



**HNB Elite Hockey Commission
(EHC)**

OPERATIONS MANUAL

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HNB Elite Hockey Commission OPERATIONS MANUAL

SECTION 1 – PURPOSE

- 1.1 It is the purpose of this Policy Manual to provide assistance and direction to those who are responsible for the operational needs of AAA hockey teams from within the Elite Hockey Commission.

SECTION 2 – STRUCTURE

- 2.1 The Elite Hockey Commission (EHC) is a volunteer and a non-profit organization. EHC is responsible for all AAA Hockey activities within the boundaries established by Hockey New Brunswick (HNB). EHC is responsible to and receives its mandate from the Hockey New Brunswick (HNB Board of Directors which in turn receives its authority from Hockey Canada (HC).
- 2.2 The duties and responsibilities of the Executive and Membership of the EHC are outlined in the EHC CONSTITUTION, REGULATIONS AND BY-LAWS. All Minor Hockey participation is governed by the CHA "Constitution, By-Laws, Regulation" and "OFFICIAL HOCKEY RULES.
- 2.3 The Leagues will have their own governing structure that is laid out in their respective operation manual. The leagues will run their business and will govern the play for their leagues through these operation manuals.

SECTION 3 – AMENDMENTS

- 3.1 The Operations Manual may be amended at the semi-annual and annual meetings of the executive of the EHC.
- 3.2 Amendments shall require a simple majority vote (50% plus 1) to carry of the members present.
- 3.3 Amendments shall be submitted by the Elite Hockey Commission (EHC) members prior to October 31st for the Semi-annual meeting and prior to March 31st for the Annual General Meeting.

SECTION 4 – DISCIPLINE

- 4.1 Suspensions and discipline will be in accordance with the rules and regulations along with the Operations Manual of the respective leagues in which the teams play.
- 4.2 Additional suspensions and discipline may be levied in respect to breach of Rules, Regulations and Policies of EHC, NBMHC, HNB and Hockey Canada.

SECTION 5 – COACHES SELECTION

- 5.1 Each EDZA will choose coaches through an approved Coaches Selection process. A committee will be formed which will include the EDZA President and local HNB Technical Director. Other qualified non-conflicting persons may be brought in as resource personnel to help in the selection process. Divisional Coordinators and/or the Association Executive of the EDZA may aid in final selections.
- 5.2 Coach selection process throughout the Province shall be standardized as much as possible based on criteria established under the HNB Program of Excellence or other information as made available through the Hockey NB staff. The criteria shall include: coaching level attained through formal clinics; background and coaching experience; references; known or referenced reliability and integrity; coaching philosophy compatible with the Association philosophy, such as Fair Play and other Association policies. The Association endeavors to select persons that are the most appropriate, best qualified and the best fit for the age appropriate program.
- 5.3 All coaches and assistant coaches will have certification as per HNB Constitution and guidelines for coaches. All coaches must have completed the Hockey Canada 'Speak Out/Respect in Sport' program.

SECTION 6 – PLAYER MOVEMENT

- 6.1 There shall be no upward player movement allowed within the EHC. The only exceptions will be through the Exceptional Player Status as outlined in Appendix 'A'. A non-refundable fee payable to Hockey New Brunswick will be required to make application for exceptional status.
- 6.2 Additional exceptions may be made for Female Hockey.
- 6.3 A five person committee shall be appointed to carry out evaluations of any 'Exceptional Player Status' applicants. A minimum of (3) of the members must perform the evaluation.

SECTION 7 – TEAMS

- 7.1 Each member team, all team officials, and players shall be properly registered with Hockey New Brunswick through the Hockey Canada Registry System.
- 7.2 Each member team shall abide by the governing constitution of the Elite Development Zone League, and the Operations Manual governing the League. Failure to do so shall result in disciplinary action.
- 7.3 All coaches in the Development Program shall be qualified at the standard set by Hockey Canada. Bench personnel will require Hockey Canada's Speak Out certification. Each team shall have a Hockey Canada Safety Program certified trainer on their roster.
- 7.4 Each team shall consist of no more than 19 players (20 in Midget) and no less than 17 players of which 2 shall be goaltenders who do not play in any other position. Any request by a team to carry less than the minimum of 17 players shall be addressed by Local EDZA Board, and such consideration shall include consultation with the EHC Commissioner. The Female Commissioner shall be consulted in areas that affect Female Hockey. This consideration would be on a case by case basis.

SECTION 8 – LEAGUES

- 8.1 All EHC teams will participate in their own age appropriate leagues. Alternate consideration may be made through the President of the EHC, in consultation with the Chair of NBMHC and/or the Provincial Chair of Female Hockey.
- 8.2 Teams will abide by the Rules, Regulations, Operations Manuals and Constitutions of their respective leagues along with those of EHC, HNB and Hockey Canada.
- 8.3 Regional play downs, playoffs and team selection for participation in HC Regional events shall be as per the Rules and Regulations of each age division in both genders. These teams shall be approved by the EHC.

SECTION 9 – AFFILIATION

- 9.1 Player affiliation will be as per Hockey Canada Rules and Regulations.
- 9.2 No affiliate shall be permitted to play more than the amount of games regulated by the rules of Hockey Canada.

- 9.3 Coaches will encourage upward player movement through affiliation at all age levels within the EHC.

