



# SUDBURY PLAYGROUND HOCKEY LEAGUE (SPHL)

## CONSTITUTION and BY- LAWS 2021-2022

### Table of Contents

I.	Name	.....	2
II.	Mission Statement	.....	2
III.	Mandate	.....	2
IV.	Code of Conduct	.....	3
V.	Organization Structure	.....	6

### SPHL By-Laws

I.	Duties of Officers	.....	7
II.	Election of Officers	.....	9
III.	Voting Members	.....	9
IV.	Team Officials (coaches, assistant coaches and manager)	.....	10
V.	Officials	.....	11
VI.	Eligibility	.....	11
VII.	Playing Rules and Regulations	.....	14
VIII.	Score Sheets	.....	16
IX.	Equipment and Team Colors	.....	17
X.	Cancelled or Defaulted Games, Protests and Appeals	.....	18
XI.	Playoff Structure and Rules	.....	20
XII.	Penalties different from the Hockey Canada Rule Book	.....	22
XIII.	General Provisions & Refund Policy	.....	22
XIV.	Suspension & Disciplinary Guidelines	.....	23
XV.	Police Cup Tournament Structure and Rules	.....	26
XVI.	COVID-19 Extenuating Circumstances By-Laws	.....	27

# SUDBURY PLAYGROUND HOCKEY LEAGUE CONSTITUTION

## I. Name:

This organization shall be known as the Sudbury Playground Hockey League (S.P.H.L.).

## II. Mission Statement:

To provide a wholesome hockey experience for the players, team officials, league officials, parents/guardians, and spectators.

## III. Mandate:

1. The SPHL's governing body, also known as The Executive Committee will provide a forum for raising and addressing concerns brought forth by Park Presidents and oversee the daily operations of the SPHL organization.
2. The Executive Committee will convene, administer, and implement regulations for: Mickey Mouse, Tyke, Novice, Atom, Peewee, and Bantam within The Greater City of Sudbury.
3. The Executive Committee will to the best of its abilities promote honourable standards of behaviour and will make every effort to ensure the full safety of its participants.
4. The Executive Committee will advise, support, and/or enforce any disciplinary issues which compromises the well-being of SPHL's officials, team officials, playground park members, and players. All SPHL participants have the right to participate in a safe environment.
5. The Executive Committee has implemented a Code of Conduct as a guideline to ensure a good example is honoured by anyone affiliated with the SPHL.
6. The SPHL Executive Committee reserves the right to suspend or ban participants, coaches, spectators, etc. for conduct deemed detrimental to the league.

#### **IV. Code of Conduct:**

The Code of Conduct identifies the standard of behaviour which is expected of all SPHL members and participants. Sportsmanship, fair play, good citizenship, friendly competition, enjoyment and full participation for all team members shall be our highest priorities.

##### **Executive Committee Members:**

- Shall make available on the official website information relevant to SPHL participants;
- Shall aim to do our best to ensure all players are given the same chance to participate, regardless of gender, ability, ethnic background or race;
- Shall aim to make certain that the age, maturity, and hockey ability of the player are considered in determining division status, disciplinary actions, and game/practice scheduling;
- Shall ensure that coaches and officials are promoting fair play as well as developing the player's skill.
- In the event of any serious infractions/ violations/ abuses/ misconducts/ travesties or any other transgressions during the game, by the players, coaching staff or spectator(s), an Executive Committee Member has the right to stop the game. Any disciplinary actions will be discussed by the Executive Committee at a later date.

##### **Park Presidents/Park Committee Members:**

- Shall ensure the financial and conservation sustainability of their respective parks;
- Shall act as liaison between coaches, parents/guardians, and players in relation to the Executive Committee Members;
- Shall be responsible for any disciplinary matters regarding members associated with their respective park;
- Shall be responsible for any financial challenges incurred due to mismanagement of funds, low player enrolment, or any other issues which do not pertain to the SPHL as a whole or other parks;
- Shall ensure that coaches and park representatives are promoting fair play as well as developing the player's skill;
- Shall be responsible for team jerseys and/or any hockey equipment required by a player assigned to their playground.

### **Coaches/Team Officials:**

- Shall instill in their players the importance of respecting the officials, teammates, opposing players, and the rules;
- Shall ensure that players are treated equally by means of instruction, encouragement, and fair playing time;
- Shall ensure that players are outfitted with proper essential equipment and any defective equipment may result in the player not participating in a game/practice;
- Shall not tease or berate players for making mistakes or for playing poorly;
- Shall make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the players' ages and abilities;
- Shall remember that participants need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise, control my temper, and set a good example;
- Shall work in cooperation with officials for the benefit of the game.

### **Officials:**

- Shall make sure that every player has a reasonable opportunity to perform to the best of his or her ability, within the limits of the rules;
- Shall avoid or put an end to any situation that threatens the safety of the players;
- Shall maintain a healthy atmosphere and environment for competition;
- Shall not permit the intimidation of any player either by word or by action;
- Shall not tolerate unacceptable conduct toward myself, other officials, players or spectators;
- I will be consistent and objective in calling all infractions, regardless of my personal feeling toward a team or individual player;
  
- Shall handle all conflicts firmly but with dignity;
- Shall accept my role as a teacher and role model for fair play, especially with young participants;
- Shall remain open to constructive criticism and show respect and consideration for different points of view;
- Shall obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my officiating skills;
- Shall work in cooperation with the Executive Committee and coaches for the betterment of the league.

