



NIHL Rules and Regulations

1. FINANCE AND REGISTRATION

- a. Each player **MUST** have a valid membership of the NIHL type on the Newcastle Northstars Ice Hockey Club (NNIHC) eSportsdesk page.
- b. Each player **MUST** have completed an online registration with the NIHL and paid the minimum amount required to take the ice.
- c. Players must be in good financial standing with the NNIHC and/or Ice Hockey New South Wales (IHNSW) for all teams they have been involved with (e.g. rep teams, state teams, etc.) or have approval from the NNIHC treasurer to register and play in the NIHL.
- d. Any player who is not registered or un-financial found playing on a team will be considered an 'illegal player'. This player will not be eligible to play and will constitute forfeiture of the game (loss of 2 competition points), plus an additional loss of 2 competition points from their teams total. The illegal player will also be issued with a **\$50.00 fine** and remain suspended until a payment plan has been reached with the NNIHC and the NIHL.
- e. Any team found playing players, registered or unregistered, under another player's name will be assessed the following penalties:
1st OFFENCE:
Team will forfeit the game, plus a loss of an additional 2 competition points. The illegal player will be sent to the NNIHC tribunal and face a **\$50.00 fine**.
2nd OFFENCE:
Team will forfeit the game, plus a loss of an additional 2 competition points. The team will also become ineligible for the playoffs and face a **\$100.00 team fine**.

2. DIVISION AGE REQUIREMENTS

Division	Minimum Age	Maximum Age
D1	16 Years	-
D2	15 Years	-
D3	14 Years	-
D4	14 Years	-
D5	14 Years	-
D MAJOR JR	12 Years	16 Years
D JR	7 Years	12 Years

3. PLAYER USE & PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY

- a. Each player is allowed to play on ONE (1) team only within the league during each season, unless traded by league management or playing as an affiliate player in a higher division. The only exception for this is players who are within the age bracket for the Major Jr division.
- b. If a player is within the age bracket of Major Jr, they **MUST** play the minimum amount of games required to be eligible for layoffs in the Major Jr division.
- c. If a player is within the age bracket of Major Jr, but also playing in D2, then they will not be required to play in the Major Jr division.

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- d. Each team MUST use their roster goaltender or an affiliate goaltender for all playoff games unless a substitute is approved by NIHL management.
- e. Goaltenders CANNOT play for another team within their division without written league permission.
- f. Players must play in a minimum of five (5) regular season games in the league to be eligible for the playoffs in divisions 1-5, and a minimum of 3 regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs in the Junior & Major Junior divisions, unless a written exception is granted by NIHL Management.

4. AFFILIATE PLAYERS

- a. Players can ONLY play as an affiliate player in a HIGHER division than they currently play in.
- b. To use an affiliate player, teams must make an online request via the NIHL website Affiliate Player tab. Requests must be received no later than 5.00pm on game day.
- c. Players can play as an affiliate player for a maximum of five (5) regular season games in divisions 1-5. Once a player plays their sixth affiliate game, they then become a permanent player in the higher division and are no longer eligible to play down in the lower division.
- d. There is no charge for players to play as an affiliate; however, players must be up to date with their league fees.
- e. Teams can use as many affiliate players as they like but cannot dress more than 16 players (15 skaters + 1 goaltender) for a single game.
- f. A player can play in a lower division as a goaltender. In this case, the players' statistics (GP'd etc) will be tracked separately; however if this player/goaltender gets suspended in either position, then he/she will be unable to play at either position until the suspension is served in the division it was received.

5. SPARE PLAYERS

- a. To use a spare player, teams must make an online request via the NIHL website Spare Player tab. Requests must be received no later than 5.00pm on game day.
- b. Spare players must pay a game fee of **\$40.00** to the scorer's box prior to the game, before they can take the ice.
- c. D1 teams cannot use spare players.
- d. D2 teams cannot use spare players.
- e. D3 teams cannot use spare players.
- f. D4 teams can request spare players at any time and are subject to league approval.
- g. D5 teams can request spare players at any time and are subject to league approval.
- h. D MAJOR JR teams cannot use spare players.
- i. D JR teams cannot use spare players.

6. UNDER 18 PLAYERS AND TEAMS

- a. U18 players can only take part in a game where his or her team has each of the following on the bench:
 - 1. IHA qualified & registered coach from the roster present (can be dressed as a player or goaltender in that game)
 - 2. IHA registered manager on the bench (cannot be dressed as a player or goaltender in that game)
- b. U18 officials (coach & manager) must be added to the official game sheet as staff.

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7. FORFEITS

- a. First forfeit will result in zero (0) points awarded to the team which declared the forfeit. Non offending team will receive two (2) competition points and +five (5) goals added to their season's total.
- b. Second forfeit will result in zero (0) points awarded, plus a **\$50.00** fine to the team which declared the forfeit. Non offending team will receive two (2) competition points and +five (5) goals to their season's total.

8. CANCELLED & RESCHEDULED GAMES

- a. Only NIHL management can cancel or reschedule games. Any rescheduled games will be moved to the next available time slot with at least 24 hours notice given to team captains. It is then the captain's responsibility to contact each player and notify them of the new game time.

