

Constitution By-Laws Rules & Regulations

Approved by the Membership May 28, 2019

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CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I NAME

1. This organization shall be called the "Upper Ottawa Valley Minor Hockey League", hereinafter referred to as the "UOVMHL" or the "league".
2. The UOVMHL is an integral part of the Ottawa Hockey Eastern Ontario Minor (HEO Minor) District 5.

ARTICLE II OBJECTIVES

1. The objectives of the UOVMHL are to:
 - (a) provide a wholesome, organized hockey experience for all those participating in minor hockey at the Competitive and House league levels within the HEO MINOR District #5, including players and team officials; and
 - (b) ensure that its member Associations exercise a general supervision and direction over the playing interests of their respective membership, with emphasis on the enhancement of good character, citizenship and sportsmanship.

ARTICLE III EXECUTIVE

1. The presiding officer of the UOVMHL shall be the President.
2. The UOVMHL shall be governed by an Executive consisting of the Executive Officers (President, immediate Past-President, Vice-President (Competitive), Vice-President (House League), Secretary, Treasurer and one representative from each Association in good standing.
3. The Executive shall have control over the affairs of the League and shall deal with any matters pertaining to the good and welfare of the League and define rules.
4. Executive Officers, excluding the immediate Past-President who gains his office by succession, shall be elected annually.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership in the UOVMHL shall be open to all Minor Hockey Associations in HEO MINOR District #5.
2. Membership in the UOVMHL entails acceptance by such Minor Hockey Associations, and their members, of the final and binding authority of all the rulings and decisions of the Executive, and acceptance of the governing authority of the UOVMHL, subject to properly conducted protests and appeals.
3. Fort-Coulonge Minor Hockey Association is approved as a guest in UOVMHL for the 2019-2020 hockey season. While playing in the UOVMHL they agree to abide by the UOVMHL Constitution.

By-law 5

Election of Executive Officers

1. Elections for the positions of President, Vice-President (Competitive), Vice-President (House League), Secretary and Treasurer shall be held at the Annual Meeting. If no Executive can be formed, then elections will be held in September of the new season. Each Association has a responsibility to assist in forming and Executive.
2. Elections may be conducted by the Secretary/Treasurer or an appointee to oversee the elections.
3. Should a vacancy occur in an Executive Officer position, the Executive may appoint a replacement for the duration of the season.

By-law 6

Duties and Powers of the Executive Officers

1. The President shall:
 - Generally perform the duties usual to the office of President
 - Call all meetings of the League and conduct League hearings
 - Preside at all Annual, Special and League meetings of the UOVMHL and only vote in the case of a tie
 - Oversee the preparation and finalize acceptance of League schedules
 - Be an authorized cheque signing officer.
2. The Past-President:
 - Be the source of guidance to the Executive on all matters relating to the past conduct of business of the UOVMHL
 - Be a full member of the Executive and shall enjoy full privileges in respect to motioning and voting.
3. The Vice-President (Competitive) shall:
 - In the absence of the President, or through his delegation, have all the powers and perform all the duties of the President, as they relate to the Competitive League.
 - Chair UOVMHL meetings in the absence of the President
 - Oversee and coordinate the activities of the Convenors of Competitive League
 - Assist in preparing the Competitive League schedules
 - Assist in any hearings pertaining to the Competitive League
 - Be an authorized cheque signing officer
4. The Vice-President (House League) shall:
 - In the absence of the President, or through his delegation, have all the powers and perform all the duties of the President, as they relate to the House League
 - Oversee and coordinate the activities of the Convenors of the House League
 - Assist in preparing the House League schedules
 - Assist in any hearings pertaining to the House League
 - Be an authorized cheque signing officer

5. The Secretary shall:
Record and maintain the minutes of all Annual, Special, and League meetings
Forward copies of minutes to the Chair of District #5
Update the constitution as per amendments / changes at the AGM
Ensure that attendance is taken at the Coacher/Managers & Convenors meeting at the beginning of the season (keep on file).