### **Players:**

- Shall play hockey because I want to, not just because others want me to play;
- Shall play by the rules of hockey and in the spirit of the game;
- Shall control my temper – fighting and “mouthing off” can spoil the activity for everybody;
- Shall respect my opponents;
- Shall do my best to be a true team player;
- Shall remember that winning isn't everything – that having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing my best are also important;

- Shall acknowledge all good plays/performances – those of my team and of my opponents;
- Shall remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.

### **Parents:**

- Shall not force my child to participate in hockey;
- Shall remember that my child plays hockey for his or her enjoyment, not for mine;
- Shall encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence;
- Shall teach my child that doing one's best is as important as winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game;
- Shall make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard;
- Shall never ridicule or yell at my child or any other child for making a mistake or losing a game;
- Shall remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good plays/performances by both my child's team and their opponents;
- Shall never question the officials' judgment or honesty in public;
- Shall support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's hockey games;
- Shall contact their Park President first before contacting the Executive Committee;
- Shall respect and show appreciation for all SPHL volunteers who give their time to ensure your child is able to play hockey.

### **Spectators:**

- Shall remember that participants play hockey for their enjoyment. They are not playing to entertain me;
- Shall not have unrealistic expectations. I will remember that players are not professionals and cannot be judged by professional standards;
- Shall respect the officials' decisions and I will encourage participants to do the same;
- Shall never ridicule a player for making a mistake during a game. I will give positive comments that motivate and encourage continued effort;
- Shall condemn the use of violence in any form and will express my disapproval in an appropriate manner to coaches and league officials;
- Shall show respect for my team's opponents, because without them there would be no game;
- Shall not use bad language, nor will I harass players, coaches, officials or other spectators.

## **V. Organization Structure:**

### **1. Membership:**

Membership is open to any Playground within the City of Sudbury, which is interested in supporting the purpose of this organization.

### **2. S.P.H.L. Executive Committee:**

a) There shall be an Executive Committee comprised of 7 officers, elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve for a two (2) year term.

b) The elected Executive Committee include the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Representative, Referee-In-Chief and Scheduler. The Past President will serve as an advisor to the league as a non-voting officer. In even years, the positions of Vice-President, Treasurer, Referee-In-Chief and Public Relations Representative will be elected; in odd years, the positions of President, Secretary, and Scheduler will be elected. Ad Hoc positions (voting positions) are to be filled by appointment: Division Conveners.

In addition, each playground having an active team at the beginning of the new season, and which is not represented in the existing Executive Committee or Ad Hoc positions (voting positions) must have a representative on the Executive by mid-October. These persons will act as Ad Hoc members (non-elected, non-voting) and will serve as playground representatives and assist in other areas as requested by the Executive Committee, to ensure a fully functioning league.

c) Any one Playground may not have more than (4) votes regardless of the number of representatives / positions on the Executive Committee.

d) The Executive Committee shall meet as often as they deem necessary during the hockey season and shall assume responsibility for the operation of the league. The Executive Committee will deal with all league business, including protests, suspensions and appeals.

e) The Executive Committee shall appoint any other Committee(s) that may be deemed necessary.

f) There shall be an "Officials Committee" appointed by the S.P.H.L. Executive Committee, and chaired by the Referee-In-Chief.

g) The SPHL Executive Committee reserves the right to suspend or ban participants, coaches, spectators, etc. for conduct deemed detrimental to the league.

**\*\*ALL DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHALL BE FINAL.\*\***

### **3. Meetings:**

a) A quorum for the purpose of conducting the business of the organization shall consist of:

- i. One-third of the eligible voting members at a General Meeting (GM) or Annual General Meeting (AGM)
  - ii. 50% plus one of the voting members at the Executive Committee meetings.
- b) There shall be an Annual General Meeting on or about the 15th of April each year, but no later than the end of April.

**Note\*** In circumstances beyond the Executive Committees control, the AGM may have to be postponed.

- c) General Meetings may be called at the discretion of the President.  
Only those items on the agenda will be dealt with at the Annual or General Meetings.

#### **4. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws:**

- a) Written proposals to amend the Constitution and/or By-Laws must be received 2 weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting by the President of the S.P.H.L. They shall be distributed prior to the Annual General Meeting to the Executive Committee and to those Playgrounds who will be sending voting delegates. These proposed amendments would be voted on at the Annual General Meeting.
- b) The Constitution can be amended by a two-thirds vote of the total voting members present at the Annual General Meeting.
- c) A By-Law can be amended or instituted by a majority vote of the total voting members present at any Annual, Executive or General Meeting.
- d) The constitution shall be given a general review every two years.
- e) All approved amendments to the S.P.H.L. "Constitution and By-Laws" will be included in the updated version of the document posted on the website, which will form the basis for the operation of the league for the following season.

## **SUDBURY PLAYGROUND HOCKEY LEAGUE BY-LAWS**

### **I. Duties of Officers:**

- 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and to ensure that all members and committees are performing their duties. In the absence of the President, this role will be carried out by the Vice-President.
- 2. The Past President will serve as an advisor to the Executive Committee in order to ensure some continuity from year to year in the operation of the S.P.H.L.
- 3. The Vice-President will assist the Scheduler and fulfill duties of President in his/her absence. (If the position of Scheduler is not filled, the Vice-President assumes that responsibility along with the Referee-In-Chief). The Vice-President shall be responsible for coordinating all disciplinary matters and the

issuing of all suspensions, in accordance with league rules and procedures. The Referee-In Chief shall provide rule interpretations regarding suspensions as required. The Vice-President shall have the power to suspend or take any other disciplinary action as may be deemed necessary against any player, coach or other team official in accordance with the league rules and by-laws. Any disciplinary decision made by the Vice-President shall remain in effect until the final disposition of any appeal.

