



ISSUE #: 2024-011

August 30, 2024 (Updated October 17, 2024)

TO: BC Hockey Membership

FROM: Sean Raphael
BC Hockey – Vice President Programs & Referee in Chief

SUBJECT: BULLETIN: 2024 - 2025 Minimum Suspension Guidelines - Minor/Female

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

Hockey Canada has updated the Playing Rules for the 2024-2026 seasons. The updated rulebook can be found on the Hockey Canada mobile app (available in the apple or google play stores) or by way of this [PDF](#) edition. Furthermore, this [VIDEO](#) summarizes the changes the playing rules, Hockey Canada's 'Points of Emphasis' and outlines focus on Rules 11.1 & 11.2 within Section 11 'Maltreatment'; as reflected in this edition of the minimum suspension guidelines.

I. GAME INCIDENT REPORTING PROCEDURES

Officials must submit reports by way of the Hockey Canada Game Incident Report (GIR) system available on the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR) for all infractions listed in this section, 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 original penalty call requiring a game incident report must 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 in the online report.

Reportable Incidents:

- a) Game Ejections: Head Contact Rule 7.6 (a) & 4.8 (b) ii.
- b) All Game Misconducts
- c) All Match Penalties
- d) All Gross Misconducts
- e) All infractions and allegations under Rule 11.4 - Discrimination
- f) All infractions under Rule 11.5 - Physical Harassment of Officials
- g) Violations of Rule 10.8
- h) Any unusual situations that should be brought to the attention of BC Hockey

All reports must be submitted using the online [Game Incident Report](#) within the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR) Spordle platform ([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 minor & double minor penalty minutes in under Rule 7.6 (a) Head Contact will result in:

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
7.6 (a)	Incurring 20 minutes under Rule 7.6 (a), same season	Education Module*
	Incurring 32 minutes under Rule 7.6 (a), same season	1 Game
	Incurring 44 minutes under Rule 7.6 (a), same season	3 Games
	Incurring 58 minutes under Rule 7.6 (a), same season	Indefinite (3 games)**
4.8 (b)	Game Ejection under Head Contact 7.6 (a) & 4.8 (b)	1 Game
	2 nd rule 7.6 (a) & 4.8 (b) Game Ejection, same season	3 Games
	3 rd or subsequent rule 7.6 (a) & 4.8 (b) Game Ejection	Indefinite (3 games)**

**The player is not suspended but must complete the education module below before continuing participation*
***Indefinite suspensions shall be no less than the games indicated in the parenthesis & may require investigation.*
 NOTE: Accumulation totals in this section will reset to 0 – minutes prior to the start of minor championships.

Head Contact Education Module (TUTORIAL):

- 1) Review head contact educational [VIDEO](#) (approximately 12-minutes).
- 2) Complete [VIRTUAL EXERCISE](#), with a minimum confirmed score of 12 / 16.
 - Enter full first & last name, then enter the 'access code' **2024**
 - Be sure to keep your 'return code' so you can re-access the module if needed.
 - Upon completion, provided the score to the applicable discipline administrator.

III. MAJOR & GAME MISCONDUCTS (NON-FIGHTING)

Game Misconduct penalty infractions occurring in the last ten (10) minutes of regular playing time or overtime, will result in an additional automatic one (1) game suspension, under rule 4.8 (c).

NOTE: When an official's report indicates that an otherwise minor or double minor penalty is upgraded to a major penalty due to an apparent 'injury' also indicates that the 'injured' player '**returned to the game**'; discipline administrators have the discretion to forego the application of any prescribed minimum suspension(s). In such cases, the major penalty and game misconduct may be removed from the official game record and replaced by the applicable minor or double minor penalty. Any changes to the game record shall **NOT** alter the final score of the game. The player must serve a prescribed minimum suspension in accordance to the infraction(s) documented on the original game record, until otherwise notified by a discipline administrator. Such administrative discretion will **NOT** be applied if the official's report indicates that the major penalty was assessed based upon any criterion of '**degree of violence**,' regardless as to whether the injured player returned.

