
UPPER OTTAWA VALLEY **MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE**

Constitution
By-Laws
Rules & Regulations

Approved by the Membership May 31, 2023

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CONSTITUTION

Article I: Name

1. This organization shall be called the “Upper Ottawa Valley Minor Hockey League”, hereinafter referred to as the “UOVMHL” or the “league”.
2. The UOVMHL is an integral part of the Ottawa Hockey Eastern Ontario Minor (HEO Minor) District 5.

Article II: Objectives

1. The objectives of the UOVMHL are to:
 - (a) provide a wholesome, organized hockey experience for all those participating in minor hockey at the Competitive and House league levels within the HEO MINOR District #5, including players and team officials; and
 - (b) ensure that its member Associations exercise a general supervision and direction over the playing interests of their respective membership, with emphasis on the enhancement of good character, citizenship and sportsmanship.

Article III: Executive

1. The presiding officer of the UOVMHL shall be the President.
2. The UOVMHL shall be governed by an Executive consisting of the Executive Officers (President, immediate Past-President, Vice-President (Competitive), Vice-President (House League), Secretary, Treasurer and one representative from each Association in good standing.
3. The Executive shall have control over the affairs of the League and shall deal with any matters pertaining to the good and welfare of the League and define rules.
4. Executive Officers, excluding the immediate Past-President who gains his office by succession, shall be elected annually.

Article IV: Membership

1. Membership in the UOVMHL shall be open to all Minor Hockey Associations in HEO MINOR District #5.
2. Membership in the UOVMHL entails acceptance by such Minor Hockey Associations, and their members, of the final and binding authority of all the rulings and decisions of the Executive, and acceptance of the governing authority of the UOVMHL, subject to properly conducted protests and appeals.
3. With UOVMHL approval, Fort-Coulonge Minor Hockey Association may be a guest in UOVMHL for any hockey season. While playing in the UOVMHL, they agree to abide by the UOVMHL Constitution.

Article V: Annual Meeting

1. There shall be an Annual Meeting held each year at the conclusion of the Hockey season, prior to June 1st.
2. The Executive Officers and each Association in good standing shall be entitled to one vote at the Annual Meeting. No proxy votes shall be recognized.
3. No Annual Meeting shall be constituted without a quorum of at least six (6) of its member Associations, who are in good standing, and at least two (2) incumbent UOVMHL Executive Officers, in attendance.

Article VI: Amendments

1. The Constitution, By-laws and Rules & Regulations, may be amended only at the Annual Meeting of the UOVMHL or at the first League Meeting of each season held in September, and then only by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and entitled to vote.

Article VII: Miscellaneous

1. Throughout the Constitution, By-laws and Rules & Regulations, wherever the masculine gender is used, it shall be understood to include the feminine gender.
 2. Throughout the Constitution, By-laws and Rules & Regulations, wherever the singular is used, it shall be understood to include the plural (and vice-versa), where the context so requires.
 3. UOVMHL Logo, may only be used with the written consent of the Board of Directors
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BY-LAWS

By-Law 1 Membership

1. Membership in the UOVMHL shall be open to all Minor Hockey Associations conducting minor hockey in HEO MINOR District #5, specifically: Arnprior Minor Hockey Association, Barry's Bay and Area Minor Hockey Association, Deep River and Area Minor Hockey Association, Eganville District Minor Hockey Association, Greater Petawawa Minor Hockey Association Inc., Muskrat Minor Hockey Association, Pembroke Minor Hockey Association, and Renfrew Minor Hockey Association.

By-law 2 Registration

1. Registration of Associations shall be held in September at the first League meeting for the new season and the Associations will have until October 1st to confirm entry of teams in both the Competitive and House Leagues.

2. Registration of teams will conform to the HEO MINOR District #5 Association zones.

3. All Associations and team officials shall be governed by this Constitution, By-laws and Rules & Regulations, in accordance with the HEO MINOR and Hockey Canada regulations.

4. The Competitive League may be comprised of teams in each of the U11, U13, U15, and U18 divisions.

5. The House League may be comprised of teams in each of the U9, U11, U13, U15 and U18 divisions.

6. Upon confirmation of registration of teams, each Association will submit, to the satisfaction of the President, ice times for the current season, which are suitable to accommodate the required number of home games for each team entered in the Competitive League and House League. Associations will also submit, by February 1st, ice times available for playoff games.

