



**2018
WOMEN'S TEAM
HANDBOOK**

ONTARIO BALL HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
WOMEN'S DIVISION

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SECTION 1

TO ALL TEAM MANAGERS AND COACHES

In the interest of keeping our sport safe and equitable, we would ask that you ensure that each player on your registration form understands the regulations in this handbook. As your team's coach or manager, it is your responsibility.

Wishing you all a safe and exciting season!

Ontario Ball Hockey Association
Board of Directors

Ontario Ball Hockey Association
56 Pennsylvania Avenue, Unit 5
Concord, Ontario, L4K 3V9
Phone: 905-738-3320 Fax: 905-738-3321
E-Mail: IAM@ontarioballhockey.CA
ctd@ontarioballhockey.ca
Web Site: www.ontarioballhockey.ca

OBHA POLICIES

As of March 2018

Coaching

The Ontario Ball Hockey Association (OBHA) is committed to the continued improvement of the technical skills of its coaches through education, and certification. Furthermore, the OBHA expects its coaches to respect the Coach's Code of Conduct.

Doping in Sport

The Ontario Ball Hockey Association (OBHA) is committed to drug-free, ethical, and fair play in sport, and prohibits the use of Banned Substances and Practices. The OBHA delegates authority and responsibility for carrying out Doping Control Procedures in Canada, for any players participating in the Team Canada program, to the Ontario Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES). Furthermore, the OBHA will abide by the penalties prescribed by Sport Canada as a minimum standard.

Official Languages

The Ontario Ball Hockey Association (OBHA) is committed to the provision of all materials and communications in both official languages of Canada.

Women in Sport

The Ontario Ball Hockey Association (OBHA) has been a leader in support of women in sport, and is committed to continue to improve equity and access for women as athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and leaders in our sport.

Disabled in Sport

The Ontario Ball Hockey Association (OBHA) is committed to the principle of equity and access for the disabled as athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and leaders in our sport. Furthermore, the OBHA shall endeavour to align itself with organizations for the disabled in order to increase awareness of the opportunities for the disabled in our sport.

Aboriginals & Visible Minorities in Sport

The Ontario Ball Hockey Association (OBHA) has been a leader in support of Aboriginals and Visible Minorities in sport, and is committed to continue to improve equity and access for all peoples as athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and leaders in our sport.

Athlete Centeredness

The Ontario Ball Hockey Association (OBHA) is committed to the development of our sport for the betterment of its participating athletes. A continued effort shall exist to determine the needs of its athletes, from its most basic recreational levels, to those at the highest performance levels. Furthermore, the OBHA shall provide opportunities for high performance athletes to express their opinions, provide guidance, and input into the decision making process of our sport.

Harassment & Abuse in Sport

The Ontario Ball Hockey Association (OBHA) shall not tolerate abuse and neglect, whether physical, emotional or sexual of any participant in any of its programs. The OBHA expects every parent, volunteer and staff member to take all reasonable steps to safeguard the welfare of its participants and protect them from any form of maltreatment.

Furthermore, harassment in all its forms will not be tolerated during the course of any OBHA activity or program. Accordingly, all OBHA personnel (staff, volunteers, team or officials) and partners (parents, guardians) are responsible for making every reasonable effort to uphold this commitment. Specifically, this includes refraining from harassing behaviour, responding promptly and informally to minor incidents of harassment and following local or national policy guidelines for reporting or responding to more serious complaints of harassment. Players and other participants are expected to refrain from harassing behaviour and are encouraged to report incidents of harassment.

**ONTARIO BALL HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
ABUSE POLICY**
(as adapted from the policies of the Ontario Hockey Association)

As of March 2018

This policy sets out the principles and practices of the Ontario Ball Hockey Association (OBHA) with regard to abusive behaviour towards participants.

A. Relationship to Harassment Policy

Some behaviours which are defined as abuse when directed towards a child or youth may constitute harassment when directed towards a peer or when perpetrated between adults. The Ontario Ball Hockey Association's Harassment Policy covers such behaviours. Together, the two policies address the entire spectrum of abusive and harassing behaviours.

B. Ontario Ball Hockey Association's Mission

The mission of the OBHA is to ensure its participants are provided meaningful opportunities and enjoyable experiences in a safe, sportsmanlike environment. This includes, among other things, a shared responsibility with parents to nurture the physical and emotional well-being of all participants. The OBHA's primary interest is the well being of its participants.

C. Statement of Purpose

The OBHA is part of the sporting community in our country that is committed to seeking better ways to keep our youth safe. Protecting participants from all forms of abuse and neglect, whether emotional, physical or sexual, is an important element of safety. The OBHA considers any form of abuse or neglect to be unacceptable and will do all it can to prevent this intolerable social problem. To this end, the OBHA will promote awareness of all forms of abuse and neglect.

D. Policy

It is the policy of the OBHA that there shall be no abuse and neglect, whether physical, emotional or sexual of any participant in any of its programs. The OBHA expects every parent, volunteer and staff member to take all reasonable steps to safeguard the welfare of its participants and protect them from any form of maltreatment.

1. Definitions of Abuse

Abuse is any form of physical, emotional and/or sexual mistreatment or lack of care which causes physical injury or emotional damage to another person. A common characteristic of all forms of abuse against an individual is an abuse of power or authority and/or breach of trust.

2. Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is a chronic attack on a person's self-esteem; it is psychologically destructive behaviour by a person in a position of power, authority or trust. It can take the form of name-calling, threatening, ridiculing, berating, intimidating, isolating, hazing or ignoring one's needs.

3. Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is when a person in a position of power or trust purposefully injures or threatens to injure an individual. This may take the form of slapping, hitting, shaking, kicking, pulling hair or ears, throwing, shoving, grabbing, hazing or excessive exercise as a form of punishment.