4. The Secretary shall:
  - a) record the minutes of all Executive Committee, Annual and General Meetings.
  - b) update the Constitution and By-Laws for the following year.
  - c) perform administrative duties as assigned.

In the absence of the Secretary, this role will be appointed.

5. The Treasurer shall:
  - a) establish and maintain a bank account;
  - b) provide the general membership with an annual statement, that has been reviewed by the Executive Committee;
  - c) receive, record and deposit all monies. (Example: registration, protests, appeals, and bonds)
  - d) pay all invoices received or expenses incurred by the league (example: ice bills, office space)
  - e) process payroll and issue cheques to officials on a bi-weekly basis

6. The Public Relations Representative will be responsible for coordinating league communications, including media notices and league standings at least every 2 weeks.

7. The Referee-In-Chief will:

- a) organize a training program for officials
- b) keep records of referees and their levels
- c) receive, date and record all referees' game reports for presentation at next Executive Committee Meeting and advise President
- d) assign officials to all league, tournament and playoff games
- e) inform Playground Representatives and Division Conveners of any suspensions or rulings made by the Executive Committee

8. The Scheduler's duties include:

- a) scheduling ice time for practices, games, playoffs, etc., with help from the Vice-President.
- b) represent the S.P.H.L. at Ice Allocation meetings
- c) act as league contact to the city regarding all ice allocation issues



9. The Division Conveners shall be responsible for the following:

- i) check the players' list for eligibility, registration, and inform Coaches and Playground Representatives or Executive Committee of any discrepancies;
- ii) keep and record all player transfers once they are complete
- iii) keep a record of league standings during season
- iv) receive, date, record and file all score sheets / reports
- v) keep a record of coaches and their levels
- vi) keep a record of all suspensions issued to players and coaches
- vii) inform all Playground Representatives of all decisions pertaining to rule changes, by-laws and constitution amendments, results of protests and appeals and decisions affecting the teams, coaches and managers.

10. During the season members of the Executive Committee will monitor games wherever possible.

11. Executive Committee members will work on the Registration Committee. They will also be responsible for coordinating team formations in each division, in preparation for season start.

Before the commencement of league play, a general meeting will be held with the S.P.H.L. Executive Committee and Playground Presidents and Playground Representatives to allocate teams to willing playgrounds.

After playground team allocation a meeting of all team officials, playground representatives and Presidents must be called to review and discuss the S.P.H.L. Constitution and By-Laws, highlighting all important information for the upcoming season. At this time a completed coaches list can be drawn up and team lists will be distributed.

## **II. Election of Officers:**

1. The members of the Executive Committee, with the exception of the Past President as per constitution item IV. 2b, shall be elected at the AGM and shall assume office following the adjournment of the AGM.
2. Should an officer resign before the expiration of his/her term, the Executive Committee shall have the right to appoint a replacement to serve until the next AGM.
3. An individual must serve on the SPHL Executive Committee for at least one year before becoming President.

### **III. Voting Members:**

1. Each Playground icing a hockey team in the current year shall have a maximum of two voting delegates at the Annual General Meeting. They must be registered with the S.P.H.L. office prior to the commencement of the meeting. One of the voting delegates should be a member of the playground's executive.
2. The members of the Executive Committee shall each have a vote at any Annual or General Meeting. The President shall vote only to break a tie.
3. Any person attending a meeting in more than one capacity shall have one vote only.
4. Any one Playground may not have more than (4) votes regardless of the number of representatives / positions on the executive Committee.
5. In no case will a vote by proxy be accepted.

### **IV. Team Officials (Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Managers):**

1. All teams must register the names and contact information of their team officials by the last Friday in September to the Executive Committee.
2. All coaches of Tyke, Novice, Atom, Peewee and Bantam teams shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
3. Any team official or player displaying improper conduct will be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee.
4. Each playground executive is responsible for the conduct of the team officials they provide. If corrective action is required of team officials and cannot or will not be taken at the playground level, the Executive Committee will deal with such actions as they see fit.
5. All coaches and assistant coaches, including all bench staff, must provide a current police check certificate. Any volunteers under the age of sixteen (16) assisting with a team must be a registered player with the SPHL. These individuals are required to wear full equipment while on the ice and a helmet with cage when behind the bench. Any volunteers under the ages of sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) assisting with a team must be identified as a team official (see Item 1). These individuals are required to wear at a minimum, a helmet with a cage and hockey gloves while on the ice.

## V. Officials:

1. Officials should attend a Hockey Canada or Ontario Hockey Federation Clinic or SPHL clinic refresher each year in order to be able to be a referee or linesman in the S.P.H.L. Officials will be assessed by the Referee-In-Chief.
2. Game officials do not represent a Playground, but rather they represent the Executive Committee. Therefore, they must interpret and enforce the rules of the S.P.H.L. and the HOCKEY CANADA based on this fact.
  - a) SPHL officials must be 14 years of age or older as to the start of the hockey season;
  - b) Assignment of officials for games involving members of the official's family will be at the discretion of the Referee-In-Chief;
  - c) The Referee-In-Chief will assign officials to all league tournament and playoff games;
  - d) Games will be officiated using a two (2) referee system. However, in the event of referee shortage, illness, or scheduling conflicts, games might be officiated using a one (1) referee system;
  - e) Any official displaying improper conduct will be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive Committee.
3. Officials Pay Rates:

During the regular and playoff season, officials will be paid at the following rate:

Divisional Referee Fees are as such:

Tyke	.....	\$13.00 an hour
Novice	.....	\$17.00 an hour
Atom	.....	\$20.00 an hour
Peewee	.....	\$31.00 an hour
Bantam	.....	\$36.00 an hour

## VI. Eligibility:

The SPHL Executive Committee reserves the right to allocate players where necessary.

