



# **RULES AND REGULATIONS**



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Ottawa District Women’s Hockey Association

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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## DEFINITIONS

| Word                                | Meaning  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Association</b>                  | Governing body of each collection of teams participating in the ODWHA  |
| <b>Category</b>                     | The OWHA competitive level within a Division, and includes AA, A, BB, B and C  |
| <b>Division</b>                     | The OWHA age group in which a team or individual player plays, and includes Novice, Peewee, Bantam, Midget, and Intermediate   |
| <b>Extenuating Circumstances</b>    | The personal circumstances that are outside of one's control submitted for review by the Board   |
| <b>Illegal or Ineligible Player</b> | A player whose name does not appear on an OWHA approved roster, or who has not been called up as an affiliated player. A player that has not been permitted to play on a specific team in which they intend to or have already played with |
| <b>Independent Team</b>             | A team that does not belong to an association  |
| <b>League Board</b>                 | The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the League  |
| <b>League</b>                       | The Ottawa District Women's Hockey Association   |
| <b>Member</b>                       | Includes Association President (or representative), and members of the ODWHA Board   |
| <b>ODWHA</b>                        | Ottawa District Women's Hockey Association   |
| <b>ODWHA Board</b>                  | The Board of Directors of the League   |
| <b>Officials</b>                    | Includes on-ice officials and timekeeper(s)  |
| <b>On-ice officials</b>             | Referees and linesmen  |
| <b>Re-Aligned</b>                   | A team that has had a category realignment within the ODWHA for League play  |
| <b>Re-Categorized</b>               | A team that has changed the Category of play within OWHA and has obtained an updated OWHA roster   |
| <b>Roster</b>                       | The Official OWHA Team Roster  |
| <b>Scheduling Meeting</b>           | means the meeting of League and team representatives at which regular season games are scheduled and the League provides game operations training  |
| <b>Team</b>                         | A group of registered team officials and players who register in a division or category in accordance with all OWHA Rules and Regulations  |

## **Article 1. HOCKEY CANADA & OWHA RULES, REGULATIONS & BYLAWS**

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Associations, Individual teams, players and all registered participants are bound by the By-Laws, Regulations, Rules, Policies, Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics and procedures of the OWHA, except as modified by the Rules and Regulations of the ODWHA. The OWHA follows Hockey Canada Playing Rules including rules specific to female hockey. It is the responsibility of team management to beware of all pertinent information and to inform team members, parents and others as appropriate. OWHA and QUEBEC Hockey teams are required to follow their respective equipment and insurance requirements.

## **Article 2. ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS**

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Each association President or delegate is responsible for maintaining communication between the ODWHA and all teams of the respective association:

- a. Communication between a team in the Association and the ODWHA on all matters other than immediate scheduling;
- b. All discipline matters regarding any team in the Association;
- c. Notifying the ODWHA about teams the Association wishes to enter in the League for the next season of play by the date set out in Article 5.
- d. Registering the contact information for each team in the manner prescribed by the League by the required date as set annually by the Board of Directors;
- e. Monitoring and ensuring that each team is duly registered with the League before its first League game.
- f. Responsible for attending the President's Council Meetings (PC Meetings) on dates set by the ODWHA Board of Directors. Failure to attend the PC Meeting will result in the association receiving a warning and \$50 fine. If a second PC Meeting is missed, the association will be fined \$40 per team within the league.

## **Article 3. REGISTRATION**

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### **3.01 Players**

1. A first-time player in the Ottawa District may initially enroll in the Association or on an Independent team within the ODWHA of their choosing. The team must be the player's age category or higher.
2. Participation is restricted to one ODWHA team at a time.
3. Compliance with registration regulations is compulsory. Any deviations are subject to disciplinary action set out in these rules and regulations and or by additional sanctions in excess of the minimum determined by the Board.
4. A team is considered Registered when their roster has been submitted to the ODWHA registrar and their fees have been paid. If one or the other are not received, the team is not Registered.

### **3.02 Team Rosters**

1. All players must be properly rostered on their team's official OWHA roster as per the OWHA rules. Quebec teams must use the Registration Form for Team Members to roster their players.
2. Approved rosters, which include full name, jersey number, and player birthdate will be submitted through each Association's Registrar to the ODWHA Registrar no less than 48 hours before the team's first league game.
3. These will be retained as official ODWHA registration records. Any team not registered by the team's first league game, as per Article 2, will result in a \$100 fine to the association with possible team suspension until rectified.

