

Bylaw: 211 Submitted By: Board of Directors

SUBJECT MATTER OF RESOLUTION:

BC Hockey is proposing an update to **Bylaw 211** so that it matches recent changes made by **Hockey Canada** in 2022 to its Bylaws 10.2 and 10.3. The goal of this Resolution is to **improve consistency and reduce risk** when changes are made to hockey policies, rules or decisions.

Under the **current version** of Bylaw 211:

- Members (*excluding Directors, Honourary Life Members, Minor Hockey Teams*) can make **more restrictive changes** to rules or decisions — either from BC Hockey or Hockey Canada — **without needing to apply or give notice**.
- If a Member wants to make a **less restrictive change**, they must **apply to BC Hockey** first.

This was also previously the case at the National level; however, Hockey Canada has now changed its rules as follows:

- **All changes, whether more or less restrictive**, must go through an **application process**.
- This lets Hockey Canada **review, track, and manage risk** tied to any policy or rule changes made by its Members.

To stay in line with Hockey Canada's updated approach, **BC Hockey must revise Bylaw 211**.

In addition, the **Board of Directors recommend** that the same requirement apply to BC Hockey Members wishing to make any changes from BC Hockey's own Regulations, Playing Rules, Policies, or other decisions - again, whether more or less restrictive — to ensure **consistent oversight and adequate risk management**.

More details are outlined in the full rationale below.

CURRENT WORDING:

211. A Member (excluding Directors, Honourary Life Members, Minor Hockey Teams) may apply Regulations, Playing Rules, Policies, and decisions of the Society and of Hockey Canada in a more restrictive manner insofar as they apply to those participating in that Member's programs.

PROPOSED CHANGES:

211. A Member (excluding Directors, Honourary Life Members, and Minor Hockey Teams) must apply to the Board to modify the application of the Society's Regulations, Playing Rules, Policies and decisions within that Member's geographic region, whether in a more restrictive or less restrictive manner, for participants in that Member's programs.

A Member (excluding Directors, Honourary Life Members, and Minor Hockey Teams) must also request that the Society apply to Hockey Canada for modifications to the application of Hockey Canada's Regulations, Playing Rules, Policies, and decisions within that Member's geographic region, whether in a more restrictive or less restrictive manner, for participants in that Member's programs.

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RATIONALE:

What is changing?

- The proposed revision of **Bylaw 211** will:
 - **Align BC Hockey’s Bylaws** with Hockey Canada’s revised Bylaws 10.2 and 10.3 (adopted June 2022), **extending the same application requirement** to changes involving BC Hockey’s own Regulations, Playing Rules, Policies, and decisions to improve transparency and manage risk.
 - **Require BC Hockey Members to apply for any changes** (whether more or less restrictive) to Regulations, Playing Rules, Policies, or decisions.

When and why did this become necessary?

- In **June 2022**, Hockey Canada revised its bylaws to address inconsistencies and risks posed by untracked or unilateral changes within its member branches.
- The **reason** for this change is rooted in **risk management**. Unreviewed changes can create legal, operational, and fairness risks if they are not communicated, understood, or applied consistently across the country.
- The change ensures that **all proposed deviations** from regulations and standards are properly reviewed, documented, and considered.

Where is this applicable?

- Across **all BC Hockey Members** (excluding Directors, Honourary Life Members, and Minor Hockey Teams), in any situation where a member proposes a deviation from the established Regulations, Playing Rules, Policies or decisions of Hockey Canada or BC Hockey.

Why is this important for BC Hockey members?

- To **ensure consistency and accountability** across all regions in BC and the Yukon.
- To **support risk management efforts for all of us**, reducing potential exposure to liability for BC Hockey and its members, as well as eliminate confusion wherever possible.
- To **preserve the integrity of the sport**, ensuring that all rule changes are fair, documented, and in the best interest of all participants.
- To maintain **alignment with Hockey Canada bylaws**, as required for continued membership and good standing.

How will this work?

