



COVID-19 RELATED RULE MODIFICATIONS FOR THE 2021-2022 SEASON

The following modifications to GTHL Rules and Regulations were approved by the League's Members on July 15, 2021:

DEFINITIONS

2.1 – Definitions

“Season” means the period of time commencing on the first day in April in a given calendar year after completion of the OHF Championships and ending on the Sunday in April in the next calendar year coinciding with the completion of the OHF Championships. **For the 2021-2022 Season, this period of time will commence on September 10, 2021 and end on a date to be determined by the OHF.**

“Team” - means a group duly registered on a Roster that includes players and Team Officials, at least one of whom must be a coach that meets the certification requirements of the League or a Division or an Affiliated Group. In the case of a Team entered for play in the League in the AAA, AA or A category, there must be not fewer than 15 Legitimate players, and not more than the number of Legitimate Players permitted by these Rules, and one of the Team Officials must be certified as a Trainer. **“Team”** - means a group duly registered on a Roster that includes players and Team Officials, at least one of whom must be a coach that meets the certification requirements of the League or a Division or an Affiliated Group. In the case of a Team entered for play in the League in the AAA, AA or A category, there must be not fewer than 15 Legitimate players, and not more than the number of Legitimate Players permitted by these Rules, and one of the Team Officials must be certified as a Trainer. **For the 2021-2022 Season, in the case of U10 to U14 Teams such number of players shall be 13, except as noted below.**

NOTE: Teams participating in OHF, Regional or National Championships must have at least 15 Registered players, two of whom must be goaltenders. Any Team that does not have 15 Legitimate players, including two goaltenders, Registered by no later than January 15, 2022 will be ineligible to qualify for any of these events.

CLUBS AND GOVERNANCE

4.1 – Awarding of Teams

A Club must submit its application for Teams (AAA, AA or A, as applicable) to the League Office for the next following Season not later than January 9 in the case of Teams in the U12 to U21 Divisions and March 1 in the case of Teams in the U10 and U11 Divisions (see NOTE below with respect to the 2021-2022 Season). The designated committee of the Board will consider all applications for Teams. The Committee will first allocate teams based on each Club's submission. One or more representatives of those Clubs that are not allocated specific teams may appeal in person to the Committee which will then make its final recommendations to the Board. The Board's decision shall be final and binding. The League Office shall ensure that Clubs are notified of the Teams that have been approved for the following Season by March 1 in the case of Teams in the U12 to U21 Divisions and April 1 in the case of Teams in the U10 and U11 Divisions.

NOTE:

- 1) In the U11 to U18 Divisions, Teams that were awarded for the 2020-2021 season will be awarded for the next older age group and category for the 2021-22 season. For example, if a Club was awarded a U12 "AA" team for the 2020-2021 season, it will be awarded a U13 "AA" team for the 2021-2022 season. Applications will not be accepted for any new Teams in the U11 to U18 Divisions.
- 2) The application deadline for Teams in the U10 Division is extended to May 1 and Clubs will be notified of Teams awarded in that Division by June 1.

4.2 – AAA Clubs May Not Have AA or A Teams and must Field teams in all age groups

(b) AAA Clubs must field teams in all age groups from U10 to U18 throughout each season or forfeit AAA status the following season, except as may be determined by the Board in the most exceptional of circumstances. This Rule will not be enforced for the 2021-2022 Season.

4.4 – Refund of Entry Fees

For the 2021-2022 Season, Rules 4.4(a), (b) and (c) are suspended and replaced by the following:

- (a) Unless provided for herein, entry fees are non-refundable. Where a Team approved for the following Season is withdrawn on or before the last day of tryouts for its category plus 14 days, then the entry fee will be refunded to the Club. Except for U17, U18 and U21 Teams, where a Team approved the following Season is withdrawn after the last day of tryouts for its category plus 14 days, all of the entry fee for such Team shall be forfeited and will not be refunded to the Club.
- (b) In the case of U17, U18 and U21 Teams that are approved for the following season and withdrawn, the following refunds and forfeiture fees will apply:
 - (i) where the withdrawal occurs after the last day of tryouts for its category plus 14 days but on or before November 1. then \$1,000 of the entry fee for a U17 or U18 Team and \$500 of the entry fee for an U21 Team will be refunded to the Club; and

- (ii) where the withdrawal occurs after November 1, all of the entry fee shall be forfeited and will not be refunded to the Club.