6. The Treasurer shall:
Present the Treasurer's report at each League meeting
Maintain a bank account, suitable for the purposes of the UOVMHL
Prepare an annual financial report for presentation at the Annual meeting
Keep records of receipts and ensure that expenditures are supported by minutes authorizing the expenditure
For the protection of both outgoing and incoming Treasurer, an audit or review may be made
Be an authorized cheque signing officer

Note – Should the Secretary and Treasurer position be held by the same person, the position will be "combined and the person shall have only one vote.

7. The executive officers shall constitute a sub-committee of the Executive of the UOVMHL which shall have the authority, in emergency situations, to exercise the powers and duties of the Executive, it being understood that such actions as they may take must be presented to the next meeting of the UOVMHL for approval or rejection.

By-Law 7 Meetings

1. The UOVMHL may hold meetings at least once a month from September to April and as required from May to August.
2. The President shall have the authority to call meetings, and must call a meeting at the request of at least eight (8) members of the Executive. Only those meetings called by the President to discuss League business shall govern the affairs of the UOVMHL.
3. Motions made shall be in effect until the end of the playing season in which the motion is made.
4. The Executive Officers and each Association (in good standing), shall have one vote at the League meetings. The President shall not vote except to break a tie.
5. No proxy votes shall be recognized.
6. Convenors must attend the coaches/Managers and Convenors League meeting at the beginning of the season. As well, should attend any other meetings throughout the season. Monthly reports should be forwarded through your president if unable to attend.
7. If the President is unable to attend a meeting, the Vice-President (Competitive) shall have the duties of the President for that meeting only.
8. No League Meeting shall be constituted unless a quorum of at least six (6) of its member Associations, who are in good standing, and at least two (2) UOVMHL Executive Officers are in attendance.
9. A Coach/Manager and Convenor meeting will be held at the start of every season. A representative from every team participating in the UOVMHL **MUST** attend this meeting for both Competitive and HL teams. Attendance will be taken.

By-Law 8

Convenors

1. The Executive shall appoint one Convenor for each division of the UOVMHL.
2. The Competitive League Convenors shall:
 - Be responsible to the Vice-President (Competitive)
 - Be responsible for the administration of their division in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, By-laws, Rules & Regulations and any motions made at UOVMHL meetings
 - Maintain records of division standings and suspensions
 - Notify teams of any Competitive League games cancelled and record the cancellations
 - Prepare a report of standings and suspensions for each League meeting.

 - Present a year-end report at the Annual Meeting, including as a minimum: the final regular season standings, playoff champions and records of any suspensions to be carried over to the ensuing hockey season
 - Note:** Scheduling of playoff games shall be done through the managers of the teams playing (Convenors to be informed immediately upon being scheduled)
3. The House League Convenors shall:
 - Be responsible to the Vice-President (House League)
 - Be responsible for the administration of their division in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, By-laws, Rules & Regulations and any motions made at the UOVMBL meetings
 - Maintain records of division standings and suspensions
 - Notify teams of any House League games cancelled and record the cancellations
 - Prepare a report of standings and suspensions for each League meeting

 - Present a year-end report at the Annual Meeting, including as a minimum: the final regular season standings, Playoff Champions and records of any suspensions to be carried over to the ensuing hockey season.
 - Note:** Scheduling of playoff games shall be done through the managers of the teams playing (Convenors to be informed immediately upon being scheduled)
4. Convenors shall be reimbursed for long distance telephone charges for calls relating to their duties as Convenor.
5. Convenors shall be reimbursed reasonable travel costs, at a rate of \$.50 (50 cents) per kilometre for all travel incurred while representing the League at playoff championship games(s) to present plaques/medallions to the participating teams.

