

# National Inline Hockey Association – Canada



Updated 2009 Version

Articles

By-Laws

Regulations

This edition is prepared for easy and convenient reference only. Should errors occur, the contents of this book will be interpreted by the President according to the official minutes of the meetings of this organization.

The playing Rules of this Association are published in a separate booklet and may be obtained from the National office.



## **Mission**

- To foster the development of Inline Hockey in Canada

## **Vision**

- Build a legacy and identity that ensures the continuity of quality Inline Hockey programs.

## **Core Values**

- **FUN:** to provide positive and memorable life experiences.
- **FAIRPLAY:** to encourage opportunity for everyone, mutual respect for the game and all participants.
- **SAFETY:** to provide education and environment for the well being of all.
- **INTERGRITY:** to be open, honest and accountable to our sport.
- **COMMITMENT:** dedicated to the ideals of the association and the culture of inline hockey.
- **INNOVATIVE:** developing a creative and progressive direction.

## Article One

### 1. Name of the Association:

This organization shall be called the National Inline Hockey Organization-Canada (Hereinafter referred to as "The Association")

### 2. Status of the Association:

- a. This Association is the governing body of inline hockey in Canada
- b. The Association will create a Board of directors, which is responsible for the Association's Articles. Bylaws, Regulations and Policies.

### 3. Objects

The Association's objects are to:

- a. Foster and encourage the sport of inline hockey throughout Canada
- b. To organize and administer the playing of the game of inline hockey in accordance with the rules, regulations and etiquette of the game.
- c. To promote the development of players, coaches and officials.
- d. Establish and maintain uniform playing rules for inline hockey.
- e. Affiliate with and co-operate with other national and international inline hockey associations.
- f. Conduct inter-branch or international contests of inline hockey.
- g. Maintain national insurance program.

## Article Two

### 4. Membership:

- a. Individual branches
- b. Affiliate members
- c. Individuals elected in accordance with the Association Bylaws, and regulations.
- d. Individuals appointed in accordance with the Association Bylaws, and regulations.

### 5. Branches are entitled to:

- a. Receive notices of meeting;
- b. Vote in accordance with the Associations' Bylaw
- c. Participate in programs of the Association;
- d. All other rights and privileges as the Board of Directors may from time to time decide
- e. Attend meetings
- f. Speak at meetings

### 6. Affiliate members are entitled to:

- a. Receive notice of meetings;
- b. Attend meetings (at their own expense);
- c. Speak at meetings
- d. Participate in the programs of the Association (at their own expense);
- e. All other rights and privileges as the Board of Directors may, from time to time, decide
- f. Compete for trophies offered for competition by its own membership

### 7. Associate members are entitled to:

- a. Receive notice of meetings;
- b. Attend meetings (at their own expense);
- c. Speak at meetings
- d. Participate in the programs of the Association (at their own expense);
- e. All other rights and privileges as the Board of Directors may, from time to time, decide
- f. Compete for trophies offered for competition by its own membership.

### 8. Life members are entitled to:

- a. Receive notice of meetings;
- b. Attend the Annual general meeting;
- c. Speak at the Annual general meeting;
- d. Attend other meetings (at their own expense);
- e. All other rights and privileges as the Board of Directors may, from time to time, decide

### 9. Elected individuals are entitled to:

- a. Receive notice of meetings;
- b. Speak at meetings
- c. Vote in accordance with the Association's bylaws;
- d. Participate in the programs of the Association;
- e. All other rights and privileges as the Board of Directors may, from time to time, decide

**10. Appointed individuals are entitled to:**

- a. Receive notice of meetings;
- b. Speak at meetings;
- c. Participate in the programs of the Association (at their own expense);
- d. All other rights and privileges as the Board of Directors may, from time to time, decide.



