



POLICIES & PROCEDURES



Wherever the context herein permits, reference to the male shall be inclusive of all gender identities and gender expressions.

Highlighted sections and/or paragraphs are new or changed sections.



POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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“In accordance with **By-Law One, Article 9.4b)** and **9.4c)**, the OMHA policies presented hereafter shall apply. Other policies approved by the Board from time to time and which are of a less specific nature are also in effect and these policies may be available through the OMHA upon request as applicable and required by the membership regarding other matters.”

1.0 VIDEO REVIEW POLICY

The use of video in minor hockey is increasingly prevalent, as is the quality of available technology. Many teams employ the use of video technology as a teaching or player/team development tool, in addition to parents or family members recording games for personal use.

From time to time, in cases involving protests, appeals, or other circumstances, the OMHA is responsible for determining or handing down a decision based on available information.

In the interest of supporting the OMHA decision-makers in arriving at the most informed decision with respect to protests, appeals, and other matters, the information gathering process may include any number of sources including but not restricted to personal interviews, parties directly involved in or witness to the event/incident, as well as technical subject matter experts in the OMHA. In consideration of this, there may be instances where video evidence may form part of the available information. The OMHA acknowledges that video evidence may possibly support the decision-makers, and as such, may consider it in the decision-making process, where appropriate.

The OMHA Regional Director may, at the request of a member Minor Hockey Association, review a video record of any OMHA sanctioned activity or event for the purpose of:

- Reviewing a game situation, including assessment of sanctions if warranted, resulting in injury to any player whether or not a penalty was assessed at the time of the occurrence. An injury report must accompany the submission.
- Identifying the correct player in situations in which an incorrect player may have been identified by the on-ice officials for an infraction resulting in a suspension.
- Reviewing the conduct or actions of team or game officials.
- Reviewing the conduct or actions of other members.

1.1 Intake Process

The review will be considered by the Regional Director upon submission of the following:

- A copy of the video cued to the occurrence stating, in writing, at what time in the activity or event the incident occurred. A record of the entire activity or event, or such substantial part of the entire activity or event must be available upon request, including where the incident can be located.
- A non-refundable fee of \$200.00 payable to the OMHA Office, attention, Executive Director. The Executive Director will confirm receipt of payment to the Regional Director.
- A copy of the Game Sheet.
- Should a Video Review request be included within the scope of Appeals/Protests, the Fee will be considered included in the Appeal/Protest Fee.
- A statement requesting specifically what is to be reviewed, which must be signed by the President and at least one other signing officer of the member Association.

The submission must be received within 5 business days of the activity or event, or the communication of any decision related to the incident.

Maximum allowable requests from any single team within a member Association will be three (3) per season.

NOTE: Video recording of any portion of games from the bench during OMHA games is not permitted.

Upon receipt, the Regional Director will review the submission and make one of the following determinations:

- The review is inconclusive. A review may be deemed to be inconclusive if (among other things), in the opinion of the Regional Director, the video recording does not provide a sufficiently clear view of the incident. In this case, any decisions, and or suspension(s) resulting from penalty or penalties assessed will remain in effect.
- The review is conclusive that incorrect player(s) have been identified.
- The review is conclusive that the correct player has been identified. Suspension(s) issued as a result of the penalty or penalties will remain in effect.

In the course of intake, the review may include:

- Consultation with or referral of the matter to another OMHA Board Member if necessary. This may result in assessment of supplementary discipline for any infraction committed during the course of such activity or event by any player or team official whether or not such infraction has been penalized by the referee.

- Consultation with or referral to the OMHA Development Program Chair (Coaches, Referees, Trainers) for resolution.
- Consultation with any other individuals as deemed appropriate.

This review is not subject to any further appeal. The standard to be used by the Regional Director in conducting a review request is “conclusiveness”.

2.0 DEVELOPMENT

2.1 STOP Program Policy

The OMHA has adopted a policy that “The Safety Towards Other Players (STOP) Program” is mandatory for all OMHA Member Associations.

Reported instances of non-compliance will be referred to the Regional Director.

The Safety Towards Other Players (STOP) Program sends a message to all players that the dangerous act of checking-from-behind is not accepted in the game of hockey. The overall values of safety and Fair Play are also an essential part of the Program.