Rule #	Penalty Type	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
7.1 (b)	Major	Attempt to injure or Deliberate Injury	1 Game
7.2 (b)	Major	Boarding	
7.3 (b)	Major	Body Checking	
7.4 (b)	Major	Charging	
7.5 (b)	Major	Checking from Behind	
7.6 (b)	Major	Head Contact	2 Games
7.8 (b)	Major	Kneeing	1 Game
7.9 (b)	Major	Roughing	
8.3 (b)	Major	Interference	
8.4 (b)	Major	Interference from the Bench	
8.5 (b)	Major	Interference with the Goaltender	
8.7 (b)	Major	Clipping	
9.2 (b)	Major	Cross-Checking	
9.3 (b)	Major	Slashing	



10.5 (b)	Major	Throwing or Shooting Stick or Object	
10.8 (b)	Major	Refusing to Start Play	Indefinite (6 games) *
Progressive Suspensions – Player			
Any player receiving 2 Majors in the same season for any of the above infractions			2 Games **
Any player receiving 3 Majors in the same season for any of the above infractions			4 Games **
Any player receiving 4 Majors in the same season for any of the above infractions			Indefinite (6 Games) **
Progressive Suspensions - Coach			
Team receiving 3 majors (incl. fighting) or match infractions in a same game			1 Game
For a 2 nd violation of the above, within the same season			3 Games
For a 3 rd violation of the above, within the same season			Indefinite (4 games) *
NOTE: All 'progressive' suspensions are served in lieu of the prescribed minimum suspension within the main chart			
*Indefinite suspensions shall be no less than the games indicated in the parenthesis & may require investigation.			
** Head Contact majors resulting in progressive suspensions will result in one (1) additional game suspension.			

IV. FIGHTING SITUATIONS

Game & Gross Misconduct penalty infractions occurring in the last ten (10) minutes of regular playing time or overtime, will result in an additional automatic one (1) game suspension, under rules 4.8 (c) & 4.9 (b).

Rule #	Penalty Type	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
7.10 (b)	Major	Fighting, 1 st offence	1 Game
	Major	Fighting, 2 nd offence	2 Games
	Major	Fighting, 3 rd offence	4 Games
	Major	Fighting, 4 th offence	Indefinite (5 games) *
7.10 (e) ii.	Game Misconduct	Joining a fight or act as a peacemaker	2 Games
7.10 (e) iii.	Game Misconduct	Subsequent fight on same stoppage	2 Games
7.10 (f)	Gross Misconduct	Fight or joining fight w / as team official	3 Game
Instigator of a Fight			
7.11 (a)	Minor	Instigator 1 st offence	1 Game
	Minor	Instigator 2 nd offence	3 Games
	Minor	Instigator 3 rd offence	Indefinite (5 games) *
Note: Rule 7.11 (a) – If a player is assessed both an instigator and aggressor in the same altercation a suspension would apply for both infractions.			
Aggressor of a Fight			
7.11 (a)	Minor	Aggressor, 1 st offence	1 Game
	Minor	Aggressor, 2 nd offence	3 Games
	Minor	Aggressor, 3 rd offence	Indefinite (5 games) *
Note: Rule 7.11 (a) – If a player is assessed both an instigator and aggressor in the same altercation a suspension would apply for both infractions.			
Pre / Post Game Altercations			
7.10 (b)	Major or Game Misconduct	During a pre / post-game altercation	2 Games
	Major or Game Misconduct	Coach of team penalized as above	Indefinite (3 games) *
7.10 (c)	Match penalty	See section IV	
Note: Players assessed both instigator & aggressor penalties must be suspended for both infractions.			
10.4 (e)	Game Misconduct - 1 st player to leave players'/penalty bench		3 Games
	Coach of team whose player is penalized for the above		3 Games
	Coach of team whose player leaves bench, but is not 1 st to do so		1 Game
*Indefinite suspensions shall be no less than the games indicated in the parenthesis & may require investigation.			

V. MALTREATMENT & OTHER GROSS MISCONDUCT

Game & Gross Misconduct penalty infractions occurring in the last ten (10) minutes of regular playing time or overtime, will result in an additional automatic one (1) game suspension, under rules 4.8 (c) & 4.9 (b).