SECTION 10 – EQUIPMENT

- 10.1 All jerseys, socks, helmets, gloves, equipment bags and any other items purchased for the use of any EHDM teams shall remain the property of each EDZA.
- 10.2 Team items are not to be transferred, sold or given away or dispersed of without the permission and consent of the EDZA President and EHC Commissioner. Failure to abide by this directive will result in possible sanctions to teams and individuals along with reimbursement or replacement of missing items.

SECTION 11 – DIVISIONAL OPERATIONS

11.1 PEEWEE

11.1.1 Will feature play in a Male Peewee division. The number of teams per EDZA will be determined by the EHC.

11.1.2 There will be Regular season play, Provincial play downs and tournaments as determined by the EHC.

11.1.3 There shall also be EDZA All-star teams created to play for the right to represent HNB at the Regional Peewee 'AAA' Atlantic Championships. These teams will be selected from last year eligible peewee aged players. Players will be evaluated and selected based on the position in which he/she tried out for and were evaluated at during the initial season tryouts.

11.1.4 Exceptions may be approved by the local EDZA President.

11.2 BANTAM

11.2.1 Will feature play in Male Major Bantam, Male Minor Bantam and Female Bantam divisions. The number of teams per EDZA will be determined by the EHC.

11.2.2 There will be Provincial play downs and tournaments as determined by the respective Bantam 'AAA' Leagues.

11.2.3 Only last year eligible Bantam aged players shall be permitted to play in the annual Prospects game.

11.3 MIDGET

11.3.1 Will feature play in Male Major Midget, Male Midget 'AAA' and/or Female Midget 'AAA' divisions. The number of teams per EDZA will be determined by the EHC.

11.3.2 There will be Provincial play downs and tournaments as determined by the respective Midget 'AAA' Leagues.

11.4 Late team entries must be approved by the EDC.

SECTION 12 – FINANCES

12.1 The Commission's fiscal year shall be May 1 to April 30.

12.2 The EDZA Presidents or designates shall present an operating budget for the following fiscal year at the annual general meeting. The budget is to outline revenues and fees assigned to each specific EDZA as well as the forecasted operating expenses.

12.3 Each EDZA shall collect fees from teams that are appropriate to the operation of the age and gender specific division. Fees shall cover registration and insurance for all players, coaches, bench staff and administrative personnel and other fees required for the operation of local EDZA's and the EHC.

12.3.1 An administrative fee for each Local EDZA may also be collected. The maximum allowable administration fee that may be collected from each team by the local EDZA is \$ 750.

12.3.2 Fundraising activities should adhere to HNB policies and both EHC and EDZA regulations. Any monies raised by teams on behalf of EHC teams shall remain the property of teams and/or the EDZA's and shall not be returned to individual parents or organizations.

SECTION 13 – TRAVEL

- 13.1 All games must be sanctioned by HNB for insurance purposes. Travel permits must be obtained from the local EDZA President to ensure insurance coverage. Team Officials are subject to disciplinary action for non-compliance with travel regulations. The first offence of a team traveling without a permit will result in a suspension to the responsible team official. Second offence will result in an indefinite suspension.
- 13.2.1 Requests for travel permits must be made to the local EDZA President or their designate at least one (1) week prior to game(s). TRAVEL PERMITS MUST ACCOMPANY A TEAM TO THEIR GAME(S).
- 13.2.2 Travel Permits are required for:**
- a) **All games and exhibition games not included in regular league schedules**
 - b) **All Tournaments outside our Province**
 - c) **All Tournaments not in HNB Tournament Guide**

SECTION 14 – REGULATIONS

- 14.1 Any matter not dealt within the HNB Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations and the EHC Operations Manual shall be dealt with at any Association meeting by a majority vote of the participating members of the teams present, provided such matter is not in conflict with the Hockey Canada or HNB Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations and the EHC Operation Manuals.
- 14.2 Sanctions to be applied against EDZA's or teams operating within an EDZA will be at the discretion of the Commission Executive.
- 14.3 Without limiting the generality of Regulation 14.2, sanctions are to be applied if EDZA's or teams within the EDZA are considered to be operating outside of the accepted recommendations of the Elite Hockey Commission.
- 14.4 Sanctions may include but not limited to suspensions or removal of teams or EDZA's from participating within the provincial playoff format. Sanctions shall not be monetary.

SECTION 15 – SPECIAL PLAYING RULES

- 15.1 At all times during a game, warm-up or practice, all players including goalkeepers must wear the following protective equipment: A CSA approved hockey helmet, CSA approved full face mask and a BNQ Throat Protector must be worn by all players and goalkeepers. All goalkeepers must wear a throat protector that is attached to the face mask.
- 15.2 It is mandatory that all NBMHC coaches and on ice personnel wear a CSA approved helmet while on the ice during practice.
- 15.3 Checking shall be allowed in Bantam and above except female hockey. In any games involving an all-female hockey team, no body checking is permitted.
- 15.4 Players and bench personnel shall not bang hockey sticks on the rink boards. The referee shall issue a warning for the first offence. A bench penalty shall be given each additional time thereafter.
- 15.5 A Game Ejection will be assessed against a player receiving 4 penalties. The time of the 4th penalty is to be served by the penalized team. No additional Minor Penalty for the game ejection will be assessed. The game ejection penalty assessed shall not make player ineligible for the next game. If at all possible, the player who has just received his 3rd minor penalty shall be warned by the referee or the timekeeper.

APPENDIX A – EXCEPTIONAL PLAYER STATUS