



Major Hockey League
Constitution & Regulations
As revised
October, 2014
October 20, 2014

1. Name - The organization shall be known as the MAJOR HOCKEY LEAGUE, herein after referred to as MHL.
2. Objectives - The object of this league shall be to control, improve, and foster amateur hockey in the area which it embraces, within the framework of the SASKATCHEWAN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION, herein after referred to as the SHA.
3. Members
 - a. All new teams in a division willing to abide by the constitution and regulations of the MHL will make application to be voted on by the membership at the annual meeting. All new teams accepted will be on a 1 year probationary period.
 - b. The annual membership fee shall be \$200.00 per team and must be paid to the secretary-treasurer before such team can participate in the scheduling meeting. Privileges are automatically lost on default of payment of any monies due to the MHL.
 - c. A new association entering the MHL will pay the \$500.00 franchise fee before the scheduling meeting. Once the center has completed 2 years in the league they will be reimbursed \$200.00 after year 3 and 4.
 - d. Each team must post or have posted a \$100.00 performance bond.
 - e. Any center dropping out of the MHL for one year will be reimbursed their performance bond and forfeit the franchise fee and must re-apply in writing to be accepted back into the MHL.
 - f. Any team who has scheduled and does not finish the season will lose their performance bond.
 - g. Any center that schedules and then drops out shall be fined \$500.00 and that team will need to reapply the next year for entry.
 - h. Each center shall post a \$100.00 per team performance bond with the MHL secretary-treasurer before teams can participate in any scheduled league games. The amount of the bond posted may be refunded to the teams upon request at the conclusion of the regular season league games and playoff games.

4. The Executive Committee - The committee shall consist of the president, vice-president, and one delegate from each member club, with an alternate names elected by such club members, which member shall enjoy equal voting rights except the president, or in his absence, the vice-president, who shall vote only in the case of a tie vote of the executive. Any majority of the aforementioned shall constitute a quorum. Players are not eligible for election to the executive committee.
5. League officers - The league officers shall consist of the president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, a commissioner for each division, the statistician, and the referee in chief. The league officers must be from a center in Saskatchewan.
6. Annual Meeting
 - a. The fall annual meeting shall be held the first Sunday of October each year at a place and time to be designated by the president of which every club member shall have due notice.
 - b. The spring annual meeting shall be held after the conclusion of the playing season, at some time during the month of April.
 - c. Proposed constitutional changes will be sent out one month prior.
 - d. The appointment of the executive committee, commissioners, referee in chief, will take place at such meetings.
 - e. Only clubs holding franchise in the MHL will be allowed voting privileges at either the spring or fall meeting. One per franchise.
 - f. Set the fines to be assessed for different infractions.
 - g. The fall annual meeting and scheduling meeting will be held on different days.
 - h. Any center not attending or not staying until the end of either the fall or spring meeting will be fined \$250.00.
 - i. The league officers will divide the teams into divisions (keeping the divisions small) and present them at the meeting in October.
7. Duties and Powers of the Executive Committee
 - a. To conduct the business of the MHL in its entirety between annual meetings and have complete control of hockey activities within its membership.
 - b. To admit new club members by a majority vote.
 - c. To re-admit or reinstate, by majority vote, any club, coach, manager, player, or referee under suspension, upon application from such suspended club or person.
 - d. To procure and make available a supply of referee reports for the use of all club members.
 - e. To procure and make available a copy of the constitution and regulations to each center and its teams.
8. Duties and Powers of the League Officers
 - a. To deal with business of minor nature which does not require the decision of the executive committee, between meetings of the committee
 - b. To deal with and rule on all protests.
 - c. To assess fines, suspend any club, coach, manager, player, or referee refusing to accept and obey the rulings of the executive committee or league officers, for

proven foul or unfair and unsportsmanlike conduct, individually or collectively, at any place where hockey is being played or any meeting.