The STOP Program helmet decal is not a replacement for the three-inch patch worn on the back of hockey jerseys. While an additional visual reminder to enhance Program awareness, this does not serve to replace the STOP Patch on player jerseys. The STOP sticker should be used “in addition to” not “in replacement of” the STOP Patch. It serves as another method to promote the

program and awareness that checking from behind is not acceptable in hockey.

2.2 Throat Protectors: OMHA HCOP Officials

In the interest of ensuring the safest possible environment for all participants in the OMHA, the OMHA Board has adopted the following policy:

That the wearing of a BNQ approved throat protector be mandatory for all OMHA HCOP on-ice Officials.

2.3 Helmets: Third Party Service Providers

With respect to third party service providers working with Associations and teams who may not be wearing helmets for on-ice activity.

OMHA Members contracting third party service providers insist that helmets be properly worn by any personnel conducting any on-ice activities, per OMHA **Policy 3.4.1** for Team Officials. Additionally, it should also be noted here that the Policy also means that helmets must be CSA approved, and must be properly worn (i.e. chinstraps properly fastened).

It is essential to ensure that consistency with Safety and Risk Management initiatives, coaching philosophy, and messaging with respect to the positive role modelling for players remains in the forefront of OMHA programming. Clearly, a mixed message is being communicated to participants, parents and other stakeholders when individuals in positions of leadership are not adhering to OMHA policy.

2.4 Mandatory Equipment Requirements For On-Ice Volunteers

Mandatory equipment requirements for those individuals acting in the role of On-Ice Volunteer, for example, individuals assisting with Initiation Program implementation, on-ice (parent/family) helpers, demonstrators, specialty (i.e. goaltender) coaches, etc. OMHA Guidelines for equipment to be worn by individuals assisting as a volunteer in On-Ice activities are as follows:

- a volunteer 14 years and above would be eligible to wear the same equipment as an On-Ice Team Officials. (i.e. CSA Certified Helmet, skates, gloves etc.)
- a volunteer below 14 years would be required to wear full player equipment.

Note: On-Ice Volunteers must be at least two years older than the division age limit they are associated with. (Minimum age, 9 years old)

2.5 Insurance for On-Ice Volunteers

All OMHA Centres are required to identify and remit Hockey Canada Insurance Fees for all On-Ice Volunteers.

Some Centres use additional volunteers other than those rostered as Team Officials or players for on ice assistance (e.g., IP Instruction, team practices), and these volunteers must be identified and require Hockey Canada insurance.

Centres are required to identify these additional volunteers prior to **December 10th** each season on the Roster provided in HCR for this purpose.

2.6 Respect in the OMHA

The Respect in Sport “Activity Leader”, “Officials” or “Parent Program” shall be completed by all Team Officials, HCOP Officials, and at least one parent/guardian of all registered players as described below.

All registered OMHA Team Officials must be certified in the Respect in Sport “Activity Leader” program or the equivalent “Speak Out” program certification.

It is recommended that all individuals identified in the Role of ‘On-Ice Volunteer’ (Age 16 and above) be certified in the Respect in Sport “Activity Leader” program or the equivalent “Speak Out” program certification.

Completion of the Respect in Sport “Parent Program” for at least one parent/guardian of each family of every registered player (under the age of 18) shall be a condition of their eligibility for participation.

All HCOP Officials (Referee & Linesman) (Age 16 and above) must be certified in either the Respect in Sport “Activity Leader” or “Officials” program or the equivalent “Speak Out” program certification as a condition of their eligibility to officiate.

3.0 MEMBERSHIP AND TEAMS

3.1 Category

- a) Centres are designated with a Base Category.
- b) Centres may request a review and change of their base category, prior to **April 30th**.
- c) The teams in a Centre are classified using the base category. The first team entered shall be classified at the base category and further entries shall be classified accordingly.
- d) Centres classified as House League/Local League which wish to register a U21 representative team in the upcoming season must apply through their Regional Director by **August 1st**. The Regional Director will submit to the OMHA Board for approval at the August Board Meeting.

3.2 Category Restriction

Any Centre requesting, to be categorized "A" or above will be required to ice a sub-division entry at U11 through U18. Any exception to this policy must be approved by the OMHA Board.

3.3 Programming U11 & Below

For programs U11 and Below, refer to the current Hockey Canada/OHF/OMHA Player Pathway Documents which will provide the framework and guidelines for programs at these divisions.

