



NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

110 LAKESHORE DRIVE
NORTH BAY, ONTARIO P1A 2A8
PHONE: (705) 474-8851 • FAX: (705) 474-6019
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Minutes of the Northern Ontario Hockey Association 105th Annual General Meeting 71st Annual Minor Meeting June 15th, 2024

1) Land Acknowledgment

2) Approval of Last Annual General Meeting Minutes

Moved by Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President

Seconded by Yves Lalonde, NOHA Executive

“That the Minutes of the 102nd Annual General Meeting and the 70th Annual Minor Meeting be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

3) President’s Address

Brian Beaupre read the President’s Report from the Annual Meeting Package.

4) Receiving and Reading the Report of the Committee on Credentials

There were 75 present. A simple majority would require 38 votes.

5) Reading of Correspondence

None.

6) Reports of Executive Committees

Included in Annual Meeting Package.

7) Reading of Treasurer’s Report

Derek D’Angelo of KPMG presented the Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statements as outlined in the Annual Meeting Package.

Financial Report as of June 30th, 2023

Presented by Jason Marchand.



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Moved by Adam Dunseath, NOHA Executive

Seconded by Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

“That we approve the Auditor’s Report with the year ending June 30th, 2023.”

CARRIED

Moved by Tim Lowe, NOHA Executive

Seconded by Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive

“That KPMG LLP be appointed as auditors of the NOHA to hold office until the close of the next Annual General Meeting of the NOHA at such remuneration as may be fixed by the Board of Directors and that the Board of Directors be authorized to fix such remuneration.”

CARRIED

Moved by Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President

Seconded by Yves Lalonde, NOHA Executive

“To ratify and approve all acts taken by the Directors and Officers.”

CARRIED

7) Motions

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Now, you have the proposed amendments before you, and I’m sure that you’ve seen them online before this. We have a few different sections that we would ask for your cooperation with. We’re dealing with the—some of them are to deal with the Charities Act, and they’ve been looped into one package, and the Board has asked that you deal with that as a package of motions. I will say that if you have any questions of any of the specific motions that are within that, you’re more than welcome to ask them now, and if there are motions that you feel that you don’t want left in that loop of motions, then we’ll pull them out and deal with them separately. So, these are the first motions that we’re going to deal with, that the NOHA is seeking your support for. These are the ones that keep the association in compliance with ONCA.

Moved by Adam Dunseath, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

“That we approve #1 – Definitions – A), #4 – By-Law 7.3., #5 – By-Law 7.4., #6 – By-Law 7.9., #7 – By-Law 7.11., #19 – By-Law 16. as a block.”

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Are there any questions that you have? And take a minute or so to look through them so that you’re comfortable in making that decision to move forward



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with. So, if you have a look at 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 19, and if you have questions regarding them, we'll hear those questions now. If you have a question, please just go to one of the two microphones on the floor, identify yourself and your association. Is there anyone that needs a little more time with those? Any questions? We'll move to the motion. All those in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

Dick Farrow, Moderator: The next group of motions you'll see on the screen are generally what we've referred to in the past and what we are again are housekeeping motions.

Moved by: Tim Lowe, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive

"That we approve #2 – Definitions N), #20 – Definitions, #21 to 25 – Regulation 1.1., #27 – Regulation 3.1.c., #32-33 – Regulation 4.2.c. and 4.2.e., #34-35 – Regulation 5.1.1.c. and 5.1.3.e., #37 – Regulation 6.2.1.a. to 6.2.1.l., #44 – Regulation 9.1.f., #48 – Regulation 10.2.g., #49 – Regulation 10.2.h., #53-54 – Regulation 13.3.e. and 13.3.f. as a block."

Dick Farrow, Moderator: So, if you can take a couple of minutes now and review those, and again, if you have any questions on any of them, you can ask for clarification on those, or if you have a statement to make on that motion. If not, we will move to a blanket acceptance, or if there's motions that you wish to be pulled out singularly, we'll do that as well.

Brian Jolkowski, Nipissing District Hockey League: Sorry, so I'm just looking at number 22 there, the requirement for a hard copy or PDF of the current constitution and by-laws to be submitted to the NOHA by August 15th if I'm not mistaken. It's just that we're currently in the process of working through our constitution and by-laws for ONCA compliance with D'Agostino and Associates which has resulted in significant changes to the document, and in all likelihood, it may not be totally, it may not be finalized by that date. I'm just wondering in terms of the requirement to submit it, if we could defer that, I mean, we could use the old one, but it's not going to be compliant.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, what I would suggest is, as of whatever date, whenever you submit your package to Kiersten, provide what is currently approved, and then it's going to be a kind of one-time thing for a lot of groups, so as your membership approves the new By-laws, you can just submit that to us. In the end, this was just intended



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to outline current process, but in terms of the one-time thing, I would suggest going that route.

Brian Jolkowski, Nipissing District Hockey League: Yep, okay, no problem. I'm sure a lot of associations are in the same situation.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, any other questions? Does anyone need more time to review? All those in favour of the motion for the housekeeping order?

CARRIED

3. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE By-Law 5.6.b)

Presently Reads: The Associations' Executive list used will be the one submitted to the NOHA Office with the Association membership. Notwithstanding the above, Association Presidents may appoint Executive members as needed by the Association and register them and their position with the NOHA by October 31st. These appointees shall be entitled to vote, as Association Members, at the NOHA AGM or any other Special General Meeting.

Change to Read: The Associations' Executive list used will be the one submitted to the NOHA Office with the Association membership. Notwithstanding the above, Association Presidents may appoint Executive members as needed by the Association and register them and their position with the NOHA by October 31st, unless an Association has changed Executive prior to the NOHA Annual General Meeting, these individuals shall also be eligible to vote. These appointees shall be entitled to vote, as Association Members, at the NOHA AGM or any other Special General Meeting. Rationale: Some Association Annual General Meetings may be held prior to the NOHA Annual General Meeting, which could include a change in the Executive prior to the NOHA AGM. This would allow Associations whose Executive have changed to be eligible to vote at the meeting.

Moved by: Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President

Seconded by: Yves Lalonde, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: So, we'll go back to number three, motion number three now. Submitted by the NOHA Executive, we don't have a mover and a seconder, so from the Board, I would ask for a mover and seconder. Are there any questions with regard to this motion or an explanation from the mover and seconder? Questions regarding it? All those in favour? Those opposed?



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CARRIED

8 -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

By-Law 8.8.

Presently Reads:

At all Board Meetings, every question shall be decided by a simple majority. Every question shall be decided on by a show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested by a Director present at the meeting. The Chairperson shall declare that the motion has been carried or not carried and an entry to that effect shall be recorded in the Minutes. Each Director, present at the meeting, excluding the Chairperson, shall be entitled to one (1) vote. The Chairperson shall have the deciding vote in the event of a tie vote. A Director who is absent from a meeting may not appoint a proxy to represent them for any reason whatsoever. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a meeting of the Board of Directors may be held by teleconference or such other form of communications system that allows the Directors to participate concurrently if the Directors of the Corporation consent to the means used for holding the meeting.

Change to Read:

At all Board Meetings, every question shall be decided by a simple majority. Every question shall be decided on by a show of hands unless a secret ballot is requested by a Director present at the meeting. The Chairperson shall declare that the motion has been carried or not carried and an entry to that effect shall be recorded in the Minutes. Each Director, present at the meeting, ~~excluding the Chairperson,~~ shall be entitled to one (1) vote. ~~The Chairperson shall have the deciding vote in the event of a tie vote.~~ A Director who is absent from a meeting may not appoint a proxy to represent them for any reason whatsoever. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a meeting of the Board of Directors may be held by teleconference or such other form of communications system that allows the Directors to participate concurrently if the Directors of the Corporation consent to the means used for holding the meeting.

Rationale:



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To provide for the Chair/President to be able to vote at Meetings.

Moved by: Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President

Seconded by: Yves Lalonde, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: This would allow the NOHA President to vote at Board meetings. It's a two-thirds majority vote, and you can see the rider at the bottom says if passed, motion number ten would become housekeeping. So, does the mover or seconder or anyone from the Board wish to speak to the motion? Mr. Zajac? The microphone, you've got one right here. Just identify yourself.

Ted Zajac, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association: Just a question on this motion, I'm not quite sure, I've been around for a while, the rationale behind it? I know in past, any board, there's never been a tie. The reason for the president and the chairman is to break a tie. Is this is passed, you're going to see a possibility of a four-three vote, and then the president votes, which would make it a four-four tie and that motion is defeated. I believe that the system that's in place right now where the board members vote, the president votes to break the tie, not to create a tie. That's just my thought, I'll be voting against this one, thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thanks, Ted. Steve?

Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President: This came up because there's a provision in ONCA that the president can vote, so as Ted said, usually in our situation, if there was a tie, the president would vote to break the tie, but otherwise wouldn't vote. But now that the president votes, basically if it's a tie, fifty-fifty, the motion's defeated, so [inaudible] it just simply means that if it's fifty-fifty, actually I was just at the meeting for the ALLIANCE, actually, and for the first time we had a fifty-fifty voting motion and the motion was defeated. Sometimes the president has to actually break the vote, I don't know, I haven't seen it happen. It's just because ONCA provides that, so we're just going to try and, you know, go with what we're signing up for with the regulations, with the compliance. Does that answer you, Ted?

Ted Zajac, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association: No. No, Steve, thank you very much, I know with ONCA everything's changing. But my only point is that it's not broken. I think there's nothing worse than an association having a motion and then coming back after the date and asking how'd the motion go? It's a tie. Well, that's like, you know. It shouldn't be a tie. This way is past practice, there's never a tie, so at the end of the day, the motion's



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brought to the floor, at your committee meeting, if it's four-three, if it's three-two, whatever it be, then you can go back to your association and say that motion passed or failed. Nothing worse, in my opinion, there's nothing worse than going back to the association and saying it was a tie, you lose. I just, I don't see the rationale for changing the way it is, I think the way it's going right now is adequate. Like I say, there's not one time in the fifteen years that the president had to vote to break a tie, my thinking is leaving it status quo, just my thoughts.

Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President: Yeah, okay, Teddy, and I'm not sure that, I'm not sure there's a wrong or right way to go with this, just that with ONCA compliance, that's the norm for ONCA compliance, you know, regulations, but I don't think that we're wrong or doing anything wrong to keep the original way, right, Jason? Is that correct? So, we're at the pleasure of the people, here, so whatever you decide, if it's not broke, don't fix it, or maybe some of the newer trenders would let us get on board, but we put it in for ONCA compliance, but we're not out of compliance if we stay either way. At the pleasure of the people, vote how you feel.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, any other remarks? Pretty straightforward. So, all those in favour? Those opposed?