4.5 -Fines for Withdrawing Teams

For the 2021-2022 Season, Rules 4.5(a), (b), (c) and (d) are suspended and replaced by the following:

- (a) A Club may, by notice in writing delivered to the League Office or by e-mail sent to the League Office's e-mail address, withdraw a Team that has been awarded to it for the next Season but the provisions of Rule 4.4 respecting entry fees will apply. A Club that withdraws a Team on or prior to the last day of tryouts plus 14 days for its category shall not be assessed a withdrawal fine.
- (b) Except for U17, U18 and U21 Teams, where a Club withdraws a Team approved for the following Season, the following withdrawal fines shall apply, in addition to the forfeiture of entry fees provided in Rule 4.4:
 - (i) where the withdrawal occurs after the last day of tryouts plus 14 days but on or before November 1, the Club shall be assessed and pay a fine of \$2,000;
 - (ii) where the withdrawal occurs after November 1 but on or before November 15 the Club shall be assessed and shall pay a withdrawal fine of \$3,500;
 - (iii) where the withdrawal occurs after November 15 but on or before December 1, the Club shall be assessed and shall pay a withdrawal fine of \$4,000; and
 - (iv) where the withdrawal occurs after December 1, the Club shall be assessed and shall pay a withdrawal fine of \$5,000.
- (c) In the case of U17, U18 and U21 Teams, where a Club withdraws a Team approved for the following Season, the following withdrawal fines shall apply, in addition to the forfeiting of entry fees provided in Rule 4.4:
 - (i) where the withdrawal occurs after November 1 but on or before November 15, the Club shall be assessed and shall pay a withdrawal fine of \$1,500;
 - (ii) where the withdrawal occurs after November 15 but on or before December 1, the Club shall be assessed and shall pay a withdrawal fine of \$2,500; and
 - (iii) where the withdrawal occurs after December 1, the Club shall be assessed and shall pay a withdrawal fine of \$5,000.

TEAMS

6.1 – Composition of Teams

(a) All Teams entered to play in the League in the ‘AAA’, ‘AA’ or ‘A’ category, other than U17, U18 and U21 Teams, must have a minimum of 15 Legitimate Players (See Rule 2.1 for definition), a certified coach (as per GTHL Regulation 7.14) and a certified Trainer (as per GTHL Regulation 7.14) registered prior to their first regular season game. U17, U18 and U21 Teams will be allowed until October 15 to register 15 Legitimate Players, **except that for the 2021-2022 Season, such date shall be November 15**. After **such date**, U17, U18 and U21 Teams must have a minimum of 15 Legitimate Players, a certified coach (as per GTHL Regulation 7.14) and a certified Trainer (as per GTHL Regulation 7.14). Any Team that has a minimum of 15 Legitimate Players registered as of November 16 in any season shall be deemed to have 15 Legitimate Players registered for the balance of the Season, **except that for the 2021-2022 Season, such date shall be December 16**.

For the 2021-2022 Season, the minimum number of Legitimate Players for U10 to U14 Teams shall be 13, except as noted below.

NOTE: Teams participating in OHF, Regional or National Championships must have at least 15 Registered players, two of whom must be goaltenders. Any Team that does not have 15 Legitimate players, including two goaltenders, Registered by no later than January 15, 2022 will be ineligible to qualify for any of these events.

(g) Any Team, other than U17, U18 or U21 Teams, that has registered twelve or fewer players as of September 15 will be treated as a withdrawn Team as of that date and will be subject to the withdrawal fee set out in Rule 4.5, **except that for the 2021-2022 Season, such date shall be November 1, or such later date as may be established by the Board**. In the case of U17, U18 and U21 Teams, such date will be October 15, **except that for the 2021-2022 Season, such date shall be November 15, or such later date as may be established by the Board**.