3.4 Safety and Risk Management

3.4.1 Helmets for Team Officials

All on-ice Coaches, Trainers, Assistant Coach, Assistant Trainer or Volunteers will be required to wear CSA approved helmets,

which must be properly worn (i.e. chinstraps properly fastened) during all on-ice activities.

Sanctions for Non-Compliance

- a) First incident results in written notification /warning by one or all of the following; OMHA Centre Contact, OMHA Regional Director, OMHA Development Instructor and OMHA Chair, Coaches Program.
- b) On a second incident by the same party, that individual shall be suspended from participation in OMHA activity for a minimum of two (2) weeks.
- c) For the third infraction of the policy, the participant shall be suspended for a period of one (1) year.

3.4.2 Single Trainer

- a) Each Trainer for a hockey team will act as the Trainer for an opposing team's players if the Trainer for that team is ejected from the game or must leave the arena with an injured player or is unable to attend the game due to an emergency situation. A game may be played or completed if there is at least one (1) Trainer who is "readily available" to come to the assistance of an injured player.
- b) Where a team does not have a Trainer at the beginning of a game due to an emergency situation, the coach will contact the Trainer for the opposing team and request the assistance of that Trainer to act as Trainer for their team.
- c) The coach of a team without a Trainer is responsible for advising the game officials that the opposing team's Trainer is acting as the Trainer for both teams.
 - i) The referee for a game where there is only one (1) Trainer available for both teams at the beginning of a game will document on the game sheet the fact that only one (1)

Trainer was present and that the Trainer is acting for both teams.

- ii) In each instance where a Trainer is not available at the beginning of a game, the game sheet will be forwarded immediately following the game to the Convenor and the Board Member of the home team will be advised of the occurrence within twenty-four (24) hours.

3.4.3 Players with Physical Disabilities

A player with a physical disability e.g. hearing, vision, etc. shall at the time of registration on an OMHA electronic roster, provide a certificate from a medical doctor which states that the subject player may safely engage in the level of hockey for which the player is registering.

3.4.4 Mouth Guards

The use of a mouth guard product for each player participating in an Ontario Minor Hockey Association game or practice is mandatory. Players shall at all times while engaged in play or practices, practice drills or scrimmages on the ice surface wear an intraoral mouth guard that conforms to the specifications set out by the Association as approved as suitable for use by the team's Trainer.

Specifications

Be of any colour, not be clear or translucent in colour; be one-piece construction; be easily sized by the participant or the participant's parents; be of an even thickness from the front to the back of the device; engage the teeth of the upper jaw and lower jaw; maintain alignment of the upper and lower jaw in a neutral position; be able to be attached externally to the face mask or shield, it is to be attached to the participant's helmet

or to be form-fitted; to be custom-fitted to the teeth; and in addition for all hockey in non-body checking play will provide not less than one (1) millimetre of shock absorbent thickness between the teeth of the upper and lower jaw and for a player in body checking will provide not less than two (2) millimetres of shock absorbent thickness between the teeth of the upper and lower jaw.

3.4.5 Hockey Canada Playing Rule 2.2 (m) Players in Uniform

A player that is registered to a team roster but unable to participate in a game due to injury is permitted to take a position on the bench during the game, as long as they are listed as a player in uniform on the official game report and wearing full equipment.

3.5 Support for Member Association Development Programs

Member Associations may request support for any aspect of their Development Programs, including Coaching, Trainers, Officiating, and Player Development. This may include observation, program evaluation, and recommendations. Any such requests will be directed to the appropriate OMHA Program Chair, who will collaborate with Staff and the Regional Director to identify needs and strategies. Process, including financial considerations will be addressed depending on the nature and scope of any requests.

3.6 Responsibilities

a) Stimulants such as non-prescribed drugs, vitamins or other similar substances, shall not be administered to a player by any team official.

b) Breweries, distilleries, wineries or cannabis growers and distributors shall not sponsor any team in the OMHA. No team will display, or allow to be displayed, any advertising of a brewery, distillery winery or cannabis growers and distributors in relation to a team.

3.7 Releases

When a player signs with a Centre, they remain a member of that Centre until released. A release form/letter must be signed by the President and Secretary of the club to be valid. When a player becomes over-age for U16 they have their choice of playing U18, U21 or Junior in their Home Centre.