9. Protests

- a. The league officers shall be the sole judges as to whether a protest shall be entertained or not.
- b. Protests on point of rules only as set out in the constitution and regulations, will only be entertained and not on a referee's decision.
- c. Protest procedure shall be outlined in the SHA Handbook with the fee for protests being \$150.00. Sum deposited with the protest shall be forfeited to the MHL if the protest is not upheld.
 - i. The president must be notified within 96 hours of the advertised time of the game. A cheque for \$150.00 must accompany this protest.
 - ii. Written protest and any third party evidence must be signed by the manager &/or coach and also the president of the association.
 - iii. If the protest is not upheld then the protesting team will lose their \$150.00, if it is upheld the team being protested against will be billed for expenses (example phone calls, mileage if a meeting is required).
 - iv. The president in consultation with the division commissioner will decide if the protest shall be entertained and then make a ruling based on the material submitted.
 - v. The president or his/her designate shall assume delivery of a copy of the protest to the team being protested against as soon as possible after receipt of the protest.
 - vi. The team being protested against shall have 24 hours from receipt of the protest to file a defiance along with a settlement fee of \$150.00.
 - vii. The president shall render a decision in writing as soon as possible and not later than seven (7) after receipt of the defiance.

10. Duties and Powers of the President

- a. The president will have the right to represent any or all of the executive committee on any occasion and will be responsible to his executive for same.
- b. To call meetings wherever deemed necessary or by request of any majority of club members.
- c. To give a full report to the SHA executive director regarding any suspensions of clubs, managers, coaches, players, referees, or any other officials.
- d. The president has the authority to add or impose suspensions in the case of dangerous play and for repeat offenders.
- e. Interpret the constitution when the intent of any section is in question.

11. Duties of the Secretary-Treasurer

- a. To record all minutes of the meetings, attend to all correspondence, record all receipts and payments, deposit all monies received in a bank of the MHL's choice, pay all accounts of the MHL as directed by the executive committee and prepare a statement of receipts and payments for information at each meeting.
- b. To pay honorarium of \$2000.00 to the president and \$3000.00 to the statistician and \$1000 to the Secretary/Treasurer at the conclusion of each hockey season.
- c. To send notices to club members of all meetings when directed by the president.
- d. To supply, at the expense of the MHL, a copy of the constitution and regulations, a list of players of each club, a supply of referee reports, game sheets, and envelopes for game sheets and any other information to each club.
- e. To supply a copy of all amendments to the constitution and regulations as approved by the MHL to the SHA.

12. Qualifications and Duties of a Commissioner

- a. A commissioner shall be neutral and not be connected with any club member in any way.
- b. He or she shall be interested and have good knowledge of hockey.
- c. He or she shall act in an advisory capacity to the MHL Officers, and assist on rulings on matters such as protests, fines, and suspensions, etc.
- d. Commissioners will be appointed annually on from each center in alphabetical order of the centers.
 - i. 2014-2015
 1. Rocanville
 2. Roblin
 3. Swan River
 4. Wapella
 5. Whitewood
 - ii. 2015 – 2016
 1. Yorkton
 2. Canora
 3. Churchbridge
 4. Cote
 5. Esterhazy
 - iii. 2016 – 17
 1. Foam Lake
 2. Fort Qu'Appelle
 3. Grand Plains
 4. Grenfell
 5. Kamsack

13. Amendments to the Constitution – The constitution shall be amended at either annual meetings, held spring and fall, and the intended amendment must be given in writing to the MHL one month before the meeting and can be adopted only by 2/3 majority vote of the voting delegates present.

14. Officials, Scorekeepers, and Timekeepers

- a. It shall be the duty of the home team management to appoint and assign a registered referee and two linesmen, an official scorekeeper, timekeeper, and penalty timekeeper, who once named are league officials and are responsible to the MHL president. They must conduct themselves as such and carry out their respective duties according to the rules.
- b. It shall be the duty of the official scorer to obtain the player roster on the provided MHL score sheet and deliver same to the referee before the start of the game, record all goals, assists, and penalties and hand same to the referee at the completion of the game for his signature.
- c. A \$25.00 fine will be levied against the association that has a team that submits score sheets that are filled out incorrectly.

15. Referees

- a. Only referees registered with the SHA / Hockey Manitoba referees division shall be allowed to referee games in the MHL.
- b. A three man system is to be used in all league and playoff games. In games not assigned by the referee in chief of the MHL, failure to comply with this rule will result in a \$50.00 fine for the first offence and a loss of 2 points for the second and subsequent offences.
- c. The home team shall supply and bear the costs of the referee and the linesmen.
- d. Referees shall be 2 years older than the maximum age of the players in the group playing.
- e. Linesmen can be of the same age or older.
- f. Once a referee and linesmen are named, they are league officials and are responsible to the referee in chief. They must conduct themselves as such and are expected to go by the rulebook all the way. Rough or dirty hockey must not be tolerated.
- g. It shall be the duty of the referee and linesmen to sign the score sheet after the game is completed, and if the referee has any remarks relative to the game, this must be written on an official game report and forwarded to the MHL president, not later than the following morning.
- h. If there are any penalties such as match penalties or any other disturbance that may call for immediate action by the president, the referee must phone and report same to the president that same night, if possible, or first thing in the morning. Following phone call an official referee's game report must be faxed in.
- i. Home teams must pay the costs of referees as per the SHA handbook for playoff games.
- j. The referee in chief will appoint neutral out of town referees for all "A" division finals in the pee wee, bantam, and midget age divisions.

