

NB MINOR HOCKEY COUNCIL OPERATIONS MANUAL

2026-2027

NBMHC OPERATIONS MANUAL

AS AMENDED: June 13, 2026

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SECTION 1 – OBJECTIVES

1.0 To foster, encourage, promote and improve all organized minor hockey within the Province of New Brunswick in the following divisions: U21, U18, U15, U13, U11, U9, U7. *6.4.16*

1.1 To provide, promote, organize and maintain competition for all who desire to participate in minor hockey and to provide provincial championships for players competing at the development and competitive levels in accordance with Zone and Provincial Championship Regulations. *6.13.15*

1.2 To exercise a general supervision and direction over the playing interests of its minor hockey players, coaches, managers and executives with emphasis on the enhancement of good character and citizenship. *8.11.06*

1.3 To continue to develop a Minor Council Officials' Division in co-operation with the NBHOC. *6.13.04*

SECTION 2 - GENERALITIES

2.0 **COMMITMENT**
By joining HNB and HC as a member, a person willingly accepts to abide by and conform to HNB's and HC's Constitutions, Regulations and Playing Rules. *9.20.04*

2.1 **PRINCIPLES**
Hockey New Brunswick, as the governing body for Minor Hockey within New Brunswick may, through their Minor Council, impose sanctions on Minor Hockey Associations, teams and/or members who do not abide by the NBMHC Operations Manual which consists of additions to or clarifications of HNB Constitution Articles, By-Laws and Regulations and Hockey Canada Constitution Articles, By-Laws and Regulations and Playing Rules. *6.4.11*

2.2 **RESTRICTION OF ACTIVITIES TO MEMBERS**
Only members who have registered with a NBMHC association, club, league or team and for whom an insurance premium has been paid for the current season may take part in HNB Minor Hockey Council activities. Conversely, no member may participate in activities where non-members, who have been so identified by HNB, are involved, unless previously approved by HNB's Risk, Conduct and Safety Management Committee. *6.11.06*

2.3 **HOCKEY SEASON**
Obligations by a member and the granting of privileges resulting from their membership with HNB and NBMHC remain in force from June 1st to May 31st. *6.2.18*

2.4 No breweries, distilleries, wineries, cannabis or tobacco companies shall be permitted to display advertising or any connotation of the aforementioned on uniforms or equipment of any team. *11.10.18*

2.5 Community Club- An organization consisting of HNB members with an executive that are responsible for organizing, registering, and financing all competitive and "C" hockey programs within a defined area.
District Association- Is a group of community clubs within a District's geographical boundaries. *6.7.14*

SECTION 3 – FINANCIAL

3.0 Each association, club or league seeking membership with the NBMHC must pay annual fees as per HNB's Fiscal Policy. *6.13.04*

3.1 Membership dates must be followed: *9.20.04*

a. Associations/clubs must be registered as per Section 13.2. *9.20.04*
b. Leagues must be registered as per Section 14.1. *9.20.04*
c. Players must be registered and paid as per Section 3.4a. *9.20.04*
d. The last day to register a development or competitive player with an association or club is January 10. *6.11.06*
e. The NBMHC Executive Committee may entertain membership of players between January 11 and February 10. *9.20.04*

3.2 The fiscal year end of the Council shall be March 31. *6.13.04*

3.3 a. Associations, community clubs and leagues must submit a Financial Statement to their respective district director at the end of each hockey season, no later than 7 days before the HNB annual general meeting. Failure to do so may result in sanctions and loss of membership privileges, including voting. *8.25.20*

b. All associations, clubs and leagues must have all outstanding accounts to HNB settled prior to registering for the upcoming hockey season. If their accounts have not been settled 7 days before the annual General Meeting, there will be an overcharge of $500.00, for offending associations, clubs and leagues. Notification of outstanding accounts will be forwarded to the District Director monthly of each season. *5.28.22.*

3.4 a. Billing schedule, as follows:

September 1 Associations and clubs will be invoiced on their previous year's membership numbers. *6.13.04*

November 30 Associations and clubs must ensure that all monies for all players, coaches, bench personnel and volunteers are registered and insured with HNB and paid or they will lose their competition privileges. Late membership fees must be forwarded to the HNB office, together with all monies, owing, immediately following their membership application. *6.10.07*

January 31 The HNB office will prepare a comparison by association/club of membership numbers and membership/insurance monies submitted and invoice the associations for the balance outstanding with a deadline to submit payment on February 15. *6.15.08*

3.5 Fundraising activities should adhere to Hockey New Brunswick/Hockey Canada policies and regulations. Any monies raised by teams on behalf of the Minor teams shall remain property of teams and/or Minor hockey association and shall not be returned to individual parents or organizations. *11.10.18*

SECTION 4 – CERTIFICATION

4.0 a. December 15 of the current season shall be the deadline for all persons requiring certification to obtain their certification, as follows: *6.11.06*

b. Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches in U7 and U9 require Coach Level 1. *6.2.18*

c. Head coaches and assistant coaches in U11, U13, U15 and U18 competitive and recreational divisions require Coach Level 2. *6.2.18*

d. All volunteers, bench and on-ice personnel 16 years and older, registered with Hockey New Brunswick, require Respect in Sport for Activity Leader or The Shift Forward program. All volunteers, bench staff and on ice helpers 18 years of age and older must have a cleared criminal record check and vulnerable sector check. If they have not submitted a cleared Criminal record check and vulnerable sector check by the required date, they will be deemed ineligible on the team roster and will be unable to participate on the team until they provide a copy of the required documents. *8.25.20*

e. All Hockey New Brunswick (HNB) volunteers are required to complete and submit a Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check every three (3) years. These checks must be completed and submitted to the volunteer's Minor Hockey Association or club prior to being rostered or participating in any team activity**,** including both on-ice and off-ice activities. Each association or club is responsible for designating an individual to collect the sealed clearance checks and submit confirmation to the HNB office. A Criminal Record Check and Vulnerable Sector Check submitted during the current season will be valid for that season and the following two (2) seasons. *6.13.26*

f. All HNB registered minor hockey teams must have a bench staff member that has successfully completed the Hockey Canada Safety Program and is currently certified. Their certification will expire five years after the date of the program certification course. *6.2.12*

g. Deadline to add bench staff is February 10th. In case of emergency, the District Director will deal with requests on a case-by-case basis. Any bench staff team member that cannot show proof of qualifications and has not obtained their certification as outlined in 4.0 A-H, will not be eligible to participate, and therefore must be released from the team roster. *6.8.19*

h. All adults supervising the Community Hockey Program must have HC Speak Out! or Respect in Sport for Activity Leader certification and have a cleared criminal check and vulnerable person's check. *8.25.20*

i. One parent, guardian or HNB volunteer (in any capacity) of an HNB registered player born after 2005, excluding the HNB community hockey program, must successfully complete the parent Respect in Sport program certification or provide proof of certification no later than December 1st of the current season. Should the parent, guardian or HNB volunteer not complete the certification by December 1st, their child will not be able to participate in games or practices until the certification is completed. The uncertified player's Association/Community club will be responsible to notify the family of the player's ineligibility to participate in practices and games without proof of certification, and this ineligible player's name shall be released from the team roster in the HCR until proof of certification appears on the player's profile in the HCR. *8.25.20*

ii. Following the December 1st deadline, a head coach who allows a player who is uncertified in Respect in Sport for Parent participate in games and practices shall be considered as having used an ineligible player. *8.25.20*

