Affiliation must be declared and filed with the CEO, or designate, prior to the affiliated athlete being allowed to participate in any game with the Hockey Team to which he/she 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.

7.2 Players that are registered with a local Minor Hockey Association will not be permitted to be affiliated to an Accredited School Program.

7.3 (a) **A fourteen (14) year old and younger HCAS Registered Player may Affiliate from a HCAS Registered Team to:**

- (i) **a HCAS Team in the same HCAS (maximum 10 games);**

- (b) **A fifteen (15) year old HCAS Registered Player that is a resident of the geographical area of a Member where the HCAS is located may Affiliate from a HCAS Registered Team to two (2) of:**
- (i) **Major Junior Team (residency is not applicable provided the Player is on the 50 Player list) (maximum 5 games);**
 - (ii) **a Junior A or Junior B Team (maximum 5 games);**
 - (iii) **a HCAS Team in the same HCAS (maximum 10 games);**
 - (iv) **a second HCAS Teams in the same HCAS (maximum 10 games).**
- (c) **A HCAS Registered Player who is at least sixteen (16) year old, and is a resident of the geographical area of a Member where the HCAS is located may Affiliate from a HCAS Registered Team to two (2) of:**
- (i) **Major Junior Team (residency is not applicable provided the Player is on the 50 Player list) (maximum 10 games);**
 - (ii) **a Junior A or Junior B Team (maximum 10 games);**
 - (iii) **a HCAS Team in the same HCAS (maximum 10 games);**
 - (iv) **a second HCAS Teams in the same HCAS (maximum 10 games).**
- 7.3 Student Athletes that are registered on U18 teams within an Accredited School are permitted to be affiliated to a registered Junior team, provided the location of their parent / guardian's primary residence is within Alberta.
- 7.4 Affiliation will only be recognized where:
- (a) athletes are added to Teams in the Registry and identified as "Affiliates";
 - (b) the CEO, or designate, acknowledges receipt and identifies the athletes as approved prior to an affiliate participating in any game with the Hockey Team to which he/she is affiliated;
 - (c) the athlete is a registered member of the Accredited School.
- Note: All affiliations shall terminate at the end of the current playing season.
- 7.5 Any person participating in any game as an affiliate without the approval of the CEO, or designate, shall be considered Ineligible and said student athlete and Team Officials shall be subject to disciplinary action as stated here within.
- 7.6 A Hockey Team may have affiliated up to nineteen (19) Specially Affiliated Players from a lower Division or Category from within the Accredited School.
- 7.7 A fifteen (15) year old or sixteen (16) year old HCAS Registered Player may only affiliate to one (1) HCAS Registered team unless the second team is a Major Junior team.
- 7.8 Affiliation will not be deemed to have taken place automatically without properly filing said affiliation with the CEO, or designate.

- 7.9 Providing Affiliation has been properly filed prior to January 15 in any Hockey Season, an affiliate may play with the Hockey Team to which he/she is affiliated a total of ten (10) games during the regular season and playoffs. Should an affiliate play more than ten (10) games with the Hockey Team to which the athlete is affiliated, he/she shall be considered an "Ineligible Player". However, if his/her registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before his/her affiliated team or teams, he may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times.
- 7.10 Appearance of a registered 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 actual participation only shall be considered as taking part in the game and such participation shall be specially noted on the official game report.
- 7.11 Practice Players may participate on more than one HCAS Team (maximum 10 games collectively for all HCAS Teams) as non-Rostered Player provided:**
- (a) The Practice Player registers on the HCR; and**
 - (c) The Practice Player is included in the maximum number of Affiliate Players that a Team may have.**

8. Leagues

Hockey Alberta has identified the Canadian Sports School Hockey League (CSSHL) as the only sanctioned league to schedule / operate "Accredited School" hockey under the Branch.

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 All Hockey Players must be properly registered, in the Registry, prior to playing in any League game. Out of Province Teams, that wish to participate in an HA sanctioned league, must obtain written permission from both their registered branch and HA prior to being accepted by the league.
- 8.3 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.

9. Exhibition Games

- 9.1 Permission must be obtained in writing from Hockey Alberta for all out-of-league, exhibition games and tournaments.
- 9.2 For exhibition games with U.S. or International based Teams, permission must be granted by the CEO, or designate, and proof of registration with the appropriate International Federation must be provided.
- 9.3 Application for permission will only be considered for Teams that are properly registered with Hockey Alberta.