1. All persons wishing to participate in the S.P.H.L. must register at Central Registration time.
2. Each player must be registered with their age verified by one of the following:
  - a) Birth Certificate
  - b) Birth Registration Card
  - c) Lawyer's Affidavit
  - d) Baptismal Certificate (only if others are unavailable).

3. The Executive committee will place teams at playgrounds with an active executive capable of providing coaches, socks, jerseys and a properly maintained ice surface preferably with all required line markings.
  - b) Each player will remain with the team he/she is placed on unless approved by the Division Convener and the two coaches involved.
  - c) Any late addition to any team will be approved by the Division Convener and in accordance with the Executive Committee practices.
4. Prior to November 1st, the Division Convener will check game sheets for unregistered players to ensure the player has been properly registered and payment has been received by the S.P.H.L. Teams will forfeit all games that unregistered players have played in.
5. Any participating player who changes his/her residence after the season begins may continue to play with the same team until the end of the regular schedule and playoffs.
6. SPHL players are not permitted to play in any other league. The Executive Committee reserves the right to alter this at any time. If any unauthorized player is found to be participating in the league, that player will immediately be removed, and no refunds will be given. Any team using such a player shall forfeit those games in which that player participated.
  - a) An exception will be made for players who wish to play in the Sudbury and District High School League as long as they played in the SPHL the previous year. Suspensions from this league will also be honored. The Executive reserves the right to alter this decision at any time.

**NOTE\* During COVID-19 restrictions, players will not be allowed to play High School Hockey and participate in the SPHL at the same time.**

- b) “NO REP PLAYERS ARE PERMITTED IN THE SPHL.”  
If a REP player is found playing in the league, that player will immediately be removed and no refunds will be given. Any team using such a player shall forfeit those games in which that player participated.
7. All late registrations, after November 1st must be approved at the next Executive Committee meeting or by a quorum of Executive Committee members. The player cannot play until his/her late registration has been approved.
8. The S.P.H.L. schedule will include the following age divisions. In the event that a division has limited registration, consideration will be given by the Executive Committee to players to be allowed to participate as overage players in the division below:

Mickey Mouse players will be 4 or 5 years old  
Tyke players will be 6 or 7 years old and under  
Novice players will be 8 or 9 years old and under  
Atom players will be 10 or 11 years old and under  
Peewee players will be 12 or 13 years old and under  
Bantam players will be 14 to 16 years old and under

All ages will be determined as of December 31st of the current playing season.

9. Only when a team has fewer than 10 players (2 full lines) can a player from a lower division, within the same playground, be called up. A player can only be moved up a division 5 times throughout the regular season. No player shall be permanently moved up a division without permission from the Executive Committee. A player may only be called up during the regular season.  
Note: Such players must be noted on the score sheet for the games they play in.
10. Any team failing to comply with all eligibility rules shall forfeit all games played under this infraction. Such infractions will be ruled on with or without a protest as they become known to the Executive Committee.
11. Any player who for whatever reason is allowed to play as an over-aged player in a division with a lower aged designation needs approval to play, by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, prior to playing his/her first game. The Executive Committee approval may be reviewed at any time during the regular season or play-offs, upon just cause being shown. The player shall be identified on all game sheets as noted in Section IX, item 8.
12. All transfers from one playground to another playground must be approved by the Division Convener. Such transfers shall only be granted if the move is in the player's best interest and will not be detrimental to the league.
13. Special requests regarding players must be put in writing to the Division Convener and the League Secretary.
14. Players cannot be borrowed by one playground team from another playground team. The only exception would be for an exhibition game as agreed to by both coaches.
15. In the event a team with one goalie, loses that goalie due to unforeseen circumstances the coach must consult with the division convener to seek resolution to the issue.

## VII. Playing Rules and Regulations:

1. All playground teams shall observe the rules of the S.P.H.L. Tykes are encouraged to follow regular rules of hockey including calling offsides.
2. If a ruling is not covered by the S.P.H.L., then the HOCKEY CANADA rulebook will apply.
3. The S.P.H.L. will follow the “Zero Tolerance of Abuse of Officials Policy” as laid out by HOCKEY CANADA. The guidelines for this policy are under Rule 47 of the OHF Rule Book.
4. S.P.H.L. will pay all indoor ice times to The City of Sudbury.
5. The “home” team will have the choice of which end of the outdoor ice to defend at the commencement of the game.
6. The “home” team is responsible for providing the timekeeper and/or scorekeeper. The home team is responsible for supplying the official game puck and a watch for outdoor games.
7. All outdoor ice surfaces should be properly painted with the appropriate markings and all lines (blue lines, center line and goal lines) must extend up the sides of the boards. They must also ensure that the ice is clean, and the nets are in good repair.
8. Equal Play
  - a) Every dressed player must participate in each period (1st, 2nd and 3rd) of the game. The exception to this rule is the back-up goaltender and overtime periods in championship games.
  - b) All players on a team are to be given equal ice time as much as possible.
9. No player shall be cut from a team due to lack of hockey ability. If a player no longer participates on a team for any reason, the Division Convener must be notified.
10. All players must line up at the end of each game to exchange handshakes with the opposing team.
11. There shall be no body checking in any divisions, for indoor or outdoor games.
12. Suspensions are in effect for scheduled league games, playoffs and the S.P.H.L. tournament. Suspensions received from tournaments in other leagues will be enforced in the S.P.H.L.; suspensions given in S.P.H.L. games can be served in outside tournaments when confirmed by a game sheet of all the games played in that tournament. The S.P.H.L. Executive Committee will deal with all suspensions received in exhibition games.

