

**Tournament Participation**

1. AA Tournament of Champions will be held for U11, U13, U15, and U18 Divisions of play.
2. The Tournament will be open to Bona Fide AA teams and Special Affiliated AA teams from the East and West Zone as per the Special Affiliated AA team policy.
3. Participation in the AA Tournament of Champions is optional. Deadline for team registration is December 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. All teams entered must be in good standing with HNO.
5. An Entry Fee will be charged to U11 teams of twelve-hundred dollars (1200) and U13, U15, U18 a fee of fourteen-hundred dollars (1400).
6. Teams must pay for the Tournament of Champions at the time of registration. Cancellations received in writing before **December 15<sup>th</sup>**, will receive a full refund less a five-hundred-dollar (\$500) cancellation fee. There shall be no refunds after December 15<sup>th</sup>.
7. All teams must submit team rosters and numbers at the time of the registration.
8. All team coaches and safety persons must meet Regulation E. regarding Certification.
9. AA Tournament of Champions will take precedence over any other Tournaments, League, or Playoff games, does not apply to Specially Affiliated Teams.
10. HNO Carded High School teams are eligible for the U18 AA Tournament but are not permitted to use players older than those that qualify for U18 hockey in the current season.
11. Travel Permits are not required for the Tournament of Champions.

**Tournament Host**

1. **HNO will declare by April 1<sup>st</sup> if they will be hosting the Tournament of Champions.**
2. If HNO chooses to delegate a host for the tournament, associations wishing to host the Branch Championship must submit a hosting application by **June 1<sup>st</sup>**, preceding the event. The Minor Hockey Associations selected as the host locations will be required to put up a two hundred- and fifty-dollar (\$250) performance bond within thirty (30) days of being granted the event. Any association failing to fulfill its obligations as the host of the Tournament of Champions will forfeit the performance bond along with an additional seven hundred and fifty dollar (\$750) fine.
3. The HNO Minor Committee will select the Sites for the Tournament of Champions by July 1, preceding the event.
4. All Host Sites are responsible to send out team packages including arena maps, hotel information, and contact person for the host at least thirty (30) days before the event. HNO will provide a template package to use to create the team package.
5. All proposed schedules for the HNO Tournament of Champions must be approved by the Minor Committee and follow the HNO templates. Consideration should be given to those teams who must travel the farthest distance. Local teams may play games on the Thursday evening. The Minor Committee reserves the right to adjust the tournament schedule. Schedules must be submitted to the Minor Committee by February 1<sup>st</sup>. The Minor Committee will review the schedule within seven (7) days. The schedule must be provided to the participating teams no later than February 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **HNO Obligations**

1. Provide a list of teams and contact information for those that declare for the Tournament of Champions to the host association by December 5<sup>th</sup>.
2. Approve the tournament schedule within ten (10) days of February 1st.
3. Provide a template for the team packages before they are distributed.
4. Provide a Championship Trophy to the Winning Team for presentation and allow the team to keep the trophy until June 1<sup>st</sup>.
5. Provide a Championship Banner to the Winning Team on the ice after the championship game.
6. Provide Champion and Finalist Medallions for presentation at the conclusion of the tournament.
7. Ensure an HNO Director or Appointee will be present at the event.

## **Host Association Obligation**

1. Submit a two hundred and fifty-dollar (\$250) performance bond within thirty days of being awarded the event which will be forfeited if obligations are not met.
2. Collect payments from declared teams by December 15<sup>th</sup>.
3. Send out a team package at least thirty (30) days before the event.
4. Submit the schedule based on the HNO templates by February 1<sup>st</sup> for approval.
5. Send out the event schedule by February 15<sup>th</sup>.
6. Secure and pay for all ice time used.
7. Schedule and pay all on and off ice officials for the event.
8. Must guarantee sufficient accommodations are available for out-of-town teams.
9. Financially responsible for prizing for Consolation winning teams.
10. Financially responsible for player of the Game Awards.
11. Opening & Closing Ceremonies (if applicable).
12. Any Banquets or other events associated with the tournament.
13. Consistent communication with HNO's Executive Director and Zone Director leading up to and including during the event.

Approved by the Board of Directors: August 15, 2023.

Replaces: October 1, 2022.

Reviewed: Annually.