4. Neglect

Neglect is chronic inattention to the basic necessities of life such as clothing, shelter, nutritious diets, education, good hygiene, supervision, medical and dental care, adequate rest, safe environment, moral guidance and discipline, exercise and fresh air. This may occur in sport when injuries are not adequately treated or players are made to play with injuries, equipment is inadequate or unsafe, no-one intervenes when team members are persistently harassing another player, or road trips are not properly supervised.

5. Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is when any person is used by an adolescent or adult for his or her own sexual stimulation or gratification. There are two categories:

Contact

- touched or fondled in sexual areas
- forced to touch another person's sexual areas
- kissed or held in a sexual manner
- forced to perform oral sex
- vaginal or anal intercourse
- vaginal or anal penetration with an object or finger
- sexually oriented hazing

Non-Contact

- obscene remarks on phone/computer or in notes
- voyeurism
- shown pornography
- forced to watch sexual acts
- sexually intrusive questions and comments
- forced to pose for sexual photographs or videos
- forced to self-masturbate or forced to watch others masturbate

6. Harassment and Abuse - Differences and Similarities

	Abuse	Harassment
Types	Emotional, physical, sexual, lack of care	Emotional, physical, sexual; may be motivated by racial or other forms of prejudice
Victim	Any person under age of majority as determined by Provincial and Territorial Child Protection Acts; may be male or female	Person of any age; may be male or female
Offender	Any person who has power or authority over victim and/or breeches trust; may be male or female	May be peer or person with power or authority over adult victim; may be male or female
Investigation	External to organization; referred to child welfare or police	Most often internal unless referred to police in cases of suspected physical or sexual assault or criminal harassment (stalking)
Follow-up actions	Determined by Provincial and Territorial Child Protection Acts and Criminal Code; civil suits may also occur	Determined by organization's harassment policies, Criminal Code, labour tribunals, civil action and/or Provincial Human Rights Tribunals; may be used concurrently or alone
Philosophy	The victim is not to blame; offenders are responsible for their behavior	The victim is not to blame; offenders are responsible for their behaviour

7. Duty to Report

Abuse and neglect are community problems requiring urgent attention. The OBHA is committed to help reduce and prevent the abuse and neglect of participants. The OBHA realizes that persons working closely with children and youth have a special awareness of abusive situations. Therefore these people have a particular reporting responsibility to ensure the safety of Canada's young, by knowing their provincial protection acts and following through as required.

Every province and territory in Canada, except the Yukon, has mandatory reporting laws regarding the abuse and neglect of children and youth; the Yukon requests that concerns be reported. Consequently, it is the policy of the Ontario Ball Hockey Association that any OBHA personnel (part-time and full-time staff, volunteer, participant, team official, on ice official) or OBHA partner (parent, guardian) who, has reasonable grounds to suspect that a participant is or may be suffering or may have suffered from emotional, physical abuse and neglect and/or sexual abuse shall immediately report the suspicion and the information on which it is based to the local child protection agency and/or the local police detachment.

Those involved with the OBHA in providing ball hockey opportunities for participants understand and agree that abuse or neglect, as defined above, may be the subject of a criminal investigation and/or disciplinary procedures. Failure to report an offence and thereby, failure to provide safety for participants may render the adult who keeps silent legally liable for conviction under the provincial child protection acts.

HARASSMENT POLICY

(as adapted from the policies of the Ontario Hockey Association)

As of March 2018

This Policy sets out the principles and practices of the Ontario Ball Hockey Association regarding harassment.

A. Relationship to Recognition and Prevention of Abuse Policy

Some behaviours which might be described as harassment when directed towards an adult, may constitute abuse when directed towards an individual by any person with power or authority over the person harassed. The Ontario Ball Hockey Association's Recognition and Prevention of Abuse Policy covers such behaviours. Together, the two policies address the entire spectrum of abusive and harassing behaviours.

B. Statement of Purpose

The Ontario Ball Hockey Association is committed to providing a sport and work environment which promotes equal opportunities and prohibits discriminatory practices. Harassment is a form of discrimination which is prohibited by human rights legislation in Canada. The OBHA supports the right of all its members, whether athletes, volunteers or employees, to participate in all OBHA activities free from any form of harassment. Further, the OBHA emphasizes the importance of eliminating harassment in ball hockey as a key element in ensuring the safety of all participants. A sports environment which actively discourages harassment and builds relationships based on trust and mutual respect, is an environment which discourages the abuse of an individual and encourages the overall development of the individual.

In order to further these aims, the OBHA will make every reasonable effort to promote awareness of the problem of harassment among all its members, and to respond swiftly and effectively to complaints or disclosures of harassment.

C. Policy

It is the policy of the Ontario Ball Hockey Association that harassment in all its forms will not be tolerated during the course of any OBHA activity or program. Accordingly, all OBHA personnel (staff, volunteers, team or on-floor officials) and partners (parents, guardians) are responsible for making every reasonable effort to uphold this commitment. Specifically, this includes refraining from harassing behaviour, responding promptly and informally to minor incidents of harassment and following local or national policy guidelines for reporting or responding to more serious complaints of harassment. Players and other participants are expected to refrain from harassing behaviour and are encouraged to report incidents of harassment.

1. Definition of Harassment

Harassment is defined as conduct, gestures or comments which are insulting, intimidating, humiliating, hurtful, malicious, degrading or otherwise offensive to an individual or group of individuals, and which create a hostile or intimidating environment for work or sports activities, or which negatively affect performance or work conditions. Any of the different forms of harassment may be based on the grounds prohibited in human rights legislation, such as race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation and religion.

Harassment may occur between peers (eg: player to player of the same age group, parent to official, coach to coach) or between someone in a position of power or authority and an adult in a subordinate position (eg: coach to player, sports administrator to employee).

