

## ISSUE #: 2023-013

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**TO:** BC Hockey Membership

**FROM:** Sean Raphael  
BC Hockey – Vice President Programs & Referee in Chief

**SUBJECT:** 2023-24 Minimum Suspension Guidelines - Minor/Female

**Please ensure every participant registered to your team, league or association are made aware of this bulletin.** The following minimum suspensions may not be reduced; Associations and Leagues may strengthen any of the listed infractions at their discretion. These guidelines represent all categories of Minor hockey and all divisions of Female hockey.

Hockey Canada has updated Section 11 of 2022-24 edition of the Playing Rules. The updated rulebook can be found on the Hockey Canada mobile application (available in the apple or google play stores) or by way of this [PDF](#) edition. Furthermore, this [VIDEO](#) tutorial summarizes the changes the playing rules, updates to rulebook format and provides an outline of various clarifications to existing content; as reflected in this edition of the minimum suspension guidelines.

### I. GAME INCIDENT REPORTING PROCEDURES

Officials must submit reports by way of the Hockey Canada Game Incident Report (GIR) system available on the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR) for all infractions listed in this section, incurred during BC Hockey sanctioned games. Where two (2) Referees (4-official or 2-official system) were assigned to a game, the Referee or Official responsible for making the original penalty call requiring a game incident report must complete the online submission. If a report is required for an infraction that was brought to the attention of the Referee by a Linesperson, the email address and phone number of the reporting Linesperson must be included in the online report.

#### Reportable Incidents:

- a) Game Ejections: Head Contact Rule 7.6 (a) & 4.8 (b) ii.
- b) All Game Misconducts
- c) All Match Penalties
- d) All Gross Misconducts
- e) All infractions and **allegations** under Rule 11.4 - Discrimination
- f) All infractions under Rule 11.5 - Physical Harassment of Officials
- g) Violations of Rule 10.8
- 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 ([video tutorial](#)) no later than 8:00am on the morning following any reportable incident(s). 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.

Should officials have questions please contact your BC Hockey officiating [Delivery Group Member](#).

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

Accumulated minor & double minor penalty minutes in under Rule 7.6 (a) will result in:

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
7.6 (a)	Incurring 20 minutes under Rule 7.6 (a), same season	Education Module*
	Incurring 32 minutes under Rule 7.6 (a), same season	1 Game
	Incurring 44 minutes under Rule 7.6 (a), same season	3 Games
	Incurring 58 minutes under Rule 7.6 (a), same season	Indefinite (3 games) **
4.8 (b)	Game Ejection under Head Contact 7.6 (a) & 4.8 (b)	1 Game
	2 <sup>nd</sup> rule 7.6 (a) & 4.8 (b) Game Ejection, same season	3 Games
	3 <sup>rd</sup> or subsequent rule 7.6 (a) & 4.8 (b) Game Ejection	Indefinite (3 games) **
*Suspension under rule 7.6 (a) require completion of the Head Contact education module below		
** Indefinite suspensions shall be no less than number of games indicated in the parenthesis		
NOTE: Accumulation totals in this section will reset prior to the start of minor championships.		

### Head Contact Education Module (TUTORIAL):

- 1) Review head contact educational [VIDEO](#) (approximately 12-minutes).
- 2) Complete [VIRTUAL EXERCISE](#), with a minimum confirmed score of 12 / 16.
  - Enter full first & last name, then enter the 'access code' **2023**
  - Be sure to keep your 'return code' so you can re-access the module if needed.
  - Upon completion you will be provided a score, that must be sent to the discipline administrator that provided the notification of suspension.

## III. MAJOR & GAME MISCONDUCTS (NON-FIGHTING)

Game Misconduct penalty infractions occurring in the last ten (10) minutes of regular playing time or overtime, will result in an additional automatic one (1) game suspension, under rule 4.8 (a).

