

Men's Hockey

1. Rules

1.1. ACAC hockey shall be played under Hockey Canada rules with modifications as follows:

1.1.1. No line change shall be allowed for the team that ices the puck, regardless of what zone the puck is shot down the ice from. *(Amended July, 2016)*

1.1.2. Time Outs: On any timeout called during the game, both teams are permitted to conduct a line change unless an icing play was the reason for that stoppage. If that is the case, the team icing the puck can't conduct the line change. *(Amended April, 2018)*

1.1.3. No line change shall be allowed for the team that shoots the puck over the glass in the defensive zone. *(Added July, 2016)*

1.1.4. Penalties at Stoppage of Play: When players are penalized at a stoppage of play that results in penalties being placed on the penalty time clock to one team, the ensuing face-off shall be conducted at one of the two face-off spots in the offending team's end zone. *(Amended June, 2012)*

1.1.5. Rosters: ACAC teams shall be permitted to have 20 players on their game sheet. *(Amended January, 2016)*

1.1.6. Insurance: All men's hockey teams are recommended to opt in to the Canadian Hockey Association's Supplemental Insurance coverage each season. *(Added February, 2015)*

1.1.7. All ACAC Men's Hockey teams must register their players and bench staff with Hockey Alberta prior to their first regular season game (Hockey Canada HCR). This is to ensure appropriate level of Amateur Hockey Sanctioning, minimal insurance coverage with Hockey Canada and liability coverage for staff running the team. *(Added January, 2016)*

1.1.8. Student athletes requesting to wear a *kirpan* while competing in the ACAC **will be allowed** as Hockey Alberta doesn't currently have a policy regarding this item. *(Added July, 2018)*

2. Provisions

2.1. The home team will provide ice and an event sheet (including emergency action plan) to the visiting team. *(Amended January, 2016)*

3. Time of Game

3.1. Warm-up: A minimum 15 minute warm-up time shall be given prior to the scheduled starting time. A maximum of 15 minute intermission breaks (between periods) shall be scheduled. The home team takes the ice first and leaves last; the visitors take the ice second and leave first. Teams should be entering the ice surface at the second of the "two minutes" warning. *(Amended July, 2016)*

3.2.Overtime/Play-Offs: Overtime in play-off games will consist of 10 minutes of sudden victory followed by the resurfacing of the ice if no goal is scored. Teams will then play 20 minute periods thereafter until a winner is determined.

3.3.Overtime/Regular Season: In regular season play, a 5 minute sudden victory, 4 on 4 OT period will be played in an attempt to break ties; and if still tied there will be another 5 minutes of 3 on 3 hockey. If still tied after the 2nd overtime (3 on 3) the game will be recorded as a tie game. At the end of regulation, each team will receive 1 point, and the team winning in overtime will receive an additional 1 point. The winning team in overtime with 4 on 4 will receive 1 additional point. At the conclusion of the 4 on 4 if teams are still tied each team receives 1 point. *(Amended July, 2016)*

3.4.Travel during Playoff Series: In playoff series when the 400 KM rule is in effect, the preferred start time is 4:00PM or earlier on Sunday for game 3. *(Added April, 2016)*

4. Major/Minor Officials

4.1.Referees/Linespersons: Two referees and two linespersons shall be used for 50% of each teams' home games and all playoff games for the 2017-18 season; 75% of each team's home games and all playoff games for the 2018-19 season; and 100% of each team's home games and all playoff games for the 2019-20 season and following. If only one referee is available due to circumstances beyond the ACAC's control, the game shall proceed. *(Amended December, 2016)*

4.1.1. A minimum of one major game official must be responsible for observing the warm-up prior to each game. *(Added July, 2016)*

4.1.2. Registered students, university employees and family members *(Added April, 2016)*

4.1.2.1. Assignors are to use discretion when assigning registered students, university/college employees and/or family members of a current team member to games in which their university/college is participating.

