



## ISSUE #: 2020-010

October 9, 2020

**TO: BC Hockey Membership**

**SUBJECT: 2020 - 2021 Minimum Suspension Guidelines - Minor/Female**

---

**PLEASE ENSURE EVERY MEMBER OF YOUR TEAMS, LEAGUE OR ASSOCIATION IS MADE AWARE OF THIS BULLETIN.** These minimum suspension guidelines were reviewed in consultation with the minor hockey district associations in advance of the current season.

### **I. REFEREE GAME INCIDENT REPORTING PROCEDURES**

---

The Referee shall submit a report by way of the Hockey Canada Game Incident Report system available on the [eHockey](#) platform for all penalties incurred during BC Hockey sanctioned games as outlined below. In the case that two (2) Referees (4-official or 2-official system) were assigned to a game, the Referee or Official responsible for making the call requiring a report shall make the online submission. If a report is required for an infraction that was brought to the attention of the Referee by a Linesperson, the report must be submitted by the Referee and the Linesperson that brought the infraction to the Referee's attention must provide the reporting Referee with an email address and phone number that they can be contacted at, should a discipline administrator be required to follow up.

#### **Reportable Infractions:**

- a) Game Ejections: Head Contact Rule 6.5 (c)
- b) All Game Misconducts (Reminder: all major penalties have an automatic Game Misconduct)
- c) All Match Penalties
- d) All Gross Misconducts
- e) Violations of Rule 9.2 (Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Harassment of Officials) resulting in:
  - Game Misconduct
  - Gross Misconduct
- f) Violations of Rule 9.6 (Physical Harassment of Officials) resulting in a Match Penalty
- g) Violations of Rule 10.14 (Refusing to Start Play)
- h) Any unusual situations that should be brought to the attention of BC Hockey

All reports must be submitted using the online Game Incident Report system and must be submitted no later than 8:00am on the morning following any incident(s). Officials have the option of inputting their email address as a 'recipient' within the electronic game sheet sign-off page when they verify the electronic game log or capture a clear and legible image of a paper game sheet using a smart phone or tablet; to assist with completing their report. Officials are encouraged where possible to submit the online game incident report immediately after the game if they have access to the internet from a smart phone to prevent any unnecessary delays in submission.





Please find a link to the [instructional video](#) that outlines the online Game Incident Reporting System. Should you have any questions please contact the BC Hockey office [info@bchockey.net](mailto:info@bchockey.net).

## II. HEAD CONTACT MINOR & DOUBLE MINOR PENALTY ACCUMULATIONS

Reducing head injuries is a priority for BC Hockey and strict enforcement of minimum suspensions guidelines for player identified as repeat offenders in this category are outlined below. Minor hockey leagues and discipline administrators will be required to monitor and track accumulated minutes in minor and double minor penalties assessed to players under Rule 6.5 (a) and / or (b) Head Contact.

RULE 6.5	RULE	PENALTY DESCRIPTION: HEAD CONTACT	MINIMUM SUSPENSION
	6.5 (a) (b)	Upon receipt of a total twenty (20) minutes in penalties as a result of accumulated minor or double minor penalties under Rule 6.5 – Head Contact within the same season	1 Game
		Upon receipt of a total thirty-two (32) minutes in penalties as a result of accumulated minor or double minor penalties under Rule 6.5 – Head Contact within the same season	3 Games
		Upon receipt of a total forty (40) minutes in penalties as a result of accumulated minor or double minor penalties under Rule 6.5 – Head Contact within the same season	Indefinite Suspension*
6.5 (c)	Upon receipt of a Game Ejection under Head Contact rule 6.5 (c)	1 Game	
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Game Ejection under Rule 6.5 (c) within the same season by any individual player	3 Games	
	3 <sup>rd</sup> or subsequent Game Ejection under Rule 6.5 (c) within the same season	Indefinite Suspension*	

\*All indefinite suspensions to a player under this section shall be no less than five (5) games

## III. MAJOR AND GAME MISCONDUCT MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS

Should a Game Misconduct associated to one (1) of the following major penalty infractions occur within the last ten (10) minutes of regular playing time or any time in overtime, Rule 4.6 (c) will also apply resulting in an additional one (1) game suspension to anything prescribed in this section.