The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of harassment:

1. unwelcome jokes, innuendo or teasing about a person's body, looks, race, sexual orientation etc.
2. condescending, patronizing, threatening or punishing actions which undermine self-esteem
3. practical jokes which cause awkwardness or embarrassment, or may endanger a person's safety
4. any form of hazing
5. unwanted or unnecessary physical contact including touching, patting, pinching
6. unwanted conduct, comments, gestures or invitations of a sexual nature which are likely to cause offence or humiliation, or which might on reasonable grounds be perceived as placing a condition of a sexual nature on employment or on any opportunity for training or advancement
7. sexual assault or physical assault

It is important to note that the behaviours described in items 5 to 7, when directed towards a child or youth, constitute abuse under child protection legislation. This may also be true of other behaviours, for example, certain hazing practices. In such cases, the duty to report provisions of the Recognition and Prevention of Abuse Policy come into effect.

2. Response and Remedies

It is the position of the Ontario Ball Hockey Association that harassment cannot be tolerated. Harassment is unacceptable and harmful. The OBHA recognizes the serious negative impact of all types of harassment on personal dignity, individual and group development and performance, enjoyment of the game and in some cases, personal safety.

At the same time, the OBHA recognizes that not all incidents of harassment are equally serious in their consequences. Harassment covers a wide spectrum of behaviours, and the response to harassment must be equally broad in range, appropriate to the behaviour in question and capable of providing a constructive remedy. There must be no summary justice or hasty punishment. The process of investigation and settlement of any complaint of harassment must be fair to all parties, allowing adequate opportunity for the presentation of a defence to the charges.

Minor incidents of harassment (eg: inappropriate jokes) should be corrected promptly and informally, taking a constructive approach and with the aim of bringing about a change in negative attitudes and behaviour.

More serious incidents (eg: a course of repeated taunting, any form of sexual or physical assault) should be dealt with according to the relevant national policy guidelines. Complaints should be handled in a timely, sensitive, responsible and confidential manner. There should be no tolerance of reprisals taken against any party to a complaint. The names of parties and the circumstances of the complaint should be kept confidential except where disclosure is necessary for the purposes of investigation or taking disciplinary measures.

Anyone making a complaint which is found to be clearly unfounded, false, malicious or frivolous will be subject to discipline.

Procedures for the handling of complaints brought against national employees or volunteers of the Ontario Ball Hockey Association are detailed in the document entitled "[OBHA Harassment Complaint Procedures](#)."

**ONTARIO BALL HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
HARASSMENT COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**
(as adapted from the policies of the Ontario Hockey Association)

As of March 2018

Note: For convenience, this policy uses the term "Complainant" to refer to the person who experiences harassment, even though not all persons who experience harassment will make a formal complaint. The term "Respondent" refers to the person against whom a complaint is made.

Application

1. This policy applies to all Ontario Ball Hockey Association (OBHA) directors, officers, employees, volunteers and members. It applies to harassment that may occur during the course of all OBHA business, activities and events.

Minor Instances of Harassment

2. This policy does not prevent an appropriate person having authority from taking immediate, informal, corrective disciplinary action in response to behaviour that, in their view, constitutes a minor incident of harassment.

Reporting Harassment

3. A person who experiences harassment is encouraged to make it known to the harasser that the behaviour is unwelcome, offensive and contrary to the policies of OBHA.
4. If confronting the harasser is not possible, or if after confronting the harasser the harassment continues, the Complainant should request a meeting with an Official of the OBHA. For the purposes of this policy, an Official shall mean any Board member of the OBHA or its affiliated provincial associations.
5. Once contacted by a Complainant the role of the Official is to serve in a neutral, unbiased capacity in receiving the complaint and assisting in its informal resolution. If the Official considers that he or she is unable to act in this capacity, the Complainant will be referred to another suitable OBHA Official.
6. Where a person believes that a director, officer, employee, volunteer or member of OBHA has experienced or is experiencing harassment and reports this belief to an Official, the Official will meet with the person said to have experienced harassment and proceed in accordance with these procedures.
7. Where an Official believes there is sufficient evidence to warrant laying a formal complaint but the Complainant does not wish to do so, the Official may lay a formal complaint and proceed in accordance with these procedures.

Complaint Procedure

8. There are three possible outcomes to a meeting of Complainant and Official:
 - a) *It may be determined that the conduct does not constitute harassment as defined in this policy*, in which case the matter will be closed;
 - b) *The Complainant may decide to pursue an informal resolution of the complaint*, in which case a mediator as agreed to by both the complainant and the respondent will assist the two parties to negotiate or mediate an acceptable resolution of the complaint; or
 - c) *The Complainant may decide to lay a formal written complaint*, in which case the Official will receive the written complaint and will advise the President of the OBHA, or designate, who will appoint an independent individual to conduct an investigation of the complaint.
9. The Investigator will carry out the investigation in a timely manner and at the conclusion of the investigation will submit a written report to the President, or designate, which will include a recommendation that:
 - a) No further action be taken because the complaint is unfounded or the conduct cannot be reasonably be said to fall within the OBHA's definition of harassment; or
 - b) The complaint has merit and should proceed to a hearing.
10. Within 10 business days of receiving the written report of the Investigator that recommends that there be a hearing the President, or designate, will appoint three individuals to serve as a Panel.
11. At the discretion of the President, or designate, the investigation may be waived and a Panel appointed within 10 business days of receipt of a formal complaint.

