



## NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

110 LAKESHORE DRIVE  
NORTH BAY, ONTARIO P1A 2A8  
PHONE: (705) 474-8851 • FAX: (705) 474-6019  
www.noha-hockey.ca



### Minutes of the Northern Ontario Hockey Association 104<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Minor Meeting May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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#### 1) Land Acknowledgment

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#### 2) Approval of Last Annual General Meeting Minutes

**Moved by** Brian Beaupre, NOHA Executive  
**Seconded by** Kevin Peever, NOHA Executive

“That the Minutes of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting and the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Minor Meeting be approved as presented.”

**CARRIED**

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#### 3) President’s Address

Sue Shepherdson read the President’s Report from the Annual Meeting Package.

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#### 4) Receiving and Reading the Report of the Committee on Credentials

There were 124 present. A simple majority would require 112 votes.

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#### 5) Reading of Correspondence

None.

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#### 6) Reports of Executive Committees

Included in Annual Meeting Package.

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#### 7) Reading of Treasurer’s Report

Derek D’Angelo of KPMG presented the Treasurer’s Report and Financial Statements as outlined in the Annual Meeting Package.

Financial Report as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Presented by Jason Marchand.



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**Moved by** Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive

**Seconded by** Ted Zajac, NOHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

“That we approve the Auditor’s Report with the year ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.”

**CARRIED**

**Moved by** Craig Maki, NOHA Executive

**Seconded by** Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

“That KPMG LLP be appointed as auditors of the NOHA to hold office until the close of the next Annual General Meeting of the NOHA at such remuneration as may be fixed by the Board of Directors and that the Board of Directors be authorized to fix such remuneration.”

**CARRIED**

**Moved by** Claudette Myre, Past President

**Seconded by** Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive

“To ratify and approve all acts taken by the Directors and Officers.”

**CARRIED**

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### 7) Motions

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** It’s now time to move to the section on to notices of motions that you have received. I believe you received the package of motions from the Board. Number nine, ten, and eleven, number twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five, and twenty-six as Housekeeping motions that we will deal with unless there is somebody who wants one of those motions pulled out specifically to be dealt with. Seeing no requests for that, we’ll move to a mover and seconder from the Board. All those in favour? Opposed?

“The NOHA Executive is seeking the support of the Membership to deal with the proposed amendments as a block, as it is our belief that they are all Housekeeping in nature.

#8 – Regulation 2.1.m.

#9 – Regulation 2.1.n.

#10 – Regulation 2.2.a.

#11 – Regulation 2.2.b.

#23 – Regulation 10.2.a.

#24 – Regulation 10.5.c.

#25 – Regulation 11.2.1.

#26 – Regulation 11.2.2.a.”

**Moved by** Brian Beaupre, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President



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**Seconded by Ted Zajac, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

### **CARRIED**

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** That was pretty quick. We'll be through these in no time. The Board now is going to move down from here down into the table area just so that they're closer to the microphone so they'll be able to speak as well. The Board has directed me that we will move first to the motions on Freedom of Movement, so we will move to motions number fifteen, sixteen, and seventeen. So, get those ready.

**Craig Maki, NOHA Executive:** Okay, good morning, everybody. I have the pleasure of bringing to you the Freedom of Motion—Freedom of Movement motions. There's three on the board. One of them is motion fifteen, which speaks to all minor hockey programming, sixteen is for House League only, and seventeen is for Rep only. I guess the biggest question about why our Board is bringing this to you today is, you know, our belief that it's in the best interests of hockey that families have the ability to choose where they can register their child. As you know, our numbers have improved in regard to recruitment and retention; however, we need to, you know, keep moving forward and we believe that Freedom of Movement will enhance hockey, keeping players in the game and enjoying their experience. We're the last to the table when it comes to Freedom of Movement in the Ontario Hockey Federation. Everybody else has Freedom of Movement in their constitutions, and we want to add to that, we want to join that as well. From a volunteer perspective, dealing with releases and appeals sucks up a lot of our time. When you factor in recruitment and retention, you also have to be mindful of the volunteers. We only have so many hours in the week, a lot of us have full-time jobs. So, to be able to, you know, dealing with all these extra things, if we can bring them down, we believe Freedom of Movement will help, then we can help with that. We've seen it in the past, and we're seeing it currently, associations are denying releases at higher level communities, which is problematic. Associations have had agreements in the past, those agreements can be restrictive, and it's not fair for everyone in the community that some people can move and some people can't. Sue mentioned it in her address, for ten years, we've kept bringing it up. Claudette, who, unfortunately is going to be leaving the Board, there's a lot of knowledge there, has always been a strong advocate of Freedom of Movement and wants to bring it to the NOHA, you know, not that Claudette is the be all and end all, but she's helped me a lot in my mentorship, she's helped me greatly, and she strongly believes. That that mirrors her experience shows that this is probably the proper pathway for the NOHA to move forward. We've talked about the survey, 75%, but at the end of the day, 1800 people responded to a survey, and 75% of those people want Freedom of Movement. Everybody had an



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opportunity to respond. If they didn't respond, that's their choice, of the people who did respond, three-quarters want what your Board has brought forward.

### **15 -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE**

#### **NOHA Regulation 6.1**

##### **Presently Reads:**

In U7 and all divisions and categories above Minor hockey, the residence rule shall be open.

A Player must compete with the Association/Single Entry Team nearest to their place of residence that has entered a Team for which they are qualified to play.

Players must be a bonafide resident of the city, town, municipality, village, First Nation territory, rural area, unorganized township, zone or such other area in the District in which the Player resides, by November 1st in any playing season.

U21, U18, U15, and U13 AAA, Minor and Major, will adopt the Zone concept. Zone Divisions will be the Districts as outlined in the definitions contained in the NOHA Constitution.

A Player from within a District may request an NOHA Release from the signing officers of the Association or Single Entry Team holding his/her playing rights to try out for the AAA Club within the District. The NOHA Release carries an automatic Release for the Player upon being signed by the AAA Association/Team. The same provision will apply for a Player wanting to try out for a AAA Association/Team outside his/her District.

The OHF Residential Move Form must be attached to the Player's record in the HCR for approval. At the request of the President of the NOHA, the signing officers of an Association or Single Entry Team shall submit supporting documentation to the NOHA Office. In the case of disputed residency, the ruling of the President shall be final.

Any Player moving residency within their own Association must submit a completed Residential Move form only. No additional documentation is required (i.e. driver's license, bill, etc.).

Any Players whose home centre is not specifically listed in NOHA By-Law 1.1.R) shall have their Home Association determined by the NOHA Board.

##### **Change to Read:**



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~~In all divisions and categories above Minor hockey, the residence rule shall be open. A Player must compete with the Association/Single Entry Team nearest to their place of residence that has entered a Team for which they are qualified to play.~~

~~Players must be a~~ **No Minor Player shall be registered as a member of, or compete for, a Team in any NOHA match who has not been a** bonafide resident of the city, town, municipality, village, First Nation territory, rural area, unorganized township, zone or such other area ~~in the District in which the Player resides, by~~ **as established by the Branch to which their Team belongs since** November 1st in any playing season.

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Any Players whose home centre is not specifically listed in NOHA By-Law 1.1.R) shall have their Home Association determined by the NOHA Board.

**Moved by** Craig Maki, NOHA Executive  
**Seconded by** Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive

**Discussion**



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**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Again, I want to remind you that you must go to the microphone to speak. You have to give your name and your association for the recorder. Please, just reminding you again, please speak up because it's difficult to hear in some spots of the room. So, we're going to invite you to come to the microphone to give your input on this. We would ask that you try to restrict that to one trip only to the microphone. If it's a question that you have and you don't understand something, then we will allow you to ask for an explanation and then give you a response. We've had this conversation around Freedom of Movement for many, many years. I respect the Board for wanting to move in line with other Associations right across the country. The fear that I have, I guess, in my view, personally, the fear that I have is that in an age where we seem to be going to court all the time, but I think that while we sit by ourselves, we're right on the edge of putting our Associations into a court battle, and I don't think we want to get into that, so that's only my personal opinion. But certainly, we want to hear from people, and we'll have Albert to lead things off.

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** Thank you, Dick, and congratulations on chairing your 104<sup>th</sup> meeting. I want to make it clear, is this my one? I can't believe that for ten years, we've been talking about this, it feels a little more like twenty. I'm going to speak in favour of Freedom of Movement again. I understand that, you know, and again, I've been attending the AGM for I don't know how many years. I understand that we are potentially dealing with smaller Associations and the impact it could have on them, but I also understand that if we create better programs, participants will come. And I don't know how we can continue to fight free player movement where everywhere else in society, parents and families have choices. The push to get this through, it's not going to get easier, it is going to get more difficult, as people press, it's going to become more problematic to the NOHA Board, to the court system, to all of those things. I think at some point in time, we have to recognize that we have members who would rather pack up and move, okay? I think there's a lot of reasons for that, and we have to separate the Rep from the House League, but I don't understand how we can tell parents they are tied to a specific area. I'll point to Districts Two and Eight as an example. Yesterday, I was on the phone with someone, I literally could spit and hit District Two from where I was sitting in District Eight. It doesn't make sense. These agreements that we have that are tying up Timmins, South Porcupine, I don't want to get between the two of you, but again, we have communities where participants live in District Two and Eight, closer to their arena in District Eight, than where they have to participate in District Two. So, it doesn't make sense notionally why we continue to fight this, and I'll use the word that I believe is problematic, control. I think we have people who want to control, whether it's boards or associations, and by no means am I being hypocritical, I've sat on boards, and I understand, but we have



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to temper our will to keep control over families and the needs of what is right for associations. Anyway, I'm going to speak in favour of this again, I'm not sure if that's going to win or lose support, I've been talking for a long time and I would like to see it push through, thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Albert, and, you know, from being outside direct involvement in hockey now, I see associations, small associations that have very much flourished, and they've done it by just putting out a program that people want to come to. That, and as Albert said, it's not about control, we have to get our program up to speed, and it does happen. I was very happy to see in Jason's presentation last night that a small place like Englehart has one of the highest retention numbers after COVID, and I think it's strictly because a lot of participants like that program. Yes, please.

**Brian Getty, Schumacher Day Minor Hockey:** I'm here to speak in favour of the motion put forth by the NOHA Executive. I'd like to thank them for their leadership on this. This has been an issue we've been bringing to the table for, let's say, a decade or more. I believe we were the first ones to come to the table with Freedom of Movement, last year we brought freedom of choice, they may be different names, but we want to see it. The Freedom of Movement Survey shows that those that chose, so if you chose not to, that's your issue, so a quarter of the membership answered that survey, and out of that, seventy-five percent or seventy-four percent are in favour of Freedom of Movement. If we're truly here to grow this game, we all get the memos all year long about grow the game, grow the game, grow the game, we can't continually be putting up barriers and making it harder for people, because Albert just said, when someone can actually see the arena but they can't play there because of their address says you play here, it makes absolutely no sense. Whatever reasons you want to keep the restrictions in place, that's for the people who want to keep the restrictions in place to explore, but if you build a good program, people will come. There's no reason you're saying because of this address, you must play here. It makes absolutely no sense. There's many people, unfortunately that are probably that may stand up and vote against this motion today. And then they're going to go home and write a Freedom of Movement arrangement with their neighbouring associations. And that's supposedly, and has been okay over the decades. So, before we vote on any of these motions, I do have one question: if these motions are going to continue to be defeated at this forum, will the NOHA stop agreeing to those agreements? Agreements that associations want to make, and I'll steal one of Albert's words, that they can just control. Because if that's the case, let's stop bringing this motion to the floor, because it'll never pass. If the NOHA are going to continue to allow all those side deals to go on between associations and whoever they want to choose to want to write an agreement with, or negotiate an



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agreement with, we're never going to get change in the constitution. So, that's my question I'd like answered. I don't know if anybody can answer it, but that's, that's a question I think we deserve to know before the vote takes place. So, again, thanks to the NOHA, I know over the years we weren't bringing Freedom of Movement to the table, the Executive were, I commend you on that, I commend you on the survey. I hope we can finally set this straight and get this right and finally play hockey. Thank you.

**Richard Spadafora, Sudbury Minor Hockey:** I'm a Parent and Coach for the Sudbury Minor Hockey Association and I have a child participating in Copper Cliff Minor Hockey Association as well, been coaching for the last seven or eight years. I'm just here to provide a perspective from one of the larger associations and from a Rep hockey perspective. The NOHA and all their members are here and need to be aware that the NOHA's purpose is to promote participation in minor sports for youth, and the development of as many youth as possible. I agree that some of these agreements, and the lack from some of the associations to provide releases to children who are unable to make a certain level of hockey in their district has been very restrictive, which has led to many kids being pushed out of the game, and has also led to the cost of this sport, for many parents. I think, as a group, we need to be aware of that. As an example, U14 AA is going to cost \$5000 between fees and association fees. Parents are spending thousands of dollars a year trying to train to make this team. Freedom of Movement at the Rep level in the Greater City of Sudbury will encourage parents to move towards a stronger team, which ultimately will eliminate teams in our city. That's my belief, and I want to share that with everybody. I'm not ready to pay \$5000 as a parent for my kid to go to a rink and get his ass kicked because everybody's going to one team. And that's a common belief. If we're not increasing the number of teams, if we're not increasing parity among the teams, I've spoken to coaches from the Sault, I've spoken to coaches from Timmins, those associations do not want to maintain their AA programming if the City of Greater Sudbury is going to have a stacked team equivalent to a AAA team or vice versa in other cities. That's my belief. I vote against Freedom of Movement, and I vote that the NOHA puts in a standard clause which any kid who does not make a specific level of hockey is allowed to go wherever they want, so that is releases across the board for anybody, and no association can restrict a kid from playing at a specific level of hockey. Thank you.

**Sue Shepherdson, NOHA President:** Just to the point that was made by this gentleman, the NOHA, going forward, will not recognize any side deal, we'll call it, or agreement. We'll follow the constitution. You have the right to vote for Freedom of Movement this morning. If you choose not to, as was stated, any of these deals, these little agreements on the side will not be recognized by the next Board of the NOHA.





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**Melissa Unetic, North Channel Minor Hockey:** So, my name's Melissa, I'm with North Channel Minor Hockey Association, one of the little associations, and it might come as a shock to some people here right now, because we have fought really hard against this and to keep players. We were in a motion last year with Thessalon and we voted against it, so when we left that meeting, we looked at it and said, "this is happening." Whether it comes today, tomorrow, it doesn't matter, it's coming, so our board as a whole got together, and we said, "we need to build our program." And we did that, and we had a phenomenal year, and the players that we retained because of the fight loved it. We were able to offer programs that nobody else in the area was offering, and because of that, we are going to be voting in favour of Freedom of Movement because, like you said, you have to build your program. People are going to want to come to us because of all the things we're going to be able to offer them at different levels, and to help promote the kids. So people will be able to come to us from the Sault and Thessalon, if you want to go back to Thessalon or you want to go back to the Sault, that's going to be your own choice, but every time you make a decision, you have to suffer the consequences, so if you want a really good program with your kids with really good coaches, or if you want to just do what's convenient for you and show up to the rink and whoever you get you get. It's up to the association, so North Channel will be voting in favour of Freedom of Movement.

**Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association:** My vote today is a U13 House League vote, that's the vote that I was given. I'm going to be a couple of minutes, here, I'll try my best to be as quick as I can, but this is so important for our city, for hockey in this city, that I think we need to take the necessary time to talk about this because obviously it's the reason why we're here. I care about the kids, on behalf of the kids, that's the main reason why I'm up here talking right now. And I think I've proven that with twenty-five years of volunteering. Twenty-five years of volunteering where I was not coaching my own kids. Since 1996. What I really think, and I'm going to talk about Timmins because this has a great effect on Timmins, right? What I would really, really like to see for our kids, including my own, is that we put the best seventeen kids together, whether that be AAA or AA, so that we can represent our city as best we can versus places that have a bigger population than we do, right? I would love to see a great A program in our city, and I would like to see after that a fair, drafted House League, and I can explain why Freedom of Movement does not, unfortunately, provide that for our kids. Number one, I want to say we've had one hundred four successful years in the NOHA without Freedom of Movement. One hundred four years. Ten years in a row, we've been in a room. I've been here for probably every single one of them, or at least ninety percent of them. And there's been more people than we have here, and those hockey people have said no to Freedom of



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Movement ten years in a row because it's not a good thing, and I'm going to try to explain why. Council Directors, I challenge you to ask yourselves who from Sudbury, who from North Bay, who from the Sault, who from Cochrane, who from Timmins Minor Hockey came to you and said please, please put Freedom of Movement on the table and please support it. Which person came and saw you and asked that and why? If Freedom of Movement is such a good idea, why aren't we allowing kids from NOHA to freely move to the ALLIANCE, or the Greater Toronto Hockey League? Or any other Member Partner, let's just let them go if that's the best thing. Of course, we're not going to do that because it's not the best thing. Should Minor Hockey Associations that only have tier 2 be voting on this? It's such, it's so important for tier 1. Should Minor Hockey Associations that only have tier 1 be voting on this, it's so important for tier 2. I'm not sure that they should. How can they have the true appreciation of how this may affect both associations that do it. Let's get to the survey. I'm really not happy with the way this went down. I've never seen a demographic process where somebody that's putting in a motion leverages their power, their distribution list, their website to put a survey that has an angle to what they want, and then come here and, and, I've just never seen it before, and I've never seen a Master of Ceremonies give his personal opinion on, on a motion. If he doesn't have a voting card, then I'm sorry. I've never seen somebody break the constitutional rules of our NOHA constitution get up and say she's not going to accept any agreements between associations when it's been supported for years. Last year there was a slide up saying we support these agreements between associations and we really want them to do that and then this year an outgoing president is telling you that the Board next year is, that hasn't been voted on. That's not in your sheets of motions, that they're not going to accept agreements between associations. But anyways, here's a survey, the survey is do you feel that your children should be able to register with whichever association within the NOHA that they desire. Period, or, question mark. In other words, do you support Freedom of Movement within the NOHA? So, in your survey, you are defining what Freedom of Movement is for people. And you're saying, I, I can ask my wife, I can ask myself, do you think your children should be able to register with any association in the NOHA? Yes. Hundred percent, if you ask me that question, yes. If I go out on the street and ask fifty people, forty-nine are going to say yeah. That makes sense. Hundred percent. But what if we asked this in our survey, right? Should, do you feel that your children should be able to register with an association where on any given night, they are going to lose 17-0 and they are not going to win a game all season? Because that's what Freedom of Movement does. In our city, I'm only talking about our city. And I'm going to explain that to you, okay? Tri-Association of Timmins, that was our old name, in the Atom division, the top team 17 wins, 4 losses +41, the other team, 3 wins all year, -85. Peewee, same thing. Bantam, same thing. I got a team that went 0 and 23 all year, they were -145 goals against. That's with having an unfair draft. That's what



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Freedom of Movement does. In the following year, we started calling ourselves the Greater Timmins Minor Hockey League. We had a team go 0 and 22, 191 goals differential. That's what Freedom of Movement does. In U18 that year we had the top team 26 wins 135+, lowest team 2 wins all year, -127. Now, let me compare that to this year where we had a fair draft for the first time in Timmins. A fair draft for our teams. Any given night, any team showed up, they could win. There's no team that went 0 and anything that was drafted this year. Not one. So, the last place team in U11 had a -5 goal differential. The last place team in U13 had a 0 goal differential. They won eleven games this year. The U15 team, the last place team was +36, I'm talking about the teams that were drafted. Drafts, fair drafts work. U18 last year, the last place team won ten games. Not, there's no team that had zero that was drafted in any league in all of House League in Timmins. Teams that were drafted. So, fairness and drafting is the way to go, and unfortunately, Freedom of Movement doesn't allow that, I have just a couple more things, then I'll be done. One main reason the NOHA is supporting this is they're trying to tell us that they are the only Member Partner in all of the OHF that doesn't have Freedom Movement of Movement. That's malarky. I have it right here, 2022-2023 House League Regulations. GTHL. Current. This is current for this year. And this is called House League and Select Operating By-law. Residency: a House League is a community-oriented program and therefore the residency of its membership should reflect the geographical area surrounding its home arena or organisational base. And they go on to talk about exactly how that works. Okay? That's just one member organisation that they're telling you today has carte-blanche go where you want, they don't. There's not one that does. OMHA Regulation 3.3, the residence shall be defined as the structure in which the player is a current resident and any measurement thereof shall always begin at the main entrance of such residence. They go on to even define that a player cannot move to another association that's eight kilometers away, more than eight kilometers away. That's 3.4 Right of Choice item b. If it's more than eight kilometers away, the OMHA, today, they don't get Freedom of Movement. So don't tell me in a survey that other Member Partners have Freedom of Movement, I've got one last one. I won't go through all five. I'll go through three out of the five, and we're one of those five, right? So, three, three out of five. The last one is the ALLIANCE. Eligibility for minor hockey, this is their regulation E15. A minor hockey player member, unless already provided or released according to player regulations, players at all levels must return to their home centre. Sorry, I'm reading the wrong part. It says here residential requirements, residential qualifications of Hockey Canada shall be strictly enforced. In addition, regulations of the minor hockey member shall also determine eligibility for those in respect to the minor hockey program. Residency is where a player and their parents habitually reside, and is presumed to be where the player was legitimately registered in hockey in the preceding season. And they go on to explain over many pages what the rules are for where they can play. So, ALLIANCE doesn't



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have Freedom of Movement, GTHL doesn't have Freedom of Movement for House League, and neither does OMHA. So, I don't know, I don't know why we're trying to tell you that they do. And I have one more point, I think. This decision will have great effect on hockey in Timmins. Our hockey culture in Timmins. Timmins is a city that was incorporated in 1917. One city. That's a long time ago. As a whole, our culture is deplorable. It's extremely poisoned, and I'm very ashamed to be part of the hockey community in Timmins because of what we do. I had one time this lady, her husband worked for de Beers, I think I talked about it last year. I swear I'm almost done. She said, what is going on with hockey in Timmins, I don't understand, I just want my kid to play. At a level where he's supposed to play. I was ashamed to have a conversation with her that took ten minutes, spun her head around, and she was like, you guys don't make sense. And to have somebody come from another country and tell you we don't make sense is, is very telling. Freedom of Movement in our city will unfortunately only make this really poison situation even worse for our children in the city. Based on our history, everything is going to end up being super nasty, it's going to be a super big competition, there's going to be unfair advantages, and in a city with 41K, that's not what we need. A city with 41,000 people, we simply need to become one association, that is the solution, so then we get the top seventeen playing AA, the next A, and a fair, drafted House League where nobody loses every single night, and nobody loses 17-zip, I've got the scoresheets. Right? And I'll finish on this. If you play ringuette, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, soccer, baseball, tennis, league basketball, bowling, figure skating, you have one place to go in Timmins. Because they figured it out, let's have one association for a small, for a small city. And what we really need to do is either look at the other motions that Timmins Minor Hockey has put in today, which will solve these problems as well, or we need to get around the table and figure out what's best for our kids. So, I will not be voting in favour of Freedom of Movement, thank you.

**Kevin Peever, NOHA Executive:** So, my name is Kevin Peever, I'm the District One Rep for the NOHA. So, at the beginning, Steve Vachon made a comment of, you know, anyone come forward that has been spoken to about this matter, and I can tell you first-hand, I can tell you first-hand that many people have approached me about this, your membership has approached me about this, even board members of yours have approached me, so to sit here and say that you challenge us to come forward and give you examples? Your membership has spoken, members on your board have spoken, I support this.

**Ken Smith, Greater Toronto Hockey League:** I wanted to contest what was said about the GTHL. Every single player in the GTHL is a free agent at the end of the season and can go wherever they want.



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**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Are there any other comments?

**Mireille Levesque, Valley East Minor Hockey:** My question/concern regarding free player movement would be how do we proceed with preventing team stacking? How do we go about preventing a group of people going to another association and basically saying we're going to grab all our best players and then we're going to leave the rest? So how are we, as an association going to be preventing this?

**Jamie Costello, Porcupine Minor Hockey:** Just on behalf of our board, I'd like to say that we do support Freedom of Movement in our area. I don't think that our area, moving forward, would be poisoned, as someone else said. I think in giving our children the opportunity to play where they want, with who they want, at any level they want, is what we should all be striving for. The fact that last year we had an agreement, and we had two children in South Porcupine that were neighbours. One played AA hockey, and was allowed to play where they wanted. The other person played tier 2 and didn't have that same opportunity. They both went to school in Timmins, they wanted to play with their friends, but one could play where they wanted, and the other one couldn't. This, if we have to look beyond just our own better goods, here, and I'm being serious when I say that, like, you have to look at all the children, and we seem to get sort of focused on, on the bigger prize which is AAA, AA, and all that, but the bulk of our association in Porcupine is made up of tier 2 players. So, we try to make sure that they get treated just as equally as, as our tier 1 players. And by doing that, it makes the game great, we've all been talking about making the game better, well, this is a way of making the game better. And the fact that the people sitting in this room should have a say in how or where someone plays is insane. It's insane. You should—the kids and parents shouldn't have to come to Porcupine Minor Hockey asking for permission to play where they want. And that's why this freedom of choice is so important. The fact that kids can play where they want takes that decision-making away from the association. It's what it's about. They should be allowed to—the board of Porcupine Minor Hockey should not be stopping kids from playing where they want. And that's what we're trying to get with this motion. We supported Shumacher Day Minor Hockey Association's motion last year, and the fact that the NOHA now put it forward, we think, the board of Porcupine Minor Hockey strongly supports what the NOHA said, because they're not just looking after our town, they're looking after everyone, right? So, if they think it's for the better good of everyone, then we support that. Thank you.

**Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive:** Also, I'm just coming to respond to your impassioned statements. In the Sault, so obviously big city, I have had quite a few people approach me. Quite a few people, from Rep hockey to House League, all the way, not understanding that,



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traditionally, our boundaries were created to mirror or reflect the school boards, you know? Where you lived, that's where you went to school. The tracks were here, you live on this side of the tracks, you go to this school, you live on that side of the tracks, you went to that school. That's the way it was. It was quite easy for hockey associations who are quite a deal bigger than your bowling, your skiing, those other clubs who obviously prefer to have one association to manage that, to mirror that, so we could have even distribution of players, so it was more of a management thing. Now, the school boards have abandoned that, following parents' demand, to be able to let their player, or let their person, their child be educated where they like to be, which is where they live. I'm not sure that the hockey perspective should continue to mirror what we originally did which was to mirror the education system, for managing. We're talking about managing players, here in a fair and equitable way, so worry about stacked teams, I want to speak on that, because that's a huge concern. Large associations don't have to deal with that. We have the privilege, we're so privileged, to say that we can make leagues, which you spoke of on the fairness of leagues, where you can have your Rep or your strong teams play in those strong divisions, and you can still make leagues where, I mean even in the Sault, I'm not a huge fan, I'm going to support it, the AA U18 is a draft, these are drafted teams. I can't believe we have a banner up here above us, because we put ourselves at a disadvantage to make three drafted teams so that that kid can play and they don't have to travel as far. It puts that organisation, the Sault, at a disadvantage when we compete in tournament, tournaments and locally. So, we have to sometimes maybe take it on the chin and say you might not be strong in a tournament, so all our players can compete locally. We can do that because we have the numbers. Smaller associations don't have that. The fact that, in non-Freedom of Movement you say you now have a league, I don't know how that will change. The numbers you quoted were from a non-Freedom of Movement thing, 17-0, all this stuff. Is it a challenge that one community only has twelve players, and so three of those parents have been, they put—that is a challenge. How you can make a league, that's associations getting along and making a league, that's four or five different associations saying we're going to have an A league and do a draft, that's a whole different thing, that has nothing to do with Freedom of Movement. That has to do with associations getting along and saying we are going to take a risk here over fairness and avoid banners. But, listen, I'm not saying anything that isn't true. Everybody here can look in the mirror, and in that mirror you're going to say we need more banners. So now you're fighting that, you're fighting tradition, which is our barn wants banners, or you're fighting if you want to have this fair, equitable thing. Those are the real battles, which I think have nothing to do with Freedom of Movement. Your associations do an excellent job, are going to continue to do an excellent job, are going to have to provide maybe a greater level of service to attract your people more to what your particular ideology is. If it's fairness and it's drafted teams, then you will know that anyone in your



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community will come there for fairness and drafted teams. If it's to host high-level hockey, then you know that everybody around your area will come to you if you're doing a great job to have their player participate in high-level hockey. So, some of these arguments don't mesh together. Freedom of Movement seems like a greater challenge at House League. You're not going to get as many players move. I don't know the challenges up north, so I'm terrified, I'm scared that Northern communities always have the fear that if this barn closes, it's never going to open again. I think that's a municipality thing. I think when a municipality closes a barn, shame on them. But associations and parents have that fear, even in—in the Sault, we don't have that, we're so lucky, but Wawa, what if they close theirs? You know? What if Desbarats closes theirs? What if North Channel or Thessalon closes theirs? Now, these are real fears in each and everybody's mind, that causes very strong biases and that protectionism, that control. We need to control this, or we're going to lose a barn. I think associations have to maybe really work hard to get that, their municipalities to guarantee them, or at least comfort them to say you're not going to lose your barn. If you can't provide services this year, try again next year. So, does that have to do with Freedom of Movement, will that kill associations? I'm not sure, but I think there's a whole lot of covert stuff happening, fear of losing your barn, fear of losing players, that's real, that gets people to vote certain ways, and that creates control. I think the challenge is this, we got comfortable, we're all comfortable on our associations, I've always been comfortable on boards, sorry I'm speaking so long, it's a long topic. But we're going to have to hustle, we're going to have to hustle for the players. We're going to have to be compliant. Oh, Steve's been coaching that team for ten years, and yes, we have these new, exciting things, and those are challenges we might have to address. You might have to get that new, fresh coaching staff in, give those young twenty-five-year-olds a chance and kick the fifty-five-year-old guy to the House League teams or something. Not that there are any—I'm saying whatever. Usually, that's the way to progress, is, you know, retired down instead of retiring up. But, anyway, to finish off, I think fear is the killer on this stuff. I know that as a board member, not all of us, it wasn't a unanimous thing, but we are unified in saying that when so many parents, and I know some people thought that the survey was biased, but when your customer base approaches, and I have been approached personally a lot, says we want green shoes, you find them some green shoes. Don't tell them all we have is black. If the customer base is asking for a service to be provided, then I think that this might be the time to take a chance. We're not going to abandon hockey, we're here to try to do better. If it doesn't work out, I mean, we're going to hear about it. We're committed to this, and thanks for letting me speak.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Steve.



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**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 AAA League:** So, I'm a little confused, and would like Sudbury Minor to respond to this, I-I understand my exposure more recently is with elite hockey, U18, U16, and I hear what participants in both programs want. So, Sudbury Minor, if I'm not mistaken, last year with Nickel City forged an alliance and made the decision to go to one team, presumably to make a stronger team, because my understanding is, and maybe I'm wrong on this, so I will pass—my understanding was that that's what the parents wanted. So, when I hear that we can't have free player movement because it's going to create stronger teams potentially, or displace kids, or the results—and a lot of what I hear is it's results-based, so we shouldn't do this because it's results-based, I'm not really sure how that squares with the conversation about having free player movement. But I don't understand because it seems like someone is sucking and blowing. Parents and participants want stronger teams so they can compete, but when somehow we create free player movement, and we create stronger teams, it's a bad thing. So, I don't understand that, I-I and I'm genuinely asking, because again, my involvement is U16, U18, I know what those participants want. What I really don't understand, when we talk about free player movement creating stronger teams, and that being problematic to programming. What I'll ask for, can you respond to that, please?

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, go ahead.

