

REGULATIONS OF THE OHF

All revisions adopted by the Members on **September 23, 2023** are indicated by bold text.

AUTOMATIC AMENDMENTS

Any amendments, changes or interpretations of Hockey Canada playing rules and regulations shall automatically amend those of the OHF and its Members.

REGULATION 1: DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **AAA Waiver** - Written permission by a AAA Club to permit a Player to try out and register with a AAA Club, which is adjacent to the Club for which the Player is eligible by residence. (Only the signing officers of the AAA Club can issue AAA Waivers.)
- 1.2. **AAA Zone** - A Geographic Subdivision made up of several Centres for the purpose of providing AAA Category hockey.
- 1.3. **Additional Entry (AE)** - **An additional representative Team from a Minor Hockey Association that already has a representative Team entered in the same Division and Category.**
- 1.4. **Affiliate** – means to participate as an Affiliate Player or to be selected as an Affiliate Player.
- 1.5. **Affiliate Player (AP)** – refers to a Player who is eligible to participate with a higher Division/Category Team, in accordance with Hockey Canada, OHF and Member Affiliation Regulations.
- 1.6. **Affiliate Team** - refers to the Team to which a Player Affiliates.
- 1.7. **Association** - A local hockey organization operated and controlled by a duly elected Board of Directors, the members of which shall designate from among themselves the signing officers of that organization.
- 1.8. **Automatic Suspension** -The Suspensions incurred from game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalties as per OHF Minimum Suspension List.
- 1.9. **Category** - A Centre's level of competition e.g. AAA, AA, A, B, C, etc. An OHF Member according to their Regulations, Policies and guidelines determines Category of competition.
- 1.10. **Centre** - A recognized Association within the OHF (that is a city, town, village, municipality, Geographic Subdivision, which incorporates limits or boundaries as accepted by the Member for the purpose of determining hockey eligibility of Players for competition within the jurisdiction of the OHF).
- 1.11. **Club** - Same definition as Association.
- 1.12. **Division** - Age groups within the OHF for competition. Example: Senior, Junior, U21, U18, U15 U13, U11, U9, and U7. See Playing Regulation C4.

- 1.13. **Geographic Subdivision** - Includes a city, town, municipality, police village, rural area, or a zone as established by the OHF or a Member.
- 1.14. **Goaltender(s)** - a Player who is identified by the use of special and legal equipment and has privileges to prevent the puck from entering the net.
- 1.15. **HCR** - Hockey Canada Registry.
- 1.16. **HC Member** - A Geographic Subdivision of Hockey Canada empowered to conduct amateur hockey within its jurisdiction as defined by Hockey Canada By-Law 9.
- 1.17. **Home Centre** - For Minor Hockey, a program for which a Player is eligible to participate in by residence or other Regulations.
- 1.18. **House League** - A community oriented Minor Hockey program structured to provide development and competition at a recreational level.
- 1.19. **Import (Minor Hockey)** - A Player who is a non-resident of the Geographic Subdivision of the Team/Club with which the Player registers. Minor Hockey Imports are only allowed in the Lake Ontario Region. The number of Imports allowed on a Team is restricted.
- 1.20. **Import (Junior and Senior Hockey)** - Refers to the status given to a Player under Hockey Canada Regulations A20 and A27, that has obtained a proper transfer from another Hockey Canada member or IIHF federation to register in Hockey Canada. Also applies to a Player resident in one Geographic Subdivision (or zone) as established by Junior Hockey within the OHF who elects to register in another Geographic Subdivision (or zone) other than the one in which the Player is resident for the Player's first Registration.
- 1.21. **Inter-Member** - Activity between two or more HC Members. (E.g. OHF and Hockey Nova Scotia)
- 1.22. **Local League** - A House League Team, which competes regularly in a league comprised of a number of Centres which must be Sanctioned by their Member.
- 1.23. **Lake Ontario Region (LOR)** - The Minor Hockey Geographic Subdivision comprised of the GTHL (Toronto, Mississauga and Vaughan) and the surrounding OMHA area including Oakville, Brampton, Richmond Hill, Pickering, Ajax and Markham (see Markham Programs Regulation E63) which is the perimeter.
- 1.24. **LOR Organization** - an Association/Club in the case of the GTHL or LOR Centre/AAA Zone in the case of the OMHA.
- 1.25. **Maximum Number of Offers** – refers to the number of offers a Team in a Division and Category is eligible to make. The number is equal to the lesser of:
 - 1.25.1 maximum number of Registrations allowed by Hockey Canada for a Team in the particular Division or
 - 1.25.2 the maximum number allowed by the Member.