RULES & REGULATIONS

(Competitive and House League)

General Rules

1. The Hockey Canada, ODHA and HEO MINOR regulations and HEO MINOR Code of Discipline shall be the rules by which this League operates in conjunction with the UOVMHL Constitution, By-laws and Rules & Regulations.
 - a. All game misconduct penalties referred to in the HEO MINOR Code of Discipline, Section 8 Minimum Suspensions (8.1, 8.2, 8.3 and 8.4) will be considered by the League to be cumulative for the determination of the applicable suspension as per the following examples:
 - i. A player who has already received one game misconduct penalty for any reason, upon being assessed another game misconduct penalty for any reason, will be suspended as indicated for a second offence in the applicable HEO MINOR chart for this second game misconduct.
 - ii. Similarly, a player who has already received two game misconducts for any reason, upon being assessed a third game misconduct for any reason, will be suspended as indicated for a third offence in the applicable HEO MINOR chart for this third game misconduct.
 - iii. Subsequent game misconducts will continue to be cumulative, e.g. fourth, fifth and so on.
2. Any member of the League Executive may hold a position with any association or team in the event of a dispute involving the association or the team of which he is a member, he forfeits his right to sit on the Executive during the proceedings of the dispute.
3. Officials and team officials will conduct themselves properly to prevent disrespect to the League.
4. All team officials associated with the League are to receive and be cognizant of this Constitution, By-laws and Rules & Regulations of the UOVMHL.
5. Any team official who is aware of a situation that contravenes this Constitution or its By-laws and Rules & Regulations shall report the incident to his division convenor within a reasonable time. A team official who does not report an incident that would contravene this Constitution or its By-laws and Rules & Regulations shall be suspended until dealt with at a hearing.
6. Any team official who knowingly plays against ineligible players and/or who wilfully conceals the knowledge from the division convenor until it shall suit his convenience to use this knowledge, shall be considered equally guilty with the offending team officials and shall be suspended until dealt with at a hearing.
7. All teams participating in the UOVMHL must have HEO MINOR certified trainers. This is meant to include Initiation programs as well.

General Rules - continued

8. a) Officials - on ice, see HEO MINOR Handbook under rules and regulations #7.4
b) On ice officials are prohibited from refereeing games played by immediate family. In situations where this is unavoidable: an official may be permitted to work as a lineman only in the three man system. Should the need arise for such an official (referee) to be used, then the host association must obtain prior consent of the Convenor. Notification/consent to the other coach in advance must be sought/obtained.
c) All officials must be at least one division older than the players they are officiating.
9. All time keepers in all games **must** be a minimum of 16 years of age.
10. No registered team official, from either team involved, shall operate as official time or scorekeeper, without exception.
11. All host associations and/or teams will ensure that sufficient assistance is provided within the penalty box area so as not to cause safety issues with the opening and closing of penalty box gates. In addition, registered team officials should not have to enter the penalty box area from the player's bench to either open or close the gates.
12. Associations and/or teams may still continue to pursue volunteers from either team for staffing purposes providing compliance with #10
13. AP GOALIES: that at any time an AP Goalies is listed on the game sheet - Coaches will inform the Refs at the beginning of the game that there is an AP goalie that may or may not play. If the AP goalie does not go into the game – the Referee will initial – beside AP goalie – “not played”. It will be the Team official's responsibility to ensure that the referees initial this.
14. **FIGHTING:**
1st fight issued to a player will result in 1 game suspension, 2nd fight will result in a minimum of 4 games suspensions, 3rd fight the player will be suspended until a District Hearing is held.
15. If neutral Officials for any game are requested by District or League, the appropriate requesting group, District or League, will pay for those officials. If neutral Officials for any game are requested by the Association, the Association is responsible to pay for those Officials.
16. Mouth guards are not mandatory in District 5 although it is strongly recommended for all registered HEO Minor Hockey Players to wear a mouth guard during all on ice activities (games and practices).
17. All noise-making devices (i.e. horns, whistles, air horns, cymbals, bugles, thunder sticks, cow bells etc.) are banned from District 5 Arenas during HEO sanctioned hockey events.
18. Associations must ensure teams participate in at least one district 5 tournament other than their home tournament. Travel permits will not be issued to teams who do not comply.
19. All goaltenders in the UOVMHL must have a approved throat protector affixed to the helmet/face masks. (billygoat, cow catcher, dangler). Subject to referee approval.

