

# NBMHC PROVINCIAL AND ZONE CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

**2023 – 2024 SEASON**

## CLASSIFICATION

For provincial championship play Associations/community clubs teams, except U18 and “C” registering with a New Brunswick Minor Hockey Council League will be classified AA, A, and B annually, based on their respective league standings as of January 31 of the current season.

Provincial championship play shall be defined as any qualifying league, district or zone tournament or series preceding the actual provincial tournament.

“C” teams (excluding female teams) are not required to participate in Provincials. Associations Presidents must declare their intent by November 15 in writing to the District Director and Executive Chair.

1. For affiliation purposes, each team that is a league member shall be assigned an initial classification by the Club or association as per the table below, this may not necessarily represent the team’s final classification for provincial championship play, as of January 31.

The AA, A and B classification shall be determined as follows:

- a) Number of players per division divided by 17 (average number of players per team)
- b) The value obtained in (a) above will determine your category as per the following table:

The table is to be used as a guide to set up the teams to determine league play, unless the teams play within the same league, refer to #3.

<b>TABLE</b>	<b>0 - 2.0</b>	<b>Up to 1</b>
	<b>2.01 - 3.5</b>	<b>Up to 1</b>
	<b>3.51 – 5.0</b>	<b>Up to 2</b>
	<b>5.01 – 7.0</b>	<b>Up to 2</b>
	<b>7.01 – 8.0</b>	<b>Up to 3</b>
	<b>8.00- 10.0</b>	<b>Up to 4</b>
	<b>10.01 11.0</b>	<b>Up to 5</b>
	<b>11.01- 18 +</b>	<b>Up to 7</b>

- c) All associations/community clubs that do not follow the NBMHC Provincial and Zone Championship Regulation will have their competitive teams at the AA, A, and B levels deemed ineligible for Provincials.
  - d) Registered players from a single gender female team, playing in female leagues, will not be included in the player pools to determine provincial classification of male or mixed gender teams.
2. The number of teams in a league or division of a league will define the classification structure as of January 31. Example: A league composed of 3 AA, 3A and 3B teams will dictate positions 1-3 AA, 4-6 A and 7-9 B. The teams that occupy these positions shall carry the respective classifications on to provincial play regardless of their initial classification from the table above. Leagues will have the option at this time to reseed teams in AA, A and B categories as numbers permit.

Zone and provincial classification will be determined by District Directors. They will confer with the league President; taking into consideration the winning percentage, league play, and tournament record.

3. Any Association/Community Club having more than 1 team in a Division category (AA, A, B or C), not based on geography must balance those teams within that category.
4. For the purposes of provincial championship qualification, a team may move to a higher category.

## QUALIFICATION

5. To participate in provincial championships an association/community club must have a minimum of 12 players, 1 of which must be a goaltender, duly registered with the NBMHC in that division and category of play except for a "C" team. (Refer to Operations Manual 15.2)
6. All teams at the U13, U15, and U18 divisions (AA, A, B and C) vying for a Provincial Championship must play in a registered League. There shall be no provincial competition for the U7, U9 and U11 Divisions.
7. The NBMHC Directors shall ensure that all District/Zone/Association Leagues are operated in accordance with the NBMHC Regulations. Violations of such regulations will render a team, community club and/or association ineligible for provincial playoffs.
8. The U18 provincial playoffs shall be determined by a proposal from the Central U18 League, for U18 AA, A and B by January 31, through the NBHMC Executive Committee Liaison who will present it to the NBMHC Executive Committee by February 10<sup>th</sup> of each season for approval.
9. A District or Community Club that fails to show for a scheduled zone playoff or provincial championship weekend will not be eligible to participate in that level of play in the following season. Team officials will be suspended for a period of 1 year and the respective Community Club's membership will be subject to review by the NBMHC Executive Committee.
10. If the team members and the officials do not speak the same language during provincial playoffs, before the beginning of the game, a bilingual person must be identified who could help the officials better communicate their decisions, and inversely, in order to avoid any needless confusion.
11. End of season banquets of leagues having Anglophone and Francophone teams must be bilingual.