MAJOR PENALTIES & GAME MISCONDUCTS	RULE	PENALTY DESCRIPTION: NON-FIGHTING MAJOR PENALTIES	MINIMUM SUSPENSION	
	6.2	Boarding	1 Game	
	6.2	Body Checking	1 Game	
	6.3	Charging	1 Game	
	6.4	Checking from Behind	1 Game	
	6.5	Head Contact	2 Game	
	6.6	Kneeing	1 Game	
	7.3	Interference / Protection of the Goaltender (Goaltender Interference)	1 Game	
	8.2	Cross-Checking	1 Game	
	8.4	Slashing	1 Game	
	CODE	ACCUMULATION SANCTIONS - PLAYER		MINIMUM SUSPENSION
	AS104	Receiving two (2) Majors in the same season for any of the above infractions		2 Games
	AS105	Receiving three (3) Majors in the same season for any of the above infractions		4 Games
	AS106	Receiving four (4) Majors in the same season for any of the above infractions		Indefinite Suspension*
CODE	ACCUMULATION SANCTIONS – TEAM OFFICIAL		MINIMUM SUSPENSION	
AS112	Team receives three (3) Majors in the same game for any of the above infractions		1 Game	
AS113	For a 2 <sup>nd</sup> violation of the above		3 Games	
AS114	For a 3 <sup>rd</sup> violation of the above		Indefinite Suspension*	

\*All indefinite suspensions under this section will be no less than six (6) games

**NOTE:** For the purpose of this bulletin, all 'accumulation sanctions' are to be served in addition to the applicable minimum suspension for any original infraction.

E.g. Should a player receive a Major penalty and Game Misconduct for one (1) of the above infractions, they will receive a one (1) game suspension. Should this penalty be the player's second major penalty of the season under this section, the player will receive an additional two (2) game suspension (Code AS104), for a total of a three (3) game suspension.





FIGHTING AND OTHER ALTERCATIONS CONTINUED	CODE	FIGHTING PRE-GAME / POST-GAME ALTERCATIONS	MINIMUM SUSPENSION
	PG101	Any player involved in pre-game or post-game altercations where Majors and Game Misconducts are assessed for fighting	2 Games
	PG102	Coach of team whose players are so penalized	Indefinite Suspension*
	PG103	Coach of any team involved in a pre-game or post-game brawl	Indefinite Suspension*
	RULE	FIGHTING	MINIMUM SUSPENSION
	6.7 (a)	Any player who engages in his 1 <sup>st</sup> fight in a season	1 Game
	6.7 (h)	Third (3rd) player in a fight	2 Games
	6.7 (h)	Any player receiving a fighting major penalty, which is a result of a second or subsequent fight during the same stoppage of play.	2 Games
	RULE	INSTIGATOR & AGGRESSOR	MINIMUM SUSPENSION
	AS120	Instigator or Aggressor 1 <sup>st</sup> Offence	1 Game
	AS121	Instigator or Aggressor 2 <sup>nd</sup> Offence	2 Games
	AS122	Instigator or Aggressor 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offence	3 Games
	AS122	Coach of a team whose player is penalized for a 3 <sup>RD</sup> offence of Instigator or Aggressor	3 Games
	RULE	LEAVING THE PLAYERS BENCH	MINIMUM SUSPENSION
	9.5 (b)	Any player identified as the first to leave the players' bench during a fight	3 Games
	9.5 (d)	Any player identified as the first to leave the penalty bench during a fight	4 Games
	9.5 (i)	The Coach of the team whose player is penalized under the above two points.	3 Games
	9.5 (c)	The Coach whose player left the player bench but is not identified as the first to leave the players or penalty bench during an on-ice altercation	1 Game
	CODE	ACCUMULATION SANCTIONS - PLAYER	MINIMUM SUSPENSION
	AS117	Player receiving 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fighting Major Penalty Offence in the season	2 Games
AS118	Player receiving 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fighting Major Penalty Offence in the season	4 Games	
AS119	Player receiving 4 <sup>th</sup> Fighting Major Penalty Offence in the season	Indefinite Suspension**	
CODE	ACCUMULATION SANCTIONS - TEAM OFFICIAL	MINIMUM SUSPENSION	
AS118	Coach whose team engages in three (3) or more fights in a game	1 Game	
AS118	For a 2 <sup>nd</sup> violation of the above	3 Games	
AS118	For a 3 <sup>rd</sup> violation of the above	Indefinite Suspension*	