League Schedules and Games

1. League games are to be played in the month they are scheduled or in an earlier month. The division convenor may permit a game to be played in a later month if both teams agree to a specific date/time and circumstances warrant the extension. Under no circumstances will permission be given if it will interfere with the other scheduled games in the division.
2. Coaches or managers are to advise the convenor of any changes of scheduled games or of any games not played so that they may be rescheduled. Failure to do so may result in the head coach being suspended until the game is played.
3. In the event of a tie between teams at the end of regular season play, the following method will be used to break the tie by the convenor (use in sequential order until tie is broken):
 - a) most wins over course of regular season, if still tied then
 - b) head to head between the two teams, if still tied then
 - c) Tie breaking Method (Total Goals for divided by (goals for + goals against)
 - d) Flip a coin - The convenor and 2 league executive members, with no conflict, must be in attendance to witness the coin toss.

Note: In the event of a tie between more than two teams;

- 3.1 a) most wins over course of regular season. If still tied
 - 3.1 b) tie breaking method (Total goals for divided by (goals for + goals against). If still tied
 - 3.1 c) a random draw will be held by the convenor and 2 league executive members with no conflict, to determine the placement of the teams.
4. For purposes of league standings (wins, losses, goals for and against).

5. The Competitive League will commence on Friday October 11th, 2019 and will finish no later than Sunday February 2nd, 2020. The House League (except Novice and Midget) will commence on Friday October 18th, 2019 and will finish no later than Sunday February 2nd, 2020. Novice House league will commence Tuesday November 12th, 2019 and finish March 11, 2020. Midget House league will begin Friday October 18th, 2019 and finish Jan 19th, 2020. No games to be played Jan 20th-Feb 2nd. Midget Round Robin A and B Division runs Feb 3-12th, 2020. Top 2 teams in each division to play off after March break. March 24th-April 2nd, 2020.

PLAYOFF SCHEDULE - NOVICE, ATOM, PEEWEE AND BANTAM HOUSE AND ALL COMPETITIVE TEAMS

- First Round Playoffs: Friday Feb 7-Feb 21
 - Second Round Playoffs: Feb 24-Mar 11th
 - No games over March Break
 - Third Round Playoffs: March 24-April 2nd
6. All league games scheduled up to and including Dec 31, **must be played by December 31st**, failure to do so will result in the Head Coach being suspended until these games are completed.
 7. November 11 of every year will be a "black out" date where no games will be scheduled. Halloween will be a blackout day for Novice/Atom/Peewee after 3:00 pm. Family Day of every year will be a "black out" date where no games will be scheduled
 8. Each association must provide 3 more game ice times, (per team) as per league home game schedule when submitting the ice schedule at the beginning of the year. No weekday games to be played prior to 6 pm unless agreeable by both managers and approved by the convenor.

