



HNB Elite Hockey Commission

CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS
AND REGULATIONS

As Amended June 2026

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1. ARTICLE I - NAME

- 1.1. The organization shall be known as the **"HNB Elite Hockey Commission"** hereinafter referred to as the "EHC".

2. ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

- 2.1. The Elite Hockey Development Model system operates within Hockey New Brunswick and provides for the development of the elite athlete reflecting a “New Brunswick Made Development Model”. Every player that enters this system is a “Project”. Our mission is to take that player to the highest level of personal development as possible in the game of hockey.

3. ARTICLE III - AUTHORITY

- 3.1. The Commission, operating with the approval and under the authority and jurisdiction of Hockey New Brunswick (HNB), Hockey Canada (HC) and the NB Minor Hockey Council, (NBMHC) shall be responsible for the Administration of all Leagues that operate under the HNB Elite Hockey Commission within the Province of N.B.
- 3.2. The Commission will register with Hockey New Brunswick, as approved by the NB Minor Hockey Council, each year at the HNB Annual General Meeting, and shall provide a copy of this Constitution, as amended from time to time, as required by HNB and the NB Minor Hockey Council.
- 3.3.
- 3.3.1. To interpret all the provisions of the EHC Operation Manual, policies, procedures, rules and regulations. The EHC Executive Committee shall render decisions on the EHC Operation Manual, policies, procedures, rules and regulations; and all such interpretations and decisions rendered by the EHC Executive Committee may be subject to the HNB appeal process.
- 3.3.2. To fine, suspend, or expel a club or club executive, team or team executive, parent, guardian, family member or a player for notorious and continued foul play, or unfair, unsportsmanlike or ungentlemanly conduct, individually or collectively, on the ice, or off, or in any arena where a hockey game is being played, or at any meeting or gathering in the interest of the game; for failure to pay assessments, or for any persistent infringement of the laws or the game or the rules of the EHC, or rulings of the EHC Executive Committee

4. ARTICLE IV – BOUNDARIES

4.1 Authority and Scope

- 4.1.1 The Commission shall establish, implement, and govern Elite Draw Zone Areas (EDZA) throughout the Province of New Brunswick under the authority delegated by Hockey New Brunswick (HNB) and the NB Minor Hockey Council (NBMHC).
- 4.1.2 The Commission shall ensure that all boundary determinations align with the objectives of the Elite Hockey Development Model and promote equitable access, competitive balance, and program sustainability.

4.2 Establishment of Elite Draw Zone Areas (EDZA)

- 4.2.1 The Elite Hockey Development Model shall be administered through four (4) geographically defined Elite Draw Zone Areas.
- 4.2.2 EDZA boundaries shall be reviewed periodically by the Commission to ensure alignment with registration trends, geographic considerations, and program viability.

4.3 General EDZA Geographic Boundaries

Unless otherwise provided in this Article, the EDZA geographic boundaries shall be defined as follows:

4.3.1 **West Draw Zone**

Shall consist of the geographic area identified by HNB as Regions 1, 2, and 3 (all divisions except U18 Major, unless otherwise specified).

4.3.2 **South Draw Zone**

Shall consist of the geographic area identified by HNB as Region 4 (all divisions).

4.3.3 **East Draw Zone**

Shall consist of the geographic area identified by HNB as Region 5 (all divisions except Male U18 Major, unless otherwise specified).

4.3.4 **North Draw Zone**

Shall consist of the geographic areas identified by HNB as Regions 6, 7, and 8 (all divisions except Male U18 Major, unless otherwise specified).

4.4 U13, U14 and U15 Division Exceptions

4.4.1 Kent Centre

Players residing within Kent Centre Minor Hockey boundaries:

- U13: May elect North or East Draw Zone
- U14 and U15: May elect North or East Draw Zone

4.4.2 Binding Election

Once a player elects a Draw Zone under this Section, the player shall remain in that zone for the duration of participation within that specific division (i.e. U13), unless formally released.

4.4.3 Team Rights

Upon being rostered, the player shall be deemed affiliated with that team for the duration of their eligibility within that division, subject to release in accordance with applicable regulations.

4.5 Male U16 AAA & U18 Major — Special Boundary Provisions

4.5.1 Purpose

Separate boundary provisions are established for the Male U18 Major division to ensure the continued operation and competitive viability of one (1) U18 Major program within each EDZA.

4.5.2 Standard Application

Except as otherwise provided herein, Male U16 and U18 Major team boundaries shall align with the general EDZA geographic boundaries set out in Section 4.3.

4.5.3 Northern Zone Designation

Notwithstanding Section 4.5.2, players residing within the geographic boundaries of:

- Kent Centre Minor Hockey
- Restigouche West Minor Hockey

shall be deemed part of the North Draw Zone for the purposes of Male U18 Major.

4.5.4 Declaration Rights

(a) Minor Hockey District 1 players not otherwise addressed in Section

4.5.3 may declare eligibility for either the North or West Draw Zone.

(b) Minor Hockey District 7 players not otherwise addressed in Section

4.5.3 may declare eligibility for either the North or East Draw Zone.

(c) A declaration shall be binding for the applicable playing season unless the player is formally released by the EDZA team with which they are rostered.

4.5.5 Returning or Out-of-Zone Players

(a) Any player who participated outside their home residency EDZA in the previous season shall declare, in writing, prior to June 1 of the current playing season, whether they intend to:

- Remain in the EDZA in which they last participated; or
- Return to their home residency EDZA.