## HOSTING OF PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

12. **All minor provincial tournaments will be hosted March 22-24, 2024.** It shall be the responsibility of the district directors within a Zone to guide their respective Minor Hockey associations through the process of the host application. The district director is tasked to clarify team eligibility within a division to all Minor Hockey association presidents within their district.
13. All provincial tournaments will be played under the Zone host system. Therefore, 8 teams (two per zone) in AA, A, B and C categories, can take part in Provincial Division category playoff (excluding U18 AA, A, and B divisions). The host association's team will occupy one of the two spots from their zone. **However, should a designated zone not submit any host applications, the number of teams who attend from that zone would be reduced from two teams to one team, and the host zone would then send three teams. All teams, excluding the host, will pay a maximum entry fee of \$1000.00 per team to the Hosting Zone. Host applicants will be required to submit a budget outlining what their fee will be when applying for host.**

14. Each Zone, throughout the province, will be responsible for hosting a Provincial Championship Division on a rotating basis in conjunction with the following schedule. Each Division shall host A and AA levels on the first weekend and B and C levels on the second weekend. The Central U18 League will determine dates and locations for the U18 Competitive Provincials.

Division	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
U-13	B	A	D	C	B
U-15	D	C	B	A	D
U-18	A	D	C	B	A

15. The zone allocated to submit their application to host the respective category of Championship is given first priority in the selection process. Application forms to host Provincial Championships must be submitted to the District Directors and Hockey New Brunswick office by mail, fax (453-0868) or email no later than midnight January 31st of each year. The host for Provincial Tournaments shall be decided as per the qualifications for selection of site and hosting of the provincial championship. Should a designated zone fail to submit application for a provincial championship category (ie. Peewee, Bantam, and Midget), application to host this specific category will be open to all zones until February 7th. Upon this date, applications are to be received by Hockey New Brunswick office no later than 5:00 p.m. Should there be no application received for a specific category by February 7th, Provincial Championships for that category will be cancelled for the current season.
16. The NBMHC shall award the right to host Provincial Championship by February 10<sup>th</sup> annually. Notices shall be forwarded to all Associations from HNB within 7 days of site identification.

## DISTRICT AND/OR ZONE PLAYOFFS

17. All district and/or zone U13, U15 and U18 C playoffs **or zone tournaments** must be either a) a best of 3 series for 2 teams or a double round robin (home and away) for more than 2 teams or b) the standings of a league after January 1st.
18. All zones must declare representatives at the AA, A, B and C, levels one week prior to the provincial tournament or the zone will be ineligible for Provincials. Whereas leagues do not include the entire zone, district champions must be declared 2 weeks prior to provincial tournament. In this instance, District Directors shall schedule zone playoffs in accordance with the NBMHC regulations.
19. Zone champions via their District Director must submit a copy of their roster forms, (including approved affiliates), duly approved by the HNB Registrar no later than Monday of the week prior to provincial tournament.

## ZONE AND PROVINCIAL TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES & REGULATIONS

20. a. All AA, A and B and C provincial tournaments will be played as per the following schedule format. Except for the first game on Friday, Zones may be substituted to accommodate team travel requirements. Host zone plays Friday early game against the next closest team in their group- this may require switching teams.
- b. HNB Executive Director, District Director in the Host Zone will advise the host committee chair of any changes to the schedule to accommodate travelling teams.

