

2025-2026

NOHA SEASON OVERVIEW



WELCOME

- **NOHA President Steve Lawrence**
- **NOHA Executive Director Jason Marchand**



PURPOSE

- **Ongoing communication throughout the season**
- **Highlight important dates, updates to important policies**
- **Engage our Associations for feedback on proposed changes to structure, etc.**
- **Sessions will be hosted every 5-6 weeks, or sooner, if needed**
- **The NOHA will be seeking feedback on important topics to be discussed**



UPCOMING DEADLINES

November 15th

- House League Player Registrations must be submitted to the NOHA Office

December 1st

- NOHA Tournament of Champions Team Applications and Fees due



NOHA OFFICE

Jason Marchand

Executive Director

jmarchand@noha-hockey.ca | ext. 101

Kiersten Maitland

Office Manager

kmaitland@noha-hockey.ca | ext. 102

Lindsay Morell

Membership Services Coordinator

lmorell@noha-hockey.ca | ext. 105

Jacob Brown

Director of Hockey Operations

jbrown@noha-hockey.ca | ext. 103

Grant Love

Officiating Program Coordinator

glove@noha-hockey.ca | ext. 104

Caitlin Hill

Administrative Specialist

chill@noha-hockey.ca | ext. 106



STAFF UPDATES

Jacob Brown – NOHA Director of Hockey Operations

- Continued focus on development of our participants
- Support with strategic priorities such as growth of the game

Welcome – Caitlin Hill – Administrative Specialist

- Key areas of focus – support with Team approvals, exhibition games and tournament permits, insurance certs and injury reports



NOHA SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

- All Associations are invited to attend – up to 4 attendees
- The NOHA will subsidize either travel or accommodations for attendees (based on double occupancy)
- Meals will be provided during the event
- Areas of focus – participant experience, sharing of best practices, growth of the game
- Workshop-based – participant feedback to improve the game, to collaborate as networked organizations
- Details to be shared by **mid-October**



GAME TIME UNITY

Update of Improvements and Decisions

Symlicity Designs 



VISION STORY

Future State

We are building a positive rink environment, where kids play and ref the game, make mistakes, and learn from it.

- **Referees are energized by refereeing the game.**
- **Coaches and players are energized and can focus on growth and development**
- **Community and local businesses are excited to host out-of-town teams.**



COMMITMENT STORY

How we will get there together

We are building a positive rink environment, where kids play and ref the game, make mistakes, and learn from it.

- **Referees are energized by refereeing the game.**
- **Coaches and players are energized and can focus on growth and development**
- **Community and local businesses are excited to host out-of-town teams.**



IMPROVEMENTS

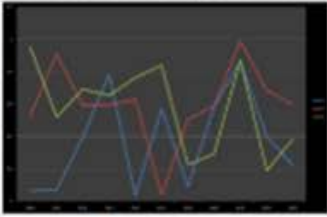
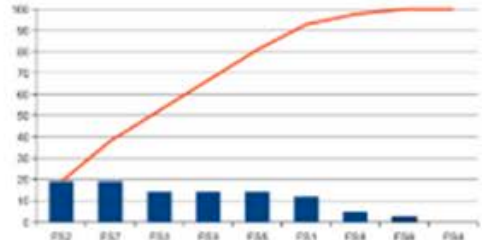
- **Standard Code of Conduct**
- **RASCI (roles & responsibilities)**
- **Communication Plan**
- **Visual Board for Rinks**
- **Form to Report Inappropriate Behaviour**



