



RULE THREE

Regional Playdowns and Provincial Championships

MISSION STATEMENT: The OWHA Provincial Championship is an annual competition to determine a Champion in each Division and Category and to provide an opportunity for each Region in the province to have representation.

(A) Team and Player Entry and Eligibility for Regional Playdowns and Provincial Championships

- (1) (a) Competitive teams wishing to qualify for Regional Playdowns and Provincial Championships must submit a performance bond of \$200.00 which must accompany their completed registration forms which are due October 1st.
- (b) The Provincial Championship estimated fees will be set at the OWHA Annual Members Meeting. All teams advancing to Provincials must submit the set fee (minus the \$200.00 bond) within 7 days of being notified of advancing to the Provincial Championships.
- (2) The OWHA office will forward to each team a list in writing, of all teams in Ontario eligible for Regional Playdowns in their category. All eligible teams must have enough ice and ensure their calendar is clear to make room for enough playdown games to be held between February 1st and the second Sunday in March. All teams should assume they will have playdowns. The OWHA President or designate shall have the authority to resolve any and all conflicts, to ensure all requirements are met. If a team is unable to provide the required amount of reasonable ice time, the team will be ineligible for Regional Playdowns.
- (3) Participating teams will be notified no later than February 1st of the eligible teams.
- (4) Any team that has been re-categorized will have up to 7 days from the date it is notified of its re-categorization to request a refund of its Provincial performance bond. (Refer to OWHA Categorization Policy).
- (5) Any teams withdrawing from the Regional Playdowns after the playdown notification date, February 1st, will lose their bond money. Any team withdrawing from the Provincial Championships after the closing date of Regional Playdowns will be assessed a \$500.00 fine.
- (6) To be eligible for Regional Playdowns and/or Provincial Championships, all teams must have played five (5) OWHA sanctioned games and all players must have played a minimum of 5 of their OWHA sanctioned games with their team against other teams in their registered category, or a minimum of five OWHA sanctioned games with their team with one or two of them being against teams one category higher and the rest being against other teams in their registered category prior to January 15th. Exemptions may be granted at the discretion of the OWHA designate. The team must have participated in at least one OWHA sanctioned tournament or play in a recognized competitive league with teams in their registered category prior to January 15th. All "AA" teams are exempt from the tournament participation requirement. Teams unable to meet criteria, must apply in writing to the OWHA Office prior to January 15th.
- (7) Eligibility for Provincial Championships: A Player must have participated in the Regional Playdowns in order to be eligible for the Provincial Championship. If a player is unable to meet this criteria, the designated team official must apply in writing to the OWHA Office for exception.
- (8) Pickup players are not eligible for Regional Playdowns or Provincial Championships. However, in certain circumstances, a team may be permitted to pick up a goaltender. If a team's goaltender is injured or unavailable for a legitimate reason, that team must apply, with proper documentation, to the OWHA Office for permission to pick up a goaltender. The OWHA Registrar will decide whether to grant such permission. If permission is granted, the team's designated goaltenders will be ineligible to play. The pickup goaltender must be currently registered with an OWHA team, either in the same category or a lower one.
- (9) The Midget "AA" OWHA Provincial Championship winner will be eligible to represent Ontario in the Esso Cup, National Female Midget Hockey Championship. In the event the winner of the OWHA Midget "AA" Provincial Championship cannot attend the Esso Cup, National Female Midget Championship, the second-place team at the OWHA Midget "AA" Provincials will represent Ontario.
- (10) A team wishing to lodge a protest must have the protest lodged by a registered team official of that team to the referee before the teams leave the ice after the game in question. A \$200.00 fee must be issued to a member of the protest committee immediately following the game. The protest will be dealt with by the OWHA. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld.
- (11) If re-categorization results in an association having more than one team eligible for playdowns at the same category, the teams will be treated as any teams playing down in the same region. One of the teams may choose to request a re-categorization upwards, if they would prefer not to compete against another team from the same association.

