



MINIMUM STANDARDS OF DISCIPLINE

2026-2027 season

1. OBJECTIVES

To establish a disciplinary protocol that will clearly establish the role and responsibilities of all participants in the application of a disciplinary policy for infractions committed as per the Hockey Canada Official Playing Rules.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES

The HNB Suspension Coordinator and U15 AAA and U18 AAA League Presidents shall use the Minimum Standards for Discipline in the administration of discipline within New Brunswick. The masculine gender is used without prejudice to facilitate reading.

These standards are amended to agree with Hockey Canada's Official Rulebook.

a. COACHES

- i. Coaches are primarily responsible to control the behavior of their players on and off the ice.
- ii. Be knowledgeable of the Hockey Canada rules.
- iii. Be knowledgeable of the NBMHC disciplinary suspension standards.
- iv. Provide information, when required, to members of the Disciplinary Committee.
- v. Ensure that players are not allowed to play until a formal decision on the suspension has been rendered.
- vi. Explain the suspension to the player and encourage the player to modify his/her behavior.
- vii. Ensure that the player serves suspension.

b. OFFICIALS

- i. Maintain control of the game under their authority.
- ii. Ensure that the play evolves in a safe environment.
- iii. Impose the required penalty as per the Hockey Canada rule to both team players objectively.
- iv. Consult, when necessary, with other on-ice and off-ice officials.
- v. Prepare clear and concise HNB Game Incident Report reports on all Game Misconducts, Major, Match or Gross misconduct penalties.
- vi. Forward these reports within 24 hours to the NBHOC-ROC Referee in Chief or regional game incident report coordinator.

c. NBHOC - ROC REFEREE-IN-CHIEF

- i. Receives all GIR's from officials under his jurisdiction.
- ii. Reviews all GIR's for inconsistencies, errors or omissions.

- iii. Amend all GIR's before forwarding to the HNB Suspension Coordinator within 24 hrs of the infraction.
- iv. E-mail to suspensions@hnb.ca.

d. HNB SUSPENSION COORDINATOR AND DIRECTORS

- i. The HNB Suspension Coordinator shall have jurisdiction over all infractions concerning majors, match penalties, game misconducts and gross misconducts. The U15 AAA and U18 AAA provincial league presidents will handle the infractions occurring in these leagues for minimum imposed suspensions.
- ii. The HNB Suspension Coordinator is to render suspension decisions based on the NBMHC Minimum Standards for Discipline. The NBMHC Executive Committee or League President may increase the suspension to the individual based on the seriousness of the infraction and/or if a serious injury resulted from the infraction.
- v. Association Presidents or their designate are responsible to notify coaches of infractions from exhibition and tournament games played within a community club, coaches must abide by the NBMHC Minimum Standards for Discipline and it is the coach's responsibility to know of prior suspensions to impose amplification suspensions as per NBMHC Minimum standards of Discipline.
- vi. The HNB Suspension Coordinator will endeavor to render a decision within 48 hours.

e. U15 AAA AND U18 AAA LEAGUE PRESIDENT

- i. U15 AAA and U18 AAA League Presidents are required to administer the disciplinary action of their leagues consistently with the NBMHC Minimum Standards for Discipline.

3. GENERAL NBMHC DISCIPLINE ADMINISTRATION

- a. **All disciplinary suspensions will be issued either as a set number of games or as a defined time period (e.g., weeks or months), depending on the nature and severity of the infraction.**

Games counting towards suspensions are regular scheduled league games and tournament games, which were scheduled before the infraction occurred, proof that the games were scheduled must be provided to the District Directors or League Presidents jurisdiction. Exhibition games sanctioned prior to a game, in which a suspension is issued, will count toward the serving of a suspension.

- b. All persons receiving a suspension under the jurisdiction of Hockey Canada, HNB or its member Branches shall be deemed ineligible from participating at any level of hockey, including officiating, in any competition under the jurisdiction of Hockey New Brunswick until the suspension has been served or length of suspension has elapsed from within the league and/or Council in which it was given.
- c. The HNB Suspension Coordinator or League President must receive game reports within 48 hours of the infraction.

- d. Members incurring suspensions in excess of Minimum Standards of Discipline or an indefinite suspension shall be permitted a hearing by the responsible authority. All hearings must follow Section 6.2 of the NBMHC Operation Manual.
- e. Further appeals of this decision may be made to the HNB Appeals Committee (attention HNB Executive Director) under HNB Regulation 110.

Appeals will only be entertained when they are higher than the minimum suspension, or when they are concerning rule interpretation or player eligibility. Official (s) judgement is not appealable.

Suspensions issued through the Video Review Policy are not required to have a hearing.