By-law 3 Fees

1. Each Association shall pay an annual assessment fee for all teams registered with the UOVMHL, with such fees being determined annually by the Executive. The fees may be different for Competitive League and House League teams.

By-law 4 Executive

1. The UOVMHL shall be governed by an Executive consisting of the Executive Officers (President, immediate Past-President, Vice-President (Competitive), Vice-President (House League), Secretary, Treasurer and one representative from each Association in good standing.

2. The Executive shall have control over the affairs of the League and shall deal with any matters pertaining to the good and welfare of the League and define rules.

By-law 5 Election of Executive Officers

1. Elections for the positions of President, Vice-President (Competitive), Vice-President (House League), Secretary and Treasurer shall be held at the Annual Meeting. If no Executive can be formed, then elections will be held in September of the new season. Each Association has a responsibility to assist in forming an Executive.
2. Elections may be conducted by the Secretary/Treasurer or an appointee to oversee the elections.
3. Should a vacancy occur in an Executive Officer position, the Executive may appoint a replacement for the duration of the season.

By-law 6 Duties and Powers of the Executive Officers

1. The President shall:
 - Generally perform the duties usual to the office of President
 - Call all meetings of the League and conduct League hearings
 - Preside at all Annual, Special and League meetings of the UOVMHL and only vote in the case of a tie
 - Oversee the preparation and finalize acceptance of League schedules
 - Be an authorized cheque signing officer.
2. The Past-President shall:
 - Be the source of guidance to the Executive on all matters relating to the past conduct of business of the UOVMHL
 - Be a full member of the Executive and shall enjoy full privileges in respect to motioning and voting.
3. The Vice-President (Competitive) shall:
 - In the absence of the President, or through their delegation, have all the powers and perform all the duties of the President, as they relate to the Competitive League.
 - Chair UOVMHL meetings in the absence of the President
 - Oversee and coordinate the activities of the Convenors of Competitive League
 - Assist in any hearings pertaining to the Competitive League
 - Be an authorized cheque signing officer
4. The Vice-President (House League) shall:
 - In the absence of the President, or through their delegation, have all the powers and perform all the duties of the President, as they relate to the House League
 - Oversee and coordinate the activities of the Convenors of the House League
 - Assist in any hearings pertaining to the House League
 - Be an authorized cheque signing officer

5. The Secretary shall:

- Record and maintain the minutes of all Annual, Special, and League meetings
- Forward copies of minutes to the Chair of District 5
- Update the constitution as per amendments or changes at the AGM
- Ensure that attendance is taken at the Coacher/Managers & Convenors meeting at the beginning of the season (keep on file).

6. The Treasurer shall:

- Present the Treasurer's report at each League meeting
- Maintain a bank account, suitable for the purposes of the UOVMHL
- Prepare an annual financial report for presentation at the Annual meeting
- Keep records of receipts and ensure that expenditures are supported by minutes authorizing the expenditure
- For the protection of both outgoing and incoming Treasurer, an audit or review may be made
- Be an authorized cheque signing officer

Note - Should the Secretary and Treasurer position be held by the same person, the position will be "combined and the person shall have only one vote.

7. The executive officers shall constitute a sub-committee of the Executive of the UOVMHL which shall have the authority, in emergency situations, to exercise the powers and duties of the Executive, it being understood that such actions as they may take must be presented to the next meeting of the UOVMHL for approval or rejection.

By-Law 7 Meetings

1. The UOVMHL may hold meetings at least once a month from September to April and as required from May to August.

2. The President shall have the authority to call meetings, and must call a meeting at the request of at least eight (8) members of the Executive. Only those meetings called by the President to discuss League business shall govern the affairs of the UOVMHL.

3. Motions made shall be in effect until the end of the playing season in which the motion is made.

4. The Executive Officers and each Association (in good standing), shall have one vote at the League meetings. The President shall not vote except to break a tie.

5. No proxy votes shall be recognized.

6. Convenors must attend the Coaches/Managers and Convenors League meeting at the beginning of the season. As well, they should attend any other meetings throughout the season.

7. If the President is unable to attend a meeting, the Vice-President (Competitive) shall have the duties of the President for that meeting only.