13. One hour indoor games for all divisions will consist of a 10 minute Zamboni flood, two (2) stop-time periods of ten (10) minutes duration and one (1) stop-time period of twelve (12) minutes.  
When there is a 1 & 1/2 hour time slot, the game will consist of three stop time periods of thirteen (13) minutes duration. If the game has not been completed in the prescribed time, the game will be terminated when the buzzer sounds.
14. All outdoor games will consist of three (3) periods. Period lengths will be decided by the coaches involved PRIOR TO THE START OF THE GAME.  
Each period will be a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes in length and will be straight time.
15. A tied game will remain tied with no overtime to be played. Each team will receive one point.
16. Point System: win is worth 2 points; tie is worth 1 point; loss is worth 0 points.
17. Timeouts are not allowed in regular season games, only during a championship game will a team be allowed one 30 second timeout.
18. The League has the discretion to add or subtract the number of games and practices during the regular and playoff season.

Based on the number of teams in each division, the League has compiled a pragmatic yet flexible game to practice ratio to ensure that players receive adequate playing and practice experience.

Based on 6 Teams in each Division:

Novice	3 Games	to	1 Practice
Atom	4 Games	to	1 Practice
PeeWee	5 Games	to	1 Practice
Bantam	5 Games	to	1 Practice

Should a Division consist of 4 Teams, the ratio would involve:

3 Games to 1 Practice

Note: These ratios are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances and in compliance with the Facility Agreement with the City of Greater Sudbury.

**Pre-Emption-City:** “This permit may be pre-empted and terminated at any time in order that the City may use the Facility for a specific purpose, without liability to the City. Whenever possible, every effort will be made to give reasonable advance notice of pre-emption and termination”.

## VIII. Score Sheets:

1. A team may not list more than eighteen (18) players on the score sheet for any one game.
2. Team Roster
  - a) Only those players who are participating in the game should be placed on the score sheet. If the list is drawn up in advance, those players who are not present by the end of the first period must have their names scratched from the list by the Referee or Coach.
  - b) Between the first and second periods of all games, the officials will verify the players listed on the score sheet against those present for each team. A player showing up after the 1st period will be added to the score sheet.
  - b) Score sheets are to be signed by both coaches before the game and by the officials and timekeeper / scorekeeper after the game. The score sheet must include the specific game number assigned.
3. The score sheet for a postponed or re-scheduled game must show both the date played and the date that the game was originally scheduled.
4. Only the referee is permitted to write on the "Report" side of a score sheet.
5. The winning coach, or the "home" coach in the event of a tie, shall be responsible for turning in the score sheet to the division convenor within 7 days after the game has been played. Failure to do so will result in the team losing points earned in that game.
6. In a game where a Referee's Report is written, it will be the responsibility of the official to take the top page of the score sheet and give it to the Referee-In-Chief.
7. All over-age players fulfilling the criteria of Section VI, item 11 shall be duly identified on all score sheets in which he/she plays.



## **IX. Equipment and Team Colours:**

1. With regard to the protective equipment, the S.P.H.L. has adopted the same rulings as HOCKEY CANADA. Goalie masks must have throat protectors attached or any other C.S.A. approved throat protector.
2. All players must wear the following equipment:
  - a) C.S.A. approved face protection attached to the helmet, which will protect the area from the top of the forehead to the bottom of the chin.
  - b) C.S.A. approved neck protectors.
  - c) Mouth guard (optional). However, if worn, the player must wear it the way it was intended to be worn. If not, the official will penalize the player.
3. Regulation goal pads, pucks and sticks used in league play are to conform to the specifications in the Hockey Canada Rule Book.
4. Goal nets must have the mesh in place and properly attached to the frame for all indoor and outdoor games.
5. All goal nets will be on pins for Novice, Atom, Peewee, and Bantam. This will apply to indoor games only.
6. Teams shall be permitted to wear commercial advertising on the jerseys or equipment provided that the sponsor's name only appears at the back of the jersey in letters no more than (3) three inches high.
7. Team uniforms
  - a) Each playground has registered colors for its team uniforms and all jerseys worn in league and playoff games shall conform.
  - b) Should any team be unable to provide every player with a proper team jersey of the appropriate color, then any jersey may be worn by that player, which does not resemble, signify or is the same color as the team being played, and does not violate rule 7.
  - c) If a playground wishes to purchase jerseys, which deviate from their registered colors, special permission must be secured from the S.P.H.L. Executive Committee before the New jerseys are ordered.
  - d) It is up to the home team to change jerseys if team colors are similar enough to cause confusion to players or officials.

8. The Registered Team Colours are as follows:

Algonquin	(Red & Black)
Cedar Park	(White & Red)
Cedar Park Red Wings	(Black & Red)
Kivi Park	(Blue & White)
Lo-Ellen	(White & Purple)
McFarlane Lake	(Blue, Gold & White)
Westmount	(Green & White)

Playgrounds which have been defunct due to player enrolment or playground issues willing to be reinstated in the SPHL must put forth a petition to the Executive Committee Members and the existing Playground Park Presidents.

Any prior defuncted playground wishing to return to the SPHL must have their President and Committee Members meet with the SPHL's Executive Committee Members.