- Members seeking to make changes — whether **more restrictive or less restrictive** — will be required to submit an application to BC Hockey. BC Hockey is committed to creating a simple and efficient process for Members to achieve this.
- BC Hockey will review the application and, if the change involves national standards, apply on behalf of the Member to Hockey Canada.
- This ensures **central oversight**, better governance and record-keeping, and alignment between BC Hockey, BC Hockey’s own Members, and Hockey Canada.

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REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:

Governance Committee: Finalized and recommended.

Board of Directors: Approved May 10, 2025. Recommended as the best way to amend Bylaw 211.

Operations: Reviewed and recommended.

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Article: Appendix A – 1. Annual Registered Participant Assessments **Paragraph:** _____

SUBMITTED BY: Board of Directors

SUBJECT MATTER OF RESOLUTION

Over the past few years, **the Board of Directors has chosen not to increase participant fees**, in order to help keep hockey affordable — especially while the organization has a relatively strong financial position.

- In the **2022/2023 through 2025/2026 hockey seasons**, the Board **froze** the Annual Registered Participant Assessments (base fee) and therefore **delayed any increases until the 2026/2027 season**. **With \$1 per year per participant increases for two years** beginning in 2026/2027, the Annual Registered Participant Assessment will have increased to **\$16 by 2027/2028**.

Because of this decision not to raise fees, the current **Appendix A**, which outlines the schedule of Annual Registered Participant Fees, is **no longer accurate**. The Board of Directors is proposing this **section needs to be updated to reflect the actual set fees and proposed fees** for upcoming seasons.

CURRENT WORDING and NEW PROPOSED, for comparison:

- Annual Registered Participant Assessments
 - All Participants (except Adult Recreational)

\$13.00 in 2019-2020	
\$13.50 in 2020-2021	
\$14.00 in 2021-2022	
\$14.50 in 2022-2023	
\$14.00 in 2022-2023	\$14.00 in 2022-2023
\$15.00 in 2023-2024	\$14.00 in 2023-2024
\$15.50 in 2024-2025	\$14.00 in 2024-2025
\$16.00 in 2025-2026	\$14.00 in 2025-2026
	\$15.00 in 2026-2027
	\$16.00 in 2027-2028
 - Hockey Canada Adult Recreational Player - \$2.00

This Participant Assessment Fee is in addition to the membership assessments charged for Hockey Canada Certificates and Hockey Canada Insurance. It shall be valid for a playing season, which shall be considered to begin on August 15 and end on August 14 of the following year.

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PROPOSED NEW APPENDIX A:

1. Annual Registered Participant Assessments

- All Participants (except Adult Recreational)

\$14.00 in 2022-2023

\$14.00 in 2023-2024

\$14.00 in 2024-2025

\$14.00 in 2025-2026

\$15.00 in 2026-2027

\$16.00 in 2027-2028

- Hockey Canada Adult Recreational Player \$2.00

This Participant Assessment Fee is in addition to the membership assessments charged for Hockey Canada Certificates and Hockey Canada Insurance. It shall be valid for a playing season, which shall be considered to begin on August 15 and end on August 14 of the following year.

RATIONALE:

The Board decision not to raise fees this coming year but then raise them nominally for the following two years (2026/27 and 2027/28), means the current Appendix A, which outlines the schedule of Annual Registered Participant Fees, is no longer accurate. The Board of Directors is proposing this section be updated to reflect the actual fees set for upcoming seasons.

BC Hockey charges fees to cover costs for operations and administration, including the cost of operating an office with employees who serve our membership in various capacities. In the past, nominal increases (usually \$0.50 per year) were put in place and communicated (listed in a Schedule) in advance, so Members can plan ahead for this.

The small increases are meant to address normal and expected increases in overall costs of operation, consistent with inflation and cost of living. They are transparent and a component of BC Hockey's annual budgeting (approved by membership).

Due to BC Hockey's recent strong financial position, and commitment to make hockey as affordable as possible, the Board has recently been freezing these fees (not increasing them) and wishes to delay again the practice of increasing the Annual Registered Participant base fees until the 2026/2027 playing season. After which time the planned increases will be \$1/year for two years per participant.