- 9.4 Permission will not be given to any Team for exhibition games with any team or teams which are not registered members of HC or appropriate International Federation.
- 9.5 International games, other than games with U.S. Hockey, must have permission granted from both HC and Hockey Alberta.
- 9.6 For exhibition games within Alberta, permission must be granted by Hockey Alberta.
- 9.7 Commitments to Hockey Alberta must be met before a team is allowed any exhibition games.
- 9.8 All game sheets must be submitted within 24 hours to Hockey Alberta, by the Team.
- 9.9 Leagues are responsible for sanctioning and disciplinary action for all exhibition games played among the member teams of their respective league. For teams playing exhibition games against teams from outside their league, sanctions and discipline will be issued through Hockey Alberta.

10. Tournament Rules

- 10.1 For hosting Tournaments, the following regulations will apply:
 - (a) All Tournaments must be approved by Hockey Alberta and any applicable Sanction fee payment must be made to Hockey Alberta prior to the start of the tournament.
 - (b) Teams shall give a minimum of two (2) weeks' notice to HA prior to the start date of the tournament;
 - (c) The host Team will verify the eligibility of all Teams and Players entered in the tournament.
 - (d) When a suspendable offence occurs involving a Player or team official in a sanctioned tournament, a copy of the official game report with all necessary supporting evidence shall be forwarded to Hockey Alberta, the Player(s) or Team Official(s) involved.

10.2 Tournaments outside Alberta:

No Team shall be permitted to play in any non-league sanctioned tournament outside the defined Boundaries of HA unless it has been given written permission by the CEO, or designate. In granting such permission, HA will enforce any disciplinary actions necessary against its Team or the Team Officials of the Team.

11. Discipline

- 11.1 Accredited School Suspension Procedures - Hockey Alberta Responsibilities
 - (a) Hockey Alberta is responsible for issuing and monitoring suspensions in exhibition, tournament play and Hockey Alberta Sanctioned Events (i.e. Alberta Winter Games, Arctic Winter Games, Canada Winter Games and Team Alberta Programs).
 - (b) All game sheets that have suspendable infractions must be submitted within 24 hours to Hockey Alberta, by the Team.

- (c) Hockey Alberta will issue a suspension notice. A suspension notice must specify the following:
- (i) Number of games;
 - (ii) Which games are to be served (e.g. tournament, league or HA sanctioned events);
 - (1.) Hockey Alberta, in consultation with the Minor Discipline Chair, may allow for the deferral of a participant's suspension which would allow them to continue participation as a Team Official in a lower Division while they serve their suspension with their registered team.
 - (iii) The Hockey Alberta Appeal process;
 - (iv) That the Player/Team Official must not participate in any hockey games until a written suspension notice is received;
 - (v) That Players with carry over suspensions from the prior Hockey Season will only be allowed to serve them in regular season league games, not exhibition games. Players may request approval from Hockey Alberta, in consultation with the President of the Player's respective League, to defer serving the suspension until the first regular season league game;
 - (vi) That Exhibition games do not count as suspended games. Players cannot play exhibition games while serving a suspension.
- 11.2 Accredited School Suspension Procedures - League Responsibilities
- (a) If a suspension overlaps into tournaments or Hockey Alberta Sanctioned Events, the League President, or designate, must notify Hockey Alberta.
 - (b) Leagues are responsible for sanctioning and disciplinary action for all exhibition games played among the member teams of their respective league. For teams playing exhibition games against teams from outside their league, sanctions and discipline will be issued through Hockey Alberta.
- 11.3 Accredited School Minimum Suspensions (please see Minimum Suspensions Appendix”).
- 11.4 In all Hockey, any Player or Team Official who is assessed a Minor Penalty and a Game Misconduct or a Major and 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 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 Minimum Suspension.
- 11.5 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.

- 11.6 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.
- 11.7 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.
- 11.8 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.

12. Coach Education Requirements

NCCP Coaching Certifications: All Head Coaches will have to be “Trained” in the High Performance 1 course by November 15 of that season and will have to be completed full “Certification” in the program by November 15 of the following season. All Head Coaches must have completed the Checking Skills course by November 15 of that season.

Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP): All Hockey Alberta teams must have one (1) Team Official registered to their team who has completed the Hockey Canada Safety Program (HCSP). Teams must have a registered and eligible (as defined below) safety person by November 15 of the current Hockey Season. Teams failing to adhere to this regulation may jeopardize their eligibility for Provincial, Regional and National Playoffs. An eligible safety person is defined as a person who has successfully completed the requirements for the Hockey Canada Safety Program. This program is valid for a period of three (3) hockey seasons from the date of the clinic attended to August 1 of the third hockey season.

Respect in Sport – Coach: All Registered Team Officials must have completed the Respect In Sport - Activity Leader Program. All Team Officials applying for registration with HA shall provide proof of completion of the Respect in Sport – Activity Leader program. Proof of Respect in Sport – Activity Leader shall be indicated by a card number showing on the Team Official’s registration in the Registry.

See General Regulations for further details.