CODE OF CONDUCT WITH SEVERITY MATRIX

Severity	Inappropriate Behaviour	Default Response
1	Commentary on a referee's call without personal attacks	First time: Verbal Warning (with written record) from Team Manager (one-on-one discussion / quiet nudge after 24 hours) Second time: Final Warning (with written record) from Team Manager that a third offence will escalate issue to association Third time: Team Manager escalates to Association and offender receives Formal Letter from Association AND Offender must re-take Respect in Sport and child is suspended until parent complies and NOHA is notified If the individuals causing the incidents are not identified and disciplinary action cannot be taken, the entire team must re-take Respect in Sport and the team is suspended until all parents comply and NOHA is notified
2	Cheering when the team is winning by more than 5 goals	First time: Verbal Warning (with written record) from Team Manager (one-on-one discussion / quiet nudge after 24 hours) Second time: Final Warning (with written record) from Team Manager AND documented report to association Third time: Team Manager escalates to Association and offender receives Formal Letter from Association AND Offender must re-take Respect in Sport and child is suspended until parent complies and NOHA is notified If the individuals causing the incidents are not identified and disciplinary action cannot be taken, the entire team must re-take Respect in Sport and the team is suspended until all parents comply and NOHA is notified
3	Cheering for any play that results in injury to another player	First time: Verbal warning AND Formal Letter from Association Repeat: Offender must re-take Respect in Sport and child is suspended until parent complies and NOHA is notified
4	TBD	TBD
5	Confrontational and/or vulgar language to a coach or referee	First time (toward referee): Referee pauses game for two minutes and tells the offender to leave the arena for the duration of the game AND offender must re-take Respect in Sport and child is suspended until offender complies and NOHA is notified AND offender must write a letter of apology to the referee First time (toward coach): Association co-ordinates a face-to-face apology from the offender to the coach in front of a witness Repeat: Offender banned from Hockey Canada sanctioned activities, until a hearing is held and the child is unable to play if the offender violates the ban
6	Yelling at other parents or guardians	First time: Referee pauses game for two minutes and tells the offender to leave the arena for the duration of the game AND offender must re-take Respect in Sport and child is suspended until offender complies and NOHA is notified AND offender must write a letter of apology to the other parent(s)/guardian(s) Repeat: Offender banned from from Hockey Canada sanctioned activities until hearing is held and child is unable to play if the offender violates the ban
7	TBD	TBD
8	Confrontational and/or vulgar language to a minor (player or green armband referee)	First time: Referee pauses game for two minutes and tells the offender to leave the arena for the duration of the game AND offender banned from the next 10 games and all Hockey Canada sanctioned activities during that period
9	Threat of physical violence	Call the police to report threat of violence AND Immediate removal of offender from the premises until police/legal matters are sorted, followed by a hearing
10	Physical altercation	Call the police to report violence AND Immediate removal of offender from the premises until police/legal matters are sorted, followed by a hearing
N/A	Disruption at hotels (e.g. noise, etc.)	First Time: Warning to the individual by hotel staff along with notification to team contact. . All guests must follow staff instructions immediately. Repeat: If any disruptive behaviour continues after a warning, hotel staff will notify the tournament manager AND the individual will be asked to leave the hotel the next morning with the player forfeiting their chance to play in the tournament. Disruptive behaviour from multiple people in a team will lead to entire team being removed from the tournament with no refunds. . Misconduct on the last night bars the team from its next tournament and forfeits that entry fee



Parent Sin Bin		
Code of Conduct	Run Chart	Days since last parent inappropriate behaviour issue
Severity Matrix	# of total inappropriate behaviour per week	49
		
	# of total inappropriate behaviour from home team per week # of total inappropriate behaviour from visiting team per week	
Escalation Process when we run into inappropriate behaviour	Pareto Chart	# of Issues in all NOHA Associations last month
Contact Information / QR Code for more info	What inappropriate behaviours we had over time?	TOTAL AVERAGE per ASSOC.
		

VISUAL BOARD (SIN BIN) FOR THE RINK



FORM TO REPORT INCIDENTS

Report Inappropriate Behaviour

The following form should be filled out to report any incident of inappropriate behaviour observed. We appreciate your help in understanding and addressing these incidents.

Not shared

* Indicates required question

You Name *

(all submissions will be kept confidential and will be used by NOHA and the association in question)

Your answer

Your Role *

☐ Parent / Guardian

☐ Coach / Team Staff

☐ On-ice official

☐ Other:

Your Contact Information (Phone Number / Email Address) *

Your answer

Date of Game when Incident Occurred *

The form provides a central repository for all reported issues within the NOHA and allows for automatic notification to the respective associations



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Committee Members

- **Nicole Clouthier, Grant Love, Steve Lawrence**

Pilot Associations

- **Temiskaming Shores**
- **Espanola**
- **Timmins**



HOTEL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

- **Low volume, high risk**
- **Hotels are backing away from hosting hockey teams – hotels in some communities are strongly considering not accepting hockey teams**
- **Hotels in a community within the NOHA is not accepting teams from certain organizations due to issues last season**
- **NOHA Board has approved an update to the policy, which includes clear consequences for reported negative behaviour**
- **We need your support in delivering the message to Team Staff, to families**
- **Code of conduct must be signed by all attendees at out of town tournaments and Teams must have a designated contact**



HOTEL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

What are the key problems?

- **Drinking in public**
- **Volume issues after quiet hours and repeated reminders**
- **Abuse/threats toward staff**
- **Non-compliance of specific hotel policies (i.e. mini sticks in hallway, children not supervised, etc.)**

Sanctions

**First Time: Warning to the individual by hotel staff along with notification to team contact.
All guests must follow staff instructions immediately.**

Repeat: If any disruptive behaviour continues after a warning, hotel staff will notify the tournament manager AND the individual will be asked to leave the hotel with the player forfeiting their chance to play in the tournament.