3.8 Amalgamations/Reorganizations/Mergers

Associations must submit requests, which are ready for legal review, for Amalgamation, Reorganization or Merger, to the OMHA by **November 24th** for consideration for the following season.

4.0 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND AFFILIATION

4.1 Goaltender Relief

a) An OMHA Centre may request relief to enable a goaltender from an adjacent OMHA Centre, which has a surplus of goaltenders, to electronically register with them in the absence of a sufficient number of local goaltenders (House League programs – one (1) per team, Representative programs – two (2) per team). This relief applies to all divisions and subdivisions.

- b) No application for Goaltender Relief will be considered after **November 1st** of the current playing season.
- c) Relief may be granted to a maximum of two (2) goaltenders per division. An adjacent Centre shall not be reduced to less than two (2) goaltenders per division for Representative programs and not less than one (1) goaltender per team for House League programs. Relief shall be for one (1) season only. The President shall consult with the area Regional Director and affected Centres to consider all factors.
- d) A goaltender granted such permission may register only with the team for which they are approved, however they may exercise all affiliation privileges for which they are eligible.
Notwithstanding the provisions of **Hockey Canada Regulations** any player registered under this policy must comply fully with the requirements of **Hockey Canada Regulations**.
- e) Any such relief shall be reported to the Board at the next earliest Board meeting for ratification.

Procedure

- a) The Centre requesting “goaltender relief”, shall submit a written request to the Regional Director. This application shall outline in detail the reasons for the request, i.e. lack of players in the division, loss of player to Zone entry, etc.
- b) The Regional Director may assist in canvassing adjacent Centres to determine the availability of any surplus goaltenders. Surplus goaltender(s) from the nearest adjacent Centre will be given priority, provided the player(s) have the written approval of the ‘Home’ Centre.

- c) The Regional Director shall review the facts in the application and consider all factors before submitting the recommendation to the District Vice-President.
- d) The District Vice-President shall review the facts in the application and consider all factors before submitting the request to the President.
- e) The President shall consider and determine a decision for the request. Such decision shall be communicated in writing to all parties.
- f) Applications for Goaltender Relief shall be submitted on the official form.

4.2 Affiliation of OWHA Players to OMHA Programs

- a) OWHA players participating in both the OWHA and the OMHA must be registered with an OWHA team as their primary team.
- b) Any such player, upon confirmation of registration with a team in the OWHA, may be affiliated with an OMHA team providing they are eligible by residency and comply with OMHA Affiliation Regulations.

Note: OWHA players may not be primary to an OMHA team and registered with an OWHA team.

4.3 Grandfathering

Grandfathering is a mechanism which is designed to give relief to a player who registered in a Centre the previous season within existing regulations and who would be denied that right in the following season as a result of the passage of new or amended residence regulations; Having exercised their right under this policy, such player may return and register with their

Home Centre within the regulations if a release is obtained from their current Centre.

4.4 U9 and Below MD Programming

Players resident to the OMHA wishing to participate in U9 and below MD programming are eligible to attend evaluations and be rostered with any MD team within the OMHA.

4.5 U21 Policy

Players resident to the OMHA wishing to participate in U21 Representative programming are eligible to attend evaluations and be rostered with any U21 Representative team within the OMHA.

U21 Division Teams, not including House Leagues, will be restricted to registering not more than six (6) Players who are in the last year of eligibility for that Division. Players Registered in excess of the six (6) Players allowed will be Released from the Teams' Roster based on the reverse date of the Registration being validated. For example, if a Team has seven (7) Players in their last year of eligibility, the Player whose Registration was Registered last will be rejected. A team can only dress six (6) players that are in their last year of eligibility in all games including Affiliated Players.

5.0 DISCIPLINE

In the event that an alleged offense is so serious as to possibly jeopardize the safety of others, the OMHA may immediately remove the alleged offender from OMHA activities, pending an investigation of the alleged action(s). Whether or not an incident has been seen/reported by an on-ice official, the OMHA will consider taking particular action with a participant alleged to have done something that might be described as “a match penalty type of action” while in the arena or its vicinity (e.g., parking lot). An overly-aggressive fighting combatant could be included for consideration under the match penalty type action of “attempt to injure”. A participant who has been formally charged with a criminal action by the Police for an action that occurred in or round the arena before, during or after a practice or game shall be placed on indefinite suspension, pending the outcome of an OMHA investigation and hearing.