8. No League Meeting shall be constituted unless a quorum of at least six (6) of its member Associations, who are in good standing, and at least two (2) UOVMHL Executive Officers are in attendance.

9. A Coach/Manager and Convenor meeting will be held at the start of every season. A representative from every team participating in the UOVMHL MUST attend this meeting for both Competitive and House League teams. Attendance will be taken.

By-Law 8 Convenors

1. The Executive shall appoint one Convenor for each division of the UOVMHL.
2. The Competitive League Convenors shall:
 - Be responsible to the Vice-President (Competitive)
 - Be responsible for the administration of their division in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, By-laws, Rules & Regulations and any motions made at UOVMHL meetings
 - Assist teams with challenges that may arise in regards to rescheduling games.
3. The House League Convenors shall:
 - responsible to the Vice-President (House League)
 - Be responsible for the administration of their division in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, By-laws, Rules & Regulations and any motions made at UOVMHL meetings
 - Assist teams with challenges that may arise in regards to rescheduling games.
4. Convenors shall be reimbursed for long distance telephone charges for calls relating to their duties as Convenor.
5. Convenors (or other Executive Members) shall be reimbursed reasonable travel costs, at a rate of \$.50 (50 cents) per kilometre for all travel incurred while representing the League at playoff championship games(s) to present plaques/medallions to the participating teams.

By-Law 9 Suspensions and Discipline

1. The HEO MINOR Code of Discipline and the UOVMHL Constitution shall govern in matters of discipline relating to the specific situations outlined in the CODE, specifically: fighting; certain misconduct penalties, all game misconduct penalties, all gross misconduct penalties, all match penalties, and any other incident or behaviour detrimental to the proper conduct of hockey.
2. The Executive or President shall have the authority to suspend or discipline any team, team official, player or other person(s) connected with any team under this League, as well as, any on-ice/off-ice official, parent, grandparent, legal guardian, fan or any other person deemed to warrant such action, at the sole discretion of the League Executive or President.
3. Suspensions or discipline may be assessed for such actions as infringement of playing rules, conduct unbecoming to hockey, refusing to accept and/or obey rulings of the Convenor or the Executive, for notorious and continued foul play, unfair, unsportsmanlike conduct, individually or collectively on the ice or at any arena facility where a hockey match is being played or at any meeting or gathering in the interest of the game, for negligence to pay assessments or for any persistent infringement of the rules of the game under the UOVMHL jurisdiction and any other incident or behaviour detrimental to the proper conduct of hockey.

By-Law 10 Complaints

1. Complaints shall follow the proper channels. Team officials contact their convenor, voice their concerns. If the convenor is unable to assist, contact the Association President. If they are unable to assist, the complaint must be made in writing to the UOVMHL President by the Association President or they will not be considered. Complaints received in writing by the Executive shall be investigated.
2. No parent shall contact the Convenor to lodge a complaint. Parents are to consult their Association Constitution for Chain of Command procedures. If this is to be heard at the League level, the complaint must be received in writing by the UOVMHL President through their Association. The UOVMHL Executive shall investigate.

By-Law 11 Protests & Appeals

1. All protests of games must be filed with the appropriate division convenor within 48 hours of the game and followed up immediately with a letter of protest. The protest fee shall accompany the letter of protest or it will not be considered. The Convenor shall advise the President of the protest and the President shall arrange a hearing.
2. All protest hearings shall be conducted in conformance with the Hearing Procedures contained in the Discipline and Appeal Hearing Format Guidelines Appendix of the HEO MINOR Handbook.
3. The fee for protests will be \$350 payable to the UOVMHL, and such fee may be refunded (in whole or in part) by and at the discretion of the hearing committee, should they rule in favour of the protester.
4. Appeals from League decisions must be made in accordance with the system contained in the HEO MINOR Code of Discipline.
5. Appeals pertaining to referee calls, see HEO MINOR Handbook.

By-Law 12 Committees

1. The President may set up committees to deal with the League.

By-Law 13 Year End Awards

1. UOVMHL will provide plaques for the Champions of the regular season in both House League and Competitive divisions. A representative of the UOVMHL will present the regular season and playoff plaques.
2. A Playoff Trophy will be presented at the final play-off game for the A Champion team to display the following season. This Trophy will be passed on each year and presented to the Championship team annually. B, C, and D playoff House League Champions will receive a plaque for the team to keep.
3. Finalists in U13 and lower divisions will be awarded a medallion.
4. All Engravings of official team name and player's names will be the responsibility of the team.