(b) Failure to declare by the prescribed deadline shall result in eligibility defaulting to the player's home residency EDZA.

4.6 League Approval and Boundaries

4.6.1 All leagues operating under the authority of the Commission shall require annual approval by the Commission prior to registration with HNB.

4.6.2 Approved leagues shall establish and publish divisional boundaries consistent with Commission policy.

4.6.3 Divisions of play governed by the Commission include:

- U13 AAA
- U14 AAA
- U15 AAA
- U16 AAA
- U18 Major

4.7 Team Location and Governance

4.7.1 Teams within each EDZA shall be located in communities determined by the respective EDZA Board of Directors, subject to Commission oversight.

4.7.2 All location determinations shall consider player access, facility availability, financial sustainability, and regional representation.

4.8 Submission and Approval of Boundaries

4.8.1 Each EDZA shall submit its proposed team structure and operational boundaries to the Commission no later than August 1 preceding the upcoming season.

4.8.2 No EDZA boundary or structural modification shall take effect without formal approval of the Commission.

4.9 Exceptional Player Movement

4.9.1 Player movement outside a designated EDZA may occur only with written approval from both:

- The Elite Hockey Commission Chair; and
- The respective EDZA Chair(s) involved.

4.9.2 All exceptional movement decisions shall be documented and retained for governance and audit purposes.

5. ARTICLE V – AMENDMENTS

5.1. The Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations shall be amended at the Commission's annual general meeting.

5.2. Amendments require a two-third majority vote of the members present, to carry.

5.3. Only amendments submitted in writing to the Commission Chair fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the annual general meeting shall be considered. It shall be the duty of the Commission Chair to submit a copy of the proposed amendments on to each member of the Executive and to each voting member at least one (1) week prior to the date of the annual general meeting.

5.4. Amendments shall be submitted by Executive Commission members.

6. BY-LAW 1 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

6.1. The Elite Hockey (EHC) Commission shall consist of:

- 6.1.1. The four (4) Elite Draw Zone Area (EDZA) Chairs
- 6.1.2. The NBMHC Chair
- 6.1.3. The Commission Chair

6.2. The Commission Chair shall be appointed by the HNB President and approved by the HNB Board of Directors. Term shall be 2 years and the Commission Chair may be re-appointed.

7. BY-LAW 2 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DUTIES AND POWERS

7.1. This Executive Committee will:

- 7.1.1. Report to the HNB Board of Directors through the HNB Elite Hockey Commissioner.
- 7.1.2. Report administratively directly with the HNB Office through the leagues.
- 7.1.3. Have sole discretion over the operations of elite AAA hockey in New Brunswick.
- 7.1.4. Establish discipline and sanctions for any EDZA that is not following the guidelines set out by the Association.
- 7.1.5. Ensure consistency throughout the province in the administration and presentation of the Hockey Development Model.
- 7.1.6. Ensure philosophy of Hockey Development Model is strictly adhered to.

8. BY-LAW 3 – EDZA BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

8.1. Each EDZA will have an EDZA Chair and a Board of Directors consisting of:

- EDZA Chair - Voting Member
- U14 AAA Director – Voting Member
- U13 AAA Director – Voting Member
- Treasurer – Voting Member
- Minor Hockey Representative – Voting Member

8.1.1. Board members may participate in on-ice, off-ice, or administrative activities in a volunteer capacity.

8.1.2. Individuals operating 'For Profit' hockey organizations cannot hold voting positions on EDZA Boards

- 8.2. The Commission Chair shall appoint the four (4) EDZA Chairs – North and South in even HNB AGM's and East and West in odd HNB AGM's. Terms shall be two years and may be re-appointed.
- 8.3. Each EDZA Board will support the structure and teams for elite development hockey in their respective EDZA. The goal is to ensure that all Districts in the EDZA are fairly represented.

9. BY-LAW 4 – MEETINGS

- 9.1. The Commission's annual general meeting shall be held no later than the last weekend in May.
- 9.2. Voting members at the Association AGM shall be those Executive positions noted in By-Law 1.1. Each voting position may be represented by an alternate or designate with written notice of same to the Commission Chair 48 hours prior to the Annual General Meeting. In event of a tied vote the Commission Chair shall be entitled to a second vote. 50% plus one shall form a quorum at the Annual General Meeting.
- 9.3. Attendance at the Annual General Meeting will be limited to the Executive Commission Standing invitation shall be made to members of HNB Board of Directors through the Commission Chair and to HNB Minor Hockey Executive Council through the Minor Chair.

10. REGULATIONS – MISCELLANEOUS

- 10.1. Where any matter is not dealt with within the EHC Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations, but is dealt with within the HNB Constitution, By-Laws or Regulations, then provisions of the HNB Constitution, By-Law and Regulations shall apply.
- 10.2. Any matter not dealt with within the HNB Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations and the NBMHC Operation Manual shall be dealt with at any EHC meeting by a majority vote of the members present, provided such matter is not in conflict with the Hockey Canada or HNB Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations and the NBMHC Operation Manual.
- 10.3. Sanctions to be applied against EDZA's, Leagues or teams operating within an EDZA will be at the discretion of the EHC Executive Committee.
- 10.4. Without limiting the generality of Regulation 102, sanctions are to be applied if EDZA's, Leagues or teams within the EDZA are considered to be operating outside of the accepted recommendations of the Elite Hockey Development Model.

10.5. Sanctions will be in the form of suspensions or removal of Leagues, teams or EDZA"s from participating within the Elite Hockey Development programs including the provincial playoff format. Sanctions shall not be monetary.