



What's New for 2008-2009



The following is a summary of new regulations or policies that have been implemented by Hockey Manitoba for the 2008-09 hockey season.

Mandatory Helmets – Minor Hockey Coaches

All on-ice participants including coaches are required to wear a CSA approved helmet during all Hockey Manitoba sanctioned activities.

Please Note: On-ice participants in violation of the above regulation (based on written complaint only) will be subject to the following sanctions:

- 1st offence – Written warning
- 2nd offence – 1 week suspension
- 3rd offence – Suspended indefinitely and must attend discipline hearing

Hockey Manitoba is currently working on developing a program to offer helmet discounts for coaches. Please check the Hockey Manitoba website for more information.

Coach Certification Reminder

Certification for the Initiation, Coach Stream, Development 1, and Safety programs must be obtained on or before December 1st of the current season. **Note:** Coaches will not be permitted to roster until they have obtained their Respect in Sport certification.

It is the responsibility of each Minor Hockey Association to ensure their coaches have achieved their appropriate certification. Please refer to Section J of the Hockey Manitoba handbook for additional information and regulations regarding Coach Certification requirements.

Respect in Sport

The on-line educational program on the prevention of abuse and harassment in hockey is now mandatory for all coaches before they are permitted to roster or coach in any capacity. Please Note: The Hockey Canada Speak Out certification will be accepted as a substitute for the Respect in Sport Program for the 2008-09 season.

The Respect in Sport program can be accessed via the Hockey Manitoba website.

New Rural Male Provincial Categorization Process

Associations' placement in the Male Rural A, B, C and D provincial categories will now be determined each season by registration numbers in the Novice – Midget age divisions rather than population. Population does not accurately reflect the number of players within an Association, or the strength of its teams, therefore is not the ideal method of determining provincial categories. In addition, it is impossible to monitor population fluctuation from year to year thus making it extremely difficult to place teams in their appropriate categories. The numbers utilized in determining the category levels for 2008-09 will be:

- Rural D = 0-50 players registered in Novice – Midget age divisions
- Rural C = 51-75 players registered in Novice – Midget age divisions
- Rural B = 76-115 players registered in Novice – Midget age divisions
- Rural A = 116+ players registered in Novice – Midget age divisions

Please contact the Hockey Manitoba office or your appropriate zone registrar for more information.

Player Transfer Requests

Player Transfer Requests must be reviewed and a decision rendered by Minor Hockey Associations and Regions within 5 days of receipt of the request.

Hockey Canada Registry (HCR) Database

Hockey Manitoba is offering use of the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR) database for the 2008-09 season to all Minor Hockey Associations. Associations using the on-line database are required to attend one of the scheduled training sessions taking place in August 2008. Although data entry will be completed directly by Minor Hockey Associations, approval is required by the appropriate Hockey Manitoba Zone Registrar. In addition, because not all Minor Hockey Associations will be utilizing the on-line database, all forms including rosters, addition/deletions, playoff application forms etc. are required to be submitted to your zone registrar as in previous seasons.

Associations that utilize the on-line database will be able to speed up the registration process and have access to all member information including coach certification. In addition, the database will offer a number of benefits including scheduling, reporting, fee recording etc. Please Note: Hockey Manitoba will proceed with plans to ensure all Minor Hockey Associations are using the on-line database by the 2010-2011 season.

Please contact Esther Thiessen in the Hockey Manitoba office at esther@hockeymanitoba.mb.ca for more information.

Registration Information

Hockey Manitoba is no longer providing NCR triplicate registration forms to Minor Hockey Associations. Each association will receive one copy of each form required for registration purposes (to be copied) and they will all be available on the Hockey Manitoba website under "Hockey Forms". Triplicate forms are difficult to read and it is no longer cost-effective to print them. Please note that the original forms are to be submitted to zone registrars and they will ensure a copy is forwarded to you accordingly.

Hockey Canada Safety for All booklets and Insurance Information

Hockey Canada is no longer circulating the "Safety for All" booklets and Insurance Information. This information is now available on the Hockey Manitoba website in both the Insurance and Hockey Forms section. Please note that it is extremely important to ensure all members are aware of this information.

Overage Players

Players who have received Overage approval from Hockey Manitoba based on...

1. *Criteria in paragraph a) on page 159 of the Hockey Manitoba handbook*
2. *One of the criteria in paragraphs b) to e) on pages 159-160 of the Hockey Manitoba handbook*

will now be eligible for all hockey activities including regional play-offs and provincial championships.

All other approved overage players are eligible for all hockey activities except regional play-offs and provincial championships.

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