Hearing

12. The Panel will hold the hearing as soon as possible, but not more than 15 business days after the Panel has been appointed.
13. The Panel will govern the hearing as it deems appropriate in the circumstances, provided that:
 - a) Members of the Panel shall select from among themselves a Chairperson;
 - b) A quorum shall be all three Panel members;
 - c) Decisions shall be by majority vote where the Chairperson carries a vote;
 - d) The parties may be accompanied by a representative;
 - e) The hearing will be held in private;
 - f) The parties will be given 10 business days written notice of the day, time and place of the hearing;
 - g) The Respondent will receive a copy of the formal complaint;
 - h) The Complainant and Respondent will each receive a copy of the Investigator's report;
 - i) Both the Complainant and Respondent will be present at the hearing to respond to the Investigator's report, give evidence and to answer questions of the Panel. The hearing may proceed in the absence of either or both parties;
 - j) The Investigator may attend the hearing at the request of the Panel;
 - k) The Panel may request that witnesses to the incident be present or submit written evidence;
 - l) Once appointed, the Panel has the authority to abridge or extend timelines associated with all aspects of the hearing;
 - m) In the event that one of the Panel's members is unable or unwilling to continue with the hearing, the matter will be concluded by the remaining two Panel members who will make their decision unanimously.
14. In order to keep costs to a reasonable level the Panel may conduct the hearing by means of a telephone conference.

Decision

15. As soon as possible but in any event within 10 business days of the conclusion of the hearing, the Panel will provide its written decision to the President, or designate, with a copy provided to both the Complainant and Respondent. The decision will contain:
 - a) A summary of the relevant facts;
 - b) A determination as to whether the acts complained of constitute harassment as defined in this policy;
 - c) Disciplinary action against the Respondent, if the acts constitute harassment; and
 - d) Measures to remedy or mitigate the harm or loss suffered by the Complainant, if the acts constitute harassment.
16. If the Panel determines that the allegations of harassment are false, vexatious, retaliatory or frivolous, its report may direct that there be disciplinary sanctions against the Complainant.
17. Unless the Panel decides otherwise, any disciplinary sanctions applied shall take effect immediately.
18. The decision of the Panel will be final and binding upon the Complainant, the Respondent and the OBHA.

Confidentiality

19. The OBHA recognizes the sensitive nature of harassment matters and in particular, the difficulties associated with coming forward with a complaint of harassment and with being accused of harassment. The OBHA recognizes the interests of both the Complainant and the Respondent in keeping any matter being dealt with under this policy confidential, except where disclosure is required by a disciplinary proceeding or by law.

SECTION 2

**ONTARIO BALL HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
WOMEN'S REGULATIONS**

Revised March 2018

1/ OBHA OFFICE

- a) Direct and easy communication with the OBHA is essential for the smooth operation of the individual teams, leagues, and Association. The OBHA is committed to maintaining a full-time office.
- b) The OBHA office can be reached at:
Ontario Ball Hockey Association
56 Pennsylvania Avenue, Unit 5
Concord, Ontario, L4K 3V9
T: (905) 738-3320
F: (905) 738-3321

2/ LEAGUES AND TEAMS

- (a) *League:* A ball hockey organization which registered its players/teams with the OBHA.
- (b) *Team:* A group of qualified players who fall under OBHA regulations, which govern age and other qualifications, up to the number provided by the OBHA regulations.

A team shall consist of not less than twelve (12) registered players.

The league shall, each year, keep the OBHA informed of the names, full addresses and phone numbers of their:

- i) President
- ii) Vice-President
- iii) Referee in Chief

3/ LEAGUE REGISTRATION

A team may become a member by making application to the league in its area. The executive committee of the league may at its discretion accept or refuse the application of a team.

All women's leagues intending to compete in the Provincial Championships shall submit the appropriate league registration forms into the OBHA office no later than 4:00 pm of May 15 and team registration forms within two weeks of the start of the regular season. Player addition/deletion forms must be submitted to the OBHA office no later than 4:00 pm on June 15.

	REGISTRATION FORMS	
FORM TYPE	TEAM DEADLINE TO LEAGUE	LEAGUE DEADLINE TO THE OBHA
LEAGUE REGISTRATION FORM		MAY 15
TEAM REGISTRATION FORM	CHECK WITH YOUR LEAGUE	2 WEEKS AFTER DIVISION BEGINS
PLAYER ADD/DELETE FORM	JUNE 10	JUNE 15

JUNE 15: All "Player Addition" forms must be in the OBHA office by 4:00 pm on June 15. If forms are late, then players will not be permitted to play in any OBHA provincial championships.

NOTE: Where a player cannot sign because she is out of town, a proxy letter signed by the individual, addressed to the league president will allow the player to participate in the OBHA. The original letter must be submitted to the OBHA office by June 15, along with the team registration form.

FEES: League Registration Fee \$226.00/league includes HST
Team Registration Fee \$200.00/team includes HST
All cheques must be made payable to the OBHA

4/ MASTER'S DIVISION GROWTH

To assist in the growth of a Master's division at the Provincial level, new leagues may be accepted if the following criteria are met:

Any registered OBHA Women's league may send a Master's team selected from the registered players in their league who meet the Master's age requirements (35 years of age and older in the current calendar year) to

the provincial championships. The league must declare their intentions of sending such a team by July 1 of the current season. For a league to participate under this rule it cannot have an organized Master's division in existence.

Women's Masters teams may carry an underage goalie 30 years of age or older. The goalie can play either Women's B or C level and cannot have played Women's A ball hockey for the last two calendar years.

5/ TEAM REGISTRATION FORM

- a) Print clearly in pen. Please fill in all the appropriate information.
- b) For women's leagues, all players must be 14 years of age as of the day they sign the registration form.
- c) Print the name, address, city, postal code, phone number and birth date of everyone on the roster. This information will be input into the data base. If the address is incomplete, that player will not receive any mailings.
- d) Print the league name and team name in the space provided.
- e) Please make sure all members on the roster read the waiver on the back of the form before signing it.
- f) If a player has not signed the form (and read the waiver) they will not be considered registered.

