



OWHA DISCIPLINE POLICY and PROCEDURES

PREAMBLE

It is the responsibility of all OWHA members and participants to know and follow the OWHA By-Laws, Regulations, Rules, Policies, Procedures and Code of Conduct.

The OWHA wishes to see team members participate in the game of hockey. The OWHA takes a very negative view on individuals who act in a manner that is inconsistent with the Regulations, Rules, Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics and Values of this Association. These actions are costly to the individual and team against which the infraction was committed and to the operations of the OWHA in terms of finances and human resources. Prevention is much more desirable than suspension. It is important that all stakeholders buy into the challenge and aggressively promote fair play.

Who Shares in the Responsibility for Safe and Fun Hockey?

- Parents
- Team
- Association
- Coach
- Self
- Players
- Peers
- Game Officials
- Leagues

The collective Goals and Objectives of all stakeholders must be to provide a safe and fun environment geared towards positive hockey and life experiences.

REFERENCES FROM OWHA BY-LAWS

- (p) Participant – A person registered with the OWHA or an OWHA Member or program.
- (q) person – includes individuals, associations, and corporations.

Discipline

- 1.2 A Participant may be disciplined in accordance with the policies, procedures, rules and regulations relating to discipline which are passed by the Board from time to time.

Entitlement to be a Participant

- 1.3 A person may cease to be entitled to be a Participant:
 - 1.3.1 as a result of and in accordance with the outcome of a discipline hearing in accordance with the Corporation's policies, procedures, rules and regulations related to discipline; or
 - 1.3.2 as determined by the President/CEO, for failing to pay fees or monies owed to the Corporation by the relevant deadline date(s) prescribed by the Corporation; or
 - 1.3.3 pursuant to a decision of the President/CEO in relation to the safety or security of any person.
- 1.4 Participant Ceasing to be in Good Standing – A Participant that ceases to be in good standing, as determined by the Board or by any committee or task group delegated this authority by the Board, shall not be entitled to the benefits and privileges of being a Participant until such time as the Board or by any

committee or task group delegated this authority by the Board is satisfied that the Participant has met the definition of good standing.

DISCIPLINE / SUSPENSION POLICY and PROCEDURES

- (A) All OWHA members must follow the OWHA Minimum Suspension guidelines as circulated prior to the commencement of each hockey season. Refer to OWHA Minimum Suspension policies.
- (B) The OWHA Chairperson or designate shall have the power to suspend summarily any player, coach, manager, person, team, member or individual for any breach or violation of any of the provisions of the OWHA By-laws, Regulations, Rules, Values, Code of Conduct, playing rules or any decision or ruling of the OWHA Board, or for unsportsmanlike conduct on or off the ice, or for abusive language to any of the officials, or for the alleged infraction of the amateur definition, provided that the Chairperson is satisfied that such player, coach, manager, person, team, member or individual as the case may be has committed such breach or violation, such suspension to be automatically and continuously effective until dealt with by the OWHA Board who shall deal with such suspension within fifteen days thereof.
- (C) (1) Any suspendible offense which occurs in any OWHA game (league, tournament, exhibition and/or Regional Playdown or Provincial Championship in or outside of Ontario) during the current season must be reported to the OWHA office within twenty-four (24) hours of the infraction(s) by the coach or other team official OR prior to the player or team's next game, whichever is less.
- (2) Additional suspensions will be imposed wherever conditions and circumstances warrant.
- (3) Leagues, local associations, individual teams and the OWHA may assess additional suspensions if warranted.
- (4) Player/Team Official may also be required to appear before an OWHA Discipline Board.
- (5) Once a player or team official has been suspended/ejected from a game, she/he cannot return to the ice to participate in any post-game ceremonies (hand shaking, medal presentations, etc.). If the suspended person does return to the ice, further suspensions will be issued.
- (6) It is the responsibility of each team manager and/or coach to ensure his/her players and/or team staff sit out their minimum suspensions. If a team plays twenty (20) games or less during the season, the person will sit out the minimum suspension or three weeks, whichever is less. When in doubt as to the relevant suspensions, contact the OWHA office. If you are unable to reach an OWHA designate, sit player(s) and/or team officials in question until clarification can be obtained.
- (7) Any player or team official currently under suspension is not eligible to participate in any OWHA games until his or her suspension has been completed. The OWHA may extend the suspension to include all OWHA activities if warranted. Note that suspensions are valid in all branches of Hockey Canada.
- (8) Any individual suspension of seven (7) games or less may not be appealed to the OWHA, except Minimum Suspensions cannot be appealed.
- (9) The OWHA will uphold additional suspensions issued by teams, leagues and/or associations upon written notification to the OWHA Office.
- (10) The coach or team official of a team whose member commits a suspendible offence must send within twenty-four (24) hours of the infraction(s), by the coach or other team official, OR prior to the player or team's next game, whichever is less, a copy of the game sheet to the OWHA Office (stats@owha.on.ca). Game sheets must be electronically submitted. faxes will not be accepted.
- (11) Copies of game sheets confirming suspensions have been served, must be forwarded within twenty-four (24) hours of the game, by the coach or other team official, OR prior to the player or team's next game, whichever occurs first, to the OWHA Office (stats@owha.on.ca). Game sheets must be electronically submitted. Faxes will not be accepted.