Rule #	Penalty Type	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
10.4 (f)	Gross Misconduct	Returning to or disrupting a game after ejection	Indefinite (5 games) *
11.1 (e)	Game Misconduct	Unsportsmanlike Conduct	1 Game
11.2 (e)	Game Misconduct	Abusive Behaviour	2 Games



11.2 (f)	Gross Misconduct	Abusive Behaviour	3 Games
11.3 (c)	Match	Spitting (also see Section VI 'Match Penalties')	5 Games
11.4	Gross Misconduct	Discrimination	Indefinite (5 games) * + Education Module
11.5 (c) i.	Match Penalty	Physical Harassment of Officials	3 Games
11.5 (c) ii.	Match Penalty	Physical Harassment of Officials	5 Games
11.5 (c) iii.	Match Penalty	Physical Harassment of Officials	Indefinite (8 games) *
11.5 (e)	Game Misconduct	Physical Harassment of Officials	1 Game
Multiple	Gross Misconduct	Anything not otherwise covered in the guidelines	3 Games

Progressive Suspensions – Player or Team Official

Rule #	Participant Accumulations within the same season	Minimum Suspension
11.1 (e)	Receiving 2 Game Misconducts under Rule 11.1	2 Games
11.1 (e)	Receiving 3 or more Game Misconducts under Rule 11.1	Indefinite (4 games) *
11.2 (e)	Receiving 2 Game Misconducts under Rule 11.2	4 Games
11.2 (e)	Receiving 3 or more Game Misconducts under Rule 11.2	Indefinite (6 games) *
11.1 / 11.2	Receiving a combined 2 Game Misconducts under Rules 11.1 & 11.2	Indefinite (4 games) *
11.2 (f)	Receiving 2 or more Gross Misconducts under Rule 11.2	Indefinite (4 games) *
11.4	Receiving 2 or more Gross Misconducts under Rule 11.4	Indefinite (8 games) *
11.5 (c)	Receiving 2 or more Match penalties under Rule 11.5	Indefinite
11.5 (e)	Receiving 2 or more Game Misconducts under Rule 11.5	Indefinite (4 games) *

NOTE: All 'progressive' suspensions are served in lieu of the prescribed minimum suspension within the main chart

*Indefinite suspensions shall be no less than the games indicated in the parenthesis & may require investigation.

Maltreatment Education Module:

- 1) Review Section 11 maltreatment educational [VIDEO](#) (approximately 15-minutes).
- 2) Complete [VIRTUAL EXERCISE](#), with a minimum confirmed score of 9 / 12.
 - Enter full first & last name, then enter the 'access code' **2024**
 - Be sure to keep your 'return code' so you can re-access the module if needed.
 - Upon completion you will be provided a score, that must be sent to the discipline administrator that provided the notification of suspension.

VI. MATCH PENALTIES

All Match penalties are classified with minimum sanctions in accordance with resulting injury.

Note: When a referee report indicates that an 'injury' has occurred as a result of a Match penalty and the report also indicates that the injured player '**returned to the game**'; discipline administrators have the discretion to apply to minimum suspension under the 'no injury' minimum suspension guideline category, as outlined in the chart below. Should the referee report indicate that an 'injury' has occurred, and it also indicates that the injured player **did NOT return** to the game, then the discipline administrator will apply at least the minimum suspension within the chart below and may inquire with the injured player's team as to the extent of any applicable injury for further additional considerations.

Rule #	Penalty Type	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension	
7.1 (c)	Match	Attempt to injure (when no injury results)	3 Games	
7.1 (c)	Match	Deliberate Injury	Indefinite (6 games) *	
			No Injury	Injury
7.1 (c) i.	Match	Head Butting	3 Games	6 Games
7.1 (c) ii.	Match	Grab hair, neck guard or any part of helmet		
7.1 (c) iii.	Match	Kicking		
7.1 (c) iv.	Match	Using equipment as a weapon		
7.2 (c)	Match	Boarding		



7.3 (c)	Match	Body Checking		
7.4 (c)	Match	Charging		
7.5 (c)	Match	Checking from Behind (CFB)		
7.6 (c)	Match	Head Contact	4 Games*	7 Games*
7.8 (c)	Match	Kneeing	3 Games	6 Games
7.9 (c)	Match	Roughing		
7.10 (c)	Match	Fight (rings / taped hands etc.) to inflict punishment		
8.3 (c)	Match	Interference		
8.4 (c)	Match	Interference from the Bench		
8.5 (c)	Match	Interference with the Goaltender		
8.7 (c)	Match	Clipping		
8.8 (c)	Match	Slew Footing		
9.1 (c)	Match	Butt-Ending		
9.2 (c)	Match	Cross Checking		
9.3 (c)	Match	Slashing		
9.4 (c)	Match	Spearing		
10.5 (c)	Match	Throwing or Shooting Stick or Object		
11.3 (c)	Match	Spitting (also see Section V 'Maltreatment')	5 Games	
Progressive Suspensions – Player				
Receiving two (2) Match penalties in same season for any of the above			Indefinite (5 Games) **	
Receiving three (3) Match penalties in same season for any of the above			Indefinite (8 games) **	
* Two (2) Matches that include Rule 7.6 (c) will result in a minimum of 2 additional games to the main chart minimum amount				
**Indefinite suspensions shall be no less than number of games indicated in the parenthesis				