4.1.2.2. ACAC expects the best officials to be assigned accordingly, but in the aforementioned situations, assignors are asked to use their best judgement in eliminating any perceived conflict of interest, as well as avoiding assigning an official to a game in which they are not comfortable working.

4.1.2.3. Anytime a registered student, university/college employee and/or family member of a current team member is assigned to officiate a game in which their university is participating, the assignor must notify the ACAC office and the ACAC Hockey Convenor at least one week in advance to outline the circumstances of the assignment. The ACAC office or Hockey Convenor will then notify the Athletic Director of the two participating universities/colleges.

4.2.Minor Officials: Home teams shall be responsible for ensuring a scorekeeper and timekeepers are present. *(Amended April, 2014)*

4.2.1. Game day staff are responsible to receive a line up from each team. They must complete the game sheet. Prior to the warm-up, the game day staff then take the game sheet to the away team head coach who reviews the line-up and signs the game sheet, they the game day staff take the game sheet to the home team head coach who reviews the line-up and signs the game sheet. *(Added April, 2018)*

4.3.Goal Judges: The assignment of goal judges for ACAC Hockey is not mandatory. *(Amended April, 2014)*

5. Official All-Conference Hockey Team and Individual Awards

5.1.An official All-Conference hockey team and individual awards shall be selected according to the procedures outlined in Operating Code Article III, Section 10. *(Amended May, 2007)*

6. Play-off Structure

6.1.Format: Play-offs shall consist of two best of 3 quarter-finals where #5 plays #4 and #6 plays #3. Winners will advance to a best of 3 semi-final series against the #1 and #2 teams, with the winners from those series meeting in a best of 3 final series. The lowest ranked winner from the quarter-final series will play the #1 ranked team and the #2 ranked team will play the other quarter-final winner. *(Amended January, 2013)*

6.2.Travel

6.2.1. When the travel distance between the two competing colleges exceeds 300 km, all games in a best of 3 series will be played at the home arena of the higher placed team in the regular season standings. When the teams are located within the 300 km radius, the first and third (if necessary) game(s) of a best of three series will be played at the home arena of the higher placed team in the regular season standings. It is also preferred, that if a team has travelled over 300 KM, and game 3 is needed, that the recommended start time be before 4:00 pm on the Sunday. *(Amended January, 2016)*

6.2.2. In a best of 5 series,when the travel distance between the two competing colleges are located within the 300 km radius, the first, third and fifth games (if necessary) will be played at the home arena of the higher placed team in the regular season standings. Normally, games #1-2 shall be played on consecutive nights on the first weekend if possible with games #3-5 as required following on the subsequent weekend. Where the traveling distance between the two competing teams is greater than 400km, the first three games shall be played at the home of the higher placed team. The play-offs are scheduled to allow a mid-week game in best of five series to avoid three games in a row where possible, within 150 km. *(Amended July, 2018)*

7. Standings in League Play *(Amended June, 2017)*

7.1. Should a tie occur between two or more teams, standings shall be decided according to the following priorities:

7.1.1. Most wins during the regular season. *(Amended May, 2009)*

7.1.2. In games between tied teams the team with the most points from regular season head to head games shall be the tie-breaker. *(Added May, 2009)*

7.1.3. Regulation wins take precedence over OT wins. *(Amended May, 2009)*

7.1.4. In games between the tied teams in a regular season series, the team with more wins gets the higher placing, as regulation wins take precedence over OT wins in deciding placements. *(Amended May, 2007)*

7.1.5. Goals for minus goals against for each of the tied teams. The team with best differential earns the higher placing. *(Amended May, 2007)*

7.1.6. Consideration of games played versus the highest placed team not in the tie, followed by the next highest placed team, etc. Regulation wins take precedence over OT wins. *(Amended May, 2007)*

7.1.7. Consideration of goals scored and allowed versus the highest placed team not in the tie, followed by next highest placed team, etc.

Note: Where a multiple tie occurs and is only partially resolved by the application of the tie breaking rules, the remaining ties shall be decided by returning to priority number 1 and working through the order again.