A participant who has been formally charged with a criminal action for an alleged action that occurred in or around the arena before, during or after a practice or game shall be placed on indefinite suspension, pending the outcome of an OMHA investigation and hearing, when the OMHA determines there is a reason to accept that an action happened that could be described as “a match penalty type action” (including over-aggressive fighting). The incident may or may not have been seen/reported by an on-ice official.

5.1 Match Penalty

Match penalty suspensions shall be served in accordance with Hockey Canada and Ontario Hockey Federation guidelines except where OMHA match penalty guidelines and

recommendations, as amended and approved by the Board from time to time, may be more severe or strict than those cited. The OMHA match penalty minimum suspension list – the ‘Assessment Guide’ – shall prevail in all OMHA games conducted under the jurisdiction of the OMHA. Match penalties which are regarded as “Automatic” and may, under the OMHA Minimum Suspension Policy (Assessment Guide), be administered by the Regional Director or Area Convenor, shall be reported to the President in the manner and form as prescribed by the President.

5.1.1 All match penalties other than those regarded as ‘Automatic’ and which are incurred during any game played in OMHA jurisdiction in which an OMHA team takes part, or which is played under OMHA jurisdiction, including those match penalties which are or may be questionable and which may ultimately be “washed out”, shall be forwarded immediately and directly by the responsible Regional Director or Area Convenor to the President of the OMHA after all the basic information and facts have been received. The President may impose a suspension of up to fifteen (15) OMHA League, and/or Championships games with the corresponding days of suspension.

5.1.2 Match Penalty Hearings

If the Regional Director responsible for assessing a match penalty should determine that the match penalty is of a serious nature and that a hearing may be required to determine an appropriate response regarding the possible suspension, they shall request of the President that the matter be referred to a “Hearing Committee”. Once

authorized by the President, the Regional Director shall appoint, or have appointed, a Committee of at least three (3) members. Two (2) Committee members must be members of the OMHA Board. Should circumstance render the attendance of a third Board Member unavailable, an OMHA Convenor may be utilized as the third member of such Committee. Additional OMHA personnel, including technical support persons, may be called upon to assist the committee by way of clarification or interpretation; however, such personnel shall not be entitled to a vote in these proceedings.

Such hearing shall be conducted in a timely manner by a date as may be determined by the Regional Director and within four (4) weeks from the referral to the Committee. A report of the findings and recommendations and determination of suspension shall be determined by a majority vote of all appointed Committee members.

Such Committee shall render a decision as provided above and must be in accordance with the OMHA minimum suspension guidelines. Should the Committee determine that the match penalty should be 'washed', the chair shall notify the President of such recommendation(s) and the President shall review the recommendations and act in accordance with the authority of the President to do so.

Should the Committee determine that a suspension should be increased beyond that prescribed by the minimum suspension guideline, or should the hearing reveal further suspensions which may be warranted, the chair shall notify the President of such recommendation(s) and the President

shall review the recommendations and act in accordance with the authority of the President to do so.

The Regional Director responsible for such hearing shall submit a report of such hearing and resultant decision(s) to the Board for ratification at its next scheduled Board meeting.

5.1.3 Match Penalty Appeals

All suspensions resulting from a match penalty or from the action of the President shall be subject to an appeal procedure as follows:

- a) there shall be no appeal for any suspension of five (5) games or less.
- b) suspensions of six (6) to fifteen (15) games may be appealed to the President, in writing, by the local minor hockey organization involved (signed by the President and Secretary). Such request for appeal must be received within ten (10) days of the original notification to the Centre of that suspension and must be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of \$200. No appeal will be accepted directly from the suspended individual or their parent(s)/guardian(s). Upon receipt of the matter and by talking directly to the officials involved as well as others he may feel are necessary to determine the validity of the facts with which they were originally provided, the President may then:
 - i) reduce, concur with, or increase the original suspension, (all of which must be in accordance with the OMHA minimum suspension guidelines), or he may 'wash out' the penalty, or:

- ii) refer the matter to a three (3) person Committee, the structure of which shall be as in **Policy 5.1.2** above, and one (1) member may be themselves. Such Appeal Committee shall be convened in a timely manner as determined by the President and within four (4) weeks of referral by the President.

