

# NBMHC PROVINCIAL AND ZONE CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

**2026 – 2027 SEASON**

## CLASSIFICATION

1. For provincial championship play Associations/community clubs teams registering with a New Brunswick Minor Hockey Council League will be classified AA, A, B and C annually.

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

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. 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 U11, 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 and U9 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.

Each zone must develop a process to determine Provincial Qualification.

This process must:

- a. Be reviewed and include feedback from Minor Hockey Associations.
- b. Be submitted to the Minor Council Chair and Executive Director no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>.
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. **U11 / U13 Provincial tournaments will be held March 19-21, 2027, and U15 / U18 C Provincial tournaments will be held March 26-28, 2027.** 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 all 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 by one and the host zone will send an additional one to three teams. All teams, excluding the host, will pay a maximum entry fee of \$1000.00 per team (excluding U11) to the Hosting Zone. The max fee for U11 Provincials is \$800. 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. The Central U18 League will determine dates and locations for the U18 Competitive Provincials.

Division	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029
U-11	C	B	A
U-13	B	A	D
U-15	D	C	B
U-18	A	D	C

15. The zone designated to submit a hosting application for a respective Provincial Championship category shall receive first consideration in the selection process, **provided a complete bid application is submitted. The host site for Provincial Championships shall be selected based on the information and details provided within the bid application.**

**b. If no bids are received, a one-week extension will be granted. If no bids are submitted during this period, the Championship will be cancelled.**
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 U11, 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. Schedules for zone tournaments will be approved by the District Directors of the respective zone.

18. All zones must declare representatives at the AA, A, B and C, levels eleven days prior to the provincial tournament or the zone will be ineligible for Provincials.
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, B, and U18 C Provincial tournaments will follow the schedule templates outlined below. Game times will be adhered to; however, match-ups may be adjusted as required.**
- b. The below schedules are templates. The final schedules will be created by Minor Council.
- c. **Any changes required due to unforeseen circumstances (including power outages, weather delays, or similar situations) must receive approval from the HNB Minor Council Chair.**

### AA, A, B and C:

Group "A"		Group "B"	
1- ZONE A	#2 team	5- Zone A	#1 team
2- ZONE B	#2 team	6- Zone B	#1 team
3- ZONE C	#1 team	7- Zone C	#2 team
4- ZONE D	#1 team	8- Zone D	#2 team

### TWO RINK SCHEDULE – U15 / U18 C

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 – U15 / U18 C

Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
1000h	1 & 2	900h	8 & 5	1000h	2B & 1A
1200h	3 & 4	1100h	6 & 7	1200h	2A & 1B
1400h	5 & 6	1300h	1 & 3		
1600h	7 & 8	1500h	2 & 4	1600h	Finals
1800h	4 & 1	1700h	7 & 5		
2000h	2 & 3	1900h	8 & 6		

**TWO RINK SCHEDULE – U13**

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	1945h 7 & 8	2 & 3	1145h 6 & 7		
		2 & 4	1600h 8 & 6	Finals	1400h Finals
		1 & 3	1745h 7 & 5		

**ONE RINK SCHEDULE – U13**

Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
1000h	1 & 2	900h	8 & 5	1000h	2B & 1A
1145h	3 & 4	1045h	6 & 7	1200h	2A & 1B
1330h	5 & 6	1230h	1 & 3		
1515h	7 & 8	1415h	2 & 4	1600h	Finals
1700h	4 & 1	1600h	7 & 5		
1845h	2 & 3	1745h	8 & 6		

**TWO RINK SCHEDULE – U11**

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	900h 2B & 1A
3 & 4	1930h 7 & 8	2 & 3	1130h 6 & 7		
		2 & 4	1600h 8 & 6	Finals	1400h Finals
		1 & 3	1730h 7 & 5		

**ONE RINK SCHEDULE – U11**

Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
1200h	1 & 2	900h	8 & 5	900h	2B & 1A
1330h	3 & 4	1030h	6 & 7	1030h	2A & 1B
1500h	5 & 6	1200h	1 & 3		
1630h	7 & 8	1330h	2 & 4	1500h	Finals
1800h	4 & 1	1500h	7 & 5		
1930h	2 & 3	1630h	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 20 players (including affiliates) in U11, U13 and U15 and 25 players in U18. Teams may only dress 20 players for a game. Players shall not be on two frozen rosters simultaneously.
22. Zone and Provincial tournament playoff games in U13, U15 and U18 will be 15-minute stop time periods with a **2-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. In U11 games will be two 12-minute periods, and one 15-minute period. There will be a **2-minute** bench rest period between the first and second and second and third period.

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 6.17.**

#### **RULE 6.17 – Hockey Canada Official Playing Rule**

- a) ***In the semi-final or 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 U11 and 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.
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.