- 1.26. **Minor Development (MD) - A Category of Minor Hockey that is residency compliant with no body-checking that is not competitive (i.e. AAA, B, D, etc.) but is not House League.**
- 1.27. **Minor Hockey** – includes all Divisions except Junior and Senior.
- 1.28. **Official Game Report** - The official report of the activity from a sanctioned game verified by Team Officials from each competing Team and signed at the completion of the game by the On-Ice Officials.
- 1.28.1 On-Ice Officials: refers to the Referee and/or Linesman.
- 1.28.2 Minor or Off-Ice Officials: refers to Scorekeeper, Timekeeper and Goal Judges.
- 1.29. **OHF Championship** - An OHF sanctioned play-offs (in a series or Tournament format) to declare champions of the OHF at the Divisions and Categories as determined by the Board.
- 1.30. **On-Ice Sanctioned Activity** - Refers to training, practice or game competition involving Registered Participants that are conducted within facilities used for ice hockey.
- 1.31. **Postponed Game** - A scheduled game that is not started due to reasons as determined by a Member.
- 1.32. **Player** - the Registered Participants of a Team other than Team Officials. Except where special rules apply to them, the Goaltender is to be considered a Player.
- 1.33. **Player Evaluation** - A Sanctioned Activity of a Team for the purpose of evaluating Players, tiering and selecting Teams.
- 1.34. **Regional Championship** - A Hockey Canada sanctioned play-off (in a series or Tournament format) involving more than one HC Member to declare champions in a Hockey Canada defined region at Divisions and Categories as determined by the Hockey Canada board of directors.
- 1.35. **“Registration” or “Registered”** - refers to the Official acceptance by, the relevant registrar, of an approved Roster, properly completed and signed by the Player, parent or guardian where required. A Registration of a Player is in place for the purpose of G2 from the date of Registration until:
- 1.35.1 11:59pm on the Sunday following Labour Day Monday in the case of Players at Divisions that have must have fall evaluations or tryouts. Players that due to residency regulations are required to tryout in their Home Centre, if they choose to participate in skills session, must do so in their Home Centre and this will not be considered tampering;
- 1.35.2 11:59pm on the Sunday of the OHF Championships for Players in Divisions that have tryouts the first Monday following the OHF Championships; or
- 1.35.3 the Player is properly released in accordance with OHF Regulations.
- 1.36. **Registered Participant** - has the meaning assigned in Regulation 2.1
- 1.37. **Release** - The unconditional Release of a Player from a Team authorized by the Official signing officers of that Team/Association/Club. The HC Member or Member has the right, at its discretion, to place conditions on a Release as per Hockey Canada regulations.

- 1.38. **Residential AAA Centre/Zone/Club:** The AAA program that you are eligible to based on the place of the Player's Home Centre.
- 1.39. **Roster** - means the list of active Players Registered by a Team on the HCR, excluding any Affiliate Players.
- 1.40. **Sanctioned Activity** - Activity approved by a Member, HC Member, Hockey Canada or IIHF.
- 1.41. **Select Hockey** - A Category of Minor Hockey which in order to be eligible, a Player must be Registered with a recognized (sanctioned) House League organization and accordingly be an active participant in the corresponding Division in a recognized (sanctioned) schedule of House League programming. Select Hockey Players are not required to abide by residential regulations unless otherwise indicated by the Member.
- 1.42. **Spring Hockey** – Member Sanctioned non-traditional hockey programs (e.g. 3 on 3, 4 on 4, skills clinics etc.) operated by Minor Hockey Associations or the Member beginning any time after the conclusion of the OHF Championships and completing no later than June 30.
- 1.43. **Streaming - the process of providing inequitable opportunities in regard to skill development, frequency of participation, and level of participation based on individuals' skill levels rather than their desires.**
- 1.44. **Supplemental Discipline** - Penalties imposed to Registered Participants in addition to minimum requirements in accordance with the powers vested in the OHF and its Members, either through a separate investigation and/or hearing.
- 1.45. **Suspension** - The loss of an individual's right to participate in Sanctioned Activities of Hockey Canada, OHF or Member.
- 1.46. **Suspended Game** - A scheduled game that is interrupted due to an act of God or other reasons as determined by a Member.
- 1.47. **Team** - A group of Team Officials, at least one of whom must be a coach, and at least one of whom must be a Hockey Trainers Certificate Program (HTCP) certified trainer and a group of Registered Players, at least two of whom must be Goaltenders (except in U13 AA and below) who are qualified in a Division and Category under the OHF or Member Regulations up to the maximum number provided by Hockey Canada Regulations.
- 1.48. **Team Officials** - All or any of the following persons involved in the management of a Team and includes coach, trainer, manager and any assistant coach, assistant trainer or assistant managers.
- 1.49. **Tiering - the process of placing like skilled players with like skilled players to provide meaningful competition.**
- 1.50. **Tournament** - A schedule of games played among three (3) or more Teams that follows an interlocking schedule that leads to an eventual winner (play-offs leading to HC Member or National Championships when played in a Tournament format are not considered Tournament games for Affiliation).

- 1.51. **Volunteer** - An individual who provides services, on behalf of or at the discretion of a Registered Participant in relation to the Registered Participant's operations, without receiving monetary compensation for such services.
- 1.52. **BNQ** - Bureau de Normalization de Quebec
- 1.53. **CBET** - Competency Based Educational Training
- 1.54. **CCAA** - Canadian College Athletic Association
- 1.55. **CIS** - Canadian Inter-University Sport
- 1.56. **CSA** - Canadian Standards Association
- 1.57. **HCIP** - Hockey Canada Initiation Program
- 1.58. **HCOP** - Hockey Canada Officiating Program
- 1.59. **HTCP** - Hockey Trainer's Certification Program
- 1.60. **NCAA** - National Collegiate Athletic Association
- 1.61. **NCCP** - National Coach Certification Program
- 1.62. **NCMP** - National Coach Mentorship Program

