



February 1st, 2008

2007-2008 OHA PLAY-OFFS

Each season, we send out a notice just before playoffs reminding our members, that before they get too caught up in the emotions of the event, they re-focus on our goals and ideals.

In seasons past, we have expanded on our limitations on the privileges afforded our members on fine options for players in lieu of sitting out suspensions allowed under regulation J5.

Over the years, we have added aggressor and instigator penalties, as well as head checking and checking from behind into the category of suspensions where paying a fine is not an option.... The player **MUST** sit out his suspension.

This season we are adding all gross misconducts other than GRM 62 for removing your helmet to that category of penalties where the fine option is not available to the team or player.

If you are new to our program or the playoff process, please ensure that you review this information with your coaching staff and players... **IT IS IMPORTANT!**

The Board of Directors once again have asked that I emphasize with our membership the Board's concern that this is a period in our schedules each year where we attract our greatest number of spectators, more media attention and increase our opportunities to sell the game at all levels.

In the past few years we have been able to prove that we can sell hockey that is free of violence. It is a time when coaches can emphasize winning, but it should not be at all costs.

Our Board of Directors stands committed to the principles in mind. We will strive to have more games covered by Directors, Referee Supervisors and Convenors this season.

We owe it to our players that they can compete in a safe environment. We have every bit of confidence in our membership that you will continue to display the leadership qualities, managerial and organizational skills, coaching abilities and playing abilities that will have a positive impact on the game.

We ask that you review the playoff guideline, which follows and encourage you to continue with your positive reinforcement of OHA (our) hockey making it an attraction to spectators, parents and participants.

1. OHA Playoff Dates

When scheduling a game for the playoffs, we ask each Convenor to be mindful of their playoff deadlines. Remember under Regulation E6, you could forfeit the right to participate in the coin toss for the odd game in the next series should you schedule your series beyond the deadlines established for having group winners.

2. Fine Option (see Regulation J5)

Note: Please remember this Regulation does not pertain to Match Penalties (see Regulation J13)

In addition the fine option will not be available on game suspensions issued for

- Aggressor
- Instigator
- Checking from Behind and Head Checking
- Gross misconduct other than GRM62 (removing helmet)

Under Regulation J5, a fine option can be substituted for a Coach's suspension as well as players under certain conditions.

In light of this option, it is important to draw your attention to a couple of items:

- a) While there is a regulation providing for the option, it is a privilege, which can be revoked by the Chairman of the Board depending on circumstances at any time (see Regulation J6). The Chairman can revoke the fine option if any individual or team abuses the privilege.
- b) An invoice will be mailed to you upon receipt of the game sheet. Please do not retain the invoice. Return the invoice with your payment upon receipt.
- c) Any team who has a suspended player at the conclusion of the season or playoffs, who will not be able to satisfy the requirements of the suspension because his team is not proceeding further into play, will be required to pay the fine option (see Regulation J8).

3. Pre & Post Altercations & Line Brawls

Any player(s) involved in a pre or post game or post period fight or line brawl will be ejected from the current game and further games pending an investigation of the incident. Coaches for the teams involved will be held responsible. Player(s) involved in a pre or post game/period altercation will also be placed on a special report. Their fine options will not be automatic, based on the referee's opinion as to who started the altercation.

4. Bench Clearing

Any bench clearing incidents will be investigated fully and the perpetrators dealt with severely.

We have a collective obligation to our Association to protect the integrity of the game.

Over the past few seasons the Association has been extremely fortunate in having to deal with a minimal number of incidents. Please ensure that everything you do as a team or as an individual continues to promote our game positively.



5. Split Games

Where a series is determined by an odd game, there is a requirement, unless otherwise determined, for the teams to split the gate after expense formula outlined in Regulation E7 has been followed.

The visiting team has the privilege of having an executive member assigned to the ticket sale area to oversee the game count throughout the game. If you elect not to avail yourself to this privilege then it will be difficult for us to determine a proper sales total on your behalf. We do not assume responsibility for the reporting of game receipts.

Please govern yourself accordingly.

6. Overtime (See new Regulation E5)

All playoff games, when tied at the end of regulation time shall have the winner determined by overtime. Overtime will be on the basis of a flood following the third period, and then the teams playing 20 minute sudden victory periods until a winner is declared.

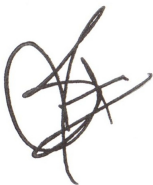
7. Goal Judges

Because of the heavy demand for officials during the preliminary rounds of playoffs, the OHA cannot undertake to supply goal judges during these early rounds. In accordance with Regulation B18(b) the requirement for neutral goal judges will be mandatory in League finals and thereafter at a cost of \$15.00 per goal judge.

8. Timekeepers

It is important that the general information on the game sheet, and **Pointstreak** site; example, date, category, etc. is properly completed for all games. Please advise your timekeepers and scorekeepers accordingly.

Good luck in the playoffs and our thanks for a competitive season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brent Ladds'.

Brent Ladds, President
Ontario Hockey Association

