

# Hockey Newfoundland & Labrador AAA Hockey League



## Regulations

Version 7.0

**Style Definition:** TOC 3: Tab stops: 16.88 cm,  
Right, Leader: ...

## Caution

Maintaining revision control of this document will be difficult as there can be numerous copies of this document in circulation. As a result, the Branch office will maintain the official (most recent) version of the document on file at all times. Also, the official (most recent) version of the document will be posted on the League website and will be available through the League Administrator. The table below will track the various revisions and will be used to identify the actual revision of printed copies.

Rev. No.	Date	Description	Approved by:
1.0	September 11, 2014	Original version adopted at inaugural AGM	Governors
2.0	September 9, 2015	AGM	Governors
3.0	July 25, 2016	AGM	Governors
3.1	August 2016	Clarifications on 3.0	Governors
4.0	September 2022	General Revision	Minor Council
5.0	June 23, 2023	General revision	Minor Council
6.0	June 2024	General revision	Minor Council
7.0	September 2025	Removed Playing Rules	Minor Council

## **FORWARD**

These Playing Rules have been developed to provide guidance and assistance to League Executive, Team Management and Hockey Newfoundland and Labrador for the successful operation of the Newfoundland and Labrador AAA Hockey League (NLAAAHL). Interested parties must understand that it is impossible to cover every aspect of AAA-hockey within this document. Therefore, readers should be aware that the League Executive will be responsible for dealing with unusual occurrences that are not covered in this manual in a fair and dutiful manner that upholds the principles and objectives of the NLAAAHL. This will be done in consultation with Hockey Newfoundland and Labrador and/or Hockey Canada and the decision of the League will be final.

## Table of Contents

<b>1.0 League Rules and Regulations .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.0 Amendments to the Regulations .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.0 Coaching Certification .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4.0 Player Eligibility .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5.0 Residency Rule .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6.0 Team Rosters .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>7.0 Officials .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>8.0 Finances .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9.0 Annual Fees .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10.0 Team Management .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>11.0 Protests (Refer to Hockey NL Policy) .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>12.0 Appeals .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>13.0 Fundraising .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>NOTWITHSTANDING CLAUSE .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>DUTIES OF THE LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR.....</b>	<b>10</b>

## 1.0 League Rules and Regulations

The following rules and regulations are in place to ensure the orderly day-to-day operation of the league with specific consideration given to the safety and well-being of all participants. Failure to comply with any rule or regulation may result in a minimum fine of \$250 unless otherwise noted.

The purpose of the League Regulations is to clearly define the expectations of the League when it comes to the operation of the teams. Players, parents, team management and coaches should be familiar with the League's operating rules and regulations.

Unless otherwise specified, these bylaws and playing rules will be in effect for U13AAA, U15AAA, U16 AAA and U11 AAA Pilot Program.

## 2.0 Amendments to the Regulations

All proposed amendments to the Rules and Regulations will require a majority vote by the minor council executive committee who are present at the AGM. Any proposed amendment must be provided to the Minor Council Chair at least 14 days in advance of the AGM, and copies of the amendment circulated to all minor council members within 7 days of the meeting.

If it is confirmed that an amendment to this constitution is in conflict with a higher authority (Hockey Canada or Hockey NL), the ruling of the higher authority will be deemed correct and will be adopted by this League.

## 3.0 Coaching Certification

To maintain a high level of competition conforming to elite athletes competing at a high standard of play, the League requires the following certification:

**Head Coach** – Development 1 Certified (D1), Hockey Canada Skills – Checking, Hockey Canada – The Shift Forward, Hockey NL Screening, Criminal Record Check, and Vulnerable Sector Check

**Assistant Coaches (U13AAA)** – Hockey Canada Coach 2 & Hockey Canada In-Class Coach 2, Hockey Canada – The Shift Forward, Hockey NL Screening, Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check

**Assistant Coaches (U15AAA & U16AAA)** – Development 1 Certified (D1), Hockey Canada Skills – Checking, Hockey Canada – The Shift Forward, Hockey NL Screening, Criminal Record Check, and Vulnerable Sector Check

**Goalie Coaches** – Hockey Canada Goaltender 1, Hockey Canada – The Shift Forward, Hockey NL Screening, Criminal Record Check, and Vulnerable Sector Check

**Trainers** - Safety Program Level 1, Hockey Canada – The Shift Forward, Hockey NL Screening, Criminal Record Check, and Vulnerable Sector Check

### **Team Managers and Equipment Managers -**

Hockey Canada – The Shift Forward, Hockey NL Screening, Criminal Record Check, and Vulnerable Sector Check

Coaches and Assistant Coaches and any other team member required to participate in on-ice activities **MUST** wear a CSA certified hockey helmet with their chin strap fastened. Failure to do so will result in a one game suspension in addition to the \$100.00

## **4.0 Player Eligibility**

**U13 Division** Players must be U13 age (11 and 12 years old prior to December 31st) who are residentially eligible to register and play minor hockey in Newfoundland and Labrador and who are in good standing with their minor hockey association.

