

ISSUE #: 2022-013

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TO: BC Hockey Membership

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SUBJECT: 2022 - 2023 Minimum Suspension Guidelines - Minor/Female & New Rules

Please ensure every participant on or within your team, league or association are made aware of this bulletin. The following minimum suspensions are not to be reduced; Associations and Leagues may strengthen any of the listed offences at their discretion. These guidelines represent all levels of Minor hockey and all divisions of Female hockey.

Additionally, Hockey Canada has updated the Playing Rules for 2022-2024. The updated rulebook can be found on the Hockey Canada mobile application (available in the apple or google play stores) or by way of this [PDF](#) edition, on the BC Hockey website. Furthermore, this [VIDEO](#) tutorial summarizes the changes the playing rules, updates to rulebook format and an outline of various clarifications to existing content; as reflected in the new edition of this document.

I. GAME INCIDENT REPORTING PROCEDURES

The Referee shall submit a report by way of the Hockey Canada Game Incident Report (GIR) system available on the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR) for all penalties incurred during BC Hockey sanctioned games. Where two (2) Referees (4-official or 2-official system) were assigned to a game, the Referee or Official responsible for making the call requiring a game incident report shall complete the online submission. If a report is required for an infraction that was brought to the attention of the Referee by a Linesperson, the email address and phone number of the reporting Linesperson must be included.

Reportable Incidents:

- a) Game Ejections: Head Contact Rule 7.6 (a) & 4.8 (b) ii.
- b) All Game Misconducts (Reminder: all major penalties have an automatic Game Misconduct)
- c) All Match Penalties
- d) All Gross Misconducts
- e) All infractions under Section 11 Maltreatment (Rules 11.1 & 11.2) resulting in:
 - Game Misconduct
 - Gross Misconduct
- f) All infractions and **allegations** under Rule 11.4 - Discrimination
- g) All infractions under Rule 11.5 - Physical Harassment of Officials
- h) Violations of Rule 10.14 (Refusing to Start Play)
- i) Any unusual situations that should be brought to the attention of BC Hockey

All reports must be submitted using the online [Game Incident Report](#) system ([video tutorial](#)) no later than 8:00am on the morning following any reportable incident(s). Officials are encouraged where possible to submit the online game incident report immediately after the game if they have access to the internet from a smart phone to prevent any unnecessary delays in submission.

Should officials have questions please contact your BC Hockey officiating [Delivery Group Member](#)

II. HEAD CONTACT MINOR & DOUBLE MINOR PENALTY ACCUMULATIONS

Accumulated penalty minutes in the minor and double minor categories under Rule 7.6 (a) will result in

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Sanction
7.6 (a)	Incurring 20 minutes under Rule 7.6 (a), within the same season	Head Contact Education*
	Incurring 32 minutes under Rule 7.6 (a), within the same season.	1 Game
	Incurring 44 minutes under Rule 7.6 (a), within the same season.	3 Games
	Incurring a total of 58 accumulated minutes under Rule 7.6 (a)	Indefinite Suspension**
4.8 (b)	Receipt of a Game Ejection under Head Contact rule 6.5 (c)	1 Game
	2 nd Game Ejection under Rule 6.5 (c), within the same season	3 Games
	3 rd or subsequent Game Ejection under Rule 6.5 (c), within season	Indefinite Suspension**
**All Indefinite suspensions to a player under this section shall be no less than three (3) games		

Note: Accumulation totals in this section will reset prior to the start of minor championships.

*Suspensions under rule 7.6 (a) (20 minutes) require the completion of the following Head Contact Educational Exercise, prior to reinstatement. The player will be ineligible to play, until it is complete:

- 1) Review of the [Head Contact Educational Video](#) (approximately 12 Minutes)
- 2) Complete the associated [Virtual Exercise](#) with a minimum score of 12 out of 16.
 - i. Download the Kahoot app on a mobile device & enter the game pin # ([Video Tutorial on using Kahoot!](#))
 - ii. Enter your full first & last name, click 'start' & submit answers for each question on your device
 - iii. When complete, your score will appear on the browser screen. Please screen capture your score, with your name displayed and submit that confirmation to the person that notified you of your suspension. A minimum score of 12 out of 16 is required to consider the educational exercise complete. Should you score below 12, please retake the maltreatment educational exercise, until the score is achieved.

