



# **RULES & REGULATIONS**

(Rev. 12 July 2014)



# ST.THOMAS MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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### **Regulation 1 – COACH SELECTION COMMITTEE**

- a) This committee shall be responsible to the Board of Directors for the selection and recommendation of coaches for all representative teams. The Vice President of Rep. Hockey will be Chair of this committee.
- b) This committee shall consist of a minimum 5 members. Where possible, the Committee shall be made up as follows:
- President
  - Vice President of Rep. Hockey (Chair)
  - Vice President of House League Hockey
  - O.M.H.A. & Alliance League Representatives
  - Director of Development or Designate
- c) The Vice President of Rep. Hockey is responsible for the following:
- To ensure coaches applications are available by the 1<sup>st</sup> of March of each season;
  - To publish on the STMHA website advising applications are being accepted for coaches for the upcoming season and indicating deadline for acceptance of applications;
  - To set up interviews for selected candidates
- d) The Vice President of Rep Hockey along with the remaining coaches selection committee will set a list of questions that will be asked at each interview.
- e) Where possible coaches for the upcoming season are to be selected prior to the Annual General Meeting of the present season.

### **Regulation 2 – ELIGIBILITY**

- a) All players must be eligible by:
- Being properly registered with S.T.M.H.A.;
  - By age as per the O.M.H.A. player eligibility rules;
  - By residence as per O.M.H.A boundaries and shared areas

### **Regulation 3 – TRYOUTS**

- a) The Vice President of Rep Hockey will publish on the S.T.M.H.A. website notice of the upcoming tryout dates.
- b) At no time will tampering of a player be allowed. Any coach or manager who persuades, coerces or compels any player to play for his team shall on the first offence received a verbal warning and on the second offence be suspended for the balance of the season.



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c) All players trying out for a travel team of his/her must attend 2 of 3 tryouts for that team.

- Players who cannot make 2 of the 3 tryouts due to attending tryouts for 'AAA' "or AA" teams must first get permission from the Vice President of Rep. Hockey. The Vice President of Rep. Hockey will then notify the coach for the team of this player(s). Players still involved in AAA or AA tryouts are excepted to attend STMHA tryouts unless there is a DIRECT conflict with tryout times.
- Players unable to make 2 of 3 tryouts due to a temporary medical condition must notify the Vice President of Rep. Hockey within 24 hours of the condition becoming known. The Vice President of Rep. Hockey shall review the situation and make recommendation to the Board after which time a written decision will be rendered. Decision of Board is not subject to appeal.
- Consideration will be given by the Board of Directors for players missing 2 of 3 tryouts for reasons other than those stated above provided that written notice is provided through the Vice President of Rep. Hockey prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> missed tryout. Consideration will be given on a case-by-case basis.

d) Any additional 'mandatory' requirements deemed necessary by the coach must be approved by the Board of Directors and shall be communicated to all athletes prior to the first tryout.

### Regulation 4 – TEAMS

a) All representative teams must declare rosters of no less than 17 players. Any team requesting to carry less than 17 players must have the approval of the Board of the S.T.M.H.A. Requests for reduced rosters must come no sooner than the completion of the 1<sup>st</sup> tryout.

b) House League teams will consist of IP-1 (4-5 year olds), IP-2 (6 year olds), Novice (7-8 year olds) Atom, Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget and Juvenile. Each team will carry a minimum of 12 players to a maximum of 16 players, unless deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

c) No house league player will be moved after the equalization deadline of December 1<sup>st</sup> unless approved by the STMHA.

d) No house league player trades among the teams may be made without the consent of the Vice President of House League hockey. The Vice President of House League Hockey shall notify the Board of Directors of any changes made within the house league teams.

e) All house league IP age players must have an opportunity to play goal.

f) If a travel team player leaves his/her team of their own accord after being selected he/she can only play for a house league team if an opening exists. This player may not return to his/her representative team for the balance of the season.

g) Any player requesting to be removed from a travel team must first notify his/her coach, who will immediately refer the request to the Vice President of Rep. Hockey.