REGULATION 2: REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

- 2.1. Any person, Club, Team, Association, league, Hockey Canada Accredited School, Hockey Canada School with Residence or similar entity Registered with the OHF or any of its Members, or any person affiliated with or associated with, in any capacity whatsoever, any Club, Team, league, Hockey Canada Accredited School, Hockey Canada School With Residence or similar entity participating in game or activities of any kind sponsored or organized by the OHF or any of its Members, including but not limited to the parents or legal guardians of any minor aged participant Registered in OHF programming, shall not have membership status within the OHF but, rather shall be referred to throughout these By-Laws as a "Registered Participant".
- 2.2. Participation in OHF programming is voluntary. Registration within programming offered by the OHF or one of its Members entails acceptance by the Registered Participant, including the parents or legal guardians of any minor aged registrant of the final and binding authority of rules and decisions of the Board, adherence to and observance of the By-Laws, Regulations, Playing Rules and Policies of Hockey Canada and the OHF and acceptance and subscription to such insurance coverage and Registered Participant registration fees as may be approved and made mandatory from time to time by the Board.

REGULATION 3: RECOURSE TO THE COURTS

- 3.1. Any recourse to the Courts of any jurisdiction by any Registered Participant, before all rights of appeal and all the rights and remedies of the By-Laws of the OHF have been exhausted, shall be deemed to be a violation and breach of the By-Laws of the OHF. This violation and breach shall

result in the automatic indefinite Suspension of such Registered Participant from OHF activities and games.

- 3.2. Any Registered Participant who has sought court action before exhausting all proper procedures of appeal will be liable for all legal costs and disbursements incurred by the OHF
- 3.3. Until full legal costs are paid by the Registered Participant under Regulation 3.2, at the discretion of the Chair of the Board, the right to participate in the OHF will be suspended.
- 3.4. Any Registered Participant who, having exhausted the appeal procedures, proceeds with Court action will be liable for all legal costs and disbursements incurred by the OHF, should the Courts rule in favor of the OHF, prior to reinstatement of said party's ability to participate with the OHF.

REGULATION 4:REGISTRATION FEES

- 4.1. Each Player, coach, manager, trainer and referee who participates with or in a Member in the OHF shall register with the OHF.
- 4.2. Each Team in the OHF which may be competing outside the jurisdiction of their Member (including Inter-Member competition, regional, OHF, provincial or national championships) must submit a Team list, in the approved format, to the OHF Office not later than October 15 of the current year, (except in the case of Senior Hockey, where the list shall be submitted by November 1 of the current year).
- 4.3. Failure to comply with Regulation 4.2 may result in the Players on that Team automatically being deemed ineligible for further competition, pending further action by the Board.
- 4.4. Any changes to the list submitted, whether by addition or deletion, shall be reported to the OHF within three (3) working days after such changes are made.
- 4.5. Each Player, coach, manager, trainer and referee who registers with the OHF under Regulation 4.1 shall be assessed a registration fee annually which is due and payable on Registration and is in addition to any fees that may be charged by the Members and Hockey Canada.
- 4.6. The registration fees shall be valid for a season which shall be considered as beginning on September 1 and ending August 31 of the year next following.
- 4.7. No Player, coach, manager, trainer or referee shall participate with or in a Member of the OHF without having first registered with the OHF and paid the registration fee.

REGULATION 5:FINANCIAL

- 5.1. The OHF Shall Derive Its Income From:
 - 5.1.1 annual registration fees from each Player, coach, manager, trainer and referee who participates with or in a Member in the OHF;
 - 5.1.2 fees from any associate organizations which may be admitted to the OHF by the Board in accordance with Regulation 8;

- 5.1.3 fees payable for the hearing of appeals in accordance with Regulation 6; and,
 - 5.1.4 funds received from any source approved by the Board of the OHF.
- 5.2. The Board shall have the authority to determine the amount of the annual fees to be paid by registrants.

REGULATION 6: DISPUTE RESOLUTION APPEALS

- 6.1. Definitions For Regulation 6
- 6.1.1 “Chair or Chairperson” means the Chair of a Panel
 - 6.1.2 “Coordinator” means **one or more individuals carrying out the duties assigned by Regulation 6.**
 - 6.1.3 “Panel” means a duly constituted Panel of the Appeals Committee
 - 6.1.4 “Party” means the Appellant(s) and the Respondent(s) named in the application, and any Association directly affected by the issue in dispute
- 6.2. The Appeals Committee shall hear Appeals and make recommendations and decisions in strict accordance with the powers conferred on it in this Regulation 6 and in compliance with the By-Laws, Rules, Regulations and/or Policies adopted or passed by the Board.
- 6.3. Each Member, upon its final disposition of any hearing or appeal conducted by it, shall:
- 6.3.1 advise the party that certain rights are available to them under Regulation 6;
 - 6.3.2 provide the party with a copy of Regulation 6; and
 - 6.3.3 upon request, provide the party with an OHF Appeal Application Form.
- 6.4. Composition
- 6.4.1 The Appeals Committee shall consist of the Coordinator and Vice-Coordinator, and not more than thirty-five (35) other persons. The Board shall appoint people to hold positions as Appeal Committee members. The Board may request suggested names from Members. Appointments to the Appeals Committee will be ratified by the Board on an annual basis.
 - 6.4.2 The Coordinator(**s**) of the Appeals Committee shall be nominated by a Director and appointed by a majority vote of the Board. They shall have had no membership, executive status or interest in any of the Members, Associations or Leagues of the OHF for at least three (3) years immediately prior to their nomination.
 - 6.4.3 The Coordinator and Vice-Coordinator, shall be appointed each year by the Board. If either or both cannot complete a term, a successor(s) shall be appointed by the Board.
 - 6.4.4 Subject to Regulation 6.7.6 the Appeals Committee shall sit in Panels of three (3) as needed and a decision of a majority of a Panel shall be final and binding.