**Shannon Innis, Sudbury Minor Hockey Association:** I'm a parent from Sudbury Minor, and I just wanted to give you an overview—

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Can you just...

**Shannon Innis, Sudbury Minor Hockey Association:** Oh, yes, sorry. Shannon Innis, and I'm a parent with Sudbury Minor, and I just wanted to give you a sense of kind of the concerns that we have in Sudbury and kind of why Sudbury is an interesting place in terms of all this discussion about... What I'm seeing throughout tryouts is a lot of tactics already about how we're going to get the best players, how we're going to stack teams, and kind of, some of the issues that will happen with free player movement is that we're going to get teams that are going to be willing to pay coaches a lot of money and then they're going to try to poach the best players to come to that team, and then basically what's going to happen is you're going to have one team that's going to beat the other team 15-0 all year. Then, kids, ultimately, they're going to hate it and they want to quit, and if we're really trying to grow hockey, then I don't think that that's the right approach. Yes, I kind of agree, if, you know, we had to run a good program all the way around, then we'd want to have the best teams, but unfortunately, money talks, right? It's the people who can afford it who are





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going to go to those good teams, and they will pay that money, but for other kids who can't do that, they're going to be on the team that loses all year, and they will never have the opportunity to play on that better team with those better kids because they can't pay the money to be there. So, I understand that everybody wants this because they think oh, I get to choose where I want to go, but we aren't asking them if you're on that team that loses 15-0, do you want that? Do you want that choice, or do you want to be, do you want some fairness involved in the situation where you can have a chance for your kid to make a team that's actually going to compete with other teams, and I think that's all we're asking for. We're asking for teams to be able to fairly compete. That's it. It's not about wins. It's about fairly competing, and what I see right now is if this goes through, Sudbury will be a disaster zone in terms of tactics. Power tactics. Money. Dirty, dirty tactics to try and make the best teams to destroy everybody else all year. So that's where I think that, that not approving Freedom of Movement gives a little bit of relief to kids playing in Sudbury because we are such a large centre, there are a lot of kids who want to play, and I just ask you this. If this gets voted down, we get to go to the next vote, which is AA releases. To me, that is a better motion to vote in because then we're keeping equity in hockey, and ultimately, kids don't want to play where they get their ass handed to them every single game by the team that has all the money and all the good players. So, if we go to AA releases and we vote that motion in, then the kids still have some freedom, but we still have some equity involved in this situation. So, I realise for some of the smaller communities, this isn't an issue for you, but what I will say, in Sudbury it's a major issue, and if we allow this, it will continue to make the situation in Sudbury very toxic, and will actually fuel it to become even more toxic. So, I think we should vote this down and move to the AA releases. That is really where the solution is.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** You know, I've let you go on and talk about what's next in the motions, but we have to deal with 15. That's what we have to deal with. I appreciate your comments, but with have to stick with that, with that order.

**Sherry Roberge, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association:** You might find this a little jumbled, but my points are all there. We need to remember that players don't all go to school anymore here based on their address, they go to school based on, you know, whether they go to Public School, Catholic School, whether they're going to the English School or Bilingual School, so we need to take a look at friends and family. Players also want to play with friends and family, because ten-twenty years ago, it was different. People were outside playing with their friends, playing, making friends in the neighbourhood. Today's society, kids don't do that anymore. Their friends are who they go to school with essentially, or they're online, and yeah, there are some who go out to play road hockey, but



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when you look at society as a whole, that is not what we are anymore, what was there when we were younger. We need to keep the change in society in our mindset, we need to focus on good programs, and not trying to control the population in our area. Protecting the kids is not providing them with obstacles and hurdles, it is to provide development and to coach them to be the best that they can be. The fact that the survey provides the answer of parents honestly without feeling the pressure of their association into how and what they should be applying. Again, emails, texts, phone calls, being stopped in the arena, the mall, and even at work, I'm asked. These are real concerns from real parents who are concerned with the politics of minor hockey. We are all a Not-for-Profit association, and we need to stop looking at our association as a business. We're here for the children, we're here to ensure that they're establishing, and, sorry we're establishing a good development for them. We have a wonderful U7 program that Brenda has been running, and to be completely and utterly honest, you wouldn't believe the amount of emails I get when U9 comes around and they have to leave to go back to their association. We've lost children in hockey because of it, because they don't want to go play somewhere else. They want to continue. That's where they built, that's where they got a fantastic—we're the only association that allowed for three-year-olds, so some of them have been playing for four years under Porcupine Minor Hockey in the U7 program. Come U9, they quit, they don't want to go somewhere else, they want to stay with their teammates that they built that comradeship with. And allowing associations to vote, regardless of whether they have tier 1 or tier 2, in regards to the Freedom of Movement, you never know what happens. If Freedom of Movement opens, that association may become or have the opportunity to have a tier 1. So why are we limiting the associations at the same time as labelling them as only a tier 2 association? Sorry, and the number of players who have quit hockey because they can't go where they want to play, are we really looking at the kids? We're building a great program and it should work. The players should want to stay. And if they don't, take a look internally before trying to start digging into why they left as the reason why. They didn't leave because Johnny and the kids have a good program, they're going to want to take friends to come with them. And lastly, we lose a lot of volunteers every year because they're tired of the whole political part of it. Politics should not have a place in the world of hockey or any sport. The politics, the politics in hockey itself is actually what is killing minor hockey in Northern Ontario.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you.

**Michelle Vaters, Nickel District Minor Hockey League:** Hi, so I am the president of the NDMHL, the vice-president of Nickel Centre Minor Hockey, I have a kid in tier 1 and a kid in tier 2, I'm a parent as well, so I think I might have—I'm actually jumping back a couple so I



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want to answer your question and I don't remember, to be honest, about how stronger teams is a problem. Being from Sudbury, we amalgamated or Sudbury and Nickel City worked together to make one AAA program in order to be able to better hockey, and now some people are standing up talking about how Freedom of Movement would essentially create stronger teams in certain divisions, and I think the reason they're afraid it would be a problem is because it would make—so I think, I think it becomes too hard to have a population to support more than one team at that level. If the fear is you're going to have one really stacked AA team and one AA team that doesn't compete, then we don't have the population for two AA teams. Maybe the answer is one AA team. I think that as long as the kids are playing at the level that they are at, they will be able to compete, they will have that chance, so maybe that second AA team who gets their ass handed to them is actually an A team, and that's okay. That's fine. Let them go play A hockey and be, and be where they're getting the best development and where they can be—in House League, maybe that means, so if Freedom of Movement in House League starts stacking teams at House League, maybe it means there's A and B tiers at House League, too, I don't know what it looks like, but that's why you're saying why are people afraid of strong teams or stronger teams, I think they're afraid of stronger teams competing against weaker teams in the same, across the same level, so we maybe have to re-evaluate the levels we should be adding, is this a consequence of free player movement, I don't know if that answers your question, yeah.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you very much. I think we've, I think everybody is pretty well set on their opinion on it, unless—if you're going to come back to the microphone, or if there's people that are going to come up, give us some new insight into the, the matter, so over here.

**Dave Brazeau, NOHA Executive:** Thank you, I'd just like to refocus us that we're, we're talking about a motion that is, might or might not be good for kids and parents, we're not talking about the egregious behaviour of the adults. It's a separate issue. If there is egregious behaviour of the adults, we should deal with that, but it's not this issue. The issue of what's good for kids and hockey. If there's coaches that are walking a fine line, then we need to deal with that, but it's got nothing to do with this motion.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay.

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 AAA League:** I wanted, I wanted to thank you for the explanation, that's essentially what I got from it, and add that in the absence that I'm hearing, that makes sense, so maybe then this becomes the catalyst that brings about change that, as associations we haven't been able to bring about together, maybe, maybe



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free player movement is going to have the effect of creating kids playing at levels where they actually belong as opposed to—all of a sudden we're creating teams because associations exist, but thank you for the answer.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, Steve, you're back up again, do you have a question?

**Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association:** Just, just like Albert.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** You're just like Albert?

**Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association:** I'm up again.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Albert asked a question and asked for information from some of the people that gave it to him, so is that what you're saying, that you need input from the floor on some specific matter, or?

**Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association:** No. I'm saying Albert come up three times to talk, I'd like to come up three times. I'll take thirty seconds. It's very important here for Timmins. Very important.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, but—

**Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association:** I have three points. Thirty seconds.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thirty seconds.

**Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association:** And I actually have a question for you guys. Number one is if I'm offering green shoes, and in my, in my advertisement I say these green shoes are going to win you all the games this season, everyone's going to want green shoes. If I made an advertisement saying you're going to lose every game this season, and you're going to lose games by seventeen goals, they're not going to want green shoes. School is not a sport. School is fair. School is governed by curriculums. That's not a sport, it's totally different. Having a choice to go to a different school, it's governed by, by the Ontario government. I will, I will, I agree, I wanted to agree that Brenda is an amazing person, she runs an amazing program. Could you imagine if she ran all of the U7 in the City of Timmins? Just imagine? It would be awesome. Imagine if, imagine if we didn't have three separate sets of ten-thousand-dollar boards at three different arenas in one city. Imagine



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that. But anyways, the question I had was is this a Bylaw change that requires two-thirds, and if it does, what is that number for today? That's my question.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** It's a Regulation. Fifty percent of those that are voting.

**Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association:** We're considering a Regulation.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** A Regulation. We're not considering it, it's a Regulation.

**Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association:** Okay, thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** No problem. Well, I think everybody understands it now. What we're going to—

**Craig Maki, NOHA Executive:** There was a question on the floor I'd like to answer.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay.

**Craig Maki, NOHA Executive:** Sorry, the lady from Valley East, was saying we should talk about, you know, how we make sure the teams aren't stacked. My experience in hockey, it's, it's who you bring to the table and who is running your program. If you can find top-notch coaches, you're going to find people who are going to want to go to your program. I've had both versions of it, I've had coaches that—an older child that played AA when they weren't AA, and it was horrible. Well, we went to House League and he had the best time of his life, so, because it's where he belonged. At the end of the day, this is about programming, and I'm going to commend the lady from North Channel, because that's exactly what she talked about. We need to build programming and make people want to come to our program. That's the bottom line. Whether we regulate whatever here, no matter what we do here, if you have a shitty coach, sorry, if you have a coach that is running a terrible program, he just stands on the ice and talks to the kids for forty-five minutes instead of running drills, that's a lousy experience no matter what you do and most kids aren't going to come. A high-end coach is going to run fantastic programming for everybody, people will gravitate. That's, that's what needs to be done. So, maybe this is a blessing in disguise in the sense that, yeah, we talk about a lot about Rep, and AA and AAA, but we're getting lost in the weeds of Rep hockey. This is about kids, is what this is, how to develop all kids, and how to develop all kids is maybe you're going to be compelled now, as association leaders, to ensure that the people you're hiring as coaches are qualified to do what you're hiring them to do. At the end of the day, we need to make sure that the people who are teaching our kids, teaching



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our kids the sport are doing a great job at that. My other point to Steve just in regard to being asked. I'm in District Eight, Sudbury and Copper Cliff, and I've been asked by people from Sudbury and Copper Cliff, I've been asked to get it moving from people from Nickel City, and as well, people from the OHL ask when is this going to happen, it's better for development for kids, and the NOJHL, so there are people that, you know, maybe not, you know, there are people that want it, and there are people that have a protest. Thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** I think we've had a healthy discussion on it, and I've allowed people to speak a couple of times because I know it is a very important issue that we're dealing with and will change the landscape of hockey in Northern Ontario, so wanted to have that. So, we're going to hear the last set from Ken from the GTHL to give us his perspective.

**Ken Smith, Greater Toronto Hockey League:** I just want to add one more clarification from the GTHL position. At the end of every season, each player from the GTHL is released and is a free agent, can go wherever he or she wants to go. But that also includes going to the OMHA, or the ALLIANCE, or the NOHA, so if a player, for some reason, from Toronto, wants to play for Sudbury, he's free to go by the grace of god. He may need a AAA waiver under the OHF rules, but that's not by our rules. We'll sign it.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Super. Thanks Ken. So, we'll go to the vote now, and I'll remind you it is a regulation that needs fifty percent plus one of those that are voting. And depending on the outcome of that, it will determine whether some of the other motions will carry on. So, we do have the numbers. There's 124 eligible voters, but that will not affect—we are looking for fifty percent of those who vote plus one. So, we have a couple of scrutineers, Gayle from the OHF, and Ken from the GTHL, and we thank them for taking on that issue. So, when we call for the motion, put your cards up and hold them up so that they can vote because we do want to have a recorded vote on this because it's a very important issue. So, the motion, all of those in favour, raise your paddles, please. Okay, all those in favour, and as was said, when you're counted, put your paddle down so they can make sure they count everyone who has voted.

### **CARRIED**

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, the number of the voters in favour of the motion is 84. We have 124 eligible voters, so obviously the motion is carried and we will continue on with the meeting. For association who don't want that, embrace the change that has taken place and make your programs better. Motions 16 and 17 are obviously withdrawn now.



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### **16. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE**

#### **NOHA Regulation 6.1**

##### **Presently Reads:**

- a) In U7 and all divisions and categories above Minor hockey, the residence rule shall be open.
- b) A Player must compete with the Association/Single Entry Team nearest to their place of residence that has entered a Team for which they are qualified to play.
- c) Players must be a bonafide resident of the city, town, municipality, village, First Nation territory, rural area, unorganized township, zone or such other area in the District in which the Player resides, by November 1st in any playing season.
- d) U21, U18, U15, and U13 AAA, Minor and Major, will adopt the Zone concept.  
Zone Divisions will be the Districts as outlined in the definitions contained in the NOHA Constitution.

A Player from within a District may request an NOHA Release from the signing officers of the Association or Single Entry Team holding his/her playing rights to try out for the AAA Club within the District. The NOHA Release carries an automatic Release for the Player upon being signed by the AAA Association/Team. The same provision will apply for a Player wanting to try out for a AAA Association/Team outside his/her District.

- e) The OHF Residential Move Form must be attached to the Player's record in the HCR for approval. At the request of the President of the NOHA, the signing officers of an Association or Single Entry Team shall submit supporting documentation to the NOHA Office. In the case of disputed residency, the ruling of the President shall be final.
- f) Any Player moving residency within their own Association must submit a completed Residential Move form only. No additional documentation is required (i.e. driver's license, bill, etc.).
- g) Any Players whose home centre is not specifically listed in NOHA By-Law 1.1.R) shall have their Home Association determined by the NOHA Board.

##### **Change to Read:**



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- a) In U7, all House League divisions and all categories above Minor hockey, the residence rule shall be open.
- b) With the exception of R.6.1.a), A Player must compete with the Association/Single Entry Team nearest to their place of residence that has entered a Team for which they are qualified to play.
- c) ~~Players must be a~~ No Minor Player shall be registered as a member of, or compete for, a Team in any NOHA match who has not been a bonafide resident of the city, town, municipality, village, First Nation territory, rural area, unorganized township, zone or such other area in the District in which the Player resides, by as established by the Branch to which their Team belongs since November 1st in any playing season.
- d) U21, U18, U15, and U13 AAA, Minor and Major, will adopt the Zone concept. Zone Divisions will be the Districts as outlined in the definitions contained in the NOHA Constitution.
- A Player from within a District may request an NOHA Release from the signing officers of the Association or Single Entry Team holding his/her playing rights to try out for the AAA Club within the District. The NOHA Release carries an automatic Release for the Player upon being signed by the AAA Association/Team. The same provision will apply for a Player wanting to try out for a AAA Association/Team outside his/her District.
- e) The OHF Residential Move Form must be attached to the Player's record in the HCR for approval. At the request of the President of the NOHA, the signing officers of an Association or Single Entry Team shall submit supporting documentation to the NOHA Office. In the case of disputed residency, the ruling of the President shall be final.
- f) Any Player moving residency within their own Association must submit a completed Residential Move form only. No additional documentation is required (i.e. driver's license, bill, etc.).
- g) Any Players whose home centre is not specifically listed in NOHA By-Law 1.1.R) shall have their Home Association determined by the NOHA Board.

