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Introduction

Welcome to the Foothills Minor Hockey Association. All registered players will play an organized hockey schedule, governed by the Foothills Minor Hockey Association.

Goals

The goal of our program is to provide all participants with a positive, supportive, and safe environment, where they can develop their interpersonal, leadership and hockey skills while learning respect, self-esteem, teamwork and responsibility.

Objectives

The objectives of our hockey program are:

• Provide a game to fit the needs of all participants.
• Provide an opportunity for achievement in an enjoyable and self-fulfilling environment.
• Emphasize the improvement of all basic skills while introducing tactical preparation.
• Assist in the individual physical development and conditioning.
• Stimulate development both from an individual and competitive point of view.
• Ensure that participation is enjoyable and fun.
• Leadership by example.
• FAIRPLAY: INTEGRITY, FAIRNESS, RESPECT

Role

The role of the administrators, evaluators and coaches of the Foothills Minor Hockey Association are to provide leadership, teaching and organization. As individuals, we have a tremendous influence on these young athletes.

To have a positive and lasting impact on these boys and girls, we are committed to being effective as leaders, teachers, and organizers, encouraging and supporting your children, coaching enthusiastically and expressing genuine concern for them as developing young men and women.

Role of the Coach

As a leader:

• Establish goals and objectives.
• Use a democratic coaching style.
• Provide an appropriate role model.
• Develop leadership abilities in your athletes.
• Demonstrate a sincere interest in your athletes.
• Learn with your athletes.
• Be a fairplay coach.

As a teacher:

• Teach the necessary hockey skills, using the proper progression and understandable language.
• Understand that athletes differ in their readiness to learn a skill.
• Understand that athletes learn skills at different rates.
• Teach more than hockey skills.

As an organizer:

• Plan effective practices.
• Select assistants who will provide maximum benefits to the team.
• Seek the assistance of the players’ parents.

Role of the Parents

Parents are the key to success in any amateur hockey program. They are, of course, the people who agree to act as administrators and coaches for our teams. They are the fans, the chauffeurs, the moms and the dads who contribute a great deal of time and money to ensure an exciting and rewarding year for the children.
Rules and Regulations 1 – Break-Away Conduct Management Plan

1. Introduction

a) The Foothills Minor Hockey Association administers a minor hockey program for residents in the Town of High River, Hamlet of Blackie and the Municipal District of Foothills within established boundaries approved by Hockey Alberta.

b) The program exists for players from the ages of 4 to 17 (ages as of December 31 of current hockey registration season). The Foothills Minor Hockey Association has a formulated constitution that is registered with Hockey Alberta, and the Government of Alberta under the Societies Act.

c) The Foothills Minor Hockey Association Executive Committee of the Board of Directors is elected at its Annual General Meeting. Part of the mandate of the Executive Committee of the Board and the Board of Directors is to establish conduct management guidelines for all participants in the hockey program.

d) This Conduct Management Plan is for all members of the Association. With this plan, the Foothills Minor Hockey Association wants to address the fundamental values of the game:
   • Shared Respect for all participants of the game.
   • Development of the players, coaches, and officials involved in the game.
   • Fun while participating in the game.

e) In order to achieve this, the Foothills Minor Hockey Association wants to BREAK-AWAY from the past and present problems our great game is experiencing, and focus on respect, positive development, and fun.

f) The BREAK-AWAY Conduct Management Plan is not a short-term solution to the serious problems the game is facing. It has been created as a long-term guiding principle for the minor hockey program in Foothills.

2. Foothills Minor Hockey Association Philosophy

a) The BREAK-AWAY Conduct Management Plan

i) Over the past several years it has become increasingly apparent that participating in the Game, whether as a player, coach, official, spectator, or administrator has become less and less enjoyable. People are leaving the game for the wrong reasons. Unacceptable conduct by coaches, players, officials and spectators is increasing both on and off the ice.

ii) The Foothills Minor Hockey Association views the BREAK-AWAY program as support and confirmation to our many coaches, players, officials, parents, and volunteers who are in the majority and who have always participated in the game following the fundamental principles of respect, positive development, and fun. We see this program as a vehicle to assist them to further these values and make the game even better and more enjoyable. One could view the BREAK-AWAY...
program as a celebration of the positive elements of the game that will overwhelm those negative elements that have unfortunately tainted the reputation of the game today. It is not a time to be defensive, but rather offensive and proactive in advocating a program that is totally positive. We encourage the majority to confidently come forward with energy and support the BREAK-AWAY program to make our game even better.

b) Objectives of the BREAK-AWAY Program

i) To provide a program which plays a significant role in the development of a young person’s values, morals, social maturity, physical fitness and mental fitness. To promote acceptable conduct which provides:
   • Respect for other participants
   • Respect for the great game of hockey
   • Protection from harm
   • Development of ethical conduct towards others
   • Notions of justice, fairness, equity
   • Caring attitudes
   • Freedom to enjoy

ii) It is a must that every participant abides by these principles. A participant is defined as (but not limited to) a player, coach, official, or spectator.

iii) This program is not intended to be a new process for complaints about officiating or general hockey rules. The objective is to promote and ensure acceptable behavior.

c) Definition of “Unacceptable Behavior”

i) An individual is displaying unacceptable behavior if they are verbally or physically harassing and/or abusing a game participant (coach, player, official or spectator). When there is a situation of “unacceptable behavior”, the responsibilities of Foothills Minor Hockey coaches, players, officials, spectators and administrators are outlined below. The focus is on achieving the BREAK-AWAY program objectives. Confrontation should be avoided. Practice the “24 Hour” rule and then report the incident, as it is an important step in attaining the programs objectives.

3. Complaint Handling Procedure

a) Implementation Trigger

i) The reporting of unacceptable behavior by a coach, player, official, spectator, or administrator is the triggering event of the complaint handling procedure. This reporting process will govern the person(s) responsible for investigating the complaint. The methods of enforcement will vary dependent on the severity of the event.

b) Reporting Process
i) If an incident occurs which meets the definition of unacceptable behavior and in the opinion of a coach, player, official, spectator, or administrator, is serious enough to warrant a formal complaint, then an Incident Report Form (Appendix E) must be completed.

ii) The Incident Report Form should be submitted to President and Vice President, Foothills Minor Hockey Association, P.O. Box 5294, High River AB T1V 1M4.

c) Responsible Reporters

i) If, in the opinion of a Coach, Player, Official, Spectator, or Administrator an individual is verbally or physically harassing or abusing a game participant (coach, player or official), at the next stoppage of play, the offending individual will be identified and through discussion with one or both coaches, request that the offending individual(s) cease this unacceptable behavior. If the behavior continues, the official will document the offense on an incident report form or the back of the game sheet. A copy of the write-up will be forwarded to (the Association’s designated individual outlined in step 3.b.ii), triggering the complaint handling process. The Foothills Minor Hockey Association’s Executive Committee Members are responsible for the management of the BREAK-AWAY plan and will determine if an investigation team is required or the President or Designate can deal with the matter.

d) Investigation Team

i) If an Investigation Team is required, it will consist of three (3) members of the Association appointed by the President or Designate. They will be given a copy of the BREAK-AWAY Conduct Management Plan to ensure they conduct the investigation according to the objectives of the plan.

e) Enforcement

i) Reports handled by an Investigation Team

(1) After the investigation, the Foothills Minor Hockey Association President shall have the power to implement the recommendations of the Investigation team that could include suspending any player, coach, official, spectator, or administrator of any team under the auspices of the Foothills Minor Hockey Association.

ii) Reports handled by the President or Designate

(1) The President or Designate has the power to suspend any coach, player, official or spectator of any team under the auspices of the Association for any conduct on or off the ice, which in the sole discretion of the President or Designate is deemed to be unbecoming or detrimental to the game.
(2) The President or Designate shall have the power to prevent any spectator from viewing any game or other activity or entering a facility to view such game or activity under the auspices of the Association for any conduct, which in the sole discretion of the President or Designate is deemed to be unbecoming or detrimental to the game. Further, the President or Designate has the power to suspend the player, coach, team official or the team to which the spectator is attached.

iii) This authority may be delegated by the President to other members of the Association’s Executive Committee or Board of Directors.

iv) The power and delegation granted to the President or Designate allows for effective and quick action against conduct considered detrimental to the game and its participants. The Foothills Minor Hockey Association is prepared to enforce these provisions as required and is an integral part of the reporting and enforcement initiatives.

f) Appeal Process

i) Upon receiving a request for an appeal, the Foothills Minor Hockey Association will establish an appeal committee made up of three (3) members to hear the appeal related to any disciplinary action handed down as a result of an investigation. Appeals should be heard as quickly as is practical (within seven (7) days). The appeal must contain a clear and concise summary stating the grounds for the appeal. Notice of the appeal must be submitted, in writing, to the President of the Foothills Minor Hockey Association within five (5) days from the date of discipline notification was received. If the appeal is denied, further appeals can be made to Hockey Alberta under Hockey Alberta Rules & Regulations 13.03 “Appeal from Decision of Local Minor Hockey Association”.