By-Law 14 E-mail Communication

1. UOVMHL may use email, mail, or telephone to communicate decisions with each other and their membership
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RULES & REGULATIONS

(Competitive and House League)

General Rules:

1. The Hockey Canada, ODHA and HEO MINOR regulations and HEO MINOR Code of Discipline shall be the rules by which this League operates in conjunction with the UOVMHL Constitution, By-laws and Rules & Regulations.

a. All game misconduct penalties referred to in the HEO MINOR Code of Discipline, Section 8 Minimum Suspensions (8.1, 8.2, 8.3 and 8.4) will be considered by the League to be cumulative for the determination of the applicable suspension as per the following examples:

i. A player who has already received one game misconduct penalty for any reason, upon being assessed another game misconduct penalty for any reason, will be suspended as indicated for a second offence in the applicable HEO MINOR chart for this second game misconduct.

ii. Similarly, a player who has already received two game misconducts for any reason, upon being assessed a third game misconduct for any reason, will be suspended as indicated for a third offence in the applicable HEO MINOR chart for this third game misconduct.

iii. Subsequent game misconducts will continue to be cumulative, e.g. fourth, fifth and so on.

2. Any member of the League Executive may hold a position with any association or team in the event of a dispute involving the association or the team of which he is a member, he forfeits his right to sit on the Executive during the proceedings of the dispute.

3. Officials and team officials will conduct themselves properly to prevent disrespect to the League.

4. All team officials associated with the League are to receive and be cognizant of this Constitution, By-laws and Rules & Regulations of the UOVMHL.

5. Any team official who is aware of a situation that contravenes this Constitution or its By-laws and Rules & Regulations shall report the incident to his division convenor within a reasonable time. A team official who does not report an incident that would contravene this Constitution or its By-laws and Rules & Regulations shall be suspended until dealt with at a hearing.

6. Any team official who knowingly plays against ineligible players and/or who wilfully conceals the knowledge from the division convenor until it shall suit his convenience to use this knowledge, shall be considered equally guilty with the offending team officials and shall be suspended until dealt with at a hearing.

7. All teams participating in the UOVMHL must have HEO MINOR certified trainers. This is meant to include U7 programs as well.

8. Officials - on ice, see HEO MINOR Handbook under rules and regulations #7.4
 - a) On ice officials are prohibited from refereeing games played by immediate family. In situations where this is unavoidable: an official may be permitted to work as a lineman only in the three man system. Should the need arise for such an official (referee) to be used, then the host association must obtain prior consent of the Convenor. Notification/consent to the other coach in advance must be sought/obtained.
 - b) All officials must be at least one division older than the players they are officiating.
9. All time keepers must be at least 14 years old and have successfully completed an HEO approved timekeepers course.
10. No registered team official, from either team involved, shall operate as official time or scorekeeper, without exception.
11. All host associations and/or teams will ensure that sufficient assistance is provided within the penalty box area so as not to cause safety issues with the opening and closing of penalty box gates. In addition, registered team officials should not have to enter the penalty box area from the player's bench to either open or close the gates.
12. Associations and/or teams may still continue to pursue volunteers from either team for staffing purposes providing compliance with #10
13. AP GOALIES: that at any time an AP Goalies is listed on the game sheet - Coaches will inform the Refs at the beginning of the game that there is an AP goalie that may or may not play. If the AP goalie does not go into the game - the Referee will initial, beside AP goalie, "not played". It will be the Team official's responsibility to ensure that the referees initial this.
14. FIGHTING:
 - 1st fight issued to a player will result in 1 game suspension, 2nd fight will result in a minimum of 4 games suspensions, 3rd fight the player will be suspended until a District Hearing is held.
15. If neutral Officials for any game are requested by District or League, the appropriate requesting group, District or League, will pay for those officials. If neutral Officials for any game are requested by the Association, the Association is responsible to pay for those Officials.
16. Mouth guards are not mandatory in District 5 although it is strongly recommended for all registered HEO Minor Hockey Players to wear a mouth guard during all on ice activities (games and practices).
17. All noise-making devices (i.e. horns, whistles, air horns, cymbals, bugles, thunder sticks, cow bells etc.) are banned from District 5 Arenas during HEO sanctioned hockey events.
18. Associations must ensure teams participate in at least one district 5 tournament other than their home tournament. Travel permits will not be issued to teams who do not comply.
19. All goaltenders in the UOVMHL must have an approved throat protector affixed to the helmet/face masks. (billygoat, cow catcher, dangler). Subject to referee approval.