III. MAJOR AND GAME MISCONDUCT MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS

Should the automatic Game Misconduct associated to major penalty infractions in this section occur within the last ten (10) minutes of regular playing time or any time in overtime, Rule 4.8 (c) will also apply resulting in an additional one (1) game suspension to anything prescribed in this section.

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
7.2 (b)	Boarding	1 Game
7.3 (b)	Body Checking	1 Game
7.4 (b)	Charging	1 Game
7.5 (b)	Checking from Behind	1 Game
7.6 (b)	Head Contact	2 Games
7.8 (b)	Kneeing	1 Game
8.3 (b)	Interference	1 Game
8.4 (b)	Interference from the Bench	1 Game
8.5 (b)	Interference with the Goaltender	1 Game
8.7 (b)	Clipping	1 Game
9.2 (b)	Cross-Checking	1 Game
9.3 (b)	Slashing	1 Game
Code	Accumulation Sanctions - Player	Additional Sanction
AS104	Receiving two (2) Majors in the same season for any of the above	2 Games
AS105	Receiving three (3) Majors in the same season for any of the above	4 Games
AS106	Receiving four (4) Majors in the same season for any of the above	Indefinite Suspension*
Code	Accumulation Sanctions - Coach	Additional Sanction
AS112	Team receives three (3) Major or Match penalties in the same game	1 Game
AS113	For a 2 nd violation of the above, in the same season	3 Games
AS114	For a 3 rd violation of the above, in the same season	Indefinite Suspension*
*All Indefinite suspensions under this section shall be no less than four (4) games		

NOTE: For the purpose of this bulletin, all 'Accumulation Sanctions' are to be served in addition to the applicable minimum suspension for any original infraction.
 E.g. Should a player receive a Major penalty and Game Misconduct for one (1) of the above infractions, they will receive a one (1) game suspension. Should this penalty be the player's second major of the season under this section, the player will receive an additional two (2) game suspension (Code AS104), for a cumulative total of a three (3) games suspension.

Rule #	Penalty Description – Fighting Situations	Minimum Suspension
7.10 (b)	Fighting Major penalty – 1 st offence in a season	1 Game
7.10 (e) ii.	Third player in a fight	2 Games
7.10 (e) iii.	2 nd or subsequent fight during the same stoppage	2 Games
10.4 (e)	First player identified as leaving the players' bench during a fight	3 Games
10.4 (e)	Coach of team whose player is penalized under rule 10.4 (e)	3 Games
10.4 (e)	Coach whose player left the bench but was not the first to do so	1 Game
7.11 (a)	1 st offense (instigator or aggressor) – Code AS120	1 Game
Code	Pre/Post Game Altercations	Additional Sanction
PG101	Any player involved - Majors & Game Misconducts are assessed	2 Games
PG102	Coach of team whose player(s) are penalized under Code PG101	Indefinite Suspension*
PG103	Coach of any team involved in a pre or post game brawl	Indefinite Suspension*
Code	Accumulation Sanctions – Instigator or Aggressor	Additional Sanction
AS121	2 nd offense (instigator or aggressor) – Rule 7.11 (a)	3 Games
AS122	3 rd offense (instigator or aggressor) – Rule 7.11 (a)	Indefinite Suspension*
Code	Accumulation Sanctions – Player & Head Coach	Additional Sanction
AS117	Fighting Major 2 nd Offence in same season - Player	2 Games
AS118	Fighting Major 3 rd Offence in same season - Player	4 Games
AS119	Fighting Major 4 th or subsequent offence(s) in same season - Player	Indefinite Suspension*
AS118	Coach whose team engages in three (3) or more fights in a game	1 Game
AS118	Subsequent violation of the above in the same season by a team	Indefinite Suspension*

*Indefinite suspensions shall be no less than one (1) games for a coach and four (4) games for a player.