- i. He/she will also appoint neutral out of town referees for all midget playoff games, mileage to be paid by the home team until the "A" final.
- k. A parent, guardian, or sibling cannot ref that player's games. A team official cannot ref or lines for his or her team. If either situation should occur, due to unforeseen circumstances both coaches must sign their consent to the back of the game sheet. Failure to comply will result in the offending team losing their points for that game. No protest will be required to take the points away.
- l. If a team requests a neutral referee then the team requesting will pay the referee the mileage and the going SHA referee fee.

16. Playoffs - Adult goal judges are required for bantam and midget playoffs.

Rules and Regulations

With the exception of those rules and regulations specifically mentioned and covered herein, the SHA rules and regulations shall prevail in its entirety.

- 17. All teams in the MHL shall be properly registered with SHA or Hockey Manitoba as applicable.
- 18. Each club member shall submit to the MHL statistician, a copy of the SHA or Hockey Manitoba certification form listing eligible players as per SHA or Hockey Manitoba regulations. The copy of the certification to be sent prior to your first league game. Any team failing to comply with this rule will be fined \$50.00 per game.
- 19. Player roster with player's numbers must be submitted, on approved form, to the statistician prior to your first league game. Any team failing to comply with this rule will be fined \$50.00 per game.
- 20. The amount of any fine assessed against any team, coach, manager, or player for infraction of any rules, foul play, etc. by the MHL officers shall be taken out of the performance bond posted, which amount must be replaced with the MHL secretary/treasurer before that association will be considered to be in good standing with the MHL. Any associations not in good standing at the beginning of any season will not be allowed to participate.
- 21. Postponement of scheduled league games, except in the case of adverse weather conditions, must be arranged between the two teams concerned (within 72 hours) before the scheduled hockey game time. Any cancelled/postponed games must be rescheduled and played within 4 weeks of the original scheduled date, except for the month of December where teams will be allowed 6 weeks to reschedule due to Christmas. These games may only be rescheduled once failure to comply with this rule will result in a \$50.00 fine for each team. This fine will be taken from their bond and must be replaced within 2 weeks or the team will not be able to play. Any team postponing a scheduled league game to participate in an exhibition game at home or

away shall forfeit \$100.00 to the MHL, unless the two teams involved agree to a postponement. Ice fees and referees must be paid by the offending team to the home team if this rule is broken. The league must be notified of all game changes. A new date for that game must be to the league within 7 days. There will be a \$50.00 fine for both teams for failure to comply with this rule. Games must be completed by the season deadline. There will be no forfeits.

- a. Discussed at 2012 AGM – NOT fair that both teams are fined, as it may not be the fault of both teams. Any more than 1 postponement that cannot be rescheduled, both teams must notify their respective commissioner to co-ordinate rescheduling of the game.
22. In the case of illness on a team, the team may find it impossible to give the other team 72 hours notice. If the opposing team does not agree to the postponement then the team with the illness must get permission from their commissioner or the president. If neither is available another commissioner can make the call. The commissioner or the president that makes the decision shall not reside in the community of either team involved.
 23. Any team cancelling a league playoff game within 36 hours of the scheduled game, must have the consent of the president (or past president if there is a conflict of interest) and the division commissioner. They will be responsible to pay the ice and official fee, if applicable to the other team. If the cancelling team does not have the consent of the president (or past president) and the commissioner, they will also default the game.
 24. The management of each team shall make every effort to prevail upon rink management to improve facilities and conditions of skating rinks in the province where it is deemed necessary for the safety and comfort of the players and spectators, such as adequate lighting over the ice area and throughout the rink, adequate time and penalty keepers boxes, players boxes, visible time clock, fire exits properly constructed and lighted, keep puck fences in good order of repair, which shall be constructed of lumber materials and away from any cement walls, see that gates in the rink open out and not onto the ice surface, and the such gates are equipped with adequate latch and fastener. Ice shall be cleaned between each period.
 25. That there be no overtime played in regular season games, which are tied at the end of regulation time.
 26. At the completion of all league games, the teams shall commence their playoff series without delay.
 27. Overtime shall be played in all playoff games (other than a 2 game total point series) ending in a tie at the end of regulation time, according to the *Hockey Canada* rule (Rule #83). As follows.
 - a. Following the end of the game the teams will take a 2 minute break on the ice. The clock will be set for 10 minute sudden death victory overtime period. Teams will not change ends.

