

#### **4.1 Match Penalty**

Match penalty suspensions shall be served in accordance with Hockey Canada and Ontario Hockey Federation guidelines **except** where OMHA match penalty guidelines and recommendations, as amended and approved by the Board from time to time, may be more severe or strict than those cited. The OMHA match penalty minimum suspension list – the 'Assessment Guide' - shall prevail in all OMHA games conducted under the jurisdiction of the OMHA.

Match penalties which are regarded as "Automatic" and may, under the OMHA Minimum Suspension Policy (Assessment Guide), be administered by the REM or Area Convenor, shall be reported to the President in the manner and form as prescribed by the President.

##### **4.1.1**

All match penalties other than those regarded as 'Automatic" and which are incurred during any game played in OMHA jurisdiction in which an OMHA team takes part, or which is played under OMHA jurisdiction, including those match penalties which are or may be questionable and which may ultimately be "washed out", shall be forwarded immediately and directly by the responsible Regional Executive Member or Area Convenor to the President of the OMHA after all the basic information and facts have been received. The President may impose a suspension of up to fifteen (15) OMHA league, group, and/or playdown games with the corresponding days of suspension.

##### **4.1.2 Hearings**

If the Regional Executive Member responsible for assessing a match penalty should determine that the match penalty is of a serious nature and that a hearing may be required to determine an appropriate response regarding the possible suspension, he shall request of the President that the matter be referred to a "Hearing



Committee". Once authorized by the President, the REM shall appoint, or have appointed, a Committee of at least three (3) members. Two (2) Committee members must be members of the OMHA Board. Should circumstance render the attendance of a third Board Member unavailable, an OMHA Convenor may be utilized as the third member of such Committee. Additional OMHA personnel, including technical support persons, may be called upon to assist the committee by way of clarification or interpretation; however, such personnel shall not be entitled to a vote in these proceedings.

Such hearing shall be conducted in a timely manner by a date as may be determined by the REM and within four (4) weeks from the referral to the Committee. A report of the findings and recommendations and determination of suspension shall be determined by a majority vote of all appointed Committee members. Such Committee shall render a decision as provided above and must be in accordance with the OMHA minimum suspension guidelines.

Should the Committee determine that the match penalty should be 'washed', the chair shall notify the President of such recommendation(s) and the President shall review the recommendations and act in accordance with the authority of the President to do so.

Should the Committee determine that a suspension should be increased beyond that prescribed by the minimum suspension guideline, or should the hearing reveal further suspensions which may be warranted, the chair shall notify the President of such recommendation(s) and the President shall review the recommendations and act in accordance with the authority of the President to do so.

The REM responsible for such hearing shall submit a report of such hearing and resultant decision(s) to the Board for ratification at its next scheduled Board meeting.



#### **4.1.3 Appeals:**

- i) All suspensions resulting from a match penalty or from the action of the President shall be subject to an appeal procedure as follows:
- ii) There shall be no appeal for any suspension of five (5) games or less.
- iii) Suspensions of six (6) to fifteen (15) games may be appealed to the President, in writing, by the local minor hockey organization involved (signed by the President and Secretary). Such request for appeal must be received within 10 days of the original notification to the Centre of that suspension. No appeal will be accepted directly from the suspended individual or his parent(s)/guardian(s). Upon receipt of the matter and by talking directly to the officials involved as well as others he may feel are necessary to determine the validity of the facts with which he was originally provided, the President may then:
  - a) reduce, concur with, or increase the original suspension, (all of which must be in accordance with the OMHA minimum suspension guidelines), or he may 'wash out' the penalty, or:
  - b) refer the matter to a three (3) person Committee, the structure of which shall be as in 4.1.2 above, and one member may be himself. Such Appeal Committee shall be convened in a timely manner as determined by the President and within four (4) weeks of referral by the President.

Such Committee shall render a decision as provided above which decision shall be in accordance with 4.1.3 iii) and shall be reported by the President to the Board for ratification at its next scheduled Board meeting.