\*All indefinite suspensions to a Team Official under this section shall be no less than three (3) games

\*\*All indefinite suspensions under this section will be no less than six (6) games

#### IV. GROSS MISCONDUCTS MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS

Should a Gross Misconduct associated to one (1) of the following infractions occur within the last ten (10) minutes of regular playing time or any time in overtime, Rule 4.7 (c) will also apply resulting in an additional one (1) game suspension.

- All Gross Misconduct penalties will receive a minimum suspension of three (3) games, if not otherwise directly referenced within this Section or Section IV.
- Gross Misconducts for racial slurs and obscene gestures in Minor Hockey will receive a minimum suspension of four (4) games.
- All Gross Misconducts will be reviewed and further disciplinary action may be taken on gross misconducts for obscene gestures and harassment of officials.

GROSS MISCONDUCTS	RULE	PENALTY DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM SUSPENSION
	3.6	Removing Helmet	3 Games
	4.7	Gross Misconduct for making a travesty of the game	3 Games
	9.2 (f)	Verbal taunts, insults, racial slurs or intimidation based on discriminatory grounds	4 Games* or 6 Games
	CODE	ACCUMULATION SANCTIONS - PLAYER	MINIMUM SUSPENSION
	AS110	Any Player receiving two (2) Game or Gross Misconducts under Rule 9.2 in a season	4 Games
	AS111	Any Player receiving three (3) Game or Gross Misconducts under Rule 9.2 in a season	Indefinite Suspension*
	CODE	ACCUMULATION SANCTIONS - TEAM OFFICIAL	MINIMUM SUSPENSION
	AS115	Coach whose team receives two (2) Game or Gross Misconducts under Rule 9.2	4 Games
	AS115	Coach who receives two (2) Game or Gross Misconducts under Rule 9.2 in a season	4 Games
AS116	Coach who receives three (3) Game or Gross Misconducts under Rule 9.2 in a season	Indefinite Suspension*	





\*Should a participant be suspended under Rule 9.2 (f) they will be permitted to see that suspension reduced by completing the online Respect in Sport (RIS) module, resulting in their suspension being reduced to four (4) games. If the participant already has a valid RIS credential on their HCR profile then they must serve the suspension in full with no reduction. The suspended participant is responsible for all costs associated to completing the RIS [online education program](#).

\*\*All indefinite suspensions under this section will be no less than six (6) games

**NOTE:** For the purpose of this bulletin, all “accumulation sanctions” are to be served in addition to the applicable minimum suspension for the original infraction.

E.g. Should a player or team official receive a Gross Misconduct for making a ‘travesty of the game’, they will receive the minimum suspension of three (3) games. Should this penalty be the player’s second Gross Misconduct of the season under this section, the player or team official will receive an additional four (4) game suspension, for a total of seven (7) games.

## V. HARASSMENT OF OFFICIALS – Hockey Canada Rule 9.2

Should a Game or Gross Misconduct associated to one (1) of the following infractions occur within the last ten (10) minutes of regular playing time or any time in overtime, Rule 4.6 (c) or Rule 4.7 (c) will also apply resulting in an additional one (1) game suspension.

RULE 9.2	RULE	PENALTY DESCRIPTION: HARASSMENT OF OFFICIAL	MINIMUM SUSPENSION
	9.2	Harassment of Officials - When Game Misconduct is assessed	2 Games
	9.2	Harassment of Officials - When Gross Misconduct is assessed	3 Games
	RULE	PENALTY DESCRIPTION: HARASSMENT OF OFFICIAL	MINIMUM SUSPENSION
	AS110	Player receiving two (2) Game or Gross Misconducts under Rule 9.2 in a season	4 Games
	AS111	Player receiving three (3) Game or Gross Misconducts under Rule 9.2 in a season	Indefinite Suspension*
	RULE	PENALTY DESCRIPTION: HARASSMENT OF OFFICIAL	MINIMUM SUSPENSION
	AS115	Coach who receives two (2) Game or Gross Misconducts under Rule 9.2 in a season	4 Games
	AS116	Coach who receives three (3) Game or Gross Misconducts under Rule 9.2 in a season	Indefinite Suspension*