8. Men's Hockey Disciplinary Guidelines

8.1. Refer to chart at the end of this section for disciplinary breakdown *(Added September, 2014)*

8.2. Suspension in Game: Any player or coach who receives a suspension that arises from match penalties, gross misconduct penalties and game misconduct penalties in a game shall receive the applicable suspension as per the Hockey Alberta Senior Male regulations and ACAC Operating Code, to be served the next scheduled game(s). Games added to a team's non-conference schedule and date stamped on the ACAC website the day of the infraction or thereafter cannot be used to serve the suspension. In those cases (i.e. match, gross misconduct, cumulative game misconducts) where a player or coach is subject to the Commissioner's discretion as to the length of the suspension, the suspension shall be served immediately pending final determination by the Commissioner. *(Amended June, 2012)*

8.3. Sanctions Levied During ACAC Hosted Tournaments: All suspensions that arise from play in ACAC non-conference contests must be served in the next scheduled game. *(Added October, 2012)*

8.3.1. ACAC members are obligated to enforce sanctions to non-conference participants as per ACAC guidelines at any competition hosted by them (i.e. should a visiting non-ACAC team acquire a sanction, for example, requiring a one game suspension, the ACAC host is required to ensure this sanction is served at the next competition, should one be played – e.g. in a tournament). ACAC members are encouraged to inform tournament invitees in advance of this requirement (i.e. at the point of invitation to the tournament).

8.4.Match Penalty: *(Amended June, 2012)*

8.4.1. A player who has received a match penalty shall be assessed a three-game suspension. If a player receives the match penalty for Head Contact, a four-game suspension will be assessed. *(Amended April, 2018)*

8.4.2. At the discretion of the Commissioner, further penalties may be applied.

8.4.3. A player receiving a second match penalty of the season shall be assessed a six game suspension.

8.4.4. A player receiving a third match penalty of the season shall be suspended for the remainder of the season and a review conducted by the commissioner possible suspension into the next season.

8.5.Major Penalty for Head Contact *(Amended June, 2012/April, 2016)*

8.5.1. 1st Offence - One Game suspension

8.5.2. 2nd Offence - Two Game suspension

8.5.3. 3rd Offence - Indefinite suspension until reviewed by ACAC Commissioner, ACAC Convenor and/or Discipline Committee

8.5.4. Any major penalty called in a game that has contact to the head must be reviewed by video. i.e the major penalty can be changed to a match penalty.

8.5.5. Any incident where injury was done to the player's head can be requested for review by that institution for further suspension without fee regardless of whether it was called or not. If not called, the institution must provide a doctor's note with diagnosis of injury. That institution is required to provide the league with video evidence of the incident.

8.6.Fighting: A player receiving a five minute major for fighting shall be sanctioned as follows: *(Amended June, 2012/April, 2016)*

8.6.1. 1st Offence: 1 game suspension in addition to any supplemental suspension for Game Misconduct

8.6.2. 2nd Offence: 2 game suspension

8.6.3. 3rd Offence: 3 game suspension

8.6.4. 4th Offence: an immediate suspension pending a review by the Commissioner, SMT Convenor and Chief Executive Officer

8.7. Instigator/Aggressor in a Fight: *(Added April, 2016)*

8.7.1. 1st Offence: 1 game suspension in addition to any supplemental suspension for Game Misconduct

8.7.2. 2nd Offence: 2 game suspension

8.7.3. 3rd Offence: 4 game suspension and pending review by the Commissioner, SMT, Convenor and Chief Executive Officer

8.7.4. 4th Offence: indefinite suspension

8.7.5. Player involved in a fight against an instigator (where an instigator penalty is called) would be ejected from the game but would not be suspended for the following game and would not count towards Game Misconduct accumulations both team and individual

8.7.6. Coach of the team (team total and not by individual player) that accumulates 4 instigators in a season will be suspended for 3 games. On 5th instigator/aggressor there will be league review by the Commissioner, Hockey Convenor and the Disciplinary Committee.