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
7.1 (b)	Grab hair, facial protector, helmet, chin strap or throat protector	1 Game
7.2 (b)	Boarding	
7.3 (b)	Body Checking	
7.4 (b)	Charging	
7.5 (b)	Checking from Behind	
7.6 (b)	Head Contact	2 Games
7.8 (b)	Kneeing	1 Game
<b>7.9 (b)</b>	<b>Roughing</b>	
<b>8.3 (b)</b>	<b>Interference</b>	
<b>8.4 (b)</b>	<b>Interference from the Bench</b>	
<b>8.5 (b)</b>	<b>Interference with the Goaltender</b>	
8.7 (b)	Clipping	
9.2 (b)	Cross-Checking	
9.3 (b)	Slashing	
<b>10.5 (b)</b>	<b>Throwing or Shooting Stick or Object</b>	Indefinite (6 games) *
<b>10.8 (b)</b>	<b>Refusing to Start Play</b>	
<b>Progressive Suspensions – Player</b>		
Any player receiving 2 of the above majors in a season		2 Games
Any player receiving 3 of the above majors in a season		4 Games
<b>Progressive Suspensions - Coach</b>		
Team receives 3 major (incl. fighting) or match infractions in a same game		1 Game
For a 2 <sup>nd</sup> violation of the above, within the same season		3 Games
For a 3 <sup>rd</sup> violation of the above, within the same season		Indefinite (4 games) *
NOTE: All 'progressive' suspensions are served in lieu of the prescribed minimum suspension		
*Indefinite suspensions shall be no less than number of games indicated in the parenthesis		

#### IV. FIGHTING SITUATIONS

Game & Gross Misconduct penalty infractions occurring in the last ten (10) minutes of regular playing time or overtime, will result in an additional automatic one (1) game suspension, under rules 4.8 (a) & 4.9 (b).

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
7.10 (b)	Major Penalty - Fighting, 1 <sup>st</sup> offence	1 Game
	Major Penalty - Fighting, 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence	2 Games
	Major Penalty - Fighting, 3 <sup>rd</sup> offence	4 Games
	Major Penalty - Fighting, 4 <sup>th</sup> offence	Indefinite (5 games) *
	Major or Game Misconduct - pre/post game altercation	2 Games
	Coach of team whose players are penalized as above	Indefinite (3 games) *
7.10 (c)	Match penalty - wearing rings /tape / to inflict punishment	3 Games
7.10 (e) ii.	Game Misconduct - joining a fight or acts as a peacemaker	2 Games
7.10 (e) iii.	Game Misconduct - secondary fight on same stoppage	2 Games
7.10 (f)	Gross Misconduct - Fighting or joining fight with/as Team Official	3 Game
7.11 (a)	Minor Penalty - Instigator or Aggressor, 1 <sup>st</sup> offence	1 Game
	Minor Penalty - Instigator or Aggressor, 2 <sup>nd</sup> offence	3 Games
	Minor Penalty - Instigator or Aggressor, 3 <sup>rd</sup> offence	Indefinite (5 games) *
<b>Note: Players assessed both instigator &amp; aggressor penalties must be suspended for both infractions.</b>		
10.4 (e)	Game Misconduct - 1 <sup>st</sup> player to leave players'/penalty bench	3 Games
	Coach of team whose player is penalized for the above	3 Games
	Coach of team whose player leaves bench, but is not 1 <sup>st</sup> to do so	1 Game
<i>*Indefinite suspensions shall be no less than number of games indicated in the parenthesis</i>		

#### V. MALTREATMENT & OTHER GROSS MISCONDUCT

Game & Gross Misconduct penalty infractions occurring in the last ten (10) minutes of regular playing time or overtime, will result in an additional automatic one (1) game suspension, under rules 4.8 (a) & 4.9 (b).