VII. SERVING OF SUSPENSIONS

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. All discipline applied in accordance with prescribed minimum suspension(s) within this bulletin **are NOT subject to appeal.**
- 1.2. Suspension notifications are distributed by the applicable BC Hockey Discipline Task Group Member or District / League discipline administrator. Due to variables within playing schedules there may be a time-lag between the conclusion of a game and the distribution of any applicable suspension notification(s). However, it is the responsibility of team officials to be aware of and comply with all applicable minimum suspensions prescribed within this bulletin and ensure they are served immediately, regardless of receiving such a notification. If there are ever any questions about whether a suspension is applicable, a team official should contact their league administrator immediately prior to such a participant playing in any subsequent game(s).

Distribution of suspension notifications serve as confirmation of prescribed suspensions. Notifications may also include suspension conditions that exceed the prescribed minimum(s) outlined within this bulletin, at the discretion of the discipline administrator. Team officials should also be aware of the historical discipline status of all participants on their team, particularly relating to any cumulative or progressive suspension criteria that may be applicable, as result of repeat offences within a season by the same player, as outlined within this bulletin.

Participants must ensure that they comply to all prescribed suspension(s) within this bulletin as incurred during any sanctioned BC Hockey, Hockey Canada or IIHF Member Federation game. In addition to any prescribed suspension(s) within this bulletin, BC Hockey participants must comply to any suspension(s) within another Hockey Canada or IIHF Member Federation's suspension guidelines that may otherwise differ or exceed those outlined within this bulletin,



should the game in which such an offence occurred take place under that other Member's jurisdiction.

- 1.3. All 'indefinite' suspensions may be investigated or reviewed by the applicable discipline administrator to determine the appropriate suspension duration. Investigations may include but are not limited to; requests for written statements, phone or virtual interviews, educational training, or a formal hearing etc. Any participant under 'indefinite suspension' is deemed ineligible to participate in any sanctioned games until a decision has been rendered and any applied suspension has been served in full. Infractions listed as an 'indefinite suspension' may not be applied in a length less than the minimum listed within this bulletin.
- 1.4. All suspensions within this bulletin are prescribed in accordance with Hockey Canada's minimum guidelines and are not to be reduced. BC Hockey discipline administrators have the discretion to strengthen any suspension according to the severity of the related infraction(s). The BC Hockey Membership has strengthened some minimum suspension standards within this bulletin in accordance with authorization outlined within Hockey Canada's Minor / Female Minimum Suspensions Bulletin point #1.
- 1.5. All suspended participants are prohibited from participating in any BC Hockey / Hockey Canada sanctioned games in any registered capacity for the duration of their suspension.
- 1.6. Cumulative / progressive suspensions to the same participant must be served consecutively.
- 1.7. Suspensions commence immediately upon the conclusion of the game in which the infraction(s) occurred.
- 1.8. Suspended participants shall not be permitted in the dressing room one (1) hour prior to or one (1) hour after the scheduled time of any BC Hockey / Hockey Canada sanctioned games. Suspended participants may attend sanctioned games for the purpose of spectating, unless otherwise noted in the original notice of suspension. Suspended participants must not attempt to direct their team in any manner or disrupt the game or participants they are spectating, while under suspension.
- 1.9. Participants may practice and train with their team(s) during the term of a suspension in non-game / competition programming, unless otherwise stated in the original suspension notification.
- 1.10. Participants are permitted to register for and attend any Hockey Canada training or certification programs while under suspension status, unless otherwise noted within the original suspension notification.
- 1.11. All player or team official suspensions may be served in accordance with the following chart in a format of either 'games' or 'days,' expiring upon whichever is satisfied first, notwithstanding the carry-over guidelines in part 2 of Section VII.

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

NOTE: When a suspension is applied beyond six (6) games, all additional games shall be served at a ratio of 1 game to 7 days.