- f. Players and/or team officials conduct while under suspension
 - i. Players
 - a. Can practice with the team while under suspension
 - b. Cannot play exhibition, tournament or league games while under suspension
 - c. Anyone carrying a suspension from a previous season can try out and is permitted to play exhibition games prior to the start of the season.
 - ii. Coaches
 - a. During, before and after games, coaches cannot be in the dressing room while under suspension
 - b. During, before and after games, coaches cannot be near the players' bench
 - c. Coaches cannot coach league, exhibition or tournament games while under suspension
- g. Severe penalties are to be assessed to community clubs and/or coaches who allow suspended players to play (see below).
- h. For use of an ineligible player as defined in NBMHC Operation Manual Section 12.1 the minimum suspension is 5 games.
- i. A suspended player, whose team has been eliminated from further competition for the year, may serve their suspension with their higher category affiliate team provided they have played a minimum of 1 game as an affiliate after January 10.

4. AFFILIATION

If an affiliated player is invited without the consent of the Association President, EDZA President, League President or designate, sanctions will be handed out. For the first offence, a written warning will be issued to the higher division or category. For the second offence, the affiliation agreement for the said player to the higher division or category will be annulled for the remainder of the season.

5. U7 and U9 HOCKEY MODEL PROGRAM

- a. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to follow Hockey New Brunswick rules related to U7 / U9 programming.
- b. The structure for U7 / U9 programming is outlined in Section 15.11 of the Hockey New Brunswick Minor Operations Manual.
- c. Failure to follow section 15.11 will result in the following sanctions – the sanctions will be issued and at the discretion of the respective Hockey New Brunswick District Director.
1st offense – Head Coach will be suspended for two weeks
2nd offense – Head Coach will be released from roster and suspended for duration of season.

Any community club violating the maximum number of games for U7 and U9 will be suspended from all provincial play-off play in all age divisions.

6. SUSPENSION FOR USE OF AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER

- a. For use of ineligible player - Refer to Section 12.1 of the NBMHC Operation Manual.
- b. The Head Coach will be suspended for a minimum of 5 games for playing a player under suspension.
- c. An ineligible player may also be defined as any player deemed suspended, not properly rostered, or affiliated with his team or not having met the requirement of the NBMHC Operation Manual.
- d. If a team participates with a player deemed ineligible all games played shall be declared a forfeit and the team shall be denied any participation in provincial playoffs during the current season.

7. NBMHC GAME INCIDENT REPORT CRITICAL PATH

- a. HNB Suspension Coordinator receives the Game Incident Reports (GIR) by e-mail or fax from the designated NBHOC representative for the District/ROC. (The designated NBHOC representative receives all the GIR's for the District/ROC).
- b. The HNB Suspension Coordinator reviews the incident report. If there are questions the HNB Suspension Coordinator contacts the designated NBHOC representative for the information.
- c. The HNB Suspension Coordinator renders the appropriate discipline.
- d. The HNB Suspension Coordinator issues the suspensions to the designated person for each association and copies the appropriate District Director.
- e. Any indefinite suspensions that require a hearing will be forwarded to the appropriate District Director or League President.
- f. If a hearing is required, the District Director or League President calls the offending party and explains the process, outlines what the GIR contains and asks if they have anything to add.
- g. Once the hearing is held, the District Director or League President issue the notice.
- i. This process should be completed in 24 hours or less.

8. TEAM DISCIPLINE

- a. Teams who receive seven (7) separate Match Penalty, Fighting Majors or Maltreatment suspensions will be required to attend a hearing with representatives

from the Minor Hockey Association, District, and Hockey New Brunswick's Minor Council.

- b. At the discretion of Hockey New Brunswick's Minor Council Chair, in consultation with the district director, the team may be sanctioned. Potential sanctions include suspension of individual members or suspension of the team.

9. **HEAD CONTACT – U18 C DIVISION**

- a. In the U18 C division, any player who receives a double minor penalty under Rule 7.6(a) will also serve a 10-minute Misconduct (Rule 4.7).

SECTION 1 - MALTREATMENT				
Rule #	Type	Penalty	Suspension	Last 10 Minutes
11.1(e)	Game Misconduct	Unsportsmanlike Conduct	1 game	2 games
11.2(e)	Game Misconduct	Abusive Behavior	2 games	3 games
11.2(f)	Gross Misconduct	Abusive Behavior	4 games	5 games
11.3(c)	Match	Spitting	5 games	n/a
11.4	Gross Misconduct	Discrimination	Indefinite Suspension (Minimum 5 Games)	n/a
11.5(c)	Match	Physical Harassment of Officials	Indefinite Suspension (Minimum 10 Games)	n/a
11.5(e)	Game Misconduct	Physical Harassment of Officials	1 game	2 games