8.8. Gross Misconduct Penalty: *(Amended June, 2012)*

8.8.1. A player who has received a gross misconduct penalty shall be assessed a three-game suspension.

8.8.2. A player or team official receiving a second gross misconduct in the same season shall be assessed a five game suspension.

8.8.3. A player receiving a third gross misconduct of the season shall be suspended for the remainder of the season and a review conducted by the commissioner possible suspension into the next season.

8.9. Game Misconduct Penalty: *(Amended June, 2012)*

8.9.1. A student-athlete receiving three or more game misconducts in a season shall be dealt with as follows:

8.9.1.1. 3rd Game Misconduct: A player shall (through the institution) receive an official warning from the ACAC Commissioner upon receiving a third game misconduct in a season. *(Amended May 2009)*

8.9.1.2. 4th Game Misconduct: one-game suspension

8.9.1.3. 5th Game Misconduct: one game suspension

8.9.1.4. 6th and subsequent Game Misconducts: immediate suspension pending a review by the ACAC Commissioner

8.9.2. A fine of \$100 per major penalty will be applied to each team that has incurred above and beyond six (6) major, match, and gross penalties in the course of the season (not including fights when opponent gets instigator or minor penalty plus game for check from behind). Additionally, coaches of teams that exceed nine (9) major penalties during the course of the season will receive a one (1) game suspension for each major penalty beginning with the tenth infraction. Coaches of those teams that exceed eleven (11) or more major penalties will be required to come before the ACAC Commissioner, the ACAC Convenor and Disciplinary Committee and may be subject to additional disciplinary action based on the committee's findings.
(Amended June, 2012/April, 2016/June, 2017)

8.9.3. Team Official: a team official shall receive a one game suspension for receiving a game misconduct. Team officials who receive game misconducts in the last 10 minutes of a game shall receive a 2-game suspension. *(Amended April, 2018)*

8.9.3.1. If a player receives a game misconduct in the last 10 minutes of the game or overtime, they shall be assessed a 1 game suspension. *(Added April, 2018)*

8.9.4. A team official receiving two or more game misconducts in a season shall be dealt with as follows: *(Amended June, 2012)*

8.9.4.1. 2nd Game Misconduct - two game suspension

8.9.4.2. 3rd Game Misconduct - three game suspension

8.9.4.3. 4th and further Game Misconducts - dealt with by the ACAC Commissioner

8.9.5. Dates of Suspensions: With the exception of immediate suspensions as noted above, the Commissioner shall state the dates of supplemental discipline. *(Amended December 2007)*

8.10. Supplemental Discipline/Suspensions Resulting from Game Misconducts, Match, or Gross Misconduct Penalties:

If a coach, team official or player is suspended as a result of an incident occurring in a non-conference game, he/she must sit out the next scheduled game, regardless of whether it is non-conference or conference competition. Only non-conference games posted on the ACAC website system *at the time of the offence* may be used to satisfy the suspension.

If a coach, team official or player is suspended as a result of an incident occurring in a league/conference game, he must sit out the next scheduled league/conference game. *(Amended December, 2007)*

8.11. Carry-Over Suspensions: Suspensions shall carry on beyond the completion of the ACAC playdowns (i.e. to national championships). Players returning to the ACAC who have not finished serving suspensions received the previous year shall do so at the start of the new season's league play.

8.11.1. The Commissioner shall advise athletic directors via his/her year-end report of any suspensions carrying over to the next season in which the offending player participates in the Conference.

8.12. Use of Suspended Personnel: Any team which permits a player/coach to participate in any ACAC game(s) for which they were required to serve a suspension shall automatically forfeit the game(s) in question. The forfeited game(s) shall be deemed acceptable in serving the suspension.