4. Implementation Process

a) Incorporation into Foothills Minor Hockey’s Constitution & By-Laws

i) Article 12 – Rules, Regulations and Guidelines

(1) From time to time, the Board will find it expedient to adopt rules, regulations and guidelines, other than those contained in the Constitution and By-laws, which will govern the conduct of players, coaches, referees and others involved in the FMHA.

(2) Such rules, regulations and guidelines may be adopted, rescinded or amended at the discretion of the Board.

(3) A written record of all current rules, regulations and guidelines is to be maintained by the Secretary of the FMHA who will be responsible for updating the rules, regulations and guidelines from time to time as additions, deletions and amendments are made.

(4) A current listing of all rules, regulations and guidelines in force, shall be provided to each coach at the beginning of the season, and shall generally be made available to those individuals that are subject to the rules, regulations and guidelines.
b) Introducing the Program

i) At the start of the season, a meeting is to be held with all participants of the game to present the program. At this meeting, the Foothills Minor Hockey Association will:
   • Detail the objectives
   • Outline the expectations
   • Lay out the consequences
   • Explain the team’s responsibilities
   • Explain the Association’s responsibilities
   • Explain the distribution & collection method that will be used

ii) The teams will be given packages with the Fair Play Pledge forms (Appendix A, B, C, D) and a program outline. These will be distributed to the Parents, Players, Coaches, and Officials for completion. Once complete they will be collected and returned to the Association.

iii) Other Notifications and/or Partnerships

(1) It is recommended that notification is given and more importantly that Program support be garnered from local stakeholders regarding the objectives and implementation of the Program. The following are examples of local stakeholders that may need to be aware of the Program as they may be requested to support in the enforcement of some sanctions.

   • Local/Town Recreation Board
   • Arena Operating Board
   • Town Council
   • Community Services Department
   • Local/Town Police Department
Appendix A - PARENTS PLEDGE

It is the intention of this pledge to promote proper behavior and respect for all participants within the Association. All parents are asked to sign this pledge to show their support for the principles of Fair Play.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. I will not force my child to participate in hockey.

2. I will remember that my child plays hockey for his or her enjoyment, not mine.

3. I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflict without resorting to hostility or violence.

4. I will 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 the game.

5. I will make my child feel like a winner every time by offering praise for competing fairly and hard.

6. I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a game.

7. I will remember that children learn by example. I will applaud good plays and performances by both my child's team and their opponents.

8. I recognize officials are being developed in the same manner as players, and will be supportive of their decisions during games.

9. I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from the hockey environment.

10. I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteers who give their time to hockey for my child.

I agree to abide by the principles of this CODE as set and supported by this Association. I also agree to abide by the rules, regulations and decisions as set for this Association.

PRINT
PLAYER NAME ______________________________ DATE ________________

SIGNATURES:

PARENT ______________________________ PARENT ______________________________
Appendix B - PLAYERS PLEDGE

It is the intention of this pledge to promote proper behavior and respect for all participants within the Association. All players are asked to sign this pledge to show their support for the principles of Fair Play.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS

1. I will play hockey because I want to, not because someone else wants me to.

2. I will play by the rules of hockey and in the spirit of the Game.

3. I will control my temper so I do not spoil the activity of everyone.

4. I will respect my opponents.

5. I will do my best to be a true team player.

6. I will remember that winning isn't everything - that having fun, improving skills, making friends and doing my best are also important.

7. I will acknowledge all good plays and performances - those of my team and my opponents.

8. I will remember that coaches and officials are there to help me. I will accept their decisions and show them respect.

I agree to abide by the principles of this CODE as set and supported by this Association. I also agree to abide by the rules, regulations and decisions as set for this Association.

PRINT
NAME ___________________________ DATE ___________________________

SIGNATURE:

PLAYER ___________________________ TEAM ___________________________
Appendix C - COACHES PLEDGE

It is the intention of this pledge to promote proper behavior and respect for all participants within the Association. All coaches are asked to sign this pledge showing their support for the principles of Fair Play.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES

1. I will be reasonable when scheduling games and practices remembering that young athletes have other interests and obligations.

2. I will teach my athletes to play fairly and to respect the rules, officials, opponents and teammates.

3. I will ensure all athletes receive equal instruction, discipline, support and appropriate, fair playing time.

4. I will not ridicule or yell at my athletes for making mistakes or for performing poorly. I will remember that children play to have fun and must be encouraged to have confidence in themselves.

5. I will make sure that equipment and facilities are safe and match the athlete's ages and ability.

6. I will remember that children need a coach they can respect. I will be generous with praise and set a good example.

7. I will obtain proper training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills.

I agree to abide by the principles of this CODE as set and supported by this Association. I also agree to abide by the rules, regulations and decisions as set for this Association.

PRINT
NAME ___________________________ DATE ___________________________

SIGNATURE:

COACH ___________________________ TEAM ___________________________
Appendix D - OFFICIALS PLEDGE

It is the intention of this pledge to promote proper behavior and respect for all participants within the Association. All officials are asked to sign this pledge showing their support for the principles of Fair Play.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OFFICIALS

1. I will make sure that every player has a reasonable opportunity to perform to the best of his or her ability, within the rules.

2. I will avoid or remedy any situation that threatens the safety of the players.

3. I will maintain a healthy atmosphere and environment for competition.

4. I will not permit the intimidation of any player either by word or action. I will not tolerate unacceptable conduct towards myself, other officials, players, coaches or spectators.

5. I will be consistent and objective in calling all infractions, regardless of my personal feelings towards a team or individual player.

6. I will handle all conflicts firmly but with dignity.

7. I will accept my role as teacher and role model for fair play, especially with young participants.

8. I will be open to discussion and contact with players before and after the game.

9. I will remain open to constructive criticism and show respect and consideration for different points of view.

10. I will obtain proper training to upgrade my skills.

11. I will work in co-operation with coaches for the benefit of the game.

I agree to abide by the principles of this CODE as set and supported by this Association. I also agree to abide by the rules, regulations and decisions as set for this Association.

PRINT
NAME ______________________ DATE __________________________

SIGNATURE:

OFFICIAL ________________________________
Foothills Minor Hockey Association
Rules and Regulations
2014 / 2015

Appendix E - INCIDENT REPORT FORM

Submit completed form to:
President, Foothills Minor Hockey Association, P.O. Box 5294, High River AB T1V 1M4

This form is to be utilized by anyone in the Foothills Minor Hockey Association to report an incident of unacceptable behavior. An individual is considered to be displaying unacceptable behavior if they are verbally or physically harassing and/or abusing a game participant (player, coach, spectator, or official).

DATE & TIME OF INCIDENT ____________________________

NAME OF OFFENDING INDIVIDUAL ____________________________

ASSOCIATED WITH (TEAM NAME) ____________________________

NAME (S) OF ADDITIONAL WITNESSES ____________________________

On a separate attachment, please provide a clear description of the unacceptable behavior witnessed. Please use blue ink or type the report. Reports that are not legible will not be reviewed. You can expect an official to investigate your report. Unfortunately, a written response to all reports is not possible, as our volunteers do not have the resources to do so. We do however hope to be able to contact complainants at some point during or after the investigation. Resolution typically takes 2 to 4 weeks from receipt.

Please summarize your expectation of the outcome resulting from your report:

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

If additional space is required, please use reverse side or attach separately.

Name: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________

City/Town: ____________________________

Phone: ____________________________

Signature: _________________________ Date: _________________________
Appendix F - DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES

In many instances, offences that are similar to those identified in the Hockey Alberta Minimum Suspension Guidelines will be dealt with in the same manner. The only difference being that when we are dealing with adults who should know better, they would be given an additional game suspension.

When an individual is suspended, they are suspended from all Minor Hockey activities. This includes attending other sibling’s games if they are a parent with other children-playing hockey. It also includes refereeing games if they are a referee.