**U15 Division** Players must be U15 age (13 and 14 years old prior to December 31<sup>st</sup>) who are residentially eligible to register and play minor hockey in Newfoundland and Labrador and who are in good standing with their minor hockey association.

**U16 Division** The League is open to all players who are 15 years of age prior to December 31 of the current playing year and all players who are 16 years of age that have a date of birth between the months of September and December of the current playing year. In addition, each team may sign a maximum of four (4) skaters who are 16 years old between January and August of the current playing year one and may one goaltender and who are residentially eligible to register and play minor hockey in Newfoundland and Labrador and who are in good standing with their minor hockey association.

**In zones that do not have a team in a given division, players may apply to move up to the next division for that season. This does not apply to any U11 player wishing to participate in U13AAA.**

All players registered in the NLAAAHL will not be permitted to participate in HNL Provincial Tournament (Easter Provincial) with their home association.

## **5.0 Residency Rule**

No player shall be registered as a member of, or compete for, a team if his parents have not been bona fide residents of the city, town, or rural area or zone which has been established by the Branch to which the team belongs. However, a player may be permitted to register as a member of, or compete for, a team from outside his parent's place of residence if the player is granted permission from the Minor Council Executive Committee to try-out for another team. Proof of residency will be determined by the League Executive in consultation with Hockey Newfoundland and Labrador.

Players must try out for the team in the zone in which they reside.

The **Eastern Region** consists of players from the following minor hockey associations; Avalon Celtics MHA, Bell Island MHA, Conception Bay Regional MHA, Goulds MHA, Mount Pearl MHA, Northeast MHA, Paradise MHA, Southern Shore MHA and St. John's MHA. U13 teams will consist of Eastern Thunder, Eastern Hitman and Eastern Knights. U15 teams will consist of Eastern Thunder, Eastern Hitman and Eastern Knights. U16 teams will consist of Eastern Thunder, Eastern Hitman.

The **TriPen Region** consists of players from the following minor hockey associations; Bay Arena

MHA, Bonavista Trinity MHA, Cee Bees MHA, Clarenville MHA, Marystown MHA, Placentia MHA, Trinity Placentia MHA, United Towns MHA. Players from the TriPen will be represented by U13 Tripen Osprey, U15 Tripen Osprey and U16 Tripen Osprey.

The **Central Region** consists of players from the following minor hockey associations; Baie Verte MHA, Bay D'Espoir MHA, Beothic MHA, Bishop's Falls MHA, Botwood MHA, Fogo Island/Change Islands MHA, Gander MHA, Glovertown MHA, Grand Falls Windsor MHA, Green Bay South MHA, Harbour Breton MHA, Lewisporte MHA, Springdale MHA, Twillingate/New World Island MHA. Players from the Central will be represented by U13 Central IcePak, U15 Central IcePak and U16 Central IcePak.

The **Western Region** consists of players from the following minor hockey associations; Corner Brook MHA, Deer Lake MHA, Gros Morne MHA, Port aux Basques MHA, St. Anthony MHA, Stephenville MHA, Straits MHA, Twin Town MHA. Players from the Western Zone will be represented by U13 Western Kings, U15 Western Kings and U16 Western Kings.

Teams in the U16 Divisions who already have a Team Sponsor in place for their teams, can apply to the League President and Minor Council Chair to maintain the team names they already have in place

## 6.0 Team Rosters

Participating member teams must dress the minimum of seventeen (up to a maximum of 19) players, two of which must be goaltenders, during League games. If a visiting team's goaltender gets injured or suspended while travelling, the home team is responsible for providing an emergency backup goaltender. Teams are encouraged to take APs while travelling to ensure that the full roster of seventeen players is dressed for each game. However, no AP should participate in a AAA game when their lower division team is playing unless they are released by the lower division team.

Teams can affiliate players according to the Hockey Canada regulations up to a maximum of 19 at any one time, 2 of which shall be goaltenders. Copies of the approved affiliated players list shall be forwarded to the League Administrator no later than January 15<sup>th</sup> of each season.