MINIMUM SUSPENSION GUIDELINES

- (a) All suspensions as listed in the OWHA Handbook are treated as individual suspensions.
- (b) Multiple suspensions in a single game or over a period of time, will each be treated individually as minimum suspensions.
- (c) Any individual suspensions of seven (7) games or less may not be appealed.
- (d) Violations of the OWHA Code of Conduct or any incidents occurring while under suspension will result in additional suspensions being assessed.
- (e) Player/team official may be required to appear before an OWHA Discipline Board.
- (f) In cases where a player or team official appears before a discipline panel/committee, it shall be the responsibility of that panel/committee to rule on both the length of the suspension and whether the suspended individual will be permitted to practice and/or participate in other sanctioned activities while under suspension. All such incidents must be reported to the OWHA office within 48 hours of the decision.
- (g) An OWHA on-ice official must forward the original copy of the game sheet for all match penalties and gross misconduct penalties to the OWHA office by delivery or e-mail to stats@owha.on.ca no later than 12:00 noon the following day and by regular mail within 24 hours.
- (h) Upon receipt of a potential disciplinary situation, the OWHA Discipline Review Board will determine a process as follows:
 - a. Any Match Penalty, Gross Misconduct Penalty, a suspendible offense to a Repeat Offender (any individual who receives a second or subsequent suspendible offence in one season), a suspendible offense to an OWHA member currently on probation and/or a violation of the OWHA Code of Conduct shall be handled by the OWHA Discipline Review Board. The individual will not be allowed to participate in any sanctioned OWHA activities until there has been a decision rendered by the OWHA, to that effect.
 - b. In other situations, a determination shall be made by the OWHA Discipline Review Board as deemed appropriate.
 - c. The OWHA Discipline Review Board and/or OWHA Board reserve the right to take additional action as deemed appropriate.
- (i) Multiple Offences will not be tolerated
 - a) 2nd suspendible offence in one season – minimum plus two (2) and shall not participate in any OWHA sanctioned activity until permission granted by the OWHA Discipline Review Board.
 - b) 3rd, 4th, 5th, etc. suspendible offence in one season – indefinite - minimum plus four (4) and shall not participate in any OWHA sanctioned activity until permission is granted by the OWHA Discipline Review Board.