ALL SUSPENSIONS SHOULD BE REVIEWED BY THE SAME PERSON TO ENSURE THAT CONSISTENCY IN THE APPLICATION OF DISCIPLINE IS MAINTAINED.

Severity of Discipline

a. Mild (Verbal Reprimand + Possible Suspension)

This would be applied when it is a first offence that is less severe in nature. The offending individual has shown true remorse and the actions are out of character. There is little chance of this person re-offending.

b. Moderate (Written Reprimand + Minimum 2 Game Suspension)

This is for offences that are mild to moderate in severity. Application of this type of discipline would be for a second offence. It would also be applied to individuals who have not accepted responsibility for their actions, show no remorse and the likelihood of re-offending is high.

c. Severe (Written Reprimand + Min. 5 Games to Max. 3 Year Suspension)

This is for the most serious offences. An example could be physically threatening or assaulting another individual. Application of this type of discipline would be for individuals who have re-offended multiple times or have not accepted responsibility for their actions, show no remorse and are likely to re-offend.

The following lists individuals that have been delegated authority to assess suspensions on behalf of the Foothills Minor Hockey Association:

Association President (As noted above)/Vice-President (5 Games)
Individual(s) or committee designated by the President with program enforcement (up to 3 years)
Appendix G - HOCKEY ALBERTA GAME & CONDUCT MANAGEMENT ABUSE & HARRASSMENT DESCRIPTION

3. MATTERS OF UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOUR

3.1 Abuse and Neglect

3.1.1 When any person has reasonable grounds, in the course of Hockey Alberta business, activities or events that a child is being abused or neglected, he or she shall report this belief to the child protection authorities and/or Police. Hockey Alberta's General Manager should also be advised of the intent to report.

3.1.2 Hockey Alberta shall take no further action until such time as the authorities and/or Police have concluded their investigation, unless there is cause for an immediate suspension on an interim basis to protect the child from further harm.

3.1.3 The matter shall then be dealt with as a disciplinary matter pursuant to this policy, and the report of the investigation carried out by authorities may be utilized as required by Hockey Alberta.

3.2 Harassment

Harassment is a form of discrimination. Harassment is prohibited by human rights legislation. In its most extreme forms, harassment can be an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada.

3.2.1 Harassment is defined as conduct, which is disrespectful, insulting, intimidating, humiliating, offensive or physically harmful. Types of behavior which constitute harassment include, but are not limited to:

(a) Unwelcome jokes, innuendo or teasing about a person’s looks, body, attire, age, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation.
(b) Condescending, patronizing, threatening or punishing actions which undermine self-esteem or diminish performance.
(c) Practical jokes that cause awkwardness or embarrassment endanger a person’s safety or negatively affect performance.
(d) Unwanted or unnecessary physical contact including touching, patting or pinching.
(e) Any form of hazing.
(f) Any form of physical assault or abuse.
(g) Any sexual offense.
(h) Behaviors such as those described above which are not directed towards individuals or groups but which have the effect of creating a negative, hostile or uncomfortable environment.
The Divisions and Ages are governed by Hockey Canada & Hockey Alberta. The following ages are as of December 31.

Initiation – 4, 5, 6 years old after December 31st of current hockey registration season.
Novice – 7 & 8 years old after December 31st of current hockey registration season.
Atom – 9 & 10 years old after December 31st of current hockey registration season.
Pee Wee – 11 & 12 years old after December 31st of current hockey registration season.
Bantam – 13 & 14 years old after December 31st of current hockey registration season.
Midget – 15, 16, 17 years old after December 31st of current hockey registration season.
Rules and Regulations 3 – Player Registration

General Information

Dates for registration are established by the Foothills Minor Hockey Association Board of Directors.

All in person registration dates will be posted and advertised as soon as dates, times, and locations are confirmed for the upcoming season.

You can mail your registration to: Foothills Minor Hockey Association, P.O. Box 5294, High River, Alberta T1V 1M4 or deposit your forms in the designated drop box at the Bob Snodgrass Recreation Complex and online.

Registration forms, registration information, and coach application will be available on our website in early July (if at all possible) of every year at foothillsminorhockey.com.

Registration forms are also available at the Bob Snodgrass Recreation Complex.

Registration fees are established annually by the Board of Directors.

First time and new players must provide an original Birth Certificate for the registrar to verify, and complete the Player Verification form and/or Parent Declaration Form where applicable.

New players previously registered in other minor hockey association, require player release from the last association you were registered with.

Fall registration fees must be paid in full by December 15th every year.

Player registration is subject to the approval of the Foothills Minor Hockey Association.

Registration forms must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Conditioning Camp is included with registration.

Individual photo and team photo are included with registration – Photo night will be held on a date agreed upon by the Board of Directors.

All players must be registered with the Foothills Minor Hockey Association before participating in any on-ice activities.

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association will enforce a cap on teams if the registration numbers demonstrate the need to do so. For guidelines see Rules & Regulations 9 – Team Selection of the Foothills Minor Hockey Association Rules & Regulations.

One parent for each registered player must complete the “Respect In Sport” parent program prior to the registration being accepted by Foothills Minor Hockey Association.

Fees and Cancellation/Refunds

Cheques to be made payable to the FOOTHILLS MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION.

Late registrations will be assessed a fee of $100 in addition to regular registration fees.

Late registration deadline will be determined each year by the board of directors.

All NSF cheques will result in a $30.00 service fee to be paid by the issuer of cheque.

Only cash/money order/certified cheque will be accepted.

Administrative fee in the amount of $25.00 will be charged on all refund requests prior to conditioning camp.

In addition to the $25.00 administrative fee, an additional $25.00 will be charged on all refund requests after conditioning camp, for a total of $50.00, and an additional $25.00 will be charged after evaluations, for a total of $75.00.

If a registered player withdraws from the program for any reason after the registration process,
conditioning camp, and evaluation, the refund amount will be prorated accordingly. Please contact the Foothills Minor Hockey Association Operations Manager and Treasurer.

There are no refunds issued after January 10th of the current hockey season.

All outstanding registration fees from previous seasons must be paid in full before the upcoming seasons registration will be accepted.
Rules and Regulations 4 – FMHA Conditioning Camp

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association offers a conditioning camp to all its registered players in September of every hockey season, prior to evaluations.

The cost of the conditioning camp is included in the player registration fee.

The conditioning camp dates will be posted on the FMHA website & posted on the bulletin board at the Bob Snodgrass Recreation Center once the times, dates and locations are determined by the Board of Directors.
Foothills Minor Hockey Association
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Rules and Regulations 5 – Overage Players

Governed by Hockey Alberta, see hockeyalberta.ca and follow links.

If you wish to apply for overage status as per Hockey Alberta, please contact the Foothills Minor Hockey Association President, taking into consideration the following Hockey Alberta criteria.

Pre-Requisites for Obtaining Overage Status

Limited skill would mean noticeable lack of basic hockey skill such as skating and balance for his/her age. Including limited aptitude for the game in the Pee Wee and higher Divisions.

Verification would mean a letter (s) confirming the lack of skill and ability to play in the proper age Division from the Association, Coach of respective team, including evaluation report if possible.

Only 1st year players (by birth date) in a Division will be eligible for Overage

Novice to Initiation
• At the discretion of the Local Minor Hockey Association.

Atom to Novice
• Player has limited skills.
• Beginner player (1st and 2nd year of hockey).
• Health reasons – supported by letter from doctor.

Pee Wee to Atom
• Player is of small and frail structure combined with limited skills – written verification of ability.
• Player has limited skills – written verification of ability.
• Beginner player (1st year of hockey).
• Health reasons – supported by letter from doctor.

Bantam to Pee Wee
• Player has limited skills – written verification of ability
• Beginner player (1st year of hockey)
• Health reasons – supported by letter from doctor.

Midget to Bantam
• Player has limited skills – written verification of ability.
• Beginner player (1st year of hockey).
• Health reasons – supported by letter from doctor.

Junior to Midget
• To be reviewed on an individual basis by the Zone Manager of Operations in consultation with Minor Council Chairperson.
• May be approved when:
  - Association does not have enough players to make a team (12) without applicant. "If more players register later increasing size of team, overage may be revoked".
  - No registered team, other than Midget within 50km of place of residence.
  - Health reasons – supported by letter from doctor.
  - Must be in school – supported by letter from school.
  - No goaltender available – would not be able to register (ice) a team.
  - Must meet 3 of the above, before approval would be considered.