For context, prior to the fees being frozen over the past years, normal fee increases would have had fees for 2027-2028 at \$17.50 per participant. This proposed plan will bring the base fee to just \$16 for the 2027-2028 season.

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Governance Committee: Finalized and recommended.

Board of Directors: Approved May 10, 2025. The Board recommends the Members adopt Resolution 2025-02.

Operations (CEO): The CEO recommends the Members adopt Resolution 2025-02.

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Bylaws: 220, 221, 222, 223, 224Submitted By: Board of Directors**SUBJECT MATTER OF RESOLUTION:**

BC Hockey is proposing an update to **Bylaws 220, 221, 222, 223, and 224** to modernize and clarify the bylaw framework surrounding Honorary Life Membership or “Life Members”, ensuring it reflects current practices, strengthens governance, and maintains the honorary nature of the designation.

Background:

A 2024 Work Group consisting of representation from the Board, Life Members, Member Associations, and BC Hockey staff reviewed the Honorary Life Member program and recommended changes to reflect current practices and develop new supporting policy. Previously, eligibility was limited to former BC Hockey Board members; the new approach allows broader recognition of long-serving contributors to amateur hockey across BC and Yukon.

Summary of Proposed Changes:

Updated Definition (Bylaw 220): Redefines Honorary Life Members as individuals recognized for outstanding service, commitment, or contribution to amateur hockey in British Columbia or Yukon.

Simplified Entitlements (Bylaw 221): Removes outdated clause about covering meeting attendance costs (AGMs now held virtually).

Removes the formal "advisory capacity" wording to reflect the honorary (non-operational) nature of the role. Life Members retain the right to attend, speak at, and receive information from general and special meetings.

Clarified Expectations (Bylaw 222): Streamlined wording confirming Life Members must follow Society Bylaws, Rules, and Policies.

Board Oversight (Bylaw 223): Introduces a requirement for the Board to establish guidelines and procedures for eligibility, nomination, and additional expectations.

Accountability Clause (New Bylaw 224): Adds language allowing the Board to remove a Life Member by resolution if necessary.

Effect on Current Life Members:

No change in status - existing Honorary Life Members retain their designation.

More details are outlined in the full rationale below.

CURRENT WORDING:**Honourary Life Members**

220 Honourary Life Members are individuals acknowledged for their distinguished contributions to the Society by appointment by the Board to the office of Honourary Life Member.

221 Honourary Life Members are entitled to:

- attend annual and special general meetings;
- receive notices of annual and special general meetings;

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- c. attend annual and special general meetings at the Society's expense;
- d. speak at annual and special general meetings;
- e. receive minutes of annual and special general meetings;
- f. act in an advisory capacity to the Board; and
- g. receive rights and privileges as the Board may, from time-to-time, decide.

222 Membership in the Society as an Honourary Life Member includes:

- a. acceptance of the authority of the Society;
- b. adherence to and observance of the Bylaws, Regulations, Playing Rules, Policies, and related decisions of the Society; and,
- c. complying fully with all other duties arising from the Bylaws, Regulations, Playing Rules and Policies of the Society.

223 The number of Honourary Life Members is at the discretion of the Board.

224 Honourary Life Members do not have voting rights at annual and special general meetings of the Society but may have voting privileges within a committee or work group to which they have been named.

PROPOSED CHANGES:

Honorary Life Members

220 Honourary Life Members are individuals acknowledged for their outstanding service, commitment, or contribution to the Society.

221 Honourary Life Members are entitled to:

- a. attend annual and special general meetings;
- b. receive notices of annual and special general meetings;
- c. speak at annual and special general meetings;
- d. receive minutes of annual and special general meetings; and
- e. receive other rights and privileges as the Board may, from time-to-time, decide.