Such Committee shall render a decision as provided above which decision shall be in accordance with **Policy 5.1.3** and shall be reported by the President to the Board for ratification at its next scheduled Board meeting.

5.1.4 Match Penalties Involving Teams/Games With OHF Member Partners

When a Match Penalty is assessed to a Member Partner player/team official other than an OMHA registered participant during the course of an OMHA sanctioned game or event:

The Regional Director in whose OMHA area the match penalty was assessed will review and assess suspension in accordance with the OHF Minimum Suspension List and shall advise the Member Partner business office in writing by fax or email forthwith.

When an OMHA Centre becomes aware of a Match Penalty being assessed to an OMHA player/team official in a game played under a Member Partner jurisdiction:

The Centre is obligated to advise their Regional Director of the match penalty and provide particulars. The Regional Director

will make a request to the Member Partner business office in writing for information and assessment. The Regional Director is to be advised in writing directly by that Member Partner business office.

Should information not be forthcoming from the Member Partner within fourteen (14) days of the Match Penalty being assessed, the Regional Director will advise the District Vice-President of the particulars. The District Vice-President will advise the President and may request further suspension be waived in this instance. This Policy is in effect for all Tournament and Exhibition games with Member Partner teams.

5.1.5 Interrupted Serving of Suspension

Match Penalties

Any match penalty suspension of games and/or days, which may be required to be carried from one season to the next, will be administered in the following manner:

- a) the suspension shall temporarily cease at the end of the penalized player's team's last League, League Playoff, or OMHA Championship game in the current season. The suspension shall be deemed to be 'in abeyance'. The suspension shall be reactivated on the day of the penalized player's team's first scheduled league/Tournament game the following season.
 - i) The computation of time/number of days served will commence with team's first day of the league's regular season.

Example: Player receives a five (5) game or twenty-two (22) day suspension on **March 21st**. Player's team plays **March 22nd** and **March 25th** and wins the championship. The team's season is over. The player has served two (2) games or four (4) days. The player must serve three (3) games or eighteen (18) days, whichever occurs first, commencing with the first scheduled league game their team plays the following season.

b) they may participate in exhibition games which are incorporated as a requirement for Evaluations up to the time of that first scheduled league game. However, if the player incurs another match penalty during the time their suspension is 'in abeyance' the player shall be immediately suspended and they shall not participate in any games, exhibition or otherwise, until the suspensions have been served in their entirety.

c) a player assessed a match penalty, and who is affiliated with another team, may serve the remainder of the match penalty suspension with their affiliated team only if the team to which he is registered has finished its season and the player shall not be eligible to participate with that team for the remainder of that season. (**Regulation 6.2c**).

d) when the impacted player or team official elects to participate as an HCOP Official in the ensuing season but is not being rostered to a team in that season, the serving of the portion of the suspension that is deemed to be 'in abeyance' shall be in the following manner:

i) the suspension will be reactivated on the day of the first game scheduled in the ensuing season for the team in the Division where the suspension was assessed.

- ii) the number of games and /or days yet to be served for a Match or OMHA assessed suspension are known from the original assessment; for all suspensions, each game in abeyance will equate to one (1) game or four (4) days.

All Other Suspensions

Carry-over of suspensions for all other suspensions (not match penalties) will be administered in the following manner:

- e) All unserved suspensions carrying forward from one season to the next are considered to be held in abeyance and will commence with the Team's first Regular Season/Tournament game (including Development Phase Tournaments), as per OMHA Regulations – Suspensions.
- f) Players/Team Officials will be permitted to participate in Team activities, including Exhibition and Evaluation games, during the Development Phase prior to the Team's first Regular Season/Tournament game. During the Development Phase, should a player incur any penalty for which a suspension applies, this will be added to any carry-forward suspensions currently in abeyance to be served with the commencement of the Team's next Regular Season/Tournament game.
- g) When the impacted player or team official elects to participate as an HCOP Official in the ensuing season but is not being rostered to a team in that season, the serving of the portion of the suspension that is deemed to be in abeyance shall be served as noted in **Policy 5.1.4 d)** above.

5.2 Tampering

- a) Refer to OHF Regulations.

5.3 Return of Association Trophies and Associated Penalties

a) Champions and Finalists, have ample opportunity to display their winning trophy in their community and at any banquets or similar functions which may be planned.