## **X. Cancelled or Defaulted Games, Protests and Appeals:**

1. Cancellation of an outdoor game must be made at least 48 hours in advance of the game, except in the case of inclement weather or a similar "Act of God". It is the responsibility of the "Home" team to notify their opponents and the Referee-In-Chief of the cancellation, giving as much lead-time as possible.
2. Cancellation of an indoor game must be made at least 1 month in advance of the game and may result in a forfeit unless a mutually acceptable arrangement can be made between the 2 scheduled teams. All changes must be first addressed by the Division Convenor.
3. Teams failing to comply with #2 above will be required to pay for their share of the ice time and officials.
4. In the case of a team defaulting a game without cause, team officials may be suspended by the S.P.H.L. Executive Committee. In addition, a fine of \$50.00 will be levied against the offending team.
5. Postponed games shall be re-scheduled by mutual agreement between the two teams. The home team will be responsible for notifying the Referee-In-Chief. If no agreement can be reached, the Executive Committee shall make a ruling.
6. Adequate time should be given at the end of the regular schedule to ensure that games missed due to weather conditions (or other reasonable delays) can be re-scheduled.

7. Failure of any Playground to ice a team consisting of at least six (6) players plus a goaltender by the start of the game will result in that team forfeiting the game.

**8. Protests:**

All game protests must be submitted in writing accompanied by a fifty-dollar (\$50.00) protest fee. THIS FEE MUST BE IN CASH OR CERTIFIED CHEQUE.

9. Any coach wishing to protest a game must submit his protest in writing to his Playground President and to the coach of the opposing team. If the Playground President judges the protest to be valid, he must submit the written protest to the Division Convener within 48 hours of the completion of the game. The protest fee must accompany the written protest at this time.

10. Once a protest has been filed with the division convener, the parties involved may participate in games which occur prior to a standing Executive Committee hearing meeting which will occur each Wednesday. Two (2) representatives of each team may be present and participate in the discussion if they so desire. Upon arriving at a decision, the Executive Committee will ensure that a team official from each team involved is notified by the Division Convener.

**11. Appeals:**

All appeals must be submitted in writing accompanied by a \$50.00 appeal fee within 48 hours after the Executive committee hearing decision. THIS FEE MUST BE IN CASH OR CERTIFIED CHEQUE.

12. Any coach wishing to appeal an Executive committee hearing decision must submit his appeal in writing to his Playground's President. If the Playground President judges the appeal to be valid, he must submit the written appeal to the Division Convener within 48 hours of the decision. The appeal fee must accompany the written appeal at this time.

13. Once the appeal has been filed with the division convener, the parties involved may not participate in games which occur prior to a standing Executive committee hearing meeting which will occur each Wednesday. Two (2) representatives of each team may be present and participate in the discussion if they so desire. Upon arriving at a final decision, the Executive Committee will ensure that a team official from each team involved is notified by the Division Convener.

14. Any suspension being appealed by a player or team official will be heard by the Executive committee during a standing Executive Committee hearing meeting which will occur each Wednesday. The player or team official cannot participate in games which occur before the standing meeting.

15. The SPHL stands by and respects all decisions made by our referees. The Referee-In-Chief monitors our referees and will attempt to provide top quality officiating for all league games.  
Comments or concerns in writing from players, coaches and/or spectators will be heard by the SPHL Executive Committee. The Referee-In-Chief will take appropriate action if the referee is not performing in a professional manner.
16. A referee's decision may not be protested; teams may appeal suspension length, player registration, etc. in accordance with S.P.H.L. Constitution and By-Laws, Hockey Canada Rule Book and OHF Guidelines.
17. Minimum suspensions of 3 games or less cannot be appealed.

## **XI. SPHL Playoff Structure and Rules:**

### **1. Playoff Berths:**

After the final league standings have been determined, playoff berths will be given to all teams. Ties will be broken by:

- i) The team with the most games won will be awarded the higher seed.
- ii) The team with the most wins in head to head games played will be given the higher seed.
- iii) If still tied, a Coin Toss will occur and the winner advances.

### **2. Round Robin Games:**

a) In divisions where there are 5 teams or less, a single round robin format will constitute the preliminary round. In divisions where there are 6 or more teams, a double round robin format will constitute the preliminary round. These divisions will be divided as follows:

6 teams – 3 teams in A and 3 teams in B

7 teams – 4 teams in A and 3 teams in B

8 teams – 4 teams in A and 4 teams in B

9 teams – 5 teams in A and 4 teams in B

10 teams – 5 teams in A and 5 teams in B

b) Point System: A win is worth 2 points; A Tie is worth 1 point; A Loss is worth 0 points.

(A point shall be awarded for every period won throughout the playoff round robin. These points will be kept by the Division Conveners and will only be used in the tie breaking process)

### 3. Championship Berths:

After the final Round Robin standings have been determined, championship berths will be given to the top 2 teams in the A Division and likewise for the B Division. Ties will be broken by:

- a) The winner of a head to head game will be awarded the higher seed;
- b) In the case of a three way tie the team with the most wins advances;
- c) If still tied, the team with the most period points won throughout the playoff round will be given the higher seed;
- d) If still tied, the team with the fewest total penalty minutes throughout the playoff round will be given the higher seed;
- e) If still tied, a Coin Toss will occur and the winner advances.