DEFEATED

Brian Jowlkowski, Nipissing District Hockey League: Just before we go on with what we just dealt with, does the President have a vote? Is it recognized? Or is the purpose to bring that in for the purpose of ONCA? Because you can't cast it even if there is a tie. That's...

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Jason, do you have an interpretation on that?

Brian Jowlkowski, Nipissing District Hockey League: Yeah, sorry, Jason, yeah, so if, given that the motion was defeated, does the, does the president of the NOHA currently have a vote? Like, this is before ONCA. Because if he doesn't, he technically couldn't cast a vote if it was a tie.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, the By-law would remain the same, which would be they have a vote if there is a tie.

Brian Jowlkowski, Nipissing District Hockey League: Okay, that's [inaudible].



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Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: Yeah, so the By-law says that, and to, kind of, go with what Steve was saying, in the end, this came forward as part of our discussions with D'Agostino and company, that it was something that is permitted, so in the end, it was, as Steve said, something to entertain, but nothing changes—

Brian Jowlkowski, Nipissing District Hockey League: So, there's still, still a recognized vote.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: In the case of a tie, so there is a vote in the case of a tie.

Brian Jowlkowski, Nipissing District Hockey League: It's an important point, I just wanted to make sure.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Yes, and thank you for bringing that up. It's important that people understand. Now, Motion 10 now has been withdrawn by the NOHA Executive.

1. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

By-Law 10

Presently Reads:

The following committees are hereby authorized as Standing Committees of the Board:

- (a) Executive Committee
- (b) Finance Committee
- (c) Development Committee
- (d) Discipline Committee
- (e) Policy Committee
- (f) Officiating Committee
- (g) Playoff Committee
- (h) Recruitment and Retention Committee

The Board of Directors shall, in any year, determine whether some or all of the Standing Committees are necessary or advisable for that particular fiscal year. In the event that any Standing Committee is deemed unnecessary or unadvisable, the Board of Directors shall be authorized to deal with the duties of such Standing Committee.

(...)



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Change to Read:

~~The following committees are hereby authorized as Standing Committees of the Board:~~

- ~~(a) Executive Committee~~
- ~~(b) Finance Committee~~
- ~~(c) Development Committee~~
- ~~(d) Discipline Committee~~
- ~~(e) Policy Committee~~
- ~~(f) Officiating Committee~~
- ~~(g) Playoff Committee~~
- ~~(h) Recruitment and Retention Committee~~

~~The Board of Directors shall, in any year, determine whether some or all of the Standing Committees are necessary or advisable for that particular fiscal year. In the event that any Standing Committee is deemed unnecessary or unadvisable, the Board of Directors shall be authorized to deal with the duties of such Standing Committee.~~

The Board will be responsible to establish and form committees, work group and task teams to serve the needs of the NOHA and to review the committees, work groups and task teams on an annual basis to determine if they meet the required or immediate needs of the NOHA.

Rationale:

To remove Standing Committees from the NOHA By-Laws and to provide the NOHA Board of Directors the ability to determine the Committees that are required on an annual basis.

Moved by: Adam Dunseath, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: We're going to go to Motion number 15 now because whether it passes or fails will impact some of the motions after that. This would remove the standing committees from the NOHA By-laws and the Board would determine the committees required each season. For now, they're laid out, what the committees are, and they want to remove those and appoint the committees depending on the climate of the year that we're in and what I needed. So, it requires a two-thirds majority. Any questions or comments with regard to it?



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Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: Just for a bit of clarity, this is something that the OHF has worked through as well, as has Hockey Canada, they've removed, kind of, their committees from the By-laws, similar with what we've done with some of the regulations as well, to allow the Board to be more nimble in terms of what needs to be formed. There are, there are some obviously important committees that will continue, but it just provides some flexibility, so I just want to be able to explain it, because there are a number of other motions that kind of tie into this one.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Questions? We'll go to the motion. All those in favour? Those opposed?

CARRIED

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, you'll see up on the screen again, because number 15 has passed, then 9, 11 to 14, 16, and 18 become Housekeeping, so they have to be removed from the impact of 15. We need two-thirds majority for that.

Moved by: Adam Dunseath, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Any questions regarding that? Again, these are just Housekeeping. Don't worry about that, that's my sister phoning and she hasn't got money for me so I'm not taking the call. She probably wants money. So, any questions regarding 9, 11-14, 16-18 that are Housekeeping? Okay, all in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

36 -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 5.3.1.

Presently Reads:

The Official Game Report of each game containing any penalty under the OHF Minimum Suspension List or describing any severe injury shall be sent to the NOHA Executive Director within twenty-four (24) hours by the Referee. Any Referee not adhering to this regulation may be suspended by the Discipline Committee.

Change to Read:



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The Official Game Report of each game containing any penalty under the OHF Minimum Suspension List or describing any severe injury shall be sent to the NOHA Executive Director within twenty-four (24) hours by the Referee. Any Referee not adhering to this regulation may be suspended by the **NOHA Board of Directors or by an ad hoc committee appointed by the Board Discipline Committee.**

Rationale:

If Motion #15 is supported, this will be housekeeping as the Discipline Committee will no longer be a standing committee of the Board.

Moved by: Adam Dunseath, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: And now we'll go to number 36 that is also Housekeeping because of number 15 passing, but this one is 50% plus one of voting delegates. Questions? All in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

26 – SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 1.1.k.

Presently Reads:

Where there is only one Team for which the player is eligible in the community, a change of management shall not be interpreted to mean that the Association/Single Entry Team has ceased to operate.

Change to Read:

Delete.

Rationale:

Redundant. All Associations will be Not-for-profit corporations, which has processes for elections of Directors.

Moved by: Tim Lowe, NOHA Executive



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Seconded by: Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, now in your program, go to number 26. The NOHA feels this would not be required as a regulation as other associations will be directed by Not-for-Profit requirements with respect to any changes in directors. 50% plus one. Does anyone wish to speak to it from the Board, or? Any questions? All those in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

28 – SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NEW – NOHA Regulation 3.1.h.

Presently Reads:

None.

Change to Read:

At AAA, and U15 and below, where an Association can only field one Team at an age division, the Association shall field the Major Team (i.e. U11, U13, U15, U18).

Rationale:

The NOHA has specific requirements as it relates to Regional Championships, and OHF Championships, which only operate at the Major Divisions. Not having a Major Team, in particular at the AAA Level where there is limited competition, creates many logistical challenges where Leagues no longer meet the definition of a League (3 Teams), creates issues with respect to affiliation and issues in terms of being eligible for Regional Championships. The NOHA did submit a request for a one-time exemption two seasons ago, but we were advised that it would be a one-time exemption. At the Minor divisions, there is more latitude as there is no Regional Championship.

Moved by: Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President

Seconded by: Yves Lalonde, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: We'll move on to number 28 now. And this one would require associations to field a Major team before they can field a Minor team at the AAA and U15



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and below. The NOHA received a one-time approval for an exemption from the Hockey Canada regulations at AAA where an association could not field a Major team. It creates challenges with respect to affiliation and eligibility for regional championships. Anyone from the Board? Jason's going to speak.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: I think what's on the slide explains it fairly well, but those at the AAA level, in particular, may recall a few years ago that we had to get Hockey Canada approval, and it was a one-time thing, we were told that it would be a one-time thing. Hockey Canada has specific requirements with respect to the number of teams in a league and specific rules with respect to teams that are eligible for regional, i.e. OHF or national championships, so U18, Junior A, so this puts the onus to have that major team, where there are those, those championships for which teams are eligible. So that's, in a nutshell, the rationale. Obviously it creates logistical challenges at the association level, but from an overall NOHA league perspective, quite honestly, with the current Hockey Canada Board, we won't be getting any exemptions going forward, they did say it was a one-time approval. The current board is focused on operating under the rules, so not providing those types of, those types of exemptions.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thank you, Jason. Any questions with regard to this? All in favour?

Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: We—I am not in favour of this one, only because let's say you've got a group of kids, they start at U10 AA, they move on to U11 AA, you know, you get one or two players in and out during those years, but then they play U12 together, U13 together, U14 together, so they've been together for a long time. The parents know each other, sponsorships, all that jazz, right? So now, in our city, at U15, there is a AAA team. Right? So it changes the landscape for us. So that U14 team would be forced to have that team separated, and half of them as first-years would go play U15, and perhaps they're not ready, it's their first year of body checking, so for us, it just doesn't work with the way we're set up in Timmins.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thanks, Steve.

Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: Yeah, sorry, we would rather see that group stay together. We understand that TMHA would not have a chance to go to an OHF that particular year, and we're okay with that, they'll have their chance the following year.



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Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, Jason?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: Just to add to that, Steve, and I understand that piece, but depending on what happens, depending on leagues, etc., there is the potential that those kids, if there's not a league to participate in, if, you know, various things happen, they may not be able to affiliate up to a higher division, there's lots of different factors that may come into play if it's only a Minor team, so, and again, this is more AAA level with regional championships, competition against other teams, etc., but those are logistical things that can be issues just so everyone is aware.

Barry McCrory, Northern Ontario Hockey League: Jason, if this passes, so, our division of U12 this year, AAA, will they be considered a division?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: You only have two this year?

Barry McCrory, Northern Ontario Hockey League: Two. Right now. So, this, if this passes, we can't have U12 AAA?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, the teams are already formed, so this is kind of moving onward, more for teams that haven't been formed yet, I know there are some that haven't had their tryouts yet. But the challenge that we are going to have, regardless, is again, it doesn't meet the definition of a league with two teams, so we'll have to navigate that, I think, outside of this—

Barry McCrory, Northern Ontario Hockey League: Don't navigate it, because we have this year—

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: This won't impact, this rule won't impact, kind of, this year, in terms of the teams already formed. That's a different challenge.

Barry McCrory, Northern Ontario Hockey League: So, Jason, last year, our U14 only had two, and we were told they weren't part of a league. Where's, where's Angel? Do you agree with me on this? We were told later on that they were not part of a league. So, if you people vote for this, I still, I don't understand the rationale because the OHF is doing it, Hockey Canada, you know what I mean? So I totally support Steve on it, like there's teams that are coming up that, sorry. Nothing? It's on. Hello?



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Lindsay Morell, NOHA Office: It's only coming from this speaker. The mics are only wired to these specific speakers, so that's why it's only on this speaker.

Barry McCrory, Northern Ontario Hockey League: Sorry, I, you know what? I don't support this at all because whether you're AAA or AA, there's going to be teams that are going to be formed, like Steve said, it, I won't support this at all. And I would hope the floor would support Steve Vachon and myself and other associations. Thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thank you, Barry. Other remarks?

Angel Barbisan, Sault Major Hockey Association: Just a quick question, maybe Jason can clarify, I'm not sure if I'm reading this right, but—

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Can you come to this microphone? Sorry.