League Schedules and Games

1. League games are to be played in the month they are scheduled or in an earlier month. The division convenor may permit a game to be played in a later month if both teams agree to a specific date/time and circumstances warrant the extension. Under no circumstances will permission be given if it will interfere with the other scheduled games in the division.
2. In the event of a tie between teams at the end of regular season play, the following method will be used to break the tie by the convenor (use in sequential order until tie is broken):
 - a) most wins over course of regular season, if still tied then
 - b) head to head between the two teams, if still tied then
 - c) Tie breaking Method (Total Goals for divided by (goals for + goals against)
 - d) Flip a coin - The convenor and 2 league executive members, with no conflict, must be in attendance to witness the coin toss.

Note: In the event of a tie between more than two teams;

- 2.1 a) most wins over the course of the regular season. If still tied
 - 2.1 b) tie breaking method (Total goals for divided by (goals for + goals against). If still tied
 - 2.1 c) a random draw will be held by the convenor and 2 league executive members with no conflict, to determine the placement of the teams.
4. For purposes of league standings (wins, losses, goals for and against).
 5. The UOVMHL will decide on the regular season start and end dates annually, and in accordance with the Hockey Canada Pathways. Playoff dates will also be decided on annually.
 6. All league games scheduled up to and including Dec 31, must be played by December 31st. Failure to do so will result in the Head Coach being suspended until these games are completed.
 7. Blackout Dates:
 - November 11 of every year will be a "black out" date where no games will be scheduled.
 - October 31 will be a blackout day for U9/U11/U13 after 3:00 pm.
 - Family Day of every year will be a "black out" date where no games will be scheduled.
 8. Each association must provide 3 more game ice times, (per team) as per league home game schedule when submitting the ice schedule at the beginning of the year. No weekday games to be played prior to 6 pm unless agreeable by both managers and approved by the convenor.

Game Reports

1. A UOVMHL approved Official Game Report must be used for all regular season, playoff and tournament games.
2. The Home team is responsible for submitting the game sheet electronically, and should do so within 24 hours of the completed game.

Cancellation of Games

1. Barring weather conditions, a team must notify the opposing team and the division convenor at least 72 hours before the game, if they are unable to play a scheduled game. Teams wishing to reschedule games must confirm the rescheduled dates with the opposing team official prior to the original schedule date. Prior to rescheduling any game, the home team MUST provide the opposing team with 2 alternate ice times (with the exception of playoffs - only 1 ice time will be provided) .

Failure to do so may result in the coach being suspended until the game is played.

a) visiting team cancelling - the cancelling visiting team, covering the cost of both on and off ice officials and ice time. The game will be rescheduled ASAP.

b) home team cancelling - the game will be rescheduled at the visiting teams home arena, the original home team will pay for the cost of the game including on and off ice officials and ice in the visiting team arena. The game sheet will still show the teams as home and away as per league schedule.

Playoffs

1. UOVMHL playoff formats will be determined by league and will follow Hockey Canada's Pathways for U11 - U18.

Sportsmanship

1. Teams are to shake hands before the start of all league regular season and playoff games.

Transfers (see District Constitution Player Transfers)

1. There will be no exceptions allowed in the UOVMHL to the procedure required by the HEO MINOR for transfers. That is, the application of transfer form must be signed by the parents of the player and signed by the Presidents of both associations involved, who must signify that they agree or disagree with the transfer. No association President can refuse to sign or refuse to indicate whether they agree or disagree with the transfer.

2. If there is to be a hearing on a transfer matter, then that hearing must take place according to the procedure specified by the HEO MINOR. Such hearing must be held within the confines of District #5.

3. The convenor and/or the President have the authority to suspend any player and any other person with complicity in the matter if the address claimed when checked and verified is not proper.