4. Officials will be assigned for all playoff round robin and championship games by the Referee-In-Chief.

5. In no case shall any player be brought up for the Playoffs unless approved by the SPHL Executive Committee.

6. If the score is tied at the end of regulation time for a championship game, the tie will be broken as follows:

## **XII. Penalties Different from the Hockey Canada Rule Book:**

1. All minor penalties shall be three (3) minutes in duration, if playing straight time; or two (2) minutes, if playing stop time.
2. All major penalties will be seven (7) minutes in duration, if playing straight time, or five (5) minutes if playing stop time. Penalty times are to be marked on a score sheet and the player is out for the remainder of the game. Any player assessed a major penalty will be ejected for the remainder of the game and assessed a one game suspension.
3. It is the responsibility of the coach to sit out any players on his team who may have received a suspension (automatic or otherwise). Any players (or team official) sitting out due to a suspension must be noted on the score sheet, may not participate in any function of the game other than as a spectator in the stands (ie dressing room, score keeper, behind the bench are prohibited). Failure of a team to enforce a suspension will result in the forfeiture of any game(s) that the suspended player (or coach) participated in.

## **XIII. General Provision & Refund Policy:**

1. The league registration fee will be retained by the S.P.H.L. to cover league expenditures incurred during the hockey year. This fee will be determined by the Executive Committee at the beginning of the season.
2. SPHL Refund Policy:
  - a) No full refunds will be given unless for medically supported reasons after **October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021**;
  - b) No refunds will be granted to any player serving a suspension due to disciplinary actions by the SPHL;
  - c) No refunds for the withdrawing of a player to play other sports or pursue other interests;
  - d) No refunds for any player who voluntarily quits a team after registering;
  - e) In the case where a player is injured while playing at SPHL. The amount will be pro-rated.  
For instance, A player participated in 10 out of the 20 games scheduled in the season will receive half the fee back, less the \$50 administration fee;
  - f) All approved refunds will be subject to a \$50 administration fee;
  - g) The Executive Committee has the authority to amend the refund policy. Each player refund request will be processed on an individual basis.

## **XIV. Suspension & Disciplinary Guidelines:**

The Executive Committee will be monitoring the behavior of all participants both in the stands and on the ice. Should there be any concerns the following actions will occur:

Parent or Spectator Misbehavior- the game will be stopped and will not continue until the parent(s) or spectator(s) leaves the arena. They will be told that should they continue with this behavior their child will be removed from the league and will not be permitted to register next year. Parents and/or Spectators should not be verbally or physically abusive toward officials, coaches, opposing players, other parents/spectators, and to SPHL Executive Committee Members and participants. Aggressive actions such as banging on the glass, unnecessary/disrespectful disruptive sounds, and/or the taunting of opposing teams will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.

Suspension Guidelines will be handled as follows:

Fighting:

1st Offence – 5 game suspension \*\*

2nd Offence – Expelled from the league

\*\* Must appear in front of the SPHL Executive to seek approval to continue playing in the league.

### **1. Misconduct 10 minutes (teams play 5 on 5)**

(misconduct plus minor penalty; substitute player serves minor misconduct player serves 10 minutes beginning after minor penalty expires)

(misconduct plus major penalty; substitute player serves major; misconduct player is ejected from the game.

### **2. Game Misconduct**

Player or team official ejected from game (teams play 5 on 5)

1st Offence - 1 game suspension

2nd Offence - 3 game suspension \*\*

3rd Offence - Out for the season

\*\* Must appear in front of the SPHL Executive Committee to seek approval to continue playing in the league.

### **3. Gross Misconduct (Verbal or Sign Abuse)**

Making a Travesty of the game:

Player or team official ejected from the game, (substitute player to serve major penalty)

1st Offence - 3 game suspension \*\*

2nd Offence - Out for the season

\*\* Must appear in front of the SPHL Executive Committee to seek approval to continue playing in the league.

#### 4. Match Penalty

Player or team official ejected from the game (substitute player to serve major penalty)

a) Intent to injure or deliberate injury.

b) Physical or verbal abuse

c) Spitting

1st Offence - 7 game suspension \*\*

2nd Offence - Out for the season

\*\* Must appear in front of the SPHL Executive Committee to seek approval to continue playing in the league.

No refunds will be given to players who have been suspended or expelled from the SPHL.

#### 5. Major Penalties: see Hockey Canada Rule Book

#### 6. Suspension Guidelines for Overage Bantam Players.

After any 1st offence resulting in a suspension, an overage player must appear in front of the SPHL Executive Committee to receive approval before playing in any further games. No refunds will be given if the player is suspended or expelled from the league.”

In addition, the suspended player will not be eligible for the SPHL bursary or to attend the banquet for graduating players.

7. Unless otherwise noted in the S.P.H.L. Constitution and By-Laws, all suspensions shall follow Hockey Canada Guidelines

8. If a player receives 3 penalties during one game, that player is ejected for the remainder of the game.

9. When a player or team official has been ejected from a game, that game does not count toward any resulting game suspension(s) that may be assessed.



## **Penalties and Suspensions:**

Minor penalties will be 2 minutes in length and major penalties will be 5 minutes.

Any major penalty will carry a game misconduct penalty and the player will be ordered to the dressing room for remainder of the game and suspended for the next scheduled game or games depending on the infraction (OHF 2019-20 minimum suspension list will be used). The penalized team shall designate any player on the ice at the time of the infraction to serve the major penalty.

Any fighting major will carry an automatic game misconduct and the player will be suspended for the balance of the tournament.

A coach, manager, team official or player who receives a game misconduct penalty in the last 5 minutes or immediately after the game will be suspended for the next scheduled game or games depending on the infraction (OHF 2019-20 minimum suspension list will be used).

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A gross misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any coach, manager, team official or player who uses obscene or profane language or obscene gestures to any person; will result in immediate dismissal from the game and will include a suspension for the balance of the tournament.