Payment: The league shall submit 1 (one) cheque, money order or remit a credit card for payments to cover registration, made payable to the "Ontario Ball Hockey Association". (A league shall not be considered registered until full payment is received).

6/ TEAM REGISTRATION

- (a) To become eligible for membership in the OBHA and to continue membership from year to year, a team must:
 - 1) Complete an OBHA Team Registration Form and submit it to their league Executive
 - 2) Make payment in full to their league. The League Executive must submit all team fees to the OBHA office two weeks after regular season play.
 - 3) Your Executive may, at its discretion, accept or reject an application for membership.
- (b) The OBHA Women's Board of Directors and league executive have the right to terminate membership of a player or team official, a team or league at any time if;
 - 1) The member is in default for a period of 30 days in the payment of any fees or fines due to the OBHA;
 - 2) After notice, the member continues to be in breach of any condition of membership;
 - 3) After notice, the member continues to be in breach of any rule or regulation of the OBHA;
 - 4) The member's conduct is deemed by the OBHA Women's Board of Directors or league executive to be detrimental to the welfare of the OBHA or league executive.
 - 5) Any league which does not uphold the minimum OBHA suspensions may face expulsion.
- (c) The OBHA Team Registration Form shall serve to register the manager and coach named therein and shall identify them as the two Executive officers of the team, accountable for its monetary obligations to the OBHA and authorized to register and release players and sign Game Reports. Coaches and Managers can register with more than one team in the OBHA.
- (d) Teams shall keep their executive informed of changes of names and addresses of their managers and coaches. And in turn Leagues shall notify the OBHA of any changes.
- (e) A player shall be eligible to register with a team in the OBHA provided that such person is:
 - 1) at least 14 years of age (some leagues may increase the minimum age);
 - 2) female
 - 3) not under suspension by the OBHA or any of its leagues
- (f) Any team official who allows a player to take part in any game provided by the OBHA or its leagues, save for exhibition games provided by the OBHA, who is not registered may be suspended for a period of up to one year.

(g) The following constitutes player registration violations and shall result in the guilty party being automatically suspended from ball hockey with any team in the OBHA for a period of not less than one year and not more than three years from the date of violation;

- 1) Any player proven guilty of falsifying an OBHA Team Registration Form or OBHA Addition/Deletion Form;
- 2) Any player having had knowledge that same had been falsified and knowing, willfully concealing this knowledge from the OBHA Women's Board of Directors; and
- 3) Any player competing under an assumed name.

Any team official proven guilty of having been party to, or having knowledge of and having willfully concealed such registration violations, may be suspended for up to one year

- (h) Managers and coaches who wish to also play must complete the players section of an OBHA Team Registration Form as well as the coaches or managers section.
- (i) Teams in the OBHA may only use the OBHA Team Registration Form issued to them by their league.
- (j) Suspended players cannot be released.
- (k) Teams may not have more than 22 players registered at one time.

No suspended player may take part in any OBHA sanctioned event as a player, coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer or referee while under suspension

7/ LEAGUE OPERATION

The conduct and regulation of competition between teams in a league shall be under the control and direction of the league's Executive Committee.

8/ GAME TIMES AND TIMING

- (a) No game shall begin until an official of each team has completed the game sheet.
- (b) All games shall be timed as two 20, 18 or 15 minute periods stopped time with an intermission. However, a league can adopt its own game time format.
- (c) There will be no overtime in regular season games.
- (d) A tie in quarter, semi and finals will be settled as follows:

One (1) ten minute sudden death overtime, if no winner, a second ten minute sudden death overtime will start. If the game is still tied, 10 minute sudden death periods will continue until a winner is decided.

- (e) As a general rule in league play, a minimum of 48 hours' notice of any regular season or playoff games shall be given. However, where circumstances are beyond the control of your league Executive, teams must be prepared to play any game on 24 hours' notice.

9/ LEAGUE STANDINGS

In league play, standings shall be decided on the point system, two points for a win and one point to each team for a tie.

Tie Breaking Procedure

When two or more teams are tied in the standings, at the completion of the regular schedule, and playoff if necessary, the higher finish shall be awarded to the team with:

- 1) Points
- 2) Record between teams if applicable (if 2 teams tied). If more than 2 teams tied go to step three.
- 3) Wins
- 4) *Goals percentage (%) for and against into Goals for
Goals For
Goals for and Goals against.
- 5) Goals differential + or -;
- 6) Goals for;
- 7) Goals against;
- 8) Shoot out:
 - i) Five shooters from each team shoot. The highest overall score from the five shooters wins,
 - ii) If score is tied then the remaining players shoot (players 6 - 18). The players go one to one for sudden death win,
 - iii) If score is still tied, begin again from player one and continue until everybody has again been used. Continue this one to one procedure until there is a winner in this sudden death shoot-out.

DEFAULTED GAMES DO NOT COUNT WHEN CALCULATING A TEAM'S PERCENTAGE

10/ TERMINATION OF GAME

- a) With respect to dangerous playing conditions, the decision whether to begin or continue a game is solely the responsibility of the referees.
- b) The referee may terminate a game if, in his/her estimation, it is getting beyond disciplinary control.

11/ PROTEST OF GAMES

- (a) The proper procedure for the protest of any game shall be as follows:
 - i) Protests and all evidence in support thereof must be signed by 2 team officials of the protesting team and presented to the league official in charge of the competition within 48 hours of the conclusion of the game for which the protest is being made and must be accompanied by a deposit of \$50.00 which may be forfeited if the protest is disallowed.
 - ii) The League Executive in charge of the competition shall have full power to rule on these protests.
 - iii) A League Official shall notify all parties of the date and time of the protest hearing. The committee hearing the protest shall make a decision, which may include any one or more of the following:
 - 1) Disallow the protest;
 - 2) Allow the protest;
 - 3) Forfeit or return the security deposit or any part thereof;
 - 4) Mandatory rearrangement of point in a game or series;
 - 5) Mandatory replaying of a game or series;
 - 6) Suspension of a team and/or player;
 - 7) Subject to the approval of the President, mandatory imposition of such further and other remedy or penalty as the nature of the protest demands.
- (b) All parties involved in the protest shall be sent written notice of the outcome.