Angel Barbisan, Sault Major Hockey Association: I just wanted clarification because I'm not sure I'm reading this correctly. What it's saying is that the associations, if they can only field a Minor, they have to field a Major. So, we're talking about the association level? Am I reading this right?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: Yeah.

Angel Barbisan, Sault Major Hockey Association: So, Sault Major, if we can field a U14, but we can't field a U15, in essence it's saying we have to field a U15? Okay, that's, that makes sense.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, any other questions? Grant's going to move this, and we'll use this one so everyone can hear. Okay, any other comments, questions? All those in favour? In favour? Those opposed?

DEFEATED

29 -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 3.2.a)

Presently Reads:

The NOHA shall allow House League Select Teams once policies and procedures for these



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Teams have been implemented.

Change to Read:

The NOHA shall allow House League Select Teams **in accordance with the policies and procedures as approved by the NOHA Board of Directors.** ~~once policies and procedures for these Teams have been implemented.~~

Rationale:

Based on the directive from the Membership at the 2023 NOHA Annual General Meeting, a Committee was formed to look at Select programming within the NOHA. The Committee was made up of representatives from Associations as well as from the NOHA Board of Directors. The Committee reviewed current policies across the Province in drafting its own policies.

Moved by: Adam Dunseath, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, we're going to move to number 29 now. Does anyone wish to speak to it from the Board?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: This is going to kind of just give the Board some time to work through policies and procedures. The committee was formed and led by Yves Lalonde, we'll save him getting up for his leg, there, but in the end, we had two members from Minor Hockey Associations, there was a member from North Bay Minor Hockey and a member from Timmins Minor Hockey and our Board members who worked through some of the other Select Hockey policies. The Board actually approved the policy yesterday, we just need to put it into a cleaner format, but if this is supported, we're going to follow those policies and procedures. Kind of the high-level highlights is essentially that these teams will be permitted two tournaments with the focus on the main team, obviously. The timing would be kind of December/January for a starting point. In the end, it's two tournaments max. There will be an opportunity for different associations to collaborate to field, to field teams. Not to pick on anyone, but Blind River and Elliot Lake are close, so if they only have one House League team and they can't field two, there would be an opportunity to collaborate together to field a Select team. Select Hockey is for House League teams only, it's not Rep teams. It would start at U11, not U9, U11 up to U18. So, if there are any specific questions, but this would allow Select Hockey to, to operate and we



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do have a committee, like I said, and we will continue to be able to evaluate how things have gone.

Tyler Mairs, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association: I think this is a little too fresh. I would like to see the policies before we can make an informed decision on this, right? I mean, right now we're just saying yeah, we're going to let these teams kind of go, you guys have a lot more information on these policies than we do. I think at this point, it's too early, we don't know what the landscape looks like, I think it's going to be hard to make an informed decision on this without knowing what the NOHA has laid out for us.

Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: We're in favour of this. We draft all of our players, and usually, at every division we have about four different teams, so this allows for the top players on each of those teams to get together, go to one tournament or two tournaments that don't conflict with their regular-season schedule, something special for them. There's been a lot of talk about it in our community, and people are really excited about it, so we're hoping that it will be.

Greg Robinson, Iroquois Falls Minor Hockey Association: At last year's AGM, it was said it would be open to all players, is that correct?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, in the minutes last year, we provided some clarification, and this was a misinterpretation on my part and others in terms of change at the OHF level, so in the end it is, it's up to the association ultimately how they form those teams, but in the end, Select hockey is in other communities, and all the Select tournaments are in Southern Ontario, so...

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Any other questions or comments with regard to this?

Ted Zajac, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association: Just this motion, I was against this last year when it was passed. I really believe that—this is just my own opinion—I really believe that House League hockey or recreational hockey, the kids now are at a disadvantage. I see it, I was involved in it this year, they don't get enough ice as it is, they don't practice, it's always Saturday morning, Sunday morning at eight o'clock in the morning. By putting in this new category—just—by putting in this new category, my opinion only, it's going to reduce the amount of ice time available for recreational hockey players. Because I know in areas, there's not enough ice in the City of Timmins to—and I was just talking to the City of Timmins—there's not enough ice in the City of Timmins for these kids to develop as it is, because we're only getting one hour of ice time. If you put in more teams, because these



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teams are going to want practice time. They're not going to go to tournaments without, so what's going to happen is, a team of twelve hockey players, right after their House League practice, the coaches of the elite hockey system are going to say Johnny, Peter, Paul, and Harry, come on the ice, we're on for elite, and those other six kids are left behind. We already leave House League behind, I just feel this is another avenue where a kid can be left behind, and I really believe that. If kids wants more ice time at House League, they can affiliate to rep teams, he can affiliate and get all the ice time he wants, but to put another group of kids at the House League level, then what you're doing is, in my opinion, you're leaving more kids behind, and they're going to leave the game. Thank you.

Michael Creasey, Copper Cliff Minor Hockey Association: So, I recall at the meeting last year in Timmins, we talked about this, and it was brought up about Selects, and it was said that anyone who wishes to participate in Select Hockey had to have a spot in a Select team to play. So, say in Copper Cliff, I have four U13 House League teams, and all the players on all four of those teams chose to play Select, I have to offer all four teams that position. Is that what would happen? So, I have four teams, and then I have four more teams. It's going to be a mixture of those teams or the same four teams, or whatever.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: I answered it in the last question, but in the minutes, we provided a clarification. There was a misinterpretation of the OHF Regulation, so when I spoke up here last year, I didn't have the correct information, so the clarification was provided, so, ultimately, Select Hockey does not, does not have to be for every single person who wants to participate. That's up to Associations when they have people interested, that's their call, but it's not a requirement that is you have fifty, that—

Michael Creasey, Copper Cliff Minor Hockey Association: So, it's a tryout basically.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: Yeah.

Michael Creasey, Copper Cliff Minor Hockey Association: Thank you, that was my question.

Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President: It's a tryout with no bias, so anyone can put their name forward to tryout.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, over here.



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Nicole Clouthier, Soo Peewee Hockey League: Are we debating whether we're going to run this or not? Because I feel like it was already approved and we're standing up here debating whether or not we're going to run it again. We're just debating right now the policies and procedures, not whether we're running it. I feel like some people are getting up and debating whether we're running it, and so I guess I'm calling a point of order that we're debating things that we shouldn't be debating on.

Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association: That was my same comment. The current constitution says we will have Select once policies and procedures are in place, so if you vote no on this, Select is happening, because policies and procedures are in place. If you vote yes, we're saying we're going to follow the policy.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, does anyone else need more information?

Kyle Irvine, Iroquois Falls Minor Hockey Association: I think everything is still pretty new, we haven't had time to review the policies and procedures to determine whether this won't work for Timmins, or Copper Cliff or whoever, right, the bigger Associations who can have Select teams, so it's the same kind of idea, the policies and procedures need to be rolled out prior to approving them.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Jason?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, just real quick, in the end, the Board is appointed to develop policies and procedures. It's not a, it's not a requirement to share it with people to get their support, they, they've approved the policy, so it's been approved, so in the end, as Nicole said, one way or the other, it's, you okay, using the same wording, and we have a policy that could be in place, or amend the wording, say that we're following it, and we still have a policy and procedure in place, so we will share it, but it's timing-wise, the amount of work involved to look at kind of what's going on and to kind of share it to be best practices, that kind of thing, the amount of work involved was significant. So, and timing for the meeting, as well, we spent yesterday with the Board, so that's a timing issue, but, in the end they were supportive, so in the end there's no change.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: So, okay over here.

Kyle Irvine, Iroquois Falls Minor Hockey Association: So, this is moot, like there's not even a point putting it forward because the policies and procedures are going to come out,



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it's already stated there, this could be like a next-year thing once the policy comes out, would it not?

Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President: For the policy to come out, we voted on it, we've got the policy all ready to go, we're just, we're just asking everybody to say, do we put it in the book and then we can get after it, okay? So that's just because that's what we have. Now, that policy that's put forward will likely get amended because it's in the very very first form and you know, development, work through it, there's a few tweaks, but we can't put it out there if it's not in the book. So, we're saying let us put it in the book, vote for it, then we can get after it, we can get the feedback in, we can get it out, get it emailed out to everyone. We were charged with putting together the policy, we've come up with it, we're saying it's done, it needs a little bit of shining stuff on it, but it's ready to go, then we can put it in the book. So hopefully that clears everything up.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay.

George Suszter, East Nipissing Minor Hockey Association: So, last year, East Nipissing put in for the amendment, the idea was that the NOHA needed time to get policies and procedures so that we could have Select hockey in the North. So, we voted on the motion and Select hockey teams were approved. And the only motion that we put forward is to allow the NOHA to come up with policies and procedures and move forward so we can defer to this and say that we're now going to have Select team already happened, that happened last year. The NOHA now has policies and procedures there that you can get, that's all we asked them to do. We asked them to bring up some policies and procedures, get an organized committee, and they've done that. Basically, in my mind, we, you know, move forward and allow them to put it into the book. All they're asking, all they're asking from us it to put it into the book, and if that's what we have to do to move forward, that's what we have to do. We asked them to put the policy and procedures into place. I know you guys don't like the policy, but we asked them to do that so maybe they can give us a bit of detail, but that's what we asked.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, down here we have a question.

Sherry Roberge, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association: I get this was passed last year, I understand, I understand this was passed last year, we're not debating whether we're going to have Select teams or not, but, and I understand in order to do this, and have everybody be able to play on these Select teams, we need a policy and procedures, and I get



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that it has to be introduced, but in a year's time, and I know it's detailed, but we're kind of putting the cart before the horse. Like, you're asking us to vote on something when we haven't even read the policy and procedures to be able to approve. Do you know what I mean? So we're going to go ahead essentially by a year, or whenever these teams were allowed to play without actually being implemented. So it actually kind of looks like this, and maybe I'm misunderstanding, was done backwards. Should have followed A, B, C, we don't go A to D, back to B over to F. Like, things were done prior to, there were children playing, regardless, what were they following if there was no policy and procedures? How did they play on these teams last year? We don't know, and we don't know what we're voting on.

[Cross conversation]

Rick Barron, NOHA Executive: Bottom line, if organizations don't want Select hockey, they don't have Select hockey. If organizations want it, then there's an avenue for kids to play. That's what it comes down to.

Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President: The policy will be out in a week or so, we're thinking. And it's like Rick said, this isn't for everyone, it isn't mandated for every association. If an association happens to have an appetite, or the people you're at the pleasure of serving have an appetite for Select, there are rules that the province already has established for Select hockey. There are tournaments that are already in place. It was given the opportunity to your association if you want Select. We were charged with coming up with a personal policy for the NOHA so that we can have guidance on how to assemble this, again, it's going to be out to you in a week. Can we get it out to you in a week and get it in the book because without that policy, we can't move forward. Because last year it was voted on that your association wants to—you don't have to have one, but if you do—here are the guidelines and the framework to do it. So, for those who want to have a Select team, it's that if your association decides that a Select team is good for your association this year for House League, you have the framework and guidance to do that. We're going to get it out to you in about a week, that gives you plenty of time to bring it back to your boards and say well this is what it is, and then give us feedback to say hey, can we change this and that? And then we can put that in there. So, it's to start that back and forth, start that ball rolling, and it's not a big ask. I just think somewhere in the communication somebody lost the whole thing. It's not a mandatory thing, it's at the pleasure of your boards to say hey, we want Select, how do we go about that? We'll get that to you in about a week which was tasked, tasked to us last year at the AGM.



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Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, I think everyone knows what is being proposed now and you have your opinion on whether you want to support it or not, and you also have your right to Select. So, if there's no further discussion, we'll move to the motion. All those in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

30 – SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 3.5.a. to 3.5.c.

Presently Reads:

- a) Any Association that cannot form a Team in a Division may take a one-year leave of absence with the approval of the NOHA Board of Directors. If the leave of absence lasts more than one year, the Association would have to reapply as a new Team entry. The application must be submitted to the NOHA Board of Directors for approval by May 1st to be eligible for competition that season.
- b) Any Single Entry Team may apply for a one-year leave of absence with the approval of the NOHA Board of Directors. Before approval is granted by the NOHA, the local Association will have the option of assuming responsibility of the Single Entry Team. At the end of the one year leave of absence, if the Directors of the Single Entry Team do not reapply, the local Association will again be given the option of assuming responsibility of the Single Entry Team.
- c) Any Senior, Junior or “AAA” member Association/Single Entry Team may suspend its playing activities and apply for a leave of absence with the approval of the NOHA Board of Directors and appropriate League.

A leave of absence shall only be granted for one playing season and must be applied for by May 1st for the following season.

Any Association/Team which is granted a leave of absence and does not reapply by May 1st the following season shall lose its franchise.

Any Junior or “AAA” Association/Team affected by the above regulations and wishing to reapply for entry after more than the one year leave of absence will be treated as a new entry and would have to follow the Regulations, By-



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laws and Policies as covered in the NOHA Constitution and League Constitution.

Change to Read:

- a) **Notwithstanding the exceptions below, Any** Association that cannot form a Team in a Division may take a one-year leave of absence with the approval of the NOHA Board of Directors. If the leave of absence lasts more than one year, the Association would have to reapply as a new Team entry. The application must be submitted to the NOHA Board of Directors for approval by May 1st to be eligible for competition that season.
- Any Single Entry Team may apply for a one-year leave of absence with the approval of the NOHA Board of Directors. Before approval is granted by the NOHA, the local Association will have the option of assuming responsibility of the Single Entry Team. At the end of the one year leave of absence, if the Directors of the Single Entry Team do not reapply, the local Association will again be given the option of assuming responsibility of the Single Entry Team.
- b) Any Senior, Junior or “AAA” member Association/Single Entry Team may suspend its playing activities and apply for a leave of absence with the approval of the NOHA Board of Directors and appropriate League.

A leave of absence shall only be granted for one playing season and must be applied for by May 1st for the following season. **The NOHA reserves the right to reinstate the Team and request additional information prior to approving the reinstatement.**

Any Association/Team which is granted a leave of absence and does not reapply by May 1st the following season shall lose its franchise.

Any Junior or “AAA” Association/Team affected by the above regulations and wishing to reapply for entry after more than the one year leave of absence will be treated as a new entry and would have to follow the Regulations, By-laws and Policies as covered in the NOHA Constitution and League Constitution.

Rationale:



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In approving Teams, the NOHA takes into consideration the sustainability of a Program within an Association as Teams not operating can significantly impact Leagues within the NOHA. With some Leagues having 3 or 4 Teams, losing one Team may result in not having a place to play for other organizations. This will allow the NOHA to ensure that Associations have a sustainability plan prior to approving a return for Teams, and address the issue(s) that led to a Team not operating.

Moved by: Tim Lowe, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Michael Birdgeman, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: It's a 50% motion. Is there someone from the Board who would be speaking to it? Jason?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: This ties into a change that the Board made with respect to new teams and requests for new teams so that essentially the Board is not making a decision on a kind of one-year thing, and they want to see that there's a plan to be sustainable, a development plan, and things like that, so we currently have this in for teams that are requesting Leaves of Absences. It's not saying the Board won't approve them coming back from a Leave of Absence, but there is a requirement now to return as opposed to just applying for the team the following year. So, again, it kind of just ties into that, we had to make that adjustment because it's not in the regulation.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Any questions with regard to the motion, or any discussion? If not, all those in favour? Those opposed? All those in favour? So the motion is Carried 34 to 25.

Michael Creasey, Copper Cliff Minor Hockey Association: Can we recount?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Sure, we'll do a recount.

Barry McCrory, NOHL AAA: So, people, honestly, this affects a lot of hockey. Some people want to ask some questions on it, and it went real, real fast. Can we go back and have some questions on this?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Is the floor in favour of that? I know it's delicate and I want to get more—



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Barry McCrory, NOHL AAA: Just for AAA hockey, we're sitting here discussing it, and then you call the question on it. We're having a discussion it, like, a lot of people don't understand exactly what's happening. So, basically, North Bay Minor Hockey U12 doesn't have a team this year, AAA, so they have to reapply, and this Board here makes the decision whether they get AAA cards at U12 AAA next year. Is that what you're saying?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, just to clarify the process, in the end, the Board can approve or deny a Leave of Absence request regardless, so North Bay hasn't officially requested a Leave of Absence, so we haven't dealt with that. It's similar to U15, I think. So, the Board denied that last year, so they had to apply as a new team, which requires them to follow the process that's outlined in here in terms of demonstrating a plan forward, development, sustainability, etc. So in the end, one way or the other, like, if the Board denies it, they go through a new team request, if the board approves it, when they come back, this is approved, they provide that same information so that the Board knows of the plan to ensure that, you know, if that team doesn't operate, you know, the reasons for that team not operating are addressed. That's ultimately the goal, in the end, one way or the other, it doesn't change anything.

Barry McCrory, NOHL AAA: Jason, I just want to, so people know, Tim will back me up on it. They didn't have a U14 team last year in North Bay. The NOHA Board, Jason, you told me we were going to push them to U15 AAA. Tim? I don't want to put anyone on the spot, but it's a delicate situation because U15 boys and girls cannot be forced to play U15 where there's a huge difference. A huge difference.

Tim Lowe, NOHA Executive: So, I think what's lost in this, if I may, is that, for example, there is no U12 AAA team this year in North Bay. Those kids next year, well, but there is a U13 AAA team, so next year, the U12s will move to U13 no questions asked. Their birth year is affected. The team coming in that is U11 to U12 is nowhere in this mix because their birth year is prior to U12. They're unaffected. So, for us, in my mind, for us to deal with this as a team versus a birth year would be incorrect. So that's what's kind of lost in all of this is that we have a team, and I get the sustainability, but we have a team that doesn't exist, but it's that birth year that doesn't have a team, not a team that doesn't exist. I don't know if that's—

Barry McCrory, NOHL AAA: That's very true, but, like next year, if North Bay Minor Hockey, or North Bay Trappers want to have a U12 AAA team, they have to apply to the Board for that, and hopefully next year there will be a U15 team. I don't understand. You allow U16 teams just to pop up, and Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay this year got U16 cards. Did they go through, did they go through an approval process?



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Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: Not, well not this time around, no, but that's what this is saying so we approved, we approved a new team process which is different than what it was before, but any teams that currently exist operate, have operated under the current rules. So, ultimately, this is not, this is about following the same process that we have in place as a policy with respect to new teams. And all the Board is asking through the discussions is, is that the Association provide in writing their plan to ensure that the programs, in general, are sustainable, and I'm not going to pick on any or refer to any specific organization, but in the end, like, generally speaking, for regional programming, like when there's not a team that operates, there's reasons for it, right? So there needs to be from the Board's position an understanding as to how, how that issue, or those issues are being addressed, ultimately, and it's not saying your team doesn't exist next year, I heard that mentioned, that's not what it means. It means the Board is asking the association to demonstrate how they're going to ensure that program is ultimately sustainable.

Barry McCrory, NOHL AAA: So, I'm speaking against this because for the U14 this year, I don't belong to the North Bay Trappers, I was told the U14 wouldn't exist, they had to play U15. It's not just AAA hockey, people. Anybody that takes a Leave of Absence at AA, A, you're going to have to apply to get a team next year, all right? And I understand what you're trying to do, but you shouldn't hold people, do you know what I mean? Whether it's Association, population-based, the free-player movement the last few years has just blown everything out of whack, do you know what I mean? I'm just saying don't support this motion, thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Steve, just a second, please.

Val Villeneuve, Nickel City Hockey Association: I don't support this motion and our Association doesn't, either. I think it's just another way to take our autonomy away from hockey associations. It's, yes, we can apply for a Leave of Absence and they can deny or approve that, but the process for a new team application is much larger, and there's a lot more things that go into it. So, basically, you have to say yes or not to a Leave of Absence, whereas they can look at all the factors that you're submitting and then decide to not give you that team again. So, I think it's much easier to ask for that Leave of Absence than to have to submit that entire new application every time, say, you don't have a team. So, like I said, there's already a check and balance in there, they can decide whether they want to give us that Leave of Absence, now they're just making us do a whole bunch more work to prove to them that we can sustain those teams, and who knows better whether your Association can sustain a team than yourself? You know if you can run that team.



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Unfortunately, you can look at what we put on a piece of paper, but on the ground we know whether we can sustain a team or not. Thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thank you. Steve?

Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President: You said it yourself, imagine a team coming in. The Board gives Stevetopia a AAA team because I've decided we can sustain that. All of a sudden now, tryouts come, I only get seven kids come out. Well, sorry, we're folding. You already have a schedule. You already have all kinds of stuff set up. I put in a willy-nilly thing and through nepotism because Jay is married to my cousin's aunt's sister, they convinced the Board to give me the team. You see? This type of stuff eliminates any of that stuff, and it gives you a little bit as a League, not just your league, but any league, it just gives a little bit. We want to approve the teams. There's not, there's not one person that sits on here that doesn't want approve a team, we want to approve the teams. [Cross chatter]. If you give that, if you give that information, I know it's tedious, I, myself, have gone up to the Board and sat up here, to ask, hat in hand, can we please have a team? The more information I provided at that, it gave us a better success rate at receiving a team. And we're just the stewards of Hockey Canada, we're just the stewards to follow the rules. Because, obviously, without those strict things, the AAA is the strictest, and as you go down, it gets a little less, a little less, a little less, and then House League, it's because this is such a passionate thing. Every association has so much passion and stuff that we have to be the stewards of reason. And sometimes that hurts Associations' feelings, people's feelings, and everything else, but we have to keep the rudder straight. We can't, you know, so that information we're asking is simple just to well, say, hey listen, well, absolutely, they've got everything in place here. We feel there's going to be success. And then we don't have a league saying holy moly macaroni this is happening again, look what's happening at that 2010, we lost a team, the whole league was in chaos. We think of these things before we come up with this, obviously, it's not just a control issue. We already have the control, whether this is passed or not, your teams still get passed or denied in the same manner. This just gives, in my opinion, and you'll be like, yeah, right Steve, try to sell me another car, in my opinion, the more information you provide, the greater chance that you have of receiving your approvals.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, Barry?

Barry McCrory, NOHL AAA: So, this year, I'm the commissioner of the AAA League. North Bay, we have no schedule drawn. North Bay did not have enough players at U12. They come to us and say we're taking a Leave of Absence. Whether they've gone to the NOHA and told you that or not, there's no team, so to make the comment that you've got



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schedules drawn, totally not true. Yeah, I know, but we draw a schedule up, we drew up a schedule last night, you were part of our meeting. So, I'm just saying that, like Val said, you're adding another thing, but I understand you can deny and approve all the applications, but this year, it puts another burden on the associations. I've spoken up on it already, I totally disagree with it. Thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thank you, Barry. Michael.

Michael Creasey, Copper Cliff Minor Hockey Association: Okay, so I've got something to go back to, I think your name is Tim? Tim had to say, so I have a birth year that's, like, they don't have a league, they don't play, so I don't have this team at U15 this year, but I have a U14 team that is superstars, they're going to win everything they can, so you're telling me I can't have that team the following year and let you guys decide? Oh, you can have that new team. And Steve said you approve teams, that's, in face, a lie, I've applied for teams and been denied. We want to make teams, we don't want to make teams. If I select to take a Leave of Absence for a year with a team, I should be able to get that team back the following year.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay.

George Suszter, East Nipissing Minor Hockey Association: Part of my problem with this thing is it's the NOHA wishes to see sustainability. I put an application in this year for a U10 and a U12 AA. We've never hosted them. East Nipissing. Sorry. With open borders gives the chance for associations to develop players, so associations who have done a good job of developing players and wanting additional teams to grow, if you're denied, you'll never have the chance to show that you can be sustainable, and that's our problem with this motion. It's just, and what I'm getting at is if I was on your side sitting on the NOHA Board, you're picking winners and losers, and I wouldn't want to be in that position because there are a lot of people who have done a lot of hard work, and you guys actually don't go to the rinks and see those kids play. Some of those kids are playing really hard, we have really good coaches, we're developing players, and then we put in the application, it comes to the Board, and it's denied. Oh, you can reapply again. Well, you reapply again, and the same answer is given. If we're not given a chance to show, we know we're sustainable more than anybody else, and I think that we should be given the chance to prove ourselves before, before we get denied. Thanks.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, are there any other questions now? Does everybody feel safe voting?



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Barry McCrory, NOHL AAA: Thank you for allowing us to do that.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: If I get there are you're not comfortable, just shout. I know we shouldn't be going back here, but we don't want to leave without the chance to say what you want to say. Everybody ready? All in favour? Opposed?

DEFEATED

31. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 4.1.

Presently Reads:

Teams shall be permitted to register a minimum and maximum number of Players in accordance with the chart below;

Age Division	Category	Min. # of Players	Max. # of Players	Goaltender(s)
U7 ¹	-	6	N/A	N/A
U9 ¹	Tier 1	6	N/A	N/A
U9 ¹	Tier 2	6	N/A	N/A
U11	AA - C	11	19	N/A
U11	House League	9	19	N/A
U13	AAA	12	19	2 ²
U13	AA - C	11	19	1 ² (if 19 players registered, 2 must be goaltenders)
U13	House League	9	19	N/A
U15	AAA	12	19	2 ²
U15	AA - C	11	19	1 (if 19 players registered, 2 must be goaltenders)
U15	House League	9	19	N/A
U16	AAA	12	19	2 ²
U18 ³	AAA	12	20	2 ²



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U18 ³	AA - C	11	19	1 ² (if 19 players registered, 2 must be goaltenders)
U18 ³	House League	9	19	N/A

Notes:

- 1) U7 and U9 Players can be placed on one (1) roster, if desired, to allow tiering throughout the season. In the Divisions and Categories identified above, a Goaltender must be identified and registered as such on their Registration and will not be permitted to play any other position.
- 2) U18 Teams may use up to 25 Player Registrations during the season, so long as they do not have more than the maximum number of Players Registrations described above at one time.

Change to Read:

Teams shall be permitted to register a minimum and maximum number of Players in accordance with the chart below;

Age Division	Category	Min. # of Players	Max. # of Players	Goaltender(s)
U7 ¹	-	6	N/A	N/A
U9 ¹	Tier 1	6	N/A 20	N/A
U9¹	Tier 2	6	N/A	N/A
U11	AA - C	11	19 20	N/A
U11	House League	9	19 20	N/A
U13	AAA	12	19 20	2 ²
U13	AA - C	11	19 20	1 ² (if 19 20 players registered, 2 must be goaltenders)
U13	House League	9	19 20	N/A
U15	AAA	12	19 20	2 ²



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U15	AA - C	11	19 20	1 (if 19 20 players registered, 2 must be goaltenders)
U15	House League	9	19 20	N/A
U16	AAA	12	19 20	2 ²
U18 ³	AAA	12	20 20	2 ²
U18 ³	AA - C	11	19 20	1 ² (if 19 20 players registered, 2 must be goaltenders)
U18 ³	House League	9	19 20	N/A

Notes:

- 1) U7 ~~and U9~~ Players can be placed on one (1) roster, if desired, to allow tiering throughout the season.
- 2) In the Divisions and Categories identified above, a Goaltender must be identified and registered as such on their Registration and will not be permitted to play any other position.
- 3) U18 Teams may use up to 25 Player Registrations during the season, so long as they do not have more than the maximum number of Players Registrations described above at one time.

Rationale:

To amend to allow rosters of 20 Players is housekeeping in nature as Hockey Canada Regulations have been updated. The removal of the nomenclature for U9 is also housekeeping as Tier 1 and Tier 2 will not be recognized names in the HCR. The final amendment to this regulation will require all U9 Teams to be rostered in the same manner as all other Teams, which will simplify all aspects of administration.

Moved by: Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President

Seconded by: Yves Lalonde, NOHA Executive



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Dick Farrow, Moderator: This is 50% once again and Jason will speak to the motion.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: Hockey Canada approved this in November and the OHF updated their regulations in February, so there's a change to the max number of players that can be rostered, it's now twenty at all age divisions, so that's more of a housekeeping change. The other change is just from the office's perspective and approving tournaments and whatnot, that U9 rosters actually be rostered, which is practiced in most areas already but that, that be the requirement as opposed to allowing U9 to be all on one roster. The original intent when U9 went to half-ice was that players move up and down depending on how they develop during the year, that's not occurring at all, to be quite honest, so in the end, it's to put them all on one roster. There is the ability obviously to release a player and add them based on, on the Hockey Canada dates, but in the end, that's the other change. Are there any questions?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, questions, comments on 31? Are we ready to go to the motion? All those in favour? Those opposed?

CARRIED

38. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 7.1.e.

Presently Reads:

When penalties are served in straight time, a minor penalty shall be three (3) minutes straight time, a major penalty shall be seven (7) minutes straight time and a misconduct shall be twelve (12) minutes straight time. If a penalty commences during the straight-time period, the full penalty shall be served straight time. However, in the event of an undue delay, the Referee shall have the authority to have the clock stopped.

Change to Read:

Delete.

Rationale:



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Delete. Not required as a Regulation. There are currently no Leagues in the NOHA that play games that are straight time, notwithstanding U9 half ice games.

Moved by: Adam Dunseath, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Again, this is a 50% plus one, moved by the Board. Is there anyone from the Board that would like to speak at this point? Okay.

Brian Jowlkowski, Nipissing District Hockey League: Just to clarify with regards to the rationale, this is a result of—with regards to this motion, specifically with the rationale, just to be noted, and this is a result of, I guess the filing of our constitution in June, subsequently through the year, it was amended, a number of our associations, well it came forward to the League, the associations wished to bring in, and we did bring in a mercy rule which provides for straight time. So, I just want to be clear on that that straight time does, in fact, exist in the NOHA, specifically under the mercy rule.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thank you very much.

Nicole Clouthier, Soo Peewee Hockey League: Also I will agree with that, that there is times that there is straight time, so I know in, in the Soo, if we run out of ice time, we have to go to straight time at the end of a game and for our tournaments, if we're in overtime, ours runs straight time in overtime, so this would drastically affect that, and the ability to, if it's eliminated.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thank you.

Brian Jowlkowski, Nipissing District Hockey League: Sorry, again, I just want to provide a point of clarification with regard to the straight time, so it only applies, at least in the Nipissing District Hockey League, under the mercy rule application, and it follows basically the format that's outlined here. It's already in our regulations, so really, it's no change for us in terms of that, it's just that, I just wanted to make the point that there is straight time existing with regards to the rationale, so it is reflected in our By-laws, it's not a change or anything significant for us, I just wanted to clarify the rationale, that's all.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: Thanks, Brian, and that was going to be my point is that from our perspective, we've tried to remove, kind of operational stuff from the constitution where, you know, there's either policies or procedures already in place either from the NOHA's perspective or from a League perspective, so that's the ultimate



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intent. Obviously the rationale is incorrect based on the comments here, but in the end, from our perspective, you know, these are things that are addressed in League policies and procedures or tournament rules, etc.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thank you, Jason. Any other comments or clarification required? Is everybody okay if we go to the motion? All those in favour? In favour of the motion? Those opposed?

CARRIED

39 -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 7.2.a.

Presently Reads:

No Player or Team shall be permitted to play exhibition games without the permission of their District Council Director. Permission must be obtained 48 hours in advance of the scheduled game or 7 days in the case where an NOHA Team is playing a Team from outside the NOHA. It will be the responsibility of both Teams to make the request to their Council Directors using the permit portal.

Change to Read:

Delete.

Rationale:

Delete. To allow the Board to draft a policy around exhibition game approval.

