

HALDIMAND LOCAL LEAGUE

BY-LAWS 2025 - 2026

(1) Membership

- (a) Team entries will consist of the following categories: U9, U11, U13, U15 & U18 as set out by the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA).
- (b) Each Association must provide a member to sit as a Haldimand Local League (HLL) Executive Board.
- (c) All money owed from the previous season must be paid before the centre is eligible to participate in the current season.
- (d) All championship trophies must be returned to the HLL Executive, either on or before the January meeting. Centres not returning trophies, at this time will pay a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per trophy. Each centre in possession of a Championship trophy will be responsible for the care and treatment of that trophy. If a trophy is found to be damaged, or is lost, the offending centre will be responsible for 100% of the cost of repair or replacement of the trophy. The repair, and or replacement will take place at a business approved by the HLL Executive
- (e) Any changes to the HLL Rules can only be made when four of the five centres are present. A tie vote on any proposed rule change will be deemed a defeat of the proposed change.

(2) Schedules

- (a) Each Association needs to advise of the number of teams & the game days/time for each Division no later than September 30th.
- (b) The number of games played shall be determined by September 30 for each Division. The goal is for each team to play a minimum of 18 regular season games.
- (c) Each Association will complete the regular season & playoff schedules for one Division as follows: U9 (Caledonia), U11(Cayuga), U13(Dunnville), U15(Glanbrook) & U18(Hagersville).
- (d) No games shall be scheduled between December 24 to January 1 inclusive. Similarly, games shall not be scheduled from the Friday before March Break to the Sunday following the end of March Break.
- (e) The start of the season will begin after Thanksgiving Weekend.

(f) The Finals will be hosted on a rotating basis on the last Saturday in March as follows:

	Haldimand LL Finals	U8 Super Sunday	U9 Super Sunday
2025/26	Cayuga	Cayuga	Hagersville
2026/27	Dunnville	Caledonia	Glanbrook
2027/28	Caledonia	Hagersville	Dunnville
2028/29	Glanbrook	Dunnville	Cayuga
2029/30	Hagersville	Cayuga	Caledonia
2030/31	Dunnville	Caledonia	Hagersville

(3) Games

- (a) Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) & Hockey Canada rules will apply in the absence of applicable HLL Rules.
- (b) Suspensions will apply as per OMHA rules. HLL has the right to increase the minimum suspensions where circumstances warrant. For this purpose, a Discipline Committee will be established as needed. The committee shall be comprised of members of the Executive, less members of the association(s) directly involved, and the Regional Director (RD) or their designate. All decisions of the Discipline Committee are final. HLL agrees to adopt the **"Public Conduct on County Property Policy"** as part of their (off) Ice rules.
- (c) Playing time will be in accordance with OMHA Rules. U9, half-ice, shall see each game run two (2) twenty (20) minute running time periods. At a minimum, when playing full ice, U9 through U15, each game will consist of three 10-minute periods with a 50-minute curfew. U18 games will be 10-15-10 with a 60 minute curfew. At U9 through U15), a centre may choose to provide an optional 15-minute 3rd period if the proper amount of ice time is available in accordance with OMHA rules. All regular season and A & B division playoff games are subject to curfew. No curfew will be imposed for Semi-Final and Final Games.
- (d) Regulation OMHA Electronic Game Sheets will be used. These game sheets must be filled out completely and carefully, showing team name and game number as per the game schedule. In the event of a Match Penalty, the Home Centre Representative shall contact the HLL Convenor as soon as possible after the game to advise of same. Electronic game sheets shall be uploaded immediately following the game's completion.
- (e) Teams in U9 through to U18 may use Affiliated Players (AP), if required, to bring their rosters up to a maximum of 13 skaters. A team may only use an affiliated goaltender if

the team's regular goaltenders are not present at the start of the game. A team may only affiliate players from an age group immediately below and within the same category. A team can only include 6 affiliated players on a game sheet. The affiliation list of each team must be submitted to the OMHA Regional Director on or before January 15th. All centres must submit copies of its approved OMHA rosters by December 15 to the HLL Convenor. Any changes, (deletions/additions) to rosters must be forwarded by centres to HLL Convenor, or the original roster submitted will be considered final.