### **3.03 Roster Changes**

1. Any additions, deletions or updates to rosters must be reported immediately to the ODWHA Registrar by providing an updated approved OWHA Roster or Registration Form for Team Members, amended as necessary.
2. A player cannot participate in league play unless an updated OWHA Roster or Registration Form for Team Members has been duly submitted and acknowledged by the ODWHA Registrar 24 hours before the game. Players not duly registered through the ODWHA Registrar on the official roster shall be deemed ineligible. The association shall be subject to a \$100 fine per player per game as well as the possibility of further sanctions imposed by the ODWHA Board which could include:
  - a. Game forfeiture;
  - b. Player suspension; and or
  - c. Head Coach suspension
3. Team rosters must be finalized by December 31st.
4. After December 31st, annually, new registrations can be added to team rosters (up to the maximum number of players allowed) provided:
  - a. The registered player is transferring from another city outside the ODWHA boundary subsequent to December 31st, at midnight, or
  - b. Is moving up from a lower level team with that team's permission.
5. Written proof or permission for the move must be provided to the ODWHA Registrar. Exceptions to this ruling will be reviewed and decided upon by the Board of Directors and if required, the Division coaches affected
6. The maximum number of players that can be registered on a team will be as set out in the OWHA Handbook
7. Associations may not register more than one team in the same category unless the categories above are filled. The exception being with House League. ODWHA will not cap the maximum number of teams that an association can enter in to the house league division or any age category / pool, provided that the association has been diligent and active in creating a fair and representative number of competitive teams at the same age category. The Association must also be diligent in equally

balancing the house teams where there are two (2) or more in one age category.

### **3.04 Quebec Teams**

1. General eligibility of all QUEBEC teams will be reviewed on an annual basis.
2. If approved, Quebec teams agree to submit the Registration Form for Team Members, which includes full name, jersey number and player birthdates to the ODWHA Registrar prior the team's first league game.
3. All requirements of Article 3 are to be followed.
4. Quebec teams are required to follow the ODWHA Bylaws, Rules & Regulations, and the Code of Discipline which fall in conjunction with the OWHA Handbook and Hockey Canada. Failure to follow any of these documents, will result in further disciplinary action which could include expulsion from the ODWHA.
5. It is the responsibility of any Ontario team travelling to Quebec for league or playoff games to obtain the appropriate sanction form from OWHA. Forms are to be submitted to OWHA for approval.
6. Any regular season and playoff games played in Quebec shall be played under the ODWHA and Hockey Canada playing rules inclusive of specific requirements of OWHA.

### **3.05 Association and Team Responsibility**

An association shall not be entitled to register any team for the upcoming season if there are any outstanding fines or fees not paid from the previous season.

1. ODWHA is comprised entirely of volunteers. League play requirement mandates that Associations must fulfill their minimum league volunteer ratio of one (1) volunteer for every three (3) teams.

Associations who fail to provide their allocated number of volunteers for league positions, by September 15th, will be required to pay a \$500 fine payable to the ODWHA with an additional fine of \$100 per week thereafter until rectified.

2. The ODWHA strictly requires all associations must register their teams to play at their assigned OWHA category each season.
3. At the President's Council Meeting (PC) following the Annual General Meeting, the ODWHA will announce the league deadline for the categorization of each registered team for the upcoming season (Intent to Register (ITR) Deadline Date).
4. Teams will be required to play in the category which they have registered and been assigned by the OWHA as of the ITR Deadline Date. No re-alignment will take place after the ITR Deadline Date for regular season play, regardless of whether OWHA re-categorization has taken place.

Exceptions to this rule will only be made by the ODWHA Board of Directors. An association must notify the ODWHA as soon as possible of any change in a team's OWHA-assigned category. If at any time, a team is re-categorized by the OWHA, their eligibility for ODWHA playoffs will be reviewed by the ODWHA Board provided the team files a Consideration for Playoff Eligibility Request\_Form.

If the ODWHA does not offer the OWHA-assigned category for a given Division and a team determines to play at the Category above that assigned Category, if a team is subsequently re-categorized up to the higher Category, then the team is eligible to participate in the playoffs if it finishes in the number of required teams eligible for the playoffs determined by the ODWHA Board of Directors and no ODWHA Board of Directors review or Consideration for Playoff Eligibility Request Form is required. If a team is re-categorized down at any point in time by the OWHA they will still be eligible for ODWHA playoffs at the Category they began the regular season at.