Game Reports

1. The ODHA Official Game Report must be used for all regular season and playoff games.
2. The ***Home team is responsible for submitting the game sheet to the convenor.*** When playing against a non-UOVMHL team, the UOVMHL team is responsible for submitting the game sheet to the Convenor, even if they are the Visiting team.
If the game report is not post-marked by the end of the seventh calendar day following the completion of the game, the Head Coach of the home team may be suspended for a game. In addition, effective February 1st of each season the home team will also notify the appropriate Convenor of game results by phone within 48 hours.
The home team is responsible for ensuring that the game number is on the game sheet: failure to do so may result in the Head Coach of the home team being suspended for a game.
3. All game sheets from **ALL GAMES**, (exhibition, league, and tournament games) must be postmarked to Convenors within 7 days of playing. You may fax a copy, but the original must follow by mail.
4. **All original game sheets from tournaments** hosted in UOVMHL District 5, must be submitted to the District Chairperson within 7 days. **Sign in sheets** must be included for each game. You must still provide a copy of the game sheet to your convenor.
5. Under NO circumstance can a game sheet be altered once the referee has signed off.
6. Ensure that **Game #, date and Registered team names** including the Team number (e.g. Pembroke Bantam # 2) are provided on all game sheets. If it is an exhibition game or tournament game, please clearly mark this at the top.

Cancellation of Games

1. Barring weather conditions, a team must notify the opposing team and the division convenor at least 72 hours before the game, if they are unable to play a scheduled game. Teams wishing to reschedule games must confirm the rescheduled dates with the opposing team official prior to the original schedule date and notify the convenor. Prior to rescheduling any game, the home team **MUST** provide the opposing team with 2 alternate ice times.

Failure to do so may result in the coach being suspended until the game is played.

- a) visiting team cancelling - the cancelling visiting team, covering the cost of both on and off ice officials and ice time. The game will be rescheduled ASAP.
 - b) home team cancelling – the game will be re-schedule at the visiting teams home arena, the original home team will pay for the cost of the game including on and off ice officials and ice in the visiting team arena. The game sheet will still show the teams as home and away as per league schedule.
2. In the event Referees do not show up to the home game, the game will be rescheduled at the visiting teams home arena, the original home team will pay for the cost of the game including on and off ice officials and the ice in the visiting teams arena. The game sheet will still show the teams as home and away as per league schedule.

Playoffs

1. The Competitive League and the House League (except Novice 4on4 and Midget House League) will conduct playoffs for all divisions according to the following formats:
 - 4 Team Division (play-offs will begin at the start of the second round of play-offs)
Semi-finals: 1st vs. 4th and 2nd vs. 3rd
 - 5 Team Division
First round : 1st, 2nd and 3rd gets a bye, 4th vs. 5th 3rd
Semi-finals: 1st vs. winner of 4-5
2 remaining teams.
 - 6 Team Division
First round 1st vs. 6th, 2nd vs. 5th and 3rd vs. 4th
Semi-finals: Highest finishing team remaining at end of first round gets by to finals, two remaining teams playoff
 - 7 Team Division
Highest finishing team gets bye to second round.
2nd vs. 7th, 3rd vs. 6th and 4th vs. 5th in first round
Semi-final: Highest ranking team (bye team) playoff against lowest finishing team remaining and the two remaining teams playoff.
 - 8 Team Division
Quarter-finals: 1st vs. 8th, 2nd vs. 7th, 3rd vs. 6th, 4th vs. 5th
Semi-finals: Highest ranked team playing lowest ranked team and so on until all are matched.

Divisions of greater than 8 teams
Will be formatted by February 1st of the calendar year with the intent of including all teams.
2. All playoff rounds will be four point series.
3. The first game will be played in the home arena of the team finishing highest in the League standings during the regular season. The games will then alternate between home arenas.
4. If games one or two of a series are tied at the end of regulation time they shall remain tied (i.e. no overtime) and a third game shall be played.
5. If the third game being won by either team results in the total points being 3 points each then a fourth game shall be scheduled.
6. If the series is tied at two points prior to the start of the third game, the coach of the home team will advise the visiting coach whether or not overtime will be played.
7. Overtime must be played in the fourth game, if the score is tied at the end of regulation time.
8. Overtime in either the third or fourth game of a series will be sudden victory, conducted in a series of 5 minute stop time periods. The first period will be played with four skaters and

all subsequent periods will be played with three skaters.