6.2 – Goaltenders

(a) All AAA Teams in the U13 age division and all Teams in age divisions higher than U13 must register two goaltenders by the applicable date required by Rule 6.1(a). All other Teams (being AA and A Teams in the U13 age division and all Teams in age divisions below U13) are required to register one goaltender, but may register two goaltenders. In order to be considered as a goaltender for the purposes of this Rule, a player must be registered on a Registration Certificate marked “GOALTENDER”. **This Rule will not be enforced for the 2021-2022 Season, except as noted below.**

NOTE: Teams participating in OHF, Regional or National Championships must have at least 15 Registered players, two of whom must be goaltenders. Any Team that does not have 15 Legitimate players, including two goaltenders, Registered by no later than January 15, 2022 will be ineligible to qualify for any of these events.

6.6 – AA Team Affiliations

(b) When a team is affiliating downward with a Select Team or 19 GTHL registered House League players at large, the names of those players must be filed with the League Office by

November 15. If a player is listed on a game sheet as an affiliated player prior to November 15, the player must be included in the November 15 listing that is submitted, **except that for the 2021-2022 Season, such dates shall be December 15.**

6.7 – A Team Affiliations

(b) When a team is affiliating downward with a Select Team or 19 GTHL registered House League players at large, the names of those players must be filed with the League Office by November 15. If a player is listed on a game sheet as an affiliated player prior to November 15, the player must be included in the November 15 listing that is submitted, **except that for the 2021-2022 Season, such dates shall be December 15.**

6.9 – Delivery of Affiliation Notice

(a) AAA, AA and A Affiliate Teams:

Except in the case of U17, U18 and U21 Teams, on or before September 15 in any Season, each Club shall deliver to the League Office, or send by e-mail to the League Office's e-mail address, an affiliation notice in writing which lists the affiliate Teams for each of the Club's Teams, both for the purposes of Rule 6.4(a) and Rule 6.4(b). Where the affiliation notice indicates that a Club's Team is affiliated with a Team from another Club, a copy of the affiliation agreement between the Clubs pertaining to such affiliation must accompany the notice of Team affiliations. A Club failing to file its affiliation notice by September 15 shall be assessed a fine of \$100 and will not be permitted to utilize any affiliated players after this date. All affiliation notices filed with the League Office will be available for review by any Club. No change to the affiliation notice can be made after September 15. **For the 2021-2022 Season, the date shall be October 15, or such later date as may be established by the Board.**

In the case of U17, U18 and U21 Teams, the date for delivery of an affiliation notice is on or before October 15 in any Season, **except that for the 2021-2022 Season, such date shall be November 15, or such later date as may be established by the Board.**

(b) Select Affiliate Teams or House League Players at Large:

When a AA Team (U10 to U13 only) or an A Team is affiliating downward with a Select Team or 19 GTHL registered House League players at large, the names of those players must be filed with the League Office by November 15. If a player is listed on a game sheet as an affiliated player prior to November 15, the player must be included in the November 15 listing that is submitted. **For the 2021-2022 Season, the date for this Rule 6.9(b) shall be December 15, or such later date as may be established by the Board.**

REGISTRATION, ELIGIBILITY AND RELEASES

7.1 – Players Must Be Registered

All Teams must register each player on a Registration Certificate. A player is not eligible to participate in any League or Tournament game until the player is properly Registered with the league. Teams must comply with the registration requirements for minimum and maximum number of players as set forth in Section 6. The GTHL Executive Director shall have the authority to decline the Registration of any player who is not in compliance with GTHL, OHF and Hockey Canada Regulations. This decision shall be subject to appeal as provided for in Regulation 15.2. The last day in any Season for registration of a Registration Certificate is January 15. If a Club is utilizing Electronic Registration, that Club is responsible for ensuring that each Registration Certificate is complete in its entirety and shall keep the Registration Certificates on file for a period of 3 years. “Electronic Registration will not take place until the Club’s President, General Manager or Registrar is in possession of the properly completed Registration Certificate. Violation of this regulation will result in that team losing one player’s registration certificate for the current season or one player’s registration certificate for the following season if the total allotment has been used for the current season and the Club will be fined \$500.