5. If a team is re-aligned up at any point in time by the ODWHA, whether it be at the team's request or as a result of movement directed by the ODWHA Board of Directors, their eligibility for ODWHA playoffs will be reviewed by the ODWHA Board of Directors provided the team files a Consideration for Playoff Eligibility Request Form. If a team is re-aligned down at any point in time by the ODWHA they will still be eligible for the ODWHA playoffs in the Category at which they began the regular season.
6. The final decision on movement (re-alignment) of team's rests with the ODWHA Board of Directors. Movement of teams may occur at any time during the regular hockey season, or prior to the playoff season. Teams that are moved (re-aligned) will not carry forward any points, goals for, etc. from their original division.  
**Note:** Team re-alignment is not an appealable decision.
7. Associations found to have violated Article 3 with any team will have play suspended until the teams have been re-balanced.
8. Registration fees must be received seven (7) days Association's must provide a cheque or money order payable to the League to cover the registration fees for the forthcoming season. This must be received by the ODWHA Treasurer. Failure to have this deems a team not registered and will result in a \$100 fine to the association with possible team suspension until rectified.
9. It is recommended that all divisions play a minimum of two (2) exhibition games against two (2) different teams at their own category or higher, within the league, in order to place their team in the most appropriate category for play within the league. This is highly recommended for the novice and atom competitive teams.
10. Each team is responsible for ensuring that all Team Staff contact information on the ODWHA website is accurate and this must be done no less than 7 days prior to start of divisional play. Failure to have this information completed and posted 7 days prior to start of divisional play will result in a \$50 fine and there will be an additional fine of \$25 for each week thereafter.
11. Each team must enter online game sheet data, and retain and submit game sheets, in accordance with Article 14.

## 3.06 Player Movement

### **(a) Use of Affiliate Players / Pick-up Players in League Games**

Player movement from one level to a higher level is allowed under the following conditions:

1. Unless otherwise approved by the ODWHA Board, upward movement of players may only occur within teams falling under the Ottawa District Women's Hockey Association.
2. No individual player, used as a pick-up for ODWHA league play is allowed to play at a higher level more than five (5) ODWHA league games during regular and playoff season. Any player within ODWHA teams who plays more than five (5) games at a higher level shall become ineligible for further play with her original team. The player's future status will be determined by the ODWHA Board of Directors. Any non-ODWHA player intended to be used as a pick-up, must submit to the ODWHA Registrar, OWHA proof of player registration no less than 24 hours prior to the game. Any player from another team outside of the ODWHA who is used as a pick-up player more than five (5) times will be deemed an illegal player by the league and further disciplinary action will be taken against the offending coach as per OWHA suspensions.
3. A team may use any eligible player to a maximum of three (3) per game but not to exceed the number of players currently rostered with their team. Pick-up players are not permitted for suspended players. Each player must be listed with **AP** for Affiliated Player beside her name on the game sheet. Failure to mark **AP** (Affiliate Player) on a game sheet beside any affiliated player will result in the offending team being fined \$50.
4. In recognition of the shortage of goalies, teams needing to use pick-up goalies for more than five (5) regular ODWHA league games may request an exemption from the ODWHA Registrar. Such exemptions to the five (5) game movement limits will only be granted in cases of injury, illness or other extenuating circumstances.
  - a. In the event that a goalie from a lower level is not available, the ODWHA Registrar may approve the use of a goalie from the same level to replace an injured or ill goalie upon provision of a medical certificate.
  - b. A goalie from the same level may not play for the same team more than three (3) times; or
  - c. In extenuating circumstances upon Board of Directors approval exceptions may be permitted.
5. Only the novice house division will be permitted to affiliate laterally in consideration of not having a lower level team from which to affiliate.
6. An OWHA Pick-Up Consent Form is required for any pick-up players used for ODWHA league play.



