

RHL

CONSTITUTION

AND

BYLAWS

REVISED 2008

ABBREVIATIONS

"AA" "AAA"	Representative Tier
C.H.L.	City Hub League
C.S.A.	Canadian Standards Association
H. C.	Hockey Canada
H.L.S.	House League Select
H.M.H.C.	Hamilton Minor Hockey Council
M.H.A.O.	Minor Hockey Alliance of Ontario
Reps	Representative Tiers (AA and AAA)
R.H.L.	Recreational Hockey Leagues (e.g. Associations, Affiliates, etc.)
T.D.C.	Technical Development Committee
CHOP	Canadian Hockey Officiating Programme
R.D.G.	Referee Development Group

INTERPRETATION

In these By-Laws of the R.H.L. thereafter passed, unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular number of the masculine gender shall include the plural number of the feminine gender, as the case may be, and vice-versa.

PREAMBLE

The recreational hockey leagues will provide a community-based program, which will allow the player to participate in an environment, which will provide an opportunity for fun and physical exercise.

Each Association will be incorporated and will operate their program under their own Constitution and Bylaws.

Each Association shall be empowered to administer, foster and conduct its own affairs within its own jurisdiction in accordance with its own Constitution, Bylaws, regulations and rules, in a manner which is consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws, regulations and rules of the Recreational House Leagues and the Hamilton Minor Hockey Council, and not contrary to the best interests of amateur hockey in the City of Hamilton.

Recreational hockey players will abide by the rules and regulations of their own association.

The RHL's with their representing chairperson, will coordinate the efforts of all City RHL's towards a fair and uniform set of procedures on a Citywide basis.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE RECREATIONAL HOUSELEAGUES COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:

V.P. HOUSELEAGUES
2nd V.P. HOUSELEAGUES
SECRETARY/TREASURER
CHEDOKE MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE
CORONATION MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
DOFASCO MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE
HAMILTON JUVENILE DIVISION
LAWFIELD MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
MOHAWK MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
MOUNT HAMILTON MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
PARKDALE COACHES ASSOCIATION
ROSEDALE MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
SCOTT PARK COMMUNITY HOCKEY

NOTE: The representatives of the **10** House leagues are elected by their own membership. The V.P. House Leagues, 2ND V.P. Houseleagues, Secretary/Treasurer, will be elected by the Recreational House League Committee. To be eligible for the office of **V. P.** House Leagues , and 2nd V.P. House Leagues, the candidate must be a member of an RHL. Association's Executive. **Secretary / Treasurer may be elected from at large**
These positions are for a two year period.

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

Can only be made at the first Recreational House League meeting after the RHL playdowns. Changes to the Constitution & By-Laws must be in writing and submitted to the Secretary / Treasurer 6 weeks before said meeting

ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

1. Participation is open to all persons upon payment of the prescribed registration fees and in compliance with registration requirements including provision of proof of age as requested.

- 1.2 PRIORITY TO REGISTER WILL BE:
 - (i) **Residents of the Old City of Hamilton on a first come, first serve basis**

 - (i) All applicants must be registered on a designated registration form approved by the **Recreational House League Committee**

- 1.3.1 All applicants for registration must furnish, upon request, proof of age. (Birth Certificate, Baptismal Paper, or some other certified affidavit.)

- 1.4 Registration will remain open until the quota for each division is reached. Normally December 31st will be the last date for registration for the current season. Beyond that date registration may be accepted at the discretion of each Association.

- 1.4.1 Each RHL will submit a preliminary registration report on October 1 of each year to the V.P. RHL. Final registration reports will also be submitted by January 10 of each year. Failure to do so will result in discipline, fines and/or loss of status at the **HMHC level & the Recreational House League level**

- NOTE:** Registration forms are confidential and will not be handed out to other RHL's or Tiers.

- 1.5 No person may register with more than one RHL. Any party who registers with more than one RHL without having received the appropriate release will have all registrations nullified. There shall be no obligation from any RHL to return registration fees in such an instance.

- 1.6. If a player terminates his participation after the league starts, his refund will be pro-rated based on the hours of ice scheduled and the condition of the returned equipment, belonging to the RHL's.

- 1.6.1 No refunds will be given after Dec. 31 of the playing season. Deposits may be forfeited for withdrawal at any time.

- 1.7 Ages per division will be those set by H.C. RHL's may, in some circumstances, authorize registration, and/or movement of a player from the H.C. guidelines when it is in the best interest of the player.

- 1.8 RHL registration fees will be established by each individual RHL and submitted to the tier Vice-President for approval.

