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# Northern Ontario “AAA” Bantam Hockey League League Constitution



Revised: May 14, 2005



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**Northern Ontario "AAA" Bantam Hockey League  
Phone, Fax, Email List  
2005-06 Season**

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## History of the Northern Ontario “AAA” Bantam Hockey League

The Northern Ontario “AAA” Bantam Hockey League’s creation was prompted by the realization that better competition was required to improve the calibre of hockey in the northern centers at this level.

The League’s first year of competition was the 1995-96 season. The founding member clubs were:

- Soo Legion
- Onaping Falls Huskies
- Sudbury Minor Hockey Association
- Soo Thunder
- North Bay Minor Hockey Association
- Timmins Miller Paving

The first League game took place on September 29, 1995.

The first League executive was comprised of the following:

- Commissioner – Bruce Cazabon (North Bay)
- Vice-Commissioner – Bob MacLean (Sudbury)
- Secretary-Treasurer – Mike Whitton (Onaping Falls)
- Statistician – Vince Vallee (Sault Ste. Marie)



## Articles

### 1. Name of the League

- Northern Ontario “AAA” Bantam Hockey League

### 2. Purpose

- a. To introduce regular inter-city competition in Northern Ontario which will re-establish fan interest in high caliber Bantam hockey.
- b. To provide hockey opportunities in Northern Ontario for eligible players.
- c. To increase participation at the “AAA” level, thereby expanding the quantity and quality of skilled players in Northern Ontario.
- d. To showcase Northern Ontario players.
- e. To offer a model local situation to which minor hockey players can aspire.

### 3. League Goals

- a. To operate the League in the most efficient, effective, and economic manner.
- b. To promote and protect the interest of the League members.
- c. To promote the value and benefits of having a “AAA” Bantam league in Northern Ontario.
- d. To encourage and assist players to advance their academic and athletic potential.
- e. To encourage and develop coaches and officials through exposure to a higher level of competition.

### 4. Declaration

- Each member of the League accepts and agrees to abide by the Constitution and to remain in good standing with the N.O.H.A.

### 5. Membership

- a. Definitions:
  - i. *Team*: A member team will consist of players and personnel on approved N.O.H.A. cards.
  - ii. *Constant Authority*: The Constant Authority shall be responsible for the team’s operation.
- b. Founding Members: The Founding Members are the six (6) organizations which participated during the first season (see History, page X). The six organizations shall remain members so long as they are active and in good standing with the Northern Ontario “AAA” Bantam Hockey League.
- c. Application for Membership:
  - i. An application must include a declaration of Constant Authority, team colours, home arena, a certified cheque for the full league entry fee, a performance bond, and a statement explaining why the team wished to participate in the League.
  - ii. An application may also require other conditions deemed necessary by the League.



- iii. An application must be in the hands of the Commissioner twenty-one (21) days prior to the League Annual Meeting.
  - iv. An application will be accepted by only one (1) team per N.O.H.A. district, except in the case of the founding members.
  - v. Any application received by the Commissioner is to be forwarded to all the League Governors as soon as possible. This will allow the member clubs the opportunity to review the request prior to voting.
  - vi. New entry applications require a three-quarter (3/4) majority of the League Governors for approval.
  - vii. Approved applications will be added to the founding members to form the existing League.
- d. Participation in the League: Existing organizations will automatically be included in the upcoming season unless the League is otherwise notified or an organization is under suspension.
- e. Changing Name and/or Colours of an Organization: Any organization that wishes to change its name and/or colour but not its Constant Authority shall apply to the League Board of Governors for approval.
- f. Withdrawal from the League: Any organization that withdraws from the League will have its Constant Authority revert to the League and will have its rights and privileges terminated within the League
- g. Leave of Absence: Existing organizations may apply to the League for a one (1) year leave of absence, one (1) time only with the exception of Sault Ste. Marie, whereby the Soo Thunder and Sault North Street Mini-Mart will play in the Northern Ontario "AAA" Bantam Hockey League in alternating years as long as the current Minor/Major system is in effect in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. If Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario decides to revert back to two (2) Major Bantam "AAA" teams in the future, then both teams will be allowed to resume play in the Northern Ontario "AAA" Bantam Hockey League, as they did so up until the 1999-2000 season.

