

Overview

As one of the 13 Members of Hockey Canada, the governing body of amateur hockey in Canada, Hockey Northwestern Ontario is committed to offering the best development programs. Hockey Canada and its Members have invested significant resources in the development of officials, coaches, administrators, and players countrywide. We have a committed strategy toward a cohesive long-term athlete development model, and we feel our programs are second to none in sport.

Despite, or perhaps because of, our success in delivering quality programming throughout the Branch, other organizations operating outside our structure form Leagues, Teams or operate Programs from time to time that offer various levels of amateur hockey programming. These “non-sanctioned” Leagues, Teams or Programs do not support the development of Hockey Canada or Member programs. Further, they operate with limited, or no consideration to the impact of their programs on minor, junior, senior, adult recreational hockey, officiating development, coaching development, or administrator development in Canada. These Non-Sanctioned Leagues, Teams or Programs, choose in many instances, to utilize resources already developed by Hockey Canada and its Members.

Because these Non-Sanctioned Leagues, Teams & Programs operate outside of our structure, Hockey Northwestern Ontario has no way of ensuring that those Leagues, Teams or Programs implement many of the fundamental safeguards inherent in Hockey Canada programs. As a result, those Leagues, Teams or Programs may not be using the same Playing Rules and Programs that Hockey Canada has implemented to protect player safety and may not provide adequate insurance for their participants. We also cannot ensure that the quality of play in these Leagues, Teams or Programs matches the level advertised.

Hockey Northwestern Ontario respects the right of every individual to choose between participating in a Hockey Canada sanctioned League, Team or Program or a Non-Sanctioned League, Team or Program. At the beginning of each hockey season, every individual who makes the choice to participate in a Non-Sanctioned League, Team or Program, however, must understand the ramifications of that choice.

Consequences of Supporting or Participating in a Non-Sanctioned League or Team

1. HNO will implement the Hockey Canada “Non-Sanctioned League Policy” and in addition has strengthened the application of that policy as set out below.
2. Any individual who Participates in a Non-Sanctioned League or Team, or any HNO Hockey Association which supports such a League or Team, is subject to the following consequences:
 - a. Any individual who Participates in a Non-Sanctioned League or Team after the Cut-Off Date will lose all privileges with Hockey Northwestern Ontario for the remainder of that season, and, subject to paragraph (c) below, may only apply for the reinstatement of those privileges after the end of that season.
 - b. HNO will make every effort to ensure that HNO Hockey Associations in areas where Non-Sanctioned Leagues or Teams exist are not supporting these Leagues or Teams in any manner whatsoever regardless of the date these Leagues or Teams operate. For greater certainty, “supporting” includes, but is

not limited to, assisting a Non- Sanctioned League or Team directly or indirectly through advertisement, promotion, ticket sales, volunteer activities, assigning Officials, sharing resources, or enabling such a League or Team to participate in Hockey Canada sanctioned activities. HNO will withhold tournament sanctions and will preclude such associations from benefitting from any HNO sanctioned event.

- c. Notwithstanding the consequences listed in paragraph (a), anyone who Participates in a Non-Sanctioned League or Team after the Cut-Off Date is entitled to seek early reinstatement of their privileges within HNO by appealing to Hockey Canada's Non- Sanctioned Hockey Reinstatement Committee, which may grant early reinstatement if it is satisfied that special circumstances exist.
3. The consequences described in this section of this policy will remain in effect even if the Non- Sanctioned League or Team folds, or the Participant is released, suspended, or fired from that League or team.

Consequences of Supporting or Participating in a Non-Sanctioned Program

1. Any HNO Hockey Association, Executive of an HNO Hockey Association or HNO Team Staff who Participates in a Non-Sanctioned Program, during the HNO Season that is in conflict of an HNO Program is subject to the following consequences.
 - a. Suspension
 - b. Removal of all H.C. accreditation and qualifications

For greater certainty, "supporting or participating" includes, but is not limited to, participating, or assisting directly or indirectly through advertisement, promotion, ticket sales, volunteer activities, coaching, assigning Officials.

Policy Enforcement:

For HNO Hockey Associations

- Always

For Individuals:

- Starting September 1st and ending April 15th annually.

Approved by the Board of Directors: February 6, 2021 New Policy Reviewed: Annually
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