9. A goaltender shall be used in all overtime periods.
10. Penalties drawn during the overtime periods with three skaters will result in adding one player to each team (the penalized player goes to the penalty box and is replaced while the non-offending team adds a one player, giving them 4 skaters vs 3 for the duration of the penalty). The penalized player will return to the ice at the expiration of his penalty and at the next stoppage of play, the teams will reduce to the number of specified skaters for the period B three (3).
11. No team shall have fewer than three skaters on the ice at any time.
12.
 - a) At the regular League meeting in February, all associations must provide the League with playoff ice times. It will be the responsibility of the team managers to schedule playoff games. In the event of conflict between team managers, the Convenor will rule.
 - b) The first game of every series MUST be played within the first four (4) days of the allocated dates (see point 13 below) regardless of the length of the series.
 - c) The higher placed team must provide one date within the first 4 days, and one date within the last four (4) days of the allocated dates, leaving the last day open for contingency scheduling (e.g. a fourth game, weather) if required. The lower placed team is then expected to accommodate a game in the period between the dates provided by the higher placed team.
 - d) Should the higher placed team not be able to provide such dates then game 1 will be hosted by the lower placed team and games 2 and 3, if necessary, would revert to the higher placed team.
13.
 - a) All teams will qualify for play-offs with divisions being split accordingly.
 - b) Three round series will be played as follows.
 - 1st round of Play-offs start
 - 2nd round
 - 3rd round
 - c) League play will be suspended during the March Break
(Teams may play during this period providing the League and both teams are in agreement. The extension of any series beyond the dates specified must be approved by the President.
14. Absolutely no exceptions for running beyond the dates scheduled for each series in play-offs - Follow rule # 12 to ensure that the games are played in a timely fashion.
15. **Midget House League will forgo the standard playoff structure and will cede teams for a Round Robin Playoff Format**

Sportsmanship

1. Teams are to shake hands before the start of all League regular season and playoff games.

Transfers (see District Constitution Player Transfers)

1. There will be no exceptions allowed in the UOVMHL to the procedure required by the HEO MINOR for transfers. That is, the application of transfer form must be signed by the parents of the player and signed by the Presidents of both associations involved, who must signify that they agree or disagree with the transfer. No association President can refuse to sign or refuse to indicate whether they agree or disagree with the transfer.
2. If there is to be a hearing on a transfer matter, then that hearing must take place according to the procedure specified by the HEO MINOR. Such hearing must be held within the confines of District #5.
3. The convenor and/or the President have the authority to suspend any player and any other person with complicity in the matter if the address claimed when checked and verified is not proper.
4. A player who wishes a transfer must first go to the next nearest association or if that is difficult to ascertain then to an association who shares the same boundaries as the association of the residence. Where a player wishes to play for an association which is not bordering on the association where the player resides and both of those associations agree to the transfer, the transfer cannot be completed until agreement in writing of all the affected association Presidents is obtained.
5. All transfers should be completed by November's UOVMHL Meeting.
6. An administration fee of \$20.00 per player will be charged if the transfer is approved at the District Level (cheque payable to District 5)

Appendix A:

Rules Specific to House League

1. Mercy Rule:
In all divisions, if at any time during the game a team is ahead by seven (7) goals, the clock will be put on running time for the duration of the game. If the lead is reduced to less than seven goals, the clock will be put back on stop time.
2. Team equalization:
Equalization of two or more teams within an association must take place no later than December 1st.
3. Referees: Each association will provide qualified referees for all games played.
4. Comportment:
The actions of players, both on and off the ice, are the responsibility of the coach.
5. Player Participation:
It is the intent of the House League that all player participants receive equal ice time. In the event of complaints on the above subject, the League is prepared to deal with violators.
6. Suspensions:
It is the responsibility of the coaches to see that suspensions are carried out.
7. Select and Traveling Teams:
The members of this League do not accept Select or Traveling teams at their home tournaments.
8. Ejection from Game:
After 3 personal penalties, a player or team official will automatically be ejected from the game. In the case of a double minor penalty, Examples: Spearing, head butt, etc., as per Hockey Canada Rule book the double minor only counts as one penalty. The double minor must be the same infraction. This is not to be confused with for example: a minor for Tripping and Interference during the same stoppage of play to the same player, as this is 2 separate penalties. Additionally, a minor Head check penalty carrying a minor and a misconduct counts only as one personal penalty.
9. Category Ages: Age categories will be determined by Hockey Canada, HEO and HEO Minor. Use of overage players will be in accordance with Hockey Canada, HEO and HEO minor rules governing the same.
10. Competitive Players: No Competitive player may play at the House League level.
11. Players Returning from Competitive League: Competitive players may not return to the House League after January 10 of the current hockey year.
12. Periods of Play:
That period times for ALL house league hockey to be 3 periods of 10 minutes of stop time.
13. Number of Games in Schedule:
The number of games will be determined on a year to year basis by the league executive
14. Shortened Game Times:
Adjustments will be made to the length of the third period should there be insufficient ice time remaining to accommodate 10 minutes stop time. The time allotted for the third period will be posted on the clock and the home team will ensure that the visiting coach is advised accordingly.

Appendix B:

Rules Specific to the Competitive League

1. Competitive League schedules will consist of the following number of games:

4 team division	18 games
5 team division	20 games
6 team division	20 games
7 team division	24 games
8 team division	21 games
9 team division	24 games
10 team division	18 games

2. Game times will be as follows:
 - a) Three 12 minute stop time periods in ~~Novice and~~ Atom.
 - b) Three 15 minute stop time periods in Pee wee, Bantam and Midget.
 - c) A 2 minute warm up will be put on the clock after the zamboni leaves the ice. When the two minutes are over the game clock is to start.

3. Games are to be played in their allotted time. The minimum playing time to be allotted is one (1) hour for ~~the Novice and~~ Atom division and one and a quarter (1.25) hours for Pee Wee, Bantam Minor Midget and Major Midget.

4. In an effort to keep the games running on schedule, or even a little ahead of schedule, teams must be dressed and ready to play at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time, play will continue until the completion of the three periods or until the originally scheduled completion time for the game, whichever comes first (i.e. if a Bantam game is scheduled to begin at 3:15 PM but actually starts at 3:00 PM, the game, if not completed, will continue until the three periods are completed or until 4:30 PM, whichever comes first)

5. Mercy Rule:
In all divisions, if at any time during the game a team is ahead by seven (7) goals, the clock will be put on running time for the duration of the game. If the lead is reduced to less than seven goals, the clock will be put back on stop time.

Appendix C

Rules Specific to the Novice 4on4 Program

General Playing Rules

1. UOVMHL will follow the playing rules and guidelines as set out by HEO (Hockey Canada) in reference to the Novice 4on4 program as seen below.

1.0 General

- 1.1 Novice hockey is a two-year program.
- 1.2 IP aged players are NOT permitted to register or affiliate with any higher age classification during the current season.
- 1.3 Novice-aged players are NOT permitted to register with any higher age classification during the current season.
- 1.4 Affiliation is permitted between tiers of the Novice level as per Hockey Canada Regulations.
- 1.5 Novice players are NOT permitted to affiliate to higher age teams except for second-year players (i.e. 8-year old player) who may affiliate to higher age teams after January 15 of the current season.

2.0 Tiering & Team Structure

- 2.1 District 5/UOVMHL will host a 2-tier system for Novice 4on4 with a 40/60 split
- 2.2 The tiers will be classified as Tier 3 & 4 in relation to the HEO Novice Tiering Matrix.
- 2.3 Assembling and tiering of teams will be the responsibility of the local minor hockey association following the guideline of a 40-60 split between Tier #3 & Tier #4.
- 2.4 Teams will be composed of between 9-13 skaters.
- 2.5 Teams can assign a full-time goalie or rotate the goalie position on a weekly or bi weekly rotation.