Goaltenders
• To be reviewed/approved by Zone Manager of Operations on an individual basis. Exceptions may be reviewed on an individual basis per Criteria for Hockey Alberta Final Approval.

Once the pre-requisites have been met, final approval by Hockey Alberta Zone Manager of Operations will be based on the Hockey Alberta criteria for approval as an overage player in a Minor Division.

Criteria for Hockey Alberta Final Approval

“Overage in a Division should be the Exception and not the Rule”

Final approval by the Zone Manager of Operations to be based on the following:

1. Approval from parent outlining reason.
2. Endorsement/approval by the Local Minor Hockey Association President.
3. Approval by League President
4. Applicant meeting the Hockey Alberta pre-requisites.
5. Application form “information provided”.
6. Conditions of Overage “general”.

Exceptions

Exceptions would be reviewed on an individual basis, in consultation with and approval of Minor Council Chairperson.

In addition to the above criteria for overage approval, the following exception may be considered: Association does not have enough players to make a Team without applicant.

Overage may not be approved for the following reasons:
• Dislike of coach and team members
• Ice times
• Parents wish
Overage Conditions

- All steps for approval by Hockey Alberta must be followed and be done in writing.
- All approval for overage play is for games within Alberta only. You must secure additional approval for any activity outside the Province of Alberta.
- You must never play an overage that has not been approved by Hockey Alberta.
- Overage players can participate in League play (depending on League approval).
- Overage players may play in Exhibition and Tournament games, but must receive approval from the Tournament Committee.
- All coaches are responsible to let teams that they are playing know they have an overage player. The overage player must be clearly marked on every game sheet (OA) beside the players' name.
- Overage players are not eligible to play Provincial Zone Play Downs, Provincial Championship Tournament and the Alberta Winter Games.
- Overage status will be granted for one year only.
- Overage players are not eligible as affiliates to a higher Division or Category.
- Hockey Alberta can revoke overage status at any time (for valid reasons).
- Application acceptance critical date is December 1.
- Final approval for overage status must be obtained from the Hockey Alberta Zone Manager of Operations.
- Exceptions must be reviewed in consultation with and approved by Minor Council Chairperson.
- Exceptions from Junior to Midget must be reviewed in consultation with Minor Council Chairperson.
- Leagues may strengthen criteria.
- Each application should be reviewed independently and carefully.

Hockey Alberta Responsibility

Please note that with having been approved for special overage status with Hockey Alberta, there are some conditions that must be adhered to:

- Overage players are not eligible to play Provincial Championship Zone Play Downs or the Provincial Championship tournament, including participating in any Winter Games Play Downs or tournament.
- Overage players are not eligible as affiliates to a higher Division or Category.
- Overage players must not participate in any Hockey Alberta sanctioned event, until overage status approval has been given by Hockey Alberta.
- Overage approval is for games within Alberta only. Additional approval must be secured for any activity outside the Province of Alberta, from the respective Branch.

**HOCKEY ALBERTA MAY REVOKE OVERAGE STATUS AT ANY TIME**

- Hockey Alberta may revoke overage status at any time, when it has been deemed that the actions of the overage player are not in the best interests of those affected by those actions.
League Responsibility

• Leagues may strengthen the Hockey Alberta criteria for obtaining overage status within their respective Leagues.
• Leagues may set criteria for maintaining and monitoring overage status within their respective Leagues.
• The League may revoke the status of a player from participating in their League based on their maintaining overage status criteria.
Affiliations are governed by Hockey Alberta.

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association Coaches should, at every opportunity, encourage players to play at a higher level. If this means that the team has to affiliate players while their players are playing up, the coach shall do so. Each team should ideally ice a team with a minimum of 11 skaters. The coach asking for the affiliate player may specify the player required to fill the available spot, and should make every attempt to provide 24 hours’ notice. Affiliation requests should be made in writing, and should include the coaches, managers and level directors for both teams.

Elite stream affiliations must be declared in writing no later than 10 days prior to the Hockey Alberta affiliation deadline.

**Communication Structure**

**Coach Team A - Manager Team A - Manager Team B - Coach Team B**

As often as possible, the request for a player should be in writing. Email is encouraged, with the email, carbon copied to the applicable level director. Coaches should aim to complete the player request process no later than 24 hours prior to game time.

See Hockey Alberta current season Bylaws & Regulations for specific regulations regarding player affiliations.

NOTE: There will be no affiliation allowed WITHIN the Division of Initiation.
Rules and Regulations 7 – Player Acceleration

Player acceleration applies for players with exceptional abilities.

- Players must register in the appropriate age category within the Foothills Minor Hockey Association.
- Players wishing to be considered for advancement, i.e. play one division higher, must submit their request to the Evaluation Committee prior to the evaluation process. The Evaluation Committee will determine if it is appropriate to move the player into the next higher age category evaluation. Acceleration players will start evaluations in the category they have applied to accelerate to.
- Players in Initiation and Novice will only be considered for acceleration. All other levels will be given permission to try out for AA/AAA programs.
- For Novice age players, the player must then evaluate within the top fifty percent (50%) of the top team in the next higher age category, and be placed on the top team in that category otherwise the player will be placed within the appropriate age category.
- Initiation players will be allowed to participate in Novice at the level they are evaluated, subject to registration numbers at the Initiation and Novice Divisions.
- Players may be returned to their appropriate age division after two (2) evaluation sessions, if the Evaluation Committee determines that the player is unlikely to rank in the top team of the advanced age category as outlined above.
- Within the context of these rules, player acceleration will only occur where exceptional Novice players rank in the top Atom team. Player acceleration within the Foothills Minor Hockey Association does not apply in the Atom, Pee Wee, Bantam, and Midget levels, as these players have the opportunity to try out at the AA/AAA levels. This rule does not apply to goaltenders.
- Additional registration fees due to advancement of a player are required to be paid in full by December 15th of the current year.
- The Evaluation Committee may waive this procedure if required to accommodate special circumstances, such as small registration numbers in a particular age category.
Objective

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association Board of Directors, the Evaluation Committee, and the Coach Selection Committee believe in an open and transparent process for ALL players and parents during the evaluation/try-outs.

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association’s Evaluation Committee will make every effort to place players on teams of appropriate skill and minimize player movement.

The objective of the tryout/evaluation process is to provide as fair and impartial as possible an assessment of a player’s total hockey skills/attitude through drills and scrimmage sessions. This ensures that players have a reasonable opportunity of making a team appropriate to their skill levels as determined during the on-ice evaluations. The Foothills Minor Hockey Association also wants to provide coaches with the flexibility to build a team based in part on their coaching philosophy and knowledge of player skill and attitude.

The selection criteria will be the same for all players at a particular level from Novice to Midget and the evaluations will be documented. This ensures consistency in the evaluation process, and provides consistency in player and parent expectations from year to year as players move through the various levels of Foothills Minor Hockey Association’s programs.

Although it is impossible to eliminate subjectivity, or previous coach/player experiences, the selection process will reflect on-ice performance during the evaluation period. As an Association, our goal in team formation is to have players of similar ability playing together to maintain balanced competitive teams where the athletes can participate equitably and have fun playing hockey during the season.

Player Evaluation – General

- The Foothills Minor Hockey Association evaluations for the current season will be held in early September (watch our website for specific dates and times).
- Each player must attend more than 50% of evaluation sessions in order to be eligible to receive a final score from the evaluation committee.
- There will be NO timed skating drills. Drills will assist evaluators in determining skating ability, both forward and backward, making and receiving a pass, skating with the puck, and shooting.
- **Peewee, Bantam and Midget Regrouping** - all players must complete a minimum of one full set of defined drills within their registered categories. After two evaluation sessions Peewee, Bantam and Midget levels, players that are recognizably skilled (top tier players) and players recognizably in early hockey skills development (lower tier players) may be grouped together within their respective age group. Moving these players into their own group provides evaluators with better visibility to the middle group of players that have a more equal skill set.
- The Foothills Minor Hockey Association Evaluation Committee provides the guidelines for evaluations to the evaluators at an Evaluators meeting. Evaluation guidelines are tailored to fit the particular needs of evaluation teams from Novice to Midget.
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• Evaluators will be provided with an exact copy of the drills to be performed, in the order they will be executed. Each drill will be documented including an outlined of the skills to be exercised.