Note: Previous years' suspensions are subject to review and consideration

SERVING SUSPENSIONS

- Once a player or team official has been suspended/ejected from a game, she/he cannot return to the ice to participate in any post-game ceremonies (hand-shaking, medal presentations, etc.) If the suspended person does return to the ice, further suspensions will be issued.
- Minimum suspensions are just that, minimum suspensions.
- Exhibition games are not permitted for serving suspensions except in extreme situations with written approval of the OWHA Discipline Review Board. Minimum suspensions apply and additional suspensions may be assessed.
- It is the responsibility of each team manager and/or coach to ensure her/his players and/or team staff sits out their suspensions.
- If a team plays twenty (20) games or less during the season including playoffs, and tournaments, the person may be permitted, only with the approval of the OWHA Discipline Board, to sit out the minimum suspensions or three weeks, whichever is less. When in doubt as to the relevant suspensions, contact discipline@owha.on.ca and, if you have not received authorization to participate, sit player(s) and/or team officials in question until clarification can be obtained.

- No person shall participate in any capacity in an OWHA sanctioned game or event while under suspension. (i.e. if suspended while playing, the player cannot act as a coach, referee, etc., until the suspension is completed as a player. If suspended as a coach, the person cannot play, referee, etc., until the suspension is completed as a coach, and so on.) Persons found participating while under suspension are subject to further suspensions.
- Any player or team official currently under suspension is not eligible to participate in any OWHA and Hockey Canada sanctioned games. Any individual who violated the terms of any suspension will be subject to discipline by the OHWA or Hockey Canada.
- In cases where a player or team official is serving a suspension that player or team official may, in OWHA authorized cases, participate in all OWHA sanctioned activities except hockey games for the duration of the suspension. The suspended individual is not permitted on or near the bench or dressing room during any games. The OWHA may extend the suspension to include all OWHA activities if warranted.
- Teams and Associations have the authority to add additional suspensions but do not have the authority to lessen the suspensions. These must be reported, in writing, to the OWHA email stats@owha.on.ca within 48 hours of the assessment of the suspension.
- Leagues do not have the authority to issue suspensions without prior written approval from the OWHA.
- If it is deemed that the minimum suspension may be inappropriate due to extenuating circumstances, an approach may be made to the OWHA to request relief. The OWHA designate(s) has the authority to give relief to minimum suspensions only in situations deemed extreme with such decision(s) final and binding with no opportunity to appeal. Disagreeing with the judgment of an official is not an extenuating circumstance.
- If any OWHA member fails to serve the minimum suspension without proper approval, the individual(s) and those others involved are subject to additional suspension.

Examples of situations where relief may be granted:

- It is proven that the official called the wrong rule or misinterpreted the rule – not the judgment of an official,
- It is proven the wrong person was assessed a penalty and the appropriate person has been identified,
- Compassionate grounds, but only in extreme circumstances,
- Where an individual wishes to participate in a professional development activity (i.e./Speak Out! Session) while under suspension, they may receive special permission for that activity.

END OF SEASON SUSPENSIONS

Individuals under suspension are not eligible for any involvement in Hockey Canada hockey programs until their suspension is served. Due to the reality of the game, rules, regulations, policies and procedures, this sometimes creates a challenge.

Case One: A player has a one game suspension for a relatively minor infraction – technically, she would miss tryouts, practices, exhibition games, team functions, etc. etc. until next season when her suspension is served – is this reasonable and effective?

Case Two: A player receives a fighting penalty because her team is eliminated and she decides to get rid of her frustrations on the nearest opponent/official. If we take no serious action, will we create a dangerous free for all at the end of each season?

END OF SEASON SUSPENSION PROCEDURE

- 1) Before a suspended individual is allowed to participate in any OWHA/Hockey Canada game/activity, they must write a letter addressed to discipline@owha.on.ca stating why he/she should be allowed to participate prior to their suspension being served.
- 2) The OWHA Discipline Review Board shall review each situation and make a determination as deemed appropriate.

If a suspended individual does not participate in the OWHA/Hockey Canada for a full hockey season or more and then returns to the OWHA, the OWHA shall make a determination of eligibility, on a case by case basis. Until the above process has been completed, the individual(s) shall not be eligible for participation in any OWHA/Hockey Canada programs of any kind.

APPEALS

(j) All appeals must be submitted and filed in accordance with the OWHA Appeal Policies and Procedures.