**Group "A"**

1- ZONE A #2 team  
 2- ZONE B #2 team  
 3- ZONE C #1 team  
 4- ZONE D #1 team

**Group "B"**

5- Zone A #1 team  
 6- Zone B #1 team  
 7- Zone C #2 team  
 8- Zone D #2 team

**TWO RINK SCHEDULE**

Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
Rink 1	Rink 2	Rink 1	Rink 2	Rink 1	Rink 2
1 & 2	1800h 5 & 6	4 & 1	1000h 8 & 5	2A & 1B	1000h 2B & 1A
3 & 4	2000h 7 & 8	2 & 3	1200h 6 & 7		
		2 & 4	1600h 8 & 6	Finals	1400h Finals
		1 & 3	1800h 7 & 5		

**ONE RINK SCHEDULE**

Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
1000h	1 & 2	1000h	8 & 5	1000h	2B & 1A
1200h	3 & 4	1200h	6 & 7	1200h	2A & 1B
1400h	5 & 6	1400h	1 & 3		
1600h	7 & 8	1600h	2 & 4	1600h	Finals
1800h	4 & 1	1800h	7 & 5		
2000h	2 & 3	2000h	8 & 6		

21. Team Rosters - prior to the commencement of Provincial Championships, copies of the HNB Player Roster Forms, including affiliated players, shall be submitted by the HNB office to the Tournament Director. This roster will be frozen at a maximum of 19 players (including affiliates) in U13 and U15 and **25 players** in U18. Teams may only dress 19 players for a game. Players shall not be on two frozen rosters simultaneously.
22. Zone and Provincial tournament playoff games at all levels to be 15-minute stop time periods with a 3 minute bench rest period between the first and second period and a flood between the second and third period. The ice must be resurfaced before the start of each game.
23. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> period, if there is a 7-goal differential, the game will run at straight time for the remainder of that game.
24. a) Tied games in round robin play shall remain a tie. The tie breaking sequence will only come into effect once round robin play has been completed. These tie breaking rules apply to all HNB sanctioned zone and provincial events.  
 b) Tie Breaking Sequence (Amended: May 2015)
  - 24.1. If two or more teams are tied at the conclusion of a round robin series, then the following procedure will be used to determine the final ranking before the semi-final and final games are played.
  - 25.1 If two teams are tied:
    - 25.1.1 The winner of the round robin game between the two tied teams gains the higher position.

25.1.2 The team with the most wins in the round robin gains the higher position.

25.1.3 If the two teams are still tied after 25.1.1 and 25.1.2 have been applied, then the team with the best goal average gains the higher position. The goal average of a team is to be determined in the following manner:

Total number of goals for divided by the total number of goals for and against. NOTE: All round robin games are included.

Example: For = 10 goals against = 4 goals

Percentage:  $10/10+4 = .714$

NOTE: The higher percentage gains the higher position

25.1.4 If the two teams are still tied after 25.1.1, 25.1.2, and 25.1.3 have been applied, the team with the least number of minutes in penalties throughout all of the round robin games, gains the higher position.

25.1.5 If the two teams are still tied after 25.1.1, 25.1.2, 25.1.3, and 25.1.4 have been applied, then the team which scored the first goal in the game between the tied teams gains the higher position.

25.1.6 If the two teams are still tied after 25.1.1, 25.1.2, 25.1.3, 25.1.4, and 25.1.5 have been applied, a single coin toss will determine which team gains the higher position.

#### Three or More Teams Tied

Note: The three-team tiebreaker is used to determine the seeding of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd seed. If any step in the tiebreaker only seeds one team, that team assumes that position. The three-team tiebreaker will continue to determine the seeding of the two remaining teams. At no time will teams using this formula go back to the two-team tiebreaker

25.2. If three teams or more are tied, the point record established in the games among the tied teams only will be used as the first tie breaking formula in deciding which team(s) shall advance.

25.2.1 The team with the most wins, in games among the three teams, would gain the highest position.

25.2.2 If teams are still tied after 25.2.1 has been applied, then the team with the best goal average, gains the highest position. The goal average of a team is to be determined in the following manner: total number of goals for divided by total number of goals for and against.

NOTE: All round robin games are included

Example: For = 10 goals against = 4 goals

Percentage:  $10/10+4 = .714$

NOTE: The highest percentage gains the highest position(s).