9. ACCUMULATION OF PENALTY MINUTES & SUSPENSIONS

Penalty Minutes	Suspension	Fine
25 Minutes	1 Game	\$25.00
35 Minutes	2 Games	\$25.00
50 Minutes	Ineligible for playoffs	-

- a. Players who receive their third minor penalty in a single game will be ejected from the remainder of the game. No further penalty minutes will be added to their season total from this ejection.
- b. If a team accumulates more than 120 minutes in penalties, they will face a team fine of **\$50.00** plus the loss of two (2) competition points. This total is inclusive of any Game Misconduct penalty minutes players have incurred whilst playing for the team.
- c. All fines are to be paid before the player returns. Fines are to be paid to the timekeepers or league management prior to the suspended player taking the ice. (Timekeepers do not carry change)
- d. Any player caught participating or playing in a game while under suspension, shall have their entire suspension doubled and their team will default any games that they have participated in.
- e. If a player is unable to pay their fine, they can nominate to add an extra game suspension in replacement of the fine, to the total of their fine cost. Each game is worth **\$25.00**.
- f. Teams are responsible for the sitting out of their players suspensions. If a team is unsure of the duration of a suspension, they need to contact league management for clarification.
- g. Any Major (5min) penalty will come with an automatic Game Misconduct (20min).
- h. Any Game Misconduct received in the last half of the third period or in overtime will result in an automatic 1x Game suspension.
- i. Any suspension of 2x Game or less cannot be appealed.
- j. Any suspension of 3x Games or more will be referred to the NNIHC tribunal for review and possible further supplementary discipline.

10. MISCONDUCTS

- a. Any player who receives a ten-minute misconduct, and further game misconduct penalty for continued abuse of officials, will be required to attend an in-person meeting with NIHL management.

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11. GENERAL PROCEDURES

- a. Teams must have a minimum of 5 players + 1 goaltender OR 6 players ready to start the game. If the team does not have the required number of players, the game will be defaulted and the applicable penalties for forfeits will be assessed. The teams may use the ice for an exhibition game, but any penalties assessed in this game will be recorded and any suspensions will apply. The game sheet will be marked as 'default' with a 5-0 score against the forfeiting team. If the decision is made to play this exhibition game, the referees will stay and officiate it.
- b. NO BODY CHECKING hockey will be played. This is determined by the IIHF rule book and will be the referee's judgment call.
- c. Slap Shots are not permitted in D3, D4, D5, Major Junior & Junior. Play will be whistled down and a faceoff will take place one faceoff dot back toward the offending team's defensive zone if possible. Slap Shots are permitted in D1 & D2.
- d. Full face masks are required for Division 4, 5, Major Junior & Junior.
- e. Certified neck guards are mandatory for all players and goaltenders across all NIHL divisions.
- f. ICING – Both teams CAN substitute players once the play has been stopped for icing.
- g. Game and warm up pucks will be supplied by the league.
- h. ALL arena rules of behavior must be adhered to at all times.

12. DURATION OF GAMES

Divisions 1-5, Jr & Major Jr

Period	Time
Warm up	3 Minutes
Period 1	15 Minutes (run time)
Period 2	15 Minutes (run time)
Period 3	20 Minutes (run time*)
<i>*Last 2 minutes of the game will run as stop time if the score is within 2 goals <u>by the 2 minute mark only.</u></i>	
<i>*Jr & Major Jr play 15 Minutes for period 3</i>	
Overtime	Regular season – YES (3min 3v3 sudden death, if no goals, then result is a tie) – stop time included. Playoffs - YES (cont 5min 3v3 sudden death until winner) – stop time included.

Note - Clock will start on time, even if teams are not ready.

13. PLAYOFFS

- a. Teams that are tied for playoff positions will be separated as follows:
 - i - Win/Loss record against each other.
 - ii - Team with the best goal differential (goals for minus goals against)
 - iii - Coin flip by league management, the team with the least penalties in minutes call the flip.
- b. Overtime in the playoffs is continuous 5 min periods of 3v3 hockey.

Playoff format:

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Game	Home team	Vs	Away team
Semi Final 1	1 st Place	Vs	2 nd Place
Semi Final 2	3 rd Place	Vs	4 th Place
Semi Final 3	Loser of Semi Final 1	Vs	Winner of Semi Final 2
Grand Final	Winner of Semi Final 1	Vs	Winner of Semi Final 3

4 Team division - Top 4 teams make playoffs

Game	Home team	Vs	Away team
Semi Final 1	4 th Place	Vs	5 th Place
Semi Final 2	1 st Place	Vs	Winner of Semi Final 1
Semi Final 3	2 nd Place	Vs	3 rd Place
Grand Final	Winner of Semi Final 2	Vs	Winner of Semi Final 3

5 Team division - Top 5 teams make playoffs

Game	Home team	Vs	Away team
Semi Final 1	2 nd Place	Vs	3 rd Place
Grand Final	First Place	Vs	Winner of Semi Final 1

3 Team division - Top 3 teams make playoffs