Examples of possible Discipline Appeals:

Example 1: A player is assessed a GM 20 and a GM 21 at the end of one game. The minimum suspension is GM20 (1 game), GM 21 (3 games) plus implied GM for second major penalty in one game (2 games). The total minimum suspension is 6 games. This is not appealable.

If the player had been suspended earlier in the season, she is considered a Repeat Offender resulting in an additional 2 game minimum. In this case the total minimum suspension is 8 games. This is not appealable.

(k) Grounds for Appeal

(i) Supplementary game(s) above the minimum suspension added by the OWHA that takes the suspension to 8 games or more.

Example 2: A player is assessed a combination of 3 different penalties in a hockey game that add up to a total minimum suspension of 10 games. The 10 game suspension is not appealable. The OWHA Discipline Review Board adds 4 games for a total of a 14 game suspension. The additional 4 games may be appealed. The Appeal Tribunal has the authority to remove, lessen or add to the 4 games. The Appeal Tribunal must leave the minimum 10 game suspension in place.

Example 3: A suspension imposed by a Team or Association where there has been a conflict with the By-Laws, Regulations, Rules or Policies of the OWHA; or a material procedural error; or adopted an error of fact; or did not provide a fair Hearing; or did not have the authority or jurisdiction to make the decision.



OWHA MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS NOTICE TO ALL OWHA TEAM OFFICIALS AND PLAYERS

The following are **MINIMUM** suspensions that shall be imposed for any suspendible offence, which occurs in any OWHA game (league, tournament, exhibition and/or Regional Playoff or Provincial Championship in or outside of Ontario) during the season. These are **MINIMUM** suspensions. Additional suspensions will be imposed wherever conditions and circumstances warrant. Leagues, local associations, individual teams, and the OW HA may assess additional suspensions if warranted. **All suspensions must be reported to: stats@owha.on.ca**

MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS CANNOT BE APPEALED

IMPORTANT * Multiple Offences will NOT be tolerated and WILL result in additional suspensions.
2nd suspendible offence in one game/season – minimum plus two (2) and shall not participate in any OWHA sanctioned activity until permission granted by OWHA Discipline Chairperson.
3rd, 4th, 5th, etc. suspendible offence in one game/season – indefinite - minimum plus four (4) and shall not participate in any OWHA sanctioned activity until permission granted by OWHA Discipline Chairperson.

Note: Previous years' suspensions are subject to review and consideration

OFFENCE and MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS - Players, Team Officials & Others
Violations of the OWHA Code of Conduct: Individuals who are deemed to be in violation of the OWHA Code of Conduct are subject to suspension and/or other action as deemed appropriate.

MINOR PENALTY and GAME MISCONDUCT

Bullying and Cyberbullying will be treated with the equivalency of a deliberate attempt to injure with offenders being suspended a minimum of 4 games for the first offence and possible removal for a second offence. It is the responsibility of all stakeholders in hockey to promote an environment that supports the physical and mental health of participants



2022-2023 OWHA Minimum Suspension List

The following are minimum suspensions that shall be imposed for infractions, which occur in all OWHA exhibition, league, and play-off games, during the current playing season. Note that these suspensions are over and above any imposed by Hockey Canada rules.

Notice re: Clarifications.

- **These are minimum suspensions. Additional suspensions will be imposed wherever conditions and circumstance warrant.**
- Teams must report any and all suspensions to the OWHA within 24 hours of the game or prior to the teams next game, whichever comes first. The OWHA will advise the team on the number of games that the member must serve. All suspensions must be reported to stats@owha.on.ca
- It is the responsibility of each team manager and/or coach to ensure their players sit out their appropriate suspensions. When in doubt as to the relevant suspension, please contact the OWHA office via discipline@owha.on.ca. If you are not able to reach anyone, please sit player(s) in question out until clarification can be obtained. These suspensions are in addition to game incurred.
- Match Penalty reports should be sent directly to the OWHA via discipline@owha.on.ca for review.
- A participant who is suspended while playing in an out-of-OWHA jurisdiction event (i.e., USA or out of Province) must serve that suspension or portion thereof in the participant teams remaining games in that event even if for a greater number of games than under the OWHA Minimum Suspension List.