Disruptive behaviour from multiple people in a team will lead to the entire team being removed from the tournament with no refunds.

- **Misconduct on the last night bars the team from its next tournament and forfeits that entry fee**



NOHA POLICIES – OVERAGE POLICY

- **Requests for overage players go through the appropriate League – House League**
- **The NOHA Board may consider requests from Associations that do not offer HL programming**
- **Approval does not tournaments**



NOHA POLICIES – CELL PHONE IN DRESSING ROOM POLICY

Cell Phones/Recording Devices are not permitted in the dressing room



NOHA POLICIES – DRESSING ROOM SUPERVISION

The goal of the Rule of Two is to ensure all interactions and communications are open, observable, and justifiable. When following the Rule of Two, two responsible adults (a coach, parent, or screened volunteer) are present with a participant. There may be exceptions in emergency situations. Check with your sport organization as to how the Rule of Two is enforced.

The Rule of Two is a leading practice to ensure a safe sport environment for all.

INTERACTIONS



- Two trained and screened coaches
- One participant



- One trained coach
- One screened adult
- One participant



- One coach
- Two participants



- One coach
- One participant



MANAGERS ON THE BENCH UPDATE

- **The NOHA is seeking clarification from Hockey Canada**
- **An updated memo will be shared by the end of the week**



NOHA DRAFT POLICIES FOR REVIEW

- **Two draft policies**
- **Roster size for House League Teams**
 - **Goal is to grow the game by 25% over the next 10 years**
 - **Internal roster limits have been placed, which have put players in a position to not have a place to play**
 - **Proposal is that Associations that deliver HL programming must accept players up to full roster (18+2) if registered by Association deadline**
 - **Goal is to find solutions to allow players to play hockey in their home community**



NOHA DRAFT POLICIES FOR REVIEW

House League Team approval process

- **Follow a similar process to the current OHF Rep Team approval process**
- **Teams approved in organizations where:**
 - **The Association hosted the Team the previous season**
 - **The Team hosted a Team in a Division the previous season and want to host a Team in the next Division (i.e. U15 Team in 25/26 - host U16 or U18 Team in 26/27)**



CLINICS

- **The deadline for coaches to have their qualifications taken care of is November 15th**

Age to Volunteer

- **Coach – 2 years older and minimum of 16 years of age**
- **Manager/Trainer – 2 years older and a minimum of 18 years of age**
- **Checking, Coach 1, Coach 2 all on-demand**
- **D1 prerequisite and Zoom in person registration and availability**



COACH MENTORSHIP

- **The NOHA formally announced its five-person coach mentorship committee**
- **This committee is comprised of individuals that possess a solid foundational understanding of development**
- **The group will meet often discussing the state of Coach/Player Development**
- **Will schedule and facilitate free virtual sessions built around development needs for coaches on a consistent basis**
- **These individuals will serve as coach mentors to the NOHA as a whole.**



DEVELOPMENT 1 CERTIFICATION

- **Clinic on November 27th & 28th, 2025, 6:30 to 9:30, last clinic of the season**
- **Complete the Pre-requisite Learning Lab**
- **Once D1 is completed, U13 AAA-C and U15 AA-C Head Coaches can request Certification**
- **The process consists of a Workbook, Locker Training, and Field Evaluation**
- **Contact Caitlin for more information**



PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE

- **The NOHA will again host its Development weekend in North Bay on August 26th**
- **Adding a U13 POE, new for 2026**



OFFICIATING UPDATE

- **Overall Officials numbers are consistent**
- **More new Junior Officials**
- **Fewer Senior Returning**



ASSIGNORS

- **Review Assignor policy with your Assignors**
- **VSC/Declaration**
- **HCR**
- **Games played outside of District – appropriate RLC and Assignor**



SUSPENSIONS

- **Suspension Handbook**
 - **Any issues, please reach out to Grant**
- **Email notifications**
- **Up to Coach/Manager to have player sit**
- **Out of NOHA games, need to provide copy of game sheet**



GREEN ARM BAND INITIATIVE

- **All Officials under 18 must wear a Green Arm Band on their left arm**
- **Harassment of Officials at U9/U11 or if a Green Arm Band Official is on the ice will result in doubled suspensions**
- **The policy and FAQ are located at noha-hockey.ca/officials**



TIMEKEEPERS CLINICS

- **We will be hosting an online clinic on *Monday, Nov 24, 2025***
from 6:30pm - 9pm
- **Sign up on the NOHA website**