IV. MALTREATMENT, INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR and OTHER GROSS MISCONDUCT

Should a Game or Gross Misconduct associated to one (1) of the following infractions occur within the last ten (10) minutes of regular playing time or any time in overtime, Rule 4.8 (c) or 4.9 (b) will also apply resulting in an additional one (1) game suspension.

- b) All Gross Misconduct penalties not otherwise covered in this section will receive a minimum suspension of three (3) games.
- c) All accumulation sanctions are in addition to the minimum suspension for the original infraction.
- d) Suspensions under rule 11.4 also require the completion of the following, prior to reinstatement:
 - 1) Review of the [Section 11 Maltreatment](#) module video (approximately 15 minutes).
 - 2) Complete the [Maltreatment Educational Exercise](#), with a minimum score of 9 out of 12.
 - i. Download the Kahoot app on a mobile device & enter the game pin # ([Video Tutorial on using Kahoot!](#))
 - ii. Enter your full first & last name, click 'start' & submit answers for each question on your device
 - iii. When complete, your score will appear on the browser screen. Please screen capture your score, with your name displayed and submit that confirmation to the person that notified you of your suspension. A minimum score of 9 out of 12 is required to consider the educational exercise complete. Should you score below 9, please retake the maltreatment educational exercise, until the score is achieved.

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
11.1 (e)	Game Misconduct – Unsportsmanlike Conduct	1 Game
11.2 (e)	Game Misconduct Disrespectful, Abusive, Harassing Behaviour	2 Games
11.2 (f)	Gross Misconduct Disrespectful, Abusive, Harassing Behaviour	4 Games
11.3 (c)	Match Penalty – Spitting	5 Games
11.4	Gross Misconduct – Discrimination	Indefinite Suspension*
11.5	Match Penalty - Physical Harassment of Officials	See Section V
Code	Accumulation Sanctions – Player or Team Official	Additional Sanction
AS110	Receiving two (2) Game Misconducts under Rule 11.1 in a season	2 Games
AS111	Receiving 3 or more Game Misconducts under Rule 11.1 in a season	Indefinite Suspension**
AS115	Receiving two (2) Game Misconducts under Rule 11.2 in a season	4 Games
AS115	Receiving 3 or more Game Misconducts under Rule 11.2 in a season	Indefinite Suspension***
AS116	Receiving two (2) Gross Misconducts under Rule 11.4 in a season	Indefinite Suspension***

*Indefinite suspensions under Rule 11.4 must be no less than five (5) games

**Indefinite suspensions under the accumulation sanctions must be no less than three (3) additional games

***Indefinite suspensions under the accumulation sanctions must be no less than five (5) additional games

V. MATCH PENALTY MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS

Infractions under this section are eligible for video review under [BC Hockey Policy 4.04](#).