M = Misconduct GM = Game Misconduct GE = Game Ejection MP = Match Penalty GRM = Gross Misconduct AS = Accumulation Sanction

Misconducts	Rule/Code	Suspension
Failure to go to the Player's Bench or Neutral Area	7.10 (d)	0 Games
Throwing Stick Over Boards	10.5 (d)	0 Games
Illegal Equipment	10.6 (d)	0 Games
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	11.1 (d) i	0 Games
Interference/Distraction During Penalty Shot	11.1 (d) ii	0 Games
Intentionally Knocks or Shoots Puck Out of Reach of an Official	11.1 (d) iii	0 Games
Failure to go directly to Penalty Bench	11.1 (d) iv	0 Games
Entering Referee's Crease	11.1 (d) v	0 Games
Disrespectful and Abusive Behaviour (includes Inciting)	11.2 (d)	0 Games
Game Misconducts	Rule / Code	Suspension
Second Misconduct – Same Game	4.7 (c)	2 Games
Game Ejections	4.8 (b)	0 Games
2 nd Fight, Same stoppage of play (3 rd , 4 th , etc.)	7.10 (e) iii	6 Games
Player(s) 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th Player into Fight	7.10 (e) ii	6 Games
Checking from Behind (Minor + Game Misconduct)	7.5 (a)	1 Game
Roughing (Major + Game Misconduct)	7.9 (b)	2 Games
Holding Injury (Major + Game Misconduct)	8.1 (b)	2 Games
Hooking Injury (Major + Game Misconduct)	8.2 (b)	2 Games
Interference (Major + Game Misconduct)	8.3 (b)	2 Games
Interference from the Bench (Bench Minor + Game Misconduct, if identifiable)	8.4 (a)	2 Games
Interference from the Bench (Major + Game Misconduct)	8.4 (b)	2 Games
Interference with the Goaltender (Major + Game Misconduct)	8.5 (b)	2 Games
Tripping Injury (Major + Game Misconduct)	8.6 (b)	2 Games
Bench Official on the Ice Without Permission of Official	10.4 (a)	2 Games
Leaving the Players bench or Penalty Box	10.4 (e) i	4 Games
Leaving the Players bench or Penalty Box and incurring subsequent penalty	10.4 (e) ii	5 Games
Leaving the Bench without Clearance from the Referee (Assessed to coach if altercation results in penalties at end of game)	10.4 (e)	3 Games
¹ Coach whose player is penalized under 10.4 (e)	10.4 (e)	4 Games
Throwing or Shooting Stick or Object with Injury	10.5 (b)	2 Games
Refusing to Start Play (Coach – Major + Game Misconduct)	10.8 (b) i	Indefinite*
Refusing to Leave the Players Bench (Major + Game Misconduct)	10.8 (b) ii	2 Games
¹ 10.4 (e) – Coaches' penalty will be noted on the front and back of the game sheet of the Officials' copy only. Penalty to coach is automatic as a result of player receiving 10.4 (e), coach not to be ejected as a result of this penalty being assessed. *All Indefinite Suspensions are subject pending a hearing.		