Definitions:

Coach or Assistant Coach – a person who is both on the bench during games and is on the ice during practice. *6.2.18*

Trainer – A person who is on the bench during the games to attend to any injuries. This person is on the bench or in the rink during practices as well but does not go on the ice to assist with practices. *6.2.18*

Manager – A person who assists with booking ice time, submitting tournament applications, making travel plans, coordinates team budgets and acts as a liaison between the coaches and parents. This person is permitted to be on the bench during games but does not go on the ice to assist with practices. *6.2.18*

On-ice volunteer – A person who is on the ice during practice to help set up stations and aid in efficient delivery of practice. This person may help move coaching tools, pucks, or players between stations and drills throughout the practice. On-ice volunteers are permitted in the U7 and U9 divisions. In U11, U13, U15 and U18 divisions; on-ice volunteers are only permitted if the team already has a Head Coach and two Assistant Coaches on their roster. On ice volunteers are not permitted to be on the bench during games. *6.2.18*

SECTION 5 – MEMBER DISCIPLINE

5.0 a. Any violation of the NBMHC Constitution, By-Laws or Regulations or decisions of the Executive Committee by any member of the NBMHC shall render such member liable to suspension by a 2/3rds vote of the NBMHC Executive Committee. *6.13.04*

b. Any player suspended in Minor Hockey at the end of a season must serve his/her remaining suspension at the start of the next regular season scheduled games. At

the discretion of the HNB District Director, EDZA Chair or designate, the player may be permitted to participate in training camps and exhibition games that are part of the tryout process. Once the team is picked the player will not be permitted to play further pre-season exhibition games until his/her suspension has been served. *6.4.16*

5.1 In the event of a violation or non-compliance with a HC, HNB, NBMHC constitution and operating procedures of leagues, associations, clubs and/or teams will be restricted to play within the geographical boundaries of their respective Districts. In addition, they will forfeit their privilege to participate in all Zone tournaments and provincial championship play as sanctioned by the NBMHC. *8.25.20*

5.2 Responsibility for issuing suspension as per Minimum Standards of Discipline: *6.4.16*

• Competitive league/tournament/exhibition games	HNB Suspensions Coordinator, NBMHC District Director, or designate
• Conduct/Code of Ethics	NBMHC Chair/HNB President

5.3 A Suspension Report shall be posted on the HCR *6.2.12*

5.4 All Game incident reports and game sheets must be forwarded to the coordinator of Suspensions at the following email: suspensions@hnb.ca not later than 48 hours after the incident. *6.8.24*

SECTION 6 – PROTESTS, HEARINGS, APPEALS

6.0 PROTESTS:
A verbal protest must be made by the captain of the aggrieved team to the referee at the first reasonable opportunity after the action or decision, complained of, 5 minutes after the close of the period in which such action or decision is made or within 5 minutes after the end of the game and said protest must be noted on the Official Game Report by the referee. *6.13.04*

6.1 Hearings dealing with Maltreatment will be dealt with through the policies outlined in the Safe Sport Policy Manual. *5.28.22*

6.2
a. Members incurring suspensions in excess of the Minimum Standards of Discipline shall be permitted a hearing by the District Director or League President. *6.10.23*
b. This hearing is to consist of an interview in person or by phone of the member that has been assessed the suspension. *1.26.08*
c. The member that has been assessed for the suspension can defend themselves at this time. *1.26.08*
d. The District Director or League President may choose to consult with the officials, coaching staff or any other member in attendance of the game in which the infraction occurred. *1.26.08*

e. The District Director or League President is to render the suspension within 24 hours following the hearing. *6.10.23*

f. The member may appeal the suspension to HNB. Their appeal must be filed with HNB within 7 days of receiving the District Director or League President's ruling. *6.13.26*

g. Suspensions issued through the Video Review Policy are not required to have a hearing. *6.07.25*

SECTION 7 – SPECIAL EVENT SANCTIONING

7.0 a) Hockey Canada adopted an online special event sanctioning program. Teams must submit an online Certificate of Insurance Request via the link provided below. The branch will review all eligible online requests. The insurer will issue the Certificate of insurance for eligible requests. Once approved by insurer, the certificate of insurance will be sent to the branch who will forward it to the CLUB/TEAM/ASSOCIATION. The process can take up to 5 business days. https://sportscert.bflcanada.ca/?BRANCH=HNB *06.10.23*

b) Only eligible hockey-related events/activities, including dry-land training will be sanctioned as per Hockey Canada guidelines. *8.25.20*

SECTION 8 – CONDUCT

8.0 The membership shall adhere to the NBMHC Fair Play Policy. *9.20.04*

8.1 The NBMHC Minimum Standards for Discipline shall be enforced by the HNB Suspensions Coordinator, District Directors and League Presidents for all discipline under the NBMHA. *6.4.16*

SECTION 9 – CONFLICT OF INTEREST

9.0 A potential conflict of interest is deemed to arise when any elected or appointed member of the NBMHC Executive Committee is involved: *6.10.23*

a. As a member of or holds any position within an amateur league, club or team. *6.11.06*

b. In receiving remuneration of any amount for any position within an amateur hockey league, association/club or team. *9.20.04*

9.1 When a potential conflict of interest is deemed to have risen, the member involved: *6.11.06*

a. Shall immediately notify the NBMHC Executive Committee. *9.20.04*

b. Shall not participate in discussion and shall absent themselves from the meeting when any item is being discussed by the Executive Committee or any of its Committees which the presiding Chair considers a conflict. *9.20.04*

c. Shall not solicit information on any item. *9.20.04*

SECTION 10 - ADMISSION OF A MEMBER

10.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Association, Club and League presidents are responsible for ensuring that deadlines and membership procedures outlined in HNB's Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations are fully respected. *6.13.10*

b. Association Registrars are responsible to maintain all of their association member and team information using Hockey Canada's Hockey Registry System ("HCR"). League Presidents are responsible to forward their membership application to HNB's office. *9.20.04*

c. Conditional refusal – at all times, HNB and the NBMHC maintain the right to refuse a member's membership and shall make its reasons known. *9.20.04*

d. Team Roster Forms must be approved by the NBMHC District Director or designate. *6.10.23*

e. Within the geographical boundaries of their respective district**,** each District Director has the responsibility of determining clearly the recruiting territory available to each team in order to provide balanced competition. *6.7.14*