However, it is imperative that these same trophies are returned to the OMHA Office in a timely manner to ensure that necessary maintenance may be performed to prepare them for presentation during the following season of competition.

i) By **October 1st** of each year a memo will be issued by the OMHA Office to the winning Centres advising them of the date by which all trophies which were won during the previous season are due to be returned to the OMHA Office or their OMHA Regional Director. That date is **November 1st**.

ii) On **December 1st**, if the trophy has not been received by one of the above, a second memo will be issued as a reminder accompanied by an invoice in the amount of \$500.00 as a late fee penalty.

iii) On **January 1st**, if the trophy has still not been received by one of the above, a third memo will be issued as a reminder accompanied by a replacement invoice in the amount of \$750.00 as a late fee penalty.

iv) On **February 1st**, if the trophy has still not been received by one of the above, a final replacement invoice will be issued in the amount of \$1,500.00 and, in addition to this late fee penalty; the Centre shall be invoiced for the total cost of an updated replacement trophy.

v) Failure to pay any of the appropriate fees will result in the delay or withholding of approval of electronic

rosters to the delinquent Centre until reconciled. Voting privileges at the Annual Meeting, or any Additional Meeting, of the Association will also be withheld until such reconciliation.

- vi) Failure to comply shall result in the Member Centre to be declared "Not in Good Standing".

6.0 OMHA CHAMPIONSHIPS

6.1 OMHA Championships

OMHA Championships will be determined by the OMHA Board in compliance with all OHF and Hockey Canada Regulations and Policies, including Hockey Canada Player Pathways.

7.0 OVERSEAS TRAVEL

The OMHA recommends that trips be carried out during the Christmas Break whenever possible. Teams applying to travel at a time other than as noted above and which may or do coincide in whole or in part with OMHA Championships shall be required to withdraw from said Championships conducted in that season.

7.1 Teams Wishing to Travel Overseas

a) Application Procedure

Each application must include the following:

- i) the name of the team, division, (i.e. U21, U18 etc.), OMHA category of the team.
- ii) the proposed country or countries that you would like the OMHA to consider you to visit.

- iii) a copy of the invitation from the host team and the governing body of hockey in the host team's country if available.
 - iv) a copy of the letter of support of the Centre must be signed by two (2) directors of the association who are not directly involved with the team making application. It must also include the resolution of the association whereby approval has been granted to the team making the application to travel overseas.
 - v) if available the proposed dates for leaving and returning to Canada and the proposed schedule of games should be submitted. If the team plans to participate in a tournament while overseas full details must be included in the application.
Note: It is the policy of the OMHA that trips be carried out during the Christmas break whenever possible. The OMHA Board will, in all cases, make the final decision as to which country or countries teams will visit.
 - vi) the names of the Team Officials and any other adults accompanying the team in a supervisory capacity must be included.
 - vii) details of how the trip will be financed must be included.
 - viii) the name, address, and phone number of the person that further correspondence should be directed to concerning the application.
 - ix) a fee equal to \$200/tour day non-refundable certified cheque.
- b) **Requirements**
- i) An OMHA/Hockey Canada Official must accompany the team and shall be provided with separate accommodations at the team's expense.

- ii) Tour itinerary must be arranged through the OMHA.
 - iii) Sixty (60) days prior to tour submit a roster list of all players for official approval by the Overseas Committee.
- c) **Team Composition**
- Teams shall be comprised of players and personnel electronically registered to that OMHA team for current season (season of trip), or its approved affiliated players, and must include a valid OMHA Qualified Coach and Qualified Trainer. Teams shall be comprised of a minimum of fifteen (15) skaters plus two (2) goaltenders (total seventeen (17)).

7.2 Teams Wishing to Host an Overseas Team

a) **Application Procedure**

All applications must include the following information:

- i) the name of the host team, division, (i.e. U21, etc.), OMHA category.
- ii) the name of the team and its home country wishing to visit, must be accompanied by the letter of permission from the governing body, for hockey, in that country.
- iii) the proposed dates of the visit, arrival to departure.
- iv) a proposed schedule of games, if available, through the local Executive Member, should be submitted.
- v) details of financing.
- vi) a letter of support from the local Minor Hockey Association, signed by two (2) directors not directly involved with the team making application.
- vii) if the visiting team plans to participate in a tournament while in OMHA territory full details must be included with the application.

