

FOUR COUNTIES HOCKEY LEAGUE BY-LAWS, RULES, & REGULATIONS

Amended Sept 29 2021

Amended August 2023

Amended August 2024

1. O.M.H.A. rules apply.
2. Any association entering a team or teams in the above mentioned league agrees to follow the rules and by-laws of this league and the O.M.H.A.
3. Failure to arrive for a game with sufficient players to play that game will result in a rescheduling of the game. The minimum number of players is seven (7) including a goalie. The offending team or centre may be assessed a penalty as laid out in Rule 4.
4. Four Counties contacts and coaches must be notified of canceled games seven (7) days (1week) in advance of game date. Failure to give sufficient notice will result in the cost of On and Off ice officials but no ice time. Game changes are to be made through the centre representatives only. The only exception would be during incimate weather or for no referees available. In this case, the centre representative or the league conveners should be contacted. If neither is available, a coach may contact the other coach directly to cancel the game in these emergency situations. The O.M.H.A. convenor must be informed of any canceled games. A fine will automatically be assessed to the offending teams or centres if the game in question is ruled a no show. No show fee structure to be the cost of the ice plus the cost of referees and any additional costs for score keeper, time keeper or gate person as submitted to the league by the home team.
 - 4a. Forfeits are to be avoided by all reasonable means. However should a forfeit occur a penalty shall be paid to the League as per the fine structure laid out for No-show games.
5. All fines and assessments are automatic upon approval by league committee and are automatically deducted from the team bond if they are unpaid. A letter will be sent to the offending centre to address the fine upon board approval including due date as amount. Notification will be presented to the offending centre to upgrade their bond monies which is required forthwith within thirty (30) days.
6. Rescheduled games must be completed on the Four Counties League website as quickly as possible even if it is a T.B.A. game. The Game change must go to the proper person concerned in accordance with the information on the Website. This is the only method that is acceptable. When a rescheduled date is confirmed, the updated information is presented to the league statistician and O.M.H.A. representative by the initiating centre contact.
7. All protested games must be marked on the game sheet at the time of the games completion and before the game sheet is submitted to the proper officials for his or her signature. The league committee will rule on the protest. A fifty (\$50.00) dollar fee will be applied. This fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld. The protest fee must accompany the game sheet when sent in.
8. The lengths of the games are as follows: U8 and U9 will follow OMHA guidelines. U11 sixty (60) minutes, U13 seventy (70) minutes, U15 seventy/eighty (70/80) minutes, and U18 eighty (80) minutes. There will be no game curfews for any age group. All game sheets must be clearly marked as the length of periods and scrapes. (U15) Centre may increase the length of the first period to 15 minutes as long as

there is sufficient time to allow a flood between the 2nd and 3rd periods. Otherwise the minimum length of periods is listed in Table 1. Game numbers must appear on all game sheets. Centre conveners are to check for game numbers prior to sending in the game sheets. All games are to be played stop time. (See Table 1)

Table 1

DIVISION	Period #1	Period #2	Period #3
U8	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	None
U9	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	None
U11	10 Minutes	10 Minutes	15 Minutes
U13	10 Minutes	15 Minutes	15 Minutes
U15	10 Minutes	15 Minutes	15 Minutes
U18	15 Minutes	15 Minutes	15 Minutes

9. There will be one (1) thirty (30) second time out allowed per team per regular season game. Time out use during playoffs games is explained in the playoff rules. There will be no overtime during the regular season. Overtime will be used if a game stands tied in a Playoff Finals. This will result in a five (5) minute sudden victory then a three (3) man shoot out if necessary. If the game is still tied after the (3) man shoot out, the same (3) three players in order will participate in a sudden victory shoot out. The three (3) players are to be selected after the 5 minute overtime.)

10. Points will be awarded as follows: two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for each team in the event of a tie. Standings may be calculated by percentage when required.

11. Any complaints concerning coaches, playing conditions, etc. should be forwarded to the centre Four Counties Hockey League contact and a meeting if necessary will be called to discuss the complaint.

12. There shall be a minimum of two (2) officials in U15 for the regular season and three (3) officials in U15 for playoffs, and a minimum of three (3) officials in U18 for both regular season and playoffs. Any complaints concerning referees shall be forwarded in writing to the centre referee coordinator. Referee-In-Chief.