12/

DEFAULTS

- (a) A default shall include:
(Please note offending teams will be required to pay a \$75 fine)
- 1) Failure to present a team of at least 6 eligible players at the time and place appointed to play in any OBHA game;
 - 2)
 - i) Withdrawal of a team from the surface and failure to return and start play, or if being on the surface, failure to start play within 2 minutes after being ordered to do so by the referee.
 - ii) If a team, after being ordered to return, does return to the surface to start play, then a minor penalty shall be assessed. If the same set of circumstances occurs a second time within the same game, the 2 minutes allowance shall not be granted and the game shall be defaulted.
 - iii) The manager, coach or official and/or players of the team which is responsible for any of these actions may be suspended for one year or more from the date of the infraction. The referees shall submit a full written report providing details of the incident to the president of the league and the Women's Board of Directors.
 - 3) In the event of sweater colour clashes, home team is to change or wear cover-ups. If they do not have cover-ups, the visiting team can change and take home team advantage. In the event that neither team can change, the home team is then in default.
 - 4) Any action on the part of a team deemed a default in the opinion of the Women's Board of Directors.
- (b) In the event that a team defaults a game, the penalty incurred shall be:
- 1) The game and/or series shall be awarded to the non-offending team. A 1-0 score shall be recorded for the defaulted team; the result of a defaulted game shall not be included in the calculation of the goals for and against percentage in deciding a tie breaker;
 - 2) Defaults in OBHA play may result in a team being banned from competing in games provided by the OBHA for one year.
- (c) If a team defaults during any OBHA sanctioned tournament, that team will be suspended from all OBHA sanctioned tournaments for one year.

13/

EQUIPMENT

- (a) The following equipment is mandatory in all OBHA games:
- 1) For all women's leagues a CSA approved helmet with chin strap properly fastened, and full facial protection is mandatory;
 - 2) The use of hockey gloves is mandatory; lacrosse gloves are prohibited
 - 3) Matching sweaters;
 - 4) Running shoes; (Goaltenders, however, may wear shoes offering more instep and toe protection).
- (b) The following equipment is optional, but recommended:
- 1) Elbow pads which must be worn under the sweater;
 - 2) Mouth guard, internal;
 - 3) Knee pads (basketball or volleyball), which may be worn over or under the sweat pants;
 - 4) Shin pads, worn under the sweat pants.
- (c) Shoulder pads are prohibited.
- (d) The shaft of the stick may be made entirely of wood or aluminum. There is no stick curvature rule. Plastic attached blades are not permitted. Hockey sticks sold only for the purposes of retail sale may be used.
- (e) It is strongly recommended that each team carry an adequate first aid kit at all times. Teams should also ensure that at least 2 members have a recognized first aid certificate.
- (f) All other rules with respect to equipment shall be found in the official National Association of Canada Rule Book , as amended from time to time.

Sweaters

- (a) All players on a team must wear matching sweaters, that is:
 - i) Each player, excluding the goaltender, must wear exactly the same sweater in terms of colour.
 - ii) Any player not wearing an identical uniform shall be prohibited by the referee from competing in such game.
- (b) Sweater specification shall be as follows:
 - i) All sweaters must be numbered 0 - 99, using contrasting 8 or 10-inch numbers;
 - ii) Each team captain (1) and alternate captain (2) must be identified by the letter "C" or "A" respectively on the front left shoulder of the sweater.
- (c) In the event that the two competing teams in a game cannot be distinguished as a result of sweater colour clashes:
 - i) The home team, listed second on the schedule, shall be required to wear cover-ups or other sweaters.
 - ii) If they do not have cover-ups or alternate sweaters, the visiting team may take home team advantage by changing.
 - iii) If neither team can change, the home team is in default.
- (d) It shall be solely the decision of the referee whether the two competing teams in a game can be distinguished.

14/ SPECTATORS

Any acts of physical abuse by any spectator or player against any official of the OBHA shall not be tolerated and shall be severely dealt with by the OBHA Women's Board of Directors.

15/ RELEASE OF MEMBERSHIP

All players become free agents on September 1st of each year.

16/ SUSPENSIONS

If a player/team receives a suspension in an OBHA league, then that suspension must be honoured by all leagues. Failure to respect an OBHA league's suspension will result in the offending league receiving a one-year suspension from the OBHA.

All OBHA leagues must submit, if any, a list of suspended players to the OBHA office no later than the date of the Annual General Meeting following the completion of the season.

All OBHA leagues must honour prescribed minimums for suspensions as stated in the OBHA Regulations. Failure will result in the offending league receiving a one year suspension from the OBHA.

- (a) Any violation of the rules and regulations of the OBHA or a decision of the OBHA Women's Board of Directors or Disciplinary Committee shall render such player or team official liable to suspension by the OBHA Women's Board of Directors.
- (b) Any suspension must commence being served in a team's next scheduled league game, regardless of any pending appeal and shall extend over consecutive games.
- (c) It is the responsibility of the team officials to ensure that a player who incurs a suspension is not allowed to compete for the duration of her suspension. Failure to comply with this regulation shall result in the suspension of the team officials and forfeiture of game(s).
- (d) A team official who is under suspension shall not be permitted to direct her team for the duration of her suspension. The penalty for violation of the regulation shall be an additional 2-game suspension for each game in which such an infraction occurs. A playing coach, suspended for any action, shall lose her rights as a player and a coach.
- (e) The names of suspended players must be printed in full, where indicated on the Game Report and the point in time and duration of their suspension included, i.e. Jane Doe - first of 5.