OFFICIAL OF THE MONTH

- **Starting again**
- **Junior Level 1 and 2**
- **15th of the month**
- **Minor Hockey Associations, Officials Assignors, Referees-in-Chief, the NOHA Director of Officials, and the NOHA Officiating Program Coordinator can nominate**



TOURNAMENT HOSTING

- **Please review the Reconciliation Responsibilities**
- **Please input your team list into the template in your folder**
- **It is the Tournament's responsibility to ensure only rostered individuals are participating. Check the rosters against Gamesheet or ask them to upload from the HCR.**
- **Send your team list and schedule at least two weeks ahead of time.**
- **Reconciliations are due within 60 days.**



TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS

- **AA Tournament of Champions will be hosted on a rotation basis as agreed to by the participant Associations in the Nickel District Hockey League**
- **Team applications will be posted along with hosts – Teams must apply to attend by Dec 1**
- **We are currently finalizing Hosts and hope to have the Host List and application form out soon**



COMMUNITY & COMMS

- We are looking to promote the positive stories and hockey and celebrate your wins with you!
- Please send any community story opportunities to Lindsay at lmorell@noha-hockey.ca
- If you tag the NOHA accounts on Instagram, Facebook, or X, the NOHA will share your posts.

 **@NorthernOntarioHockeyAssociation**

 **@NOHAHockey**

 **@NOHAHockey**



VSC SCREENING

- **IMPORTANT** – Staff will not be rostered until they comply with the requirements
- **EQUALLY IMPORTANT** – Staff **CANNOT** participate with a Team until they comply with the requirements
- The OHF continues to process all VSCs, declarations – **MUST** be submitted through the OHF portal
- Submitted VSC in 24/25 – Complete declaration
- Submitted VSC in 23/24 – Complete declaration
- Submitted VSC in 22/23 OR NEW – VSC required – Receipt accepted to obtain temporary approval



MALTREATMENT UPDATE

- **Duty to report**
- **Associations/Team Officials have a duty to report any and all allegations of bullying/harassment/abuse/maltreatment**
- **Direct complainant to report to ITP**
- **If ITP takes on case, they will be responsible to investigate and may impose interim sanction(s)**



EXHIBITION GAME/PERMIT APPROVAL PROCESS

- **All Exhibition Game and Travel Permit requests are now being processed through the Agilex Portal**
- **Both teams are required to submit Exhibition Game requests**
- **Once approved, Games will be uploaded to Gamesheet Inc. Teams can access exhibition games on the iPad using their League Access Key**



INSURANCE CERTIFICATES

- **Insurance certificates are requested through the BFL Portal on the NOHA website**
- **Rental agreements/terms of use of the facility must be included**
- **Additional insured**
- **Approved certificated will be forwarded by Caitlin**
- **NOHA has provided Sudbury and North Bay insurance certificates that covers ALL NOHA Associations and Teams**



TEAM APPROVAL PROCESS

- **Notes are left in the Team Comments detailing any deficiencies**
- **Emails will be sent to Association Contacts and Registrars regarding deficiencies**
- **Updates will be sent out as often as possible**



GAMESHEET VS. HCR

- **Individuals must be rostered on the HCR in order to participate in Team activities**
- **All certifications are available online - ensure that rostered individuals complete requirements ASAP**
- **NOHA Staff will review GameSheetInc. Vs. the HCR to identify unapproved individuals**
- **Currently registration numbers of Team Officials is significantly lower than previous seasons, whereas player numbers are similar**



REGISTERED NOT ROSTERED

- There are a number of players who are “registered” in the HCR to participate but are not on rosters
- The NOHA will provide a list to Associations to verify whether they are participating



DATAHUB DEMO

- Demo on Report



PARTNERSHIPS

- **We're still looking for teams for Dairy Farmers. Must have the patch in a visible location on the jersey. Submit your team photo, and the team receives \$600. Need Team in East Sudbury-West Nippising, Manitoulin-West Sudbury, Timiskaming. -Caitlin**
 - **Email Caitlin**
- **Purdy's Fundraising will be available again. The link to get started is on the NOHA website**



REP TEAMS FOR 26/27

- **The OHF Moratorium on new Teams remains in place**
- **The NOHA will have the ability to approve new Representative Teams based on need/demand**
- **The NOHA will need to provide to the OHF in January our recommendations for new Rep Teams for 26/27 - Timelines for Associations to request new Teams will be provided in the coming weeks**



OHF UPDATES - TAMPERING

- **The OHF and its Members take tampering seriously**
- **A Bulletin has been shared with tampering data**
- **Significant fines and suspensions**
- **More cases being reviewed**
- **OHF Regulations are in place to be followed**
- **If there is potential tampering, submit to the OHF**



NEXT CALL

- Week of December 15th



QUESTIONS?