The exercise of 25.2.2 establishes the team or teams with the highest position(s) by percentage. These teams will advance. If there are still teams tied, they go to the next step. They do not go back to the "Two Team Tiebreaker."

Example;

A. Team A - .714 = 1 seed - Advances

Team B - .500 = 3 seed – Does not advance Team C - .650 = 2 seed – Advances

B. Team A - .714 = 1 seed – Advances

Team B - .500 = Still tied with team C – go to next step 25.2.3. Team C- .500 = Still tied with team B – go to next step 25.2.3.

- C. Team A – .650 = Still tied with team B – go to next step 25.2.3. Team B - .650 = Still tied with team A – go to next step 25.2.3. Team C - .500 = Does not advance
- 25.2.3 If teams are still tied after 25.2.1 and 25.2.2. The team with the fewest goals against (all round robin games played) will gain the highest position.
- 25.2.4 If the Three teams or Two of the three teams are still tied after 25.2.1, 25.2.2, and 25.2.3 have been applied, the team with the least number of minutes in penalties throughout all of the round robin games, gains the higher position.
- 25.2.5 If the Three teams or Two of the three teams are still tied after 25.2.1, 25.2.2, 25.2.3 and 25.2.4 have been applied, then the team which scored the first goal in the game between the tied teams gains the higher position.
- 25.2.6 If the Three teams or Two of the three teams are still tied after 25.2.1, 25.2.2, 25.2.3, 25.2.4 and 25.2.5 have been applied, a single coin toss will determine which team gains the higher position.
26. For single or deciding game in District, Zone or Provincial Championship playoffs, if at the end of regulation time, the score of a game is tied, the following shall take place:

- a) **A 10-minute sudden victory overtime period shall take place;**  
 b) **If the score is still tied after a) above, proceed as per Hockey Canada Official Playing Rule 10.16.**

#### **RULE 10.16 – Hockey Canada Official Playing Rule**

- a) *In the final game, if the score is tied after regulation time, the following shall take place;*
- (1) *If the Referee feels it is necessary, he may order the ice to be re-surfaced at the end of the third regulation period. If the ice is not resurfaced, the teams will not change.*
- (2) *The puck shall be faced-off at centre ice and the play shall continue with a 10-minute sudden victory overtime period.*
- (3) *If the score is still tied after the sudden victory 10- minute overtime period, the teams would take the normal between period break and a return to play 20-minute sudden victory periods. The teams will now change ends.*
- b) *Any overtime shall be considered part of the game and all unexpired penalties shall remain in force.*
- c) *If either team declines to play in the necessary overtime period or periods, the game shall be declared a loss for that team.*
27. Prior to the commencement of provincial weekend; HNB will coordinate a conference call for all provincial divisions. During this conference call, the host NBMHC District Director or his nominee shall examine all Team Rosters (including affiliates), go over tournament rules and address any questions team officials may have. All teams must have a registered team official or designate present on the call or the team forfeits all right of protest or appeal.
28. In NBMHC Playoffs, Zone and Provincial events, the 1 referee and 2 linesmen system shall be used in U13. The 4-man system shall be used for U15 and U18 divisions. Referees shall be Level 3 certified. All minor officials including scorers and timekeepers are to be provided by the Host Association, Community Club and/or Team.
29. Each team is permitted one 30-second time-out per game, as per Hockey Canada rule 10.17 (f).
30. Home team will wear dark jerseys, visiting team will wear white jerseys. If teams (at the recreational category) do not have two sets of jerseys, they need to inform the host organizing committee to coordinate

a second set of jerseys, should there be a conflict.

31. The winning team at the Provincial tournament shall be declared Provincial Champion and be awarded an HNB-NBMHC championship banner. Each Member of the winning team shall be presented with a NBMHC gold medallion and a champions ball cap, while each member of the runner-up team shall be presented with a silver medallion.