## Article Three

### Amendments to Bylaws and Regulations

- This Association at any Annual General, Special, or Board of Directors meeting may adopt, amend, revise or appeal Bylaws or Regulations for the governance of this Association.
- The Member Branches of the Association:
  - a. B.C. Inline Hockey Association (BCIHA) which shall have jurisdiction over the Province of B.C.
  - b. Alberta Amateur Hockey Association (HAIL) which shall have jurisdiction over the Province of Alberta.
  - c. Roller Sports Manitoba (RSM) which shall have jurisdiction over the Province of Manitoba.
  - d. Ontario Minor Roller Hockey Association (OMRHA) which shall have jurisdiction over the Province of Ontario
  - e. And any other provincial branches upon compliance with the bylaws of this association.
- Probationary Branches of the Association:
  - a. Roller Hockey Quebec (RHQ) which shall have jurisdiction over the Province of Quebec

## **By-Laws**

### **By-Law One**

#### **Membership**

Wherever used in the Articles, Bylaws, Regulations, Rules or Policies the words(s):

- Member shall be deemed to include where the context permits, Branch or any person, club or team that participate in games or activities of any kind sponsored or organized by this Association or by any of its members (whether or not such person, club or team is in fact a member of this Association)
- “Individual” shall include where in context permits, any person, player, coach, manager or official affiliated with or associated with, in any capacity whatsoever, any club or team participating in games or activities of any kind sponsored or organized by the Association or by any of its members, and shall also include game officials.
- Each member, as condition precedent to membership in this association, shall adopt Articles, By-laws, and Regulations in conformity with the Articles, By-laws, and Regulations of this Association, and shall not at any time make amendments of its Articles, By-laws, or regulations.
- All games played by such members of its clubs, shall be in conformity with the Articles, By-laws, Regulations, Rules and Policies of this Association and which the rules and conditions adopted and prescribed by the Board of directors of this Association. National Inline Hockey Organization shall hereinafter be referred to as “the Association”.

### **By-Law Two**

#### **Suspension and Expulsion of Branches**

- Any Branch suspended by the operation of other provisions of these By-laws shall be liable to permanent expulsion from this Association by the affirmative majority vote of any Annual General or Special meeting of this Association. In case of such expulsion, the territory of such member may be reorganized or divided among the other members of this Association at the discretion of the Board of Directors. In the case of suspension of a Branch, by the operation of other provisions of these By-laws, the Officers of this Association shall proceed with the organization of such groups and leagues within the territory of the suspended Branch, and to declare winners to represent the Branch in Inter-Branch playoffs.

#### **Suspension of Members**

- Without limiting or restricting the generality of anything elsewhere contained in the Articles, By-laws, Rules or Regulations, and without derogating from any form of

the specific or general powers of the Board of the Directors elsewhere contained, any breach or violation by any member or individual of any provision of the Articles, By-laws, Regulations or Rules, or of any decision or ruling of the Board of Directors shall automatically, upon the Vice-President, Finance giving notice thereof, result in immediate indefinite suspension from membership, and also immediate indefinite suspension from participation in all games or activities of any kind sponsored or organized by this Association or any of its Branches. If any club or team commits such breach or violation participating in any such games or activities then the aforesaid immediate indefinite suspension shall be automatically suffered by the said club or team. If such breach or violation is committed by any individual, other than a player, then the club or team with which such individual is associated or affiliated at the time of commission of such breach or violation shall also (in addition to the said individual) suffer the aforesaid immediate indefinite suspension. The said suspension may, in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors, be removed or remitted by action of the Board of Directors.

## Dues

- Each Branch shall pay an annual participant **membership assessment** which shall be determined by the Board of Directors of this Association. Full payment of fees must be submitted by June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- A Branch which does not pay such membership and assessment fees by July 15<sup>th</sup> shall be notified in writing within 7 days by the Vice-President, Finance. Voting privileges shall be forfeited by the offending Branch at any meeting of this Association or the Board of Directors until such membership and assessment fee is received. Expenses incurred by an offending Branch attending meetings after July 15<sup>th</sup> shall not be paid. Failure to pay within three months will automatically entail loss of membership to the offending member.