\*All indefinite suspensions under this section will be no less than six (6) games

## VI. MATCH PENALTY MINIMUM SUSPENSIONS

MATCH PENALTIES	RULE	PENALTY DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM SUSPENSION IF NO INJURY RESULTS	MINIMUM SUSPENSION IF INJURY RESULTS
	6.1 (a)	Attempt to Injure or Deliberate Injury	Indefinite Suspension*	
	6.1 (b)	Head Butting	3 Games	6 Games
	6.1 (c)	Kicking	3 Games	6 Games
	6.1 (d)	Hair pulling or grabbing facial protector, helmet, chinstrap or throat protector of opponent	3 Games	6 Games
	6.1 (e)	Use of facial protector as a weapon	3 Games	6 Games
	6.1 (f)			
	8.1	High Sticking, Slashing, Cross Check, Butt-end or Spearing	3 Games	6 Games
	8.5			
	6.2	Boarding	3 Games	6 Games
	6.2	Body Checking	3 Games	6 Games
	6.3	Charging	3 Games	6 Games
	6.4	Checking from Behind	4 Games	Indefinite Suspension*
	6.5	Head Contact	5 Games	Indefinite Suspension*
	6.6	Kneeing / Elbowing	3 Games	6 Games
	6.7 (e)	Wearing ring, tape or material on hands & using it to gain an advantage or inflict punishment	3 Games	6 Games
	7.4 (b)	Tripping (Slew-Footing)	3 Games	6 Games





9.6 (a)	Abuse of Official(s)	3 Games (or 15 days)
9.6 (b)	Abuse of Official(s)	6 Games (or 30 days)
9.6 (c)	Abuse of Official(s)	12 Games (or 72 days)
9.7	Spitting	Indefinite Suspension*
<b>CODE</b>	<b>ACCUMULATION SANCTION - PLAYER</b>	<b>MINIMUM SUSPENSION</b>
AS107	In addition to the minimum suspension, a player accumulating two (2) Match penalties under 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 in same season for any of the above infractions	4 Games
AS108	In addition to the minimum suspension, a player accumulating two (2) Match penalties under 6.4, 6.5 in same season for any of the above infractions	5 Games
AS109	Any player receiving three (3) Match penalties for any of the above infractions	Indefinite Suspension*
AS109	Any player receiving two (2) or more Match penalties under 9.6.	Indefinite Suspension*
<b>CODE</b>	<b>ACCUMULATION SANCTION – TEAM OFFICIAL</b>	<b>MINIMUM SUSPENSION</b>
AS107	Coach of team that receives two (2) Match penalties in the same game	1 Game
AS107	For a 2 <sup>nd</sup> violation of a team receiving two (2) Match penalties in the same game	3 Games
AS107	For a 3 <sup>rd</sup> violation of a team receiving two (2) Match penalties in the same game	Indefinite Suspension*

\*All indefinite suspensions under 6.1 (a) and 9.7 will be no less than three (3) games and those under 6.4, 6.5, AS109 and As107 will be no less than eight (8) games.

## VII. REFUSING TO START PLAY

Team officials penalized under Hockey Canada Rule 10.14 (a, b & c), Refusing to Start Play, including withdrawing a team from play, shall be subject to an indefinite suspension pending an investigation.

## VIII. DRESSING ROOMS – Hockey Canada Rule 1.13 (c)

Team Officials penalized under Hockey Canada Rule 1.13 (c) shall be subject to indefinite suspension pending an investigation.

## IX. ALCOHOL, DRUGS, TOBACCO AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

BC Hockey policy prohibits the use of tobacco, cannabis, alcohol, drugs and banned / restricted / controlled substances during BC Hockey sanctioned events hosted by BC Hockey or any Minor Hockey Association (MHA) / Member, in accordance with policy 4.06. BC Hockey is sincere in the duty to uphold the societal law in which members operate regarding illegal activities.