Affiliated players can only play a maximum of 10 games, unless modified by HNL Branch Office.. **January 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM NST** is the deadline for filing affiliations. Players are not eligible to play until the affiliation has been approved. Once their permanent team is finished playing for the season, the affiliated players can resume playing with their AAA team for an unlimited number of games. Exhibition and/or Tournament games, which are not part of the regular league games or play-off games, are excluded from the number of affiliation games.

Any team who plays an ineligible player shall automatically be deemed to have lost the game or games in which any ineligible player(s) has participated. Team points will be awarded to the other team and players on the forfeited team will lose their individual points. Any coach who plays an ineligible player will be suspended 2 games for each game the illegible player(s) participates in and will be fined \$250 per game. A request for a ruling on the eligibility of a player is not considered a protest. The score recorded as the official game score will be 5-0 and only player stats of the non-offending team count.

All team rosters including players' registration lists, transfer information and releases will be approved by Hockey NL. The League Administrator shall forward copies of the approved team rosters to the teams by no later than each Thursday at noon for weekend games.

Each team is permitted 19 registrations under the Hockey Canada Regulations for AAA teams. Any player, who becomes a full-time rostered player, is registered with Hockey Canada, and then decides to leave the team, MUST provide written documentation, supported by the head coach explaining the reasons for asking to be released. Any player who asks for and is granted a release after November 1 forfeits their eligibility to participate in the AAA League Hockey for the remainder of the current season AND the following season. Only under extreme extenuating circumstances such as a season ending injury, will the player be permitted to try-out the following year if the release is requested after November 1. Minor Council will review the circumstances on an individual basis to determine the validity of the reasons.

It is the expectation of the League that once a player has signed with a team, that player will remain with the team for the rest of the year. Only under exceptional circumstances would a player be released after being signed and would require approval of the League President and Minor Council Chair.

Teams are required to dress a minimum of 14 skaters and two goalies during all league games. If traveling, teams are expected to use their affiliated players to reach the full roster. If a team loses a player/s to injury or suspension during weekend play outside their zone, then an allowance will be made to play with less than the 14 skaters. Teams must inform the League Administrator and League President prior to any game if they are required to dress less than the minimum number of players.

## **7.0 Officials**

All League regular season games shall be handled using a 4-Person system with the two referees and two linesmen in good standing with the governing body or affiliated branches of Hockey Canada. Linesman should have a minimum Level 2 Certification and Referees should have a minimum Level 3 Certification. All Officials shall be approved by the Hockey NL Referee in Chief and Hockey NL Supervisor of Officials.

## **8.0 Finances**

The management of League finances is the responsibility of the League Administrator who will present a Budget and Financial Update to Minor Council for approval at the AGM. The League's fiscal year shall be June 1 – May 31.

All Team managers are required to submit a budget to the League Administrator no later than two weeks after the START of regular season. The League Administrator will schedule regular meetings with the DOP's to ensure finances are in order. All Bank statements of team's accounts will be forwarded to the League Administrator on Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and the end of season. Year-end Financial reports are due to the League Administrator 30 days after the END of the season. Team budgets must be presented to parents, and it is mandatory to hold three meetings during the season, start, mid- season and an end of season. Budget Meeting will be held at the discretion of the League Administrator and League President in consultation with each teams DOP.

Teams Meeting are to be scheduled with parents and the League Administrator, who will set up the online meeting. Team Director of Operations must submit updated team financials at least three days prior to all parent meetings.

Signing Authority for League accounts will be approved by the Hockey NL Board of Directors. The Chair of Minor Council will approve all expenditures. Two signatures are required on all cheques.

Reimbursement of expenses incurred while conducting official League business will be covered using the NLAAHL Expense Claim Form. Cash expenses will be reimbursed upon submission of receipts; per diem expenses for meals and mileage will be reimbursed based on HNL Expense Policy.

A budget for each ID camp and tryout must be submitted to the League Administrator and approved by the Minor Council Executive Committee. Excess tryout funds shall be returned to the teams within the zone, or used on league capital expenses within the specific zone as approved by Minor Council.

## 9.0 Annual Fees

The League will establish an annual fee to be paid by the teams to be included in the annual budget set out in Section 8.0. Teams will pay an equal share of the operational costs (50% due prior to the kickoff event and the remaining 50% by December 1) to ensure the effective management of the League and teams will be provided with an itemized invoice outlining various expenses. The annual fee will be used to establish and maintain the approved league administrative costs. Teams withholding payment of their annual fees will be prohibited from participating in League games.