## By-law Three

### Prospective Members:

- A branch or affiliate should apply in writing to the chairperson prior to the Annual General meeting, special meeting or Board of Director's meeting of the current year if they wish to join the Association. The Association, at its Annual General Meeting, will review the recommendation of the executive and take into account:
  - Effect on existing members
  - Other factors that the Association considers appropriate to decide whether to accept, table or reject the application
  - New members will initially be accepted as probationary members by a majority vote of the Board of Directors
  - Probationary members must participate in the Association for a minimum of one year before being considered for permanent membership

## By-law Four

### The officers, their Authority and Responsibilities

- The officers of the Association shall be:
  - 1. President
  - 2. Vice President, Finance
  - 3. Vice President, Operations
  - 4. Vice President, High Performance
  - 5. Vice President, Grassroots
  - 6. Vice President, Programming
  - 7. Referee-In-Chief
  - 8. Manager, National Team Program
- 1. Duties and responsibilities of President
  - a. shall be spokesperson for all for all matters pertaining to the Association
  - b. shall be an ex-officio member of all committees
  - c. shall preside over meeting of the Board of Directors
  - d. shall not have a vote except to cast the deciding vote
  - e. shall call all meetings of the Board of Directors at such time and f. place he or she deems necessary
  - g. The position shall be for a period of two (2) years commencing 2008 and will be terminated on even years thereafter.
- 2. Duties and responsibilities of the VP, Finance
  - a. Shall report to the President
  - b. Oversee all revenues and expenditures, deposit all monies received, pay all accounts of the Association and prepare appropriate annual financial statements.
  - c. Prepare and present annually a financial report to the membership at the Annual General Meeting for ratification.
  - d. In cooperation with the Board of Directors, prepare and present a budget for the forthcoming season.
  - e. Have a review of the books annually by two Board of Directors or by an accountant
  - f. Shall have one vote
  - g. Shall remit expense money required. Will have dual signing authority with the president, Executive Director or designate as appointed by the Board of Directors.
  - h. The position shall be for a period of two (2) years commencing 2009 and will be terminated on odd years thereafter.
- 3. Duties and responsibilities of the VP, Operations
  - a. Shall report to the President

- b. Shall keep a minute book record of all Association meetings and carry out normal duties of a secretary.
  - c. Association minutes shall be recorded and distributed to all Board of Director members within fourteen (14) days following any meetings.
  - d. Ensure each member who attends the Annual General meeting receives a copy of this constitution, By-laws and Regulation booklet.
  - e. Shall have one vote
  - f. Ensure the update of this Constitution, By-laws and Regulation booklet.
  - g. Oversee the Operations of National Office and Staff
  - h. Oversee Registration and Insurance Process
  - i. The position shall be for a period of two (2) years commencing 2008 and will be terminated on even years thereafter
- 5. Duties and responsibilities of the Vice President, High Performance
- a. Provide an annual report on National High Performance Programs
  - b. Act as a liaison between provincial members and the National Association.
  - c. Shall have one vote.
  - d. Oversee National Team Program and other programs that fall under High Performance
  - e. Shall report to the President
  - f. Shall have the Manager, National Team Program report to him/her.
  - f. The position shall be for a period of two (2) years commencing 2009 and will be terminated on odd years thereafter
- 6. Duties and responsibilities of the Vice President, Grassroots
- a. Shall report to the President
  - b. Provide an annual report on National Grassroots Programs
  - c. Oversee development programs for leagues and players nationwide
  - d. Shall have one vote
  - e. This position shall be for a period of two (2) years commencing 2009 and will be terminated on odd years thereafter
- 7. Duties and responsibilities of the Referee in Chief
- a. Shall report to the VP, Programming
  - b. Shall present an annual report on officials for the Association.
  - c. Shall preside over official selection for the Association events and opportunities.
  - d. Shall have one vote
  - e. Present proposed changes to rule book and present to the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting for ratification.

- f. Chairperson for the discipline committee at the annual National Inline Championship.
- g. The position shall be for a period of two (2) years commencing 2003 and will be terminated on odd years thereafter
- 8. Duties and responsibilities of the Manager, National Team Program
  - a. Shall report to the VP, High Performance
  - b. Provide an annual report on National Team Program
  - c. Oversee National Team Program
  - d. Act as a liason to Hockey Canada and IIHF
  - e. This is a non-voting position