(B) Playing Rules and Regulations for Regional Playdowns

- (1) Teams, local associations, or groups of associations may submit bids to host a “tournament-style” Regional Playdown in one or more categories. Bids should be submitted to the OWHA Office by February 1st of the playing season. The OWHA designate will either approve a bid or announce that Regional Playdowns for a specific category and region will be determined per the rules. Regional Playdowns may be held as part of a sanctioned tournament but must follow all rules governing Regional Playdowns.
- (2) Regional Playdown game(s) will be allowed to be played during regularly scheduled and playoff league association games(s) if mutually agreed upon by both participating teams and the OWHA designate and all playing Rules and Regulations for Regional Playdowns are followed.
- (3) The OWHA office is responsible for coordinating Regional Playdowns, held for the purpose of determining a Regional Champion in each division and category. Period lengths in each series will be of the same duration for ALL games. If unanimous agreement on period length cannot be reached, the final and binding decision for period lengths will be determined by the OWHA designate. The minimum period/game length is 10/10/10, with no overtime except for RULE THREE (B)(9)(b). There will be no curfew.
- (4) It is mandatory to use minimum Level II HCOP currently registered referees.
- (5) Gate fees shall not be charged for OWHA Regional Playdown games.
- (6) Commencing at Bantam, all categories A and higher (Bantam A, Bantam AA, Midget A, Midget AA, Intermediate A, Intermediate AA, Senior A, Senior AA,) must use the three-official system in Regional Playdowns. Referees in a three official system must be a minimum Level III. Under exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the OWHA designate(s), other arrangements may be made.
- (7) One 30 second timeout will be permitted per team/per game in all categories of OWHA Regional Playdowns.
- (8) Games that must be ended due to a serious injury that requires an ambulance to be called or due to a serious mechanical equipment failure in the arena that makes playing dangerous or impossible are permitted to be ended despite there being no curfew. Any Playdown games ended after the start of the third period due to the previously noted reasons will be considered a complete game at the point of curfew. Games ended prior to the end of the Second Period will be null and void and must be rescheduled and replayed in their entirety.

(9) FOR TWO TEAMS:

Upon mutual agreement, two teams involved in a regional playdown may select either a three game format with the first team to reach 4 points advancing or a five game format with the first team to reach 6 points advancing.

If an agreement cannot be reached then the three game format will be used. Prior to the series beginning, the home ice advantage for the third game may be determined by a coin toss or ice availability.

Win	-	2 points
Tie	-	1 point
Loss	-	0 points

Prior to the series starting, the decision will be made by the OWHA designate and the teams involved whether they will follow RULE THREE (B)(9)(a) or RULE THREE (B)(9)(b) format. If the teams cannot agree with the format, RULE THREE (B) (9) (a) will be used.

- (a) If the series is tied in points after three (or five) games, the following tiebreakers will be used:
 - i. Goals scored minus goals against in three (or five) games;
 - ii. Fewest goals allowed in three (or five) games;
 - iii. Most periods won in three (or five) games;
 - iv. Fewest penalty minutes in three (or five) games;
 - v. First goal scored in series;
 - vi. Flip of a coin.

OR

Prior to the series starting, teams will pick either (i) or (ii) below.

- (b) (i) If the series is tied in points after three (or five) games, there is a provision of two 10-minute stop time sudden victory overtime periods. If still tied in points, after regulation time and overtime, then a shootout will take place using three shooters on each team, alternating with the home team having the option to

shoot first. If still tied, the remaining players will shoot until the same numbered shooter has scored and the other has not.

OR

- (ii) There is a provision for a fourth (or sixth) game may be played, with provision of two 10-minute stop time sudden victory periods. If still tied in points, after regulation time and overtime, then a shoot-out will take place using three shooters on each team, alternating with the home team having the option to shoot first. If still tied, the remaining players will shoot until the same numbered shooter has scored and the other has not.

(10) FOR THREE, FOUR AND FIVE TEAMS:

- (a) Prior to start of round-robin series, a decision will be made by the and the teams involved whether they will follow RULE THREE (B)(10)(b) or RULE THREE (B)(10)(c) and must be approved by the OWHA designate.
- (b) A single round robin will be completed. The winner will be the team with the most points. If tied in points, the following tiebreakers will be followed:
 - i. Number of wins;
 - ii. Record against other tied teams;
 - iii. Goals scored minus the goals against in round robin games;
 - iv. Fewest goals allowed in round robin play;
 - v. Most periods won in round robin play;
 - vi. Fewest penalty minutes in round robin play;
 - vii. First goal scored in series;
 - viii. Flip of a coin.
- (c) A double (home and home) round robin will be completed, if all participating teams have the required ice and agree to this format unanimously. If tied in points, the tiebreakers in RULE THREE (B)(10)(b) will be followed.