h) If a new player moves into residence after the travel team process is complete he may be granted a ten-day try out in his designated age classification, up until January 10<sup>th</sup> of the current hockey season. Such registration is subject to the rules and regulations of the C.H.A., O.M.H.A. and S.T.M.H.A. The player will only be allowed to be an affiliated player in his designated age group and will only be allowed to play in the house league.

i) STMHA Select teams will operate under the “Representative Hockey” rules and regulations as outlined in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association and as modified and/or strengthened by the STMHA Board of Directors.

j) Additional Entry teams will begin their tryouts no later than one week after the ‘A’ teams have declared their rosters. To be eligible to participate in ‘A/E’ tryouts, players must first have tried out for the ‘A’ team. Players not cut by the ‘A’ team are not eligible for the A/E team.

k) Notwithstanding 4 j), players may tryout for an A/E team without first attending the respective Major and Minor representative team tryouts provided in any previous season the player has not signed with a representative or select team as either a rostered player or as an affiliate player.

l) No player may be transferred between travel teams within the Association without the approval of the Board of Directors. No player and/or parent/guardian may be contacted until such time as the respective Board has discussed a permanent player movement with the respective parties.

## **Regulation 5 – AFFILIATION**

a) Affiliated player(s) (AP) refers to a player who participates with a team other than the team with whom they are rostered.

b) Players can only be affiliated to one team. An affiliated player must fulfill his/her responsibility of attending games and practices with his/her rostered team unless permission from his/her coach is granted. Failure to do so will result in the player’s name being removed from the affiliated players list.

c) Before Affiliated players may play for the 2<sup>nd</sup> team, the coach of the 2<sup>nd</sup> team must submit the completed Offer of Affiliation to the Registrar.

d) Permission of the Rostered Coach must be sought for each time the AP is to be used.

e) Affiliate Players cannot be charged Association Travel Team Fees.



## **Regulation 6 – PLAYER REQUEST TO MOVE UP**

- a) The rationale of the Player Request to Move Up is to provide for those athletes who display ‘exceptional skill’ and excel to an ‘elite’ level at their positions. It must also be in the best interest of the player as well as the STMHA.
- b) The player must be properly registered with the STMHA prior to the 1st scheduled try-out.
- c) Players trying out for one than one (1) “A” team must pay the additional tryout fee for the second team. *(STMHA Motion 04/14/2014 #100)*
- d) The player must be eligible by residence as defined by OMHA boundaries.
- e) A “Player Request to Move Up” form must be completed and submitted to the Vice President of Travel Hockey by August 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- f) Any player obtaining permission to try out as an underage player will be allowed to try out for no more than one higher-aged team per season.
- g) The STMHA shall appoint a committee to evaluate the player. This committee shall include three independent evaluators appointed by the Vice President of Travel Hockey. The names of the evaluators, as chosen by the Vice President of Travel Hockey, shall be forwarded to the Board of Directors for review no less than 24 hours prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> tryout. If the Vice President of Travel Hockey has a conflict (a child on either the higher or lower-aged team), he/she shall appoint another Board member in his/her place. A standard evaluation form shall be given to all evaluators prior to the try-out.
- h) An underage player may only be approved for selection to the higher-aged team on one of the following conditions:
  - is evaluated and ranked as the top goaltender.
  - is evaluated and ranked as a top 3 skater.
- i) The Selection Committee will determine the underage player’s eligibility for selection no later than the conclusion of the third try-out.
- j) An underage player may also be approved for placement on the higher-aged team if the move is in the best interest of the underage player or the STMHA as determined by the Board of Directors.
- k) The head coach of the higher-aged team may advise the underage athlete of his/her non-selection at any point after the conclusion of the first try-out.
- l) Representative teams from Novice through to Midget are allowed a maximum of two underage players of which only one may be a skater.



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m) At the end of the current season, an underage player must return to the team of his/her proper age division and must follow the same procedure for the upcoming season if he/she will be requesting to play for a higher-aged team again.