- 1.9 RHL final Team Rosters must be registered and received by the Tier Vice-President by January 10. Failure to do so will result in discipline, fines and/or loss of status at the **Recreational House League & HMHC level**

- 1.10 Registration procedures, quotas, etc. will be established by the RHL Convening Committee Committee. RHL's may pre-register up to 100% of their current player registration during the pre-registration dates set by the RHL's. Players pre-registering must be currently registered with that Association. Note: For Ice Allocation purposes each Association and Tier will agree to a capping of the number of teams as per previous agreement.
- 1.11 HMHC Assessment fees must be submitted by November 1, based on 100% of previous season's final registration numbers. Failure to do so will result in discipline, fines and/or loss of status at the HMHC **& the Recreational House League Level**

EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS

2. Each RHL will supply 1 sweater and 1 pair of socks to all RHL players to be included as part of the registration fee.
- 2.1 Each RHL will determine their own teams and colours for RHL play.
- 2.2 All players during games and practices must wear the proper protective equipment as specified by current HC rules.
- 2.3 Goalkeepers must wear, in addition to the above equipment, goalie equipment specified by current HC rules. It is not mandatory for an Association to supply goalie equipment.
- 2.4 All RHL officials must wear CSA approved helmets, including properly fastened chin strap with CSA approved referees face guard and approved skates with approved heel guards. Goaltender skates will not be permitted.

PLAYER MOVEMENT

3. ALL PLAYERS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PLAY AT THE LEVEL OF THEIR ABILITY BUT NO PLAYER MAY BE FORCED TO PLAY AT A HIGHER CLASSIFICATION AGAINST HIS/HER WISHES. ANY COACH OR MANAGER WHO PERSUADES, COERCES, COMPELS OR OFFERS INDUCEMENTS TO ANY PLAYER TO PLAY FOR THIS TEAM, SHALL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINE REVIEW BY THE RHL DICIPLINE COMMITTEE AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO SUSPENSION FOR UP TO ONE SEASON.
- 3.1 All RHL programs will commence on or about October 1st.
- 3.2 No player may register with a 'AAA', 'AA' or 'CHL' team after October 1 if he/she is registered in an RHL program unless he/she is released by the RHL's president.
- 3.3 A player may transfer to another RHL if an opening exists.

CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE

- 4 The voting members of the RHL Committee will form a discipline committee. This Committee will govern the RHL Constitution & Bylaws. Conflict of interest to be declared.
- 4.1 The RHL Committee has sole jurisdiction in regards to discipline, suspension and placing in bad standing of any RHL Association and its members. **Association in bad standing will be allowed to participate in the RHL playdowns.**
- 4.2 All RHL's must report in **writing** any season ending or league termination suspensions to the RHL Vice president. The RHL vice President will make this information available to all Associations. Any suspension that cannot completely be served in a given season will carry over to the following season.

NOTE: CITY OF HAMILTON ZERO TOLERANCE RULES WILL APPLY.

PLAYING IN OTHER LEAGUES

- 5.1 All players registered with the RHL's may not participate in any other minor hockey leagues, with the exception of High School.
- 5.2 Those players who disobey this rule are subject to disciplinary action: including suspension without refund.

SITUATIONS

- 6.1 Situations arising during the season that are not covered under the rules will be referred to the RHL Committee for discussion.

PLAYING RULES

- 7 RHL playing times will be laid down by the individual Associations.
- 7.1 The normal duration of a game is considered 1 hour on the arena clock from the published, scheduled start time, minus the time required for flooding the ice surface.
- 7.1.1 Any suspension handed out at the close of the regular season, in exhibition or tournament play will be carried over to the next season. Each Association must submit a list to the V.P. RHL at the end of the season.

CITY PLAYDOWNS

- 8 Any suspensions handed out at the close of the regular season, in an exhibition or tournament game will carry over into playoffs at all levels and the next season if needed.
- 8.1 A Playdown Committee will convene the RHL playdowns.
- 8.2 RHL's wishing to participate must advise the Playdown Committee, of the divisions they wish to enter.
- 8.3 The initial schedule will be published at the February RHL meeting.
RHL's placed in bad standing will be allowed to participate in the RHL's playdown, but will lose their vote at the RHL Committee table, be subject to fines and/or will have their subsidy for ice removed.
- 8.4 Rules for City Playdowns will be as specified by the Playdown Committee.
- 8.5 The RHL Committee has the right to discipline, as it sees fit, any participant in the City Playdowns.

Championship Game

- 8.6 The Rules for the Championship Game will be set out in advance by the Playdown Committee

GAME PROTESTS AND DEFAULTS

- 9.1 All protests, during the regular playing season, will be handled by the individual RHL involved in accordance with their own playing rules.
- 9.2 All protests during City Playdowns will be handled by the Convening Committee in accordance with the City Playdown Rules.