• The on-ice officials will inform the players of what the evaluators are looking for in the skating drills and in the scrimmages. All players will do the same drills at a particular level, which ensures a fair process. Skating and puck controls are key individual skills, as well as the player’s ability to play the game, as demonstrated in scrimmages. Each player will have an equal opportunity to perform in different situations. The Evaluation Committee wants the process to be positive.

• A team of evaluators evaluates players.

• Evaluations are documented and remain confidential. Individual evaluation scores and rankings are not released, as our purpose is to form teams not to rank players for the general membership. Under no circumstances will evaluation results be released to parents. The importance of the evaluation process is to evaluate effectively and equitably, and have players play at a level consistent with their skills and abilities. Furthermore, the Foothills Minor Hockey Association does not have the resources to release this information in a form that educationally will benefit and help develop the player. This education and development is the responsibility of the coach and parent. The evaluation sheets and the ranking criteria are only made available to the Evaluation Committee, the Divisional Director, the Executive Committee of the Board, and the Head Coaches in the draft process. The Members of the Executive Committee of the Board will not release evaluation data.

• Coaches and other members of the evaluation process are required to sign a letter of confidentiality stating that under no circumstances will evaluation results be released.

• Inter and Extra squad evaluation games will be scheduled, as they are available. Every effort will be made to expose all players in “game situations” to a team of evaluator for that age category

Injured Players

Injured players should contact a member of the Evaluation Committee before the first evaluation session. Players returning from an injury after the evaluation process will be placed on the lowest team of any given Division and will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee. The player must skate a minimum of one team session prior to being moved up if necessary. The number of players registered within a Division and the number of players per team within that Division will be taken into consideration. The Evaluation Committee’s decision will be final.

Late Players

Players returning late to the Foothills Minor Hockey Association from AA, AAA, or Junior team tryouts, will be placed on the second team of any given Division and will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee. The player must skate a minimum of one team session prior to being moved up if necessary. The number of players registered within a Division and the number of players per team within that Division will be taken into consideration. The Evaluation Committee’s decision will be final. The Foothills Minor Hockey Association has the right to refuse Late Players should the number of players per team be maximized in any given Division.

No Shows During Evaluations

Players who do not participate during the evaluation process without a valid reason will be
placed on the lower team in each division. Should a player miss an evaluation session due to illness, family emergency, or any other previously arranged commitment, the player must contact a member of the Evaluation Committee and the Level Director. Upon his return, the player will be placed on the lowest team of any given Division and will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee. The player must skate 1 team practice and 1 team game prior to being moved up if necessary. The number of players registered within a Division and the number of players per team within that Division will be taken into consideration. The Evaluation Committee’s decision will be final.

It should be noted that depending upon when a player returns to the Foothills Minor Hockey’s program for the current year, a player may play at a “lower level” due to such factors as Division Registration, team numbers and the number of players per team. For example, a player who missed evaluation and is capable at playing at the “A” level after being evaluated may have to play at the “B” level because the “A” level team has reached its limit for number of players per team. Every effort will be made to eliminate such a situation but it must be recognized that the Foothills Minor Hockey Association has a responsibility to all its members and will not delay the implementation of its program.

Coach Involvement During Evaluations

The Coaching Committee will select coaches during the evaluation process. Coach selections will not be finalized until it is determined where a coach’s child will play. Once the Head Coach is selected for a team, the coach may be involved with the final team selection, together with the Foothills Minor Hockey Association’s Evaluation Committee. Generally, Level Directors will contact the Head Coaches with rosters for their teams.

• Foothills Minor Hockey will determine the “Player Count Cut-off Line” based on the number of teams that will be created in a specific age category and the numbers of players that are to be included on each team. Teams may not be equal in number. The FMHA Board of Directors reserves the right to adjust any team number as necessary.

Example (not including goalies).

There are 45 players registered in a specific age group.

FMHA determines to create 3 teams

Each team will be comprised of 15 players

• In the event of a tie in evaluation points at the cut-off line, the head coach will be given the opportunity to select the player or players to be included on their team.

Example

Cut-off line between player C and D

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coach may choose either D or E in the place of C.

Goaltender Evaluations
• All players who are registered as “goalies” or who are playing the position of goalie will be evaluated as a goalie.

• The Foothills Minor Hockey Association recognizes that the position of Goalie is a specialized position and will endeavor to provide evaluations that indicate this. The Foothills Minor Hockey Association will therefore enlist specified goalie evaluators to do the evaluations for the goalies. The decision to do so will be the sole responsibility of the Foothills Minor Hockey Association Executive.

• Goaltenders are assigned to the respective teams based on their evaluation ranking. Where the number of goaltenders exceeds the number of teams in a specific grouping, the evaluation committee will determine the teams that will carry multiple goalies.

Team Notification

The general rule for team notification is Level Director > Head Coach > Team. In a situation when there is no Head Coach in place yet, the Level Director will notify the team.
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Rules and Regulations 9 – Team Selection

The Evaluation Committee will make team selection along with the Head Coaches based on the results of the evaluation process.

The goal is to ensure that all players are offered a fair and equal chance to make a particular team. Team selection will be finalized 10 days prior to the first league game every year.

The Head Coach, Assistant Coach or Manager will contact the team players and/or parents.

The number of players placed on each team will be as close as possible to the following table. It is to be noted that the number of players on each team will be directly impacted by the number of players registered in any given Division, i.e. Initiation, Novice, Atom, Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Maximum Players</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initiation</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novice</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atom</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pee Wee</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bantam</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midget</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Permission to Try Out Form

Hockey Alberta Rules govern player movement to Elite stream teams. Granting or withholding of Permission to Try Out Forms is governed by Hockey Alberta. See the Current Season Hockey Alberta Regulations for specific information.
Rules and Regulations 10 – Siblings Playing in Same Division

Siblings evaluating within the same Division and requesting to be placed on the same team will be placed in the team of the lower level should one player make the top team and should the other make the lower team.
Rules and Regulations 11 – Coach Certification, Coach Clinics

As per Current Hockey Alberta Regulations.

Coach Clinics

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association will hold coach applicants responsible and accountable to ensure that all applicant coaches are qualified and certified. The Association is also responsible in providing training and support to its coaches. Please contact the Foothills Minor Hockey Association Coach Director to register in coaching clinics. The Foothills Minor Hockey Association will reimburse coaches for clinic costs.
The objectives of the coach selection system, is to maximize the likelihood that the person best able to develop the players within the Association is selected.

- Preference will be given to coaches in good standing, having completed levels of the National Coaches Certification Program, who are currently coaching and who have actively supported the Foothills Minor Hockey Association.

- The Coach Selection Committee will select all coaches.

- No coach is to be awarded a team and no one should have prior knowledge of the Committee’s recommendations before the Committee’s recommendations have been received and approved by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

- Members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors are not eligible to Head Coach any teams of the Foothills Minor Hockey Association while holding office. Such Member shall not participate in any decisions wherever there is a conflict of interest.

- Selection of coaches also includes an appraisal of beliefs in and willingness to act in accordance with the Association’s mandate, rules and regulations. An applicant’s intentions as well as past performance are important input.

- If a parent’s coaching interest is restricted to the team the child plays on, then the player must be capable of playing on that team, i.e. he must be evaluated within the generalized group from which the team is to be selected.

- All head coaches, assistant coaches and team volunteers that will access the dressing room for a Foothills Minor Hockey Association team may be subject to a confidential criminal record search by the RCMP.
Rules and Regulations 13 – Team Management

Team Finances

1. Each team is required to have two signing authorities to manage team financial accounts.

2. FMHA will provide a balance sheet for the treasurer to update throughout the year.

3. Each team’s manager will provide a year-end financial statement to the FMHA Treasurer. Failure to do so will result in action by the disciplinary committee.

Team Positions

1. Immediate family members cannot be carded staff on the same team without a permission from the FMHA executive.

2. Members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors are not eligible to be Head Coach of any teams of the Foothills Minor Hockey Association while holding office. Such Member shall not participate in any decisions wherever there is a conflict of interest.

3. Members of the Executive Committee may hold other positions with the teams within the association such as Manager, Assistant Coach, Trainer, etc.

Team Jerseys

A team may design their own jerseys. A jersey design has to incorporate Foothills Flyers colors and logo and had to be approved by the FMHA Board.
Parents are responsible to ensure their child has all the necessary equipment and that it is worn properly in accordance with Hockey Canada’s requirements. Full safety equipment, including approved helmet, face guard and neck guard must be worn and properly secured by all players when on the ice for conditioning camp, try-outs, practices, warm-ups, or games.