**The Board of Directors have the responsibilities (in addition to responsibilities elsewhere set out herein):**

- To formulate, prescribe, alter and amend By-laws, Regulations and Playing Rules for the governing of this Association, not inconsistent with the scope and provisions of its Articles, and in general, to make rulings or decisions on any matter brought before it from any source.
- To grant or refuse applications for membership in this Association.
- To impose and enforce appropriate penalties for any violations or breach of Articles, By-laws, Regulations, or Rules of this Association or for any violation or breach of any decision or ruling of the Board of Directors.
- By a two-thirds vote to forthwith remove from office any member of the Board of Directors who by being remiss or neglectful of duty or by conduct tending to impair his/her usefulness as a member of the Board of Directors shall be deemed to have forfeited his/her position.
- To declare vacant the position of the Board of Directors.
- To fill the vacancy upon this Board caused by the resignation or expulsion by such member.
- To supervise the collections of fees and funds of this Association and the expenditure of money
- To the exclusion of any body, so that this power is vested in the Board of Directors solely, finally, absolutely and exclusively, to establish and define the rules and laws on Inline Hockey in Canada.
- To the exclusion of any other body, so that this power is vested in the Board of Directors, solely, finally, absolutely and exclusively, to interpret, construe, define and explain all the provisions of the Articles, By-laws, Regulations, Rules and Policies. All members and individuals shall accept as final and binding, all such interpretations, constructions, definitions and explanations given or made by the Board of Directors.
- To call any necessary special meetings of this Association and to fix the time and place of such meetings not fixed by the Articles.
- To establish, operate and manage, any type of insurance plan that the Board of Directors has approved for the benefit and protection of its members.

- The Board of Directors of this Association may appoint or engage, and define the duties of the officers, Agents or employees for the purpose of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the Association.
- Develop and administer National Championships as may be deemed advisable and establish the regulations and classifications for the teams eligible to compete in any such championship.
- Recommend changes to the playing rules as may be deemed to be beneficial to all participants.
- To develop and administer the Program of Excellence.

## **By-law Five**

### **Meeting of this Association and its Councils and Committees**

- All meetings of this Association and its Councils and Committees shall be called by the chairperson on the order of the Board of Directors.
- A general meeting of this Association shall be held annually at such time and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors.
- In addition to the annual meeting, the chairperson may, at his or her discretion, convene special meeting. In such a case, the chairperson, shall notify each Director of the date of the special meeting at least twenty-one (21) days notice of the Special Meeting must be given to all Directors.
- At all meetings of this Association and of the Board of Directors, the following shall be the order of business.
  - Presentation of delegates' credentials
  - Roll call of delegates
  - Chair of the Board's Report
  - Reading of Minutes
  - Business arising out of minutes
  - Registration and finance reports
  - Report of Committees and Councils
  - General or new business
  - Elections
  - Adjournment

### **Voting/Quorum**

- At all meetings of this Association and of its Committees and Committees, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members entitled to be present.
- Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of this Association, the Executive, Committees and Councils so far as they may be applicable without coming into conflict with the act of incorporation, By-laws & Regulations or Rules adopted by the Association.
- The officers of this Association shall be entitled at all times to participate in any Committee and Council discussions.



- All general meetings will be open; All Board of Directors meetings will be limited to members thereof. All other Committee Meetings will be limited to members thereof and such others persons as may be invited by the committee to attend.
- In like the minutes of the meetings shall be sent to the Board of Directors in a timely manner.
- At meetings of the Board of Directors each director is entitled to one vote. The chairperson of this Association shall have a vote in case of a tie only. All voting shall be a show of hands, unless the meeting decides upon a ballot.
- Voting procedure is as follows:
  - Telefax or electronic mail will be used, with 72 hours from time marked on telefax or electronic mail allowed for a voting member of the Council, Board of Directors or committee as may be to submit its ballot.
  - Each voting member must return their ballot either for, against or abstaining.
  - In the case of a vote from the Branch the same information will be sent to each Branch office advising that the Branch President has been asked that the ballot be returned within 72 hours and if the Branch President is unable to vote, to arrange to have a ballot submitted by the Branch. If such ballot is not received by the deadline date, such Branch is to be solicited by the Vice-President, Finance at the expense of the Branch involved and such Branch will be allowed an additional 24 hours, following which the result of the vote will be announced.
  - Once a vote has been cast, it cannot be changed.
- Within twenty-four hours from the closing of the vote, the president shall advise
- Voting by proxy is permitted.