Moved by: Tim Lowe, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, Brian's trying to trick me and it's not difficult. It requires 50% and Jason, do you want to speak to it?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, this is the same kind of idea as the last one. Number 40 and 41 are the same as well, but taking operational items out, allowing the Board to be more nimble, to adjust and adapt, allowing more flexibility to, to deal with, kind of the things that may occur that aren't outlined in regulations, so this would



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allow, again, the Board to be, to be flexible, allow from the staffing perspective as well to be more flexible and deal with, dealing with things.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thank you very much. Any other questions? Any other comments? Oh, yes.

Val Villeneuve, Nickel City Hockey Association: So, will the, will the process be changing? Or are you just removing this from it being mandatory? Will we be adapting a new process? Or are associations doing it themselves?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, there's a more detailed process that Lindsay follows internally as well as the Council Director, so it's going to be laying that out. The timing wouldn't change or anything, just putting more, kind of, process into, into the exhibition game stuff.

Val Villeneuve, Nickel City Hockey Association: Okay, so like, we'd still be applying to the NOHA? It's just something that's handled in-house?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: Yeah, at this point, unless the Board says otherwise. Currently, it's—

Val Villeneuve, Nickel City Hockey Association: It's just the process works the way that it is, like we don't want to fix something that isn't broken, do you know what I mean? That adding more work to hockey associations with volunteers is not really something that a lot of us want. So that's why I'm just kind of hoping that it would still be a process with the NOHA as opposed to something that just gets dumped back on associations.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: The intent is not to change how it works, the intent is, again, to take operational items out of the constitution. It's been a work-in-progress for ten years now.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thanks Jason.

Tim Lowe, NOHA Executive: Maybe to answer your question, I'm new to the Board this year, and I was getting emails from different teams requesting and I didn't understand why I was getting these because I don't know what I'm involved in when it comes to accepting, so I was just, it's a layer of ask that doesn't need to be—because I was approving, and it's going to Lindsay, so eliminate the Council Director because you're still going to ask Lindsay for approval because she's tracking them. I was not tracking them,



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she was already doing it, so it's just, it seemed very redundant for us to be involved in this process as a Director.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay.

Michael Creasey, Copper Cliff Minor Hockey Association: All right, so I've got one quick question, so last year I was just like, I click on the website, I request officials for the game, so that's not going to go to my Council Director anymore, it's going to go right to Lindsay? And she's going to approve our games? Is that what you're saying?

Tim Lowe, NOHA Executive: I've never not approved anything, so.

Michael Creasey, Copper Cliff Minor Hockey Association: No, I get it, but I'm just asking, so it's going to be like, an online form, and instead of going to the Council Directors, it's going to go to Lindsay now, correct?

Lindsay Morell, NOHA Office: There's been no discussion on a change in process at all.

Michael Creasey, Copper Cliff Minor Hockey Association: Okay.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay. Everybody, more comments, or? Is everybody okay to go to the motion now? All those in favour? Those opposed?

CARRIED

40 -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 7.3.

Presently Reads:

- a) All NOHA-sanctioned games shall be Refereed by NOHA-approved Officials. The home Team shall be responsible for the payment of the Officials unless other arrangements have been made.
- b) Games in each Division shall use, whenever possible, the following officiating systems:

Representative Games	House League Games
U9 Half Ice – One Official per Game	
U9 Full Ice – Two Officials	



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U11 - Two Officials	
U13 - Three Officials	U13 - Two Officials
U15 AAA - Four Officials U15 (below AAA) - Three Officials	U15 - Three Officials
U18 AAA - Four Officials U18 (below AAA) - Three Officials	U18 - Three Officials

Associations and Leagues may use more with the approval of the NOHA Board of Directors.

- c) DELETE
- d) DELETE

Change to Read:

Delete.

Rationale:

Delete. Include as part of Officials Policies and Procedures. Also provides additional flexibility to adjust the number of Officials who officiate each game.

Moved by: Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President

Seconded by: Yves Lalonde, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: I believe this is along the same line as the last one, but are there any comments from the Board or questions from the membership?

Brian Jowlkowski, Nipissing District Hockey League: Just, I think just as a point of clarification for what I'm seeing here and if everybody understands, it's a heck of a lot easier to amend policies and procedures than it is to amend regulations, and that's the whole point of a lot of this stuff. It's to make it much more fluid and easy to follow. I just want to provide a point of clarification because I don't think, some people are probably sitting here going what's the big deal? Well, it actually is a big deal in terms of process and how things work, it's a lot easier to do that, to operate that way than it is to constantly amend regulations.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Yes, very true. Okay, are we ready to go to the vote? All those in favour of the motion? Opposed?



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CARRIED

41 -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 8a to c.

Presently Reads:

- a) The standings in the group shall be decided on the point system, two points for a win and one point to each Team for a tie game or overtime/shootout loss. In the event of a tie for any position at the conclusion of the schedule, the Team with the greater number of wins will be given the higher position.
- b) If wins and losses are the same, preference should then be determined by deciding the highest goal average. If still tied, then the Team which scored the first goal in the game between the two Teams takes the higher position. If still tied, then the Team which received the least minutes in penalties through the series will take the higher position.
However, with unanimous consent of all Teams in a League, other means may be established for breaking the tie for any position in the group standing. Such other means must be established at the start of the season and filed with the Executive Director.
- c) All Teams or groups within the NOHA must play overtime when necessary. However, with the unanimous consent of the group members, other overtime arrangements can be requested of the NOHA Board of Directors.

Change to Read:

Delete.

Rationale:

These are not required in the NOHA Constitution. Leagues have policies and procedures in place for tiebreakers, overtime rules, etc.

Moved by: Adam Dunseath, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Rick Barron, NOHA Executive



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Dick Farrow, Moderator: Along the same vein. So, discussion from the presenters, the Board, or questions from the floor? Are you ready for the vote? All those in favour?
Opposed?

CARRIED

42 -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NEW – NOHA Regulation 8.d.

Presently Reads:

None.

Change to Read:

All Inter-Association Representative Leagues shall play Tournament-style Playoffs.

Rationale:

Playing tournament-style Playoffs allows all Teams to have a longer season, particularly with the regular season phase not starting until early-October. This structure also mimics the NOHA Tournament of Champions, and OHF Championships.

Moved by: Tim Lowe, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Jason will speak for the, on behalf of the NOHA in regards to this.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: This is already occurring in, I believe, most centres or leagues already. It would only apply, at this point, to, to Rep leagues that, that operate with many associations involved. Again, the, I think the rationale's pretty clear, but with the season starting in October now, there is a requirement for teams to play at least into March, so doing that, it does allow at, at least an additional couple of weeks, if not longer, to be able to play regular-season games. For those who may need to adapt things or have a large number of teams, there are different ways that that can be done to kind of get



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to your, your tournament-style. The OMHA, for example, because of the number of teams that they have in their, under their umbrella they kind of have a hybrid model, so there is an ability to work through different, different models, but the goal is ultimately to have all teams playing longer into the season, obviously ice and arenas being open still, so that's, that's it, and if there are any questions, I'll take them.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thank you, Jason. Any questions? Discussions? Anybody need more time before we vote? We'll go to the motion, all those in favour? Those opposed?

CARRIED

43 -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NEW - NOHA Regulation

8.e. Presently Reads:

None.

Change to Read:

All full-time participating Teams must participate in League Playoffs, where one is hosted.

Rationale:

In recent years, some Teams across the NOHA have backed out of League Playoffs – for various reasons. As the NOHA has worked to ensure that there are sustainable Leagues across its Territory, it is important that all Teams participate in League Playoffs. Otherwise, due to small numbers of Teams in some Leagues, it can result in the cancellation, which impacts many Players.

Moved by: Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President

Seconded by: Yves Lalonde, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Jason?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: Going back to during COVID when the NOHA kind of took on a larger responsibility in terms of ensuring that, that teams had places to



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play, there are some leagues that have a smaller number of, of teams, so whether it be three or four, and there have been situations over the, the last couple of years at least where there have been teams that have backed out of playoffs, which has created issues, for lack of a better term, where, you know, they couldn't play because they're now only two teams or three teams and you know, costs that are incurred in terms of hotels and whatnot that may have been eaten by, by the team, so ultimately this is, you're participating in a league throughout the season, that then means the playoffs.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Questions? Discussion? Oh, Jamie?

Jamie Costello, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association: I would like to support this motion as well. Over the last couple of years we've had, in the north where we're from, we've had some associations that chose not to go to a playoff format because they weren't as strong as the other teams, and the host towns, it really put them in a bad spot because there was a limited amount of teams. As an example, two years ago at U15, the league playoffs were supposed to be in Chapleau, it was only going to be three teams, but one team pulled out and left it to two. They ended up having to cancel those playoffs, and it was pretty big for the town of Chapleau because they booked some ice, people were staying in their hotels, eating in their restaurants, so it made, there were certain associations that kind of picked and choose where they wanted to go, they didn't want to go to Chapleau because they were going to kind of get their butts handed to them. In the same breath, that's the same association that wanted you to go to their place because they wanted ice rentals and hotel rooms and restaurants, so this goes on lots, and this needs to go through to stop associations from doing this. Thanks.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thank you, Jamie. Discussion? Questions? Ready to go to the motion? All those in favour? Those opposed?

CARRIED

45 -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NEW - NOHA Regulation 9.1.1

Presently Reads:

None.

Change to Read:



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A Team/Association may not charge an administrative fee to an Affiliate Player.

Rationale:

The purpose of affiliation is to allow Teams to dress the maximum number of Players in accordance with the rules. These Players should not be charged a fee to assist a higher level Team to dress the maximum number of Players.

Moved by: Adam Dunseath, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Discussion on this? Are we ready to vote on this? All those, oh, just a second.

Val Villeneuve, Nickel City Hockey Association: Does this mean just an administrative fee, like, you know, you can't charge to register them? Because I know some affiliates do come out to a lot of practices and teams do tend to, you know, maybe charge them a little bit of money as they're, you know, obviously participating. Would that prevent that team from charging that small amount to the player?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, the, the intent of this one is there have been, it's more at the higher levels, where teams or associations may have charged for the right to, to affiliate. So, I mean, if there's costs associated with ice and whatnot, that's not the intent here, it's more for the right to be able to affiliate.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, are you ready? Oh, Steve?

Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President: I just have a comment. I just have a comment on this, and I know it could be problematic, please don't take offense if your association or your coach is participating in this, but if you're asking an affiliate player to help share ice costs or anything else that your team already has budgeted for the year, shame on you. That player is coming to help you, you should tape his stick for free, you should sharpen his skates for free. Give me a break. So, if I've hurt anybody's feelings, good.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Do we want to vote on this now? All those in favour of the motion? Those opposed?



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CARRIED

46 -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NEW - NOHA Regulation 9.1.m.

Presently Reads:

None.