Mouthguards are strongly recommended for all FMHA players, especially at the Pee Wee, Bantam, and Midget levels.

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association shall provide each team the following equipment: home and away jerseys together with two (2) garment bags, pucks, puck bag, and first aid kit.

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association will provide each player with home and away socks at the beginning of the hockey season. Should a player require additional socks during the regular hockey season, they will be responsible for the purchase of their own socks in the FMHA team colors. Initiation teams will receive one set of socks (home or away colors) per player.

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association provides 1 set of goaltending equipment for all Initiation, Novice, and Atom teams. Goaltending equipment is not provided to the PeeWee, Bantam, and Midget teams. Goal sticks are provided to Initiation and Novice teams only.

Jersey handling and care should be assigned to one (1) individual per team. The jerseys should be washed on a regular basis and then hung to dry (do not dry in dryer as this damages the silk screening). Garment bags are for transporting the jersey and the jerseys should be removed from the bags between games.

Any goalie equipment or jerseys requiring repair should be repaired as promptly and as needed. Please contact the Equipment Director if you have any damaged equipment.

Practice pinneys are available to teams during the regular hockey season. Please contact the Equipment Director.

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association will lend goalie equipment to Initiation/Novice/Atom goalies attending summer hockey school. Please contact the Equipment Director. A damage deposit in the amount of $200.00 is required and will be returned upon receipt of the equipment.

Name bars are to be applied with a LONG STITCH ONLY. GLUE IS FORBIDDEN. Please remove name bars carefully to avoid damages to the jerseys.

As part of the Foothills Minor Hockey Association’s inventory control program, a damage deposit may be requested from all Foothills Minor Hockey teams.

Each team is accountable and responsible for the prompt return of all equipment. Damage deposit cheques, if requested will be cashed if equipment is not returned. The Equipment Director will communicate year-end equipment round-up dates with each team by March 1st every year.
Off-ice Officials (timekeepers/scorekeepers) are required to conduct themselves in a BUSINESSLIKE, SPORTSMANLIKE, and NON-VINDICTIVE manner at ALL times. The actions of an Off-Ice Official MUST be above reproach. Actions such as “baiting” or inciting players or coaches are STRICTLY prohibited.

No one under the age of 18 years old is allowed in the timekeeper/scorekeeper’s box (excludes participating players and on-ice officials).

Instructions to Off-Ice Officials as per Hockey Canada’s Rules:
• Off-ice Officials are to be treated with courtesy at all times by players and team officials.
• Off-ice Officials are under the general supervision of the Referee for the playing of each game.
• Off-ice Officials should follow the instructions as stated in the Hockey Canada Rule Book with reference to Timekeepers, Official Scorer and Goal Judges. They will save themselves from many unpleasant incidents if these instructions are followed.
• Off-ice Officials shall refrain from criticizing the work of any other official at any time. The Penalty Timekeeper should keep the Penalty Bench from of spectators; should there be any trouble in this respect, report the matter to the Referee.
• Off-ice Officials should be at their respective positions a few minutes prior to the start of the game and subsequent periods.
• When the Official Scorer obtains the team line-ups, he shall obtain the name and number of the Captain and Alternate Captain(s) of each team. This information shall be given to the Referee prior to the start of each game. If the Official Scorer encounters any difficulty in obtaining the team line-ups, he shall report this to the Referee.
• Following the completion of the game the Official Scorer shall sign the Official Game Report and also see that it is signed by the Referee. The Report should then be sent to the appropriate branch or league office.
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Rules and Regulations 16 – Suspensions

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association follows the Hockey Alberta's minimum suspension guidelines. See the Current Season Hockey Alberta Regulations for the current minimum suspension guidelines. The FMHA reserves the rights to enforce suspensions above these guidelines, as well as to enforce suspensions against parents and spectators.

FMHA Coaches Suspension Guidelines for Abuse of Officials Penalties

FIRST OFFENSE
The first offense where a FMHA coach is suspended by the CAHL will result in a letter being issued from FMHA stating the coach has put on probation and that any further suspensions from CAHL will result in an additional suspension from FMHA. The probation will be in effect for 1 year from the date of the offense, at which time the coaches recorded will be cleared and he will no longer be considered a repeat offender.

AN OFFENSE WHILE ON PROBATION
A coach who is on probation and is suspended from the CAHL will have 2 additional games added to his/her CAHL suspension by FMHA. The coach will also be put on secondary probation notice that any additional CAHL suspensions in the next calendar year from the date of offense will result in a 1 year suspension from coaching in FMHA. The coaches recorded will be cleared on the anniversary of the date of the offense provided there are no other incidents.

AN OFFENSE WHILE ON SECONDARY PROBATION
A coach who is on secondary probation and is suspended by the CAHL will be immediately suspended for a full calendar year from any management position with any team in the FMHA association. After 1 year from the date of the offense the coach can apply to coach in the FMHA.
Practice ice and game ice is the property of the Foothills Minor Hockey Association, and its use will be in accordance with the rules and guidelines set forth herein.

It is the responsibility of the Foothills Minor Hockey Association Operations Manager to fully utilize all ice times made available by the Town of High River.

The Operations Manager will develop procedures to ensure fair allocation of game and practice ice times.

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association Operations Manager will have the authority to contract the rental of ice from the Towns of Nanton, Stavely, Claresholm, and Black Diamond, should there not be any ice available in High River or in Blackie.

Teams that do not use ice allotted to them for games or practices without notifying the Operations Manager in advance MAY forfeit future ice considerations and will be required to pay for said ice.

Any changes to the Town’s flood schedules must be directed through the Foothills Minor Hockey Association Operations Manager, who in turn will contact the Town’s Arena Manager. Coaches and/or Team Officials are not permitted to instruct Zamboni operators to change ice-resurfacing times.

Practices

Practice schedules run for the full duration of the season, including playoffs.

At the conclusion of the Central Alberta Hockey League regular season play, FMHA teams not involved with League Playoffs or provincials are entitled to only one practice per week. All teams after regular season play may request ice and referees for Exhibition Games at the Team’s expense. Teams involved in League Playoffs and/or Provincials will continue with two practices per week. All schedules will continue to go through the Ice Coordinator.

Practice times are allotted to each team at the beginning of the season in a fair and equitable manner, with consideration given to the age of the players involved. Practice schedules are determined by the Foothills Minor Hockey Association Operations Manager. Ice time and schedules will be allocated to each team and will be dependent on budget and enrollment for the current hockey season. Both the large ice surface and the small ice surface will be utilized when determining the practice schedules for current year hockey teams in the FMHA. Morning practices may be assigned.

In the event there is not enough practice ice time available, the Foothills Minor Hockey Association has the authority to schedule half ice practices on the large ice surface for the Novice and Atom Divisions.
A forty eight (48) hour notice is required should a team cancel a weekly practice. Please contact the Operations Manager. Should there be a no-show; the team will be charged the full hourly ice rental fee.

There are no practices scheduled during the Christmas holidays.

Practices might be forfeited during the Provincial Play Downs. The Operations Manager will make every effort to reschedule practices.

Teams are asked to fully use their ice practices and are asked to respect the allotted ice time given to their team.

League Games

The Central Alberta Hockey League (C.A.H.L.)’s regular season begins approximately the 3rd Friday in October every year.

The FMHA Operations Manager will provide the league with required home ice slots.

The CAHL is responsible in establishing the game schedule for each division.
The first step in hosting/organizing a tournament is to assign a tournament coordinator. If you are hosting a tournament with another Foothills team, each team should assign a coordinator. Tournament format needs to be established as soon as you begin the process of organizing your tournament. In order to have a successful tournament, the coordinators need to meet at least six (6) weeks prior to their scheduled tournament. Each FMHA team is eligible to apply for $250 and a bucket of pucks from FMHA (submit a request to Level Director).

1. Tournament Date

Tournament dates for the Association are established at the beginning of the hockey season, by the Operations Manager and the Board, taking into account the Central Alberta Hockey League’s schedule, statutory holidays, Town of High River recreation activities, and Figure Skating activities. Furthermore, the Operations Manager has to respect Provincial play-off deadlines and league play-offs.

2. Tournament Sanction Number

Hockey tournaments require to be sanctioned. The Foothills Minor Hockey Association will make the necessary arrangements to request your tournament sanction number. The sanction number approval sheet will be faxed from our Zone 5 Discipline/Travel/Tournament Coordinator and a copy will be provided to you. Please display in a visible area at the arena at all times during the tournament. Visiting teams will require this number.

