



## HOUSE LEAGUE RULES 2009 - 2010

### TEAMS AND DEFAULTS

- 1 (a) A team shall normally consist of 16 players including 1 goalie. This number may be changed at the discretion of the board of directors.
- (b) No one, except for properly equipped players and designated coaches registered with the Forest Hill Hockey Association is allowed on the team bench or in the penalty box during the game. All non-players under the age of 18 on the bench must wear a properly fastened CSA-approved helmet and facemask.
- 2 (a) A team must have 6 properly dressed players ready to play each game (5 players & 1 goalie is preferred but not required. A team may play a game with 6 skaters, excluding the goaltender). If a coach is aware prior to the game that the team's goalie is unable to attend a game the coach shall notify the Convener who will instruct the coach as to arranging for a substitute goalie for the game.
- (b) If one team cannot fulfill the requirements outlined in 2(a), the game shall be forfeited to the opposing team and the records will show the score as 1-0.
- (c) If both of the teams cannot fulfill the requirements outlined in 2(a), both teams shall forfeit the game. The records will show the score, as 0-0 and no points will be awarded in the league standings.
- (c) In the event of forfeiture by one or both teams, the Convener, in consultation with referee(s) present shall decide whether or not a scrimmage or practice shall take place instead of the scheduled game.
- (d) Rule No. 2 must be enforced by the Convener uniformly, consistently and equally with all teams within the division at all times.
- 3 Game sheets shall be completed by the Convener in each division prior to each game. At the completion of all games, timekeepers must attain the signature of the referee(s) on the game sheet verifying its content. Signed game sheets should be returned to the conveners.
- 4 Players who miss more than three (3) games owing to conflicting commitments (eg- other sports or activities) may risk suspension without refund. Such players may also be denied re-registration for the following season, so that more dedicated players will get the opportunity to play. Select players who neglect their commitment to house league will not be allowed to play in select games. Prior to any suspension being assessed, the V.P. of the division must be consulted. Players, who face possible suspension, must have their case brought to the attention of the board of directors. The board is authorized and responsible to make the final decision on any suspension under the attendance guideline.

- 5 If in the opinion of the Convener, there is a significant imbalance among teams in the division, then, with the consent of the applicable House League Vice President, a trade or trades among the teams may be made.

## **GAME RULES**

- 6 House League games are played as per Hockey Canada & Forest Hill Hockey rules. Where a conflict exists between these two, Forest Hill rules shall take precedence.
- 7 The length of the game shall be of such duration as the Executive has determined before the commencement of the season. If faced with a shortage of time during any game, the Convener may shorten that game by reducing the length of the game prior to the start of any period, provided the Convener advises both coaches of his decision. The responsibility for shortening a game lies solely with the Convener
- 8 In divisions where running time is in effect, at the discretion of the convener, the last two minutes of all games shall be stop time if the score is tied or if there is a two-goal or less differential with two minutes remaining in the game. If during the final two minutes the losing team reduces the lead to 2 goals the balance of the game shall be stop time.

### **9 Equal Ice Time Rule and Substitutions**

(a) It is a fundamental principal of the Forest Hill Hockey Association that every player is to be given equal ice time regardless of ability. **DURING EVERY HOUSE LEAGUE GAME, AND EVERY PLAYOFF GAME INCLUDING THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME EVERY PLAYER IS TO RECEIVE EQUAL ICE TIME.**

(b) **FORWARD/DEFENSE SPLITS**

Prior to the beginning of each game coaches are to establish forward/defense splits based upon the following chart:

- 15 skaters - 9 forwards, 6 defense
- 14 skaters - 8 forwards, 6 defense or 9 forwards and 5 defense
- 13 skaters - 8 forwards, 5 defense
- 12 skaters - 7 forwards, 5 defense
- 11 skaters - 7 forwards, 4 defense
- 10 skaters - 6 forwards, 4 defense

Once the correct split is established the forwards and defense are to be separately numbered and shifts are to be allocated by rotating through the forwards and defense in order. For instance with 8 forwards the shifts would be 1,2,3 then 4,5,6 then 7,8,1, then 2,3,4 then 5,6,7 and 8,1,2 etc. It is **NOT ACCEPTABLE** to play 2 CENTERS between 3 PAIRS OF WINGERS.

- (c) Teams with more than one goalie may with the consent of all of the goalies elect either play half of each game or play alternate games. This rule shall apply in both the regular season and playoff games provided that in a championship game the goalies shall split the game equally. It is an allowable exception to this rule that if one or more of the goalies has played out in those games that he is not the designated goalie and that goalie agrees to play out in the championship game then the remaining goalie may play the entire game in net. It is the intention of this rule that all players participate in championship games.
- (d) In all buzzer divisions, penalized players shall return to the bench immediately upon the expiration of their penalty. The player shall then resume his/her numbered position in the team's rotation. No player shall be double shifted as result of a penalty.