- 6.4.5 Should a person appointed to the Appeals Committee have or have had any position or active role in a Member, or any member thereof, in any of the current or previous two (2) seasons, such person shall not be eligible to participate as a Panel member in any Appeal in which such Member has an interest.

6.5. Appeal Jurisdiction

- 6.5.1 The Appeals Committee shall determine all matters designated in Regulation 6.9 as standing issues, and shall hear any matter referred to it pursuant to Regulation 6.5.4.
- 6.5.2 A person, Team, league or Association who is aggrieved by a final decision of the OHF Chair of the Board (made under By-Law II - Article 18.7) or a Member in relation to any dispute, difference or question may Appeal the following standing issues to the Appeals Committee:
- (a) the decision is in conflict with the Articles, By-Laws, Rules, Regulations and/or Policies of the relevant Member, OHF or of Hockey Canada that may have had a material impact on the decision rendered;
 - (b) the party making the decision committed a material procedural error, or failed to provide the aggrieved party with a fair Appeal hearing that may have had a material impact on the decision rendered; or
 - (c) the party making the decision did not have the authority or jurisdiction to make the decision.
- 6.5.3 The following decisions made by Member, provided that such decision is not contrary to Hockey Canada or the OHF Constitution, By-Laws or Regulations, shall be final and not appealable to the Appeals Committee:
- (a) any decision by a Member as to the outcome of any game or games;
 - (b) any decision relating to the classification of Teams within the jurisdiction of a Member;
 - (c) any decision relating to a Tournament or exhibition game sanctioning;
 - (d) any Suspension pursuant to the minimum suspension list; or
 - (e) any other Suspension of fewer than seven (7) games.

NOTE: If Supplemental Discipline is assessed in addition to the minimum Suspension, and the total Suspension is beyond six (6) games, the games in the Supplemental Discipline are appealable.

- 6.5.4 No appeal to the OHF involving an allegation of Harassment or Abuse shall be heard by the Appeals Committee unless the relevant Member has received a Fact Finder's report and rendered a final decision on the matter.
- 6.5.5 The Board of the OHF may from time to time refer matters to the Appeals Committee requesting a recommendation or decision upon such terms or conditions as the Board

directs. No decision making power can be referred that would have the effect of altering or amending the Constitution of the OHF or the jurisdiction of any of its Members.

6.6. Application Procedure

- 6.6.1 An Appeal shall be submitted via personal service, courier or email from the Appellant to the OHF Office no later than seven (7) days, or the first business day following, if such date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Statutory holiday, from the date the decision sought to be appealed was sent to the appellant by the Member.
- 6.6.2 An Appeal submission shall only be commenced by the submission of a completed OHF Appeal Application Form. Such form shall:
- (a) Contain a completed application form:
 - (b) be signed by the appellant. An application submitted on behalf of an Association/Club/Team must be signed by at least one of the signing officers of the relevant Association/Club/Team;
 - (c) be specific, describe the decision being Appealed and cite the specific paragraph under Regulation 6.5.2 that applies to the Appeal;
 - (d) be concise and contain, in numbered paragraphs, the grounds for Appeal (including how the Appeal qualifies under the relevant paragraph under Regulation 6.5.2) and the facts supporting the Appeal. Pertinent documents, if any from the original Appeal, must be attached (see Regulation 6.8); and
 - (e) be accompanied by an Appeal Application fee of \$300.00 in cash, money order or by cheque made payable to the Ontario Hockey Federation. If submission is by email it must have a copy of payment including courier tracking number with payment arriving no later than two business days following submission deadline.
- 6.6.3 Upon receipt of an OHF Appeal Application Form, the OHF shall forward a copy to the party which rendered the decision. That party must supply to the OHF Office within seven (7) days or the first business day following, if such date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Statutory holiday:
- (a) a description in numbered paragraphs, of the position of the decision maker including:
 - i. the grounds for the decision Appealed,
 - ii. the facts and applicable policy or regulation supporting the decision,
 - iii. a list of witnesses who gave evidence in the Appeal hearing/special meeting;
 - iv. a Fact Finder's Report, if one was considered; and

