



BC HOCKEY NON-SANCTIONED POLICY

Working with Hockey Canada and our colleagues within the other Branch Members of Hockey Canada, BC Hockey is committed to offering the best hockey development programs in the world. Collectively we invest significant resources into the development of officials, coaches, administrators, and players. We work together to continuously enhance strategies toward a cohesive long-term athlete development model, and we feel that our programs are excellent.

There are organizations that operate outside of our structure in the pursuit of delivering hockey. These organizations sometimes form leagues, hold tournaments, or create forms of development programming. These “non-sanctioned” organizations often do not align with the delivery model, mission, or values of BC Hockey or Hockey Canada.

Non-sanctioned organizations often operate with limited (or no) consideration of the impact of their programs on sanctioned minor, junior, or senior hockey programs, and without regard to the structure in place to ensure safe and effective development of officials, coaches, or administrators. Non-sanctioned programs instead, in most instances, choose to try to utilize resources and trained personnel already developed by Hockey Canada and its members.

When non-sanctioned practices and games take place, they do so outside of our stewardship, structure, and safeguards. BC Hockey has no way of ensuring these programs and leagues implement any of the many safeguards inherent to Hockey Canada sanctioned programs. Just a few of these safeguards include our Playing Rules, our background checks and training for adult supervisors, and participant insurance. We also, of course, have no way to ensure any level of quality of training, participation or play in these programs and leagues.

While Hockey Canada and BC Hockey respects the right of every individual to choose between participating in a BC Hockey sanctioned program or a non-sanctioned program at the beginning of each hockey season, every player or parent should understand the potential ramifications of that choice. These are described in greater detail below, in Sections II, III and IV of this policy.



SECTION I: DEFINITIONS

“Cut-Off Date” means September 30th of the hockey season in question.

“Member Organization” means any MHA, Recreational Hockey Program, Accredited School, Para Hockey Program, Junior/Senior Hockey League, etc. that is approved and registered with BC Hockey.

“Non-Sanctioned League” includes any amateur hockey league or program that operates in Canada outside of Hockey Canada registration and sanctioning.

NOTE: This does not include summer hockey leagues/teams, adult recreational hockey leagues/ teams, high school hockey, and/or hockey schools.

“Participate” means to engage, knowingly or otherwise, in any activity, and includes, without limitation, playing, managing, coaching, or acting as a trainer (bench staff).

“Participation in a non-sanctioned game” will be considered to have occurred if the individual takes part in any game (including an exhibition, tournament, league, or playoff game) after the Cut-Off Date.

SECTION II: PARTICIPATING IN A NON-SANCTIONED LEAGUE

BC Hockey has implemented the **Hockey Canada Non-Sanctioned League Policy (attached as Appendix A)**, and in addition has strengthened the application of that policy in the following additional ways:

1. a) Subject to paragraph b), any individual who participates in a non-sanctioned game after the Cut-Off Date will not be eligible for any BC Hockey sanctioned programs, games, or league play for the remainder of the season in which the non-sanctioned participation occurred.
2. b) Notwithstanding the above, anyone who participates in a non-sanctioned game after the Cut-Off Date may seek early reinstatement of their eligibility for sanctioned BC Hockey programs by applying for such reinstatement based on there being special circumstances. BC Hockey shall retain complete discretion in terms of granting, or not, early reinstatement if satisfied that special circumstances exist.

The consequences described in this section of this policy will remain in effect even if the non-sanctioned program, league, or team folds and whether or not the participant is released, suspended or fired from that program league or team.



SECTION III: SUPPORTING A NON-SANCTIONED LEAGUE

BC Hockey has implemented the **Hockey Canada Non-Sanctioned League Policy (attached as Appendix A)**, and in addition has strengthened the application of that policy in the following additional ways:

- i. Any Member organization which supports a non-sanctioned program or league incurs the risk of BC Hockey withholding tournament sanctioning approvals, event hosting, or other benefits from the Member, and
- ii. Any Member organization which supports a non-sanctioned program or league also incurs the risk of BC Hockey withdrawing any upcoming sanctioned tournament or event from any community within the geographic boundaries of that Member association, at any time prior to the tournament or event.

For greater certainty, “support” or “supporting” includes, but is not limited to, assisting a non-sanctioned program or league, directly or indirectly, through advertisement, promotion, ticket sales, volunteer activities, assigning officials, sharing resources, or enabling non-sanctioned teams or participants to participate in Hockey Canada sanctioned activities.

SECTION IV: HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS AND OFFICIATING

HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS

Access to BC Hockey Male and Female Program of Excellence is a privilege that is offered to, the member participants of Hockey Canada sanctioned programs within a branch member which includes but not limited to member MHAs, BCEHL or Hockey Canada Accredited School for the season that Team BC is participating in. Those participants that are registered from the previous season, will be given priority access to camp registration prior to publicly open registration.

Those participants that were not part of a Hockey Canada sanctioned program prior to registering for an ID Camp will be subject to a Participant Assessment fee along with camp registration fees.

Those athletes that are invited to any evaluation camp after Identification Camps are complete will be asked to provide proof of registration within a Hockey Canada sanctioned program for the season within which the competition will occur. If at any point during the Program of Excellence team selection process it is determined that a player participates in non-sanctioning programming their eligibility for the Program of Excellence becomes terminated immediately.



OFFICIATING

An Official participating in any non-sanctioned program WILL NOT:

- have access to the Hockey Canada insurance program for any injuries that may occur as a result of that participation;
- have access to the BC Hockey Match Penalty on Official process for any infractions that may occur during the non-sanctioned activity;
- be eligible to be selected by BC Hockey or Hockey Canada for any Regional, National or International assignments;
- be eligible to participate as an official in the Program of Excellence;
- be eligible to participate as an official in High Performance and Elite Minor games (BCEHL, CSSHL, Junior Leagues, Senior, Collegiate & University);
- be eligible to act in the capacity of an Officials **delivery group** member and/or a Clinic Instructor.

Further, BC Hockey has complete discretion, and the right, to make all choices regarding officials and/or administrators that are the best fit within all our programs.