3.0 Season Structure

- 3.1 Two phases are recommended; Phase #1 (September – December) and Phase #2 (January – April).
- 3.2 Phase #1 is a combination of development and half ice games — with games occurring in two-week intervals (Hockey Canada nomenclature: Development and Regular Season phases).
- 3.3 Phase #2 is a continuation of Phase #1 with games occurring weekly. Minor Hockey Associations may wish to rebalance Tier 2-4 teams at the beginning of the second phase.
- 3.4 There will be no playoffs or league championship.

- 3.5 UOVMHL will set schedule depending on number of teams at each tier with the option of creating East and West Divisions within Tier #3 and Tier #4.
- 3.6 Associations are to provide ice allocations for 1 game per week per team to UOVMHL game scheduler by September 15th. Ice times can be shared between 2 teams (2 half ice games).
- 3.7 Local Tournaments (Jamborees) are permitted and will need to be coordinated with UOVMHL.

4.0 General Playing Rules

The rules for half-ice novice game play focus on player development by maximizing

opportunities to touch the puck, interact with other players, and make plays.

- 4.1 4 vs 4 player format and one goaltender for each team.
- 4.2 Each team must have two goaltenders, one for each half of the ice.
- 4.3 Three-minute warm-up.
- 4.4 Rink set-up: one set of barriers set at the red line with nets approximately 3-4 feet inside the barriers to allow play behind the net.
- 4.5 Game length – 50 minutes in total (46 minutes post warm-up).
- 4.6 Two 23-minute halves.
- 4.7 Shift length – 90 seconds in duration with an automatic buzzer or whistle sounding to indicate player change. The clock continues to run through the 23- minute half.
 - 4.7.1 On the buzzer/whistle sounds, players must relinquish control of the puck immediately and vacate the ice. The new players enter the ice immediately.
 - 4.7.2 Failure to immediately relinquish control of the puck or new players entering the ice surface prematurely may result in a penalty for the offending team.
- 4.8 If there are fewer than four players on the bench, the active player designated to stay out for the following shift must tag up at the bench prior to continuing play.
- 4.9 Two face-offs during the game. The first face-off will start the game. The second face-off will start the second half.
- 4.10 Goaltender freezes the puck – the official blows the whistle to indicate the attacking team backs off and defending team gets possession.
- 4.12 Puck shot out of play – the offending team backs off and the official gives the nonoffending team a new puck.
- 413 Both games synchronized, and officials work together to ensure that happens.

7.0 Game Officials

- 7.1 One official per game. Coaches/Trainers must remain on the bench.
- 7.2 Game sheets will be completed for each game to indicate player roster and bench staff. Major Penalties or penalties that would normally require

a player to be ejected from the game are to be noted on the game sheet and forwarded to the league convenor. At no time is score to be counted and noted on the game sheet.

8.0 Penalties

- 8.1 Minor penalties are noted with the official briefly raising their arm to indicate a penalty will be assessed. At the end of the shift, the official notifies the coach of the infraction and the number of the offending player.
- 8.2 If the offending team controls the puck after the infraction, the official blows the whistle and calls for a change of possession; the non-offending team is given room to play the puck (three-metre cushion).
- 8.3 ~~The offending player will sit out the next shift, but the team will play even strength.~~
- 8.4 Should an infraction occur that would normally require a player to be ejected from the game (game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty), the player will be removed from the remainder of that game. Even under these circumstances, teams will not play short handed.
- 8.5 For major penalties assessed to players and bench staff, the HEO Minor Code of Discipline will apply.

9.0 Scoring

- 9.1 Game scores will not be recorded. Game sheets will be used to capture major penalties to players or bench staff in-game.

10.0 Out-of-Branch Tournaments

- 10.1 Teams will be permitted to participate in out-of-Branch tournaments (requiring travel permits) if the tournament games are played on half-ice.