COACHING QUALIFICATIONS

NOTE: IT IS MANDATORY THAT ALL COACHES, MANAGERS, TRAINERS ETC. HAVE VALID POLICE CHECKS, and take the appropriate TDC clinics.

- 10 The RHL's will select their own RHL and HSL coaches. (The TDC is available as a resource group should the RHL's request their services.)
- 10.1 The RHL's will have the responsibility to ensure that their coaches, trainers, etc. are appraised of any TDC clinics that are available to them.
 - 10.1.1 Head coaches are responsible for their team's affairs. Discipline in team matters will be addressed to the Head Coach.
 - 10.1.2 Team budgets and finances will be the responsibility of each RHL.

ON-ICE OFFICIALS

11. It is understood that the RHL's are the training ground for on-ice officials and administered by the local associations.
- 11.1 The H.M.H.C. will have the responsibility to sponsor on-ice official clinics each year. Those clinics will be available to all levels and published at least 4 to 6 weeks before the scheduled dates. The TDC in conjunction with the Supervisor of Officials will be responsible for arranging on-ice official clinics.
- 11.2 Each RHL is responsible for setting its own pay scales for its on-ice officials.

FUNDRAISING

12. The RHL's will run their own fundraisers within their own Associations.
- 12.1 From time to time the HMHC or the RHL Committee may sponsor a fundraiser and it is expected that all RHL teams will be invited to participate in those fundraisers.

SPONSORSHIP

- 13 No Breweries, Distilleries, Wineries or Tobacco Companies will be permitted to sponsor any team in an RHL.
- 13.1 The RHL's will set their own dollar level for sponsorships and will report these amounts to the RHL Committee

RECREATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE BYLAWS:

PREAMBLE:

The recreational hockey program in the City of Hamilton will provide the grass roots development base for minor hockey. It will always be protective of the individual choice of players and their parents. It will always continue on a **community based** program concept.

These basic philosophies and rights are part of the RHL Constitution and By-laws.

It will be a reciprocal arrangement that the Recreational Leagues will co-operate with the upper-tiers.

The hockey bylaws are to be jointly supported by the Recreational affiliates, the H.M.H.C., and the Culture & Recreation Department from interpretation to enforcement.

THE PHILOSOPHY:

The Minor Hockey programs operate under the leadership of volunteers.

The philosophy behind these programs is directed towards the provision of sound leadership for participants. These participants must be assured that every effort is being made for a wholesome environment, an experience for personal growth in team play and an opportunity for fun and physical exercise.

The development of highly skilled hockey players is not the priority or goal of the recreational base program, but will work co-operatively with the upper tiers and the TDC to develop players who, by choice, can progress to the more competitive teams.

In order that this philosophy may come about it is recommended that a non-**body checking** program be in force in all house league divisions.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP:

The Recreational Minor Hockey programs are **community based** programs operated under the guidance of the RHL Executive Committee. Each affiliated Association will operate its program in accordance with the RHL Executive Committee.

The Affiliated Associations through the Vice-President, Recreational House Leagues, will co-ordinate the efforts of the Association with other City affiliates towards a fair and uniform set of procedures on a City-wide basis.

THE LEAGUES:

- 1.1 Each Association will operate the league under acceptable rules and regulations for players and coaches under an elected Executive Convenorship. No league will operate in competition with another league in areas of player-coach recruitment and will not knowingly permit players to play for two or more leagues.
- 1.2 Each affiliate will provide one game a week with shared ice practice time over the winter season; the season commences on the first week of October and terminates by the last week of March, with minor amendments as directed by the Department of Culture and Recreation

- 1.3 Each affiliate will reserve the right to allocate players and Coaches to teams and will be responsible for the schedule of play.
- 1.4 The affiliates will co-operatively develop tournaments within the RHL's.
- 1.5 Each affiliate will ensure that the "one player, one team" policy is adhered to.
- 1.6 Select teams will be allowed as per guidelines set up by the Recreational House League Committee

REGISTRATION:

- 2.1 Player registration will be conducted on mutually agreed upon dates and continued until Teams are filled. **A waiting list is not permitted** – overflow to be referred to Associations with openings.
- 2.1.1 Pre-registration will be conducted on mutually agreed upon dates – This applies only to players currently registered with the Association.
- 2.2 Registration will be based on a first-come basis using RHL Committee approved registration forms.
- 2.3 Registration costs will be set by the individual affiliates. Registration costs for the Upcoming season must be presented to the RHL Executive Committee by February 1st of the current season.
- 2.4 The affiliates may request "proof of age" and reserves the right to decide on the player eligibility.