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension	
		No Injury	Injury
Rule 7.1 (c)	Attempt to injure (no injury results)	3 Games	
Rule 7.1 (c)	Deliberate Injury	Indefinite Suspension*	
		No Injury	Injury
Rule 7.1 (c) i.	Head Butting	3 Games	6 Games
Rule 7.1 (c) ii.	Grabbing hair, facial protector, helmet, chinstrap or neck guard	3 Games	6 Games
Rule 7.1 (c) iii.	Kicking (attempted kick or deliberately kicking)	3 Games	6 Games
Rule 7.1 (c) iv.	Using any piece of equipment as a weapon	3 Games	6 Games
7.2 (c)	Boarding	3 Games	6 Games
7.3 (c)	Body Checking	3 Games	6 Games
7.4 (c)	Charging	3 Games	6 Games
7.5 (c)	Checking from Behind	4 Games	Indefinite*
7.6 (c)	Head Contact	5 Games	Indefinite**
7.8 (c)	Kneeing	3 Games	6 Games
7.10 (c)	Wearing rings (etc.) to inflict punishment	3 Games	6 Games
8.7 (c)	Clipping	3 Games	6 Games
8.8 (c)	Slew Footing	3 Games	6 Games
9.1 (c)	Butt-Ending	3 Games	6 Games
9.2 (c)	Cross-Checking	3 Games	6 Games
9.3 (c)	Slashing	3 Games	6 Games
9.4 (c)	Spearing	3 Games	6 Games
11.3 (c)	Spitting (also see Section IV)	5 Games	
11.5 i.	Physical Harassment of Officials - Threat well-being of official	1 Games	
11.5 ii.	Physical Harassment of Officials – Attempted strike of official	2 Games	
11.5 iii.	Physical Harassment of Officials – Touch, hold or push	3 Games	6 Games
11.5 iv.	Physical Harassment of Officials – Strike, trip, or body check	Indefinite Suspension**	
Code	Accumulation Sanctions – Player in the same season	Additional Sanction	
AS108	Two (2) Match penalties under Rules 7.5 (c) and / or 7.6 (c)	6 Games	
AS109	Two (2) Match penalties under Rule 11.5	Indefinite Suspension ***	
AS107	Two (2) Match penalties under any other rules within this section	5 Games	
AS109	Three (3) Match penalties under any other rules within this section	Indefinite Suspension ***	
Code	Accumulation Sanctions – Coach in the same season	Additional Sanction	
AS107	Team that receives two (2) Match penalties in the same game	1 Game	
AS107	2 nd violation of the above in the same season	3 Games	
AS107	3 rd violation of the above in the same season	Indefinite Suspension ***	
*Indefinite suspension pending investigation must be no less than six (6) games			
**Indefinite suspension pending investigation must be no less than seven (7) games			
***Indefinite suspensions under the accumulations within this section must be no less than three (3) games			

VI. REFUSING TO START PLAY

Team officials penalized under Hockey Canada Rule 10.8 'Refusing to Start Play', including withdrawing a team from play, shall be subject to an indefinite suspension pending an investigation.

VII. DRESSING ROOMS – Hockey Canada Rule 1.13 (c)

Team Officials penalized under Hockey Canada Rule 1.13 (c) shall be subject to indefinite suspension pending an investigation.

VIII. ALCOHOL, DRUGS, TOBACCO AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

BC Hockey policy prohibits the use of tobacco, cannabis, alcohol, drugs and banned / restricted / controlled substances during BC Hockey sanctioned events hosted by BC Hockey or any Minor Hockey Association (MHA) / Member, in accordance with [policy 4.06](#).

All incidents must be investigated and dealt with on an individual basis. The recommended minimum suspension for violations within Section VIII is 30 days from all participation within the association, this includes practices. Associations and teams have the responsibility to investigate all situations, if there are questions or concerns, please contact the applicable MHA President.

IX. SERVING OF SUSPENSIONS

A. General

1. The suspensions within this Bulletin are minimum guidelines and accordingly may be subject to lengthier sanctions, as they relate to the severity of the infraction(s).
2. All minimum suspensions shall commence upon the conclusion of the game in which the infraction(s) occurred.
3. There shall be no appeal of any suspension applied in accordance with the prescribed minimum suspension(s) indicated under the guidelines set forth in this Bulletin.
4. For the purpose of this Bulletin when a suspension has been applied, the suspended player or team official is prohibited from participating in any game sanctioned by BC Hockey / Hockey Canada for the duration of the suspension.
5. Please note, team officials, players, or officials may practice with their team during the term of the suspensions listed within this bulletin, unless otherwise stated in the suspension notification.
6. All suspensions will be in effect until midnight on the date of expiry in accordance with the corresponding number of days or after the number of games have been served as outlined in the chart below, whichever expires first. The 'game(s)' to 'days' ratio is applicable to all player and team official suspensions:

DETERMINATION OF SUSPENSION - GAME TO DAY RATIO	
MINIMUM SUSPENSION IN GAMES	MINIMUM SUSPENSION IN DAYS
1 Game	7 Days
2 Games	10 Days
3 Games	15 Days
4 Games	21 Days
5 Games	25 Days
6 Games	30 Days
*When minimum suspensions are applied and due to accumulations or multiple infractions the combined total exceeds the above guidelines, all additional games shall be served at a ratio of 1 game or 7 days	

7. All participant suspensions must be served according to the schedule of the team that the participant received the suspension with; primary, affiliate or dual registered team. Therefore, participants are not permitted to count games from multiple teams towards the serving of a suspension. Only games that were scheduled at the time of suspension may count towards the serving of a suspension. Therefore, any game that is added to a team's schedule after the date of a suspension, will not count towards the serving of that suspension.
8. Any suspension(s) received by a participant that cannot be served due to the conclusion of their final season of participant eligibility within the minor hockey system (graduating due to age limits) must be documented on their HCR profile with an 'indefinite end date.' The prescribed duration of the suspension as per this bulletin must be indicated within the notes of the suspension so the suspension may be served upon any future Hockey Canada participation.