- (f) If a team fails to show for a scheduled game, with the exception of inclement weather with 3 hours minimum notice or in the absence of proper notification (48 hrs. by both home and visiting centre) and agreement of the convenors of the respective centres, there will be a \$250.00 fine to be paid by the offending centre to the offended centre.
- (g) Game Officials: **NO GAME WILL START WITHOUT TWO PROPERLY QUALIFIED OFFICIALS PRESENT.** U9(Full Ice Games) through to U15 games will operate under to the 2-official system; while 3 officials should be scheduled for all U18 games. One qualified Official is required for U9 Half Ice games to start.
- (h) Local League players who appear on an approved roster as Affiliated Players (APs), must play in 75% of their eligible HLL games in order to qualify to play in their HLL Semi-Final and Final games.
- (i) Warm-ups will be two (2) minutes.
- (j) Each team must play all regular season games to qualify for A & B division pool. Each team that qualifies will play Semi-Final, and possibly Final games. Failure to do so will result in the offending team losing its position in the Finals to the team they defeated in the Semi-Final or the next eligible team in the Semi-Finals. Offending centres will be responsible for paying a \$300.00 fine unless extenuating circumstances exist. The HLL Executive will have final say with respect to what constitutes extenuating circumstances.
- (k) HLL schedules must provide the same number of games for each team in a division pool. The number of games in a division will be determined at the start of each season, based on the number of teams entered by each centre and time available. Each team must provide ice to host an equal number of home games in their division pool. Should a centre be required to host the home games of another centre, the responsible centre will pay the host centre the cost of the ice rental plus all officials (on- and off-ice).
- (l) Game start times: Saturday not prior to 8:00 AM; Sunday not prior to 12:00 PM; weekdays not prior to 5:30 PM. U9 or U11 - no later than 7:30 PM; U13 games – no

later than 8:30 PM; U15 games - no later than 9:00 PM; and U18 games - no later than 9:30 PM. Start times outside of these guidelines must be mutually agreed upon by the centre contacts.

- (m) If a netminder should get hit in the head or face area, with a puck, or anything else, play shall stop, and the official shall check on the netminder's condition. The official is not considered a trainer in this instance, nor is a trainer required, unless the netminder feels it necessary. If the puck goes off the head, and directly into the net, the goal shall count; but if the puck goes anywhere other than in the net, play shall stop, and once the netminder is deemed fit for play to resume, a face-off shall take place in the current zone, as if the netminder had covered the puck.
- (n) Upon transitioning to full ice for the U9 division, there is a three-goal maximum per player per game. When a player scores more than their maximum allowable goals in a game, the next goal they score will be disallowed and the face-off will be held in the neutral zone outside of the player's defensive zone.
- (o) Proper sign-in sheets must be used. Coaches and Game Officials must sign in at the registration table in the presence of the hosting centre conveners or the hosting centre representatives. The hosting centre convenor or representative must sign the completed sheets acknowledging the witnessing of the aforementioned signatures. **This is for the Semi-Final and Final games ONLY**

(4) Team Composition

- (a) Players coming back to Local League from a Representative Team after December 31st will be moved up one category. Players moving down will be assessed as per the discretion of the HLL Executive.
- (b) Each player must register in their own division. If a player does not have the ability to compete in their division, the centre must request the player be allowed to play a division down before the season starts. Any player moving down must play in that division for the entire season.

(5) Suspensions

- (a) Suspensions shall be determined & served as per the current OMHA Manual of Operations
- (b) Any player who is assessed any three (3) Minor Penalties in the same game will be immediately ejected from that game and the penalty served by another player from

their team who was on the ice at the time of third infraction. For purposes of interpretation of this rule, any four-minute double minor penalty shall be counted as only one (1) penalty.

- (c) The Haldimand Local League Convenor must be notified of any suspension within 48 hours of offence/game within tournament play.
- (d) Any player at U18 and above receiving a 2 min body checking penalty (minor) will automatically receive a 10 minute misconduct. Any player receiving a second body checking penalty (minor) and automatically receiving a 10 minute misconduct will carry a 2 game suspension as per OMHA rule 4.7(c) – Second Misconduct Same Game. The referees would still have the ability to assess a major or match penalty for body checking if the situation warrants it under the defined playing rules.

(6) League Playoff Structure

- (a) Upon completion of the regular season, teams in each Division will be split into A & B pools if the number of teams allows.
- (b) All Teams will play the same number of A/B Playoff games within a Division.
- (c) Tie Breakers for A & B Split or after completion of round robin playoff games for Semi Final games will be determined by Section 7. If there is an odd number of teams in a Division the determining factor of if a team is placed in A or B Division will be based on a team's points percentage – if a team's points percentage is .500 or higher then they will be placed in A Division. Example – Division has 9 teams & the 5th place team has a point percentage of .500 then that team would be placed in the A Division.
- (d) For Semi Final Games within a Division, 1st Place will host 4th Place & 2nd Place will host 3rd Place. Winners of Semi Final Games advance to the Final Game.

(7) Tie Breakers

- (a) Tie Breakers to determine playoff seeding, round robin or playoffs are as follows.
 - a. head-to-head record between tied teams in current round.
 - b. most wins between tied teams in current round for all games played.
 - c. goal differential between tied teams in current round, only for games played between the tied teams.
 - d. least penalty minutes between tied teams in current round, only for games played between the tied teams.
 - e. coin toss via One Db website.