**WITHDRAWN**

### **17. – SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE**

#### **NOHA Regulation 6.1**





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### Presently Reads:

- a) In U7, and all divisions and categories above Minor hockey, the residence rule shall be open.
- b) A Player must compete with the Association/Single Entry Team nearest to their place of residence that has entered a Team for which they are qualified to play.
- c) Players must be a bonafide resident of the city, town, municipality, village, First Nation territory, rural area, unorganized township, zone or such other area in the District in which the Player resides, by November 1st in any playing season.
- d) U21, U18, U15, and U13 AAA, Minor and Major, will adopt the Zone concept.  
Zone Divisions will be the Districts as outlined in the definitions contained in the NOHA Constitution.

A Player from within a District may request an NOHA Release from the signing officers of the Association or Single Entry Team holding his/her playing rights to try out for the AAA Club within the District. The NOHA Release carries an automatic Release for the Player upon being signed by the AAA Association/Team. The same provision will apply for a Player wanting to try out for a AAA Association/Team outside his/her District.

- e) The OHF Residential Move Form must be attached to the Player's record in the HCR for approval. At the request of the President of the NOHA, the signing officers of an Association or Single Entry Team shall submit supporting documentation to the NOHA Office. In the case of disputed residency, the ruling of the President shall be final.
- f) Any Player moving residency within their own Association must submit a completed Residential Move form only. No additional documentation is required (i.e. driver's license, bill, etc.).
- g) Any Players whose home centre is not specifically listed in NOHA By-Law 1.1.R) shall have their Home Association determined by the NOHA Board.

### Change to Read:

- a) In U7, **Representative programming, and** all divisions and categories above Minor hockey, the residence rule shall be open.
- b) **With the exception of R.6.1.a),** A Player must compete with the Association/Single Entry Team nearest to their place of residence that has entered a Team for which they are qualified to play.



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- c) ~~Players must be a~~ **No Minor Player shall be registered as a member of, or compete for, a Team in any NOHA match who has not been a** bonafide resident of the city, town, municipality, village, First Nation territory, rural area, unorganized township, zone or such other area ~~in the District in which the Player resides, by~~ **as established by the Branch to which their Team belongs since** November 1st in any playing season.
- d) ~~U21, U18, U15, and U13 AAA, Minor and Major, will adopt the Zone concept. Zone Divisions will be the Districts as outlined in the definitions contained in the NOHA Constitution.~~
- ~~A Player from within a District may request an NOHA Release from the signing officers of the Association or Single Entry Team holding his/her playing rights to try out for the AAA Club within the District. The NOHA Release carries an automatic Release for the Player upon being signed by the AAA Association/Team. The same provision will apply for a Player wanting to try out for a AAA Association/Team outside his/her District.~~
- e) The OHF Residential Move Form must be attached to the Player's record in the HCR for approval. At the request of the President of the NOHA, the signing officers of an Association or Single Entry Team shall submit supporting documentation to the NOHA Office. In the case of disputed residency, the ruling of the President shall be final.
- f) Any Player moving residency within their own Association must submit a completed Residential Move form only. No additional documentation is required (i.e. driver's license, bill, etc.).
- g) Any Players whose home centre is not specifically listed in NOHA By-Law 1.1.R) shall have their Home Association determined by the NOHA Board.

### **WITHDRAWN**

### **18. – SUBMITTED BY TIMMINS MINOR HOCKEY**

#### **ASSOCIATION NOHA Regulation 6.1.a.**

#### **Presently Reads:**

- a) In U7, and all divisions and categories above Minor Hockey, the residence rule shall be open.

#### **Change to Read:**



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Delete.

### **Rationale:**

Does not permit for an Association to adequately prepare programming. An Association's ability for long term planning is deeply affected by its forecast of members in the its region and very important at the grassroots and beyond.

### **WITHDRAWN**

## **19. – SUBMITTED BY TIMMINS MINOR HOCKEY**

### **ASSOCIATION NOHA Regulation 6.1.d.i.**

#### **Presently Reads:**

U21, U18, U15, and U13 AAA, Minor and Major, will adopt the Zone concept. Zone Divisions will be the Districts as outlined in the definitions contained in the NOHA Constitution.

A Player from within a District may request an NOHA Release from the signing officers of the Association or Single Entry Team holding their playing rights to try out for the AAA Club within the District. The NOHA Release carries an automatic Release for the Player upon being signed by the AAA Association/Team. The same provision will apply for a Player wanting to try out for a AAA Association/Team outside of their District.

#### **Change to Read:**

U21, U18, U15, and U13 AAA, Minor and Major, will adopt the Zone concept. Zone Divisions will be the Districts as outlined in the definitions contained in the NOHA Constitution.

U18, U15, U13, and U11 AA, Minor and Major, will adopt the Zone concept. Zone Divisions will be the Districts as outline in the definitions contained in the NOHA Constitution.

A Player from within a District may request an NOHA Release from the signing officers of the Association or Single Entry Team holding their playing rights to try out for the AAA Club within the District. The NOHA Release carries an automatic Release for the Player upon being signed by the AAA Association/Team. The same provision will apply for a Player wanting to try out for a AAA Association/Team outside of their District.

### **Rationale:**



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AA is like AAA, a distinctly higher level and needs to be recognized as such and permit appropriate levels of competition for players of that calibre to play.

### WITHDRAWN

## 20. -SUBMITTED BY TIMMINS MINOR HOCKEY

### ASSOCIATION Regulation 6.2.1.d.

#### Presently Reads:

If the Team is a Minor-aged Team and the Player is of Minor age, then the Player returns to their home Association after the season is completed. If the Team is a Major-aged Team and the Player is of Minor age, then the Player returns to their Association after they have completed their Major season. To return to their home Association after their Minor year a Player requires a release from the current Team.

#### Change to Read:

~~If the Team is a Minor aged Team and the Player is of Minor age, then the Player returns to their home Association after the season is completed. If the Team is a Major aged Team and the Player is of Minor age, then the Player returns to their Association after they have completed their Major season. To return to their home Association after their Minor year a Player requires a release from the current Team.~~

Regardless of Minor or Major aged Team, all Players return to their home Association upon completion of the season prior to the next season evaluations.

#### Rationale:

Alleviates confusion if all Players return home.

### WITHDRAWN

## 21. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

### NEW – NOHA Regulation 6.2.1.m.

#### Presently Reads:



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None.

### **Change to Read:**

Where a Player is released from a AA Team, they shall be granted a release to tryout for any other AA Team within the NOHA.

### **Rationale:**

Given that all AA Teams now play in the same League and are of the same classification, it makes sense that they are treated like AAA Teams.

Note that this amendment will only be discussed if the freedom of movement amendments do not pass.

### **WITHDRAWN**

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** As you know from the notices of motion, we're going back to 1 now, and it has been withdrawn, so I'll now move on to Motion 2.

### **1. – SUBMITTED BY CRAIG MAKI/NOHA EXECUTIVE**

#### **Definitions – L) “District”**

#### **Presently Reads:**

DISTRICT NUMBER TWO – SUDBURY REGION: CAPREOL, CONISTON (Coniston, Estaire, Wahnapiatae, Wanup), NICKEL CENTRE, (Garson, Falconbridge, Skead), RAYSIDE BALFOUR (Chelmsford, Azilda), ONAPING FALLS (Cartier, Levack, Onaping, Dowling), WALDEN (Lively, Naughton, Whitefish, Whitefish Lake FN, Worthington), ESPANOLA (Birch Island, Espanola, McKerrow, Nairn Centre, Webbwood, Whitefish Falls, Whitefish River FN, Willisville).

DISTRICT NUMBER EIGHT – SUDBURY CITY: City of Sudbury, Copper

Cliff **Change to Read:**



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DISTRICT NUMBER TWO – SUDBURY REGION: CAPREOL, CONISTON (Coniston, Estaire, Wahnapiatae, Wanup), NICKEL CENTRE, (Garson, Falconbridge, Skead), RAYSIDE BALFOUR (Chelmsford, Azilda), ONAPING FALLS (Cartier, Levack, Onaping, Dowling), ~~WALDEN (Lively, Naughton, Whitefish, Whitefish Lake FN, Worthington)~~, ESPANOLA (Birch Island, Espanola, McKerrow, Nairn Centre, Webbwood, Whitefish Falls, Whitefish River FN, Willisville).

DISTRICT NUMBER EIGHT – SUDBURY CITY: City of Sudbury, Copper Cliff, WALDEN (Lively, Naughton, Whitefish, Whitefish Lake FN, Worthington)

### **Rationale:**

The NOHA formed a sub-committee to review the boundaries within Districts 2/8. Below is a summary of their discussions and findings.

- During the 2022 – 2023 season we have seen teams fold in District 8 due to low registration numbers.
- During the 2022 – 2023 there was an organisational philosophy that players in the Nickel City Hockey Association would not be granted releases.
- This precluded players from District 2 who would have been traditionally released from District 2 to try out in District 8 at higher divisions.
- These players were compelled to play at lower levels, when they could have had the opportunity to play at a higher level.
  - Player Numbers will be more balanced in Districts 2 and District 8.
- Based on arena proximity, parents and players in Walden will spend less time in their vehicles to get to hockey events if they are moved from District 2 to District 8.

### **WITHDRAWN**

## **2. –SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE**

By-Law 5.6.a)

### **Presently Reads:**

### **Change to Read:**



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All Members who are in good standing, shall be entitled to notice of, to attend, and to vote at all meetings of Members of the NOHA. Until changed by the Members, the following shall be authorized to vote:

All NOHA Senior, Intermediate and Junior Teams – 1 Delegate each per Team; All NOHA Minor Teams (Representative Teams) – 1 Delegate per Division; All NOHA Minor Teams (House League) – 1 Delegate per

Division;

All Associations – 1 Delegate each per Association;

NOHA Board of Directors – 14 Delegates;

NOHA Director of Officials – 1 Delegate;

NOHA Past President – 1 Delegate; and

Life Member – 1 Delegate.

For the purposes hereof, Minor Team Delegates may vote only on matters which have an effect on Minor Hockey and the election of Council Directors and Officers. Persons eligible to vote on behalf of Teams will be the Team Officials registered in the Hockey Canada Registry with the named Team that is listed on the Delegate certificate or any Person from the Teams' Association Executive (as stated below).

### **Rationale:**

The vast majority of the NOHA is made up of House League Teams and organisations. The proposed change provides for the same voting powers for Associations, regardless of whether they are a House League or Rep Association, or both.

**Moved by** Ted Zajac, NOHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Seconded by** Seb Lessard, NOHA Executive

**Ted Zajac, NOHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Thank you, everyone. This motion, you can see it, is 5.6a), what it deals with is voting at the AGM and who can vote. As we all know, as of today, Rec hockey, House League hockey, gets one vote per division. Elite hockey, sorry, Rep hockey gets one vote per team. So, let's use an example, an Association's got a U15 team, they've got three rep teams a U15, they get three votes. At House League, they could have six teams in House League at U15, but they only get one vote. So, what we're proposing today to make it equal across the board is that everybody per division gets one vote. So, if you've got U15 Rep, you get one vote, if you've got U15 House, you get one vote instead of having a Rep division have six or seven votes because that's how many teams they have. So, just for the rationale at the bottom, the vast majority of the NOHA is made up of House League teams, and we feel that the change provides similar voting for everybody in the



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NOHA. So, there's not teams, or associations that have six votes because they've got six U15 teams. So, we're just proposing one vote per division whether it's Rep or House. Thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thanks Ted.

**Kevin Peever, NOHA Executive:** I just want to add one thing to Ted's. With the vote that just occurred before this, and, you know, having multiple Rep teams, this would also prevent associations on stacking up on votes by having multiple Rep teams, this will help as well.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, thank you. Any questions or comments? Come on up.

**Luc Roberge, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association:** The only thing I kind of question about that is that you have, you're representing a lot more people with the more Rep teams that you have, so therefore you're representing those people as well.

**Ted Zajac, NOHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Just to answer, just, my own answer is you are in a sense, if Porcupine has six House League U15 teams, you're only giving them one vote, so another association has six Rep teams, you're giving them six votes, so realistically, you're just, we're trying to make it equal across the board so every association on your numbers would have the same amount of votes.

**Luc Roberge, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association:** Thank you for clarifying that.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thanks, Ted. Any other questions? Seeing none, we'll go to the vote. All—Pardon? Oh, yes. Sorry, right up until number 6 now, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 requires two-thirds majority. All those in favour? Opposed?

**CARRIED**

### **3. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE**

**By-Law 6.1.a)**

**Presently Reads:**





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The AGM shall be held annually on the first weekend in May of each year. The AGM shall be rotated annually to one of the Major Centres, unless an application to host the AGM is received by another Major Centre and the applying Major Centre is not in the same district as the previous year's host Major Centre. The order shall be as follows: Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, and Timmins. Once the rotation is complete it shall recommence at the start of the cycle. The exact time and place for the AGM shall be determined by the Board for the purpose of doing business as set out in the agenda of such AGM.

### Change to Read:

The AGM shall be held annually on a date as determined by the NOHA Board of Directors and confirmed with the Membership by September 1 of every season. ~~the first weekend in May of each year.~~ The AGM shall be rotated annually to one of the Major Centres, unless an application to host the AGM is received by another Major Centre and the applying Major Centre is not in the same district as the previous year's host Major Centre. The order shall be as follows: Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, and Timmins. Once the rotation is complete it shall recommence at the start of the cycle. The exact time and place for the AGM shall be determined by the Board for the purpose of doing business as set out in the agenda of such AGM.

### Rationale:

Currently, the timing of the NOHA Annual General Meeting provides a ten (10) month gap between the NOHA's fiscal year end and following Annual General Meeting, which makes it extremely difficult to provide an accurate portrayal of the NOHA's financial picture as of the meeting. By allowing this flexibility, it will provide the Board the ability to possibly adjust the timing of the meeting along with its fiscal year end.

**Moved by** Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive

**Seconded by** Craig Maki, NOHA Executive

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** It revolves around the Annual Meeting. Would someone from the Board like the speak to this motion? [Unintelligible speaking.] Pardon? Yes. Well, when we asked for a show, we got a number of hands in favour, and nobody opposed, so we carried it. Let's go back to number 1. All those in favour. All those in favour, yes. Number 1. I'm sorry, motion number 1. All those in favour. Put your hands down, all those opposed. You want it recorded, folks? All those in favour, up with your paddles, put your paddles down once you've been counted. Okay, all those opposed, opposed to the motion. Once you're counted, please put your paddle down. The vote is 102 to 18, the motion is carried. Motion number 3, submitted by the NOHA Executive, deals with the Annual Meeting. The mover and seconder are on the board, and I believe Steve is going to speak to the motion.



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**Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive:** We're trying to try to match up our end of the year with the actual, so that instead of getting last year's financials, you'll get a more current capture. So, we're hoping to be able to have some flexibility, but at least let everybody know by September 1<sup>st</sup> what the AGM date is, so the AGM date would no longer be fixed on May, you know, right now, I think it could change, but that will be dependent on how we complete the end of the year financials, so that's the rationale for this, so we can get that together, but we'll still have the date by September 1<sup>st</sup> so you'll know what the date is.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, any questions or comments in regard to this? Seeing none, we'll go to the motion, all those in favour? Those opposed? I think we're fair to safe to say the motion is carried.

### **CARRIED**

#### **4. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE**

##### **By-Law 6.1.a.**

##### **Presently Reads:**

The AGM shall be held annually on the first weekend in May of each year. The AGM shall be rotated annually to one of the Major Centres, unless an application to host the AGM is received by another Major Centre and the applying Major Centre is not in the same district as the previous year's host Major Centre. The order shall be as follows: Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, and Timmins. Once the rotation is complete it shall recommence at the start of the cycle. The exact time and place for the AGM shall be determined by the Board for the purpose of doing business as set out in the agenda of such AGM.