Player Accumulation Sanctions		Offense Count				
Accumulation Sanctions apply for any collective accumulation of the below MAJORS in the same season		Rule/Code	1st MAJOR	2nd MAJOR	3rd MAJOR	4th MAJOR
Boarding (Major + Game Misconduct)	7.2 (b)	2 Games	+4 Games	+6 Games	Indefinite*	
Body Checking (Major + Game Misconduct)	7.3 (b)	2 Games				
Charging (Major + Game Misconduct)	7.4 (b)	2 Games				
Checking from Behind (Major + Game Misconduct)	7.5 (b)	3 Games				
Head Contact (Major + Game Misconduct)	7.6 (b)	3 Games				
Kneeing (Major + Game Misconduct)	7.8 (b)	2 Games				
Clipping (Major + Game Misconduct)	8.7 (b)	2 Games				
Cross Checking (Major + Game Misconduct)	9.2 (b)	2 Games				
Slashing (Major + Game Misconduct)	9.3 (b)	2 Games				
*All Indefinite Suspensions are subject to a hearing.						
Coaches Accumulation Sanctions					Suspension	
Any team receiving a combination equaling 3 x 5 minute penalties in the same game from a major penalty, match penalty or fighting infractions					1 Game	
For a 2nd violation of a team receiving a combination equaling 3 x 5 minute penalties in the same game from a major penalty, match penalty or fighting infractions					3 Games	
For a 3rd violation of a team receiving a combination equaling 3 x 5 minute penalties in the same game from a major penalty, match penalty or fighting infractions					Indefinite*	
*All Indefinite Suspensions are subject to a hearing.						
Match Penalties		Rule / Code	Offense Count			
			1st MATCH	2nd MATCH	3rd MATCH	
Attempt to Injure or Deliberate Injury <i>Note: May include but not limited to head-butting, hair pulling, grabbing face mask, and kicking</i>		7.1 (c)	5 Games	Minimum + 2 Games	Indefinite±	
Boarding		7.2 (c)	4 Games			
Body Checking		7.3 (c)	4 Games			
Charging		7.4 (c)	4 Games			
Kneeing		7.8 (c)	4 Games			
Fighting – Ring or Tape on Hand(s)		7.10 (c)	5 Games			
Clipping		8.7 (c)	4 Games			
Slew Footing		8.8 (c)	5 Games			
Butt Ending		9.1 (c)	5 Games			
Cross-Checking		9.2 (c)	5 Games			
Slashing		9.3 (c)	4 Games			
Spearing		9.4 (c)	4 Games			
Checking from Behind		7.5 (c)	5 Games	Minimum + 4 Games		
Head Contact		7.6 (c)	5 Games			
± All Indefinite Suspensions are subject to a hearing. The Member may establish a set number of games that may not be lower than 5 games.						
Gross Misconducts			Rule / Code	Suspension		
Fighting with Team Official			7.10 (f)	Indefinite**		
Illegal Equipment			10.6 (f) i	Indefinite**		
Refusing to remove helmet or facial protector for identification			10.6 (f) ii	Indefinite**		
Removing Helmet and/or Chinstrap			10.6 (f) iii / iv	Indefinite**		
** All Indefinite Suspensions are subject to a hearing. The Member may establish a set number of games that may not be lower than 2 games.						
Pre or Post Game Altercations				Suspension		
Any player involved where Major and Game Misconducts are assessed				2 Games		
Coach of team whose players are so penalized				Indefinite*		
Any team involved in a pre or post game brawl				Indefinite*		
*All Indefinite Suspensions are subject to a hearing.						

Fighting	H.C. Rule	Offense Count			
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Fighting	7.10 (b)	4 Games	+3 Games	+5 Games	Indefinite*
*All Indefinite Suspensions are subject pending a hearing.					
Instigator / Aggressor	H.C. Rule	Offense Count			
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd	
Instigator / Aggressor of a fight	7.11 (a)	3 Game	+3 Games	Indefinite*	
*All Indefinite Suspensions are subject pending a hearing. The Member may establish a set number of games that may not be lower than 4 games.					

Rule 11 – Maltreatment	Type	Rule / Code	Offense		
			1 st MATCH	2 nd MATCH	3 rd MATCH
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	Game Misconduct	11.1 (e)	2 Games	Minimum +4 Games	Indefinite*
Disrespectful and Abusive Behaviour		11.2 (e)	3 Games		
Disrespectful and Abusive Behaviour	GRM	11.2 (f)	5 Games	Indefinite**	Indefinite**
Spitting	Match	11.3 (c)	5 Games	Indefinite**	Indefinite**
Discrimination	GRM	11.4	Indefinite**	Indefinite**	Indefinite**
Physical Harassment of an Official	Match	11.5 (c)	Indefinite**	Indefinite**	Indefinite**
** All Indefinite Suspensions are subject to a hearing. The Member may establish a set number of games that may not be lower than 5 games.					