Change to Read:

Players being affiliated to House League Teams may be added to rosters until February 10th.

Rationale:

Within the HC Rules, there is additional flexibility for Teams that are not eligible for Regional and National Championships. Every season, the NOHA receives requests to add Affiliate Players after January 15th; this will provide the flexibility to add Players within the Regulations.

Moved by: Tim Lowe, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Any discussion or comments that anyone has? Fairly clear. Yes?

George Suszter, East Nipissing Minor Hockey Association: This is a good motion because sometimes teams that are small teams lose players and then they're in a jam. What we're doing is we're putting in requests to the NOHA to add players after the affiliation deadline, so I think this is a good motion for everybody. Can we just make it all year?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, any more discussion? Anybody need time? Let's go to the motion, all those in favour? Those opposed?

CARRIED

47 -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE



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NEW – NOHA Regulation 10.1.g.

Presently Reads:

None.

Change to Read:

Where an individual has been suspended by an Association/Single Entry Team, or is the recipient of a decision that they may feel aggrieved by, they must be provided with the appeal process of the Association/Single Entry Team, if one exists, or that of the NOHA.

Rationale:

Associations have a responsibility to ensure that their membership is aware of the appeal process when they are the recipient of a decision that may not be in their favour. This is similar to the process the NOHA follows, where both parties involved in an appeal are informed of the OHF Appeal process.

Moved by: Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President

Seconded by: Yves Lalonde, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: This is a 50% one and I'm going to let Jason speak to this.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, as the employee who receives the appeals or inquiries about appeals, or upset about decisions, there are many cases where a participant isn't aware of the appeal process, whether an association has an appeal process, a formal process, or to the NOHA process, so the end intent is that if a decision's made to suspend, to whatever that, that the aggrieved party be aware of the next step in terms of addressing that concern or that decision, similar to those who have been a part of NOHA appeals, when we provide the decision out, we do provide the OHF decision, or the OHF appeal process, so it's the same, same idea as that, as an association, you provide the next step in the appeal process.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, any questions? Anyone wish to make a comment?



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Greg Robinson, Iroquois Falls Minor Hockey Association: So is this going to provide the appellant or the person who appealed with the details of the appeal, or is it just what the next step is?

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: So, what, what the next step is. So in the end, if you are the recipient of a decision that you don't agree with, as Iroquois Falls Minor Hockey, you would provide that you can appeal that decision of Iroquois Falls Minor Hockey to the NOHA, or if you have your own appeal process.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, any more clarification? Discussion? Questions? Anybody not quite ready to vote? All those in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Now, we're just about near the end, but they do have lunch ready and so, I wouldn't want anybody to have to eat a cold lunch or whatever, so we just don't have quite enough time to get through, so it might speed the process up a little bit to... How many more motions do we have? It's only three. Well, let me ask you this, then are you ready to go? Okay.

50 -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NEW - NOHA Regulation 11.1.c

Presently Reads:

None.

Change to Read:

The NOHA Board of Directors shall approve the NOHA Tournament of Champions Policies and Procedures on an annual basis.

Rationale:

It is proposed that Regulations 11.2. to 11.4. be removed as Regulations and put into the Tournament of Champions Policies and Procedures. This motion provides that direction.



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Moved by: Adam Dunseath, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: So, anyone from the Board wishing to speak? Jason, is there any clarification needed? Don't think so, any questions, comments? Ready to vote? All those in favour? Opposed?

CARRIED

51 -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulations 11.2. to 11.4.

Presently Reads:

11.2 Representative Tournament of Champions

11.2.1 Host Selection

- a) The Tournament of Champions will be held in the month of March and April and the dates will be determined by the NOHA Board of Directors.
- b) Requests to host will be received by the Executive Director until October 1st. The total number of entries eligible to attend will be confirmed by December 31st of the current season.
- c) All Associations/Single Entry Teams shall be eligible to host a Tournament of Champions. Associations may apply for a higher category to which they are registered.
- d) All NOHA U11 to U18 AA-C category playoffs will be in a Tournament of Champions format where sufficient entries permit. All Teams participating will be guaranteed a minimum of four games in the tournament format. Where there are not enough Teams available for a Championship, Minor Teams may request to the NOHA Board the ability to play in the Major Division of a Tournament of Champions.
- e) Where there are only two Teams registered for a Tournament of Championships this championship will not be held unless the Championship requires the declaration of a winner to send to an OHF Championship, in which case the winner shall be declared in the method as determined by the NOHA Board of Directors.
- f) If an Association has been awarded to host an NOHA Tournament of Champions, they must declare, in writing, by October 31st if they are unable to register a Team.
- g) No NOHA Team may apply to host an Ontario Hockey Federation



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Championship unless said Team has attended the NOHA playoffs in one (1) of the three (3) previous years.

h) DELETE

11.2.2 Team Selection

- a) Notwithstanding Teams who participate in the same League in accordance with R.11.4.d), participation in the Tournament of Champions is optional. Teams who want to participate must send their application and applicable fees to the NOHA Office by December 1st. If application fees are not received at the NOHA Office by December 1st, then the NOHA will invoice the Association for the Tournament of Champions registration fee plus \$50.00. After December 1st, the NOHA will only accept additional entries upon consultation with the Host Association and with the NOHA Board of Directors.
- b) Where Associations have more than one (1) Team per Division, they may apply to attend the Tournament of Champions. The NOHA Playoff Committee will determine, based on the number of registrations for the Division, whether they can accept multiple Teams from the same Association. Where additional entries cannot be accepted, the Association will be notified by December 31st and they will be responsible to identify which Team will attend.
- c) Teams who apply for a change of category for the Tournament of Champions may be moved to a Category other than the one requested at the discretion of the NOHA Board.

11.2.3 No Tournament of Champions will have more than ten (10) Teams. Fees

- a) The NOHA Playoff Committee shall recommend to the NOHA Board of Directors the registration fee for the Tournament of Champions.

11.2.4 Withdrawal from Tournament of Champions

- a) Any team withdrawing from the Tournament of Champions after the deadline shall forfeit their monies to the NOHA.
- b) Any team, in the opinion of the NOHA Board of Directors, which fails to fulfill its obligation in any league playoffs or NOHA Tournament of Champions during any season shall be refused entry in the NOHA for the following season and all players registered with said team shall be declared free agents.

11.2.5 Schedule and Games

- a) Scheduling of NOHA Playoffs may not be done until the participant Teams are properly seeded by the host committee and approved by the NOHA Playoff Committee. Through scheduling, every effort must be made to allow each team the chance to compete against Teams from other Leagues while attending the TOC. Teams travelling the farthest distance shall be scheduled as late as possible in accordance with the schedule



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11.3 House League Tournament of Champions

11.3.1 Host Selection

- a) The dates for the House League Tournament of Champions will be determined by the NOHA Board of Directors. Requests to host will be received by the Executive Director until October 1st. Associations must be in good standing with the NOHA.
- b) DELETE

11.3.2 Team Selection

- a) All NOHA U13, U15 and U18 House League Tournament of Champions will have a maximum of ten (10) Teams. The first ten (10) Teams to pay will be accepted into the Tournament of Champions. All Teams participating will be guaranteed a minimum of four (4) games in the tournament format.
- b) Participation in the House League Tournament of Champions is open to Teams indicating their interest by December 1st. Intent is indicated by submitting the entry form and payment to the NOHA office by December 1st.
- c) Selected Teams must submit to the NOHA Office their roster no later than January 31st. If a Team withdraws from the Tournament of Champions after notification of acceptance the Team will forfeit its registration fees.

11.4 League Playoffs

- a) In U18 "AAA" hockey, a playoff schedule will be set by the Great North U18 League with the approval of the NOHA Board of Directors, prior to the start of the season, to determine the NOHA Champion.
- b) In U15 "AAA" hockey, a playoff schedule will be set by the Northern Ontario AAA Hockey League with the approval of the NOHA Board of Directors, prior to the start of the season, to determine the NOHA Champion.
- c) In U13 "AAA" hockey, a playoff schedule will be set by the Northern Ontario AAA Hockey League with the approval of the NOHA Board of Directors, prior to the start of the season, to determine the NOHA Champion.
- d) Where all Teams in an age division are competing within the same League, the NOHA Tournament of Champions shall be the League Championship.
- d) In order to qualify for the NOHA playoffs, all AAA Teams in all AAA Divisions must play in a AAA NOHA League (where a properly sanctioned AAA league exists) or three or more Teams in the same Division. "AAA" Teams may play in a League of a higher Division. In all Leagues in U21, U18, U15, U13 and U11, in the same category, there must be a league playoff to declare a league winner in order to compete in the NOHA playoffs unless the league, with the approval of all teams, files its method of selecting a winner with the NOHA Executive Director.
- e) Any Teams requesting outside Officials after the commencement of any



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series shall be responsible for payment of all travel, meals and expenses of such visiting Officials and the home Team is responsible for the regular game fees.

Note: An outside Official is one who does not reside in either of the two Districts playing.

- f) In Junior hockey, the playoff format shall be set by the NOJHL and approved by the NOHA Board of Directors prior to the start of the playing season.

Change to Read:

Delete.

Rationale:

To put into Policies and Procedures document as opposed to Regulation.

Moved by: Tim Lowe, NOHA Executive

Seconded by: Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Any discussion? Anyone wish to speak to it? Are we ready to go?
All those in favour? Those opposed?

CARRIED

52 -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

NOHA Regulation 12.1. and 12.2.

Presently Reads:

12.1 Tournament Hosting

- a) A Tournament sanction permit will be issued only to the Minor Hockey Association. The sanction fees, a copy of the Tournament rules, and a copy of the invitation must accompany the application into the NOHA Office 60 days prior to the Tournament.
- b) A list of Teams that are entering the Tournament must be forwarded to the NOHA Office and the District Council Director fourteen (14) days prior to the start of the tournament. The completed schedule can then be e-mailed when the final draft is ready to be sent to all Teams. All Tournaments (House



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League and Representative) are required to submit a Tournament reconciliation to the NOHA Office sixty (60) days after the completion of the Tournament. Tournament hosts must also submit all game sheets, Tournament permits, final game schedule and HCR approved rosters to the NOHA Office with their reconciliation. All Tournaments are required to check the HCR approved rosters of each Team participating to verify their eligibility.

Once everything has been submitted, the NOHA Office will inform the Association of any missing documents and assistance will be provided to the Association to secure the required documents, where possible.