10.1 RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVING THE ELIGIBILITY OF A MEMBER

a. Team officials have the responsibility of proving the eligibility of their players and bench staff. *10.29.26*

b. Any player proven guilty by his Branch, or HC of falsifying a birth certificate, association application form or forging and playing under an assumed name, or of having had knowledge that same had been falsified, or of playing on other than his own birth certificate, shall be automatically suspended from playing hockey with any team affiliated with the HC for a period of up to three years from the date of his suspension. *9.20.04*

c. Any team official, executive member of a team, club or association, proven guilty after a proper hearing by his Branch or HC of having been party to, or having had knowledge of the playing of an ineligible player, shall be suspended for a period of not less than 3 years from playing or holding office with any team, club or association affiliated with HC. *6.11.06*

d. 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 Operations Manual and shall be immediately suspended until dealt with by the District Director/Executive Committee/Minor Council. *6.10.23*

e. If a team participates with a player deemed ineligible, all games played with the ineligible player shall be declared a forfeit. *6.13.26*

f. Any games played with an ineligible Team Official shale be declared a forfeit. An ineligible Team Official is defined as an individual who has not met the applicable certification requirements by the described deadlines, including requirements that must be completed prior to December 15th. *10.29.26*

10.2 DISTRIBUTION OF FORMS

HNB's Coordinator of Membership Services is responsible for the distribution and collection of membership application forms. *6.2.12*

10.3 **MEMBERSHIP DEADLINES** *6.13.10*

a.	7 days prior to AGM	Association / Club (in order to vote at the AGM)
b.	7 days prior to AGM	League (in order to vote at AGM)
c.	7 days following start of season	Players pre-registered in the HCR and payments must be submitted to HNB's office
d.	October 15	League membership deadline
e.	November 1	U9 games shall commence
f.	November 30	HCR membership complete and payment submitted to HNB office
g.	November 30	Provincial team roster forms submitted to District Director
h.	December 1	Deadline for Parent Respect in Sport certification
i.	December 15	Certification deadline
j.	January 10	Last day to roster a development or competitive player
k.	January 10	Deadline to add bench staff and rosters are to be approved by District Director or designate. *06.10.23*
l.	January 15	Competitive playoff schedule submitted to respective District Director and HNB office
m.	January 15	Last day to sign a Special Affiliate Player in HCR
n.	7 days prior to Semi-Annual	Submission deadline to host Provincial Championships to District Director and HNB Office. *06.10.23*
o.	February 10	Last day to register a recreational player.
p.	February 15	Final date to submit outstanding payments for season

SECTION 11 - ASSOCIATIONS / CLUBS

11.0 Associations and clubs shall enforce the Hockey Canada Co-ed Dressing Room Policy. *6.13.10*

11.1 Required Membership Information *9.20.04*

a. Association/Club Application for Membership, duly signed by President, Secretary and respective District Director. *5.27.21*
b. Annual membership fee *9.20.04*
c. Current constitution, by-laws and regulations *9.20.04*

11.2 Associations and clubs must submit the above information 7 days prior to HNB's annual general meeting held in June. *1.24.09*

11.3 Associations and clubs which fail to register by this deadline must submit their application information to the NBMHC's September meeting for consideration. *9.20.04*

11.4 Associations/clubs are mandated to use the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR) for all memberships. *6.13.10*

11.5 For membership purposes, the following shall apply:

a. District Association *6.2.12*
- U21 *6.4.16*

b. Community Club *6.13.10*
- U18 AA, A, B, C *6.13.10*
- U15 AA, A, B, C *6.13.10*
- U13 AA, A, B, C *6.13.10*
- U11 AA, A, B, C *6.13.10*
- U9 Program *6.13.10*
- U7 Program *6.13.04*

11.6 All minor associations/clubs and leagues must have a general meeting before the HNB Annual General Meeting. *6.10.23*

SECTION 12 – LEAGUES

12.0 REQUIRED MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION *6.11.06*
a. League Application for Membership, duly signed by President and Secretary
b. Annual membership fee
c. Current constitution, by-laws and regulations

12.1 October 15 is the deadline to register a league for the current season. *9.20.04*

12.2 Any team failing to complete their obligations or present themselves for a scheduled game in their league shall not be allowed to participate in Zone tournaments and provincial championships. *8.25.20*

SECTION 13 – TEAMS

13.0 Team official(s) includes all or any of the persons involved in the management and operation of the team, which includes the coach, assistant coach, manager, safety person; or any other duly registered team personnel. It does not include the club or association president. *6.15.08*

13.1 Team officials shall be held responsible for the conduct of their players before, during and immediately following a game. *6.13.04*

13.2 A competitive team shall be composed of a minimum of 12 players, excluding affiliate/associate players, 1 of whom must be a full-time goaltender, except U13 and below. A ‘C’ team shall be composed of a minimum of 8 rostered players, excluding affiliate/associate players, 1 of whom must be a full-time goaltender, except U13 and below. *6.13.26*

13.3 Clubs shall register with their District Director their provincial team rosters, no later than midnight November 30 of each year. No team membership shall be accepted after that date without approval of the NBMHC Executive Committee. *6.13.04*

13.4 Team classification procedure shall be as per the NBMHC Zone and Provincial Championship Regulations. *5.2.15*

13.5 The following definitions shall apply:

a. Division: U7, U9, U11, U13, U15, U18, and U21. *6.4.16*
b. Category: AAA, AA, A, B and C. *6.15.08*
c. Classification: Development, Competitive, and C. *6.8.13*
d. Checking hockey includes U15 division and above AAA, AA, A, and B categories. Non-checking hockey includes U11, U13 and 'C' classification. *6.8.13*

13.6 Re-categorization of club teams must be done 7 days prior to Semi Annual by the District Director for ratification by the NBMHC Executive Committee at their semi-annual meeting. It would be the responsibility of each association/club to advise the appropriate District Director of possible changes to consider, prior to the semi-annual meeting. *6.10.23*

13.7 For the purpose of AA, A, B and C teams shall draw players from within their District following criteria established by the Associations. *6.13.10*