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

- a) Suspensions will commence at 12:01 am on the day following the disciplinary infraction.
 - b) Suspensions will expire at midnight on the date of expiry.
- 1.12. All suspensions must be served in accordance with the schedule of the team to which the participant received the original suspension(s); primary, affiliate or dual registered team. Therefore, participants are not permitted to count games from multiple teams towards the serving of a suspension. Exhibition, regular season, tournament and playoff games may count towards the serving of a suspension. In the case of exhibition games, only those exhibition games scheduled prior to the date of the original infraction resulting in a suspension shall be eligible to count towards the serving of a suspension. Therefore, any exhibition games added to the schedule after the original infraction will not count towards the serving of a suspension. Any player receiving a suspension while participating with an affiliate team shall have the games served during the applicable suspension deducted from the number of games that they are permitted to participate in under the affiliate status with that team during that season.
- 1.13. Should a minor / female hockey participant be suspended with a team in a junior or senior category of play, then the corresponding suspension must be served in accordance with the suspension guidelines of that junior or senior league and the participant will remain ineligible with their minor / female team until the suspension is served in full.

2. Carry-over Suspensions

- 2.1. **Winter Break:** Suspensions in effect upon the conclusion of the final exhibition, league, playoff, or tournament game prior to the pre-scheduled 'winter break' are considered to be in a 'carry-over' suspension status. Such suspensions shall pause upon the first date of the scheduled winter break for the applicable team with which the participant was suspended and the suspension shall recommence upon the first scheduled game following the winter break period. Therefore, all days during the winter break will **NOT** count towards the serving of a suspension in accordance with the games-to-days ratio chart.
- 2.2. **End of Season:** Suspensions that have remaining days or games of ineligibility upon the conclusion of a participant's current season shall be considered in a 'carry-over' suspension status. Such suspensions shall pause upon the completion of the last exhibition, regular season, playoff or tournament game of the current season until the start of the next season. The continuation of such carry-over suspensions may be served as follows:
- 2.2.1. The start date of the next season shall be in accordance with the first scheduled exhibition, regular season, or tournament game for the minor hockey team to which the suspended participant is registered to for in the following season. Should the participant not be registered with a minor hockey team for the following season, then the start of the following season shall be in accordance with the first scheduled exhibition, regular season or tournament game of the junior or senior team (including Hockey Canada sanctioned adult recreational leagues) that the participant is registered with for the following season.
 - 2.2.2. Should a participant not register for the following season in the same participant capacity (e.g. player re-registering as a player) to which they were originally suspended, their carry-over suspension may recommence in accordance with the schedule of the team they are registered with, in a different participant capacity (e.g. suspended as a player and registered the following season as team official). In cases



where the participant is not registered to a team (e.g. player or team official) but is still a participant with BC Hockey / Hockey Canada (e.g. on-ice official), their suspension shall recommence upon the first available game at any category of play that the participant is eligible to participate in, at the start of the following season.

- 2.2.3. Should the team to which a participant is registered to for the following season not have any sanctioned games prior to September 30, then the participant's suspension will recommence immediately upon September 30, unless the BC Hockey Member Minor District or League has an earlier established start date. Therefore, no carry-over suspension shall recommence later than September 30.
- 2.2.4. Notwithstanding the above, should a suspended participant have an opportunity to participate in BC Hockey / Hockey Canada sanctioned games during post-season programming (e.g. spring or summer), the carry-over suspension may recommence upon the start of that post-seasonal schedule. Shall the remainder of the suspension be served, and that suspended individual participate in at least one (1) sanctioned game during the post-seasonal schedule after such expiration, then the suspension will be considered served in full. BC Hockey sanctioned spring and summer programming includes any sanctioned games that occur between April 1 and July 31 annually, unless the current season programming has extended beyond April 1.
- 2.2.5. Suspensions that cannot be served in full due to the conclusion of a player's final season of minor hockey eligibility (graduating due to age limits) the suspension must be documented on the participant's HCR profile with an 'indefinite' end date. The prescribed suspension may be served upon any future sanctioned participation, in any registered capacity, prior to reinstatement. Future administrators may have discretion as to whether they request clemency of a carry-over suspension that would have been served within a single season's schedule but was not due to the participants original graduation from programming and the lapsed time between registered participation is deemed significant or excessive in relation the requirement to the original infraction, for the purposes of continuing the suspension under those future circumstances.
- 2.2.6. Should the duration of any prescribed minimum suspension be updated in manner where it differs in the following season's edition (exceed or reduced), the suspended participant will be required to serve the carry-over suspension in accordance with the minimum established standard(s) within the season in which the original infraction occurred.