### **Financial**

- At its first meeting, immediately following the Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors shall adopt a budget providing for the expenses of this Association for the upcoming fiscal year.
- All monies received by this Association from any source, except as otherwise provided, shall be used for the expenses and objects of this Association by the Treasurer subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.
- Two directors Board of Directors prior to the Annual General Meeting shall be appointed to review the financial statements and records and report to the Board of Directors prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- Honoria: The Board of Directors may authorize .....

### **Delegate's Expenses**

- The expenses of the Officers of this Association shall be paid to any meeting requiring their attendance, as determined by the Chair of the Board, but shall always include the Annual Meeting of the Association, meetings of the Board of Directors and meetings and Annual Congress of any Council of which they are a member. Payment shall be made on the following basis:
  - Transportation – the most economical airfare plus transportation to and from the airport. One may choose to travel by car at \$ .50 per kilometer if more than the most economical airfare



- Other expenses – actual hotel costs plus a meal allowance of \$40 per day or part thereof depending on the meal period(s) outside the home while traveling, allotted on the basis of morning meal: \$8, mid-day meal: \$14, evening meal: \$18.

### **Amendments**

- The President shall notify all members of this Association of changes, which be made from time to time in the Articles, By-laws, Regulations or Playing Rules.
- This Association at any Annual General Meeting, Special Board of Directors Meeting may adopt, amend, revise or repeal By-laws or Regulations for the government of this Association, or Playing Rules, upon the affirmative majority vote of the members present and voting as such meetings.
- Adoptions, amendments, revisions or repeals made by the Board of Directors, or proposed to be made by the Board of Directors, shall be circulated to all members of the Board of Directors at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the holding of such meetings.
- All actions taken under this By-law shall take effect immediately.

### **Conflict of Interest Guidelines**

- A potential conflict of interest is deemed to arise when a member of the NIHA-Canada Board of Directors is involved:
  - As a member of an inline hockey association, team or league;
  - In receiving remuneration of any amount for any position of an amateur inline hockey association, team or league
  - Is holding any position in an amateur inline hockey association, team or league.
- When a potential conflict is deemed to have arisen, the member involved:
  - Shall immediately notify the Board of Directors and Officers
  - Shall not participate in discussion and shall absent themselves from the meeting when any item is being discussed by the Board of Directors or any of its committees which the presiding chair considers a conflict.
  - Shall not solicit information on any such item: and
  - Shall not be provided any information on any such items by any committee or Board member, Officer or employee.

## **REGULATIONS**

### **A. Competition**

- This Association governs competition in inline hockey in various Divisions including



- a. Senior Male and Female: open to players of any age with a minimum age of 16 years within insurance year
- b. 18 & Under – open to players eighteen (18) years of age and younger in the current playing season
- c. 16 & under - open to players sixteen (16) years of age and younger in the current playing season.
- d. 14 & under - open to players fourteen (14) years of age and younger in the current playing season.
- e. 12 & under - open to players twelve (12) years of age and younger in the current playing season.
- f. 10 & under - open to players ten (10) years of age and younger in the current playing season.
- g. 8 & under - open to players eight (8) years of age and younger in the current playing season.

The player's age is determined for the current playing season by the player's age at December 31 of the current season.

- A team is deemed to be under the jurisdiction of the Provincial association in the geographic area in which it plays its home games
- No NIHA-Canada team shall be permitted to operate in any jurisdiction other than NIHA-Canada, except by permission of the Provincial Association in whose region the team is located.
- Only NIHA-Canada teams shall be permitted to participate in the National International Invitational Championship, unless otherwise approved by the NIHA-Canada.
- Provincial associations shall have their teams ready to participate in the National event on such dates and location that have been ratified by the NIHA-Canada Board of Directors.
- An initial commitment, by each Provincial Association, to compete in the National Invitational Championship, must be made at each annual General Meeting of this Association.