- c) If a sanctioned Tournament changes anything on the application that has already been approved, they must send the revised invitation and rules and regulations to all Teams that have applied to notify them of the changes and allow them to withdraw with no penalty imposed.
- d) No entry shall be accepted from any Team of any OHF Member, another HC Member, IIHF, or USA Hockey without an approved Tournament permit from their governing organization. The written permission must be presented upon registration at the tournament for inspection by the NOHA Board Member or Tournament Committee member and mailed to the NOHA Office with the Tournament reconciliation.
- e) A Tournament sanction may be withdrawn from any Association that accepts entries from a Team, or Players, that are under suspension or are not approved by the NOHA or any other OHF, HC, or IIHF Member.
- f) A copy of the Tournament rules and regulations and schedule shall be given in writing by the host to all Teams before commencing play.
- g) When Teams or Players are required to play three (3) Tournament games in one day at U10 and above, there shall be a minimum of three (3) hours between the finish of one game and the start of the next game.
- h) No cash prizes or cash awards are to be given to any Team or individual Player in any sanctioned NOHA Minor Hockey Tournament.
- i) Any permit sanctioning a tournament by the NOHA may be withdrawn if it is found that Hockey Canada, OHF or NOHA regulations pertaining to such Tournaments are not followed.
Subsequent permits may not be issued to any Association who has been found to have conducted a sanctioned Tournament which has not followed Hockey Canada, OHF or NOHA Regulations.
- j) All sanctioned Tournaments will be played only under official Hockey Canada playing rules. Should there be any variance from such rules, they shall be submitted at the time of application for a sanction permit.



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12.2 Tournament Attendance

- a) All Tournament permits are not to interfere with the NOHA Playoffs and League Playoffs. This will be strictly enforced by the Council Directors.
- b) Teams shall not enter to participate in concurrent tournaments.
- c) Teams (House League and Representative) wishing to participate in Tournaments, must apply for a permit through the Tournament Portal. Requests through the Tournament Portal must be received by the NOHA Office two (2) weeks prior to the tournament. Any requests received after this may be subject to a late fee to be determined by the NOHA Board. Approved tournament permits will be available to the Association Tournament Portal contact.
- d) Every Player and Team Official participating in any sanctioned Tournament must be registered with that Team on an approved HCR roster for inspection at all Tournaments.
- e) No Representative Team will be allowed to play in a House League tournament.
- f) When the Hockey Canada U9 Pathways transitions to full ice after January 15th, Teams will be allowed to participate in two (2) full ice tournaments.

Change to Read:

Delete.

Rationale:

To remove from the Regulations and to put into a Policies and Procedures document.

Moved by: Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President

Seconded by: Yves Lalonde, NOHA Executive

Dick Farrow, Moderator: So, any questions on this one? Anyone need more time? Okay, all those in favour? Those opposed?

CARRIED

Dick Farrow, Moderator: And I think that does it.

Barry McCrory, Northern Ontario Hockey League AAA: Dick, can I ask a question? We were talking at the table with the gentleman who was over here, so if a team doesn't go to the Playoffs this year, what is the penalty for them?



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Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: In the end, everything in the constitution is up to the Board to deal with, there's no set consequence at this point, it's something that the Board would have to discuss.

Barry McCrory, Northern Ontario Hockey League AAA: That's maybe something we can bring on the floor next year as a penalty, you lose your cards for the following year, or a fine. Another thing I want to bring up is there's a lot of associations that aren't here at these meetings. Should there be a fine or "XYZ" for those that don't come to the meeting? Half of the times when they start their schedule it's what happened at that meeting? You know what, if you're going to play in the NOHA, have some respect and come to the meeting. The last couple of years, I unfortunately haven't been around, Steve Vachon said I've taken over the floor from Albert Corradini. You know what? If you want to have an association, and you want to have teams, I am actually at the AAA level I'm kind of amazed at all the people who aren't here, and I will address it. You know what, everyone wants to make changes for the good for the boys and girls in hockey, they should, that should become mandatory to be here at this meeting. Thank you.

Jamie Costello, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association: I just want to back up what this gentleman said about that association, because that association didn't go to the playdowns, or playoffs I was talking about in Chapleau, they threatened to do it again this year with no, like they were just going to, and I can see who was involved with it, right Tracy and Greg? But they, like there was enough of, the other coaches that put pressure on this team and at the end, they mysteriously they had a vote and they, they went to their playoffs. But if they would have blew that off, there was, there was...

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thank you, Jamie. This is a good discussion. Listen, part of your responsibility in getting cards and having a team is to show up when decisions are making, because it seems kind of crazy that there are 70 voting cards and 1600 players out there, it just seems that there has got to be more people involved in this level as well. Jason, Correspondence, is there any to bring before the floor? Oh, sorry.

Amanda McKay, Elliot Lake Minor Hockey Association: I'm sure all of you are aware that Elliot Lake are the winners of Kraft Hockeyville. So, first of all, we just want to say thank you for everyone's support, so we just got the news announcement and it will be made during the Stanley Cup with the location and date. Thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: I just wanted to say, we didn't forget you, I had you in under Other Business here, but I'm really glad that you spoke to this, and I'm sure that everybody



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in this room were on their computers, I know I was, and boy, I was sitting there watching that decision and I think I cheered as much as the people in Elliot Lake. A great decision, for sure.

8) Correspondence

None.

9) Elections

Dick Farrow, Moderator: We have an election in one District only, in the Sudbury District, right? So, what we'll do is we'll do the, the vote, and we'll listen to any other new business that you want to bring, and then we'll break to go to lunch and those people can count them, well I don't think there's very many ballots anyway, so we'll carry on and give you the results before we leave. Okay, so, up for election this year is District Two, and Yves Lalonde is the only one nominated for it. Yves, will you accept that nomination?

Yves Lalonde, NOHA Executive: Yes.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, Yves will stay on as the District number Two Council Director. And the same in District Four, Rick Barron is the only nominee. Rick, will you accept that again this year?

Rick Barron, NOHA Executive: Yes.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thank you very much, Bear, and we'll now go to District number Eight. The two candidates are Jeremy Cormier and Blake Dillabough, so Blake, will you accept that nomination?

Blake Dillabough, District Eight: Yes.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Jeremy Cormier, will you accept the nomination?

Jeremy Cormier, District Eight: Yes.



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Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, do you two wish to, do you wish to speak to the floor?
Yeah, Jeremy, we'll go with you first.

Jeremy Cormier, District Eight: Well, thanks very much. I know a lot of you don't necessarily know me, I put my name forward just because I want to contribute to making hockey better in Northern Ontario. In terms of my background, I have over twenty year of policy, governance, and stakeholder management experience. I've been a long-time Board of Directors Chair for a children's agency until very recently, and I'm pretty proud of the work that I did for that group because we did things the right way. We had a strategic plan, we let staff implement that plan, and we also made decisions for the right reasons, and it's been heartening to see around the room that people have been making those decisions for those reasons as well, so for that agency it was to do what's best for children and families in Northern Ontario, and the end result of that was, you know, we doubled our funding, we expanded services, and we saved an agency that did, like, really good work for kids, so that's kind of the spirit that I would bring to this role, and I understand Blake's got a lot of support so I'm up tough against him, but I just want to say thank you to everyone for all the work you do. As a parent, it's nice to see, kind of the decisions being made and the process, so thanks very much.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Thank you for putting your name forward. Blake, why don't you come on up and say a few words? We want to thank everyone who puts their name forward to serve on the Board, we need that kind of interest. Blake?

Blake Dillabough, District Eight: Thank you for your time. My name is Blake Dillabough from Sudbury, Ontario. Personally, I played my minor hockey in Sudbury from House League, AA, AAA, Major Junior, and College hockey. I have experience, the last few years I've been an executive member on the Copper Cliff Minor Hockey board and would love to bring forward that experience to the committee. So, I do have some experience dealing with matters that are brought forward on an executive level. Those include, you know, internal and external complaints Professionally, I am a police officer, a Detective Constable with the Greater Sudbury Police Service, so I have experience and I feel I am proficient in rules, regulations, policies and procedures and interpreting them, and I feel I am capable of making informed decisions in a timely manner. I understand that processes are a democratic process, and you can't appease everybody, but I've always ensured decisions are in the best interest of the children in the process. Again, a lot of experience with committees through work experience, and essentially, I'd just like to put my name in the hat and help the NOHA in this process.



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Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, thank you very much, Blake. So, District number Eight can vote, only District number Eight, so if you're District Eight, put your paddle up and Steve will get a voting card to you. So, up with your paddles if you're District number Eight, so we'll do that and then the ballots will be collected and they'll pick them up.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, we have the results for District number Eight. The winner in the election is Blake Dillabough. Congratulations Blake, and Jeremy, thank you for putting your name forward. I'll now ask for a motion to destroy the ballots.

"To destroy the election ballots."

Moved by: Steve Lawrence, NOHA 1st Vice President

Seconded by: Yves Lalonde, NOHA Executive

CARRIED

10) Other Business

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Is there any other business now, because we'll get the result fairly soon. Is there any other business that you wish to bring before the Annual Meeting? No other business?

Dick Farrow, Moderator: So, I think we're almost at that point in the meeting where we can ask for a motion. Oh? Not quite yet. One more announcement.

Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director: Just two quick things. So, we do have our awards ceremony during lunch, it is a special experience for those people who will be receiving awards today. I know we're done kind of the main business part of the meeting, but we'd very much appreciate everyone staying for that to recognize the many people who have contributed to the game this year and over a number of years. The second piece just very quickly, and I know we didn't touch on it during the meeting, but in your packages there's some very interesting information with respect to Freedom of Movement, so you can see, kind of, the trends amongst the associations, you can see the impact that Freedom of Movement has had on associations in terms of players who may be from outside of a community that are playing in an organization and kind of comparing registration numbers and teams over the years. There is a lot of, a lot more information that we can provide, there's, we showed it last year at the AGM during the workshop with PowerBI. If there's any information that anyone would like from their organization, from their District, or NOHA-wide, we can certainly work with you to provide that. Everything's connected to the



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HCR so it's very easy to provide kind of on-demand information, but I'd encourage you to take a look at you know, the great work that everyone is doing in terms of, in terms of getting players and keeping players. We have, I think the highest retention percentage in terms of, in the province, which is great. Our percentage of new participants is also higher than average from the national average which is, you know, very positive, so just wanted to kind of provide that as something you may want to look at, you may want to kind of dig deeper which we can also help you with and recognize, you know, the great work that everyone has done over the last year, kind of, you know, many of the people I've seen for a very long time here which is also great, and I just want to congratulate you and thank you for all the work you've done, so thank you.

Dick Farrow, Moderator: Okay, now I think we're, and as Jason has said, you know, please stay for the awards ceremony, it's part of this meeting and an important part of it as well. So, having said that, we'd just like a motion to adjourn. Thank you very much, we'll see you again next year.

Moved by George Suszter, East Nipissing Minor Hockey Association
"To adjourn the Annual General Meeting."

CARRIED