##### **Change to Read:**

The AGM shall be held annually on the first weekend in May of each year **in North Bay**. ~~The AGM shall be rotated annually to one of the Major Centres, unless an application to host the AGM is received by another Major Centre and the applying Major Centre is not in the same district as the previous year's host Major Centre. The order shall be as follows: Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, and Timmins. Once the rotation is complete it shall recommence at the start of the cycle.~~ The exact time and place for the AGM shall be determined by the Board for the purpose of doing business as set out in the agenda of such AGM.



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### Rationale:

The NOHA Annual General Meeting is a significant expense to the organisation. Hosting the meeting in North Bay would save between \$2000.00 and \$6000.00 compared to the other locations. For example, the hotel costs in Timmins this season are between \$50 and \$80 more per night, which not only increases costs to the NOHA but to the attendees as well.

**Moved by** Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive

**Seconded by** Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Item number 3, sorry, 4.

**Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive:** So, with respect to this motion you can see before you, the NOHA is trying to be fiscally responsible in the way we conduct our business, and we can appreciate that we're a large, vast geographical association, and we've got members coming from all over the place, but in order to look at fiscal responsibility, which comes to you as the membership, part of that is running the AGM, so we're looking to have this change so that the AGM will always be in North Bay. The reason behind that, the rationale is for example, today, we have multiple members of our staff staying here in Timmins, having to travel to Timmins at a cost to the membership, this is being put back on you as far as fees, that's where the money comes from to pay for these kinds of things, specifically \$5000 just for those kinds of costs as well as transportation costs and things like that, as well as the attendees. Sudbury, North Bay, New Liskeard, a lot of the centres are close, it's central to get there, there's a lot of accommodations, we also have accommodations partnerships in North Bay, which allows for a reduced rate. It would cost you, the membership, as well, less money to attend. So, that's the rationale, so that's why we're asking for the membership to consider that the AGM be handled on the first weekend in May in North Bay. If there's any questions.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, thanks, Adam. Questions? Comments?

**Jennifer Emond, Cochrane Minor Hockey Association:** I'm with CMHA, Cochrane. So, I guess, you know, we're talking about saving money for you guys, but if you're living in Hearst, or if you're living in Sudbury, let's say, you know Sudbury is closer, an hour, so you're saving money for those folks, but for us, essentially, it's not, because that's four hours away, or five hours away for us. If you're Hearst or Kapuskasing or Smooth Rock, it's not the same situation, so would we be getting extra funds? So, you're saving, you guys are



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saving money, you guys are getting paid for this, we're all the volunteer base, and we're the ones travelling all the way to stay in North Bay.

**Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive:** The membership money is not the NOHA's money. The money is your money. The money that is used to pay for this meeting, to pay for the staff, is your money, and I mean your as in the entire NOHA. So that's why we're here, we're not here trying to take Cochrane's money or say Hearst has gotta pay more, or North Channel's gotta pay more, we're not trying to do that, what we're trying to do is trying to be fiscally responsible for the entire NOHA and how we spend your money. That's why this motion is here.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you for that explanation, Adam. Go ahead.

**Jodi Martin, North Channel Minor Hockey Association:** I just want to, I'll be voting against this, and let me be clear, this is the first year since I've been on North Channel Minor Hockey Association's board, and that's about seven years now, that we've actually had funds available for us to come here. Aside from any other year, it was coming out of our pockets. So, we allow us to share the tourism benefits going around, and when it's in Sault Ste. Marie, that's money that isn't coming out of my pocket, and I'm appreciative of that, because I'm volunteering, just like everybody else is. So, my vote will be against this.

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 AAA League:** As much as I understand what the NOHA is doing, I, respectfully, I'd suggest that every dollar spent, regardless of whether it's coming from the NOHA's coffers or from associations' and parents' coffers, it's money spent. I think the focal point should be, and if this sounds a little self-serving, apologies, I live in Sudbury, where you want maximum participation, so I would suggest that the centre where it should be at would be the footprint where you anticipate getting maximum participation in that sense. I don't know what, you know, I haven't looked at a scatter graph of what the participation across Northern Ontario looks like, but I would suggest that it's probably far less in Timmins, Cochrane, Hearst, than it is in Sudbury, Sudbury District. I'm not sure what that looks like broken down between North Bay and Sudbury, but again, I understand the motion is trying to save the NOHA's money, but everybody in here, whether it be association or personal money, is spending money, and I think we should focus more on participation if we are to set a permanent residence for the AGM.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** I couldn't agree more, we need to try to get participation. The discussion is nice to see. Any other comments? All those in favour? Keep your paddles up until you've been counted. Yeah, it's definitely, the motion is defeated.



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### DEFEATED

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** We'll move to Motion number 5.

### 5. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

**By-Law 7.6.b)**

#### Presently Reads:

Anyone letting their name stand for Officer or Council Director may do so for a maximum of two (2) positions only. Individuals who are nominated are to be advised by the Executive Director so that they can advise which positions they are interested in prior to publication of the AGM meeting material. A District Council Director who is midterm can accept nomination for one (1) Officer position.

#### Change to Read:

Anyone letting their name stand for Officer ~~or Council Director~~ may do so for a maximum of two (2) positions only. **Council Directors, whose term is up, may let their name stand for Council Director, in addition to two (2) Officer positions.** Individuals who are nominated are to be advised by the Executive Director so that they can advise which positions they are interested in prior to publication of the AGM meeting material. ~~A District Council Director who is midterm can accept nomination for one (1) Officer position.~~

#### Rationale:

The current process provides an unfair advantage to a Council Director who wishes to run for an Officer position that has a term that is ending. Amending this to what is proposed creates equal opportunity, while allowing a Council Director whose term is ending to possibly maintain their spot if not successful at obtaining an Officer position. Due to the difficulty in keeping volunteers, we do not want to lose valuable people.

**Moved by Craig Maki, NOHA Executive**

**Seconded by Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive**

**Craig Maki, NOHA Executive:** The current process for, of voting for Officer positions, there's an unfair advantage to Council Directors. What we're trying to do is amend this to



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make sure that anyone who's running has equal opportunity, so if we have two Council Directors who are running kind of on an equal playing field, so we don't lose the experiential knowledge that we have on our Board because somebody has run for Officer and weren't successful, and they end up losing their spot, so it's more, it's more about Housekeeping, but at the end of the day, it's evening the playing field for persons—Council Directors on the Board.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, great, thank you. Any other comments or questions with regards to it? Seeing none, we'll go to the motion, all those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

### CARRIED

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** Dick, can I ask a question?

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Yeah.

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** I know that is a question, can I ask another question? As an add-on to that, has the NOHA reviewed their policy on being allowed to qualify or sit as a Council Director? Because I think there are people who may want to, but may not be able to because of positions they may hold, or what have you. Has there been a review of that in recent memory, or is there any talk about reviewing it? Because I notice that there are some vacancies. Maybe there are some people who want to serve. Maybe not.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** I think that's a concern, the modesty of those vacancies. So, Jason, can you speak to this?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** So, so we have. The challenge becomes, and I have my friend John, who is much more of an expert on corporate law than I am. But the challenge becomes sitting on the executive of another organisation, hockey specifically. We have allowed coaches to be part of our executive, we've had discussions about officials as well. While we haven't changed that, that conversation is ongoing, but we certainly welcome ideas about what we can do, but we haven't had any specific conversations beyond that.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** I think that's fair for sure. I think it's fair, if you have ideas, send them to, send them into the office, and Jason will get it on the agenda, because, certainly, it becomes a concern when it comes to filling some of these positions. Item number six.



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### 6. –SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

#### **By-Law 8.10**

#### **Presently Reads:**

Directors shall serve without remuneration and no Director shall, either directly or indirectly, receive any remuneration, salary or profit from the position of Director or for any service rendered to the NOHA. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, the Board of Directors may establish policies relating to the reimbursement of Directors for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as Directors of the NOHA. Any reimbursement or honourarium to a Director of the NOHA for goods and services rendered shall require the approval from the Board of Directors prior to the expense being incurred or at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the NOHA President, until changed by resolution of the Members at an AGM shall be entitled to receive an honourarium of Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) per month.

#### **Change to Read:**

Directors shall serve without remuneration and no Director shall, either directly or indirectly, receive any remuneration, salary or profit from the position of Director or for any service rendered to the NOHA. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, the Board of Directors may establish policies relating to the reimbursement of Directors for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as Directors of the NOHA. Any reimbursement or honourarium to a Director of the NOHA for goods and services rendered shall require the approval from the Board of Directors prior to the expense being incurred or at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the NOHA President, until changed by resolution of the Members at an AGM shall be entitled to receive an honourarium of ~~Six~~ **Seven** Hundred Dollars (\$~~600~~**700**.00) per month.

#### **Rationale:**

To increase the honorarium received by the President to \$700.00. The honorarium last changed in 2012, while the workload on the President has increased significantly.

**Moved by** Dave Brazeau, NOHA Executive

**Seconded by** Rick Barron, NOHA Executive



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**Dave Brazeau, NOHA Executive:** Item number six, we're simply asking that the honourarium for the President move from six hundred dollars to seven hundred total. The rationale is it has not changed since 2012, so eleven years, and the workload of the President, as you all know in your associations, has increased as well, so we'd like to see the honourarium recognize that.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Super. Thank you. Questions? Comments? All those in favour? Opposed?

**CARRIED**

### 7. –SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

**NEW – NOHA Regulation 1.1.o)**

**Presently Reads:**

None.

**Change to Read:**

By the beginning of the 2024/2025 season, all NOHA Associations and Single Entry Teams shall be Incorporated and shall be required to provide to the NOHA annually, a copy of its audited or reviewed financial statements upon registration.

**Rationale:**

Being Incorporated provides additional safety to the volunteers within the NOHA, while limiting personal risk should there be a major incident that arises.

**Moved by** Ted Zajac, NOHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Seconded by** Dave Brazeau, NOHA Executive

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** The Board would like to make a friendly amendment to this to move that to 25-26 instead of 24-25.

**Moved by** Ted Zajac, NOHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Seconded by** Rick Barron, NOHA Executive





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**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** So, the amendment is to move it to 25-26. Comments? Questions? All in favour of the motion as amended? Opposed? The amendment to the motion, to move it from 24-25 to 25-26. All those in favour? Opposed?

### AMENDMENT CARRIED

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** We'll now move on and vote on the motion as amended. All those in favour? Sorry about that, so now the motion, and Jason is going to speak.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** So I'll be very quick before I introduce John to come up and speak, but we've had many conversations at our level with John's support talking about the risks involved with not being incorporated, and our Board felt that based on those conversations, having experienced a couple of matters over the course of the season where us being in our position has helped us, we wanted to bring this forward as a motion to discuss, to be discussed here today. So, I'd like to introduce John D'Agostino to kind of touch on more details on the things we've talked about as to the rationale behind being incorporated.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** I just want to say John provided a lot of help in the NOHA, you will recall, a couple of years ago, he and Jason went through the entire Constitution to make sure that we were doing what we supposed to do about it, so we are very appreciative.

**John D'Agostino:** Hello, everyone. We're going to talk about the main reason why you do not want to continue not being a corporation, and in fact, why you want to be incorporated, and that is the liability of every single individual that is a member of the association. Each of you, whether you're a director or officer, or just a member, if you are not incorporated, you are exposed to one hundred percent of all the liabilities that may happen. At West Ferris, a number of years ago, we talked about this. Everything you own individually is at risk, so I don't think you want to have that as the underlying reason to not want to be on the board. You want to help, you're all here for the right reasons, let's make it easier and safer for you while you're there. You are not allowed to sue if you are not incorporated, but you can be sued. You can't sign contracts, you have no real legal affinity other than what you have by virtue of what you have as people. So, it creates all kinds of nightmares for you, and it's generally disregarded, it seems to be, sort of, in the business of carrying on of hockey. There are a lot of entities that aren't incorporated that really should be. So, what does it do? It limits your liability to the assets that are contained inside the corporation. You are limited in your liability for payments, decisions, if you are acting in good faith and



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doing what you think is the right thing, and your assets are not at risk. So, those are pretty much the main reasons, and I would suggest that, you know, the costs associated with migrating from a loose, unincorporated association to an incorporation might be, from a legal point of view, two to three-thousand dollars once, then possibly auditing and or accounting, possibly that could be annual, and you still have to do those for an unincorporated association. So, there's a lot of reasons to do, to consider spending that money, and I'm hoping that at the end of the day, you seriously consider it. We would offer a package if you want us to do it, or we can—if you email Jason to ask me, I can get you law firms in every corner of Ontario that would help you with incorporating on a not-for-profit basis. We would offer advisory services for any that need help. Is there any questions or comments to this? No, Mr. Stickland, you're prohibited from talking. A former employee of mine.

**Wayne Stickland, Non-Member Auditor:** While I don't, I don't really take issue with the incorporation piece, I'm glad that you mentioned to smaller associations the fees associated with the incorporation, and I don't know if everybody knows that you have to go to a law firm to pay those fees. So that's point one, and point two is I question the add on of a copy of its audited reviewed financial statements being provided to the NOHA upon registration. Can you provide some sort of rationale or basis because it's not in the rationale for associations to provide financial statements to the NOHA. I really don't see how it's any business of the NOHA to have those.

**John D'Agostino:** I don't actually have an answer to that question, so I believe Jason might have that.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thanks, Mr. Stickland.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** So, kind of two-fold, there are other examples, such as this one, outside of what we're proposing here where that's a requirement, so that was part of it. As well, the number of times, and it may apply in some cases to team situations, but we're contacted on a number of, in a number of cases about financials, obviously we direct that back to the association. That's really, simply, the rationale, there's no more to it than that.

**Wayne Stickland, Non-Member Auditor:** Well, then I would propose an amendment to the, to the motion as presented to remove "a copy of its audited or reviewed financial statements" based on Jason, Jason. If there is such a request, that request can simply go back to the association, it doesn't need to come through you.



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**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, do we have a mover and a seconder for that?

**Moved by** Scott Huycke, North Bay & District Trappers

**Seconded by** Melissa Rancourt, Espanola Minor Hockey Association

“To remove ‘a copy of its audited or reviewed financial statements upon registration.’”

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Is there anyone who wants to speak to this amendment of removing that portion?

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** I proposed last night that I have a concern, in the world we’re living in, I have a concern. In society, today, we’ve become extremely litigious, and I know our participants, I mean, increasingly concerned about the item in question, so as administrator of a league, I believe, that whether we might believe this or not, our participants believe there is a level of oversight in the governance that takes place when there’s a governing body over and association and/or a team, and there’s nothing worse than when participants come to you expecting that you have a handle on the finances of the teams that operate within your league, what those finances look like, and they start challenging you on what those finances look like, so I can’t even imagine the NOHA’s world, where they clearly, and the OHF for that matter, where clearly, our participants believe that the NOHA is our governing body, and they believe that there’s a level of oversight that takes place. There should be, in my opinion, by every league and every association, there should be a level of oversight. There are some, and have been some unsavoury stories about finances within associations within our leagues and what have you, and all I know is that I don’t know that the average participant realises who’s at risk and who’s not at risk. What I do know is that if there is a problem. I suspect that they are going to be a start with everybody naming everybody in a lawsuit, and then we’ll figure out who actually has liability and who doesn’t have liability. I think having financial statements is, unfortunately, a way of life. Unfortunately, we are in charge, and we have oversight over parent money, and every one of us should be concerned about what that oversight looks like, and every one of us should be concerned about what it means that everything—within your associations, within leagues, within the NOHA.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Albert. Any other questions with regards to that?

**Ken Smith, Greater Toronto Hockey League:** It’s not a question, it’s more just information. The GTHL requires each of our club members to submit a financial statement



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every year with their membership, along with other things including their by-laws and other documents, for your information.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Ken. Are there any other questions with regards to that? So, we're going to vote on the amendment to remove "a copy of its audited or reviewed financial statements upon registration." We're only voting on that amendment to remove that. All those in favour of removing that from the original motion. We're going to do a count on this. Those opposed? The vote is 53 yes, 46 no, so that motion is carried—the amendment is carried. I'm sorry. The amendment is carried.