- b. If still tied the teams will go to the dressing room while the ice is resurfaced. The clock will then be set for 20 minute sudden victory period. Teams will change ends.
28. The playoff structure shall be decided at the scheduling meeting.
29. In the case of a tie in team standings at the end of regular season league games, SHA tie breaking rules will apply.
30. The team finishing in a top position shall have the choice of playing the first playoff game at home, and if an odd game is necessary to declare a winner, this too shall be played on the home ice of the team in top position.
31. The league will provide banners for winners in each division.
32. When an individual player has accumulated 3 major penalties and/or 3 misconducts, the player will be suspended by the league president for one game, upon a second accumulation the suspension will be 2 games, upon a third accumulation the suspension will be for 3 games, etc. Clarification: will apply to all games excluding provincial playoffs and will carry over from the regular season. If a player accumulates 3 checking from behind penalties an extra game will be added to the above suspension.
 - a. Any major penalty, checking from behind, and fights will not be deleted.
33. All suspensions will be posted on the web page. Teams / players concerned may be notified by other means if necessary.
34. All game sheets to be faxed to the statistician by noon the next day. Failure to do so will result in a \$25.00 fine. Playoff games must be faxed in the same night.
35. Zero tolerance will be practiced by the MHL. Team officials and who violate the zero tolerance rule will be suspended for a minimum of 1 game.
36. Any player who accumulates 3 checking from behind penalties will receive an extra game in addition to his/her 3 infraction suspension.
37. All teams in all divisions are to be allowed to participate in playoffs.
38. Any team that does not show for a scheduled game or shows up without enough players to ice a team will compensate the opposing team for ice costs as well as the cost of the officials. The opposing team will inform the president of the forfeit and with the president's permission, will send the offending team a bill. If the offending team has not paid the bill in 2 weeks, the opposing team will inform the president and he will pull the offending team's bond and that team will not play until both are paid. This game must be rescheduled.

39. Late starts – For every 30 minutes a game is late (from the scheduled start time) it will be designated as 1 period and 2 goals will be given to the non offending team. If you are 30 minutes late the game will start in the 2nd period if you are 60 minutes late the game will start in the 3rd period. This also applies to the home team if they are not ready to start. If a phone call is made to the non offending team they will let you know if the game can be started late and it can be played in its entirety or if the game will need to be rescheduled. If the game cannot be played the offending team will be responsible for ice and ref costs as per the constitution. When making the call, leaving a message is not good enough. You must verbally talk with a team official.
40. Once a player has been given full goaltender privileges, he cannot return to the game as a player but must remain classified as the goaltender, even though the regular goaltender is back playing in the game. Novice and atom divisions will be exempt from this rule.
41. Overage policy (passed at October 2011 president's meeting)
 - a. A first year player in a division may ask for a concession to play in the next lower division if the player is in their first or second year of hockey or a female.
 - b. Overage concessions should be voted on at the fall meeting and the names submitted to the league president seven (7) days prior to the meeting.
 - c. Overage concessions after the annual meeting may be granted by the president provided they follow the constitution. The president will inform the teams in that division of any new overages.
 - d. The seven (7) game rule still applies (this is a maximum of 7 games). Any coach or president that has a concern with any overage player who has been allowed a concession should submit in writing, a letter to the president of the MHL. The letter must be sent before the 7th game or December 15, whichever comes first.
 - e. In the case of a player having a physical handicap each case will be dealt with on an individual basis by the president and the division commissioner.
 - f. Once a player has been approved to move down they should not play back up in the division they belong. If they do they will automatically be part of the higher based team.
 - g. There will be no overages in the midget division.
42. Home team will be responsible to provide the warm up pucks before games.
43. The Major Hockey League will follow SHA and only recommend that a mouth guard be worn for games. No penalty will be assessed for not wearing one. Manitoba teams will follow Saskatchewan rules for this. There will be no penalty called for this in league games played in Manitoba.
44. Teams will be fined \$100 for every player that does not participate in the Annual All-Star Game.