### Regulation 7 – EQUIPMENT/SWEATERS

a) It is mandatory for all players to wear the required approved hockey equipment as per 'Hockey Canada' rulebook at all games and practices. Failure to comply may result in suspension of the player and/or team officials by the Vice President of Rep Hockey or Vice President of House League Hockey.

b) All STMHA Travel Players must wear – Black Helmet, Black Pants & Black Gloves (STMHA Motion #14/04/2014 #101)

c) All on-ice coaches, trainers, assistant coaches or volunteers are required to wear a C.S.A. approved helmet during all on-ice activities.

d) It is mandatory that all players wear approved mouth guards as set out in the O.M.H.A. Mouth Guard Policy and C.S.A. approved helmets with earpiece covers attached as set out in the O.M.H.A. Helmet Policy.

e) Goalie equipment is supplied to goalies up to and including Atom in the House League program as well as to the Seven Year Old Select team(s), if required. Equipment must be returned at the end of the season by the coach.

f) Any player who accepts equipment from S.T.M.H.A. must return the equipment upon request. Failure to do so will result in the player being suspended until the equipment is returned and deemed to be in satisfactory condition by the Equipment Manager or Board Designate.

g) Deliberate misuse of any equipment causing damage will result in a fine to the player equal to the replacement costs of the damaged equipment.

h) All sweaters for rep hockey are the responsibility of the Player. (STMHA Motion 08/13/2013 #019)

i) All rep teams must return their home and away sweaters (washed) to the Vice President of Rep Hockey after the season. Date to be arranged between the coach and the Vice President of Rep. Hockey.

j) A Jersey Deposit of \$150 must be provided by each travel player. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, cheques will be cashed to replace any lost or damaged equipment or jerseys. (STMHA Motion 08/13/2013 #020)

j) Name Bars will not be allowed on STMHA Jerseys. (STMHA Motion 08/13/2013 #021)

i) Travel Jerseys will use standardized numbering of 1 to 17 & 35, with the higher #'s being the larger jerseys. (STMHA Motion 08/13/2013 #023)



### **Regulation 8 – CERTIFICATION OF TEAM OFFICIALS**

a) S.T.M.H.A. will subsidize the following for team staff:

- Minimum coach certification (determined by level of hockey being coached) – 100%;
- Level I Trainers Certification – 100%;
- PRS Clinic – 100%;
- Coach and Trainer Refresher Clinics – 100% for all individuals involved with a coaching staff during the current hockey season;
- Upgrading Trainers Level 1 Certification – no subsidies;
- Developmental II and above Certification – no subsidies

b) Approved Team Staff will be reimbursed for required certification with proper documentation.

c) Individuals not currently involved with a coaching staff are eligible for reimbursement upon being rostered to a team.

d) Members of the Board of Directors must complete PRS and are eligible for subsidies to become certified as coaches and/or trainers.

### **Regulation 9 – CONDUCT**

a) Profanity, abusive language and un-sportsman like behaviour will not be tolerated. Players, parents or team officials guilty of this practice will be subject to suspension.

b) All team players and officials guilty of unbecoming conduct and/or causing of damage to arenas may be barred from further competition and may be assessed a fine equal to the amount of damage caused.

c) All incidents of a minor being abused must be reported to the Vice President of Rep Hockey or the Vice President of House League Hockey.

d) S.T.M.H.A. will follow the guidelines of the O.M.H.A. Harassment and Abuse Policy.

e) The use of alcohol and/or narcotics by players and/or team officials prior to or during any unlicensed S.T.M.H.A. sanctioned event is strictly forbidden and will be cause for immediate suspension and may result in termination. The rules pertaining to alcohol consumption will be as follows:

- Consumption during tournaments will be restricted to after the last game of each playing day.
- If a bar or server is present in the facility that is hosting the event it is expected that coaches will not consume alcohol until the above condition is met.



## **Regulation 10 –DISCIPLINE**

a) Any association member, executive committee member, board member, committee member, coach, manager, trainer or player shall be subject to:

- Suspension from the Association's activities if he/she contravenes in any way the Constitution, Rules, Regulations or Policies of the STMHA;
- Disciplinary action and/or suspension for conduct not befitting the intent or objectives of STMHA.