### **AMENDMENT CARRIED**

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** So now the motion as amended. "By the beginning of the"—stop there, we'll just stop there. All those in favour? Those opposed? Okay, they just had a mix-up, a crossover, so those opposed?

### **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** We'll go back to page 45, amendment number—motion number 12.

### **12. –SUBMITTED BY TIMMINS MINOR HOCKEY**

#### **ASSOCIATION NOHA Regulation 3.1.d.**

#### **Presently Reads:**

The NOHA, through its Board of Directors, reserves to itself the right of placing Teams in whichever Divisions, Sub-Divisions, Categories or Leagues it may deem to be in its best interest.

#### **Change to Read:**



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The NOHA, through its Board of Directors, ~~reserves to itself the right~~ shall determine the appropriateness of placing Teams in whichever Divisions, Sub-Divisions, Categories or Leagues it may deem to be in its best interest.

### **Rationale:**

The clause should be subject to an appeal should Associations not agree with the classification by the NOHA. This gives no flexibility to Associations to determine what is best for their membership and the NOHA Board should not solely have the last say in where teams can classify or what leagues they play in. It should be subject to an appeal by the NOHA appeals committee or through the OHF.

**Moved by** Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association

**Seconded by** Jason Brazeau, Timmins Minor Hockey Association

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you very much. Steve, do you want to speak to the motion for the rationale?

**Steve Vachon, Timmins Minor Hockey Association:** We're happy with the rationale we put in there.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay. You're okay, Steve, or do you wish to speak? You're okay? Okay. Thanks very much.

**Brian Beaupre, NOHA 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President:** It's the position of the NOHA that the rationale is not in the motion of the spirit—the spirit of the motion, sorry guys, and the NOHA and the OHF Regulations don't allow appeals for classifications, just throwing that out, okay, guys?

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, thank you. Any other comments or questions? Seeing none, we'll go to the motion. All those in favour? Opposed?

### **DEFEATED**

13. –**SUBMITTED BY NORTH BAY MINOR HOCKEY**

**ASSOCIATION** NOHA Regulation 3.2.a



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### Presently Reads:

There will be no House League Select Teams.

### Change to Read:

Delete.

### Rationale:

Removing the bylaw will allow for further development opportunities for our current House League players. In addition to playing and practicing on their current House League teams, players could be affiliated to a House Select team allowing them to play additional tournaments / exhibition games against other like teams. This allows for the opportunity of the top House League players to occasionally play and practice together with a like skill level, all the while not disrupting the current system

**Moved by** Darrel Pitman, North Bay Minor Hockey Association

**Seconded by** Raymond Yelle, North Bay Minor Hockey Association

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** So, would one of you gentlemen like to speak to the rationale?

**Kevin Peever, NOHA Executive:** So, I had spoken to the gentlemen from North Bay earlier, and we support having Select Teams at House League. The only thing that should change, or if this does pass, we would want to build some policies in place to make it equal for everyone, because the way it's written here is, you know, making an All-Star team of House League. So, if there's an individual at House that wants to be part of a Select Team, they should be given that, that opportunity. If this does move forward, we would build policies to support that. Thanks, just to let everyone know.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Any other comments or questions? Seeing none, we'll go to the motion. All those in favour?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Sorry, I'm just going to talk about last night for those who were at the session. So, the OHF has implemented new regulations that relate to Player Pathways, equal opportunities, etc. That includes Select programming. So, the rationale refers to your better players at House League. If this moves forward, it has to be provided—Select programming has to be provided to any player who wishes to have that additional opportunity. So, just to be clear what we're talking about, as well, what Kevin is suggesting is that we be provided time, based on these changes, to develop a policy that



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will address everything going forward. As I mentioned last night, the other three Minor Members all have some form of Select programming. They all have policies and regulations that kind of, deal and would address that, so that's what Kevin is referring to is time to be able to, and understanding if it does go forward now, obviously it's needing, it's a rush on the clock to put those in, understanding, again, that the so-called Select programming philosophy has changed with the OHF Player Pathways.

**Connie Bailey, North Channel Minor Hockey Association:** Sorry, I'm just trying to understand a little bit better. We talked about Select last night, that Select, the word Select, even though it sounds in our vocabulary as more elite, is actually everybody needs to have that opportunity. We need to provide that option for everybody. So, does that mean, then that an organisation that wants to create a Select team, that they don't pick which kids, any kids can go to it, or is there still a draft to create that team? Or is it, like, irrelevant?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** Yeah, so I, I don't know. Again, the change in philosophy is new. It passed to the end of February to March, there, so, and I don't know exactly what it will look like, it's going to depend, obviously on the size of the association the number of players that are interested. The key is that anyone interested have that opportunity, so if you have twenty-five kids within your organisation that are interested to participate in that additional programming, you need to find a way for them to participate. And that's where I say, like, it's a rush against the clock over the summer months, obviously, to put all of that together.

**Michelle Vaters, Nickel District Minor Hockey League:** So, just because you're saying it's a race against the clock, so my question is this motion looks like it's just, just trying to delete that bylaw or clause that, that says "cannot", it doesn't mean "will be immediately", right? Or am I misunderstanding? It doesn't mean that everyone's going to dive right into the Select program this season, so I don't know about the race against the clock. This just allows for that to be, does it not? This clause?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** It, yeah, it does allow it, but also it puts us into a position to put processes in place fairly quickly so that those who wish to provide it, because they will now be able to, we need to have that all in place. That's my only thought.

**Michelle Vaters, Nickel District Minor Hockey League:** By that, you're mandating that anyone interested has to be given that opportunity then it's no longer a Select team, it's an opt-in, which is the conversation we had last night. It's not, like you're not selecting, let's say, like the best, stronger players, they're just opting in.



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**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** The definition has changed slightly.

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** So, Jason, if we delete this, does that not kind of pave the way for an all-star, like I'll tie this into the free player movement agreement. People that, concerns that they have about, you know, teams are going to get stacked. By not, by voting on something without policy, aren't we going to have, the creation of those all-star teams potentially to have those exact situations people were concerned about, or those all-star teams are going to kick everybody else's behinds, and would it not make more sense to develop a policy and put it in place, and then adopt this?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** That's essentially what I'm saying is that we should be provided with time to be able to put everything together. It's not necessarily that we don't support that there be this option available to players, but there needs to be, in my view, that having, unless I'm directed otherwise, there is other, other things that we need to prepare for as well for next season. It just adds a bit of extra pressure for us to put that in quickly, so, again, essentially, more time would be ideal.

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** So, what would be the likelihood be that you could come up with a policy before the beginning of the season so associations who did want to operate it would be able to operate?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** So, I, again, I take directive from the Executive, and obviously if this passes, there's a need for us as a group to be prepared for that.

**Ted Zajac, NOHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Sorry, just one concern, to the point from the motion is the timing, and we had a discussion yesterday of our Board. There's a lot of things we've got to remember. Under the Pathways, there's certain, you're only allowed two tournaments, so if you have this, who's going to go, who's not going to go? And there's a lot of things that have to be adjusted, if we're going to—I'm not necessarily against it, but hopefully, maybe, we can recommend for the following year, which will give the associations and the NOHA, and the OHF time to put input into it, and maybe move forward at that time, just a suggestion.

**Steve Turgeon, Rayside Balfour Minor Hockey Association:** Just trying to figure out what we want to get clarification on is that we have in some of our divisions, we have four or five teams in our divisions. It's going to be kind of hard to let them all be a Select player. I





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know it's fair play and fair game, but the whole point of a Select team is to put in and draft fifteen players or seventeen players so we can go down south and play in the Select tournaments that they have Select tournaments for. How can we allow everybody on the association to play at the same Select level?

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** So that's a philosophy that has changed, that was before it got approved by all the OHF Members back in February, like I said. That's exactly what it says is that every player that wishes to have an opportunity to play Select programming has that ability to do that, so what we understand or have understood as Select, that's going to be the same across the board, so.

**Trevor Bailey, North Channel Minor Hockey Association:** Just a clarification, when you read it now, where we are in a rural area, we don't have multiple teams in one division, we have one team in one division. So, does this, by removing this, does this allow us to approach the other associations and say could we get a Select team, a team that wants extra programming, get those kids from other divisions to go and compete in the Select tournaments that are down in Southern Ontario? Would that be an option, because now you're just removing it and you're opening it wide open.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** My, my understanding of Select is that it's essentially players from one organisation who form an additional team or teams. I don't want to speak on behalf of the Board, but just talking to Claudette here, what she suggests is that, essentially if everyone is supportive, or if North Bay is supportive, that we look at forming a work group over the course of the, you know, the next season, over the summer and over the course of the next season, to put together policies including some of the associations, obviously North Bay who put it forward, so thinking just out loud, here, that North Bay and other associations put together a process going forward.

**George Suszter, East Nipissing Minor Hockey Association:** I'd like to do a friendly amendment based on the conversations that we've had. I know the rules for Select House has changed, with more information to be required, so I'd like to, with North Bay's permission, change the motion to say "The NOHA shall allow House Select teams once policies and procedures for these teams have been implemented."

**Moved by** George Suszter, East Nipissing Minor Hockey Association

**Seconded by** Darrell Pitman, North Bay Minor Hockey Association

"The NOHA shall allow House Select teams once policies and procedures for these teams have been implemented."



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**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, so you've heard the amendment, that basically says what's here plus put in that rider that to allow the NOHA to develop the policies and procedures. So, any comments about the amendment? All those in favour of the amendment?

**Michelle Vaters:** Sorry, I do have something to add to that. It's kind of open-ended, it's kind of open-ended right now, could it be like, no later than the 24-25 season? It's open-ended, right? How the policy is written? It could take ten years, if it takes ten years?

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Yes, I suppose you could put a date in. I thought they could do it over the next season, and have it ready for the fall, is that? Jason, are you okay with that? The Board and Jason is saying—Okay, so the amendment is to develop those procedures to have this in place for the 24-25 season. All in favour of the motion? Oh, the amendment, sorry, sorry. Can we just have a show of those opposed?

### **CARRIED**

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** So, we're going to vote on the motion as amended. All those in favour? Oh, sorry, do you want to speak? Does anyone wish to speak to the motion now? To the motion? No, seeing nothing, all those in favour of the motion as amended? Those opposed? We'd better do a count, so for those who have their hands up, we'll do a count first. Don't forget to put your hand down once she's counted. Okay, and those in favour of the motion as amended, in favour. Please raise your paddle, and keep it up until you're counted. The count is 54 against, 41. Sorry, 54 yes, 41 against.

### **CARRIED AS AMENDED**

**Note:** Following the discussion that occurred at the NOHA Annual General Meeting, the NOHA reached out to the OHF for further clarification regarding Select Programming and the amendment to their Regulations. OHF Regulation C4 ([ohf-playing-regulations-2023-24-season.pdf](#)) references Select and states, "Any House League offering Select in these age groups must provide an equal opportunity for any player who wishes to participate, regardless of that Player's skill level."

While this reference does not single out U7/U9, we have received confirmation from the OHF that the intent of the change to the Regulation was to address the change in philosophy for U7 and U9 where all Players have an equal opportunity to play and develop, and was not intended to apply across all age divisions.



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Therefore, Select programming does not have to be offered to all participants who wish to take part at U11 to U18 and we will ensure that this information is reflected as we work to develop policy and procedures in time for implementation next season.

### 14. –SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

**NOHA Regulation 3.2.c.**

#### **Presently Reads:**

House League Teams must register with the NOHA by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Change to Read:**

House League Teams must register with the NOHA by October 1<sup>st</sup>, **or prior to their first game, whichever comes first.**

#### **Rationale:**

To ensure that Teams are approved prior to the start of game play.

**Moved by** Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive

**Seconded by** Kevin Peever, NOHA Executive

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Is there anyone from the NOHA wish to speak?

**Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive:** Just putting a date in there, so, as everybody knows, we're sending the stuff and sometimes—so we're just trying to put a date there to encourage compliance. We know sometimes it's not going to happen, so we're just trying to put it down so we get more of the hard to do stuff done in the fall by a certain date. It's pretty simple, we're just putting it down.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Steve. Any questions or concerns for Steve? All those in favour of the motion? Those opposed?

**CARRIED**



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**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Number 15 we dealt with. Number 16 and 17 now are both redundant. And number 18 as well, we dealt with, 18, 19, and 20 have been dealt with. 21. Now we move to motion number 22.

### 22. –SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE

**NEW – NOHA Regulation 7.1.f.**

#### Presently Reads:

None.

#### Change to Read:

Unless otherwise approved by the League Commissioner, any cancelled game should be played or rescheduled within two weeks of the original game date. All games cancelled before December 25 must be played on or before January 20th. If Teams are unable to agree on a specified date to play rescheduled games, the League Commissioner will schedule the game. If this does not occur, neither team will be awarded points. All games must be played prior to the end of the regular season unless approved by the League Commissioner or delegate. No team is to forfeit a game. **Any Team that refuses to reschedule and/or play any game may be assessed costs associated with said game, and the defaulting organisation may have all of its Teams suspended from further play until the game in question is completed.**

#### Rationale:

To provide a consistent process where games may be cancelled/postponed.

**Moved by** Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive

**Seconded by** Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** From the Board?

**Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive:** We had a policy in place where the president of the one association had sent it out and the teams still refused to play. It was near the end of the season and they didn't want to play, and they didn't tell the other team, so this is to put something on it where an association would be held to. It's never come up before. The only time where we've had to reschedule was, the president stepped in, the president of the association, and they wouldn't listen, so we put this in. The other, the association's other



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teams all played because they were competitive. This one team didn't want to play. So, this allows us to say that team has to play in this game on this date.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, any questions or comments on this?

**Brian Jowlkowski, Nipissing District Hockey League:** I'm not really sure this is appropriate for the NOHA to implement. Truthfully, this falls back on the leagues themselves to monitor and deal with when games are cancelled. We have policies and procedures in place to deal with that, so I'm not really sure we're doing anything constructive here with regards to this amendment.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay.

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** We had a situation this year where a team ended up forfeiting a game, and I put no fault in the situation, the team was in Kapuskasing, they were short players, they didn't have affiliates. I gave the teams the opportunity to come up with a reschedule date, they had three months, it didn't happen. The amount of time it took from the people involved in trying to create some sort of resolution to this, it was ridiculous. The animosity it has created between the programs is ridiculous. The he said, she said was ridiculous. I think that we have to have some sort of ability to ensure games are important, kids should not be not playing games. In our league in particular, we have teams that organize special nights, cancer awareness nights, all those type of things. It's not fair to the teams not to have some sort of power to do something, as much as I pushed to get it done, it didn't get done. So, I would support this, at least, as a last resort if this happens.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Albert.

**Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive:** I just, I, when I was researching this, this came from the ALLIANCE, so I just thought if we did it as an organisation, it would take the heat off of everybody else. That association reached out to me because they were looking for some sort of guidance.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, any other comments? Seeing one, we'll call the motion. All those in favour? Those opposed?

**CARRIED**



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**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Now, number 23, 24, 25, and 26 have been dealt with earlier under the... We'll move now to motion number 27.

### **27. – SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE**

**NEW – NOHA Regulation 11.2.2.d.**

#### **Presently Reads:**

None.

#### **Change to Read:**

No Tournament of Champions will have more than ten (10)

Teams.

#### **Rationale:**

With all Teams being guaranteed 4 games in round robin play, having more than 10 teams creates a number of logistical challenges.

**Moved by** Brian Beaupre, NOHA 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President  
**Seconded by** Ted Zajac, NOHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Brian Beaupre, NOHA 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President:** The rationale is very explanatory. With all teams guaranteed four games, adding more than ten teams at the TOCs, scheduling just becomes a nightmare. So, we just ask that it stays at ten. If it goes above ten, then we'll look at it.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thanks, Brian.