## 6. Constant Authorities

- Northern Ontario "AAA" Bantam Hockey League Constant Authorities shall be:
  - Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario – Soo Thunder
  - Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario – Soo Junior Greyhounds AAA
  - Sudbury, Ontario – Sudbury Minor Hockey Association
  - North Bay, Ontario – West Ferris Minor Hockey Association (98)
  - Onaping Falls, Ontario – Onaping Falls Minor Hockey Association
  - Timmins, Ontario – Timmins Technosub Rangers

## 7. Amendments

- a. Procedure: Articles or Bylaws may be added to, amended, repealed or replaced by three-quarter (3/4) majority of the eligible voters at the League Annual Meeting.
- b. Submissions:
  1. Amendments to the Constitution must be in the hands of the Commissioner at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the League Annual Meeting.
  2. Amendments must be submitted by a league member in good standing.



## 8. Administration

- a. Board of Governors: The Board of Governors will consist of one (1) Commissioner plus a Governor representing each organization. League Governors and Alternates shall be appointed by the Constant Authority.
- b. Commissioner: The Commissioner shall be elected by a vote of the Board of Governors for a three (3) year term.
- c. Duties of the Commissioner:
  - i. Recommends other positions as deemed necessary for Board approval.
  - ii. Represents and promotes the League.
  - iii. Delegates tasks to Governors.
  - iv. Assists in resolving problems and issues.
  - v. Acts as one of the signing officers or his designate.
  - vi. Oversees adherence to the budget, policies, and regulations of the League.
  - vii. Liaisons with the N.O.H.A.
  - viii. Protects and develops the League's integrity.
  - ix. Enforces the Constitution.
  - x. Acts as regional media contact and spokesperson.
  - xi. Ensures minutes of meetings are recorded and circulated.
  - xii. Makes day-to-day decisions with respect to the efficient operation of the League along with the Governors.
  - xiii. Attends League games whenever possible and presents or arranges for presentation of League Awards.
  - xiv. Rebukes Governors or requests replacements by the Constant Authority.
  - xv. Attends provincial playoffs (accommodations paid by the League) 2001.
- d. Secretary-Treasurer: The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by a vote of the Board of Governors for a three (3) year term.
- e. Duties of the Secretary-Treasurer:
  - i. Keeps and types minutes and other related material.
  - ii. Performs photocopying and mail-outs.
  - iii. Keeps track of letterhead, envelopes, postage, etc.
  - iv. Prepares and keeps updated contact media lists.
  - v. Accounts for all revenues and disbursements.
  - vi. Submits regular financial reports.
  - vii. Opens bank accounts, obtains cheques, and issues receipts.
  - viii. Investigates and applies for grants.
  - ix. Passes on financial records from year to year.
  - x. Collects any fees.
- f. Duties of the Statistician:
  - i. Keeps accurate statistics as deemed necessary by the Board of Governors.
  - ii. Sends out game score sheets to each team.
  - iii. Makes note of match penalties.



- iv. Prepares weekly media release for all media, teams, and the N.O.H.A.
- v. Maintains a seasonal statistics book and records, so they can be passed on from year to year.
- vi. Reports to the Commissioner when suspensions are not served.
- g. Duties of League Governors:
  - i. Represents the League in his/her immediate area.
  - ii. Disseminates information to his/her local team, N.O.H.A. Council Directors, media, arena, recreation staff, etc.
  - iii. Votes on League matters at general meetings.
  - iv. Enforces League rules and policies.
  - v. Rebukes or replaces a Commissioner by a three-quarter (3/4) vote of League Governors.
  - vi. Provides the League with team league cost only.

## 9. Meetings

- a. The Board of Governors will meet as deemed necessary.
- b. There will be an Annual League Meeting prior to May 31<sup>st</sup>, wherever possible, in conjunction with the N.O.H.A. Annual Meeting.
- c. A quorum shall consist of 75% of the organization. All decisions/motions will require a simple majority, unless otherwise specified in the Constitution.
- d. Each organization (six) and the Commissioner will have one (1) vote.
- e. The Commissioner or his/her designate shall preside at all meetings of the League.
- f. Once a matter has been placed on the agenda and voted upon, such a vote shall be binding on all members whether represented by vote or not.
- g. Parliamentary procedures are to be followed as described in Robert's Rules of Order.
- h. The N.O.H.A. liaison representative shall be invited to all League meetings.