Disciplinary action(s) and/or suspension(s) will be administered or approved by the Discipline and Ethics Committee.

b) Any member of STMHA, coach, manager, trainer or player who deliberately damages or defaces facilities used by, or equipment of STMHA shall forthwith be suspended from STMHA until the cost of repair or replacement of the damage equipment has been paid in full.

c) In addition to the suspension and the payment of damages, the offending individual may be subject to further disciplinary action and/or suspension at the discretion of the Discipline and Ethics Committee.

d) The use of alcohol and/or drugs in contravention of STMHA policy by any member of STMHA will not be tolerated and may lead to suspension without refund (where applicable) for the balance of the season.

e) All coaches are required to publish a list of team rules to the players and their parent/guardian prior to the start of the season. These rules are subject to the approval of the Executive.

f) Any coach who deems disciplinary action to be necessary against a player on his/her team must institute the use of an approved Progressive Discipline plan.

g) If a coach decides that circumstances warrant immediate suspension (disciplinary problem of a violent or drug/alcohol nature) then suspension may be immediate. Notification of suspension must be communicated to the VP of Travel Hockey in accordance with Regulation 10 n).

h) Any player who willfully plays, or any coach or manager who allow a player to play, who is found to be ineligible shall be subject to disciplinary action and/or suspension.

i) Smoking is prohibited on the bench and in the dressing rooms. Disregarding the By-Law is grounds for disciplinary action.

j) Situations arising during the season that are not covered under the rules will be referred to the Discipline and Ethics Committee for a recommendation, to be presented to the Board for approval. That ruling will stand for the season and be referred to the Executive for the future.



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k) Similarly, the convenor may make a decision to cover any items not covered by the By-laws. In such cases, those rulings will immediately be referred to the Discipline and Ethics Committee for review and Board approval.

l) No team may appeal the game as a result of any decision made under the above ruling.

m) Any rule changes affecting OMHA, Alliance or Shamrock teams made by those bodies before or during the season will be in force immediately.

n) All incidents must be submitted to the Vice President of Rep/House League Hockey within 24 hours. The Disciplinary Committee shall convene and render a recommendation in an expedient manner. If a member of the disciplinary committee cannot attend an emergency meeting, then another Board member shall stand in their place as long as they do not have a conflict with the team in question. Recommendations will be referred to the Board for approval.

### **Regulation 11 – COACHING STAFF**

a) Under the direction of the Head Coach, the following tasks are required for the smooth operation of the team. Teams are responsible for following the additional guidelines outlined in the STMHA Coaches Manual.

- i. To adhere to Ontario Hockey Federation Constitution, By Laws and Regulations, Ontario Minor Hockey Association Manual of Operations, Alliance Hockey Handbook.
- ii. Submit a proposed Team Budget to the VP of Travel/Board of Directors prior to the parents meeting.
- iii. Provide the VP of Travel copies of any Rules/Regulations/Guidelines outlined or handed out to the players & parents.
- iv. Hold a meeting at the start of the season with player/parents/guardians in order to make them all aware of your plans and goals for the upcoming season.
- v. Open a bank account under the team's name.
- vi. To return all equipment and sweaters to the association at season end.
- vii. To keep team financial records in accordance with Regulation 19 and to provide a financial statement to parents.
- viii. To ensure the team sponsor is contacted when appropriate and to include the team sponsor in team activities.
- ix. To ensure that the team sponsor receives a schedule of the team games.



### **Regulation 12 – DIVISIONAL CONVENORS**

- a) Shall be appointed by the Vice President of House League Hockey.
- b) Together with the Vice President of House League Hockey, shall be responsible for the team selection in all divisions as follows:
  - ensure all players are rated;
  - set up and monitor all ratings;
  - structure, organize an attend division draft and ensure all teams are balanced;
  - endure all players have been registered.
  - publish a list of division-specific rules
- c) Liaise between the STMHA. and the individual teams.
- d) Shall be responsible for following the guidelines as outlined in the Convenor's Manual.