- (e) If the referee stops play due to an injury, that player must return to the bench and be replaced by the next player in the rotation. In the buzzer divisions, if the replacement player plays less than 1 minute, than that player stays on the ice for his regular shift. If he plays one minute or longer, than he must come off the ice at the end of the shift. If the injured player returns the injured player shall be reinserted into his/her position in the rotation.
- (f) The equal ice time rule shall apply during all regular season and playoff house league games.
- (g) While in a change on the fly division precise equality is impossible to achieve or monitor each player should receive an equal number of shifts and coaches are to use their best efforts and good faith to attempt to ensure that players receive approximately the same amount of ice time in keeping with the intent and spirit of the rule.

**Enforcement of Equal Ice Time Rules**

**Coaches will initially be warned of violations of the foregoing rules. If violations continue the Convener may call a bench penalty to be served by the player receiving the extra ice time. In the event of repeated offenses the Convener in consultation with the applicable Vice President, House League will recommend such additional penalty as they deem appropriate, which may include suspension or permanent removal of the offending coach(es). The F.H.H.A. Executive Board must approve any such penalty.**

- 10 The responsibility of stopping the clock for an injury, or for equipment or rink maintenance, shall lie primarily with the referee in charge of the game.
- 11 The referees are in charge of the playing of every game and their decisions shall be final. If an explanation of a rule interpretation is desired after the game, the team coach will discuss the same with the Convener. If the convener considers the issue appropriate, he will discuss it with the referees in charge, or alternatively, with the referee-in-chief. Such discussion and/or explanation are limited to rule interpretation only and no discussion of judgment calls (i.e. offsides, icings, penalties) may be initiated.
- 12 There shall be no undue discussion initiated by any team member with any game official.
- 13 Exchanging a goalie for another skater during the game will be considered an illegal substitution with these exceptions:
  - (i) In the final shift of the game, the player replacing the goalie may be any player from the bench. A coach may only pull the goalie if their team is losing or if not scoring a goal would eliminate the team from the playoffs. The goalie must be re-inserted into the game if they score and they are no longer losing or in danger of being eliminated from the playoffs.
  - (ii) Where the opposition is in the process of being assessed a penalty.

If an infraction occurs, the referee shall stop play when the offending team gains possession of the puck. The resulting faceoff will take place in the offending team's zone.

**PENALTIES**

- 14 Body checking is banned in all House League divisions. Any player intentionally body checking an opponent shall be assessed a minor penalty. Depending on the severity of the body check, the referee may assess a major penalty + game misconduct, or alternatively, a match penalty.

15 Penalty duration for players in various divisions shall be managed in the following manner:

Penalty Duration			
	Buzzer Div	Change on Fly Stop Time	Change on Fly Running Time
Minor	Duration of Shift	2 minutes	3 minutes
Major / Match	Duration of shift*	5 minutes*	7 minutes*
Misconduct	10 minutes	10 minutes	12 minutes
Gross Misconduct	Game Ejection	Game Ejection	Game Ejection
Game Misconduct	Game Ejection	Game Ejection	Game Ejection

\* Player receiving major or match penalty is ejected from the game. Substitute must serve major or match.

- 16 In the event of coincidental penalties, teams shall not, in respect thereof, play shorthanded.
- 17 Any player who receives two major penalties in any one game shall automatically receive a game misconduct penalty and an additional one game suspension.
- 18 Any player who receives a 10-minute misconduct with less than four minutes remaining in the third period shall automatically receive an additional one-game suspension.
- 19 (a) Any player assessed a major penalty for fighting and a game misconduct and shall be sent immediately to the dressing room and be assessed an automatic one game suspension. Either the Chief Referee or the Convener may direct that the Discipline Committee be convened to consider whether an additional penalty is appropriate.
- (b) Where a player receives a second major penalty for fighting under Rule 19(a) in the same season, he shall be suspended for 3 games and the matter shall be referred to the Discipline Committee to determine whether an additional penalty is appropriate.
- 20 Any player who receives a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed a one-game suspension.
- 21 Any player or team official who receives a gross misconduct penalty shall automatically receive an additional one-game suspension and the matter shall be referred to the Discipline Committee to consider whether a further penalty is appropriate.
- 22 Any coach who is ejected from a game shall be required to leave the bench area and shall be suspended for an additional game. The coach may be subject to additional disciplinary action, as warranted.
- 23 The incident will be reviewed by the Convener, Referee In Chief, and the game officials involved. The Referee in Chief shall inform the appropriate Vice President, House League of the incident. The House League Vice Presidents after consultation shall determine whether any additional action is warranted.