13.8 Teams can roster a maximum of 20 players. U18 C teams may register 25 players on their roster, but only dress 20 at a time. The remainder of the U18 teams may roster 21 players but only dress 20 at a time. *6.8.24*

13.9 NBMHC U21 C teams may register 25 players on their roster. For provincial championships and tournaments any 20 of the 25 can play in any game provided they are officially registered. *6.8.24*

13.10 <u>Goalkeepers</u>

a. Player Roster Forms upon which goalkeepers are registered shall be clearly marked as goalkeeper, except U13 and below. *6.13.04*
b. No replacement can be made for an ill or injured player, except the goaltender. (Refer to HNB Regulation 106.g). *6.8.13*
c. A replacement for an absent goaltender may come from the same category, in the division or lower division, provided permission is obtained from the District Director and the goaltender's team. *6.13.26*

13.11 HNB U7 Program/U9 Program

In all cases, NO ALL-STAR and NO ELITE TEAMS – NO EXCEPTIONS *9.20.04*

a. HNB U7 Program/U9 Program shall be implemented. This program is based on a child who starts hockey at 4 years old and spends 5 years in hockey before entering U11, shall be implemented by all clubs as follows: *6.2.12*
b. Year 1 4 & 5 years old – U7 Program 1 = U7 Skill Manual *6.2.12*
c. Year 2 6 years old – U7 Program 2 = U7 Skill Manual *6.13.10*
d. U7 will be restricted to a total of 20 modified games. All individual scheduled events will count toward the 20 game total. *6.13.15*

Years 1 and 2 allowed a maximum of 20 modified games with a start date of the first Friday in December and will apply to any jamboree modified game structure. *6.07.25*

- Fulltime designated Goaltenders will not be permitted in the U7 Program.
- There needs to be a certified coach for every 10 players or major fraction of (16 players require 2 coaches).
- Small area modified games are strongly recommended.
- For the purpose of these guidelines, the definition of modified game versus practice would be any ice session with less than 60% practice time is classified as a modified game.

On a yearly basis, the Minor District Director will review with their Minor Associations the U7 and U9 Guidelines outlined in the Minor Operations manual *6.7.14*

e. Minor Hockey Associations will have the option to tier teams in the U9 division.

Level 1 – Developmental: The developmental level will be for players who are new to the game or players who need further development on the basic skills of the game (skating, shooting, passing, and puck control).

Level 2 – Intermediate: The intermediate level is for players who possess many of the basic skills, however, can still improve and refine those skills to actively participate in a more competitive environment. This will allow them to continue to develop those skills in an environment that will build confidence and success.

- Associations that will be tiering at the U9 level must have as a minimum 3 evaluation sessions. No evaluations shall take place during the first week of school or during the off-season as per the Hockey Canada U9 Player pathway.

- Associations implementing tiering at the U9 level are required to follow the model below:

Number of U9 teams in Association	**Required number of Tier 2 teams**
1	0
2	1
3	1
4	1
5	2
6	2
7	2
8	3
9	3
10	3
11	4
12	4
13	4
14	5
15	5

Associations may have a higher number of teams in Tier 2 but may not have fewer than the number listed above.

At both tiers, teams may consist of players who are seven (7) and eight (8) years of age.

The primary objective of tiering is to group players with others of similar skill level to promote balanced competition, positive development, and an enjoyable on-ice experience for all participants. *6.13.26*

- Seasonal structure:
  - Half ice games permitted as of November 1st
  - Teams can transition to full ice games as of December 26th *6.13.26*
  - Max of 40 games permitted (includes jamborees)

Rules for U9 half-ice and full-ice games are posted on the Hockey New Brunswick website. *6.10.23*

f. Modified games, will be set-up as follows: *8.25.20*

U7 games :
Playing Surface – Cross-Ice

- The maximum size of the ice surface is 100 feet by 60 feet (100x60).
- U7 games will be played cross-ice for the entire season.

U9 games :
Playing Surface – Half-Ice

- The maximum size of the ice surface is 100 feet by 85 feet.

One net should be placed on the goal line and the other net placed inside the red line in the same end.

g. The Criteria for modified games are:
   i. Played on Cross-Ice or Half-ice *6.2.18*
   ii. For U9 Half-ice games, see HNB U9 Playing rules. *6.2.18*

<u>HNB U11 Program</u> *6.8.19*

13.12 Minor Hockey Associations shall implement the following seasonal structure for U11 teams:

Try-out phase:
Refers to the time period prior to the season starting -typically when prep camps and / or tryouts are held.

- No try-outs prior to the start of the school year
- No try-outs in off-season (April / May / June / July / August)
- No try-outs during the first week of school

- Try-outs must be a minimum of 3 formal tryouts / evaluation sessions. Recommendation is 1 skill session, 1 small area game session, 1 formal game.

Playoff phase:

Refers to the time period from the end of the regular season through to the end of the Playoffs.

- Must be tournament style versus elimination rounds.

Additional requirements :

- Limit position specific specialization – rotate all players through all positions
- Goalies not playing, are permitted to play out as a skater
- Maximum of 50 games per season, includes all tournament games and exhibition games, but exclude league and provincial playoffs. *6.07.25*
- Fair / Equal ice-time

13.13 a. U11 Team Classification

Team Registration Guidelines:

The following numbers are based upon the association's total registration numbers at the U11.

AA Teams:
• 1 AA team for every 60 players (with a +/- 10 player flexibility).
• Maximum of 3 AA teams per association.

A Teams:
• For 24-59 players (with a +/- 10 player flexibility).

General Rules:
• Associations must have A and AA teams based on the player count.
• Additional teams are optional.

• If associations combine to make an A or AA team, registrations from associations will be used to determine classification.

Special Cases:
1. U11 AA/A/B teams can be formed with neighboring associations, if associations do not meet the minimum registration numbers. Final approval for teams will be made by the local District Director in consultation with the boards of both associations.

2. Associations can request to play at the highest level without meeting player count requirements. Requests are made to local District Director.