### **Regulation 13 – FUNDRAISING/SPONSORSHIP**

- a) All fundraising/sponsorship events initiated by a team must first be approved by the STMHA Board of Directors prior to the event. Rationale on how funds will be used must also be included in the request.
- b) Under no circumstances will an event be approved if it conflicts with any event run by STMHA.
- c) Current sponsors of STMHA shall not be approached for the purpose of fundraising. An up to date list of current sponsors can be obtained through the Sponsorship Chairman.

### **Regulation 14 – ASSOCIATION ATTIRE/DRESS CODE**

- a) All attire (including jackets, windbreakers, golf shirts, pants, ties etc.) must be approved by the STMHA Board prior to purchasing.
- b) All attire bearing the name or logo of STMHA is to be purchased at a retailer approved by STMHA Board of Directors.
- c) Any team purchasing team attire without Board approval may result in suspension of the Head Coach.
- d) All players and bench staff, must adhere to the STMHA dress code.
  - i. All players and bench staff, trainers excluded, are required to wear a shirt and tie to all games (exhibition, league, playoff and tournaments)



- ii. Teams Major Pee Wee and below, at the coaches discretion, may elect to have their players wear STMHA mock necks to all games in lieu of a shirt and tie. Decision to do applies to all players on the teams and the STMHA Board must be advised.
- iii. Trainers may choose to wear the mock neck instead of shirt & tie.
- iv. No Jeans will be permitted.

e) The dress code will be strictly enforced for all teams and may result in suspension of player or coaching staff if it is not followed.

### **Regulation 15 – CONFLICT BETWEEN HOUSE LEAGUE AND SELECT TEAM**

a) Players signed to a select roster must in the event of a game conflict play for their house league team. Failure to do so will result in the following:

- the select coach will be suspended;
- the player will be suspended; and
- the select coach and player may upon review be permanently removed from the Select Roster.

b) Players signed to a select roster, in the event of a house league practice conflict, may with the permission of the house league coach practice or play for the select team and miss his/her house league practice.

c) If a house league coach insists that the player signed to a select team attend a house league practice rather than attend a game with the select team, the house league coach's reasons must be conveyed to the Vice President of House League Hockey and to the Convenor prior to the game.

d) The Vice President of House League Hockey and the Convenor, after consideration, may overrule the house league coach and allow the player to participate in the game of the select team. In the event that the Vice President of House League Hockey and the Convenor cannot reach a decision, a decision will be rendered by the President of STMHA.

e) In the event that the house league and select team are playing games on the same day, the following rules apply:

- if a house league game is to be played after a select game, the house league coach may withhold permission for the player to participate in the select game. The decision is solely the house league coaches to make and he/she is answerable to the player and his/her parents/guardians;
- it is the responsibility of the select team coach to check for potential conflicts and receive the appropriate approvals;
- if the house league game is being played before a select game the house league coach may not withhold permission for the player to participate in the select game;



- in the event of the house league team and the select team being involved in tournaments on the same day, the player must play for the house league team. If the house league coach and the player's parents/guardians agree, the player will also be allowed to play with the select team. Arrangements must be made to allow for travel time between arenas and also in the event games are running late at either tournament.

### **Regulation 16 – EXHIBITIONS AND TOURNAMENTS**

- a) Each team is allowed 3 Board subsidized exhibition games per season. All expenses for any additional exhibition games are the responsibility of the team.
- b) An “Exhibition Game Request” form must be submitted to the Vice President of Rep Hockey a minimum of 7 days prior to the playing date for approval. Should a situation arise, that the request form cannot be given 7 days prior to the exhibition game, approval will be at the discretion of the Vice President of Rep. Hockey.
- c) Each team is allowed 5 Board approved tournaments per season.
- d) A “Tournament Request” form must be submitted to the Vice President of Rep. Hockey prior to league scheduling for approval. Should a situation arise, that the request form cannot be given 30 days prior to the tournament, approval will be at the discretion of the Vice President of Rep. Hockey.
- e) Upon application to the STMHA Vice President of Rep Hockey additional exhibition games/tournaments may be approved by the Board.