**Jamie Costello, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association:** We'd be, sort of against this for the reasons why we think that if you have twelve competitive teams, fourteen competitive teams, why wouldn't you just let them play there? If you cap it at ten, then what do you do with the four teams that might not, it should be in that category, then what are you going to put them down where they'll be too powerful or up where they're not as powerful. If you



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have enough for fifteen teams, then you'll just have to juggle your schedule around. As a scheduler and host association, you figure out how to get your four games in. I just think the teams should play where they're slotted to play, and if it exceeds ten, so bet it. Thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Jamie. Any other questions or comments with regards to the motion? All those in favour of the motion? Oh, just a second.

**Brian Beaupre, NOHA 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President:** Just by going about ten teams, you'd need the extra ice pad, so that eliminates some associations from hosting. Also, sorry, Ted, I apologise, Ted, we were both talking at the same time. So, chances are, guys, ten teams would literally be the max we would get. We don't get more than eleven, so it just kind of eliminates that one extra team. Again, take a look, guys, AA, there's only so many teams, A there's only so many teams within the NOHA, so the most there would be is ten.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, Jamie, we're going to allow you to come back up again if this is...

**Jamie Costello, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association:** Just as an example, our U13 TOC, which was hosted by West Nipissing, at one point was going to be over ten, then they jammed, I shouldn't say jammed, they put the one team down below. I didn't see that team, but if that team was good enough to play, I still think they should be there. Like, you're putting a team in a position where I don't think they should be. If it's up to more arenas or whatever, then that's up to the host association to find another arena, because I've been to lots of TOCs where you play, this past year we played games in, where were we, in Verner, and to, Sue, help me out, where were we again? Sturgeon Falls. So be it, if we've got to use more than one arena, that's fine, that's part of the cost of doing business.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, thank you, Jamie. Comments? We'll go to the motion. All those in favour of the—Oh, I'm sorry. There's a hand up there I didn't see.

**George Suszter, East Nipissing Minor Hockey Association:** As an association that's hosted the Tournament of Champions, a lot of the times you put your bid in to hosting knowing that you have maybe two or three arenas at the most. The amount of time and the amount of space between games when there's four games is just too great to do, and you can't do it over a weekend. So, the motion makes sense, and you're going to have more people knowing that they can do it. From a scheduling point of view, it's a nightmare, because you have to have so many hours' space between games. Just keep that in mind.



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Yeah, so Fridays, exactly. Anyway, I'm, East Nipissing's in support of this, we hope that you guys support it, too.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you.

**Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive:** I'd just like to speak to the, it sounded awful, and the intent wasn't there. The intent wasn't to kick anyone out, we're here to provide the best possible hockey experience we can for every player, so having been sitting on the NOHA Committee, unless it's an exceptional year, it's hard to find ten teams in one category. After you pass ten, four teams, six, really the scale gets from the strongest team to the weaker team, it gets greater and greater the more teams you have. So past that, we might look at that and do it regularly to see, you know that, this team here, yes, they competed at U12 A, but in their particular division, they weren't as strong as all these other areas, we're going to put them down to the B division. It's not a downgrade, whatever, they're just going to be able to compete better, and for those associations that aren't there, and there are some, you should see the list of requests that we get from like, a U12 A team that wants to play in B this year, what, you lost three games all year, how is that, the list is quite extensive, so we shuffle the deck on the regular to try to make parity, but it's rarely after ten teams. So, I know the fear is there because we want to have the best experience for our players. But I'm letting you know, being on that committee, I haven't seen it yet. I haven't been there forever, but I haven't seen it yet where some of these teams, it doesn't make sense. Now, do we make mistakes? Absolutely, does a team get pushed down and all of a sudden, they win the whole thing? Sure, that happens. But that's, we're trying to make the best experience possible. For the people doing these bids, it does get to be quite a huge effort once you hit ten. I just wanted to let you know that our goal is to make the best experience possible for your players.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, thanks, Steve. Any other comments? Questions? All those in favour? Opposed?

**CARRIED**

**28. -SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE**

**NOHA Regulation 11.3.2.**

**Presently Reads:**





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All NOHA U13, U15 and U18 House League Tournament of Champions will have a maximum of ten (10) Teams. The Teams will be comprised by randomly selecting from each District a Team that has previously shown intent of participation as well as a host Team. Where Districts that do not have House League Teams or have no Team interest, additional Teams will be randomly selected from all Teams that have shown interest. All Teams participating will be guaranteed a minimum of four (4) games in the tournament format.

### Change to Read:

All NOHA U13, U15, and U18 House League Tournament of Champions will have a maximum of ten (10) Teams. **The first ten (10) Teams to pay will be accepted into the Tournament of Champions.** ~~The Teams will be comprised by randomly selecting from each District a Team that has previously shown intent of participation as well as a host Team. Where Districts that do not have House League Teams or have no Team interest, additional Teams will be randomly selected from all Teams that have shown interest.~~ All Teams participating will be guaranteed a minimum of four (4) games in the tournament format.

### Rationale:

To better reflect current practice.

**Moved by** Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive

**Seconded by** Rick Barron, NOHA Executive

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, go ahead.

**Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive:** This plays off the other one. We rarely have that many House League teams that apply. House League has more parity in the goals scored than the Rep teams, so it's a little easier. We'll take the first ten, but we haven't run into this. These are just—if we get twelve I think we'll just, we're going to do something. Being on that committee, we're trying to do something better, this is just some extra language on here so that, for the communities there's no ambiguity and you know exactly where you stand. That's all that is, thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, thank you, Steve. Any questions? Comments? All those in favour? Opposed?

**CARRIED**



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### **29. – SUBMITTED BY RAYSIDE BALFOUR MINOR HOCKEY**

#### **ASSOCIATION NOHA Regulation 12.1.g.**

##### **Presently Reads:**

When Teams or Players are required to play three (3) Tournament games in one day at U10 and above, there shall be a minimum of three (3) hours between the finish of one game and the start of the next game.

##### **Change to Read:**

When Teams or Players are required to play three (3) **or more full ice** Tournament games in one day **at U8 and above**, there shall be a minimum of three (3) hours between the finish of one game and the start of the next game. **When Teams or Players are required to play two (2) full ice Tournament games in one day at U8 and above, there shall be a minimum of two (2) hours between the finish of one game and the start of the next game.**

**When Teams or Players are required to play three (3) or more half ice Tournament games in one day at U8 and above, there shall be a minimum of two (2) hours between the finish of one game and the start of the next game. When Teams or Players are required to play two (2) half ice Tournament games in one day at U8 and above, there shall be a minimum of one (1) hour between the finish of one game and the start of the next game.**

##### **Rationale:**

As you are aware, Hockey Canada and the OHF's U9 Player Pathway preaches progression into hockey with a focus on fun and skill development, allowing the players to experience fitness, fair play and cooperation. Part of this pathway makes it mandatory for these players to play at half ice, with a timed buzzer or whistle for line changes, until January 15th each year, which is roughly half of their season. During this time, players have very little exposure to full-ice games or drills and therefore do not have the opportunity to better develop their cardiovascular endurance for games that are on an ice surface that is double the size of what they've been exposed to, once the January 15th deadline passes. There is also no "standard shift length" regulated by a buzzer, as they had become accustomed to.

As a certified Level 2 Trainer for a team at the U9 level, I've observed that without a regulated break between games in tournaments, the teams can get scheduled for games with as little as one hour off in between, or, God forbid, back-to-back games. This does not allow for the children to recover and regain energy through proper nutrition and hydration before getting ready for the next game. This results in tired players that have a lack of energy and lack of focus on the ice, which greatly increases the risk of injury to the player. There is also a



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greater risk that diabetic children won't have time to properly test and regulate their blood sugar between games.

In the best interest of player health, player safety, and keeping hockey fun for these young children, I would love to see the abovementioned regulation get altered to allow for a minimum three-hour break between the finish of one game and start of the next game in the U9 division as well. It is my understanding that historically there has been an attitude of "these kids have lots of energy, they'll be fine", however the lifestyle of these children has significantly changed over the last three decades. At one point you would see hockey nets on nearly every street of a Northern Ontario community, with kids playing street hockey until their parents shouted for them to come in. I was one of those kids. However, society has changed and the influx of technology into households have promoted a more sedentary lifestyle for these children. The cardio exercise once obtained by running around outside has been replaced with a thumb workout on various video game consoles. There also appears to be an increase in inattentive ADHD in today's youth. A mandatory break between games would allow these children to be able to re-focus on the game they've grown to love.

**Moved by** Steve Ryan, Rayside Balfour Minor Hockey Association

**Seconded by** Steve Turgeon, Rayside Balfour Minor Hockey Association

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, great. So, guys, do you want to speak to the motion?

**Steve Ryan, Rayside Balfour Minor Hockey Association:** No, I think it's pretty clear.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Are there any question? Any comments?

**Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive:** The Northern Ontario Hockey Association, we've taken a look at this, and we are not in favour of this amendment to the regulation for a few reasons. More specifically, what this talks about, it talks about having one-hour limits in U8 half-ice games. In most jamboree sessions and settings and those kinds of things, jamboree games are twenty minutes, if we had to wait an hour in between those, these jamborees would have gone on for days. A lot of them are one day, so they're quick hits, the kids are in, they're out, doing their thing, and to have these time frames implemented, especially at the younger ages, because they are suck quick, short things, I do think it would be difficult. And again, it becomes cost-prohibitive because people are there longer, spending more time there, because they're having to stay longer, so we're not in favour of this from the NOHA perspective.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Anyone else have any questions or comments with regards to it? Okay, seeing none, we'll go to the motion, all those in favour with the motion? Opposed?



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### **DEFEATED**

### **30. –SUBMITTED BY NOHA EXECUTIVE**

**NOHA Regulation 13.3.e and f.**

#### **Presently Reads:**

e) Matters that may be appealed

- A Player Release;
- A Suspension of more than seven (7) games (for one infraction) imposed by the NOHA; - Any Association, Team, Official or Player who has been the recipient of a decision by the President or a Sub-Committee of the Executive Board of the NOHA and who feels aggrieved thereby may appeal the decision to the full NOHA Executive Board; - Any Association, Team, Official or Player who has been the recipient of a decision by the President or a Sub-Committee of the Member Association and who feels aggrieved thereby may appeal the decision to the Appeals Committee.

f) Matters that may not be appealed to the NOHA.

- A decision by the NOHA Appeals Committee or an appeal heard by the NOHA Board of Directors;
- Any decision as to the outcome of any game or games;
- Any decision relating to the classification of Teams;
- Any decision relating to a Tournament or exhibition game sanctioning; - Any Suspension pursuant to the OHF Minimum Suspension list;
- Any other Suspension of fewer than seven (7) games.

#### **Change to Read:**

e) Matters that may be appealed

- A Player Release;
- A Suspension of more than seven (7) games (for one infraction) imposed by the NOHA, **with the exception of any suspension under Hockey Canada Rule 11.4 (maltreatment)**; - Any Association, Team, Official or Player who has been the recipient of a decision by the President or a Sub-Committee of the Executive Board of the NOHA and who feels aggrieved thereby may appeal the decision to the full NOHA Executive Board; - Any Association, Team, Official or Player who has been the recipient of a



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decision by the President or a Sub-Committee of the Member Association and who feels aggrieved thereby may appeal the decision to the Appeals Committee.

f) Matters that may not be appealed to the NOHA.

- A decision by the NOHA Appeals Committee or an appeal heard by the NOHA Board of Directors;
- Any decision as to the outcome of any game or games;
- Any decision relating to the classification of Teams;
- Any decision relating to a Tournament or exhibition game sanctioning; - Any Suspension pursuant to the OHF Minimum Suspension list;
- Any other Suspension of fewer than seven (7) games;
- Any suspension that falls under Hockey Canada Rule 11.4. (maltreatment).

### **Rationale:**

With the increased focus on Maltreatment within Hockey Canada, it is a matter that needs to be taken seriously by all Members. As such, it is proposed that this penalty not be appealable.

**Moved by** Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive

**Seconded by** Kevin Peever, NOHA Executive

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Go ahead.

**Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive:** Thank you, Dick. The NOHA would like to, as you can see under Section E, change or add to the suspension of more than seven games and have it not be able to be appealed with respect to the Maltreatment offenses under section 11.4. This, this part of the Hockey Canada Guidelines that have come out with respect to Maltreatment is kind of near and dear to my heart. We do a lot of the investigations and spend a lot of time along with our colleagues on the committee looking into these things, these are the most serious matters that happen. On the ice, outside of the ice, in the parking lots of our arenas, and there's a very set set of guidelines that we follow with respect to these investigations, and we understand the implications of a seven-game suspension on one of these things, and I can look around the room and I can imagine there's executives in here who've had to sit in meetings and hearings with players of theirs with us trying to understand why we're making such, maybe strong statements. Hockey Canada has come out with a strong position on how it's going to be and what it needs to be because there is no place in the game for the maltreatment stuff. I think we all accept that it has no place in it, and as such, these suspensions are very important and should remain the same. Having



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an appeals committee that come in and look at some pretty subjective things such as a hit from behind, let's say. What you believe is a hit from behind, what I believe is a hit from behind might be different, it's very subjective, the appeals committee can come in and look at some of those things and go well, from our experience, like this happened, that happened, so we might overturn. In these cases, they're investigated thoroughly by qualified investigators. We try our very best to be objective to the offenders and the associations, so having this added so that appeals under Maltreatment can now be appealed is what we're hoping to do, and that everyone in the room appreciates where Maltreatment is going, and supports that, thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thanks Adam. Comments? Questions?

**Melissa Unetic, North Channel Minor Hockey Association:** My only question would be if the NOHA is not going to allow us to appeal anything under Maltreatment, is there something in place where we can, and I only ask that because I have seen referees use this as a punishment against people who didn't necessarily have it. I'm not saying all referees, just one in a thousand. But, having video proof that that happened, or, how—where's my recourse, then? If the NOHA doesn't want to be involved, that's fine, is there a place I can go?

**Craig Maki, NOHA Executive:** That's a fantastic question, that's one of the things, I just want to point out for perspective, I'm on the Ontario Hockey Federation Maltreatment Committee. There is a lot of work that needs to be done in the realm of Maltreatment. What you're talking about a false allegation, is basically what you're referring to. You indicated that there was evidence, which is video evidence, which would factor into the investigative process. So, if you had an allegation, an on-ice allegation, and you had evidence to refute that on-ice allegation, we're, we would look into that. We are, it's our function to make sure that any suspension that's being levied is, is proper. And that's where I would say that would happen, and I don't doubt your experience, but I don't remember, I don't remember your specific situation, because at the end of the day, we investigate these things all the time. On-ice is not typically investigated because it's a referee's report. However, if somebody comes to us with video and there's a video review policy, we would look into that. I don't know if that helps you.

**Melissa Unetic, North Channel Minor Hockey Association:** I was never once informed about a Maltreatment Committee. I asked several times, who do I bring these complaints to. I tried the lieutenant, I tried the NOHA, and I was told no, it's ten to seven o'clock, basically. I tried OHF, I have not been responded to. I have tried the Referee Association, not been



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responded to. So, you're saying all this is there, and it's working, but I'm not seeing it work. I just, these referees, and they need to be protected, they do, parents are insane, coaches are insane, my son wants to go in reffing this year, but there's also bad seeds. It's the same thing with police officers. Too much power is too much power. You're putting in complaint after complaint after complaint after complaint, and nobody has even responded.