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
<b>10.4 (f)</b>	<b>Returning to or disrupting a game after being removed</b>	<b>Indefinite (5 games) *</b>
11.1 (e)	Game Misconduct - Unsportsmanlike Conduct	1 Game
11.2 (e)	Game Misconduct - Abusive Behaviour	2 Games
11.2 (f)	Gross Misconduct - Abusive Behaviour	3 Games
11.3 (c)	Match Penalty - Spitting	5 Games
11.4	Gross Misconduct – Discrimination	Indefinite (5 games) * + Education Module
11.5 (c) i.	Match Penalty - Physical Harassment of Officials	3 Games
11.5 (c) ii.	Match Penalty - Physical Harassment of Officials	5 Games
11.5 (c) iii.	Match Penalty - Physical Harassment of Officials	Indefinite (8 games) *
<b>11.5 (e)</b>	<b>Game Misconduct – Physical Harassment of Officials</b>	<b>1 Game</b>
<b>Progressive Suspensions – Player or Team Official</b>		
11.1 (e)	2 Game Misconducts under Rule 11.1 in a season	2 Games
11.1 (e)	3 or more Game Misconducts under Rule 11.1 in a season	Indefinite (4 games) *
11.2 (e)	2 Game Misconducts under Rule 11.2 in a season	4 Games
11.2 (e)	3 or more Game Misconducts under Rule 11.2 in a season	Indefinite (6 games) *
11.1 / 11.2	2 or more Game Misconducts under Rules 11.1 & 11.2 in a season	Indefinite (4 games) *
11.2 (f)	2 or more Gross Misconducts under Rule 11.2 in a season	Indefinite (4 games) *
11.4	2 or more Gross Misconducts under Rule 11.4 in a season	Indefinite (8 games) *
11.5 (c)	2 or more Match penalties under Rule 11.5 in a season	Indefinite
11.5 (e)	2 or more Game Misconducts under Rule 11.5 in a season	Indefinite (4 games) *
<b>NOTE: All 'progressive' suspensions are served in lieu of the prescribed minimum suspension</b>		
<i>*Indefinite suspensions shall be no less than number of games indicated in the parenthesis</i>		

**Maltreatment Education Module:**

- 1) Review Section 11 maltreatment educational [VIDEO](#) (approximately 15-minutes).
- 2) Complete [VIRTUAL EXERCISE](#), with a minimum confirmed score of 9 / 12.
  - Enter full first & last name, then enter the 'access code' **2023**
  - Be sure to keep your 'return code' so you can re-access the module if needed.
  - Upon completion you will be provided a score, that must be sent to the discipline administrator that provided the notification of suspension.

**VI. MATCH PENALTIES**

All Match penalties are classified with minimum sanctions in accordance with resulting injury.

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension	
7.1 (c)	Attempt to injure (no injury results)	3 Games	
7.1 (c)	Deliberate Injury	Indefinite (6 games)*	
		No Injury	Injury
7.1 (c) i.	Head Butting	3 Games	6 Games
7.1 (c) ii.	Grabbing hair, facial protector, helmet, chinstrap or neck guard		
7.1 (c) iii.	Kicking (attempted or deliberate)		
7.1 (c) iv.	Using equipment as a weapon		
7.2 (c)	Boarding		
7.3 (c)	Body Checking	4 Games	6 Games
7.4 (c)	Charging		
7.5 (c)	Checking from Behind (CFB)	5 Games	7 Games
7.6 (c)	Head Contact	3 Games	6 Games
7.8 (c)	Kneeing		
<b>7.9 (c)</b>	<b>Roughing</b>		
<b>7.10 (c)</b>	<b>Fighting (wearing rings / taped hands etc.) to inflict punishment</b>		
<b>8.3 (c)</b>	<b>Interference</b>		
<b>8.4 (c)</b>	<b>Interference from the Bench</b>		
<b>8.5 (c)</b>	<b>Interference with the Goaltender</b>		
8.7 (c)	Clipping		
8.8 (c)	Slew Footing		
9.1 (c)	Butt-Ending		
9.2 (c)	Cross Checking		
9.3 (c)	Slashing		
9.4 (c)	Spearing		
<b>10.5 (c)</b>	<b>Throwing or Shooting Stick or Object</b>	5 Games	
11.3 (c)	Spitting	5 Games	
<b>Progressive Suspensions – Player</b>			
Receiving two (2) Match penalties in same season for any of the above		5 Games	
Receiving three (3) Match penalties in same season for any of the above		Indefinite (8 games) *	
<i>*Indefinite suspensions shall be no less than number of games indicated in the parenthesis</i>			