For the 2021-2022 Season, Registration Certificates will not be issued, and all registrations will be by electronic means only.

7.2 – Team Officials Must be Registered

(a) All Team Officials must be Registered on a Registration Certificate. A Team Official is not eligible to participate in any League or tournament game unless the Team Official is properly registered with the League. If a Club is utilizing Electronic Registration, that Club is responsible for ensuring that each Registration Certificate is complete in its entirety and shall keep the Registration Certificates on file for a period of 3 years. Electronic Registration should not take place until the Club is in possession of the properly completed Registration Certificate. Violation of this regulation will result in that Team being permitted to register no more than four Team Officials for the current season.

(b) Each Team may register up to five Team Officials in accordance with Rules 7.14 and 7.15. At a minimum, each Team must have a Head Coach, one Assistant Coach and a Trainer. A Team may only register one individual as Manager. A maximum of five Team Officials may appear on the bench during any game

For the 2021-2022 Season, Registration Certificates will not be issued, and all registrations will be by electronic means only.

7.3 – Release of Registration Certificates – Withdrawals

Registration Certificates for each Season will be released on a date set by the Board. Registration Certificates will not be provided to a Club until all the Club’s account balance has been paid in full and the Club has paid a minimum of 25% of both entry fees and insurance premiums for all teams under the Club’s jurisdiction. Further post-dated cheques for the balance of monies owing towards the insurance premiums and for an additional 25% for Team

entry fees must be provided, dated no later than May 31 of the current calendar year with an additional post-dated cheque for the remaining 50% balance of the Team entry fees which is dated no later than November 1 of each calendar year. All Teams, other than Teams in the U17, U18 and U21 age divisions, will be allotted a maximum of 20 Registration Certificates. All Teams in the U17, U18 and U21 age divisions will be allotted a maximum of 25 Registration Certificates. Subject to the foregoing, all Registration Certificates will be released to the General Managers of Clubs on the same date.

NOTE: For the 2021-2022 Season, Registration Certificates will not be issued, and all registrations will be by electronic means only. In addition, the dates for payment of Team entry fees and insurance premiums will be established by the Board and Hockey Canada respectively and advised to Clubs in due course.

Should the Club not pay its entry fees as required or should any postdated cheques not be cleared, then all team approvals for the Club involved will be rescinded. Except as provided herein, entry fees are non-refundable.

7.8 – Signatures Required on Registration Certificate

When a player is under 18 years of age at the time the Registration Certificate is signed by the player, the Registration Certificate must also be signed by the player's parent or legal guardian and the parent's or legal guardian's current residential telephone number must appear on the top of the front copy of the Registration Certificate. **For the 2021-2022 Season, Registration Certificates will not be issued and all registrations will be by electronic means only.**

7.13 – Team Officials

b) In accordance with the policies of the OHF, all Team Officials must have completed a Hockey Canada Speak Out or Respect in Sport Activity Leader/Coach programme. The Head Coach of each Team must have certification in the Hockey Canada Body Checking Clinic.

The Head Coach of each Team at the U10 to U11 "A" and "AA" categories must be Development 1 trained and at the U12 to U18 "A" and "AA" categories must be Development 1 certified. The Head Coach of each Team at the U10 to U13 "AAA" categories must be Development 1 certified. The Head Coach of each team at the U14 to U18 "AAA" categories must be certified at the High Performance 1 level. The Head Coach of each U21 team is required to be Development 1 certified.