NOTE 1: All suspensions begin immediately upon assessment of the penalty.

NOTE 2: For the purposes of applying a suspension measured in days:

- a) A suspension shall commence at 12:00am on the day following an infraction.
- b) A participant serving a suspension will be deemed ineligible until midnight on the date of expiry noted within a suspension notification.
- c) In cases where it is recommended that a single incident requires a suspension beyond the minimum prescribed within this Bulletin and the suspension is greater than 60 days, the Chief Executive Officer will review the Indefinite Suspension [Policy 4.03.01 L].

B. Carry-over Suspensions

- i. **Winter Break:** Suspension(s) imposed in accordance with this Bulletin that are in effect upon the conclusion of the final exhibition, league, playoff or tournament game before the pre-scheduled winter break shall be considered in a 'carry-over suspension' status. Such a suspension shall pause upon the start date of the winter break and only continue upon the recommencement of the participant's playing schedule after the winter break. Therefore, all days during the winter break will not count towards the serving of the suspension.
- ii. **End of Season:** Suspension(s) imposed in accordance with this Bulletin that are in effect immediately prior to and / or do not expire prior to the conclusion of a participant's pre-scheduled league and / or playoff game schedule shall carry-over to be served at the start of the next season or upon the next available Hockey Canada sanctioned games. The start of the next season shall generally be determined as:
 - a) The date identified as the start of the next season by a Member District Association, Minor Hockey Association or League to which the participant is registered, in accordance with sanction exhibition, league, playoff or tournament games.
 - b) Not withstanding 'a)', the first scheduled exhibition or league game of the next season in which the player is otherwise registered to play, coach or officiate (in the case of an official, the first date of the next season in which the official is eligible to receive games assignments at their level of qualification);
 - c) Not withstanding 'a)' or 'b)', no later than September 30, of the next season.
 - d) Not withstanding 'a)', 'b)' or 'c)', should a participant have an opportunity to participate in any Hockey Canada sanctioned post-seasonal games (sanctioned spring or summer programming), the carry-over suspension may recommence upon the start of that post-seasonal schedule and continue to be served from the point at which it was paused upon start of that post-seasonal schedule. However, all days between the conclusion of the player's primary season and the start of the post-seasonal schedule will not count towards the serving of the suspension.
- iii. **Affiliate Participant:** Any participant registered as an affiliate player who receives a suspension resulting in a carry-over scenario due to the conclusion of the schedule of the team with which they were suspended may serve the remainder of their suspension with their affiliate team, under the following conditions:
 - a) Should the team with which a participant received their suspension no longer have any games scheduled within the current season a participant may serve the remainder of their suspension in accordance with the remaining schedule of the affiliate team, within the current season.
 - b) Under the conditions of 'a)' above, the participant must actively participate in a game within the affiliate team's current schedule once the suspension has been served, in order for the suspension to be considered served within the current season and therefore no longer requiring a carry-over status.
 - c) Should the affiliate teams' season conclude prior to the end of the prescribed suspension or upon the expiration of the suspension the player does not actively participate in an exhibition, league, playoff or tournament game with the affiliate team; then the suspension will not be considered served and shall carry-over to the next season as

originally prescribed by the suspension notification and served from the point in which the carry-over suspension was initially paused.