- v. any additional pertinent documents from the original Appeal, if any. In cases where third party confidentiality is required, a full Fact Finder's Report may not be provided.
 - vi. all contact information (phone numbers and email addresses) must be provided to the OHF at the time of the appeal submission.
- 6.6.4 The timelines in Regulation 6.6.3 may be extended upon request of the party to the OHF Executive Director between June 15 and August 15.
- 6.6.5 Failing a submission from the party in accordance with Regulation 6.6.3 and 6.6.4, the appellants submission will be reviewed by the OHF Appeals Coordinator on its own merits.
- 6.6.6 The Appellant will be provided the response of the party rendering the decision and will have an opportunity to rebut only on the points submitted without the addition of any new arguments or evidence within 48 hours of receiving the response. A copy of such rebuttal will be forwarded to the party rendering the decision.
- 6.6.7 The Coordinator or Vice-Coordinator shall determine whether, on the basis of the material submitted to him, the grounds cited by the appellant qualify the proposed Appeal for a hearing pursuant to Regulation 6.5.2. The parties shall be notified of that determination forthwith.
- 6.6.8 Should the Coordinator or Vice-Coordinator determine that the proposed Appeal does not qualify for an appeal hearing, the Appeal Application Fee will not be returned to the appellant. This determination shall be final and binding subject only to such further rights of appeals as may be available under the Articles, By-Laws, Rules, Regulations and/or Policies of Hockey Canada.
- 6.6.9 Should the Coordinator or Vice-Coordinator determine that the proposed appeal qualifies for an Appeal hearing they shall proceed in the following manner:
 - (a) an Appeal hearing shall be set for a date no later than 15 days after the date that the Coordinator's determination is received by the OHF Office;
 - (b) if it is not practicable to schedule an Appeal hearing within 15 days, as set forth in Regulation 6.6.9 (a), a hearing date may be set beyond the 15 day period and such does not constitute grounds for an Appeal to Hockey Canada due to "improper procedures";
 - (c) the OHF office shall notify all parties to the Appeal not less than five (5) days before the scheduled date for the Appeal. The Notice of Appeal hearing shall include:
 - i. a statement of the issue(s) to be considered, the time and place of the Appeal hearing,

- ii. a statement to advise each party that if a party does not attend, the Appeal hearing may proceed in the absence of that party without further notice, and
 - iii. a copy of material provided pursuant to Regulation 6.6.3.
- 6.6.10 Once convened, an Appeal hearing may be adjourned from time to time, provided that the Panel decides that such adjournment is necessary in order to do justice.

6.7. Appeal Hearing Procedure

- 6.7.1 Any OHF Appeal may be resolved on consent of all parties prior to, or during, an Appeal hearing. The Panel shall issue a direction as may be necessary to accept such resolution, provided it is consistent with the By-Laws, Rules, Regulations and/or Policies of the OHF and relevant Member.
- 6.7.2 An Appeal hearing shall be open to the public unless a hearing in camera is:
 - (a) requested not later than three (3) days prior to the Appeal hearing date by one of the parties; and
 - (b) the Coordinator is of the opinion that the public should be excluded having regard to:
 - i. the nature of the Appeal, or
 - ii. the evidence that may be presented,
 - iii. any other relevant matter. At no time shall any party to the Appeal be excluded from the Appeal hearing while it is in progress unless for gross misconduct during the hearing.
- 6.7.3 The Chair may take such action or give such direction, as is necessary to maintain order at the Appeal hearing.
- 6.7.4 A party to an Appeal may at the hearing:
 - (a) be represented by counsel or an agent;
 - (b) call and examine witnesses and present arguments and submissions; and
 - (c) conduct cross-examination of witnesses as may be reasonable in the circumstances.
- 6.7.5 The Panel shall:
 - (a) permit the parties to present their cases in accordance with due process and the rules of natural justice; and
 - (b) inquire of all parties as to the possible impact of any decision or ruling for consideration as it sees fit.
- 6.7.6 Although, pursuant to Regulation 6.4.4, a Panel shall consist of three (3) members:

- (a) if 15 minutes or more after the Appeal hearing is scheduled to commence, only two (2) members are present, those two (2) members may decide to proceed with the hearing. The power and authority of that Panel will be the same as if three (3) members were present.
 - (b) once convened, if any member of the Panel is unable to continue, the two (2) remaining members may decide to proceed with the Appeal hearing. The power and authority of that Panel of the Appeals Committee will be the same as if three (3) members were present.
- 6.7.7 If Regulation 6.7.6 applies, and at the conclusion of the Appeal hearing, the two (2) remaining members of the Panel do not agree on a decision then the issue shall be concluded as a 'no' decision. In this situation, the appellant has the right to a rehearing, which shall be heard by a new Panel. The request for rehearing shall be forwarded to the OHF office within five (5) days after the OHF Appeal hearing. Subject to approval by the Coordinator or Vice-Coordinator, the rehearing shall be scheduled within eight (8) days.
- 6.7.8 The Chair may add any person or Association as a party to the Appeal hearing that they determine might be materially affected by the resolution of the issue before the Panel. The timing and method of notifying the appellant and respondents shall be at the discretion of the Chair.

6.8. Evidence

- 6.8.1 The Panel may receive such evidence as is relevant and considered to be reliable and trustworthy provided that no witness may give evidence who did not give evidence at the Appeal hearing giving rise to the OHF Appeal. No written evidence can be given which was not given at that hearing unless:
 - (a) the evidence was not discoverable by reasonable diligence before the end of that Appeal hearing; and
 - (b) the evidence is wholly believable; and
 - (c) the evidence is practically conclusive of an issue in the OHF Appeal hearing. The onus shall be on the parties seeking to introduce such evidence to satisfy the Panel hearing the matter that such evidence should be received.