4. A player who wishes a transfer must first go to the next nearest association or if that is difficult to ascertain then to an association who shares the same boundaries as the association of the residence. Where a player wishes to play for an association which is not bordering on the association where the player resides and both of those associations agree to the transfer, the transfer cannot be completed until agreement in writing of all the affected association Presidents is obtained.

5. All transfers should be completed by November's UOVMHL Meeting.
 6. An administration fee of \$20.00 per player will be charged if the transfer is approved at the District Level (cheque payable to District 5)
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Appendix A: Rules Specific to House League

1. Mercy Rule: In all divisions, if at any time during the game a team is ahead by seven (7) goals, the clock will be put on running time for the duration of the game. If the lead is reduced to less than seven goals, the clock will be put back on stop time.
 2. Team equalization: Equalization of two or more teams within an association must take place no later than December 1st.
 3. Referees: Each association will provide qualified referees for all games played.
 4. Comportment: The actions of players, both on and off the ice, are the responsibility of the coach.
 5. Player Participation: It is the intent of the House League that all player participants receive equal ice time. In the event of complaints on the above subject, the League is prepared to deal with violators.
 6. Suspensions: It is the responsibility of the coaches to see that suspensions are carried out.
 7. Select and Traveling Teams: The members of this League do not accept Select or Traveling teams at their home tournaments.
 8. Ejection from Game: After 3 personal penalties, a player or team official will automatically be ejected from the game. In the case of a double minor penalty, Examples: Sparring, head butt, etc., as per Hockey Canada Rule book, the double minor only counts as one penalty. The double minor must be the same infraction. This is not to be confused with for example: a minor for Tripping and Interference during the same stoppage of play to the same player, as this is 2 separate penalties. Additionally, a minor Head Check penalty carrying a minor and a misconduct counts only as one personal penalty.
 9. Category Ages: Age categories will be determined by Hockey Canada, HEO and HEO Minor. Use of overage players will be in accordance with Hockey Canada, HEO and HEO minor rules governing the same.
 10. Competitive Players: No Competitive player may play at the House League level.
 11. Players Returning from Competitive League: Competitive players may not return to the House League after January 10 of the current hockey year.
 12. Periods of Play: That period times for ALL house league hockey to be 3 periods of 10 minutes of stop time.
 13. Number of Games in Schedule: The number of games will be determined on a year to year basis by the league executive
 14. Shortened Game Times: Adjustments will be made to the length of the third period should there be insufficient ice time remaining to accommodate 10 minutes stop time. The time allotted for the third period will be posted on the clock and the home team will ensure that the visiting coach is advised accordingly.
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Appendix B: Rules Specific to the Competitive League

1. Competitive League schedules will consist of the following number of games:

4 team division 18 games

5 team division 20 games

6 team division 20 games

7 team division 24 games

8 team division 21 games

9 team division 24 games

10 team division 18 games

2. Game times will be as follows:

a) Three 12 minute stop time periods in U11.

b) Three 15 minute stop time periods in U13, U15 and U18.

c) A 2 minute warm up will be put on the clock after the zamboni leaves the ice. When the two minutes are over the game clock is to start.

3. Games are to be played in their allotted time. The minimum playing time to be allotted is one (1) hour for the U11 division and one and a quarter (1.25) hours for U13, U15, and U18.

4. In an effort to keep the games running on schedule, or even a little ahead of schedule, teams must be dressed and ready to play at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled starting time, play will continue until the completion of the three periods or until the originally scheduled completion time for the game, whichever comes first (i.e. if a U15 game is scheduled to begin at 3:15 PM but actually starts at 3:00 PM, the game, if not completed, will continue until the three periods are completed or until 4:30 PM, whichever comes first).

5. Mercy Rule:

In all divisions, if at any time during the game a team is ahead by seven (7) goals, the clock will be put on running time for the duration of the game. If the lead is reduced to less than seven goals, the clock will be put back on stop time.

Appendix C: Rules Specific to the U9 4on4 Program

1. UOVMHL will follow the playing rules and guidelines as set out by HEO (Hockey Canada) in reference to the U9 4on4 program as seen below.

- a) U9 hockey is a two-year program.
- b) IP aged players are NOT permitted to register or affiliate with any higher age classification during the current season.
- c) U9-aged players are NOT permitted to register with any higher age classification during the current season.
- d) Affiliation is permitted between tiers of the U9 level as per Hockey Canada Regulations.
- e) U9 players are NOT permitted to affiliate to higher age teams except for second-year players (i.e. 8-year old players) who may affiliate to higher age teams after January 15 of the current season.