### **Regulation 17 – SUSPENSION RULES**

- a) Suspension incurred in house league must be served before a player can return to participate in an affiliation team game.
- b) Suspension incurred by an affiliated player must be served with the higher age team before being able to participate with their house league team. Divisional Convenor may impose additional suspensions.
- c) During House League games any abuse of referees during or after a game will be dealt with by the Convenor in consultation with the Vice President of House League and the Disciplinary Chairman and may result in suspension up to 3 games. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> instance of abuse, may result in indefinitely suspension until STMHA has held a meeting and approved the player/official return to league play.



### **Regulation 18 – REGISTRATION AND FEES**

- a) Select team program fees will be set by the STMHA Board of Directors each season. This fee must be paid prior to participating in any game/practice/tournaments.
- b) All new players registering must submit a copy of their Birth Certificate.
- c) In cases where it is impossible to obtain a Birth Certificate, upon approval of the President, Vice President of Rep Hockey or Vice President of House League Hockey players may submit a document recognized by the O.M.H.A. These players will be advised that player registration will be approved at the discretion of the OMHA office.
- d) Players whose accounts are in arrears will be deemed to be ‘not in good standing’ and may (at the discretion of the Board) not be permitted to practice or play until satisfactory arrangements have been made to reconcile their account with the STMHA Treasurer.

### **Regulation 19 – TEAM EXPENSES**

- a) Teams are required to provide an accounting (breakdown of income acquired and expenses incurred) to the STMHA Executive **three (3)** times per season. **A pre-season budget** plus 2 in season updates - in the month of December and again at the conclusion of the season. A zero balance must be achieved by season’s end.

### **Regulation 20 – TRAVEL PERMITS**

- a) Travel permits are required for all games that are played outside your regular season or playoff games. This includes all exhibition games and tournaments. Failure to obtain a travel permit may result in the forfeiture of insurance coverage for both the players and coaches.
- b) No travel permits will be considered during playoffs.
- c) Select teams must file a travel permit when participating in any on ice activity with the exception of ice allocated for practices by the Vice President of House League hockey.
- d) Travel permit requests for Select teams which conflict with house league in any way will not be considered until such time as the Vice President of House League hockey has been provided with a staffing (both bench and player) plan that is to both his or her satisfaction and in accordance with Regulation 15.
- e) Teams will not be permitted to play against, practice with or participate with any team not sanctioned by the IIHF, Hockey Canada, the OHF or its Member Partners.



### **Regulation 21 - TIMEKEEPERS AND REFEREES**

a) The Vice President of Rep/House League Hockey and/or their designate shall arrange for timekeepers and referees for all scheduled games.

### **Regulation 22 – BOARD EXPENSES**

a) All expense statements must be submitted to the Budget and Finance Chair who shall in turn present to the Board of Directors for approval before reimbursement will be made.

### **Regulation 23 – INJURY REPORTS**

a) An Injury Report Form must be completed by the teams' trainer and submitted whenever a player or team official is injured during a hockey related activity. If the injury occurred during a game, the report must include a copy of the game sheet.

b) This report must be given to the Vice President of Rep./House League Hockey within 24 hours of the incident. If away at a tournament, the Vice President of Rep/House League Hockey should be informed by telephone and the report submitted upon return from the tournament.

c) The purpose of this report is to allow access to the Hockey Canada's Major Medical and Dental coverage that is not covered by the individual's provincial health/dental care.

d) If the injured player/team official requires medical treatment, the player/team official is not allowed to return to hockey activity until a doctor has signed a release. This form shall be forwarded to the Vice President of Rep/House League Hockey to be filed with the Injury Report.

### **Regulation 24 – DRESSING ROOMS**

a) Abuse to any dressing rooms (home or away) will not be tolerated. If damage is found, the team shall be responsible for the cost of repairing.

b) Teams are not to be unsupervised in dressing rooms as per OHF, OMHA & Alliance Polices and Guidelines.

### **Regulation 25 - ICE**

STMHA will not broker or book ice for teams or individuals outside to the season. STMHA teams & Coaches will be allowed to book ice through the STMHA at the City of St. Thomas' Minor Hockey Rate during the hockey season. (STMHA Motion 07/16/2013 #019)