**Craig Maki, NOHA Executive:** Everything you're saying has merit, one-hundred percent. If, if it's a communication issue where we're failing addressing your needs at the NOHA level, that's a problem, so that's something that we need to fix. And I can't speak for the OHF other than that there are times that I get frustrated, too, because I expect an indication and don't get it, so I understand that. It's, again, so what I would say to you is this, and I don't know who you spoke to at the NOHA, I really don't, I'm not familiar with the circumstances. What you're telling me right here, right now, it sounds to me that it's something that we could look at. And I guess that's what it is, we're talking about one specific circumstance. In a global perspective, and I know we talked about your situation about not being able to appeal, we need to eradicate Maltreatment out of our game. The amount of time that I spend on, and everybody spends on these investigations, and then the hearings and all that is ridiculous. If we have to farm some out, it costs money, because people don't do it for free. It's on a volunteer basis that the Board does do them, generally, for free, but at the end of the day, when we're so inundated, it becomes a problem. Look at what happened in Niagara Falls last week, you lost two kids, plus their career in the OHL, you've got a manager who's an owner suspended for two years, and a \$100,000 fine because of Maltreatment. Right? If we don't start right now at our grassroots, go out and get rid of it, we're always going to be chasing our tails. So, from a, from your Board's perspective, we need to implement this, so that everybody gets the message, because every hearing Sue says, "were you aware of the Maltreatment rule?" Nope. You know what I mean? And there's no excuse for it. If it's on the website, we're trying to communicate better, we're trying to get it out there, but at the end of the day, you've got an elite coach, and he's going to lose a player for seven games because he called somebody a name, as a coach, you don't want that twenty-five games, right? But at the end of the day, I apologize for what you went through, but the bigger picture is this, we need to eradicate Maltreatment, the rationale for the rule change is to eradicate Maltreatment. Thank you.

**Trevor Morden, Porcupine Minor Hockey Association:** I'm not opposed to Maltreatment, and the policies in place and put forward, I agree there's no place for it in the game. I've heard all the politics, I think there's a lot of work to be done by the NOHA to ensure the investigative process is an objective process, so I'm one-hundred percent opposed to anybody not being able to appeal. I think it's a right to have that. As you've said,



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players and families are impacted by this, and these are things that the players and families carry for the rest of their lives, and I don't think people understand the severity of that being based on an allegation and inconclusive investigations, and lack of, I'll say, information from the NOHA for all the parties involved in that instance, I want to talk about more of a personal matter right now. It's very upsetting if an allegation is brought forward and not provided those opportunities to have those discussions, so I hope the process is getting better, I'd love to be a part of that to help out, but I do think, as part of that, the appeals process will help make things better, and it's by discussing it that we can try to work out the kinks together. Thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you.

**Wayne Stickland, Non-Member Auditor:** Just to lean in on what this gentleman said, by their own admission, this process is still getting worked on. To prevent an association or a person to not appeal that decision, and I can give you examples of situations where it has been appealed, and it was overturned and resulted in lower suspensions, I won't bore you with those details. But fundamentally, the process is still a work-in-progress. They don't know how they're going to have this process moving forward, and it's a suggestion somehow that you're going to give up your right to appeal their decision. The only way that you'll be able to do that if this goes through is to go and hire a lawyer and bring an administrative process against the NOHA to try to get it overturned. The end result is you paying somebody like me thousands and thousands of dollars to have an administrative review of that, and it's a waste of time and money. And until the process is solidified, and they know exactly how they're dealing with these processes, they should not be preventing an appeal.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Anything else? Okay, we'll go to the motion. All those in favour of the motion as presented? Those opposed?

**DEFEATED**

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### 8) Correspondence

None.





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### 9) Elections

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** We'll now go to the election of new Board members. Twenty-one. The Officers shall be the Past President, Sue Shepherdson will assume that role. President Ted Zajac, South Porcupine. Ted, will you accept that nomination?

**Ted Zajac, NOHA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Yes.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** The new President will be Ted Zajac. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Brian Beaupre, Brian, will you accept that?

**Brian Beaupre, NOHA 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President:** Yes.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Brian will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's position, there are two nominees, Adam Estabrooks from Timmins and Steve Lawrence from Sault Ste. Marie. Steve, will you accept the nomination?

**Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive:** Yes.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Adam, will you accept the nomination?

**Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive:** Yes.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, Adam we'll start with you. You have three minutes to address the throng.

**Adam Estabrooks, NOHA Executive:** Good afternoon, everybody. Thanks for coming today and I appreciate everyone's engagement. I know the decisions that are made at this table are at some times contentious and some times difficult, and you can appreciate that as a Board, we battle this all the time, and we're just all trying to do what's right for everybody. A little bit about myself, I'm a member of the Ontario Provincial Police, I've been an officer for twenty-five years, I was a supervisor for the last eight. I'm big, I'm all about leadership and accountability. I understand it, I believe in it, and making tough decisions, as we've done today, having those tough discussions, they're tough, they're difficult, and not everybody's going to agree. We all have opinions, we all have beliefs and values, but as long as we come together in the end and we all walk out of here, whether you're happy or not, we all walk out of here with a vision to move forward, that's what's important to me, and I



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believe that, and that's what I would bring to this table. From a governance perspective, I've been on the NOHA Board for the last five years, I'm just completing my first—my fifth year of my tenure. I sat on the Timmins District Hospital Board of Directors for three years dealing with a nine-million-dollar budget, and all the issues that go along with being a part of a Board of Directors of that kind. I also sat on the Victim Services Board of Directors for three years and, again, all of that time I've learned and developed skills as a leader and with the ability of working together as a team to come to consensus and collaboration as a group of people, and having one voice and trying to come forward. I'm going to make a commitment if I sit as the Vice President of this that the organisation will be better at communicating with each and every one of you. We will look for you input, and we will try—Lindsay had a meeting last night to try to increase the communication between us as a Board and you as a membership. So, some of these issues, these very contentious issues, these very difficult issues that we speak about, can be mitigated, and then we can come to an agreement made before we have to come here so that when we come here, it's a pretty easy, easy road where we have to travel. There are going to be times when it's going to be difficult, but I commit as a Vice President to be a voice of that and to champion that commitment to communication. I've sat on every committee within the NOHA. Recruitment, Retention, the Referee Committee, the Maltreatment Committee, I've sat on them all, been a part of them all, so I have a good, firm understanding of how we operate, what we're looking at, and the direction we're trying to go. Lastly, I just wanted, I want you to know that I have a son in the game. He's a U16, played for Scott Huycke this year in North Bay. He had to leave home to go play, and I can tell you that was hard on me, it was difficult, but decisions that I had to make at this Board table surrounding hockey that were not about him, and not about what's best for him, but was what was best for all of the kids. Whether you agree with our position, or you don't, that's fine, and everybody has their opinions, but at the end of the day, we tried to make the right decisions that's going to benefit the majority, not the minority. And we want to be here for everybody, we are the voice for everyone. I'm all about that and I think that's right, I've made decisions that impacted my own son in a way that may have been detrimental to him in some way about opportunities and different things, but I did what was right in my belief, for the organisation as a whole, as a greater organisation, as the NOHA. In conclusion, I thank Sue and the rest of the Board for providing me an opportunity. Gayle for being a mentor, she was my mentor when I, when I started, I worked with Gayle very closely, and I thank you all for the guidance and direction you've given me. I look forward to serving at the NOHA in whatever capacity in the future.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you, Adam. Steve?



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**Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive:** I echo everything that Adam said, there, we've both been on the Board relatively around the same time, I've had great mentoring, Gayle was also my first as well. I've gone through a few. I'm a little different, if an association comes and says hey, you know what, we'd like to have this. It might not be the popular discussion or the popular thing, but I'll still hear it. Now, I learned how to be a good board member, it took a long time, I went through a couple of boards. I used to sit on board and when the vote wouldn't go my way, I'd be like... or we'd talk about something and I'd say hey, want to sway the vote, just flabbergasted, I don't know how this works. But I learned. I learned to be patient, to stick it out no matter what my view is, I have to acquiesce to the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few or the Steve, so I have to be there and do the, and support. Sometimes I support some of the core things where I really don't believe it's beneficial, but it's because I have to sometimes check my bias. I had two boys in hockey and being a part of different stuff, and sometimes my bias doesn't allow me to come to the best. But, being a good board member, being a flawed human, you see how a lot of hockey people are, I have to acquiesce to that. I see everyone here that wants the best opportunities for the little faces behind the masks, and as they get bigger, the partially bearded ones. I put my name in for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice because it gives me an opportunity. I've done House League, I've coached all the divisions, I was a player, and I've done some Rep hockey, coaching for participation as well. I have to say that when I hear the battles between House League and Rep, it's weird, because in my household, we didn't have House League and Rep, it was one and the same. I've learned to decipher through all these challenges, and nothing is more important than to have the little player want to be at the rink putting skates on, so I'll bring that. I do talk a lot at the Board meetings, I'm sure I'm over my three minutes already, but I try not to leave anything unsaid. I try to give all the angles, so that as a Board we can discuss them all and do what's best for everybody. I'm approachable and friendly, and if I, if I get the job, and am voted in, excellent, and if not, excellent. I'm sure you'll be well-represented, Adam would do a good job, too.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you very much, Steve. So, I think they're ready with the ballots now, so raise your pallet up when you receive a ballot, get it marked, then put your ballot back up for them to collect. Is there anyone without a ballot, now? Anyone without a ballot? If not, they'll come around and pick them up. Okay, is there anybody now who's still got a ballot that hasn't been picked up? No, I think you have them all. Okay, while we're waiting, we'll go to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President position, which has one nominee, Craig Maki of Sudbury. Craig, do you accept the nomination?

**Craig Maki, NOHA Executive:** Yes.



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**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you very much. And District number one for Council Directors, District number one, Kevin Peever has been nominated. Kevin, do you accept that position?

**Kevin Peever, NOHA Executive:** Yes, I do.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Number three is vacant—Number two is in a second year, number three is vacant, and number four is in a second year, five is vacant. Adam is waiting for the results of this election. Seven, Michael Bridgeman, Mindemoya. Michael, will you accept the nomination?

**Michael Bridgeman, NOHA Executive:** Yes.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Craig has now moved up to a VP position, so that will be a vacant position as well, and number nine, Sebastien Lessard, Kapuskasing. Sebastien, will you accept that nomination?

**Sebastien Lessard, Kapuskasing:** Yes.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** So, while we're waiting for that to come back, we're going to move to Other Business.

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### 10) Other Business

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** I'm going to invite up President Sue Shepherdson. Past President.

**Sue Shepherdson, NOHA Past President:** I just wanted to take a few minutes to, sorry, I didn't think it was going to be this hard. Since I've been on this Board, ten years, I've had the great pleasure and honour to work with Past President Claudette. She was my mentor when I started, she was, I'm proud to say one of my best friends now. And, wow, I'm going to miss her. She's a loud voice. You saw that display at Freedom of Movement, she has been pushing that for ten years.

**Claudette Myre, NOHA Past President:** Thirteen.



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**Sue Shepherdson, NOHA Past President:** It, it just breaks my heart that I won't see you four times a year, but I just need, from the bottom of my heart, to thank you, because I don't think I'd be here if it wasn't for your guidance.

**Jason Marchand, NOHA Executive Director:** I was thinking about it the other day. I've been here for sixteen years, it's crazy, ten of which I've been the Executive Director. I'm very fortunate to be in that role. I remember my first meeting as Executive Director, I was sat down on a Sunday morning around John Jamieson, Hugh Riddle, Andrew MacDonald, not very small people, intimidating people, and Claudette had just joined as an Officer as well. As you all know, Claudette's a very hard-working Council Director who was pretty much non-stop in that role over the last thirty years, sorry. Honestly, some of my, my favourite hockey experiences have involved Claudette, at the Sheridon in Montreal, splitting costs on, I was drinking Rickards White, and Claudette was drinking probably the most expensive scotch they had, but we did that for about four or five hours, sitting, talking, and those are the memories that I will, I will always cherish. Having her as President for three years as well, going into COVID obviously wasn't, wasn't ideal, but we made it through, and I very much appreciate her leadership in that role, and her leadership over the last three years helping everyone, we have a lot of happy people on board, so obviously that experience is valued from myself, sorry, and my daughter, who you've shown that you love her to death, just thank you.

**Claudette Myre, NOHA Past President:** It's been a long time since I've been up at this mic, and wow, all I have to say is thank you, to not everybody, I guess, but thank you for passing Freedom of Movement, and I just really hope that those of you who weren't in favour of Freedom of Movement, you come to realise that it's not really going to hurt your association if you just put in the work and make your association as good as you possibly can.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thank you very, very much. Is there any other business that you wish to bring before the Board while we wait for the results?

**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** There's an over-under, I understand on the floor now, so I want to see what they do at three-thirty when we're still here. So, two things. First off, Claudette, you've become a friend, thank you for everything you've done, and I mean that. This means I'll have to come to Capreol to see you.

**Claudette Myre, NOHA Past President:** I don't live there.



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**Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League:** Anyway, I do want to bring one thing on a serious note to Jason and to the NOHA Board. Having just gone through the process of hiring an associate, I recognise now the expectation on wages has changed significantly amongst many people. I pay a little bit of a attention to the financials like I typically do, and I'm looking at the salaries at the NOHA office. I'm not going to suggest, by any stretch of the imagination, that we should, you know, bump everybody up to six digits, but in my mind, the people in the office have a huge responsibility of taking care of a huge membership. We have young people working here who I think are valuable parts of this organisation. I guarantee you that every one of them aspires to own a home, to retire, all those good things. When I do the math, and I don't know the answer today, but when I do the math, it's probably very difficult to envision or probably to aspire to do the many things that any young people and all of us aspire to do, be prosperous, raise a family, pay for a mortgage, buy a house, multiple things. So, I wonder when the last time, have we benchmarked how we pay our staff against how other organisations pay their staff? I realise we're not in the GTA and things like that, but I think that, I think we should aspire to give them the opportunity to prosper, to retire. I don't think there's a retirement plan in place for our employees right now. I'm not sure, maybe I'm mistaken on that. All to say that I'd like to think that at some point in time, it would be worth looking at how we pay our office staff, and try to ensure that we are compensating them so they're not always looking to get out. I have just gone through the process of hiring an associate, oh my god, the expectations, and I'm sure all of you who run a business, all of you who are involved in labour forces, all of you who work, know what the cost of living looks like these days, the expectation of what people are looking to get paid, with limited education in some cases, has sky rocketed, and I'd like to think that we're keeping track of that and also mirroring that at some level, and allowing these guys to prosper. So, I'll put it to the Board to maybe do a review of the benchmark and see if it makes sense, and see whether or not it's appropriate to bring something like a retirement package, things like that that will attach these people a little bit more closely to us and maybe embrace us a little bit more, just like we need them, so that's it. Thank you.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Is there any other business that you wish to bring before the Annual Meeting? Okay, I have the results for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, who will be Steve Lawrence.

**Steve Lawrence, NOHA Executive:** I accept.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Can we have a motion to destroy the ballots?



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**Moved by** Ange Vendette, Sudbury Minor Hockey Association

**Seconded by** Albert Corradini, Great North U18 League

“To destroy the ballots.”

**CARRIED**

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Okay, I think that pretty well wraps things up. I’m going to now pass it over to the incoming president of the NOHA, Ted Zajac to say a few words.

**Ted Zajac, NOHA President:** Thank you, Dick. I won’t keep everybody. I’d like to thank our Board and everybody from the Associations that has come today, and hopefully in future years, like we have done in the past, and I’m not saying something happened, Adam mentioned it, our Office Staff mentions it, communication is the key in hockey. When you look at some of the faces that weren’t happy today, it’s because we’re not communicating. If you look at, and I’ll be honest, we’re looking for support, if you look at our Board right now, we’ve got about two or three openings coming in the future, males, females, if you want to get involved, please send in your resumes, we’re looking for everybody. And it’s not like we’re struggling, we’re going to take people who want to put the time and effort into it, but it’s wide open. To my buddy Claudette down at the end, I’ll be honest with you, as Past President, we’ve had our one or two little scuffles, but you know what, at the end of the day, we go downstairs, you had a scotch, I had whiskey, and it was over. And one thing I’d like to remind everybody here, hockey is a game. You know what, we’re there for the kids, but the end result is a game. So, when we leave here, pros, cons, you win or you lose, let’s get together and try to make the game better. Thank you very much.

**Dick Farrow, Moderator:** Thanks, Ted. Three last very quick things. First, Adam Estabrooks has accepted to stay on as Council Director. Second thing, Jason has asked that you please remember to take your banners home. The third one is can we have a motion to adjourn?

**Moved by** Claudette Myre, NOHA Past President

“To adjourn the Annual General Meeting.”

**CARRIED**