2. Tiering & Team Structure

- a) District 5/UOVMHL will host a 2-tier system for U9 4on4 with a 40/60 split.
- b) The tiers will be classified as Tier 3 & 4 in relation to the HEO U9 Tiering Matrix.
- c) Assembling and tiering of teams will be the responsibility of the local minor hockey association following the guideline of a 40-60 split between Tier 3 and Tier 4.
- d) Teams will be composed of between 9-13 skaters.
- e) Teams can assign a full-time goalie or rotate the goalie position on a weekly or bi weekly rotation.

3. Season Structure

- a) Two phases are recommended; Phase 1 (September – December) and Phase 2 (January – April).
- b) Phase 1 is a combination of development and half ice games – with games occurring in two-week intervals (Hockey Canada nomenclature: Development and Regular Season phases).
- c) Phase 2 is a continuation of Phase 1 with games occurring weekly. Minor Hockey Associations may wish to rebalance Tier 3 and 4 teams at the beginning of the second phase.
- d) There will be no playoffs or league championship.
- e) UOVMHL will set schedules depending on the number of teams at each tier with the option of creating East and West Divisions within Tier 3 and Tier 4.
- f) Associations are to provide ice allocations for 1 game per week per team to UOVMHL game scheduler by September 15th. Ice times can be shared between 2 teams (2 half ice games).
- g) Local Tournaments (Jamborees) are permitted and will need to be coordinated with UOVMHL.

4. General Playing Rules

The rules for half-ice U9 game play focus on player development by maximizing opportunities to touch the puck, interact with other players, and make plays.

- a) 4 vs 4 player format and one goaltender for each team.

- b) Each team must have two goaltenders, one for each half of the ice.
- c) Three-minute warm-up.
- d) Rink set-up: one set of barriers set at the red line with nets approximately 3-4 feet inside the barriers to allow play behind the net.
- e) Game length – 50 minutes in total (46 minutes post warm-up).
- f) Two 23-minute halves.
- g) Shift length – 90 seconds in duration with an automatic buzzer or whistle sounding to indicate player change. The clock continues to run through the 23- minute half.
 - i. On the buzzer/whistle sounds, players must relinquish control of the puck immediately and vacate the ice. The new players enter the ice immediately.
 - ii. Failure to immediately relinquish control of the puck or new players entering the ice surface prematurely may result in a penalty for the offending team.
- h) If there are fewer than four players on the bench, the active player designated to stay out for the following shift must tag up at the bench prior to continuing play.
- i) Two face-offs during the game. The first face-off will start the game. The second face-off will start the second half.
- j) Goaltender freezes the puck – the official blows the whistle to indicate the attacking team backs off and the defending team gets possession.
- k) Puck shot out of play – the offending team backs off and the official gives the non offending team a new puck.
- l) Both games synchronized, and officials work together to ensure that happens.

5. Game Officials

- a) One official per game. Coaches/Trainers must remain on the bench.
- b) Game sheets will be completed for each game to indicate player roster and bench staff. Major Penalties or penalties that would normally require a player to be ejected from the game are to be noted on the game sheet and forwarded to the league convenor. At no time is the score to be counted and noted on the game sheet.

6. Penalties

- a) Minor penalties are noted with the official briefly raising their arm to indicate a penalty will be assessed. At the end of the shift, the official notifies the coach of the infraction and the number of the offending player.
- b) If the offending team controls the puck after the infraction, the official blows the whistle and calls for a change of possession; the non-offending team is given room to play the puck (three-metre cushion).
- c) The offending player will sit out the next shift, but the team will play even strength.
- d) Should an infraction occur that would normally require a player to be ejected from the game (game misconduct, gross misconduct or match penalty), the player will be removed from the remainder of that game. Even under these circumstances, teams will not play short handed.
- e) For major penalties assessed to players and bench staff, the HEO Minor Code of Discipline will apply.

- 7. Scoring: Game scores will not be recorded. Game sheets will be used to capture major penalties to players or bench staff in-game.

8. Out-of-Branch Tournaments: Teams will be permitted to participate in out-of-Branch tournaments (requiring travel permits) if the tournament games are played on half-ice.