## 10. Finances

- a. Honorariums may be granted by the Board of Governors to people serving the League.
- b. Expense may be paid by the Board of Governors to people rendering service to the League.
- c. Team entry fees, performance bonds, and other charges will be set by the Board of Governors.



## Bylaws

1. All games will consist of three seventeen (17) minute stop-time periods. There will be a flood prior to the start of the game and at the end of the second period. If any game is tied at the end of the third period there will be sixty (60) second break followed by a maximum five (5) minute sudden-death four on four overtime period.
  - 1.1. During the Playoffs, the rules governing overtime revert to those as described in the NOHA constitution.
2. A five (5) minute pre-game warm-up is required.
3. All teams in each division must be registered as Major "AAA". The Playoff champion will continue as the representative of the League in pursuit of the provincial championship.
4. Playoff format will be decided annually and negotiated with the N.O.H.A.
5. Each team will be responsible for supplying information and statistics as required by the Board of Governors.
6. Each team will be expected to supply a trophy (keep and maintain). Awards, criteria, and trophy name as follows:
  - First Place Finisher – (Statistics)
  - Playoff Champion – (Statistics)
  - Best Goals Against Average – (Statistics) – Soo Thunder
  - Leading Scorer – (Statistics) – Soo Legion
  - Rookie of the Year – (Vote) – Onaping Falls
  - Best Defenceman – (Vote) – Sudbury
  - Most Gentlemanly Player – (Vote) – Miller Paving
  - Most Valuable Player – (Vote) – Mike Zuke Trophy (2001)
7. All referees and linesmen must be certified by the N.O.H.A.
8. League Executive passes are to be honoured at all league, exhibition, and playoff games. A maximum of two (2) per team.
9. Final league standings will be based on the number of points earned in the regular schedule. If there is a tie, the N.O.H.A. rules will be used to determine placing.
10. The home team is responsible for providing copies of the official game sheets as follows:
  - Original copy – Referee/N.O.H.A.
  - Second copy – Statistician
  - Third copy – Visiting team
  - Fourth copy – Home team
  - Fifth copy – Own discretionAll players MUST be listed numerically with full names (no initials).
11. The following game standards will be applied every game:
  - a. P.A. system available and used
  - b. Timekeeper and scorekeeper
  - c. Frozen pucks
  - d. Ice resurfaced between the second and third periods



- e. No smoking in players box or dressing room
  - f. Dress code (dress shirt, pants, socks, jacket, shoes, and ties) for team players, personnel, and executive
12. Hand shaking before all League games.
  13. Teams missing regular scheduled League meetings will be assessed the following penalties:
    - a. First meeting missed – a fine of twenty-five (25) percent of the League entry fee
    - b. Second meeting missed – a suspension of voting rights and a loss of home-ice advantage for the playoffs in the year the meetings were missed. An appeal can be made to the Board of Governors under extenuating circumstances.
  14. Each team will be allowed one (1) thirty-second timeout per game.
  15. The home team will wear dark uniforms until the second week of December. From then forward, the home team will wear light uniforms until the completion of the playoffs.
  16. All-Star teams and League awards will be presented annually.
  17. The League shall hold a Scheduling meeting in early June each year. Each organization shall provide the Schedule Maker with as many home dates as possible, plus the four (4) tournament dates allowed.
  18. All League waivers or releases are to be registered with the League Commissioner and the N.O.H.A.
  19. The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of the Commissioner and two (2) independent Governors agreeable to the party or parties in question. If no agreement on choice of Governors can be reached then the Commissioner will appoint two (2) Governors. Please refer to Appendix I – Purpose for Rules and Policies and Appendix II – Procedures for Discipline.
  20. A player may not attend a tryout without a proper waiver or release.
  21. Any team wishing to submit a resolution to the N.O.H.A. Annual Meeting must go through the Northern Ontario “AAA” Bantam Hockey League Board of Governors first if said resolution affects the League.
  22. A definition of conflict of interest is required for the Bylaws (May 9, 1997). A conflict of interest can exist when there is a gain by a person in authority. This gain can be real or imaginary. A real gain is a physical gain as a result of the action or ruling. A team can request a review if they perceive a conflict between the Commissioner and the team. The meeting will be chaired by the Vice-Commissioner at a Disciplinary Committee Meeting.
  23. Non-compliance of the Dress Code may result in a first offense fine of \$50.00. Continuance may result in disciplinary measures.
  24. All suspensions must be served in League games and not by scheduling exhibition games.
  25. Rookie of the Year award should state Outstanding Minor Bantam Player.



