



# **Simcoe Region Local League**

## **Operating Policies**

**August 2024**

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## **Table of Contents**

- 1. Introduction.....**
- 2. Rosters and Player Criteria.....**
- 3. Standings, Game Reports and Special Circumstances....**
- 4. Game Conditions.....**
- 5. Penalties and Discipline....**
- 6. Protests and Appeals.....**
- 7. Balancing.....**
- 8. Playoffs/end of Season...**

## **1. Introduction**

The Simcoe Region Local League (hereinafter referred to as the League, or SRLL), is a recreational hockey league, encompassing Simcoe County and York Region in the Province of Ontario. The League provides the opportunity for centres in these areas, who cannot field enough players to have an internal house league, to offer recreational hockey in a competitive, yet fun environment. Teams will compete in the age brackets of U7 through to U21.

Programming consists of scheduling, regular season play, and end of season activity for each age grouping. The League provides the oversight and co-ordination necessary to make this successful. The League is composed of member Centers, each of whom will nominate a delegate to represent their Association at League Meetings. Each center has one vote on issues brought forward by the Members at a League Meeting. The Members will elect an Executive Committee, who will be entrusted to provide the Leadership for the League.

SRLL recognizes that the primary purpose of organized hockey is to provide enjoyment and development of skills in a fun environment. To this end, SRLL advocates a fair play policy, with all players receiving equal opportunity to develop their skills, in all components of the game.

The League is governed by the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA), who in turn are subject to the policies of the Ontario Hockey Federation and Hockey Canada. All of the policies reflected herein emanate from these governing authorities. In some cases, local policies have been adopted by the League in order to ensure the integrity of the game at the Local League Level.

## **2. Rosters and Player Criteria**

2.1 Players will register with their home association, and teams will be formed according to the number of registrants in each age division. Players will be

assigned to an age level upon registration. Exceptions for moving players up and down an age level (generally based upon skill levels), will be brought forward to the League Executive for discussion. It is the responsibility of the home association to organize the players into competitive teams. Rosters must be approved prior to the teams first scheduled game. Rosters and player criteria are consistent with OMHA, OHF and Hockey Canada Guidelines.

2.2(a) Players rostered to one team cannot be moved to another team after Mid November, without the consent of a quorum of the Executive Committee. Where moves are necessitated by the Balancing Requirements in force, the Member Center will prepare a summary to be presented at the next scheduled League Meeting.

2.2(b) Each member Center will be allowed two player movements after the Mid November deadline, for Balancing Purposes only. The approval of such moves does not constitute approval for entry into the SRLL End of Season tournaments. Teams are still required to be balanced as stated in these guidelines

2.3 In the absence of a goalie, a team is permitted to use a goalie from the same age division in the center. This will be permitted once all normal replacement strategies have been exhausted. After these measures have been tried, without success, the team with the shortage may approach another center for use of their goalie in that age division. In these cases, the schedule of the home goalie takes priority over any movement that they may wish to do. The initiating centre is responsible for informing the SRLL Executive of this movement. The replacement player is to be listed as an A/P player on the game sheet.

2.4 No player can be added to an OMHA roster after February 10<sup>th</sup> of each year.

2.5 Affiliated players must be clearly identified on the game sheet.

2.7 There is no restriction as to the number of games an Affiliated Player can play with a requesting team. The only guideline is that the players' home schedule takes priority.

2.6 Players are not permitted to be on or off ice officials within the division that they are rostered to.

### **3. Standings, Game Reports, Special Circumstances**

3.1 Each Member Center will provide each Local League team a tablet or other mechanical device in order to record the game. Rosters will be uploaded to the tablet. It is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that the game sheet has been signed off by the referees, and uploaded to the website. Failure of the home center to upload the game

sheet within 48 of the games conclusion may result in forfeiture of the game.