6.9. Enforcement

- 6.9.1 Each Member shall be bound by decisions of any Panel and shall take all such steps as are necessary within its organization to ensure compliance with such decisions.
- 6.9.2 Where the Board concludes that there has been a contravention of any order or decision made by a Panel, they may take any, some or all of the following actions:
 - (a) suspend or restrict the privileges extended through the OHF to the defaulting party;

- (b) assess the costs of the enforcement process against the defaulting party;
- (c) impose a monetary penalty on the defaulting party;
- (d) require the necessary parties to appear before the Board.

6.10. Decision

6.10.1 At the conclusion of the Appeal hearing, the Panel may:

- (a) allow or dismiss the Appeal Application in whole or in part, and make such order as is just in the circumstances and consistent with the Articles, By-Laws, Rules, Regulations and/or Policies of the OHF and the relevant Member. If the decision involves two Members with inconsistent rules then the decision must be consistent to the OHF and Hockey Canada Articles, By-Laws, Rules, Regulations and/or Policies;
- (b) increase based on new evidence accepted by the hearing panel, decrease or leave unchanged any Suspension or sanction against the appellant. Such decision must be in accordance with the Articles, By-Laws, Rules, Regulations and/or Policies of the OHF and the relevant Member. If the decision involves two Members whose relevant Rules are inconsistent, the decision must be consistent with the Articles, By-Laws, Rules, Regulations and/or Policies of the OHF and Hockey Canada;
- (c) assess, in a set amount, all or any part of the costs of the Appeal against one or more of the parties, as long as the assessment does not exceed the application fee received for the Appeal;
- (d) grant a refund of up to 50% of the Appeal Application fee in cases where the appellant has been substantially successful in their Appeal;
- (e) adjourn the disposition of the Appeal Application provided that written notification of the decision is delivered to all parties within 10 days of the adjournment.

6.10.2 Within 48 hours of the Appeal hearing, the Chair shall communicate the Panel's decision or recommendation to the OHF Office in writing. This decision will indicate the disposition of the Appeal.

6.10.3 If the Coordinator or Vice-Coordinator concludes any decision of a Panel is not in adherence with Regulation 6.10.1, the Coordinator or Vice Coordinator in consultation with the Board shall return the matter to the Panel with appropriate directions, so that it can render a decision in adherence with Regulation 6.10.1.

6.10.4 The OHF shall forward the written decision or recommendation of the Panel to all parties within 24 hours of receiving that decision.

6.10.5 Unless the reasons have been included with the decision, the Chair shall communicate the Panel's reasons in writing, within 10 days following the Appeal hearing.

- 6.10.6 Reasons shall include:
- (a) a statement of the jurisdiction for the decision;
 - (b) a brief summary of any facts and/or issues the Panel found significant to its decision;
 - (c) the policy of the OHF and (if applicable) of Member applied to the case;
 - (d) reasons for the awarding or denial of costs pursuant to Regulation 6.9.2 (b).
- 6.10.7 Notwithstanding Regulation 6.10.4, when an Appeal hearing is completed on a Friday or Saturday:
- (a) the Chair shall communicate the Panel's decision to the OHF office not later than the next business day; and
 - (b) the OHF office shall forward the decision of the Panel, in writing, to all parties on the next business day following the receipt of the decision with reasons, where available.
- 6.10.8 Subject to the provisions of Regulation 6.10.7, where the time limit for doing anything under this By-Law expires or falls upon a Saturday, Sunday or other holiday, the time so limited extends to the next business day.
- 6.10.9 A decision of the Panel shall be final and binding on all parties, subject only to such further rights of Appeal as may be available under the Articles, By-Laws, Rules, Regulations and/or Policies of Hockey Canada.
- 6.10.10 Notwithstanding Regulation 6.10.9, in extreme cases the Chair of the Board and Executive Director may refer the Appeal to a new Panel to be reheard. If either or both have participated in the Appeal in any capacity, their places in reviewing and referring an Appeal for such a rehearing shall be taken by the First Vice President and/or the Second Vice President, in that order. If either of them cannot act since they participated in the Appeal, their place will be taken by the Secretary/Treasurer and/or Past President.
- 6.10.11 No person shall sit on a Panel who is the brother, brother-in-law, spouse, sister, sister-in-law, father, grandfather, mother, grandmother, daughter, son, aunt, uncle, employer, employee, counsel or agent of any party to an Appeal or any witness whether such witness gives evidence in person or in writing.
- 6.10.12 Where an issue that is not expressly covered by the provisions of Regulation 6 arises at the Appeal hearing, such issue shall be resolved in accordance with the rules of natural justice and in order to do justice between the parties in dispute having regard to the By-Laws, Rules, Regulations and Policies of a Member, OHF or of Hockey Canada.

REGULATION 7: DISPUTE RESOLUTION REGISTRATION

7.1. Purpose

- 7.1.1 The Registration Committee shall be the mechanism that shall deal specifically with all matters of Registration or eligibility involving two or more Members of the OHF.

7.2. Composition

- 7.2.1 The Registration Committee shall consist of a Chair, being an individual appointed by the Chair of the Board, and four (4) other members, appointed from time to time by the Chair of the Board as follows. Each Member shall propose the names of two (2) of its Directors who will be eligible to sit on the Registration Committee from time to time. From those names the Chair of the Board shall select the other four (4) members of the Committee for each case or hearing. Among those four (4) members shall be one from each Member whose Registration and/or eligibility issues are to be resolved. The Chair will not vote, except to cast a deciding vote if in case of a tie.