7. A Pick-Up/Affiliate Player is defined as EITHER from:
  - a. A younger Division and the same Category or lower;
  - b. The same Division and lower Category
    - i. Examples:
      - (1) Bantam A team can call from Peewee A team
      - (2) Bantam A team can call from Peewee BB team
      - (3) Bantam A team can call from Bantam BB team
      - (4) Bantam A team can NOT call from Peewee AA team

**(b) Use of Affiliate Players / Pick-Up Players in Playoffs**

1. Upward movement of players during playoffs, can only occur if any of the following conditions are met and officially accepted (24 hours in advance of the game to be played) by the ODWHA Registrar:
  - a. To replace an injured or an ill player who will provide a medical certificate indicating she cannot play in a particular game
  - b. To replace a goalie due to extenuating circumstances who will not be able to play

**Note:** The above permitted situations do not permit a team to simply add an additional player to the roster. Upon the return of the injured player to the team, the replacement player would no longer be eligible since situation (a) would no longer exist. The second situation only applies if there is one (1) goalie registered on the team or where there are two (2) registered goalies and both will be absent. The 24-hour notice period can be waived by the ODWHA Registrar, depending on the circumstances.

**(c) Procedure for Use of Affiliated Players**

In all cases of intended use of affiliated players, the following procedure will apply:

1. The requesting coach will first approach the applicable team' coach for permission to approach the select player.
2. Permission being granted, the player in question will be contacted by her team coach or with permission from her coach, by the requesting coach to confirm her willingness to play, with the advice that her team coach has approved her to participate.
3. If the player is willing, a Pick-Up Consent Form will be completed by the affiliate coach and must be given to the requesting coach/manager prior to the game.
4. The game sheet completed for the game in which the affiliate player plays, will have the initials **AP** for affiliated player, placed beside the affiliate's name as a record for the League and subsequent protests or inquires by the ODWHA or OWHA. The Pick-Up Consent Form must also be attached to the white copy of the game sheet.

5. Any team found to have violated the Pick-Up players rule by virtue of not having complied with any of the requirements or limits specified in Rule 7, subsections (a) through (h) will forfeit the game which the violation(s) was found to have occurred and by a score that is in accordance with the Forfeiture Policy listed in the OWHA Handbook. Teams violating Rule 7, as above, will be considered by the ODWHA to have used an ineligible or illegal player and the violation will be reported to the OWHA as a suspendable offence.

## **Article 4. SCHEDULING**

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1. The ODWHA will inform Association Presidents of the date of the Scheduling Meeting(s) by August 15th of each year.
2. Scheduling will provide flexibility to accommodate OWHA provincial playdowns and championships. Each team must undertake to have sufficient ice time to meet both regular season and playoff requirements by the set dates annually.
3. Association Ice Schedulers are required to attend the Scheduling Meeting(s) and assist the teams in finalizing the schedule template with ice times.
4. Any team failing to attend the Scheduling Meeting may result in the team not being eligible to play in the League.
5. Following the Scheduling Meeting, a team shall have three (3) days within which to enter its home schedule into the on-line gaming system. Failure to enter the entire home game schedule within the three (3) days may result in a \$200 fine.
6. Each team will be allowed to rearrange a maximum of three (3) games during the season. Any more than three (3) changes will subject the team to a \$100 fine per game (excluding inclement weather). All changes must be approved by the respective Divisional Coordinator and or the League Convenor.
7. All changes to game times, dates or locations of games must be reported to the League Convenor at least forty-eight (48) hours before the actual game time so the online system may be properly updated and referees informed. Failure to do so will result in the team being fined \$50 fine payable by the HOME team.
8. ALL games MUST be scheduled before leaving the Scheduling Meeting. Games are not allowed to be scheduled beyond the completion date for the regular season.

### **4.01 Scheduling Meeting for Regular Season**

1. A minimum of one (1) team representative, and Ice Schedulers will schedule all required games at the Scheduling Meeting. Games will be scheduled to reflect a balanced schedule determined annually by the Board.
2. Any changes throughout the season will be handled by the team representative and the League Convenor. It will be each team's responsibility to ensure on an ongoing basis, that the dates, locations and times for all games are correct in the schedule posted on the website. The League website will be considered to be the sole source of the official schedules.

## Article 5. GAME INFORMATION

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### 5.01 Game Play

1. At the beginning of each season the Board of Directors will decide upon the length of time for the periods and penalties; all games will be based on a stop time format.
2. Pre-Game warm-up time for all games should be 3 minutes with the exception of Midget Tier 1 where the warm-up will be five minutes.
3. The arena clock time may run out before the game clock does. Remaining time should be noted on the game sheet. No adjustments are to be made to the game clock for period duration.
4. No time outs are allowed in regular season games.
5. The number of regular season games will be standardized at 20 or less for all Divisions and Categories.