## VII. SERVING OF SUSPENSIONS

### 1. GENERAL

- 1.1. All discipline applied in accordance with prescribed minimum suspension(s) within this bulletin **are NOT subject to appeal.**
- 1.2. All 'indefinite' suspensions shall be investigated or reviewed by the applicable discipline administrator to determine the appropriate suspension duration. Investigations may include but are not limited to; requests for written statements, phone or virtual interviews, educational training, or a formal hearing etc. Any participant under 'indefinite suspension' is deemed ineligible to participate in any sanctioned games until a decision has been rendered and any applied suspension has been served in full. Infractions that have a prescribed 'indefinite' suspension may not be applied in a length less than what is listed within this bulletin.
- 1.3. All suspensions within this bulletin are prescribed in accordance with Hockey Canada's minimum guidelines and are not to be reduced. BC Hockey discipline administrators have the discretion to strengthen any suspension according to the severity of the related infraction(s).
- 1.4. All suspended participants are prohibited from participating in any BC Hockey / Hockey Canada sanctioned games in any registered capacity for the duration of the suspension.
- 1.5. Cumulative suspensions to the same participant must be served consecutively.
- 1.6. Suspensions commence upon the conclusion of the game in which the infraction(s) occurred.
- 1.7. All participants and teams are responsible for being aware of the prescribed minimum suspensions within this bulletin. Upon receiving any infraction covered within this bulletin, it is the responsibility of the participant and their team to ensure that the penalized participant begins to serve the prescribed minimum suspension immediately, even if a notice of suspension has not been received from the applicable discipline administrator. Notices of suspension serve as confirmations of the application of the minimum suspensions within this bulletin and may confirm further if it has been determined that a more severe suspension has been applied, under the circumstances of the particular incident.
- 1.8. Suspended participants shall not be permitted in the dressing room one (1) hour prior to or one (1) hour after the scheduled time of any BC Hockey / Hockey Canada sanctioned games. Suspended participants may attend sanctioned games for the purpose of spectating, unless otherwise noted in the original notice of suspension. Suspended participants must attempt to direct their team in any manner or disrupt the game or participants they are spectating.
- 1.9. Participants may practice and train with their team(s) during the term of a suspension, unless otherwise stated in the original suspension notification.
- 1.10. Participants are permitted to register for and attend any Hockey Canada training or certification programs while suspended, unless otherwise noted within the original suspension notification.
- 1.11. All player or team official suspensions may be served in accordance with the following chart in a format of either 'games' or 'days,' expiring upon whichever is fulfilled first.

Minimum Suspension in Games	Minimum Suspension in Days
1 Game	7 Days
2 Games	10 Days
3 Games	15 Days
4 Games	21 Days

Minimum Suspension in Games	Minimum Suspension in Days
5 Games	25 Days
6 Games	30 Days
When a suspension is applied beyond six (6) games, all additional games shall be served 1 game to 7 days.	

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

- a) Suspensions will commence at 12:01 am on the day following the disciplinary infraction.
  - b) Suspensions will expire at midnight on the date of expiry.
- 1.12. All suspensions must be served in accordance with the schedule of the team to which the participant received the original suspension(s); primary, affiliate or dual registered team. Therefore, participants are not permitted to count games from multiple teams towards the serving of a suspension. Exhibition, regular season, tournament and playoff games may count towards the serving of a suspension. In the case of exhibition games, only those exhibition games scheduled prior to the date of the original infraction resulting in a suspension shall be eligible to count towards the serving of a suspension. Therefore, any exhibition games added to the schedule after the original infraction will not count towards the serving of a suspension.

## 2. Carry-over Suspensions

- 2.1. **Winter Break:** Suspensions in effect upon the conclusion of the final exhibition, league, playoff or tournament game prior to the pre-scheduled 'winter break' are considered in a 'carry-over' suspension status. Such suspensions shall pause upon the first date of the scheduled winter break and recommence upon the first scheduled game following the winter break. Therefore, all days during the winter break will **NOT** count towards the serving of a suspension.
- 2.2. **End of Season:** Suspensions that have remaining days or games of ineligibility upon the conclusion of a participant's current season shall be considered in a 'carry-over' suspension status. Such suspensions shall pause upon the completion of the last exhibition, regular season, playoff or tournament game of the current season until the start of the next season. The continuation of such carry-over suspensions may be served as follows:

- 2.2.1. The start date of the next season shall be in accordance with the first scheduled exhibition, regular season, or tournament game for the minor hockey team to which the suspended participant is registered for in the following season. Should the participant not be registered with a minor hockey team for the following season, then the start of the following season shall be in accordance with the first scheduled exhibition, regular season or tournament game of the Junior or Senior (including adult rec) team that the participant is registered with for the following season.
- 2.2.2. Should a participant not register for the following season in the same participant capacity (e.g. player) to which they were originally suspended, their carry-over suspension may recommence in accordance with the schedule of the team they are registered with, as a different participant type (e.g. suspended as a player and registered as team official the following season). In cases where the participant is not registered to a team (e.g. player or team official) but is still a participant with BC Hockey / Hockey Canada (e.g. on-ice official), their suspension shall recommence



upon the first available game at any category of play that the participant is eligible to participate in, at the start of the following season.

- 2.2.3. Should the team to which a player is registered for following a 'carry-over' suspension not commence games prior to September 30 of the following season, then the participant's suspension may recommence upon that date; unless an earlier season start date has been established by the participant's District Association or League. Therefore, no 'carry-over' suspension shall recommence later than September 30.
- 2.2.4. Notwithstanding the above, should a suspended participant have an opportunity to participate in BC Hockey / Hockey Canada sanctioned games during post-season programming (e.g. spring or summer), the 'carry-over' suspension may recommence upon the start of that post-seasonal schedule. Shall the remainder of the suspension be served, and that suspended individual participates in at least one (1) sanctioned game during the post-seasonal schedule, then the suspension will be considered served in full. BC Hockey sanctioned spring and summer programming includes any sanctioned games that occur between April 1 and July 31 annually.
- 2.2.5. Suspensions that cannot be served in full due to the conclusion of a player's final season of minor hockey eligibility (graduating due to age limits) the suspension must be documented on the participant's HCR profile with an 'indefinite' end date. The prescribed suspension may be served upon any future sanctioned participation, in any registered capacity, prior to reinstatement.

3. **Affiliate or Dual Registration Participation:** Any participant affiliated to or dually registered with multiple teams may serve the remainder of a 'carry-over' suspension in accordance with their affiliate team's remaining schedule, under the following conditions:

- 3.1.1. Should the team with which a participant received their suspension no longer have any sanctioned games remaining within the current season, a participant may serve the remainder of the suspension with their other team(s), under the condition that they participate in at least one (1) game with their other registered team prior to the conclusion of that current season.
- 3.1.2. A suspended participant is permitted to practice or train with an affiliate or dual registered team(s) while under a carry-over suspension status, unless otherwise indicated within the original notice of suspension.

4. **Tryouts:** Players under 'carry-over' suspension status shall be eligible to participate in 'tryouts' that occur between the conclusion of the current season and the start of the next season, for the purpose of player evaluation.

- 4.1. Tryouts pertain to programming being offered by any BC Hockey registered team or Branch program (including the Program of Excellence).
- 4.2. 'Try-outs' also allow the suspended participant to participate in any sanctioned exhibition games during the 'try-out' evaluation period. Therefore, a player may participate in exhibition games during the 'try-out' period while under suspension, unless the suspension occurred during that same 'try-out' period.
- 4.3. Should a team choose to register a suspended player during the 'try-out' period, that team shall have the discretion to have the player's suspension recommence immediately.
- 4.4. Should a player have a 'carry-over' suspension with more than thirty (30) days remaining upon the start of the try-out period, such an approval to participate in exhibition games related to

that try-out must be endorsed by the Minor Discipline Coordinator and approved by the BC Hockey CEO, prior to allowance.

5. **On-Ice Officials:** Any on-ice official that receives a suspension under [BC Hockey Policy](#) 11.06.4 (Officiating) shall also be prohibited from participating in any other capacity in sanctioned games for the duration of the suspension. Furthermore, any participant suspended in accordance with this bulletin as a player or team official shall also be suspended as an on-ice official for the duration of the sanction. It is the responsibility of the participant to inform the relevant officiating administrator(s) of any suspension received under this bulletin.
6. **Video Review:** Please see [BC Hockey Policy](#) 4.04 regarding the video review process.