- 3.2 The League shall determine the overall team standings in each Division from these uploaded game sheets. A win is awarded two points, a tie one point. There is no overtime in regular season play. In the event of a tie between teams in the standings, a tie breaking formula will be used to establish rankings.
- 3.3 Start times for games must be mutually agreed by both Member Centers, which are determined at the League Scheduling Meeting. Games cannot start before 6:00 p.m. on a week night, or 8:00 a.m. on a weekend morning.
- 3.4 Games cannot be scheduled on the designated black out periods (Thanksgiving Holiday weekend, Hallowe'en evening {U13 and below}, annual seasonal holiday break, and after the last day of the regular season). Any exception to these stipulations requires the mutual consent of both teams, as well as approval from the Executive Committee.
- 3.5 Scheduled games (regular or end of season) may be changed by the member Centers, provided both Centers are in agreement, and the change has been approved by the OMHA Divisional convenor.
- 3.6 Should a game need to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, the visiting team must contact their Ice Scheduler, who will then contact the home centers Ice Scheduler. This notification must occur minimum three hours prior to game time. The OMHA Divisional Convenor will then approve any such request. If the OMHA Divisional Convenor cannot be reached, any member of the SRLL Executive can be contacted. No voice mail message will be accepted as a request to cancel or re-schedule games. The safety of players and parents enroute to games is of paramount importance. Please note than when regional travel advisories are issued due to weather conditions, the cancellation process should be initiated.
- 3.7 In the event of a cancellation, the rescheduled game must be scheduled by the end of the season. The OMHA Divisional convenor must be notified of the date and time change to upload the system

3.8 A visiting Member Center may request to reschedule any game that is under or subject to a curfew which would commence twenty minutes after the designated start time. The game is to be rescheduled as soon as possible.

3.9 All Member Center Teams, U9 and above, shall have two (2) sets of jerseys in contrasting colours. One jersey shall be light in colour and be designated as the home jersey. The darker sweater to be used as the road jersey. In the case of a conflict, the home team will be responsible for changing the jersey, at the request of the referee. Failure to adhere to this request may result in a suspension to the Head Coach of the home team.

## **4 Game Conditions**

4.1 OMHA rules, Regulations and Policies will apply to all Exhibition, League and End of Season Tournament games. Any policies adopted by the SRL, will complement the rules and regulations noted above.

4.2 Hand shakes/salutations will take place prior to any hockey competition.

4.3 All league games shall be based on a minimum of three stop time periods, based on the following age divisions:

	First	Second	Third
U7	10	10	10
U9	10	10	10
U11	10	10	10
U13	10	10	10
U15	10	10	10/15
U16	10	10/15	10/15
U18	10	10/15	10/15
U21	10/15	10/15	15

Game lengths are the responsibility of the home center to determine.

4.4 Teams will be provided with a three (3) minute warm up prior to the start of the game.

4.5 No team shall enter on to the ice for the warmup period until there are officials on the ice.

4.6 For U16 ,U18 and U21 divisions, all games must comprise three stop time periods, as outlined in Operating Policy 4.3. However, when one team is ahead by five (5) or more goals in the third period, the game will continue using straight time (the clock will continue running through stoppages in play). If the gap is reduced to three (3) goals, the clock will revert back to stop time. The only time the clock would be stopped during running time would be for an on ice injury. As well, all penalties are running time.

4.7 Period lengths must be indicated on the game sheet prior to the start of the game. In addition, any overtime that may possibly be played, (End of season tournaments), will be listed on the game sheet and acknowledged by a member of each teams coaching staff.

4.8 Rostered player must have participated in a minimum of 50% of their teams' regular season games to be eligible for end of season tournament play. An application for exemption may be made to the SRLL Executive for exemption based on injury, illness or other special circumstances.

4.9 Teams shall be allowed one thirty (30) second time out per game, in both regular season and end of season play.

## **5   Penalties and Discipline**

5.1 Any player who receives eight (8) minutes in minor penalties in one game shall automatically receive a game misconduct for the rest of the game. (Note that this does not include misconduct penalties). Players receiving

multiple misconducts for this reason during the course of the season, may be subject to supplemental discipline.

5.2 Penalty minimums are based on the OMHA Minimum Suspension list, contained in the OMHA Manual of Operations.

5.3 The SRLL supports supplemental discipline for any player or team official, where circumstances warrant. The suspensions will be levied by the SRLL Executive or the OMHA Divisional Convenor. Some Member Centers may also have their own supplemental discipline policies, which will be in addition to penalties levied by the League.

5.4 It is the responsibility of the head coach of each team to be aware of the current suspensions affecting members of their team, and to make sure the player/official sits out the appropriate number of games. While under suspension, players/officials may be subject to additional discipline if they participate in a league game, as well as the head coach, who may be suspended.

5.5 Suspensions are effective immediately, and must be documented on the game sheet. The Member Center may appeal the penalty and the subsequent suspension which shall be done through the SRLL Executive Committee. The suspension is to be served unless otherwise notified of a change by the OMHA Divisional Convenor.