Any individual registered as an Assistant Coach must be Development 1 trained. **This requirement will not be enforced for the 2021-2022 Season.**

7.14 – Trainer

a) A Trainer must possess a valid HTCP certification as follows:

- i) HTCP Level 1 for all "A", "AA" and "AAA" Teams from U10 to U12;
- ii) HTCP Level 2 for all "A", "AA" and "AAA" Teams from U13 to U21. **This requirement will not be enforced for the 2021-2022 Season.**

7.17 – Release During the Season

A release is valid only in the following four circumstances:

(a) The first Circumstance is where, after a player is registered with a Club and on or before October 1 of the current Season, **except for the 2021-2022 Season where such date shall be November 1**, a release is agreed upon in writing by the Club Officials and player (or their parent or guardian where the player is under 18 years of age) and (i) the release is then signed by the Club Officials, and (ii) the release is filed with and accepted by the League Office (within 7 days of being signed by the Club Officials), except that in the case of a U10 or U11 player, such date shall be November 1.

(b) The second circumstance occurs when, after October 1 and on or before November 15 of the current Season (or the first business day following November 15 when November 15 is a Sunday or statutory holiday), **except for the 2021-2022 Season where such dates shall be November 1 and December 15 respectively**: (i) the release has been signed by the Club Officials of the Club providing the release; and (ii) the release has been filed with and accepted by the League Office (provided that in any event a release will only be effective if it has been filed with the League Office within seven days of being signed by the Club Officials of the Club providing the release).

(c) The third circumstance occurs when, after November 15, a player requests a release for a reason deemed reasonable and appropriate by the Executive Director and the Club with which the player is requesting the release has no objection to the release being granted, **except for the 2021-2022 Season, where such date shall be December 15**.

7.21 – Releases At and After the End of Season

(a) All players are released from their Teams at the conclusion of each Season and, subject to compliance with all League Regulations, are free to Register with any Team in the League for the following season effective the first day of tryouts, **except in the case of the 2020-2021 Season where the conclusion date has been determined by the OHF to be September 7, 2021**.

TRYOUTS AND TAMPERING

8.1 – Tryouts or Other On-Ice Sessions

(a) Tryouts for the U10 and U11 age groups will be held on the dates as set out in OHF Regulations and must be comprised of a minimum of three formal player evaluation / selection or tryout sessions. No more than one tryout per day may be scheduled.

(b) Tryouts for the U12 to U18 age groups will start on the Monday immediately following the OHF Championship weekend.

(c) Tryouts will be held in sequential order with AAA tryouts being held first, then AA tryouts and finally A tryouts.™

(d) Tryouts will be subject to the provisions contained in the LOR Regulations.

(e) Tryouts may only be conducted and Teams may skate (including practices, on-ice sessions and exhibition games) during the allocated time set forth above. No tryouts shall be scheduled prior to 5:00 p.m. on a school day.

(f) After the entire 21-day tryout period has ended, Teams may conduct practices and may continue to fill any positions that are available on their rosters. Any advertising for tryouts, practices and/or on-ice sessions for dates after the permitted tryout period will constitute a violation of this Rule. This rule will not prevent a Team from placing a “player wanted” advertisement after the tryout period, so long as the advertisement does not specify a specific tryout time. U21 teams shall be exempted from this provision.

NOTE: For the 2021-2022 Season, tryout dates and formats will be as set out in Sections G3 (U7 to U9 Teams), G4 (U10-U11 Teams) and H9 (LOR Teams from U13 to U18) of the OHF document entitled “Playing Regulations Adapted for the 2021-2022 Season”. Tryout dates and formats are subject to change depending on Ontario Government COVID-19 regulations and/or regulations/advice of the Public Health Units operating in the Territorial Jurisdiction of the League.

8.2 – Prohibited Advertising

(a) Teams and Clubs shall not advertise the time, date or location of tryouts or the name of Team Officials for the following Season prior to March 15. For this purpose, any form of printed, whether public or private, solicitation (including promotional articles about existing Teams) that contains this information shall be considered as a form of advertising; however, responding to inquiries from individuals as to names of Team Officials for the following season will not be considered “advertising”.