## **B. Referees Fees and Expenses**

- In the National event the referee's fees, local transportation, accommodation and per diem shall be the responsibility of the host committee, at the rate as ratified by the board of directors in that playing season. Rate of pay: 8U - \$12, 10U - \$12, 12U - \$15, 14U - \$18, 16U - \$20, 18U - \$20, Adult - \$22
- Airfare of officials traveling to the event from other jurisdictions will be the responsibility of that said Jurisdiction.
- The standard point system as attached shall be employed to determine the most qualified official attend the event. A list of officials for the National event will be



provided to the Board of Directors not later than 10 days from the date of the event, the Board of Directors will ratify selection and provide the list to the host committee.

### **C. Protest of Games**

- Protests, and all evidence in support thereof, must be submitted in writing and presented to the tournament director in charge of the Series within 90 minutes of the conclusion of the game in which the protest is being made and must be accompanied by a deposit of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) cash which sum shall be forfeited, to this Association, if the protest is disallowed. The tournament committee reserves the right to modify the protest window to maintain the integrity of the tournament schedule.
- Protests cannot be made on any official's judgment call(s) that took place during the game.

### **D. Teams, Clubs and Affiliations**

- Definition of "Teams" for registration purposes. A group of team officials at least one of whom must be a coach, and a groups of not less than six (6) registered players, who are qualified in one division and category under NIHA regulations governing age and other regulations up to the maximum number of fourteen (14) where two of those must be goaltenders.
- It is the responsibility of the Provincial Association to ensure that every team competing in any series conducted by this Association shall be a member of this Association.
- Player movement preceding the Regional Qualifier for teams that will be attending the National event must be under strict regulations as set forth by the Provincial Association and approved by the NIHA prior to providing the roster to the Host Committee.
- A player may play in up to two age divisions as long as they qualify based on age categories.
- Every attempt to fill vacancies in teams wishing to participate in the National Event must be made within their own Club and Associations prior to looking beyond.
- All players that may wish to fill a vacancy on a team must have played the current playing season within their respective clubs or organizations and must have been a registered player through NIHA-Canada.

### **E. Registration**

- Every player competing in the games provided by this Association and its Provincial associations shall be a member of a team which is a member of this Association, or has temporary membership by means of non member sanctioning fees, duly validated by the Provincial Association's representative or his/her designate for the current playing season.
- Any player who is a registered member of a Provincial Association, and whom has been proven guilty by his said Association, or NIHA-Canada of:

- Falsifying or forging a birth certificate, or
- Falsifying or forging NIHA-Canada Registration Certificate or
- Playing under an assumed name, or
- Having had knowledge that any of the above have occurred shall be automatically suspended from playing inline hockey with any registered association, team or club of up to three years from the date of suspension

Any player who is a registered member of Any team official, executive member of a team, club or association, proven guilty after a proper hearing by his Provincial Association or th NIHA of having been party to, or having knowledge of such falsification, shall be suspended for a period of not less than 3 years from playing or holding office with any team, club or association affiliated with NIHA-Canada.

### **F. Appeals**

- A person, team, league or association who is aggrieved by the decision of a Provincial Association in relation to any dispute, difference or questions may appeal to the NIHA, where:
  - Such decision is in conflict with articles, By-laws and/or Regulations of the Provincial Association or NIHA-Canada
  - The Provincial Association committed a procedural error, or failed to provide the aggrieved party with a fair hearing.
  - The Provincial Association did not have the authority or jurisdiction to make the decision.
- An Appeal Shall:
  - Be brought within seven (7) days of the written decision of the Provincial Association Appealed from
  - Be in writing
  - Describe the error of the Provincial Association which provides the National body with jurisdiction to consider the appeal.

### **G. Discipline of Clubs, Teams, Players and Officials**

- Any team using a suspended player in league, exhibition or tournament games shall be liable to immediate suspension
- Any person responsible for a team having used a suspended player shall also be suspended
- Any team found guilty of using an ineligible player in league, playoff, exhibition or tournament game, shall lose any points earned in any of the games that the ineligible player participated. The player and/or team official shall be liable to further disciplinary action in accordance with the regulations.
- Any referee who misrepresents him/herself will be suspended for two years
- NIHA-Canada will review disciplinary actions from partner organizations and events upon due notice and reserve the right to uphold or add to the penalties issued. This covers players, coaches, officials, parents and league organizers.