### 5.02 Game Start and End Times

| Division     | Earliest Start Time                    | Latest Start Time |
|--------------|--|-------------------|
| Novice       | 6:30 pm weeknights<br>8:00 am weekends | 7:00 pm           |
| Atom         |  | 7:00 pm           |
| Peewee       |  | 8:00 pm           |
| Bantam       |  | 9:00 pm           |
| Midget       |  | 9:30 pm           |
| Intermediate |  | 9:30 pm           |

### 5.03 Game Sheets

1. The Game Sheet is a LEGAL DOCUMENT for insurance purposes. Any falsification of data may make it invalid for insurance claims. It is important that the game sheets be completed correctly, legibly and accurately and forwarded to the proper person as quickly as possible. Failure to do so may result in a \$25 fine.
2. It is the responsibility of the home team to provide a game sheet. The home team should have the game sheet completed and give it to the visiting coach at least fifteen minutes prior to the scheduled game time.
3. All house and competitive players and team staff must sign the game sheet at ALL League games.
4. All teams must use the OWHHA watermarked game sheet label for all League games. Failure to do so is a \$25 fine per game payable to the League.
5. If any players on your team have different jersey numbers for home and away, or if a player is wearing a replacement jersey because hers is lost, misplaced or damaged, then please modify the appropriate numbers. In the event that a player's jersey number does not match the number on the game sheet, then the offending team shall be fined \$100. You DO NOT have to name your starting line-up. With the exception of goalie, player positions are not necessary.

6. Ensure you have completed the top section of the game sheet including game number, the two team names and OWHA numbers, the arena, the Division and Category, curfew time or no curfew and the scheduled date and time. Failure to do so may result in a \$25 fine.
7. If a game sheet is signed by an ineligible player, who does not play, then the offending team then they may be fined \$100.

#### **5.04 Notification of Game Results**

1. It is the responsibility of the HOME team to enter ALL game sheet data online within two days (48 hours) of the time of the game for regular season games, and within 1 day (24 hours) for playoff games. Data for both teams, including all codes, numbers and times must be entered. Failure to do so in the regular season may result in a fine of \$100 per day to the offending Association until the game sheet data is entered. A fine of \$100 for every 24 hours after game completion will be assessed to the offending Association failing to report online within the twenty-four (24) hour deadline in the playoffs. It is the responsibility of the visiting team to confirm the stats as input by the home team and work with them in correcting any discrepancies.
2. The Home team is also responsible for emailing a copy of the game sheet to the Divisional Coordinator within 24 hours of game play. Failure to do so could result in a \$25 fine.
3. The Discipline Director will notify Presidents when their team will be fined.
4. It is the responsibility of the HOME team to retain all League game sheets. Game sheets must be held until July 31st of the season in which the game was played. Should the League request a copy of a game sheet, the Home team must email the game sheet within 1 day (24 hours) to the Divisional Coordinator. Failure to email a game sheet within the time prescribed may result in a fine of \$100 per day until the game sheet is submitted. I

**NOTE:** It is important to note that in certain situations, the OWHA requires the on-ice game official to take the white copy of the game sheet. In this case a copy of the yellow game sheet will be accepted. Please refer to the Code of Discipline.

#### **5.05 Tie-Breakers**

If teams are tied at the end of the Regular Season or in Playoffs the following criteria will be followed:

1. Most wins in regular season or playoff series against all opponents.
2. Record against other tied team in regular season. (Disregard if more than two teams tied)
3. Goals for divided by (Goals For + Goals Against).
4. Fewest goals allowed in regular season or playoff series against all opponents
5. Fewest penalty minutes accumulated in regular season or playoff series against all

opponents

6. Flip of coin by a neutral party agreed to by the League Convenor.
7. In case of more than two teams, tie-breakers will follow the numerical order until all ties are broken.

## **5.06 Cancellation and Rescheduling Rules**

1. Teams are permitted to reschedule a maximum of three (3) games without fines being assessed as long as all game guidelines are followed i.e. times, venues and the game is more than seven (7) days in the future.

Note: This does not include inclement weather/ loss of ice or a public health notice i.e. H1N1.

If officials have already been assigned to a game at the time the rescheduling request has been made, the rescheduling team is responsible for the \$5 reassigning fee.