- (f) Suspensions of 5 games or less shall be without right of appeal.
- (g) Any suspension incurred by a player or team official before a tournament shall disqualify such player or team official from participating in his team's tournament games. However, tournament games shall not count in the duration of a suspension. If a player receives a game misconduct in their team's last game before a tournament, the player must sit out the first game of the tournament. After the first tournament game, the player may resume playing.
- (h) Any suspensions incurred in tournaments or exhibition games must be served in league play.
- (i) Suspended players may not be released from a team's roster.
- (j) Suspensions that do not expire prior to a team's elimination from further play during a season shall be carried forward to the next season.
- (k) A suspended player or team official from a disbanded team shall remain under suspension until such time as reinstated as a free agent by the OBHA Women's Board of Directors.

This point in time shall be determined:

- i) Within a season, in accordance with the disbanded team's original schedule;
 - ii) From the start of a season in the case of a carryover by the OBHA Women's Board of Directors.
- (l) The names of all players and team officials under suspension by the OBHA and its member leagues are available through the OBHA office.
 - (m) A player or team official incurring 2 match penalties in one season shall be suspended for one year from the date of the 2nd infraction.
 - (n) A player or team official shall be allowed a maximum of 3 game penalties in one game prior to being ejected from such game, provided that the first and/or second penalty does not carry an additional game ejection.
 - (o) A penalty of 2 or 5 minutes must be served by the penalized player or by a player designated by the team, where the penalized player incurs an additional game ejection as a result of the nature of the original infraction.
 - (p) A suspended player must not be permitted to participate in his team's pre-game warm-ups nor to stand on his team's bench during games. Violations of this regulation shall be dealt with as in (d) above.
 - (q) Suspensions carry over from the summer season to gymnasium season and from minor leagues to senior leagues, and from division to division. For example, a ten game suspension is given at the end of the summer season, therefore a player has a ten game suspension in gymnasium and a ten game suspension in the next summer season.
 - (r) A suspended player who incurs an infraction during the portion (whole or in part) of a game for which he is ineligible shall be assessed an additional 10-game suspension.
 - (s) A player or team official who is suspended cannot officiate (on or off the surface, i.e., including timekeeping) in any OBHA games while under suspension.

INFRACTION	TIME OF PENALTY	MINIMUM ADDITIONAL PENALTY
Any minor	2 minutes	none
3 penalties in 1 game	2/5/10 minutes delayed penalty when a goal is scored	game ejection
Any major	5 minutes	none
Major for high-stick, slash or cross-check	5 minutes	game ejection & 1 game suspension
2 majors in a game	5 minutes	game ejection
Misconduct	10 minutes	none
2 misconducts	10 minutes	game ejection & 1 game suspension
Game ejection	none	none
Game misconduct	10 minutes	game ejection & 1 game misconduct
Gross misconduct	10 minutes	game ejection & 2 game suspension
Match Penalty	5 minutes	game ejection & 5 game suspension
Fighting	5 minutes	game ejection & 5 game suspension
Fighting-instigator/aggressor	5 minutes	game ejection, 2 minute minor, 5 game suspension and additional 2 game suspension
Fighting-retaliation if aggressor is called	5 minutes	game ejection
Third man in	10 minutes	game ejection & 5 game suspension
First player off bench during altercation	5 minutes	game ejection & 5 game suspension
Any other players off players' bench	5 minutes	game ejection
Fighting off surface	10 minutes	game ejection & 5 game suspension
Verbal abuse of an official	match	game ejection & 5 game suspension
Verbal threats of abuse of an official	match	game ejection & life suspension
Hitting official physically or with equipment or any other object	match	game ejection & life suspension
NOTE: Life suspensions carry an automatic five year minimum suspension. After five years, a review may be requested by the individual suspended. This cause also applies to life suspensions incurred to date.		

18/

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of a minimum three members.

a) Duties

The Disciplinary Committee shall review all disciplinary cases or incidents incurred by players or persons involved in the function or playing of a game, with written reports of offending person's past and present conduct. All past history of a person's playing or performance at other functions within the OBHA shall be taken into consideration when making decisions on disciplinary matters. The committee shall use the OBHA Women's Regulations as a guideline.

All meetings should be held as soon after the infraction occurs so that any suspensions or disciplinary action can be enforced promptly.

b) Procedure

All disciplinary cases shall be recorded and kept on record so as to be available to all Committee members. All members of the OBHA's Women's division shall have the right to present their version of any disciplinary action taken against them. Such interpretation shall be in written form and presented to the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee. The written version shall be reviewed by Committee members and read aloud so everyone concerned shall have full knowledge of the involved person's interpretation. In turn, the official rules shall be interpreted by the Committee and communicated to the person(s) being disciplined or reprimanded.

c) Voting and Action

The Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee shall present all suspensions to Committee members to vote on. Additional suspensions shall be based on the severity of penalties incurred, past and present. Any Committee member involved in the accused person's infractions as a referee or as a player shall carry no vote on the final decision. However, that member shall have the right to interpret their version of the infraction.

The final decisions made by vote, by the Committee members shall be recorded by the Chairman. Suspensions or fines shall become effective immediately.

d) Appeals

1. Any player who feels aggrieved with regard to her status with a team/league may appeal her situation to the Women's Board of Directors.

2. Appeals of suspensions of over five games must be made within 48 hours of the penalty and must be accompanied by a deposit of \$250.00/individual; \$350.00/team; or \$500.00/league to the OBHA office. Said appeal will be heard by the Disciplinary Committee at its next meeting.

3. Suspensions of five games or less cannot be appealed.

4. All suspensions must be honoured regardless of pending appeals, i.e., a player must serve that portion (or all) of suspension if the appeal date is not prior to her next scheduled game.