(Amended April, 2013)

8.13. Submission of Game Sheets/Reports: Teams must submit game sheets and referees' reports to ACAC Dropbox for all games played (including hosted and non-hosted/visiting non-conference games) where a major, match or game misconduct penalty is assessed. It shall be the responsibility of the host institution to ensure that this documentation is forwarded by 12:00 pm on first working day following the match in question. A fine of \$50.00 shall be assessed to any institution which fails to comply with this requirement. *(Amended May, 2005/Amended August, 2016)*

In the case of play-off games, the host institution must ensure the documentation is forwarded immediately after the conclusion of the game. The Commissioner must submit a ruling prior to the next play-off game. *(Amended May, 2009)*

9. Special Rule for Goalkeepers

9.1. On an emergency basis, such as for back up purposes when regular goalkeepers have been lost due to injury or for academic reasons, it shall be permissible to use a goaltender who is a full-time student at the ACAC member institution in question even though the athlete may be playing concurrently with another team. Provided that the emergency back-up goaltender is listed on the game sheet fewer than 5 games, he/she will not be considered to have used a year of eligibility.

A supplemental eligibility form must be completed by the institution prior to the student-athlete competing. An appeal can be made to the Commissioner to waive the 24 hour eligibility certificate submission deadline. *(Amended March, 2010)*

9.2. In an extraordinary circumstance, an institution can appeal to the Commissioner to use their emergency back-up goalie for the remainder of the semester past the four game limit, under the following conditions: *(Added February, 2015)*

- Player has to be a full time student at that institution (9 credits hours/semester). *(Amended May, 2015)*
- Player is only used when the starting goalie is injured
- Player is recorded as having used a year of eligibility

9.3. If a team's goaltender is injured during warmup/game and cannot return to the bench/game, teams will be permitted to dress their 3rd goaltender. That goaltender will remain on the bench as an emergency goaltender and can only be inserted into the game if the 2nd goaltender becomes injured and cannot complete the game. *(Added April, 2018)*

10. Uniforms

10.1. Name bars on uniforms are optional. If a team chooses to wear name bars, all players are required to display a name bar on their uniform by the sixth week of league play. *(Amended April, 2014)*

10.2. Each conference hockey team shall have two sets of uniforms; one basically light and the other basically dark in colour. The home team will wear dark first semester and light second semester. For playoffs, the home team will return to wearing dark jerseys. *(Amended June, 2014)*

11. Coaches Meetings

11.1. Two coaches meetings are to be held per year, one via conference call and one face to face. The Convenor will set the dates and locations of the fall and spring meetings within three weeks of the completion of Annual General Meeting. *(Added December, 2013/Amended June, 2014)*

12. Non-Conference Schedules and Scores

12.1. Sanctioning of Non-Conference Games

12.1.1. Before planning to play a non-conference game against a foreign team, out of province team or out of league team, proper sanctions and approvals shall be obtained through the Men's Hockey Convenor and the appropriate Hockey Canada Branch. *(Amended May, 2015)*

All ACAC Men's Hockey teams must register all their exhibition games with Hockey Alberta. It is an online form located on the Hockey Alberta website (this includes games with any team from out of the country/province or senior/junior team). *(Added January, 2016)*

Note: Hockey Canada states that the punishment for non-registration could be up to a 3-year suspension for the coach as well as additional supplementary discipline. If games are not registered, there will be no insurance coverage. *(Added January, 2016)*

12.2. Non-conference schedules, for the purpose of determining the precise games where sanctions are applicable and resulting suspensions must be served, are to be entered onto the ACAC web page prior to any games being played. Compliance implies an automatic approval of receipt by the Commissioner and the ACAC Office. This shall apply to the following sports: basketball, hockey, soccer and volleyball. *(Amended May, 2005)*

12.3. All non-conference games/tournament schedules are to be posted on the ACAC website system 48 hours prior to game time. Institutions which fail to post schedules on the ACAC website 48 hours prior to game time shall be assessed a fine of \$25.00 per game, to a maximum of \$250.00 in the case of a tournament.

Note: In the event of a tournament, a skeleton schedule must be posted.