For the 2021-2022 Season, while Clubs may advertise the names of Team Officials on March 15, no advertising of the dates or locations of tryouts is permitted until July 15, or such later date as may be established by the Board.

LEAGUE PLAY AND PLAYING RULES

9.2 – Game Times

(b) The playing time for all games shall be stop time as follows:

	AAA	A&AA
U10	12 – 12 – 12	12 – 12 – 12
U11	12 – 12 – 15	12 – 12 – 12
U12	12 – 12 – 15	12 – 12 – 12
U13	10 – 15 – 15	10 – 15 – 15
U14	10 – 15 – 15	10 – 15 – 15
U15	15 – 15 – 15	15 – 15 – 15
U16	15 – 15 – 15	15 – 15 – 15
U17 and U18	15 – 15 – 20	15 – 15 – 15
U21	15-15-20	- - -

NOTE: Subject to the availability of ice facilities in the 2021-2022 Season, game times may be varied by the League without notice.

9.5 – Minimum Number of Players

All Teams must have a minimum number of 12 players in uniform for all regular season and playoff games by the start of the third period. Failure to comply shall result in a mandatory penalty of \$10 per player short of the minimum player requirement being levied against the offending team. The game result will stand. **This Rule will not be enforced for the 2021-2022 Season.**

9.7 – Game Officials Fees

The fees payable to Game Officials shall be determined annually by the Board. Game Officials fees shall be paid by Teams at the arena box office prior to games. Access to the electronic game sheet will not be granted until both Teams have paid the Game Officials fees. **For the 2021-2022 Season, should ice availability cause the League to vary the game times set out in Rule 9.2, Game Officials fees will be adjusted accordingly.**

TOURNAMENTS, EXHIBITION & OVERSEAS TRIPS

12.8 – Applications to Participate in Tournaments and for Other Schedule Exemptions

(c) No Team shall be allowed to have more than three Schedule Exemptions during the regular season, whether or not they conflict with its scheduled games, with the exception of early bird tournaments which are completed prior to the commencement of the regular season and Christmas tournaments. If a Club fails to make the application prior to the 7 week deadline, it may, once per season per Club, seek an exemption, provided that such request is made in writing to the League Office within 3 business days after the schedule has been posted on the schedule section of the GTHL website.

For the 2021-2022 Season, Teams will only be permitted to have two Schedule Exemptions.

HOSTING TOURNAMENTS

16.1 – Hosting Tournaments

(a) League approval must be obtained in order for any Club, or group of Clubs, to host a tournament. A Club wishing to host a tournament that will begin at any time between pre-season and December 31, inclusive, must submit its “Tournament Hosting Application” form no later than January 31 of the calendar year in which the tournament is to be hosted. A club wishing to host a tournament that will begin between January 1 and April 15, inclusive, must submit a “Tournament Hosting Application” form to the League no later than the March 31 preceding the tournament date. Each Tournament Hosting Application shall be accompanied by the applicable tournament sanction fee.

NOTE: for the 2021-2022 Season, no tournament is permitted to commence before October 8, as communicated via OHF Bulletin 21-013 dated March 12, 2021.

HOUSE LEAGUE AND SELECT OPERATING GUIDELINES

17.7 – Payment of Insurance and Assessment Fees

House League organizations are required to pay 25% of their Insurance and Assessment Fees (based on the previous year's registration numbers) prior to being provided with access to the Hockey Canada Registry or Player Registration Certificates for the subsequent season. The balance of the fees (based on the previous year's registration numbers) are due on or before November 1 of the current season. A reconciliation will occur after the last registration date of January 15 with either the balance owing being due upon receipt of the invoice or the League issuing the appropriate refund.

NOTE: For the 2021-2022 Season, Registration Certificates will not be issued, and all registrations will be by electronic means only. In addition, the dates for payment of Insurance and Assessment Fees will be established by Hockey Canada and/or the OHF and advised to House League organizations in due course.