## **Appendix I – Purpose for Rules and Policies**

1. Rules and policies are simply controls and people instinctively want to live within the framework of intelligent controls.
2. Rules and policies should be sufficient to cover the areas of concern but not so as to make volunteers so rule-conscious that they lose their initiative and interest in volunteer work.
3. A penalty for the violation of a rule should be inflicted, not to punish a person, but to restore him to operating disciplines.
4. Rules and policies should be tailor-made to reflect the actual needs of an organization and reviewed periodically to make sure that each one is still performing a useful function.
5. Rules or policies that are not fulfilling their original intent, or are misunderstood and resented by volunteers because they have been misinterpreted, wrongly applied or found lacking in clarity should be revised and explained.
6. No rule or policy should be applied so harshly that it works an unnecessary hardship on anyone.



## Appendix II – Procedures for Discipline

1. The League has the right to establish rules that are both reasonable and known.
2. The League has the right and authority to administer discipline when rules are violated.
3. The Constitution must be publicized and explained in such a way so that there is no question of the people involved understanding them perfectly when they apply.
4. If an individual or group is in violation of set rules, then a decision must be made by the Association as to whether the violation warrants immediate suspension or notice of investigation which may result in suspension at a later date.
5. If the accusations against an individual are based on hearsay instead of actual facts the League must take a different approach toward the alleged problem. The League should advise them of the accusations brought toward them, that these accusations are being investigated by the League and may result in discipline.
6. If the accusations towards an individual or group are factual and depending on their severity, it must be determined if the individual or group represent a threat to the welfare of the team and if so then he/she or they must be suspended immediately.
7. The individual or group accused must be made aware of the severity of their actions and that an investigation is being carried out by the League and they will be requested to appear before a hearing in the near future.
8. It is very important that the League takes into account the circumstances of each case and the gravity of the offense. A complete investigation should be conducted ensuring that these accused individual(s) get a fair hearing and careful consideration of any mitigating circumstances.
9. The reason for these procedures is to maintain controls and deal with a difficult situation in a judicious and firm matter.



## Appendix III – League Rotation for Unbalanced Schedule

### 2004-05 Season

Team	Extra Home Series	Extra Away Series
North Bay	Onaping Falls	Sault Ste. Marie
Onaping Falls	Timmins	North Bay
Sault Ste. Marie	North Bay	Sudbury
Sudbury	Sault Ste. Marie	Timmins
Timmins	Sudbury	Onaping Falls

### 2005-06 Season

Team	Extra Home Series	Extra Away Series
North Bay	Sudbury	Timmins
Onaping Falls	Sault Ste. Marie	Sudbury
Sault Ste. Marie	Timmins	Onaping Falls
Sudbury	Onaping Falls	North Bay
Timmins	North Bay	Sault Ste. Marie

### 2006-07 Season

Team	Extra Home Series	Extra Away Series
North Bay	Sault Ste. Marie	Onaping Falls
Onaping Falls	North Bay	Timmins
Sault Ste. Marie	Sudbury	North Bay
Sudbury	Timmins	Sault Ste. Marie
Timmins	Onaping Falls	Sudbury

### 2007-08 Season

Team	Extra Home Series	Extra Away Series
North Bay	Timmins	Sudbury
Onaping Falls	Sudbury	Sault Ste. Marie
Sault Ste. Marie	Onaping Falls	Timmins
Sudbury	North Bay	Onaping Falls
Timmins	Sault Ste. Marie	North Bay