2. Cancellation of a regular season, or playoff game by a team may be done without a cancellation penalty up to one week (7 days) prior to the day a game is scheduled. Any cancelled game must be rescheduled as provided below. This does include the use of one of the three (3) allowable scheduled games.
3. Games cancelled must be rescheduled for a future date within seven (7) days of game cancellation. Any team that does not reschedule within the seven (7) day period may be assessed a \$100.00 disciplinary fine payable to the League. A rescheduled game is not considered to be locked into the schedule until the Divisional Coordinator has been notified.
4. An additional \$500.00 fine, payable to the League, to any team who fails to show for a scheduled League game without just cause; cancels a scheduled League game within twenty-four (24) hours of its playing time without just cause; or refuses to reschedule a cancelled game. In addition, the Board shall have the right to suspend all or any member of the team staff of the offending team for up to one (1) year and to refuse the admission of teams from the offending association for the next season. Any costs of Officials for a game cancelled under these circumstances are the responsibility of the offending team.
5. A team that withdraws from the League shall be deemed to have cancelled all of its remaining scheduled games.
6. If a game must be cancelled because one or both teams cannot travel due to inclement weather or as a result of a public health notice (e.g. H1N1, loss of ice, power failure), the following policy is in effect:
  - a. The team cancelling the game must DIRECTLY contact by PHONE, and speak to a designated team representative before this game is officially considered cancelled. Note: E-mail and voice messages will not be considered as proper notification
  - b. Within four (4) hours of game time, both Teams must notify the Divisional

Coordinator, League Convenor, and the Ref Assignor, via email, that the game has been cancelled.

- c. The cancelled game is to be rescheduled for a future date within seven (7) days.
  - d. To be eligible for playoffs and any League awards, teams must play all their regular season games.
  - e. Games cancelled because of bad weather conditions or as a result of a public health notice (e.g. H1N1) are not included in the three (3) allowed changes under Section 6.
7. If a fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) game must be rescheduled the request must be made to the League Convenor for consideration. Fines may apply.

### **5.07 Body Checking**

All Divisions will play with NO body checking.

### **5.08 Throat Protectors**

All players are required to wear BNQ certified throat protectors. Referees will not allow any player not wearing one to play in the game. No delay of game will be tolerated while attempting to obtain a proper throat protector.

While on the ice all players and goal keepers, are required to wear CSA approved facial protectors and a BNQ approved throat protector.

## **Article 6. ON-ICE OFFICIALS**

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1. All on-ice officials must be OWHA or QUEBEC Hockey registered. All on-ice officials MUST indicate certification number on game sheet.
2. In Bantam AA, Bantam A, Midget AA, Midget A, Intermediate A, a three on-ice official system is mandatory. This system will be imposed upon any other Division and Category in which discipline problems are becoming a trend at any time throughout the season. In all other Divisions and Categories, a two on-ice official system is mandatory.
3. The home team will be responsible for providing a Score keeper and a Timekeeper.
4. It is the responsibility of the Home team to check that there are officials present in the Referees room 20 minutes prior to your game starting time. If there are no officials in the dressing room, check to see if there is a female game presently being played on the ice and check to see if the officials are staying for your game. If no officials are present and the officials on the ice are not staying, then an immediate call to the Referee Assignor at the appropriate contact number (provided at the beginning of each season) needs to be done to advise the assignor of the situation. After contacting the Assignor, await their instructions on how this will be handled.
5. If the Referee Assignor indicates that alternate officials are available and can be assigned immediately, the game will proceed as scheduled.

6. In the case of one official being present (and a two-man system is being used), the game will be started with, and perhaps played entirely with, one official if the official is willing. A second official may join in once dressed.
7. In the case of one official being present (and a three-man system is being used), the game may not be played with only 1 official. The official will indicate whether other officials are being sent by the assignor. The game will be played if a second official arrives. A third may join in once dressed.
8. If during the course of the game, all the present officials become unable to complete their assigned duties for the game and two periods are complete then the game will be considered complete and the results will be reported as a complete game.
9. If during the course of the game, the game cannot be completed as the result of bench staff or spectators being ejected from the game, the referee will indicate on the game sheet the circumstances surrounding the ejection. The ODWHA Discipline Committee will determine the consequences of the ejection including whether the offending team will forfeit the game.
10. If there are unforeseen circumstances at the Arena that prevents the game from starting (or completing) the results will be reported as per a complete game if two periods are complete.
11. If the game cannot be started or completed, unless otherwise specified above, the two coaches (managers) involved must unanimously decide on one of the following options:
  - a. Game result will be withheld from the standings, showing as a NON-PLAYED game, OR
  - b. Game will be scored as 0-0 tie, awarding each team with one point, OR
12. Teams agree to replay the game, with the Home team being responsible for providing the ice time (and cost of said ice) and said game will be played at an agreeable time between the two teams within two weeks of original date or by the last date of the regular season, whichever comes first.
13. Whichever way things are handled, the decision that is reached MUST be indicated on the game sheet and acknowledged by both teams via a signature. This same decision needs to be provided to the Statistician and Divisional Convener (or designated alternate) within 24 hours, either by fax or via email. If the game is going to be rescheduled, it is the responsibility of the Home team to provide the particulars to the Statistician and Divisional Convener (or designate alternate) so that new officials can be arranged for the new game.
14. The Referee Scheduler will address instances in which the required number of officials do not complete the game. The home team is only required to pay for one referee if only one officiates the game. The home team is required to advise their Divisional Coordinator in the event the game is officiated without the required number of on-ice officials.