#### **4.1.4 Interrupted Serving of Suspension**

Any match penalty suspension of games and/or days, which may be required to be carried from one season to the next, will be administered in the following manner:



- i) The suspension shall temporarily cease at the end of the penalized player's team's last league, league Playoff, or OMHA Playdown game in the current season. The suspension shall be deemed to be 'in abeyance'. The suspension shall be reactivated on the day of the penalized player's team's first scheduled league game the following season.

Example: Player receives a five (5) game or twenty two (22) day suspension on March 21. Player's team plays March 22 and March 25 and wins the championship.

The team's season is over. The player has served two games or four (4) days. The player must serve three (3) games or eighteen (18) days, whichever occurs first, commencing with the first scheduled league game his team plays the following season.

- ii) He may participate in exhibition games which are incorporated as a requirement for 'tryouts' up to the time of that first scheduled league game. However, if the player incurs another match penalty during the time his suspension is 'in abeyance' the player shall be immediately suspended and he shall not participate in any games, exhibition or otherwise, until the suspensions have been served in their entirety.
- iii) A player assessed a match penalty, and who is affiliated with another team, may serve the remainder of the match penalty suspension with his affiliated team only if the team to which he is registered has finished its season and the player shall not be eligible to participate with that team for the remainder of that season. (Regulation 8.2d)

#### **4.1.5 Match Penalties Involving Teams/Games With OHF Member Partners**

When a Match Penalty is assessed to a Member Partner player/team official other than an OMHA registered participant during the course of an OMHA sanctioned game or event:



The Regional Executive Member in whose OMHA area the match penalty was assessed will review and assess suspension in accordance with the OHF Minimum Suspension List and shall advise the Member Partner business office in writing by fax or email forthwith.

When an OMHA Centre becomes aware of a Match Penalty being assessed to an OMHA player/team official in a game played under a Member Partner jurisdiction: The Centre is obligated to advise their Regional Executive Member of the match penalty and provide particulars.

The Regional Executive Member will make a request to the Member Partner business office in writing for information and assessment. The Regional Executive Member is to be advised in writing directly by that Member Partner business office.

Should information not be forthcoming from the Member Partner within 14 days of

the Match Penalty being assessed, the Regional Executive Member will advise the District Vice-President of the particulars. The District Vice-President will advise the President and may request further suspension be waived in this instance.

This Policy is in effect for all Tournament and Exhibition games with Member Partner teams.

## **4.2 Regulation (8.1i) During Playdowns**

(This policy is to enable Playdown series to continue within appropriate timelines. When assessing Regulation 8.1i), the Regional Executive Member (REM) is requested to first discuss the situation with their District Vice-President)

### **a) Suspensions**

- i) Suspensions will commence immediately following the REMs awareness of the infraction and is able to notify the appropriate Centre.

**b) Awarding of Game**

**NOTE:** No continuing number of games will be awarded when the same individual is involved and remains ineligible for the same violation.

- i) The game awarded is the first game in which the ineligible player/team official participated while being ineligible.
- ii) The awarding of a game can only happen when the game to be awarded is during the same series including round-robin.
- iii) If play in a subsequent series involving either team has started, no game will be awarded for that particular violation of Regulation 8.1i) but suspensions will be applied to the ineligible individual(s) as per Regulation 8.1i).

**c) Appeal of REM Decision**

- i) Any Centre wishing to appeal the decision of the REM will do so by filing a PROTEST of the decision under Protest Policy Section 5.2 c). This will enable the Protest Committee to hear the protest (appeal) within a period acceptable to the continuation of Playdowns. This will permit the Committee to determine the disposition of game protested and to determine penalties, sanctions and suspensions that are appropriate.

### **4.3 Tampering**

- a) Tampering is defined as any attempt or act, directly or indirectly, by any OMHA team official(s) or individual(s), to recruit a player away from the team/club that holds his playing rights.

**Note:** Tampering between an OMHA team and a team from another OHF Member Partner will be subject to OHF Tampering regulations.

- b) No HC team may invite or allow to participate in its training or tryout camp, practice session or any other on-ice or off-ice event, a player whose playing rights are held by another team/club, without the player