SECTION 2 - MAJOR PENALTIES				
Rule #	Type	Penalty	Suspension	Last 10 Minutes
7.1(b)	Major	Grabbing hair, facial protector, helmet, chin strap or throat protector.	2 games	3 games
7.2(b)	Major	Boarding	2 games	3 games
7.3(b)	Major	Body Checking	2 games	3 games
7.4(b)	Major	Charging	2 games	3 games
7.5(b)	Major	Checking from Behind	2 games	3 games
7.5(b)	Major	Checking from Behind (in a non-checking league)	3 games	4 games
7.6(b)	Major	Head Contact	2 games	3 games
7.8(b)	Major	Kneeing	2 games	3 games
7.9(b)	Major	Roughing	2 games	3 games
8.3(b)	Major	Interference	2 games	3 games
8.4(b)	Major	Interference from the Bench	2 games	3 games
8.5(b)	Major	Interference with the Goaltender	2 games	3 games
8.7(b)	Major	Clipping	2 games	3 games
9.2(b)	Major	Cross-Checking	2 games	3 games
9.3(b)	Major	Slashing	2 games	3 games

10.5(b)	Major	Throwing or Shooting Stick or Object	2 games	3 games
10.8(b)	Major	Refusing to Start Play – Play Resumed	Indefinite Suspension	n/a
		Refusing to Start Play – Game is suspended	Indefinite Suspension	n/a

SECTION 3 - MATCH PENALTIES

Rule #	Type	Penalty	Suspension	Last 10 Minutes
7.1(c)	Match	Attempt to Injure or Deliberate Injury	4 games	n/a
7.1(c) i.	Match	Head Butting	4 games	n/a
7.1(c) ii.	Match	Grabbing hair, throat protector or any part of the helmet	4 games	n/a
7.1(c) iii.	Match	Kicking	4 games	n/a
7.1(c) iv.	Match	Using equipment as a weapon	4 games	n/a
7.2(c)	Match	Boarding	4 games	n/a
7.3(c)	Match	Body Checking	4 games	n/a
7.4(c)	Match	Charging	4 games	n/a
7.5(c)	Match	Checking from Behind	4 games	n/a
7.5(c)	Match	Checking from Behind (in a non-checking league)	5 games	n/a
7.6(c)	Match	Head Contact	4 games	n/a
7.8(c)	Match	Kneeing	4 games	n/a
7.9(c)	Match	Roughing	4 games	n/a
8.3(c)	Match	Interference	4 games	n/a
8.4(c)	Match	Interference from the Bench	4 games	n/a
8.5(c)	Match	Interference with the Goaltender	4 games	n/a
8.7(c)	Match	Clipping	4 games	n/a
8.8(c)	Match	Slew Footing	4 games	n/a
9.1(c)	Match	Butt-Ending	4 games	n/a
9.2(c)	Match	Cross Checking	4 games	n/a
9.3(c)	Match	Slashing	4 games	n/a
9.4(c)	Match	Spearing	4 games	n/a
10.5(c)	Match	Throwing or Shooting Stick or Object	4 games	n/a

SECTION 4 - FIGHTING PENALTIES

Rule #	Type	Penalty	Suspension	Last 10 Minutes
7.10(b)	Major	Fighting	5 games	6 games
7.10(b)	Pre/Post Game Altercations			
	Major + GM	Any player involved where Majors and Game Misconducts are assessed.	3 games	4 games
	Major + GM	Coach of team whose players are so penalized.	Indefinite Suspension	n/a
7.10(c)	Match	Fighting – wearing rings or tape to inflict punishment.	3 games	n/a
7.10(e) ii.	Game Misc.	Player who joins in a fight or acts as a peacemaker.	2 games	3 games
7.10(e) iii.	Game Misc.	Player who takes part in another or secondary fight during the same stoppage of play.	2 games	3 games

7.10(f)	Gross Misc.	Fighting or joining a fight with or as a team official	5 games	6 games
7.11 (a)	Minor	Instigator or aggressor of a fight	1 game	n/a
<i>Rule 7.11(a) Note: If a player is assessed both penalties in the same altercation, they would be suspended for both offences.</i>				
10.4(e)	Game Misc.	Player identified as first to leave the players' or penalty bench during a fight or for the purpose of fighting.	4 games	5 games
10.4(e)	Game Misc.	Coach of a team whose player is identified as first to leave the players' or penalty bench during a fight or for the purpose of fighting.	4 games	5 games
10.4(e)	Game Misc.	Coach whose player is not identified as the first to leave the players' or penalty bench during an on-ice altercation.	2 games	3 games

SECTION 5 – OTHER				
Rule #	Type	Penalty	Suspension	Last 10 Minutes
4.7(c)	Game Misc	Second misconduct in same game	n/a	1 game
4.9	Gross Misc.	Any gross misconduct assessed to a player or team official not otherwise covered within these guidelines	3 games	4 games
7.5 (a)	Minor	Checking from Behind	n/a	1 game
10.4(f)	Gross Misc.	Any player or team official who, having been removed from the game due to a Game Ejection, Game Misconduct, Gross Misconduct, or Match penalty, returns to the ice surface or becomes involved with or disrupts the game in any way.	Indefinite Suspension	n/a
Progressive Suspension / Player or Team Official		A participant who receives a second suspension during the season	Additional 2 games	n/a
		A participant who receives a third suspension during the season	Additional 4 games	n/a
		A participant who receives a fourth suspension during the season	Indefinite	n/a