Any match penalty will carry a game misconduct penalty and the player will be suspended for the balance of the tournament. The penalized team shall designate any player on the ice at the time of the infraction to serve the major penalty.

No team will be permitted to add players to their team for the tournament. The only exception to this rule is for goalies. A coach must receive approval from the SPHL Executive before adding a goalie.



## **XV. POLICE CUP TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE & RULES**

### **Tournament Date:**

The SPHL/Police Cup Tournament is generally held on the second weekend of January. In the event that this date is no longer viable, changes to this date will be communicated to all playground parks.

### **Game Times:**

Players, coaches and manager must be in the dressing room 20 minutes prior to game time. Game sheets must be reviewed, signed and returned to the tournament timekeeper 10 minutes prior to game time. Teams must be ready to play 10 minutes prior to the posted start time. When the game has concluded, players then shake hands and leave the ice surface as quickly as possible.

### **Length of Games:**

Games will consist of having the first and second periods being of 10 minutes stop time. The third period will be set at 12 minutes stop time. Each qualifying round game will have at least a 50-minute time limit. There will be no time outs permitted during the qualifying round robin games. In order to keep the games on schedule, games will end at the allotted time. The exception to this would be at the championship games where the Scheduler has already made arrangements for additional time should it be required.

### **Point System:**

A win is worth 2 points; A Tie is worth 1 point; A Loss is worth 0 points.

(A point shall be awarded for every period won throughout the tournament. These points will be kept by the tournament committee and will only be used in the tie breaking process)

**Tie Breaker Rule:**

- a) The winner of a head to head game will be awarded the higher seed;
- b) In the case of a three way tie the team with the most wins advances;
- c) If still tied, the team with the most period points won throughout the tournament will be given the higher seed;
- d) If still tied, the team with the fewest total penalty minutes throughout the tournament will be given the higher seed;
- e) If still tied, a Coin Toss will occur and the winner advances.

**The Following Rule Applies to Championship Games Only:**

One 30 second time out per team will be permitted in the championship game.

**Overtime Rule:**

- 1. Overtime: 5 Minutes "Running Time" sudden death 4 skaters per side;
- 2. Teams will defend the same end-zone as they do in the first and third periods;
- 3. Penalties will be assessed in accordance to regulation time;
- 4. The home team shall have the choice of shooting first or second;
- 5. Shootout: Alternate shots using three different players. After each team has taken three shots, the team with the most goals win;
- 6. After each team has taken three shots, if the score remains tied, the shootout will proceed to a "sudden death" format. No player may shoot twice until everyone who is eligible has shot;
- 7. All players are eligible to participate in the shootout unless they are serving a ten minute misconduct or have been assessed a game misconduct or match penalty.

## XVI COVID-19 Extenuating Circumstances By-Law & Amendments

COVID – 19 has resulted in a number of challenges for the SPHL. Outside factors beyond anyone's control could cause the postponement or stoppage of the SPHL season. The SPHL must adhere to the directives put forth by the Greater City of Sudbury and Public Health Sudbury.

The goal for the SPHL's 2021-22 season is to ensure that we all experience a safe and joyous hockey season despite all the challenges we have already encountered and/or will encounter as the season progresses. Therefore, the Executive Committee Members are taking preemptive measures to ensure the well-being, cohesion, and trepidation of everyone associated with SPHL. In this manner, exceptional firm measures will be implemented by the SPHL's governing body as to circumvent and eliminate with authority all improper offensive actions or behaviours unbecoming with respect to the SPHL's Code of Conduct. These measures will result in the termination, suspension, or removal of everyone associated with SPHL.

Examples include:

- Infractions associated with any regulations mandated by Greater City of Sudbury and Public Health Sudbury;
- Fighting;
- Travesty of the game;

Moving forward with the SPHL season, the Executive Committee Members would like to strongly remind parents/guardians and spectators of the players that the Greater City of Sudbury and Public Health Sudbury have imposed an attendance capacity on the number of spectators who will be allowed to watch games and/or practices.

**Spectator attendance is limited to one household member per player.** This does not include a parent/guardian in the role of Head Coach, Assistant Coach(es), Team Manager.

Arenas commonly used by the SPHL are:

**Cambrian and Carmichael** - The spectator seating occupancy limit is 35 persons. This number includes both teams on the ice.

**Countryside Pad 1 & 2** – The spectator seating occupancy limit is 50 persons for Pad 1 and 35 persons for Pad 2. This number includes both teams on the ice.

A minimum of 2 metres or 6 feet between all household bubbles / spectators is mandatory. All spectators entering the facility must wear a mask at all times as per Public Health Sudbury. ***All participants entering and exiting the arenas must follow the designated entrances and exits.***

Parents/Guardians and spectators are asked to drop their child off (fully dressed if possible) 20 minutes prior to the game. Players that need parental supervision must be accompanied with a parent.

***Please note that we only have access to changerooms 30 minutes prior to the start of our ice time and must be cleared from the facility 30 minutes after our ice time is complete.***

Parents/Guardians and spectators are also asked to wait outside the arena and enter close to game/practice start time, thus providing time for the people who attended the game/practice before you time to exit the arena.

The SPHL Committee Members and their Associates cannot express the utmost importance of following these guidelines. Failure to comply with these regulations could result in the City suspending the SPHL from their arenas; therefore, suspending the SPHL season.

During these exceptional times, the SPHL committee is asking for full cooperation so that we can continue and complete the 2021-2022 hockey season. Should the guidelines set forth by the SPHL Committee under the guidance of the Greater City of Sudbury and Public Health Sudbury not be obeyed by everyone associated with the SPHL, corrective actions will be sanctioned.