3. More than one team in the same division is allowed, but teams must be balanced. (This supersedes league rules)

4. If no U11 AA team exists in their district, players can transfer to another district.

5. It's recommended that no more than 50% of teams in an association are at the recreational level exceptions are to be approved by the local District Director *6.07.25*

b. Players will be permitted to transfer to a neighbouring association if their home association doesn't offer U11AA. If the player is unsuccessful in making the U11AA team they return to the home association, if the home association offers a competitive level program. *6.07.25*

c. Districts and leagues may re-classify teams (e.g., AA to A, A to AA) with approval from the Hockey New Brunswick Minor Council Chair and District Director, provided that the association does not already have a team competing in the proposed division. Re-classification decisions must be based on competitive balance, player safety, and development considerations. *6.13.26*

13.14 Membership of a Member from Outside the New Brunswick Branch

a. Any team operating under the jurisdiction of a Branch other than New Brunswick and wishing to play in New Brunswick must present a written request to their original Branch or the one under which they operate. Upon receipt of written approval from such Branch, they will then forward same for approval from HNB and the League where they intend to play. *6.2.12*

b. Any player, whether from another Hockey Canada branch, or from another country(regardless of whether or not that country has ice hockey) , who is residing in NB and wishes to play hockey on an HNB registered team must acquire a written release from his former team and branch/federation and must apply to the HNB membership services person for an official transfer. A player may not participate in any program within HNB until their complete transfer is approved at the branch level. Border and commuter players must also have an approved transfer from their home federation to Hockey Canada. This rule applies even if their home association does not offer ice hockey in their respective division. The permission of a border or commuter player is granted on a seasonal basis and must be renewed each season prior to their participation in any HNB program. *6.4.16*

d. Any out of country player wishing to play in N.B. must provide the HNB membership services person a copy of proof of valid health insurance. *6.4.16*

SECTION 14 - GAME PRE-REQUISITES

14.0 a. A minimum of 6 eligible players in uniform on each team shall be necessary to start a game [HC Playing Rule 2.2.a]. *9.20.04*

b. **For games scheduled by the NBU18CHL only.**
Games will not start unless four on ice officials are present. In case of events beyond the control of the teams, and if both teams agree, a game may be played using three officials following the HNB Referee's Association's assignment of roles protocols. It must be noted on the game sheet that both teams agreed. *6.13.26*

14.1 Each team may dress a maximum of 20 players for a game, divided as follows: 18 players and 1 or 2 goalkeepers. *6.8.24*

14.2 All associations/clubs will ensure that teams practice at least once for every game and encourage their teams to have a higher practice-to-game ratio where feasible. *9.20.04*

14.3 On-Ice Officials

a. All on-ice officials must be registered with HNB through the NBHOC and must wear the NBHOA crest on his sweater (black and white striped) and may wear a HC crest on the left sleeve. Only these 2 such crests shall be worn. *9.20.04*

b. The wearing of the black and white sweater is mandatory for all on-ice officials. *9.20.04*

c. No coach or player may officiate as a Referee or a Linesman in the division of the league where he coaches or plays except as provided in HC Playing Rule 5.2. *9.20.04*

14.4 The person acting as coach shall sign the Official Game Report before the commencement of the game and shall be deemed the responsible official in charge of the team before; during and after the time it is in the arena for the purpose of playing hockey games. It is understood that this person must be a registered coach, manager or an executive of the hockey team involved and will be held responsible for the conduct of his players immediately before, during and after all games. *6.11.06*

14.5 Injured players must comply with Hockey Canada Rule 3.6 with applicable equipment and safety requirements. The Referee is authorized to remove any unauthorized persons from the player's bench. *6.4.16*

SECTION 15 – PLAYERS

15.0 The minimum age of player membership is 4 years old in the current playing season as defined by Hockey Canada. *6.2.12*

15.1 All players must be on an HCR team roster prior to playing in a league game. All U7 and U9 Program players must be on an HCR team roster or an HCR team list. All player rosters must be entered into the HCR no later than November 15th of the current season. *5.27.21*

15.2 a. Players may not roster with more than one team at a time during the current season, this includes teams registered with SSNB. *06.10.23*

b. Any player participating in a league/team event, and not properly registered with HNB, is subject to suspension. Any team using an ineligible player is subject to suspension. *9.12.06*

c. Female players may dual register with a Minor co-ed and female team only if approval is provided by the ROC Female Hockey representative and the Female Commission Vice Chair. Females choosing to dual register will declare to both associations and coaches upon registration which team will be her primary team. (Female AAA and SSNB players are not eligible to Dual register). *6.13.26*
d. Dual registered female players are not permitted to affiliate under section 19. *8.25.20*
e. A player may dual register to a Female A team only if the Minor team they are rostered to is at the 'C level'. *6.13.26*
f. Dual registration requests shall be considered based on geographic factors, including the player's residence and proximity to available Female hockey programs, as well as the number of eligible Female players registered within the player's home association or geographic area at the applicable age division and level. *6.13.26*

15.3 The movement of players from their age-appropriate division will only be permitted with the approval of the District Director. *6.8.24*

For upward player movement to competitive division: *6.8.24*

Registered non-AAA co-ed teams shall adhere to the following criteria with respect to the use of underage players in any division of minor hockey: *6.8.24*

a. A U9 player may be considered for movement to the U11 division provided all of the following criteria are met:

Eligibility List

- The player must be evaluated as ranking within the top third of players selected to the U11 team at the U11B, U11 A or U11 AA level within their Minor Hockey Association.
- The evaluation must be completed and validated by the Minor Hockey Association using its approved evaluation process.
- The player must demonstrate the physical readiness, hockey sense, and skill level required to safely compete at the U11 level.
- The movement must be deemed to be in the best developmental interest of the player.

Evaluation Process

- Evaluations shall be conducted by the Minor Hockey Association using on-ice evaluations and/or assessment tools used for U11 team selection.
- Only players who rank within the top third of players selected to the U11B, U11 A or U11 AA team shall be eligible for consideration.

Approval Authority

- Final approval for U9 to U11 player movement rests solely with the Minor Hockey Association.
- Decisions made under this policy are final and not subject to appeal.

Application Process, Fees, and Deadlines

- Minor Hockey Associations may, at their discretion, establish an application process for requests for upward player movement.
- Associations may set a non-refundable application fee.
- Associations may establish an application deadline.
- Application requirements, deadlines, and any applicable fees must be communicated prior to the start of evaluations. *6.13.26*

b. For player movement from U11 to U13, U13 to U15 and U15 to U18, players must rank in the top third of the highest category team in the next division. The following factors will be considered when evaluating player movement: *6.13.26*
   - Overall hockey ability. *6.13.04*
   - Physical development. *6.13.04*
   - Social development. *6.13.04*
   - The Selection Committee must be independent of the coaching staff of the team and must be made up of a representative of both the NBMHC and NBEHC, or their representatives. *6.13.04*
   - All players (aged and under-aged) must be evaluated objectively and ranked by the Selection Committee. *6.13.04*
   - The District Director from whose area the under-aged player is coming, must approve the selection and file same immediately with the Executive Director. *6.13.04*
   - The use of the player must remain consistent with this ranking during the playing season or his status may be revisited by the District Director responsible for his league. *6.13.04*
   - To balance program requirements of the association/club. *6.13.04*
   - A fee of $250.00, payable to the Hockey New Brunswick District. *6.2.18*
   - All requests for upward player movement must be received one week prior to the Association try-outs starting, or at the discretion of the District Director *6.8.24*

c. It shall be at the discretion of the Minor Hockey Association with approval of the District Director to move players from U7 to U9.