- d) A suspended player is permitted to practice or train with their affiliate team(s) while under a carry-over suspension status, unless otherwise indicated within the suspension notification. However, the suspension will remain paused until they have either served the appropriate number of games or days and participated in a game within that season or upon the start next season initiating the recommencement of their carry-over suspension.
- iv. **Team Officials:** Any Team Official serving a suspension in accordance with this Bulletin that is registered with multiple teams must serve their suspension in accordance with the schedule of the team with which they received the suspension(s). If it is not possible to serve a suspension prior to the conclusion of the current season with the aforementioned team, then the remainder of the suspension may be served in accordance with the schedule of an additionally registered team, under the same guidelines as Section 9 B iii (above).
- v. **Tryouts:** Players under carry-over suspension status shall be eligible to participate in tryouts, that occur between the conclusion of the current season and the start of the next season, for the purposes of player evaluation for the next season. Tryouts may include any BC Hockey 'Team BC' Program of Excellence, Regional or Zone, Hockey Canada Accredited School or Junior hockey identification camps or evaluations that occur prior to the start of the next season. However, the suspended player will be prohibited from playing in any games outside the evaluation / tryout process until the carry-over suspension has been served in full. Should the player's carry-over suspension have more than thirty (30) days remaining upon the conclusion of the current season, the BC Hockey Minor Discipline Coordinator must provide a recommendation of support or opposition regarding that player's participation in try-outs. A final decision will be made by the BC Hockey CEO.
- vi. **Junior Exhibition Games:** Players attempting to transition from Minor to Junior hockey upon the start of a new season that are under a carry-over suspension status may participate in pre-season Junior exhibition games because are considered components of the tryout process. Therefore, a minor player 'trying out' for a Junior team is permitted to participate in Junior evaluations, camps and exhibition games while their suspension remains in carry-over status. The number of games and / or days remaining in the suspension will remain paused during this process until the conclusion of the Junior evaluation or exhibition season and the player must serve the remainder of their carry-over suspension upon the start of the regular season within the Junior league or upon the player's return to Minor hockey. Should the suspended player registered to a Junior hockey team during the pre-season (exhibition schedule) and the team chooses to have that player commence the serving of their carry-over suspension, they can do so.

Should the suspended player's carry-over suspension have more than thirty (30) days remaining upon the start of the Junior evaluation, try out or exhibition period for the upcoming season, the BC Hockey Minor Discipline Coordinator must provide a recommendation of support or opposition regarding that player's participation in try-outs. A final decision will be made by the BC Hockey CEO.

C. Players

A Player receiving a suspension as a result of any penalty outlined in this bulletin shall be prohibited from playing in games as well as from acting in any other official capacity with a Team, League or Association within BC Hockey.

D. Team Officials

A Team Official receiving a suspension as a result of any penalty outlined in this Bulletin shall be prohibited from participating with their Team(s) from one (1) hour prior to any games until one (1) hour

after the conclusion of any game, acting as an Official or in any other capacity with a Team, League or Association within BC Hockey.

Team Officials who have a suspension that carries over past the final game of a season shall adhere to the same suspension guidelines outlined in Section IX B of this bulletin

E. On-ice Officials

An Official receiving a suspension under any regulation or policy governing the officiating program shall be prohibited from officiating until the conclusion of the suspension, plus playing in any games or acting in any official capacity with a Team, League or Association within BC Hockey, unless otherwise stated in their suspension notification.

An Official who has a suspension that carries over past the final game of a season shall be permitted to attend an HCOP clinic for certification purposes while under suspension but will be prohibited from upgrading to a higher level of certification while under suspension. On-ice officials who have a suspension that carries over past the final game of a season shall adhere to the same suspension guidelines outlined in Section IX B of this bulletin.

F. Other Suspensions

Any Player, Team Official or On-ice Official suspended by BC Hockey or under a suspension imposed by a Team, League or Association that has been honoured by BC Hockey shall be prohibited from playing or acting in any capacity with a Team, League or Association within BC Hockey.

G. Spring/Summer Hockey

BC Hockey sanctions Spring Hockey Tournaments and teams between April 1 and July 31. Spring/Summer sanctioned games may be included in the serving out carry-over suspensions and any suspension incurred during this period shall be applied in accordance to this bulletin.

H. Video Review

Please see Section 4.04 of the [BC Hockey Policy Manual](#) for qualifications, guidelines and process for submitting requests for video review.