3. Affiliate or Dual Registration Participation: Any participant affiliated to or dually registered with multiple teams may serve the remainder of a 'carry-over' suspension in accordance with their affiliate or dual registered team's remaining schedule within the current season, under the following conditions:

- 3.1. Should the team with which a participant received a suspension no longer have any sanctioned games remaining within the current season, a participant may serve the remainder of the suspension with their other team(s), under the condition that they participate in at least one (1) game with their other registered team prior to the conclusion of that current season.
- 3.2. A suspended participant is permitted to practice or train with an affiliate or dual registered team(s) while under a carry-over suspension status, unless otherwise indicated within the original notice of suspension.



4. **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 purpose of player evaluation for future playing opportunities.
 - 4.1. Tryouts pertain to programming being offered by any BC Hockey registered team or Branch program [including the Program of Excellence (POE)].
 - 4.2. 'Try-outs' also allow the suspended participant to participate in any sanctioned exhibition games during the 'try-out' evaluation period. Therefore, a player may participate in exhibition games during the 'try-out' period while under suspension, unless the suspension occurred during that same 'try-out' period.
 - 4.3. Should a team choose to roster a participant that has a carry-over suspension during the 'try out' period the participant's suspension may recommence immediately, as the remaining exhibition games during the 'try out' period are no longer relevant to that player's selection to the team.
 - 4.4. Should a player have a 'carry-over' suspension with more than thirty (30) days remaining upon the start of the try-out period, approval is required from both the Minor Discipline Coordinator and the BC Hockey CEO in order to permit their participation relating to exhibition games that are part of the 'try-out' process.
5. **On-Ice Officials:** Any on-ice official that receives a suspension under BC Hockey Policy (Officiating) shall also be prohibited from participating in any other capacity in sanctioned games for the duration of the suspension. Furthermore, any participant suspended in accordance with this bulletin as a player or team official shall also be suspended as an on-ice official for the duration of the sanction. It is the responsibility of the participant to inform the relevant officiating administrator(s) of any suspension received under this bulletin.

Hockey Canada Officiating Program (HCOP) Minimum Suspension Guidelines

Warnings may be issued in writing by an Officiating Delivery Group Member where applicable. It is reasonable for an initial warning to be issued upon the first offence of any situation under Category 2, while all subsequent offences should result in the prescribed minimum suspension outlined below. All Warnings are to be reported to BC Hockey Referee in Chief and the offending official's MHA President, Referee in Chief and / or game assigners.

As per the BC Hockey Regulations, the following **MINIMUM** suspension guidelines will be followed where an allegation is founded (substantiated):

OFFICIATING PROGRAM MINIMUM SUSPENSION GUIDELINES	MINIMUM SUSPENSION
Category 1	
Conduct unbecoming of an official (not otherwise covered below)	Indefinite
Excessive use of profanity or inappropriate language	7 days
Detrimental comments towards Officials or Members of Hockey Canada	7 days
Discriminatory comments [e.g. Rule 11.4], including on social media	30 days
Category 2	
Failure to report for an assignment / no-show	7 days



Failure to submit a Game Incident Report	7 days
Tardiness (late for assignment)	7 days
Cleanliness, inappropriate attire or non-approved uniform	7 days
Accepting assignment(s) with implications of nepotism, without approval	7 days
Non-compliance to Hockey Canada rules or procedures (excluding errors)	7 days
2nd offense of any of the above, in the same season	14 days
3rd or subsequent offenses of any of the above, in the same season	Indefinite
Category 3	
Reporting to an assignment while intoxicated by drugs or alcohol	Indefinite
Physical contact or excessive force with a player, coach or spectator	
Officiating while not certified	
Officiating at a category without appropriate qualification, without approval	
Officiating non-sanctioned games or events	

A sanction beyond the minimum prescribed suspension may be applied, when more severe consequences are deemed necessary. The intent of these guidelines is to provide consistent standards and advise officials of the possible consequences for inappropriate actions or the neglect of their responsibilities.

An Official with a suspension that carries over past the final game of a season shall be permitted to attend an HCOP certification clinic, for purposes of preparing for the subsequent season. However, while under suspension the official will be prohibited from upgrading to a higher level of certification within the officiating pathway or participating in games until the suspension has been served in full. The application of suspensions that carry over from one season to the next will follow principles within these guidelines, as outlined for players and team officials.

- Video Review:** Please see [BC Hockey Policy](#) B.03 'Video Review Policy' regarding the video review process. Of note, video review is not a form of appeal but rather the provision of information to the applicable administrators to clarify the application of rules during an incident in accordance with the criteria of the previously mentioned policy.