15.4 a. **For upward player movement to recreational division:** *6.8.24*

Players must roster within their appropriate age division unless permission is granted by their District Director for a second year 'C' player to move up one division within the 'C' level. The District Director shall use the "Risk, Safety and Conduct Management" criteria for determining such movement. *6.8.24*

b. **For downward player movement (female players playing co-ed):** *6.8.24*

At the discretion of the district director, female co-ed players may be permitted to play down one division and play at the co-ed "C" level. Each request is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and the District Director shall use the following criteria for determining such movement: a. Risk and safety management. b. Medical. c. Compassion d. Development of the player. *6.8.24*

First year Female players may play down one division in a co-ed competitive division if they reside in a district that does not have a female competitive team. *6.8.24*

c. **For downward player movement (Male Players):** *6.8.24*

At the discretion of the District Director, male players may be permitted to play down one division and play at the co-ed "C" level. Each request is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and the District Director shall use the following criteria for determining such movement: a. Risk and safety management. b. Medical. c. Compassion d. Development of the player. *6.8.24*

15.5 For the purpose of the NBMHC "Usual Residence" is as defined by HC Regulations C-1 through 5. *6.8.18*

15.6 For injured players, refer to Hockey Canada rule book, Section 1.9 (c). *6.2.18*

15.7 Starting in U11, players whose home club does not offer competitive hockey within a division of play or all female team, those players wishing to play competitive hockey or on an all-female team are permitted to go to a neighbouring club offering competitive hockey or an all-female team within a District. If no competitive program is offered in the District, the player would be allowed to go to the closest neighbouring District to their residence. Players not making a competitive team must go back to their home club to play "C" hockey. These players have affiliation privileges to the competitive/development team as long as they tried out. The same shall apply to clubs that offer competitive hockey only and have players wishing to play "C" hockey. A player cannot use this regulation to play in a different category (i.e. AA, A and B). *6.10.23*

SECTION 16 – PLAYER RELEASE

16.0 **Release Procedure**

a. A player rostered for the current season and released before midnight on January 10 of the current season may roster with a C team prior to midnight of February 10 of the current season provided the new team has an opening. A competitive player must be signed to a team prior to midnight January 10th. Such release must be signed and dated by the Association or League President of the team which is issuing the release. *9.4.16*

b. Minor players are automatically released from their current team at the conclusion of each hockey season. Releases are valid until the end of the current season or June 1st, whichever comes first. At such time, a released player returns to his Minor Hockey Association, as per Hockey Canada regulation 'G'. *6.2.18*

16.1 a. **Conditions to Obtain a Release**

A player may obtain his release by requesting it in writing from the Association/ Club President. The release is given by the President and his designate that holds office at the time of the request. *6.8.13*

b. A release is valid only when signed by the President or his designate of the association/club to which the player belonged and conditions approved by the Elite Hockey President or District Director. *6.8.13*

c. A player that obtains a release from a Minor Club without a change in residence with a parent or guardian is only eligible to request membership to the next neighbouring minor club who can accommodate the membership. *6.7.14*

d. District Directors will have the authority to approve player releases to a neighbouring association based on geography or compassion. *6.10.23*

16.2 **Final Date for Release**

Players released from HC teams after January 10 shall be ineligible to play with any other team in the current season. *9.20.04*

16.3 a. Should a rostered player be released from his association team before midnight of January 10th, and subsequently register with a lower category club team, the player registration must be approved by the District Director or EDZA President. The club does not have to issue further membership or insurance fees as this player has only been released from a higher category team to a lower category team. *6.2.12*

b. Failure to notify HNB of this change in membership will deem the player ineligible for all further play and Hockey Canada's insurance program shall not be in effect until notice has been received by HNB's office. *9.20.04*

16.4 **Releasing a Suspended Player**

A suspended player, at the discretion of the Branch and HC, may be authorized to be released provided it is arranged with the Branch(s) that the player will serve his suspension with the new club, team, association, Branch. *9.20.04*

SECTION 17 – AFFILIATION

17.0 **Affiliation – Section 17**

Division	Affiliation options
U11 C	U9 Tier 1
U11 B	U11 C, U9 Tier 2
U11 A	U11 B, U11 C, U9 Tier 2
U11 AA	U11 A, U11 B, U11 C, U9 Tier 2
U13 C	U11 C
U13 B	U13 C, U11 B, U11 A. U11 AA
U13 A	U13 B, U13 C, U11 B, U11 A, U11 AA
U13 AA	U13 A, U13 B, U13 C, U11 B, U11 A, U11 AA
U15 C	U13 C
U15 B	U15 C, U13 B, U13 A, U13 AA
U15 A	U15 B, U15 C, U13 B, U13 A, U13 AA
U15 AA	U15 A, U15 B, U15 C, U13 B, U13 A, U13 AA
U18 C	U15 C
U18 B	U18 C, U15 B, U15 A, U15 AA
U18 A	U18 B, U18 C, U15 B, U15 A, U15 AA
U18 AA	U18 A, U18 B, U18 C, U15 B, U15 A, U15 AA

Notes

- The above options apply only to affiliation between Minor Hockey teams.
- Affiliation involving Sport School New Brunswick (SSNB) is outlined in the HNB / SSNB Agreement.
- Affiliation related to Elite Hockey is outlined in the Elite Hockey Commission Operations Manual.
- Requests for approving affiliation not outlined in the above table must be sent to the HNB Appeals / Ombudsman Committee for consideration.
- Players affiliating up an age division must be second-year players.
- Affiliation within the same age division to a higher classification is only permitted if teams are not in the same league.
- Skaters may affiliate with only one team; goalies may affiliate with an unlimited number of teams.
- Once added as an affiliate, a player may not be released and added to another team.
- Teams may roster up to 19 affiliate players.
- Players must be rostered in the HCR prior to playing. Deadline: January 15.
- Female Association players may not affiliate to Minor teams unless an exception is granted by the District Director and ROC Female representative.
- Players can only affiliate within the association that they're rostered to. Should the community club not offer a competitive team in that division, the player may affiliate to a competitive team in a neighboring community club.
- Goalies may affiliate laterally within the same classification.
- Affiliate players must be active with their rostered team. Active is defined as participation in one league game.

Approval of Special Affiliate Players

- Higher-level coach requests lower-level coach permission by email.
- Lower-Level Coach replies confirming approval.
- Email is forwarded to parents for parental approval.
- Parents approve by reply.
- Community Club President gives final approval and enters affiliation into HCR.