- 7.2.2 The Chair of the Registration Committee shall preside at all hearings, meetings or conference calls dealing with applications as are referred to it by the Chair of the Board.

7.3. Application Procedures

7.3.1 Tampering

- (a) If tampering is alleged between Associations / Clubs in two Members, the signing officers of the Association / Club making the allegations shall file them directly with the OHF Office, accompanied by a \$50 (fifty dollar) filing fee (Regulation G5). If a tampering allegation is between Associations / Clubs of the same Member, refer to Regulation G6.
- (b) The filing shall include all necessary supporting documentation, including the Player's previous Registrations, information on residence (if applicable), information or evidence as to residence and any other relevant documents and/or correspondence.
- (c) After obtaining the Association / Club contact information from the Members, the OHF shall forward the materials noted above to all parties.
- (d) The Association / Club shall provide, within seven (7) working days, a response including the Player's Registration, documentation validating eligibility, and a statement responding to the tampering allegations.
- (e) Failure to provide a response within the seven (7) day timeframe will result in a finding of tampering (penalties outlined in Regulation G4).

7.3.2 Additional Registration / Eligibility Issues

- (a) A completed Registration Committee Application Form and fee shall be forwarded to the OHF office through the appropriate OHF Member. Any direct applications to the OHF Office will be referred to the appropriate Member.

- (b) The Application Form shall be accompanied by all necessary supporting documentation including the Player's previous Registration, information or evidence as to residence (if applicable), information on where the Player is allegedly registered and any other relevant documents and/ or correspondence.
- (c) The Application Form and materials submitted to the OHF shall be forwarded to the applicable Member Office. This Member shall provide its response within seven (7) days, with such documentation considered by it plus any further supporting evidence.
- (d) Failure to provide such response within the seven (7) day timeframe will result in the committee finding in favour of the applicant. A fine of \$150.00 (one hundred and fifty dollars), payable to the OHF, will be levied against the Member. Failure to remit the fine within thirty (30) days shall result in removal of that Member's voting privileges at Members' Meetings, until the outstanding fine is paid.

7.4. Jurisdiction

- 7.4.1 The appointed Committee shall determine facts and make decisions and / or orders in accordance with the powers conferred on it in Regulation 7.1.1 of the OHF and in compliance with the By-Laws, Regulations and Policies adopted or duly passed by the Board.
- 7.4.2 In matters involving tampering allegations, the Committee will conduct a hearing.
- 7.4.3 In all other matters, the decision as to whether to resolve the matter based on paper submissions or by way of a hearing is that of the Committee, in its sole discretion.

7.5. Notice

- 7.5.1 In all matters where a hearing, either in person or by way of conference call is being conducted, all parties are entitled to reasonable notice in writing of the date, time and location (where applicable). The hearing shall proceed with or without any of the parties being present.

7.6. Evidence/Examination

- 7.6.1 Any party to a Registration Committee hearing may:
 - (a) be represented by agent or counsel; and
- 7.6.2 tender evidence, documentation or oral testimony deemed by the Committee to be relevant, reliable and trustworthy.

7.7. In considering and determining questions with respect to any application, the Committee may consider and act upon any kind of evidence, whether direct or circumstantial.

7.8. Appeal Hearing Procedure

- 7.8.1 A Registration Committee shall consider a matter within fifteen (15) days following the OHF's receipt of the application and fees. Extenuating circumstances may warrant an

extension of the fifteen day requirement, in which case such determination shall be made exclusively by the OHF Chair of the Board.

7.8.2 All Committee meetings shall be closed meetings. All Committee hearings shall be closed hearings with only the parties involved being invited. Other parties will be allowed to attend only with the permission of the Committee Chair.

7.8.3 In all matters, the Registration Committee shall:

- (a) confirm that the matter is within its jurisdiction;
- (b) confirm that all documents and fees have been properly submitted; and
- (c) provide the attending parties the right to present their positions in accordance with due process and the rules of natural justice.

7.8.4 A Registration Committee meeting/hearing will be held either in person or via conference call. The committee will deliberate on the matter without the parties present.

7.8.5 All written submissions and evidence will be distributed to all parties and the Committee prior to the meeting/hearing.

7.9. Decision/Scope Of Decision/Right Of Appeal

7.9.1 Within two (2) business days of the conclusion of the meeting/hearing, the Committee shall forward its decision in writing to the OHF Executive Director, who will in turn inform the parties of the decision by the next business day.

7.9.2 All parties and all OHF Members shall be bound by the decision of the Registration Committee and all parties shall agree to take all such steps as are necessary to ensure compliance with its decision.

7.9.3 Appeals of a decision of the OHF Registration Committee shall be directed to the National Appeals Committee of Hockey Canada in accordance with Hockey Canada By-Law 56.2. At the commencement of a Registration Committee meeting on a matter, the parties present shall be provided with information on the process of appeal that may be available through the National Appeals Committee.

7.9.4 If the Executive Director receives evidence indicating that there has been a contravention of any order or decision of the Registration Committee, the Executive Director will automatically refer the matter to the Board. The Board shall have ultimate authority over such matters and take necessary action as they see fit.