- 24 A match penalty, which carries an automatic one-game suspension, will be assessed against any player who:
- (i) Verbally threatens the personal safety of a game official;
  - (ii) deliberately attempts to injure another player, coach or spectator;
  - (iii) while not on the ice surface, engages in any dangerous or unsportsmanlike behavior such as, but not limited to, fighting, stick swinging or threatening of any spectator or game participant.
  - (iv) commits any action that, under the Hockey Canada rules, requires a match penalty being assessed.
  - (vi) The Chairman of the Referee and Rules committee shall inform the Chairman of the Discipline Committee of any match penalty. The latter will, in turn, call a mandatory discipline hearing where the Discipline Committee may assess a further suspension.
- 25 (a) For the Squire, Novice and Atom Divisions only, where the buzzer system is in effect:  
If a major penalty is assessed along with a game misconduct, a substitute player, who was on the ice at the time of the infraction, shall proceed directly to the penalty box and remain there for the rest of the penalized players shift. The penalized team must play shorthanded for only the time remaining in the shift in which the penalty was originally assessed. The team may play at full strength for the next shift. If the team on the power play scores a goal while the substitute player is still serving the major penalty, this player shall remain in the penalty box until the shift ends.
- (b) No player may double-shift solely because of a major penalty being assessed himself or his teammate.
- 26 Where an infraction that, under these rules, might require a suspension to be assessed, a Convener may, if witness to the infraction, initiate a Discipline Committee hearing, in consultation with the house league vice president. The Convener must submit a game report, in writing, to the Discipline Committee as is practical. The Committee shall proceed with a hearing in a manner set forth in these Rules.
- 27(a) Where a player is suspended, the suspension takes effect immediately after that game in which the infraction occurred. The player shall not be allowed to participate in any league-sanctioned games or practices, including Select games until the suspension is terminated. For select players, they are suspended from a number of select game(s) equal to the number of house league game(s) determined by the suspension.
- (b) "Participate" shall be deemed to mean playing, coaching, managing, timekeeping, scoring or refereeing any Forest Hill Hockey Association House League or Select game or practice (whether at Forest Hill Arena or not).
- 28 Any player who incurs a suspension of longer than two games that cannot be served because of the completion of the current season, must serve the remainder of the suspension at the beginning of the following season.
- 29 Infractions of Select game rules resulting in a player or team official receiving a gross misconduct or match penalty shall be automatically referred to the Select Committee Chairman who, in turn, will refer the incident to the Chairman of the Discipline Committee who shall, at his discretion, order a Discipline Committee hearing to determine if a suspension is in order.
- 30(a) The Convener is responsible for the implementation of suspensions, including notification to the player, coach and Vice President, Select, if applicable.
- (b) Where a player is serving a suspension, he shall not have the privilege of occupying his team bench during his team's games for the duration of the suspension.
- (c) The responsibility for enforcement of this rule lies with the Convener of the League and not with the referees. However, where the Convener is unable to enforce Rule 27(b), the referee shall have the right to order the removal from the bench of any player who is under suspension.

## **DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE**

- 31(a) The purpose of the Discipline Committee is to deal with discipline matters relating to FHHA player discipline.
- (b) Discipline Committee shall be chaired by a person appointed by the Board. The Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President House League for the division of the player who is the subject of the hearing, Referee in Chief, and the Chairman. A quorum of the Discipline Committee shall consist of at least 3 members. In the event that a member(s) of the Discipline Committee is unable to attend the hearing or has a conflict of interest the President may appoint a replacement member for the hearing in order to ensure a quorum.
- (d) If at all possible, any discipline hearing shall take place prior to the next scheduled house league game. Notice of the hearing date shall be given in writing and delivered to the home of the player involved.
- (e) The committee shall determine procedure at Discipline Committee hearings. The hearing shall be conducted informally. The person concerned may attend with representation however the Committee may proceed in the person's absence if they do not attend. The Committee may call any witness to the infraction and receive all reasonably reliable information that, in their opinion, may be helpful in coming to a decision.

## **GENERAL**

- 32 The Board of Directors shall have the sole discretion to exceptions to the provisions of these Rules in appropriate circumstances.
- 33 If, for some reason, problems or protests arise due to unforeseen circumstances not covered by these Rules, the Convener shall listen to both sides of the discussion after the game and make a decision. If the decision of the Convener is not satisfactory to either party, the complaint can be forwarded in writing by such to the Vice President – House League for the division who may attempt to resolve the dispute failing which it shall be referred to the Board of Directors whose decision shall be final.