- HNB Minor Council District Director approves in HCR.

Number of Games

- Players may affiliate for up to 15 games.
- Unlimited number of games is permitted once registered team season is complete.
- Goalie games only count if the goalie plays.
- Exhibition and/or tournament games, which are not part of regular league games or playoff games, are not counted in the number of games in which an affiliate player participates.

Suspensions

- A suspended player, whose team has been eliminated from further competition for the year, may serve his suspension with his higher category affiliate team provided he has played a minimum of 1 game as an affiliate.
- If a player is suspended with his higher category affiliate team, the player must serve the suspension with the higher category affiliate team.
- If a game counts toward the serving of a suspension, then it in effect counts as a game played. *6.13.26*

SECTION 18 - FORFEITURE POLICY

18.0 A game is forfeited when: *9.20.04*

a. A team does not appear for that game. *9.20.04*
When a game is declared forfeited due to the non-appearance of the team (HC Rule 10.14.d), the team in attendance shall be declared the winner and the score recorded as 5-0. The incident shall be reported to the league/association/club president to take any further actions as may be authorized in their constitution. *9.20.04*

b. A team refuses to start play (HC Rule 10.14) *9.20.04*
When a game is declared forfeiter in accordance with HC Rule 10.14.c, the non-offending team shall be declared the winner and the score shall be recorded as per the Official Game Report if the non-offending team was in the lead at the time of the infraction or as 5-0 if the non-offending team was not in the lead. The players on both teams shall be credited with all personal statistics earned to the time the forfeit was declared. The incident shall be reported to the league/ association/club president to take any further actions as may be authorized in their constitution. *06.10.23*

c. When a team is unable to place the exact number of players on the ice to which they are entitled whether due to penalties or injuries, the Referee shall suspend the game and report this incident to the President. (HC Rule 2.5d) *6.13.15*
The non-offending team shall be declared the winner and the score shall be recorded as per the Official Game Report if the non-offending team was in the lead at the time of the infraction or as 5-0 if the non-offending team was not in the lead. The players on both teams shall be credited with all personal statistics earned up to the time the forfeit was declared. The incident shall be reported to the league/association/club president. *9.20.04*

d. Both teams are unwilling or unable to continue the game. *9.20.04*

When a game is declared forfeited due to both teams being unwilling or unable (insufficient players) to continue the game, the score shall be recorded as 0-0 with no points awarded either team. The players on both teams shall be credited with all personal statistics earned up to the time the forfeit was declared. The incident shall be reported to the league/association/club president. *9.20.04*

e. A team played a game with 1 or more ineligible players or Team Official. *6.8.24* When a game is declared forfeited due to a team playing with 1 or more ineligible players / Team Official, the non-offending team shall be declared the winner and score shall be recorded as per the Official Game Report if the non-offending team was in the lead at the time of the infraction or as 5-0 if the non-offending team was not in the lead. The players on both teams shall be credited with all personal statistics earned up to the time the forfeit was declared. Should the game in question be part of a tournament, the offending team shall automatically be relegated to the final position in the tournament standings. The use of an ineligible player / Team Official shall be reported to the Branch Executive Director. *6.8.24*

18.1 In games played under the direct jurisdiction of the Branch (i.e. Branch playoffs) all reports will go to the Branch Executive Director. *9.20.04*

18.2 In games played under the direct jurisdiction of Hockey Canada (i.e. Regional or National playoffs), all reports will go to the appointed Hockey Canada Representative. *6.2.12*

SECTION 19 – TRAVEL PERMITS / EXHIBITION GAMES

19.0 a. Teams travelling within Canada for the purpose of participating in an out-of-province sanctioned tournament or exhibition game must receive a HNB Travel Permit from the NBMHC District Director. Teams from U11 to U18 travelling outside of Canada must apply through their NBMHC District Director to the HNB Membership Services Person for a Travel Permit. Travel permit requests to the USA, other than Houlton and Presque Isle, Maine should be filed not less than 4 weeks and request to Europe should be filed not less than 6 months prior to the event. *6.13.15*

b. All out of province and out of Country travel permit requests must be accompanied by an approved team roster of the opposing team. Also, a copy of the completed USA or International Hockey Tournament Registration Form must accompany all USA or International travel permit applications. *6.13.15*

19.1 No team shall be permitted to play exhibition or inter-branch games against a team which is not a member of Hockey Canada or its Branches. Violation of this rule may result in the suspension of the team's officials and/or players involved. *6.15.08*

SECTION 20 – TOURNAMENTS

20.0 a. A Tournament is a schedule of games played among three or more teams, which follows an inter-locking schedule and leads to an eventual winner. *6.10.07*

b. A jamboree is defined as a sanctioned event that does not inter-lock schedules and does not lead to a winner. *6.10.07*

20.1 All tournaments/jamboree must be submitted on the prescribed form by September 1. Those not sanctioned at that time can only be sanctioned upon receipt of the NBMHC membership so long as the tournament/jamboree does not conflict with one previously sanctioned. This application must be accompanied by the appropriate fee as per HNB's Fiscal Policy. The NBMHC will send to all associations/clubs a list of registered tournaments/jamborees before September 30 of each season. *6.07.25*

20.2 Team registration to all tournaments must include an HCR team roster, including affiliates. Approved HCR team rosters are not required for tournaments prior to the February 10th "C" player addition deadline. Teams should request their roster from their Association registrar. *6.8.19*

20.3 TOURNAMENTS INVOLVING 4 OR MORE BRANCHES – Refer to HC Regulations, Section M. *6.13.04*

20.4 All international tournaments or international games and tours overseas must be approved each year at the HC's Annual General Meeting. *6.13.04*

20.5 All invitational tournaments and tours must be approved by the Executive Committee. *6.13.04*

20.6 Associations/Clubs are to be notified by September 30 if their tournament or jamboree application has been accepted or refused. *6.10.07*

20.7 a. No sanctioned tournament or jamboree shall accept entries from any team that is not a registered member in good standing. *6.10.07*

b. No minor tournament or jamboree will be sanctioned for commencement during Zone Playoffs, or provincial championship weekend. *6.07.25*

c. No minor tournament or jamboree will be sanctioned in a Minor District if it is in conflict with a previously sanctioned tournament or jamboree. *9.20.04*

20.8 The NBMHC Zone tournaments and Provincial Championship Regulations tie-breaker will be the official tie-breaking system for all tournaments sanctioned by the NBMHC. *6.10.07*

20.9 U7 Program and U9 players are only permitted to participate in Jamborees, a maximum of 5 jamborees will be permitted providing the number of games played does not exceed 40. *6.10.23*