REGULATION 8: ASSOCIATE GROUPS

8.1. The Board may, in its discretion and subject to such terms and conditions as it sees fit to apply, admit as an Associate any Team, league or organization:

- 8.1.1 that operates a recognized hockey program that furthers the same objectives as the OHF;
 - 8.1.2 that operates pursuant to principles similar to those of the OHF,
 - 8.1.3 that has in place policies and procedures to address concerns such as Suspensions, abuse/harassment and appeals; and
 - 8.1.4 whose Associate relationship will not create undue risk to the OHF.
- 8.2. An applicant for Associate will complete and submit an Associate Application Form and supply any additional information or documentation required by the Board. The Board reserves the right, in its sole and unfettered discretion, to deny Associate relationship to any applicant.
 - 8.3. Except as may be otherwise determined by the Board in any particular case, an Associate is subject to review, and renewal in the discretion of the Board, on an annual basis on a date fixed by the Board.
 - 8.4. The rights and privileges accorded to each Associate will be determined by the Board. Such rights and privileges, including if applicable the Hockey Canada/OHF insurance program, will not apply during any unsanctioned event or competition.
 - 8.5. An Associate will not have voting privileges at any OHF meeting, will not use the OHF Logo without the written consent of the Board and will not enter into or purport to enter into any obligations on behalf of the OHF.
 - 8.6. An Associate will designate one individual to be its Official liaison with the OHF.
 - 8.7. The fee, if any, to be paid by an Associate shall in each case be determined by the Board.

REGULATION 9: REFEREE-IN-CHIEF

- 9.1. The Referee-in-Chief will be appointed in even years at the first Board of Directors meeting following the Annual General Meeting of the Members for a two (year) term.
- 9.2. Procedure for Application:
 - 9.2.1 A call for applications will open ninety (90) days prior to the Annual General Meeting of Members.
 - 9.2.2 All applications for Referee-in-Chief must be submitted in writing to the Nominations Committee no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting of Members and include:
 - (a) Resume; and
 - (b) Criminal Record Check.
 - 9.2.3 The Nominations Committee will conduct a reference check of all eligible candidates with the Members they have participated with and submit up to three eligible candidates to the Board thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Members.

- 9.2.4 The Board of Directors will conduct an interview with each candidate submitted to them by the Nominations Committee.
 - 9.2.5 The Board of Directors will review all relevant information submitted to it by the Nominations Committee and relevant information from the interview to determine the individual that they will appoint. The appointment will require a majority vote of the Directors present subject to quorum.
 - 9.2.6 If there are no applicants for the Referee in Chief, thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Members, the Board will approach an individual that has the requirements to be appointed.
- 9.3. Eligibility for the position of Referee-in-Chief:
- 9.3.1 Any individual that has the requirements outlined in the job description set by the Board from time to time is eligible to stand for appointment.
 - 9.3.2 The Referee-In-Chief cannot be an employee or Director of the OHF or an employee or director of a Member or member of a Member.
 - 9.3.3 The Referee-In-Chief can be a Life Member of a Member or a member of a Member but cannot participate (i.e. vote, attend meeting or consult) with the Member or member of a Member.
 - 9.3.4 The Referee-In-Chief must not be the Referee-in-Chief or equivalent of a Member or member of a Member for the seasons in which they are seeking election.
 - 9.3.5 The Referee-In-Chief appointed that holds a current position as set out in 9.3.2, 9.3.3 and 9.3.4 must resign that involvement within fifteen (15) days.

REGULATION 10: LIFE PATRON

10.1. Qualifications For Nominations

- 10.1.1 Life Patron may be granted to an individual who has served a minimum of ten (10) years on the Board(s) of the OHF and/or one or more of its Members, with a minimum of five (5) of those years in service to the Board of the OHF, and who has rendered extraordinary and distinguished service to the OHF, having performed enough work and shown sufficient initiative to suggest that the individual would be likely to continue to bring credit to the OHF.

10.2. Nominations Of Candidates

- 10.2.1 In November of each year a Life Patron Bulletin will be sent to the Board advising them that nominations for election to the Life Patron are open until 60 (sixty) days prior to the next Semi-Annual Meeting of Members.
- 10.2.2 A nomination for Life Patron may be submitted only by a Director of the OHF.
- 10.2.3 Each candidate must be endorsed by three (3) Members.
- 10.2.4 Once a Member endorses a nomination, that same Member may not endorse any other nomination. Accordingly a maximum of two (2) individuals may be nominated in any year.

10.2.5 A completed Life Patron Nomination Form together with endorsements must be filed with the Executive Director sixty (60) days prior to the Semi Annual Meeting of Members.

10.2.6 The file for each nomination shall not be retained for subsequent selections.

10.3. Election Of Life Patrons

10.3.1 The vote for Life Patron shall be conducted at the Semi Annual Meeting of Members by secret ballot. Voting shall be conducted in accordance with By-Law III - Article 9.1.

10.3.2 For Life Patron to be granted, a minimum 75% of the eligible votes cast and not spoiled must be in favour of the nomination.

10.3.3 In the event that there are two (2) candidates, the names of both candidates will appear on the ballot and votes may be cast for one, both, or neither of the candidates.