3. Tournament Coordinators

A tournament coordinator should be assigned by each hosting team. Responsibilities include:

• Ensuring that the overall organization/preparation of the tournament is conducted in a prudent, organized, and efficient manner.
• Preparing “Coaches Package” for host & visiting teams (includes: tournament program, rules & regulations, grievance committee rules and regulations, coupons…)
• Securing ice with FMHA’s Operations Manager
• Securing pucks with FMHA’s Equipment Director
• Inviting teams.

4. Inviting Visiting Teams

The tournament coordinators together with the coaches are responsible in inviting visiting teams. You will require from each visiting team:

• Team roster (including coaches, trainers, managers)
• Team name & jersey colors (home & away)
• Jersey numbers
• Association name & division
5. Tournament Fees

Entry fees are determined by your tournament coordinators. The tournament fee cheques should be made out to your team, not to Foothills Minor Hockey Association. Hosting teams are responsible in managing all financial aspects of the tournament, including ice fees and referee payments.

6. Tournament Rules

- Tournament games must not conflict with any league games.
- All match penalties must be reported to the Zone 5 Discipline Representative.
- Teams must adhere to Hockey Alberta’s Non-Provincial Tournament Rules.
- Copy of all game sheets must be sent within 48 hours to:
  Zone 5 Discipline/Travel/Tournament Coordinator

7. Ice Scheduling

The tournament coordinators are responsible in contacting FMHA’s Operations Manager. The Operation Manager will advise you of the ice available for the tournament. Once the coordinators have determined the tournament schedule, a copy of the schedule needs to be submitted to:

- FMHA Operations Manager
- Rec-Plex Concession Manager
- Town of High River Parks & Arena Supervisor
- Timekeepers/Scorekeepers Tournament Coordinator
- Poster Tournament Coordinator
- 50/50 Tournament Coordinator

Foothills Minor Hockey Association will invoice the hosting teams for the tournament ice usage.

8. Referees

Once you have provided FMHA Operations Manager with the tournament schedule, they will in turn ensure that the referee assignor secures referees for all games. Okotoks Referee Association must be notified at least a month in advance. Please follow the current approved referee rates for referee payments.

9. Timekeepers & Scorekeepers

Assign one timekeeper/scorekeeper coordinator from each hosting team. Coordinators are responsible:

- In ensuring that 2 volunteers are assigned for each scheduled game to perform
timekeeping and scorekeeping duties. Tournament rules and regulations are to be posted in timekeepers/scorekeepers’ booth.

• Together with the referees, ensure that tournament rules and regulations are respected.
• All disputes to be directed to the Grievance Committee.
• **NOTE: NO PERSON UNDER THE AGE OF 18 IS ALLOWED IN THE TIMEKEEPER’S BOOTH.**

10. Raffle Coordinators

Assign one raffle coordinator from each hosting team. Decide with all coordinators and parents the source of raffle items, i.e. solicit local businesses for donated items, parent responsible in donating an item, the purchase of trophies, medals, t-shirts…for tournament prizes also needs to be decided. Coordinators are responsible:

• In getting a Raffle license from the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission. Rules and Regulations, as well as other information are available at the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission website at [www.aglc.gov.ab.ca](http://www.aglc.gov.ab.ca).
• In ensuring that all rules of the raffle license are followed properly.
• In ensuring that 2 volunteers are assigned at the raffle table for each scheduled game.
• In conducting the raffle draw at a pre-determined time and notify winners.

11. 50/50 Coordinators

Assign one 50/50 coordinator from each hosting team. Coordinators are responsible:

• In getting a raffle license from the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission. Rules and regulations, as well as other information are available at the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission website at [www.aglc.gov.ab.ca](http://www.aglc.gov.ab.ca).
• In ensuring that all rules of the raffle license are followed.
• In ensuring that volunteers are assigned for each scheduled game to perform 50/50 ticket sales. Maximize ticket sales by drawing winning ticket between second and third periods.
• In posting winning number, winner’s names, amount on a poster.

12. Treasurer

Assign one treasurer from each hosting team. Treasurers are responsible:

• Overall financial control and reconciliation. Tournament statement to be provided to respective teams.
• Collect all entry fees.
• Ensure floats for 50/50 ticket sale, raffle sale, referee payment.
• Collect proceeds from the above throughout the weekend.

13. Poster Coordinators
Assign one poster coordinator from each hosting team. Coordinators are responsible:

- For the purchase of materials.
- Design and prepare team roster posters, schedules, welcome signs, 50/50 winners list, sponsor list…

14. Grievance Committee

The Grievance Committee should comprise of 5 committee members. The Grievance Committee should be familiar with tournament rules and regulations. The Grievance Committee should establish guidelines with respect to what constitutes a grievance and what process to follow to file a grievance. A minimum fee of $50.00 should be applied to any grievance.

15. Program Committee

Assign one program coordinator from each hosting team. Coordinators are responsible for:

- Compiling information for the tournament program. The tournament program should include greetings, team rosters, sponsors, tournament guidelines and rules…

The Program Committee might decide to charge for programs using the proceeds to create a “loonie or toonie stick” to be raffled at the end of the tournament.

**Tournament Rules (Sample)**

1. This is a Hockey Alberta sanctioned tournament. Canadian Hockey Association and Hockey Alberta rules apply, with any exceptions on this sheet.

2. All players must be registered on the team roster for the current year and must be of H.A. age.

3. The tournament Grievance Committee reserves the right to make final decisions on all rules and discrepancies. A $50.00 deposit must accompany any grievances.

4. Referees and scorekeepers will be provided by host community.

5. All teams must be ready to start play at the posted time or a minor penalty will be assessed. Please be ready ten (10) minutes prior to scheduled games.

6. Games will be scheduled according to the number of teams participating in tournament and at the host’s discretion. Overtime: sudden death for ten (10) minutes, with goaltenders. If no goal is scored, goaltenders will be pulled. Goal must be scored from the blue line. There is NO overtime in round-robin play.
7. The ice surface will be cleaned every two (2) periods during the tournament. Between other periods, change ends and continue play.

8. Coaches are responsible at all times for their team’s conduct on and off the ice, and will ensure that their players behave in a sportsmanlike manner at all times. Any penalties assessed off the ice will be served at the start of the next scheduled game.

9. Penalties:

   Minor – Two (2) minutes (stop time) or three (3) minutes (running time)
   Major – Five (5) minutes (stop time) or six (6) minutes (running time)

   FMHA will follow Hockey Alberta’s minimum suspension guidelines.
Association Logo

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association owns all the rights and artwork for all official symbols, crests, letterhead, etc. related to the Association.

Team Sponsorship/Fundraising

Fundraising activities organized by the Foothills Minor Hockey Association have priority over individual team fundraising activities. Specific team fundraising activities must not conflict or interfere with the Association’s activities.

Approval must be obtained in writing by a team representative before commencing fundraising activities. The team must submit their request in writing to the Association allowing five (5) days for review and approval before commencement of fundraising activities.

Approval must be obtained in writing by a team representative before requesting any cash donations to the team. The team must submit their request in writing to the Association allowing five (5) days for review and approval.

If a team wants to place sponsor’s information on team jerseys this needs to be approved by the FMHA Executive beforehand.
Rules and Regulations 20 – Arena Protocol and Damage to Property

Individual teams and players will be held responsible for damages to the Bob Snodgrass Recreation Complex, to the Blackie arena and on exterior arena property caused by any team or team members. Individual teams and players will also be held accountable for damages made to dressing rooms in the other community arenas.

Any player or team causing damage to the Bob Snodgrass Recreation Complex, to the Blackie arena or on exterior arena property will be suspended until such time as the damages are paid in full. Duration of suspension may extend beyond repayment time.
Foothills Minor Hockey Association
Rules and Regulations
2014 / 2015

Rules and Regulations 21 – Awards

INITIATION (each team)

Most Improved
Most Sportsmanlike
Most Dedicated

NOVICE (each team)

Most Improved
Most Sportsmanlike
Most Dedicated
Coaches Choice Award

ATOM

Each team:
Most Improved
Most Sportsmanlike
Most Dedicated
Coaches Choice Award

EVAN KURULIAK MEMORIAL AWARDS
Presented every year to “the Atom hockey players who best exemplify dedication, commitment, hard work, fairplay and making the most of the talent they have.”