In case of more than two teams, tiebreakers will follow the numerical order until all ties are broken.

(11) FOR SIX OR MORE TEAMS:

- (a) The OWHA designate will approve the Playdown format to be used.
- (b) If tied in points, the following tie-breakers will be used:
 - i. Number of wins;
 - ii. Record against other tied teams;
 - iii. Goals scored minus the goals against in round robin games;
 - iv. Fewest goals allowed in round robin play;
 - v. Most periods won in round robin play;
 - vi. Fewest penalty minutes in round robin play;
 - vii. First goal scored in series;
 - viii. Flip of a coin.

In case of more than two teams, tiebreakers will follow the numerical order until all ties are broken.

- (12) In all divisions, Regional Playdowns must be completed by the 2nd Sunday in March, using the current criteria, otherwise the OWHA designate shall have the authority to declare a Regional Champion. The Provincial Championship shall be a competition among the declared representatives of each region.
- (13) Home team must submit the score to the OWHA within 24 hours of the game. Game sheet must be e-mailed within 48 hours of the game to the OWHA office.
- (14) Teams are required to bring two sets of sweaters (light and dark) to Regional Playdown games. The home team will wear their light-coloured sweaters. Goalies must dress in the same colour sweater as the team is wearing. Any conflict in sweater colour will result in the home team having to change.
- (15) All players of each team must wear the same identically coloured hockey socks on both legs, goalies excepted.
- (16) A team wishing to lodge a protest must have the protest lodged by a registered team official of that team to the referee before the teams leave the ice after the game in question. A \$200.00 fee must be issued to

a member of the protest committee immediately following the game. The protest will be dealt with by OWHA. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld.

- (17) Protests dealing with judgments or dealing with calls that do not deal directly with the outcome of the game will not be heard.
- (18) Any violation of (12), (13), and (14) above will result in a \$200.00 fine per occurrence.

(C) Playing Rules and Regulations for Provincial Championships

- (1) It is mandatory to use minimum Level II HCOP currently registered referees.
- (2) Commencing at Bantam, all categories A and higher must use the three-official system in Provincial Championships. Under exceptional circumstances and with the approval of OWHA designate, other arrangements may be made.
- (3) The Provincial Championship shall be a competition among the declared representatives of each region.
- (4) All games except the championship will consist of a minimum of three (3), ten (10) minute stop time periods. Period lengths will be determined annually by the OWHA designate.
- (5) There will be no overtime played in round robin series, unless designated by the OWHA. Points will be awarded as follows: two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie and no points for a loss. In quarter finals, semi-finals, and championship games, if the game is tied at the end of regulation play, then teams will play ten (10) minute stop time sudden victory periods until a goal is scored. Teams will not switch ends for the first overtime period but will switch ends after each successive period until a winner is declared.
- (6) If there is a tie in points after round robin games, the following tiebreakers will be used to break the tie:
 - i. Number of wins;
 - ii. Record against other tied teams;
 - iii. Goals scored minus the goals against in round robin play;
 - iv. Fewest goals allowed in round robin play;
 - v. Most periods won in round robin play;
 - vi. Fewest penalty minutes in round robin play;
 - vii. First goal scored in series;
 - viii. Flip of a coin.

In case of more than two teams, tie-breakers will follow the numerical order until all ties are broken.

- (7) One 30 second timeout will be permitted per team/per game in all categories of OWHA Provincial Championships.
- (8) All disciplinary matters will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Board of the OWHA.
- (9) There will be a three (3) minute warm up prior to each game, starting as soon as the ice resurfacer gates are closed, but no earlier than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- (10) Floods (addition or deletion) will be at the discretion of the OWHA and/or the referee on the ice if the need arises (i.e. overtime, weather conditions, etc.).
- (11) Teams are required to bring two sets of sweaters (light and dark) to the Provincial Championships. The home team will wear their light-coloured sweaters. Goalies must dress in the same sweater colour as the team is wearing. Any conflict in sweater colour will result in the home team having to change.
- (12) All players of each team must wear the same identically coloured hockey socks on both legs, goalies excepted.
- (13) Any violation of (11) and (12) above will result in a warning for the first offence and forfeit of the game for a second offence.