13. Each centre will be required to post a two hundred and fifty (\$250.00) dollar performance bond. All fines levied against the centre will be deducted from the bond if not paid by due date. The Bond must be maintained at this (\$250.00) dollar level throughout the season. The performance bond must be restored to this level within thirty (30) days if it is used by the league. Team Entry Fees will be established at the beginning of each season usually at the first meeting following the Annual General Meeting. Team fees should be set after the number of teams in the league has been established for the season.

14. It is our best interest that all centres have a representative at all league committee meetings. Failure to do so will result in a fifty (\$50.00) dollar fine to the offending centre or centres. Failure of a centre to attend the annual general meeting will result in a one hundred (\$100.00) dollar fine.

15. Each centre in good standing with the Four Counties Hockey League will have one (1) vote at regular monthly league committee meetings. The executive combined will only have one vote in the event of a

tie. If a member of the executive is also a centre representative contact they will have a vote for the centre. The O.M.H.A. contact(s) will not have voting privileges.

16. Awards to be determined annually by the league committee.

17. Member Associations will only pay the minimum referee fees as listed in the OMHA manual of operations.

18. Playoff plans are to be drawn up by the league committee and ready for presentation at the November meeting. This may vary from season to season (Playoffs will be determined in accordance with the playoff rules noted Playoff Rules Addition to the By-Laws)

19. U7 players must be seven (7) years of age or younger as of December 31st of the registration year, due to the change in U7 rules developed by Hockey Canada and its partners. The League will coordinate a schedule for all member associations however no awards from the league will be handed out for this division.

20. A fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) will be assessed to any centre not having a representative for each and every team at the scheduling meeting.

21. In the event that the on-ice officials do not show for a scheduled game, the following criteria is to be followed: a) The game must be rescheduled within thirty (30) days by centre convenor b) The visiting team must be given a choice of two (2) dates with reasonable times. c) The game will be rescheduled on the original centres home ice. If no date can be agreed on, the convenors may decide to play at the original visiting team centre if the ice is available there. The final decision rests with the convenors with the objective to play the game. d) If the convenors cannot agree on a rescheduling date, the O.M.H.A. representative may intervene to resolve the issue.

22. The statistician is a paid position. The paid amount will be determined at each A.G.M. meeting

23. All Championship division teams must be available to play a best of 3 series during the Championship week (Usually the week following "March break") Teams unable to commit to the league Finals will be bumped for the next team in the standings at the end of the playoff round robin.

24. Every regular season and playoff game shall not display a goal differential of more than five (5) on the scoreboard. The actual score should be maintained on the official game sheet. Each team has twenty-four (24) hours after game completion to upload the completed game sheet, otherwise a twenty-five (\$25.00) dollar fine will apply.

25. Disciplinary provisions for both U15 and U18 divisions for the regular season and playoffs.

Any player penalized as the Instigator in any fight will receive an additional 1 game suspension in addition to any suspensions handed out by the OMHA.

Any player who receives a suspension for their first fight will receive an additional 1 game suspension in addition to any suspension handed out by the OMHA.

Any player who receives a suspension for their second fight will receive an additional 2 game suspension in addition to any suspension handed out by the OMHA.

Any player who receives a suspension for their third fight will receive an additional 3 game suspension in addition to any suspension handed out by the OMHA.

These Suspensions are not subject to review and will be honored by the OMHA as part of their disciplinary decisions.

The Executive board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Past President.

Past President

Shall be used as a valuable resource for past decisions and intent of association By-Laws

Shall act as chair in the absence of the President and Vice President.

Will sit as a voting member of the executive board to be used in tie breaking procedures.

Handle any duties deemed necessary by the General executive.

President

Shall serve as the chair for all executive meetings.

Shall have thorough knowledge of the league By-Laws and OMHA/Hockey Canada rules where applicable to the league.

Hold signing authority for the league.

Represent the league in OMHA matters.

Vice President

Shall serve as chair in the absence of the President

Shall be in charge of ordering League trophies

Shall organize the League Scheduling meetings.

Treasurer

Shall keep record of league accounts.

Shall hold signing authority for the league

Shall provide a financial update at all meetings

Shall track the standing of member associations

Shall provide invoices when necessary for payment to league

Secretary

Shall be responsible for the minutes of all executive meetings and the Annual General Meeting

Shall be responsible for the update and distribution of league contact information