All exhibition games/tournament scores are to be posted on the ACAC website system by 4 pm on the second business day following the competition. Institutions which fail to post scores shall be fined \$25.00 per game, to a maximum of \$250.00 in the case of a tournament. *(Added April, 2011)*

12.4. Exhibition Play: An ACAC men's hockey team will have a total exhibition season of not more than six (6) games during an academic year *(Added January, 2013/ Amended July, 2016/ Amended May, 2017)*

12.4.1. If an ACAC Men's Hockey team intends to play exhibition games above the Operating Code maximum limit, they must make an application, through their Athletic Director, to the ACAC Executive Committee, noting the specific reasons and benefits for the games. The application should be received by the ACAC Executive Committee at least 30 days prior to the scheduled game(s). Considerations for approval are: education benefits to student-athletes, level of promotions for ACAC hockey, European trip, NCAA opponents, and Professional hockey. *(Added April, 2018)*

ACAC Men's Hockey Penalty & Sanctions Chart
(AC-ACAC Operating Code, HC-Hockey Alberta Senior Rules)
(Updated September 2016)

Rule #	Description	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th Offense	5th Offense	6th Offense
AC 8.4	Match Penalty	3 games	6 games	remainder of season & Review conducted			
AC 8.5	Head Contact with Major & Game Misconduct	1 game	2 games	Indefinite & Review			
AC 8.6	Fighting	1 game	2 games	3 games	Suspension + Review		
AC 8.7	Instigator or aggressor	1 game	2 games	4 games & Review	Indefinite		
AC 8.7.6	Coach of team with accumulated instigator/Agg	NA	NA	NA	3 games	NA	Review
AC 8.8	Gross Misconduct	3 games	5 games	remainder of season & Review conducted			
AC 8.9.1	Game Misconduct accumulation	NA	NA	warning	1 game	1 game	suspension & review
AC 8.9.2	Major Penalties (excluding fights when opponent get instigator or minor penalty plus GM for check from behind)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$100 fine for each above and beyond six (6) major penalties 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For coaches: 1 game suspension for each major beginning with the 10th infraction For coaches: Review for 11th or more major infractions 		
AC 8.9.3	Game Misconduct to staff	1 game	2 games	3 games	Review with the ACAC Commissioner		
AC 8.9.3	Game Misconduct last 10 of game - staff	2 games	Same as 1 st Offense				
HC	Game Misconduct last 10 of game - player	1 game	Same as 1 st Offense				
HC 3.6	Removing of Helmet for fight	1 game	Same as 1 st Offense				
HC 4.1	Pre/Post Game Altercation (Majors & GM)	1 game (Max 5 team)	Same as 1st Offense				
HC 4.1	Pre/Post Game Altercation (coach)	3 games	Same as 1 st Offense				

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HC 4.6	Player assessed 2 game misconducts same play	1 game	Same as 1 st Offense
HC 4.6	Player assessed 3 game misconducts same play	indefinite	Same as 1 st Offense
HC 6.4	Checking from behind Major & Game Miscon	1 game	Same as 1 st Offense
HC 6.4	Checking from behind Match penalty	2 games	Same as 1 st Offense
HC 6.5	Head Contact with Match	4 games	Same as 1 st Offense
HC 6.7	Player wearing rings or tape in fight	2 games	Same as 1 st Offense
HC 6.7	3rd man in fight w/game misconduct assessed	1 game	Same as 1 st Offense
HC 9.2	Verbal abuse of Officials - game misconduct	1 game	Same as 1 st Offense
HC 9.2	Verbal Abuse of Officials - Gross misconduct	indefinite	Same as 1 st Offense
HC 9.5	First to leave bench during a fight	2 games	Same as 1 st Offense
HC 9.5	First to leave the penalty box during a fight	3 games	Same as 1 st Offense
HC 9.5	Coach of team penalized for above 2 points	2 games	Same as 1 st Offense
HC 9.5	Coach whose players left bench but not first	1 game	Same as 1 st Offense
HC 9.5	First to leave the bench to start a fight	3 games	Same as 1 st Offense
HC 9.5	First to leave penalty box to start a fight	4 games	Same as 1 st Offense

AC – ACAC Operating Code Rule

HC – Hockey Canada Senior Playing Rule