5. Decisions made by the Disciplinary Committee may be appealed to the OBHA Board of Directors. The appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of \$50.00 and a written explanation as to why the Disciplinary Committee's decision was unjust. The OBHA Board of Directors has the right to refuse the appeal if it feels that the grounds are not valid.

6. Deposits accompanying appeals may be kept by the OBHA Board of Directors if the Appeal is disallowed.

e) Frequency of Meetings - Disciplinary Committee meetings shall be held as required.

19/

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Provincial Championship seeds will be granted to leagues in the following manner:

1-6 teams	1 team
7-12 teams	2 teams
13 teams & over	3 teams

Each league must arrange its playoff or regular season championship so that it will have its designated team(s) ready to participate in the Provincial Championships. The granted seeds will pay \$200 participation fee. Additional seeds will pay \$400. The leagues may charge teams at their discretion. Leagues are to provide OBHA office, the number of teams and the division that intend to participate in the Provincial Championship by July 1st.

Each league must have one designated team participate at the Provincial Championships in either A/B or Master's.

All leagues of 8 teams or less per division are permitted to enter a compiled team of players in that division in the Provincial B/C Championships. Leagues with divisions of more than 8 teams must enter their league team are entitled to pick-up 4 players plus a goalie. Leagues offering individual registration may qualify 'all star' teams at the 'A', 'B/C' or Master's division of play.

Leagues offering team entries of 8 or more teams must enter their league team and are entitled to "pick up" 4 players plus a goalie from the same level or lower within their league for all OBHA sanctioned events.

All leagues entering a team in the Master's Provincial Championship are permitted to enter 'all star' teams from players registered in their league. Two leagues of 8 teams or less can combine to enter one Masters team.

Two leagues of 8 teams or less can combine to enter one A level team.

12 player rules must be strictly enforced for submitted roster sheets and for players on the bench prior to the start of games.

Provincial Eligibility: Players must participate in 25% of their league games in the league and division they play. League executive can request exceptions to the 25% rule from the OBHA office and Women's Chair for: medical, work, school or proxy (out of country). Requests must be made two weeks prior to the deadline for submitting team rosters. NEW: Only four players who have played on a Women's A Provincials team can play on a B Provincials team. No players who have played on a Women's A Provincials team can play on a C Provincials team. Exceptions can be made by applying to the Women's Chair, 3 weeks prior to the roster submissions deadline. Applications shall include player profiles. The Women's Chair shall poll leagues prior to granting exceptions.

Provincial, (National) roster sheets. League teams as well as All Star teams must submit their tournament rosters including pick-ups where applicable) and level of play to their own league executive 1 week prior to tournament deadline. League executives will approve and sign off, prior to forwarding to the OBHA office. No teams shall be scheduled for play without "signed off" roster sheets.

There are to be NO LAST MINUTE additions to any provincial rosters (except for goaltenders) unless in the event of an injury to either or both goaltenders prior to the start of the tournament a player addition/deletion will be permitted. NEW: Teams not having a goaltender should an emergency arise after rosters are submitted, may pick-up a goalie from an equal or lower level team, even if doing so results in the goaltender being double rostered.

The wrist band policy must be strictly enforced with referees checking the wrist bands prior to each game and on the players' benches ONLY.

Any league that fails to send a team to Provincials once they have committed that team to attending will be required to pay \$250.00 to the OBHA, if they have cancelled within 14 days or less of the Provincials. If a team from anywhere in Ontario is found to replace that originally committed team, the \$250.00 will not have to be paid.

- a) No 'A' level teams can participate in the 'B' division at the provincial championships.
- b) Teams competing at the B level will only be allowed to carry one AAA player on their regular roster and will not be allowed to pick up any AAA players for provincial play
- c) All players participating in the B division provincial final, excluding pickups, will be moved to the A division provincials the following year or a maximum of four (4) players from that winning team can play together at the B division the following year
- d) All competing team roster forms must be into the office two weeks prior to the provincial championships with a non-refundable registration fee. A further penalty will be assessed if a team withdraws after this deadline.
- e) All teams in the Provincial Championships are entitled to "pick-up" an additional 4 players plus a goalie from their same league and from the same level or lower for all OBHA sanctioned events.
- f) No team is eligible to compete in the Ontario Championships which has not participated in league competition during the season.

To file a protest it must be accompanied by a deposit of \$250.00. In the event that the appeal is successful all monies will be refunded.

Only 'B' and Master's registered players may roster to play in both levels at provincial events. A player must play at

least one round robin game in order to qualify for any elimination/play-off game.

20) NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

- a) Teams from centers of 8 or more teams that wish to participate at the National Qualifier shall be allowed to pick up four (4) players and a goalie, as per Provincial rules.
- b) Teams from centers of 7 teams or less that wish to participate at the National Qualifier shall be allowed to put together all star teams.
- c) Should any of the teams, as per above, qualify for Nationals, they will be required to have 75% of the roster participate at Nationals

21/ ARENA

In the event that arena damage can be attributed to an OBHA team, its players or its fans, such team shall be assessed the expenses and the OBHA Disciplinary Committee shall review the incident for further possible disciplinary action. Leagues must comply with facility rules.

22/ INSURANCE

As a member of the Ontario Ball Hockey Association, each team is covered with limited dental and medical insurance. Should an injury of this nature occur, the team must contact the OBHA immediately so that the proper forms can be sent to the OBHA office.

24/ OFFICIATING

There will be representation at the provincial championships of officials from all the competing teams to assist in the sign-in, confirmation of ID and wrist band process in order to ensure credentials are properly checked.

25/ SUGGESTIONS

The OBHA Board of Directors are committed to operating the best ball hockey association possible and welcomes all suggestions, opinions and observations from the players and teams alike. Viewpoints should be submitted in writing to the OBHA office.