- viii) the name, address, and phone number of the person that further correspondence should be directed to concerning the application.
- b) **Requirements**
 - i) Each Centre, with the exception of the Host Centre(s), will pay a fee of \$100 to the OMHA prior to the game being played.
 - ii) If arrangements are made for the visiting overseas team to play in a tournament in a Centre other than the Host Centre(s), that Centre will pay a flat fee of \$200 in lieu of the \$100 per game fee outlined above. This fee is in addition to all other tournament fees that apply, and must be paid in advance of the team participating in the tournament.
 - iii) Officials for games played with the overseas team will be appointed by the OMHA.

8.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

8.1 OMHA Leagues

Guidelines have been established by the OMHA to assist in the proper formation of leagues. Copies of the guidelines may be obtained from the OMHA office.

8.2 Categories

In order to promote fair competition Centres will be placed in categories for competition based on calibre. The available pool of registered players and the population drawing area will provide an initial guide but the Board may take into account other factors. A Category Committee will review this every five (5) years commencing in 2002 to make appropriate adjustments

and maintain a balance in the number of teams per category. Individual teams within a Centre may have their category changed for several reasons. For example, if Centres combine teams at a particular age level that team would usually be categorized higher than the Centre itself.

Appeals of the category of individual teams shall consider the following guidelines:

- a) teams that are unusually strong may be classified one (1) or more categories higher. Consideration in making such a move will be:
 - i) an individual team in league play and tournament play has demonstrated that teams of its category are not competitive.
 - ii) the team's past performance in OMHA Championships.
- b) teams that are unusually weak may be reclassified one (1) or more categories lower. Consideration in determining such moves will be:
 - i) the team has demonstrated in its league play or tournament play, of similar category, that it is not competitive with teams in its category.
 - ii) the team's past performance in its category. A team applying to be re-classified as unusually weak shall be required to forward their request in writing and include their overall performance (games, tournaments, exhibitions) against teams in their own category and the proposed new category prior to the December meeting.

8.3 Exhibition Games

To play any exhibition games, a team must register the game into the OMHA Portal. For exhibition games being played within the OHF branch, an OMHA team must obtain permission from their Regional Director. To play any exhibition game outside the OHF Branch, the permission must be obtained from the OMHA Regional Director and the proper fee must be paid. (Exception: border towns: e.g. Windsor and Detroit, Fort Erie and Buffalo).

8.4 Gate Fees

There will be no gate fee permitted for entry to any OMHA sanctioned activity.

9.0 OMHA INSURANCE

All Associations must participate in the Hockey Canada Insurance Program, purchased through the OMHA.

Hockey Canada Insurance is in effect for:

- i) OMHA sanctioned events including but not limited to league & playoff games, tournaments, exhibition games, practices, training camps, sanctioned fundraisers.

- ii) On-Ice Officials with additional rider for dental insurance of at least \$10,000 per occurrence.

Direct any inquiries through the OMHA office. Terms of Insurance Coverage are from **June 30th** to **June 30th** of the following year.

All insurance registrations must be submitted to OMHA prior to participation.

Claims: All incidents must be reported immediately to the OMHA office. For any information on insurance contact the OMHA office.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 30	Final date for applications to go overseas.
October 31	Expiry date for Team Officials requiring requalification.
November 1	Final date for return of Trophies to the OMHA office from Champion and Finalist Teams from previous season.
November 24	Final date for Associations to submit requests for Amalgamation, Reorganization or Merger for consideration for the following season.
December 1	Final date for team entry refunds.
December 1	Final date to submit House/Local League Team Rosters to the Regional Director.
January 10	Final date for which applications for the establishment of AAA Zones will be accepted for consideration for entry into the upcoming season.
January 10	Date by which teams competing for a National, All Ontario, or Branch Championship must declare their roster.
January 10	No players shall be transferred after this date. Any player released after January 10th is ineligible to register with any other team in the current season.
January 15	Final date on which to file a team's Affiliated Players list.
February 10	Final date on which a player may be added to the electronic roster.
March 13-15	OMHA Championships
March 20-22	
March 27-29	
April 3-5	
March 30-April 5	U18 AAA Central Region Championship
April 8-12	U13, U15 AAA All-Ontario Championships
April 17-19	OHF Championships (U13A, AA & U15 A, AA & U18 A, AA)
June 1	Closing date for all team entries.
June 6	91st Annual Meeting of OMHA