BEST DEFENCEMAN
MOST IMPROVED
BEST FORWARD

DARIN CHARLETON MEMORIAL AWARD
BEST DEFENCEMAN

NEIL GILLIS
ATOM MVP

PEEWEE

Each team:
Coaches Choice Award

Best Defenseman
Most Improved
Best Forward

**CHUCK WONG MEMORIAL AWARD**
PEE WEE MVP

**BANTAM**

Each team:
- Coaches Choice Award

Best Defenseman
Most Improved
Best Forward

**GATEWAY HOTEL AWARD**
BANTAM MVP

**MIDGET**

Each team:
- Coaches Choice Award

Best Defenseman
Most Improved
Best Forward

**TOM ROBERTSON AWARD**
MIDGET DEFENCEMAN

Midget MVP

**REFEREES**

Top Rookie
Top Intermediate
Top Veteran
*Teams will recommend officials and the Referee in Chief or Board will select recipients.*

**FEMALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

**ASSOCIATION AWARDS**

**ANDY WIND MEMORIAL AWARD**
GOALIE

SEAN SHUPE MEMORIAL AWARD
COACH OF THE YEAR
Presented to the Coach or Assistant Coach who best exemplifies the criteria as stated.

MIKE RYAN MEMORIAL AWARD
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Any other awards and presentations given on behalf of the Foothills Minor Hockey Association are to be approved by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors (with the exception of team presentations to coaches).
Rules and Regulations 22 – Initiation Program

The Initiation Program has been established to properly develop players’ basic skating and hockey skills under a planned format.

All Initiation Program games include non-contact rules.

Teams in the Foothills Minor Hockey Association Initiation Program shall be made up of players not less than four (4) years old as of December 31 in the year of registration or as specified by the Board of Directors.

All players must play in their own age group, unless otherwise deemed necessary and authorized by the Foothills Minor Hockey Association Board of Directors.

The Initiation Program players are not evaluated. Teams are “split” evenly; number of players/team and skill level.

All Initiation Program games shall be played on the small ice surface in at the High River Bob Snodgrass Recreation Complex, with the exception of Tournament Games where both ice surfaces will be used by the Initiation Program players.

Game time is 90 minutes with three (3) twenty-seven (27) minute periods. The length of the last period might be altered depending on the time left on the clock at the beginning of the third period.

At the end of each three (3) minute period, a buzzer will be sounded to ensure equal ice time. This buzzer will signal an automatic rotation of all players except the goaltender.

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association Initiation Level Director will establish the game schedule together with neighboring communities, participating in the Initiation Program League.

The Initiation Program teams practice once a week for one (1) hour on the small ice surface at the Bob Snodgrass Recreation Complex.

The Initiation Program teams play one (1) game a week. Games are regularly scheduled on Saturdays.

All Initiation Program players must wear full hockey gear, including CSA approved neck-guards and helmets.

Icing of the puck offside rule does not apply in the Initiation Program. The Foothills Minor Hockey Initiation Program Divisional Director might introduce the offside rule at some point later in the season.

Face-off rules apply only at the beginning of the game, after a goal is scored, and at the beginning of each 3-minute shift.

Minor penalties will expire at the sound of the buzzer.

Major penalties will result in player’s disqualification for the remainder of the game. The severity of the penalty must be explained to the player and the parent by the coach after the game.

One (1) Coach will officiate Initiation Program games.

All Initiation Program coaches (on ice coaches) are required to complete the Hockey Canada Intro to Coach course.
Referees are provided to the Foothills Minor Hockey Association by the Okotoks Referee Association.

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association Operations Manager submits the weekly game schedules to the Okotoks Referee Association Referee Assignor.

The Okotoks Referee Association submits to the Foothills Minor Hockey Association a monthly invoice.

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association is responsible for referee payments for LEAGUE GAMES AND PROVINCIAL PLAY DOWN GAMES ONLY.

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association is NOT responsible for referee payments for EXHIBITION GAMES. Each team is responsible for paying referees immediately after exhibition games.

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association is NOT responsible for referee payment for TOURNAMENT GAMES. The Okotoks Referee Association will invoice the teams directly for referee payment.

The Okotoks Referee Association establishes referee fees and travel fees based on Hockey Alberta’s current Referee Rates. Refer to Hockey Alberta Regulations, Section I, Referee Rates.

The Okotoks Referee Association will provide the following number of referees/division:

- Novice A – a minimum of two men, three men when possible
- Novice B & C – two men (a minimum of two men, three men when possible for tournament semi-finals and finals)
- Atom A – a minimum of two men, three men when possible
- Atom B & C – two men (a minimum of two men, three men when possible for tournament semi-finals and finals)
- Pee Wee A, B, C, Bantam A, B, C, Midget A, B, C – a minimum of two men, three men when possible
Tournament Sanction Numbers

A tournament sanction number is required by Hockey Alberta when a team wishes to host a home tournament. The Foothills Minor Hockey Association Tournament Coordinator will provide each Division with its respective tournament sanction number.

Travel Permits

Travel permits are required for teams traveling to tournaments or exhibition games outside of Zone 5. Travel permits are not required for league play as all league games played within the Central Alberta Hockey League (C.A.H.L.) are sanctioned under the umbrella of Hockey Alberta. Zone 5 and Zone 6 teams participate in the C.A.H.L. Should a team participate in a tournament of exhibition game in Zone 6, a travel permit is required.

The following rules are to be adhered to by the Coaches/Managers of the Foothills Minor Hockey Association. Failure to abide by these rules will result in the following penalties: a) first offence – a two (2) week ban on travel permits, and b) second and any subsequent offence – a four (4) week ban on travel permits.

- All Hockey Alberta sanctioned teams MUST be in possession of a Travel Permit when traveling outside their Zone for exhibition games or tournaments.
- Receipt of the Travel Permit MUST be confirmed at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the exhibition games or first tournament game.
- FMHA teams must have a copy of their Travel Permit with them at the game or tournament and place the Travel Permit number on each game sheet.
- FMHA Travel Permits will ONLY be available through the FMHA Tournament Coordinator.
- Game sheets for exhibition games or tournament games MUST be forwarded to the FMHA Tournament Coordinator within twenty-four (24) hours of the completion of the exhibition game or tournament.
- FMHA teams are responsible to ensure that any exhibition or tournament game played outside of Zone 5 is accompanied with a Travel Permit.
- Teams MUST also ensure that their opponent has the appropriate Travel Permit if required and that they have placed the Travel Permit number on the game sheet.
- If the Coach/Manager cannot confirm if his opponent has the appropriate documentation, THE GAME MUST NOT BE PLAYED.
- There are no exceptions to the Travel Permit Regulations.

Travel Permit Request Procedure

Send your travel permit request to the Foothills Minor Hockey Association Tournament Coordinator via e-mail with the following information:

- Date of exhibition game or tournament.
- Location of game or tournament.
- Number of games played during tournament.
• Tournament sanction number from hosting Association.
• Division level of tournament, i.e. AA, A, B, C.

Please allow three (3) days for processing. The Foothills Minor Hockey Association Secretary will forward your Travel Permit via e-mail.
Evaluations Disclaimer

2014/2015
EVALUATIONS

DISCLAIMER

The Foothills Minor Hockey Association and its Evaluation Committee will make every effort to place players on teams of appropriate skill and minimize player movement.

Players will be evaluated by a team of evaluators, selected by the Evaluation Committee established by the Foothills Minor Hockey Association Board of Directors.

_Evaluations are documented and remain confidential._

Individual evaluations are documented and remain confidential. Individual evaluation scores and rankings are not released, as our purpose is to form teams not to rank players for the general membership. Under no circumstances will evaluation results be released to parents. The importance of the evaluation process is to evaluate effectively and equitably, and have players play at a level consistent with their skills and abilities. Furthermore, the Foothills Minor Hockey Association does not have the resources to release this information in a form that educationally will benefit and help develop the player. This education and development is the responsibility of the coach and parent. The evaluation sheets and the ranking criteria are only made available to the Evaluation Committee, the Divisional Director, the Executive Committee of the Board, and the Head Coaches in the draft process. The Members of the Executive Committee of the Board will not release evaluation data.

Coaches and other members of the evaluation process are required to sign a letter of confidentiality stating that under no circumstances will evaluation results be released.

I have read the above and will abide by the Foothills Minor Hockey Association’s confidentiality evaluation rule.

__________________________________________  __________________________
Name                                           Date