## **6. Protests and Appeals**

6.1 Discipline levied by the League may be appealed to the OMHA, through the Center delegate. No appeal will be considered for a suspension of 7 games or less, unless exceptional circumstances are present.

6.2 Any protest of a League Game should be directed to the executive Committee of the SRLL. The protest must be accompanied by a NON REFUNDABLE certified cheque, made payable to the League in the amount of \$100.00. The Member Center must have a delegate, or alternate, present at the protest hearing. The decision of the Executive Committee is final and is not subject to appeal.

6.3 A five day period will be implemented at the end of the regular season in order to determine playoff eligibility for the Member teams. (Refer to the section on Balancing). The Review will be conducted by the Executive Committee. Once a decision has been rendered, the Center will have leave to appeal to the OMHA.

## **7. Balancing Teams**

7.1 All teams in an age division, must be balanced with other teams within the same centre. The criteria to be used to establish a winning percentage will be points earned divided by the potential points available after the number of games played per team.

7.2 Centers with three or less teams in an age division, are required to be within a .400 winning percentage, centers with four or more teams in an age group must be within .450 winning percentage of each other. Teams that are outside of these norms will be considered to be “out of balance”, and will be dealt with according to this schedule:

End of November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review audit to be done</li><li>• Centers to be notified, action plans to be developed</li></ul>
End of December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fines levied to out of balance divisions (150.00 per age division per center)</li><li>• Teams given until the end of the season to balance</li><li>• Player movement pursuant to Policy section 2.2(a) and 2.2(b)</li></ul>
End of regular season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fines levied to out of balance teams (300.00 per age division per center)</li><li>• Performance bond is forfeited</li><li>• Unbalanced teams will be disqualified from the end of season tournament play</li><li>• Appeals can be made under policy 6.3, to be heard by the Executive Committee.</li></ul>
<b><u>Special Note:</u></b>	By the Seasonal break, if a centres teams are in balance, and 40% of their schedules have been completed, the center will be considered to be in balance, and not subject to any further balancing requirements.

7.3 The SRLL Executive Committee shall have the authority to eliminate all of the unbalanced teams from going forward in the end of season tournaments.

7.4 Member Centers may request the assistance of the Executive Committee to assist with the balancing of teams.

7.5 When rosters have been changed to accommodate balancing moves, the revised roster will be deemed to be final, and only to be changed by consent of the OMHA Divisional Convenor.

## **8 Playoffs/End of Season Tournaments**

8.1 The term playoffs will be replaced by the new terminology: End of Season Tournaments. (This subject to the guidelines of the Hockey Canada pathways program).

8.2 An end of season tournament series format will be utilised for age divisions U11 and above. End of season activities for U7 and U9 age divisions will be adopted specific to those age divisions.

8.3 All teams in good standing will be deemed eligible for end of season activity. (Teams that are out of balance will be eliminated from these activities).

8.4 For age divisions U11 and above, a Champion and a Consolation Champion will be determined. In age divisions where there are a large number of teams registered, the group may be divided into smaller groups for the end of season tournaments.

8.5 The End of Season format usually consists of:

- a) Qualifying Round (all teams proceed, purpose is for seeding of teams to next round)
- b) Elimination Round (winning teams will advance to the next rounds.)
- c) Championship Rounds (to declare the winner in each Division).

8.6 The seedings for the first round will be determined by the final end of season standings. Where teams are tied in the standings at year end, the following formula will be used: (goals for + goals against) divided by the goals for. This percentage will then be used to determine the rankings.

8.7 Series may take the form of best of three, best of five, or best of seven. These formats will be established by the Scheduling/Playoff Committee. Where there is an uneven number of teams, or a small number of teams in an age division, a round robin format may be used.

8.8 The Center Ice Schedulers for the teams involved will create the schedule for each round, and submit the contract to the respective coaches. It is the responsibility of the coaches to have a copy of the contract on their person at all times, and to ensure that the on ice officials are aware of the game conditions.

8.9 As per the regular season, it is the responsibility of the home team coach or designate to upload the signed game sheet into the system.. Due to the scheduling demands at this time year, the game sheets should be uploaded prior to the coach leaving the arena.

8.10 Any team/center that forfeits a playoff series may be fined \$500.00, and the team officials suspended for a period of one year. Any team that forfeits a single playoff game will be fined \$100.00. These penalties are to be paid by the next League Meeting, to return the team/center to good standing with the League.