222 Honourary Life Members shall adhere to the Bylaws, Regulations, Playing Rules, Policies, and decisions of the Society

223 The Board shall be responsible for establishing guidelines and procedures relating to Honourary Life Members, which shall include but not be limited to;

- a. eligibility criteria
- b. nomination and selection procedures; and
- c. any additional rights, obligations, and expectations of Honourary Life Members not outlined in the Bylaws

224 Honourary Life Members may be removed by an ordinary Resolution of the Board

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RATIONALE:

Why are changes being proposed to the Honorary Life Member bylaws?

In 2024, BC Hockey’s **Board of Directors formed a Work Group** to review the current bylaws and policies related to **Honorary Life Membership**. These roles are intended to **honour individuals who have made significant contributions** to the Society as benefactors and supporters.

The Work Group recommended **streamlining the bylaw language and introducing new policy** to reflect modern practices, clarify expectations, and maintain the honorary nature of the title.

What are the key updates being proposed?

The proposed changes include:

- **Updated Description (Bylaw 220):** Clearly defines Honorary Life Members as individuals recognized for *outstanding service or contribution* to the Society.
- **Simplified Entitlements (Bylaw 221):**
 - **221(c) Removed** – Life Members will **no longer need financial travel support** to attend meetings since **AGMs are now held virtually**, or will have a virtual option
 - **221(f) Removed** – While Life Members are respected voices, they are **not expected to act in an official advisory role** to the Board and the language has been clarified so that involvement is optional.
- **Membership Expectations Clarified (Bylaw 222):** Life Members must continue to follow BC Hockey's Bylaws, Rules, and Policies—this is now stated in a more concise way.
- **Board Role Clarified (Bylaw 223):** The Board will create **guidelines for eligibility, nomination, and selection**, plus define any additional expectations not outlined in the Bylaws.
- **Removal of Duplicative Clause (Old Bylaw 224):** Bylaw 224 has been removed and replaced as it is **already covered under existing Bylaw 201**.
- **New Accountability Mechanism (New Bylaw 224):** A new clause allows the Board to remove a Life Member by an ordinary Resolution, if necessary, as this procedure was previously absent in the Bylaws.

What happens to current Honorary Life Members?

Current Life Members will **retain their status**. These changes apply to the framework moving forward and clarify expectations for future appointments. Existing members are still valued and respected for their contributions.

What stays the same for Honorary Life Members?

Honorary Life Members will **still receive invitations and minutes for general meetings**, and they can continue to **attend and speak at those meetings**. Their contributions remain highly valued, and these revisions do not change the **honor and recognition** associated with the title.

Why give the Board the authority to remove a Life Member?

While this would be a rare step, including a **removal clause** ensures accountability and protects the integrity of the recognition. It provides a process to act if a Life Member’s actions are inconsistent with the values or policies of the organization.

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What benefits come from these changes?

- **Transparency:** Clearer selection criteria and procedures.
- **Flexibility:** Allows the Board to adapt guidelines over time.
- **Clarity:** Clearer language about the role and expectations.
- **Efficiency:** Removes outdated or unnecessary clauses.
- **Relevance:** Reflects current practices like virtual AGMs.
- **Respectful Governance:** Preserves the honor while ensuring consistency and transparency in appointments.

How does the proposed new policy change who can be recognized as an Honorary Life Member?

Previously, Honorary Life Membership was limited to individuals who had served **at least three full terms on the BC Hockey Board**. The **proposed new policy broadens eligibility**:

- Now, *any individual who has contributed significantly to the Society for at least ten years* may be considered—regardless of whether they served on the Board.
- This change ensures BC Hockey can recognize a wider range of contributors, including but not limited to volunteers, coaches, officials, and community leaders.

What does it mean that the role is "honorary in nature"?

The revised policy emphasizes that the **Honorary Life Member designation is symbolic**—it’s the highest recognition BC Hockey can give, but it doesn’t come with formal duties.

- Life Members may be invited to share their insights or participate in events or working groups.
- However, **they are not required or expected to take on any responsibilities**, and they may decline participation without affecting their status.

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:

Governance Committee: Finalized and recommended.

Board of Directors: Approved May 10, 2025. Recommended as the best way to amend Bylaws 220, 221, 222, 223, and 224.

Operations: Reviewed and recommended.

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