15. Complaints with respect to officiating (conduct of referees, attitude, language, etc. - not judgment) are to be conveyed by team officials to their Association President. The member Association President will forward on to the ODWHA Communications Director if necessary.
16. Associations within ODWHA will co-ordinate and organize officials via the ODWHA Referee Assignor or other entity as required.
17. All on-ice officials must be at least Level II HCOP currently certified referees. In most cases it is permitted to have one Level I HCOP official paired with a minimum Level II official. In extenuating circumstances, exceptions to the aforementioned guidelines will be permitted subject to ODWHA approval.
  - a. The referee assignor not being able to provide the appropriate level of officials on a single game basis, is not grounds for protest.

## **Article 7. SUSPENSIONS**

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In the event of any suspendable offences, the ODWHA Code of Discipline must be followed in its entirety.

## **Article 8. LEAGUE GAME PROTESTS**

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1. A team can only protest a game through a rostered staff member and only regarding an interpretation or violation of a ODWHA rule – e.g. not adhering to the agreed curfew, or if there is an improperly rostered, non-rostered, ineligible, or suspended player participating. The ODWHA cannot accept protests regarding officiating. All issues regarding on-ice officials must be forwarded to the ODWHA office. Poor timekeeping is also exempt from game protest.
2. Any player, official or team wishing to make a protest concerning any function under the control of the ODWHA must submit to the ODWHA Communications Director, a written protest through the Member Association President within seventy- two hours of the function under protest. The referee must be advised at the time of the protest occurrence that a protest will be registered with him/her on the game sheet at the conclusion of the game. No protest that deals with a decision of a referee will be accepted. The protest shall be accompanied by a two hundred and fifty-dollar (\$250) fee. This fee is refundable only if the protest is upheld. Note: Excludes team placement and realignment which is not an appealable decision.
3. A special meeting of the Board of Directors will be held no later than seven (7) days after receiving the written protest and each person concerned must be given at least two (2) days' notice of the meeting in order that they may have the opportunity of being present and voicing their views. If the protest is lodged during the playoffs, the two (2) days' notice of meeting shall be waived and a meeting will immediately be held.
4. All protests will be handled by the Board of Directors and their decision will be final and binding on all parties.



## **Article 9. PLAYOFF FORMAT**

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1. To be determined by the Board by February of each playing year. It is the intention of ODWHA to have all the final playoff games held on a Championship Weekend. The date for the Championship day will be established before November 15th of the season in which the games will be played. These dates will be communicated to each member association President, who will be responsible for communication of this information to each of their respective teams.
2. Once the Championship schedule has been finalized, no modifications can occur. Any team, that for whatever reason is unable to participate and does not provide notification to the league by the identified deadline, will lose the game by default and face further disciplinary action by the ODWHA.
3. When sufficient notification is provided, the team(s) they defeated in the semi-finals will take their place. Where there were no semi-finals, the teams will be determined using the tie breaking rules established for the playoffs.
4. The approved playoff format will be communicated by February of each playing year.
5. Any ODWHA team in good standing may participate in the playoffs of their Division.
6. A player must play a minimum of five (5) league games with the team on which they are considered registered in order to be eligible for the playoffs. Goalies are the exception to the rule and will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.
7. The standings, as of midnight the last day of the regular current playing season, will be used to determine the playoff positions.
8. Each team should provide one off-ice official (scorekeeper, timekeeper) for each game.