All incidents must be investigated and dealt with on an individual basis. The recommended minimum suspension for violations within Section VIII is 30 days from all participation within the association, this includes practices. Associations and teams have the responsibility to investigate all situations, if there are questions or concerns, please contact the MHA President or BC Hockey.

## X. SERVING OF SUSPENSIONS

### A. General

1. The suspensions within this Bulletin are minimum guidelines and accordingly may be subject to lengthier suspensions as they relate to the severity of the infraction(s). Any of the above noted penalties may be subject to Indefinite Suspension.
2. All minimum suspensions shall commence upon the conclusion of the game in which the infraction(s) occurred.
3. There shall be no appeal of any suspension imposed that is applied in accordance with the prescribed automatic minimum suspension indicated under the rules set forth in this Bulletin.
4. For the purpose of this Bulletin when a suspension has been applied, the suspended player or team official is prohibited from participating in any **game** sanctioned by BC Hockey / Hockey Canada for the duration of the suspension.
5. Please note, team officials, players, or officials may not practice with their team during the term of the suspensions listed within this bulletin if the suspension exceeds 30 days. If a suspension would have **exceeded** 30 days but is extended due to the rules regarding carry-over





suspension, BC Hockey may consider whether to grant permission for a player, team official or official to participate in practices or tryouts.

6. All suspensions will be in effect until midnight on the date of expiry in accordance with the corresponding number of days or after the number of games have been served as outlined in the chart below, whichever expires first. The 'game(s)' to 'days' ratio is applicable to all player and team official suspensions:

DETERMINATION OF SUSPENSION - GAME TO DAY RATIO	
MINIMUM SUSPENSION IN GAMES	MINIMUM SUSPENSION IN DAYS
1 Game	7 Days
2 Games	10 Days
3 Games	15 Days
4 Games	21 Days
5 Games	25 Days
6 Games	30 Days
<b>*When minimum suspensions are applied and due to accumulations or multiple infractions the combined total exceeds the above guidelines, all additional games shall be served at a ratio of 1 game or 7 days</b>	

7. All participant suspensions must be served according to the schedule of the team that the participant received the suspension with; primary, affiliate or dual registered team. Therefore, participants are not permitted to count games from multiple teams towards the serving of a suspension.
8. Any suspension(s) received by a participant that cannot be served due to the conclusion of their final season of participant eligibility within the minor hockey system (graduating due to age limits) must be documented on their HCR profile with an 'indefinite end date.' The prescribed duration of the suspension as per this bulletin must be indicated within the notes of the suspension so the suspension may be served upon any future Hockey Canada participation.

**NOTE 1:** All suspensions begin immediately upon assessment of the penalty.

**NOTE 2:** For the purposes of applying a suspension measured in days:

- a) The suspension time period shall commence at 12:00am on the day following a suspendable infraction.
- b) A participant serving a suspension will be deemed ineligible until midnight on the date of expiry noted within a suspension notification.
- c) In cases where it is recommended that a single incident requires a suspension beyond the minimum prescribed within this Bulletin and the suspension is greater than 60 days, the Chief Executive Officer will impose an Indefinite Suspension and initiate an investigation [Policy 4.03.01 L].

## B. Carry-over Suspensions

- i. For a suspension made pursuant to this Bulletin that is in effect immediately prior to the Christmas break or on days between the last scheduled league or tournament game prior to Christmas break shall not be included in determining the number of days served.
- ii. For a suspension made pursuant to this Bulletin that is in effect immediately prior to and does not expire prior to the conclusion of the league and / or playoff games, the suspension will be served at the start of the next season. The start of the next season shall be deemed to be:
  - a) In any district that has adopted a regulation or policy setting a start date for carry-over suspension or the start of the season, the date so specified.
  - b) In all other districts, the first scheduled exhibition or league game of the season in which the player would otherwise have been rostered to play (or, in the case of an official, in which the official would have been eligible for assignment at their level of qualification);