20.10 An over-age hockey player, who plays as an overage on a C team playing in a registered C league, shall be allowed to participate in C tournaments including provincials within the province. *6.2.18*

20.11 So long as the league commitments are met, teams in U11 and above must obtain permission from their District Director to participate in more than five (5) tournaments. Not including League, Zone, or Provincial Tournaments. *6.4.16*

SECTION 21 – ZONE AND PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

21.0 The membership must adhere to the NBMHC Zone and Provincial Championship Regulations. *6.2.18*

SECTION 22 – MININUM STANDARDS FOR DISCIPLINE

22.0 The membership must adhere to the NBMHC Minimum Standards for Discipline. *6.11.06*

SECTION 23 – COMMUNITY HOCKEY GUIDELINES

23.0 Community hockey programs shall be administered as per the NBMHC Community Hockey Guidelines. *6.14.09*

SECTION 24 - EQUIPMENT

24.0 At all times during a game, warm-up or practice, all players including goalkeepers must wear the following protective equipment: A CSA approved hockey helmet, CSA approved full face mask and a BNQ Throat Protector must be worn by all players and goalkeepers. All goalkeepers must wear a throat protector that is attached to the face mask. *9.20.04*

24.1 It is mandatory that all NBMHC coaches and on ice personnel wear a CSA approved helmet (properly fastened) while on the ice during practice. *06.10.23*

24.2 In a game where a team appears on the ice not properly equipped, the Referee shall not start the game. He will allow 15 minutes for correction of the deficiency and if the team cannot equip itself properly, then the game will be forfeited. If both teams are not properly equipped, the game is to be cancelled and not re-scheduled until complete assurance is given that both teams will be properly equipped. Referee(s) is/are to make detailed report on ill-equipped team(s) and the persons responsible will be dealt with by the Executive Committee. *6.13.04*

24.3 It is not permitted for cameras, or camera holders to be secured to a player's helmet for any HNB Minor Hockey sanctioned game. *6.2.18*

SECTION 25 - SPECIAL PLAYING RULES

25.0 Checking shall be allowed in U15 and above divisions for those teams that play development (AAA) or competitive (AA, A or B) level of hockey except female hockey. *6.8.13*

25.1 That on the approval of NBMHC District Directors, minor hockey teams may be authorized to play against all-female minor teams of the same division or one lower division than the female team, in accordance with HNB rules and regulations. *6.13.15*

25.2 A competitive AA, A, B team cannot play against a 'C' team. *6.8.13*

25.3 A Game Ejection will be assessed against a player receiving 4 penalties. The time of the 4th penalty to be served by the penalized team. No additional Minor Penalty for a game ejection will be assessed. A Game Ejection penalty assessed shall not make player ineligible for the next game. If at all possible, the player who has just received his 3rd minor penalty shall be warned by the referee or the timekeeper. *8.25.22*

SECTION 26 – GAME INTERRUPTION REGULATIONS

26.0 In the event a game is stopped due to a power outage, serious injury, or other circumstances beyond the control of the officials, the following shall apply:

a. If a game is stopped with less than ten (10) minutes remaining in regulation time and there is a goal differential of three (3) or more goals, the score at the time of the stoppage shall be final.
b. If a game is stopped during the first period, the game shall be replayed in its entirety at a later date. For games that are replayed in their entirety, teams are not required to use the same lineup and roster changes are permitted.
c. If a game is stopped after the first period, the game shall resume at a later date from the exact time, score, and game situation at which it was stopped.
d. When a game is resumed at a later date, only players who were rostered for the original game are eligible to participate.
e. This regulation does not apply to games that are ended due to time restrictions at the facility or arena. *6.13.26*

SECTION 27 - AMALGAMATION AND DE-AMALGAMATION OF MHA

27.0 **Purpose**

To establish a standardized process for Minor Hockey Associations (MHAs) seeking to amalgamate with another association or to de-amalgamate from an existing structure, ensuring decisions are transparent, equitable, and in the best interest of player development.

27.1 **Definitions**

a. Amalgamation – The formal combining of two or more MHAs into a single operating association.
b. De-amalgamation – The formal separation of an existing amalgamated association into two or more independent MHAs

27.2 **Application Requirements**

Any MHA seeking to amalgamate or de-amalgamate must submit a formal proposal to Hockey New Brunswick Minor Council. The proposal must include:

a. **Rationale**

- Clear justification for the request (e.g., registration trends, geography, competitive balance, sustainability, player development considerations).

b. **Proposed Boundaries**
- Detailed description and map of revised association boundaries.

c. **Player Pool Analysis**
- Current and projected registration numbers by division.
- Impact on team formation and programming.

d. **Operational Plan**
- Governance structure, including committees and administration.
- Financial implications and transition plan.
- Impact on existing teams, leagues, and affiliations.

e. **Association Governance Documentation**
- Updated or proposed Association Constitution and By-Laws reflecting the new structure;
- A list of proposed Board of Directors for the new or revised association, **or** a clearly defined process and timeline for electing the Board of Directors.

f. **Implementation Timeline**
- Proposed effective date and transition steps.

27.3 **Membership Approval**

a. The proposal must be presented to the MHA membership at a duly called Annual General Meeting (AGM) or Special General Meeting.

b. The full proposal must be distributed to all voting members a minimum of **15 days prior** to the meeting.

c. Approval requires a majority vote of eligible voting members, as defined by the MHA's Constitution.

d. Where multiple MHAs are involved, each association must independently approve the proposal.

27.4 **Submission Deadline**

a. All requests for amalgamation or de-amalgamation must be submitted to Hockey New Brunswick no later than **June 1st** preceding the season in which the change is to take effect.

b. Late submissions may not be considered until the following season, at the discretion of Minor Council.

27.5 **Review and Approval Process**

a. Hockey New Brunswick Minor Council will review the submission, considering:
- Alignment with HNB regulations and boundaries
- Player development impact
- Competitive balance
- Operational viability

b. Minor Council may:
- Approve the request as submitted

- Approved with conditions
- Request additional information
- Deny the request with rationale

c. Minor Council decisions are final unless otherwise provided for under Hockey New Brunswick Appeals procedures.

Implementation

27.6

a. Approved changes will take effect for the upcoming season unless otherwise specified.

b. MHAs are responsible for communicating changes to their membership and ensuring a smooth transition.

Transitional Considerations

27.7

a. Player eligibility, transfers, and affiliations during the transition period will be governed by Hockey New Brunswick regulations.

b. Financial assets, liabilities, and equipment distribution must be addressed within the proposal.

c. Any disputes arising from implementation will be managed by Hockey New Brunswick's Minor Council. *6.13.26*