ICE ALLOTMENT:

- 3.1 The RHL Executive will appoint 2 RHL members to sit on the Hamilton Minor Hockey Council Ice Allocation Committee.
- 3.2 Where ice time cannot be provided at the "home" arena, the Association may be subject to re-location. The minimal allotment formula is based upon one game per week and one practice, to be shared between two teams.

PLAYERS:

4.1 Age Divisions – Based on December 31st – current season

Hockey School/Minor Tyke	-	3 & 4 years
Tyke	-	5 & 6 years
Novice	-	7 & 8 years
Atom	-	9 & 10 years.
PeeWee	-	11 & 12 years
Bantam	-	13 & 14 years
Midget	-	15,16 & 17 years
Juvenile	-	18,19 & 20 years

(In concurrence with the H.C. Rule Book)

4.2 Players registered with any other league, using City of Hamilton subsidized ice, with the exception of High School, will be suspended without refund.

4.3 Players may face suspension without refund for:

- willful damage to equipment or facilities
- fighting: in any way game related
- harassment of other players, Coaches or Officials

COACHES/OFFICIALS:

5.1 Coaches/Officials will be recruited based upon the judgment of the Affiliates.

5.2 Suspensions or dismissals will be reported to the RHL Committee in writing.

5.3 Coaching/Officials development will be the concern of the RHL Committee.

PARENTS:

Parents conduct will be subject to the Affiliates rules and regulations and the City of Hamilton Zero Tolerance policy

6.1 Parents are urged to support league activities and programs.

THE EXECUTIVE:

7.1 The overall responsibility for affiliate development and operation rests with the Executive Committee established at each Arena. This Executive is subject to the following accountability – V.P. Recreational Houseleague.

7.1.1 All Executive Members must have a valid police check done.

7.2 Submission of team rosters by January 10th.

7.3 Submission of league reports, including financial statements, will go directly to the V.P. RHL.

- 7.3 Submission of insurance fees from the RHL tier will be made to the V.P. RHL by November 1st.

OTHER LEAGUE INVOLVEMENTS:

- 8.1 Other league involvement's, programs, or commitments will be declared to the V.P. RHL.
- 8.2 Hub, AAA, AA:
No use of house league assigned ice time is allowed without the permission of the Association involved.
- 8.3 League schedules commence on or about October 1st and conclude on the last weekend in March. Registration will be the first Saturday after Labour Day.
- 8.4 League make-up must include a minimum of 4 teams per division or play inter-rink per division. NOTE: a team must consist of 12 players as per their roster.
- 8.5 Disciplinary action to be taken if any of these rules are not adhered to.

RECREATIONAL HOUSLEAGUE RULES OF ORDER

1. The Vice President, or in his absence, the 2nd V. P. or the Secretary/Treasurer, shall be the Chairman of all RHL Committee meetings.
2. A motion to be considered by the Chairman must be moved and seconded. The mover and seconder must be recognized by the Chairman.
3. A motion to amend, or amend an amendment, shall be in order, but no motion to amend an amendment to an amendment shall be permitted. No amendment to an amendment shall be in order which is a direct negative to the resolution.
4. At the request of any member, upon the majority vote of those present, a question may be divided when practical.
5. After a motion or Resolution has been duly moved and seconded, it shall be deemed in possession of the members but may be withdrawn at any time with the approval of the majority of the members.
6. Where one or more members wish to speak, the Chairman shall determine in which order a member is entitled to speak.
7. Every member, while speaking, shall adhere to the question under debate, avoid all personal, indecorous or offensive language, as well as any reflection on the RHL Committee or any of its members.
8. If a member, while speaking, is called to order, he shall cease speaking until the point of order is determined by the Chairman.
9. No member, except the Chairman of a Committee or the mover of a resolution shall speak more than five minutes at a time or more than once on the same question until all members wishing to speak have had the opportunity to do so, when he may be allowed to speak a second time.
10. The Vice President shall take no part in the debate while presiding, but may yield the Chair to the RHL Rep to Council or the Secretary/Treasurer in order to speak on any question before the members, or to introduce a new question.
11. The 10 RHL Associations are entitled to one vote each. It is encouraged that Associations strive to have a representative at all meetings.
12. A simple majority vote of those attending will decide all motions. A recorded vote may be called for. Conflict of interest to be declared.

13. The Vice President shall have the same rights as other members to vote on any question. In the case of a tie, he may give a casting vote, or, if he may choose to refrain from voting, in which case the motion does not prevail and the decision is in the negative.

NOTE: THE VICE PRESIDENT MAY VOTE ONLY ONCE ON ANY ISSUE.

14. Where a motion or resolution is under consideration, no motion or resolution shall be Received except a motion or resolution having precedence in the following order:
 1. To Adjourn
 2. Recess