- c) In any event, no later than September 1.
- iii. Any player registered as an affiliate that receives a suspension with their primary team resulting in a carry-over scenario due to the conclusion of that team's season may serve the remainder of their suspension with their affiliate team. This may be done under the guideline that the player actively participates with the affiliate team prior to the conclusion of the current season. Should the affiliate teams' season not conclude prior to the end of the prescribed suspension or upon the expiration of the suspension the player does not actively participate in a league, playoff or tournament game with the affiliate team; then the suspension shall carry-over to the following season according to the original suspension notification timelines.
  - iv. Any Team Official serving a suspension under "Section IX A. 6" of this Bulletin that is registered with multiple teams must serve their suspension according to the schedule of the team with which they received a suspension. If it is not possible to serve a suspension prior to the conclusion of the current season the remainder of the suspension may be served with an additionally registered team(s).
  - v. Players who have a suspension that carries over past the final game of a season shall be eligible to participate in tryouts, that occur between the conclusion of the current season and the start of the next. Tryouts would include any BC Hockey High Performance camps during the summer. However, the suspended player will be prohibited from playing in regular season games until the suspension has been served in full. Should the player's carry-over suspension have more than thirty (30) days remaining upon the conclusion of the current season, the BC Hockey Minor Discipline Coordinator must provide a recommendation of support or opposition regarding that player's participation in try-outs. A final decision will be made by the BC Hockey CEO.
  - vi. For players attempting to transition from Minor to Junior hockey upon the start of a new season but they are under a carry-over suspension situation, Junior exhibition games are considered components of the tryout process. Therefore, a minor player 'trying out' for a Junior team is permitted to participate in Junior evaluations, camps and exhibition games while their suspension remains in carry-over status. The number of games and / or days remaining in the suspension will remain on hold until the conclusion of the Junior evaluation or exhibition season and the player must serve the remainder of their carry-over suspension upon the start of the regular season within the Junior league or upon the player's return to Minor hockey.

Should the suspended player's carry-over suspension have more than thirty (30) days remaining upon the start of the Junior evaluation, try out or exhibition period for the upcoming season, the BC Hockey Minor Discipline Coordinator must provide a recommendation of support or opposition regarding that player's participation in try-outs. A final decision will be made by the BC Hockey CEO.

Should the suspended player be carded by the Junior team during the exhibition season and the team chooses to have the player begin serving the suspension during the exhibition schedule, they are permitted to do so and the carry-over suspension will recommence upon the first game that the player sits out.

### **C. Players**

A Player receiving a suspension as a result of any penalty outlined in this Bulletin may be prohibited from playing in games as well as acting as an Official or in any other capacity with a Team, League or Association within BC Hockey.





A Player receiving a suspension as a result of any penalty outlined in this bulletin shall be prohibited from playing in games as well as from acting as an Official or in any other official capacity with a Team, League or Association within BC Hockey.

#### **D. Team Officials**

A Team Official receiving a suspension as a result of any penalty outlined in this Bulletin shall be prohibited from participating with their Team(s) from one (1) hour prior to any games until one (1) hour after the conclusion of any game, acting as an Official or in any other capacity with a Team, League or Association within BC Hockey.

Team Officials who have a suspension that carries over past the final game of a season shall adhere to the same suspension stipulations that applied upon the conclusion of the previous season as noted above, with the suspension continuing with start of the next season.

#### **E. Officials**

An Official receiving a suspension under any regulation or policy governing the officiating program shall be prohibited from officiating until the conclusion of the suspension, plus playing in any games or acting in any official capacity with a Team, League or Association within BC Hockey.

An Official who has a suspension that carries over past the final game of a season shall be permitted to attend an HCOP clinic for certification purposes while under suspension but will be prohibited from upgrading to a higher level of certification while under suspension.

#### **F. Other Suspensions**

Any Player, Team Official or Official suspended by BC Hockey or under a suspension imposed by a Team, League or Association that has been honoured by BC Hockey shall be prohibited from playing, acting as an official or acting in any capacity with a Team, League or Association within BC Hockey.

#### **G. Spring/Summer Hockey**

BC Hockey sanctions Spring Hockey Tournaments and teams between April 1 and July 31. Spring/Summer sanctioned tournament games shall not be included in determining the number of days or games served as they relate to regular season exhibition, league or playoff games suspensions carried forward to the following season.

#### **H. Video Review**

Please see Section 4.04 of the [BC Hockey Policy Manual](#) for qualifications, guidelines and process for submitting requests for video review.

