

# ***NORTH EASTERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION September 1, 2024***

## **ARTICLE 1 – NAME**

Name This organization shall be known as the North Eastern Ontario Hockey Association, hereinafter referred to as the N.E.O.H.A.

## **ARTICLE 2 – AUTHORITY**

The NEOHA shall operate under the playing rules of the Hockey Canada (HC), the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF), the Northern Ontario Hockey Association (NOHA), and all NEOHA Constitution and By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE 3 – PURPOSE AND COMPOSITION**

The purpose of the NEOHA shall be to provide an avenue of competition for the more competitive teams within our member associations.

We shall provide organized minor hockey for each member association in the following age categories (if ample member association registrants are deemed sufficient to ice a team):

- a) U7
- b) U9
- c) U11
- d) U13
- e) U15
- f) U18

## **ARTICLE 4 – OBJECTIVES**

- a) To provide every participant with a fun filled hockey experience within the best possible environment conducive to their skills and ability levels.
- b) To develop a high concept of self by allowing players to contribute equitably to the team success.
- c) To promote player development by ensuring that league game play is conducted respective of OHF/NOHA mandated player pathways.

## **ARTICLE 5 – MEMBERSHIP**

The NEOHA Member Associations includes those minor hockey associations within the boundaries of North Eastern Ontario. More specifically, NOHA districts number 3, 4, 6, and 9. It may also include any other minor hockey association(s) as approved by the Board of Directors outside of these aforementioned districts in the NOHA.

Prior to commencement of NEOHA league play, NEOHA member associations will be required to annually provide a listing of teams that their association desires to enroll in specific age divisions under the NEOHA umbrella.

Membership in the N.E.O.H.A. shall be granted to an association upon completion of the following requirements:

- a) An association shall be considered for membership provided said association has a minimum of one team registered to participate in the N.E.O.H.A., and has paid to the N.E.O.H.A. the performance bond on behalf of the teams from their association, notwithstanding member associations in good standing from the previous year.
- b) New associations wishing to join the N.E.O.H.A. shall apply in writing to the N.E.O.H.A. and said application(s) shall be dealt with at the Annual Meeting of the N.E.O.H.A.

#### **ARTICLE 6 – MEETINGS**

- a) The N.E.O.H.A. shall hold an Annual Meeting on a date to be determined by the executive committee no later than September 30th, annually. The aforementioned Annual Meeting shall be held no later than the middle of June each year.
- b) General meetings of the N.E.O.H.A. shall take place before the start of the hockey season, preferably in August and at the end of the season, preferably in April. The executive shall determine any other General Meetings of the N.E.O.H.A.
- c) Special meetings of the N.E.O.H.A. shall be called by the President or upon written request to do so, by at least two (2) member associations of the N.E.O.H.A.
- d) A quorum at any Annual Meeting, General Meeting, or Special Meeting of the N.E.O.H.A. shall be fifty percent (50%) of the eligible member associations of the N.E.O.H.A.
- e) Executive meetings of the N.E.O.H.A. shall be held Bi-monthly, at a time and place as determined by the executive, or at such frequency as the executive may decide. A quorum at any meeting of the executive of the N.E.O.H.A. shall be fifty percent (50%) of the members of the executive.

#### **ARTICLE 7 - VOTING**

- a) Voting at all meetings of the N.E.O.H.A. shall be done by the association representative. Each association shall be entitled to one vote for every team registered in the N.E.O.H.A. based on the previous year's registration.
- b) Each elected member of the executive of the N.E.O.H.A. shall have one vote. The President shall only vote in the event of a tie.

- c) Only those associations or executive members present at any meeting of the N.E.O.H.A. shall be entitled to vote. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed.
- d) For the election of officers and directors at the Annual General Meeting of the N.E.O.H.A. each association shall carry one vote, regardless of the number of teams that association represents.

#### **ARTICLE 8 – AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Constitution Amendments to the Constitution may only be made by a two-thirds majority vote of the eligible votes available at the Annual Meeting of the N.E.O.H.A. and shall only be considered if they have been delivered to the Secretary or the Administrator of the N.E.O.H.A. at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 9 – EXECUTIVE**

- a) The executive of the N.E.O.H.A. shall be comprised of the following executive positions:
  - 1) President
  - 2) Secretary/Administrator
  - 3) Treasurer
  - 4) Past President (Immediate)
  - 5) And shall also include one (1) director/association representative from each association NOT represented by an elected official as listed above.
- b) The President, Secretary/Administrator, and Treasurer shall be elected annually by ballot, from the eligible member associations present at the Annual Meeting of the N.E.O.H.A.
- c) Each association may be represented on the executive of the N.E.O.H.A. by a maximum of two (2) elected persons, except in the case of the Past President where three (3) representatives from one association will be allowed.

#### **ARTICLE 10 – DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE**

- a) The President will preside at all meetings of the N.E.O.H.A. He/she will perform all duties usual to the office of President. The President shall act as chief executive officer for the N.E.O.H.A. The President will not vote on any matters, except in the event of a tie.
- b) The Secretary/Administrator shall record all minutes at all meetings of the N.E.O.H.A. He/she will perform all duties usual to the office of Secretary/Administrator.

- c) The Treasurer shall perform all duties normally associated with the position of Treasurer. He/she shall collect all registration fees and performance bonds, and shall cause to be paid all approved expenses. The Treasurer will cause to have opened all necessary bank accounts for the operation of the N.E.O.H.A. He/she shall also provide the executive with a regular accounting of all funds entrusted to the N.E.O.H.A. All payments made on behalf of the N.E.O.H.A. shall be made by cheque, and all cheques must be signed by two of the three following persons: the President, or the Treasurer.
- d) The directors/member association representatives shall perform such duties as assigned to them by the President, or the executive, or general membership of the N.E.O.H.A.
- e) Any vacancy within the executive of the N.E.O.H.A. will be filled by an election from among the qualified members present at any General Meeting or any Special meeting of the N.E.O.H.A.

#### **ARTICLE 11 – ADMINISTRATOR**

The executive of the N.E.O.H.A. shall hire an Association Administrator. The specific duties of the position shall be determined by the executive, but shall include the following:

- 1) The preparation of the regular season schedule for all divisions of the N.E.O.H.A.
- 2) The collection and compilation of statistics for all divisions of the N.E.O.H.A.
- 3) Attend all meetings of the executive and all General and Annual meetings of the N.E.O.H.A. and in the absence of the Secretary, record all minutes of the proceedings at these meetings.
- 4) Circulate all correspondence to all member associations as needed.

#### **ARTICLE 10 – DISCIPLINE**

- a) All teams registered in the N.E.O.H.A. will be required to agree to all the terms of the “Participation Contract”. A signed copy of the contract shall be in the possession of the N.E.O.H.A. Administrator before any games will be scheduled for that team.
- b) All games played within the N.E.O.H.A. shall be played under the official rules of hockey as amended by the Canadian Hockey Association.
- c) The N.E.O.H.A. shall adopt the O.H.F. Minimum Suspension list for all infractions of the playing rules.
- d) Appeals to any decisions or suspensions made on behalf of the N.E.O.H.A. shall be accepted and deliberated only if they are in writing and are postmarked within 48 hours of the suspension or fine being levied. It is acceptable to email appeals

provided they are received by the Administrator or President within 48 hours of the occurrence.

- e) All appeals will be reviewed and a decision reached by the executive committee as soon as possible upon receipt of the appeal.

#### **ARTICLE 11 – GATE FEES**

The N.E.O.H.A. will under no circumstances charge entry fees for any N.E.O.H.A. games.