

# COMPETITION

## Playing Rules

All competition shall be played under the Hockey Nova Scotia and Hockey Canada playing rules.

## Protests

Protests shall abide by the league or tournament rules in place at the time of the incident in question. Protests shall be submitted in accordance with the applicable league or tournament policies. All protest fees shall be the sole responsibility of the team lodging the protest.

## Game Caps

All Association teams shall abide by the limitations established by Hockey Nova Scotia on the number of games that may be played during any one season. The current cap limits are:

- Under 9 Developing - Maximum 20 games
- Under 9 Intermediate - Maximum 25 games
- Under 9 Advancing - Maximum 30 games
- Under 11 Competitive - Maximum 45 games
- Under 13 Competitive - Maximum 60 games
- Under 15 Competitive - Maximum 65 games
- Under 18 Competitive - Maximum 65 games
- Under 22 - Maximum 65 games

## Travel

The Association appreciates that teams will want to participate in tournaments and other related events throughout the hockey season and that in some cases, this may necessitate the need to travel significant distances. In cases where teams are planning to do so and where parental expenses will be incurred, the support of the majority of the team parent group shall be required prior to any commitments are made. Any team planning to travel to any event being held outside of the Maritime Provinces must apply for approval by the Association's Board of Directors prior to making any commitments. Teams are responsible to ensure that all approvals, travel permits and Inter-Branch (outside of Nova Scotia) are in place prior to any travel.

## Tournaments

Minor hockey tournaments offer several benefits to teams including additional competition opportunities against unfamiliar teams, the chance to enjoy team building experiences, and the opportunity to gauge how the team is progressing against their peers. The Association encourages teams to participate in tournaments and represent the Association provided that the following requirements are adhered to at all times:

- Any tournament must be a sanctioned event (the Branch governing body) and adhere to all rules as established by Hockey Canada and Hockey Nova Scotia;
- All travel permits, approvals and pre-event requirements have been completed;
- All tournament fees and associated costs have been budgeted for, committed and paid by the team;
- Teams, coaches, team staff, players and parents shall display sportsmanship and fair play both on and off the ice at all times; and
- Teams may enter tournaments at a different level than what they participate in within the local league provided that there is no conflict with another Association team. An example would be that a 'B' team may participate in an 'A' level tournament provide our 'A' is not also participating where they would be competing against each

other. Any such conflict will favour the 'A' team in this case. Any conflicts shall be ruled upon by the Board of Directors.

Gaining entry into tournaments and retaining placement in those events from year to year is a difficult process and the Association prefers to retain our position in these tournaments from season to season so that future players enjoy the same opportunities. For this reason, teams are reminded that the Association strongly recommends that they participate in tournaments that the Association has committed to in the past for their level.

### Body Checking

As mandated by Hockey Nova Scotia, the Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association conducts preseason checking clinics annually to provide first year Bantam players who are planning to try out for competitive hockey, as well as new players in Bantam and Midget competitive, with an opportunity to gain a better understanding of the body contact/checking skill as well as to experience the skill in the practice environment.

As such, the requirement to participate in the checking clinics applies to the following players:

- Players who are moving up to Under 15 from Peewee hockey and who wish to try out for a Under 15 Competitive team; and
- Players of Under 15 or Under 18 age who have not played competitive hockey in the past or have been out of competitive hockey during the preceding season (i.e. played C hockey or not at all) and who wish to try out for an Under 15 or Under 18 Competitive team where body checking exists.

The clinic is also mandatory for any player, who despite participating in the checking clinic last season, played in C hockey during this past season. The Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association does not recognize any checking clinics provided by third party individuals or organizations. While attendance at such clinics is helpful, players must attend the Halifax Hawks clinics to be eligible for competitive tryouts in a checking division.

### Hosting Exhibition Games – Officials

It is the responsibility of any Halifax Hawks team hosting an exhibition game to cover the costs of all officials. This includes the referee, the linesmen (2), and the timekeeper. The rate of pay will depend upon the division being officiated as well as the category of the team.

Cash must be presented to officials prior to the commencement of the exhibition play. When arranging for officials, teams should contact our Referee-in-Chief at [ric@halifaxhawks.ca](mailto:ric@halifaxhawks.ca).

All exhibition games must be officiated by certified officials in order to ensure that all participants are covered by Hockey Canada insurance. Teams are not to use substitute officials.

### Travel Permits

Travel permits are mandated by Hockey Nova Scotia and failure to acquire the appropriate permits can jeopardize the Hockey Canada insurance coverage for all participants. In addition, the coaching staff will be subject to suspension and the team may also be disqualified from participation in the event. Travel permits are required for any tournament or exhibition game held outside of the Halifax region as defined by Hockey Nova Scotia's Minor and Female Councils.

Travel permits are not required for regular season and play-off games within the Metro Minor Hockey league and the Central Minor Hockey Federation or tournaments held within the Halifax region. In addition, permits are also required for any practice or team development session held outside of the Halifax region.

Exhibition game permits are required for any Halifax team hosting a game in the Halifax Zone. On-ice Officials will not move forward with the game unless a game permit number is on the game report. Failure to acquire the appropriate permits can jeopardize the Hockey Canada insurance coverage for all participants. In addition, the coaching staff will be subject to suspension and the team may also be disqualified from participation in the event.

Teams must ensure that they have the travel permit in hand when travelling as they can be denied participation at the event should they fail to be able to produce the actual permit. Travel permits shall be requested through Hockey Canada's e-hockey account at least seven days in advance of the event so as to enable the HNSMC Regional Director to approve the request in a timely manner.

### Game Cancellations

As a general rule, teams must meet all regular season and play-off commitments for home and away games. In cases where extenuating circumstances require the cancellation or rescheduling of a game, the following steps must be followed: For teams seeking to cancel or reschedule games caused by conflicts with school exams/activities or team travel to tournaments, the team competing in must contact their Director or league representative:

Notification is to be made as soon as the conflict has been identified or, at a minimum, at least seven days in advance of the game in question.

Prior to entertaining any request for cancellation for school reasons, teams must fully utilize the player affiliation process as a means to fill their roster to compete in the game. Once permission for the change is granted by the League Representative, the League Representative shall reschedule the game and the team must make itself available for the rescheduled game unless within the requirements of the league. It should be noted that each league has their own policies regarding rescheduling and forfeits are not permitted by the Hawks.

In cases, where a facility utilized for Association games is not going to be available for any unforeseen reason, the Association Ice Coordinator shall notify the affected team(s) and the Association Referee-in-Chief as soon as is possible. For game cancellations caused by snowstorms, typically the league will notify the participating teams of the cancellation. Teams shall contact the applicable league Representative (outlined above) as soon as practical to determine rescheduling options. Teams are not permitted to cancel or reschedule games on their own.