When Directors of Operations are preparing their team budgets with respect to coaching staff travel, the Hockey NL Travel and Expenses policy must be followed. See link below. Coaches are encouraged to travel together to save costs. Where coaches travel together, only the coach driving their personal vehicle will be reimbursed for km.

<https://hockeynl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/HockeyNL-Travel-Expenses-Policy-as-amended-February-2023.pdf>

**Coaching staff** that have children on the team will be permitted to claim one half of what is listed in the Hockey NL Travel and Expenses policy.

**Airfare:** Airfare for all coaches would be part of the team's travel expense and overall budget. Coaches with children on the team shall be reimbursed 50% of their airfare.

**Out of Province Tournaments:** Teams are permitted to attend a maximum of two out of province tournaments and MUST register for these tournaments no later than October 31.

## 10.0 Team Management

Team management will consist of a Head Coach, a maximum of three Assistant Coaches, Trainer, Goalie Coach, and a Team Director of Operations. The team Director of Operations role is a strictly off-ice administrative role. All Budget and team expenses will be administered by the team Director of Operations. The Director of Operations should not be on the ice or the bench without special permission from the league. All teams must have a certified Hockey Canada Safety Person ("HCSP") on the bench for all games. All teams can have a maximum of 5 staff on the bench during any game. All team management must be qualified in accordance with Section 3 of these regulations. The Administrator will register the team management using the Hockey Canada on-line database. Changes to team management will be communicated to the Administrator immediately.

## **11.0 Protests (Refer to Hockey NL Policy)**

Protests of games may be made only in regard to the interpretation of the rules of competition, and not in regard to the judgment of a referee or other official. Protests must be in writing and submitted to the League President within 24 hours of the initial interpretation of the rule and must be accompanied by a non-refundable \$200 fee.

The League Administrator will refer all protests to the Protest Committee (to be comprised of the Vice-Chair and two area members not involved with the teams involved in the appeal) who will make recommendation on the disposition of the protest to Minor Council. Protests will be dealt with as expeditiously as possible. A maximum of 7 days should be allowed to respond to a protest.

## **12.0 Appeals**

Appeals of a decision made by the Protest Committee or the Discipline Committee may be made to the HNL Appeals Committee as per the HNL Appeals Policy

## **13.0 Fundraising**

When applying for a lottery license from the Lottery Licensing Board, the following procedure must be followed. Each team will submit their completed lottery license application to the League Administrator. The Administrator will record all pertinent information on a Lottery License Tracker and forward the application to Service NL. Upon receipt of the lottery license from Service NL, the date of the financial report will be recorded on the tracker for follow-up with the team and the license will be forwarded to the team. It will be mandatory for teams to submit their financial report to Service NL on or before the date indicated.

## **NOTWITHSTANDING CLAUSE**

In the event a situation arises that is not covered within this document, the League will defer its decision on any matter until it is confirmed that such decision does not contravene the Constitution of Hockey Newfoundland and Labrador or the Articles, By-Laws, and Regulations of Hockey Canada. Otherwise, the League Executive is empowered to make any decision in a fair and dutiful manner that upholds the principles and objectives of the NLAAHL. This will be done in consultation with Hockey Newfoundland and Labrador and/or Hockey Canada and the decision of the League Executive will be final.

## **DUTIES OF THE LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR**

### **GENERAL**

The Administrator will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the League. The Administrator will answer to the AAA League President and will work closely with the Board of Directors. The Administrator will act as the liaison between the Board of Directors and team management.

### **APPOINTMENT**

The administrator will be hired on a 2 year term. The Board of Directors may use any method it

wishes to identify candidates for the position of Administrator.

#### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The duties and responsibilities of the Administrator include:

- Calling meetings on behalf of the League President or Board of Directors as required
- Managing the web site
- Creating the League Schedule
- Conduct the normal day-to-day business of the League (pay bills, purchasing, etc.)
- Establish process for selecting award winners
- Organize banquet and awards
- Support the League President
- Register players and coaching staff with Hockey Canada using the on-line registration system
- Keep an accurate record of penalties that carry suspensions using the Suspension Tracker.
- Register the NLAAHL as a member with HNL on an annual basis.
- Keep an accurate record of team fundraising to ensure compliance with Service NL.
- Other duties as assigned

#### AUTHORITY

The Administrator has the authority to act on behalf of the Board of Directors in the following matters;

- Payment of bills
- Purchasing of items in the approved budget
- Notify players of suspensions
- Negotiate changes to the League schedule