



INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUE #: 2026-014

TO: BC Hockey Membership

DATE: August 28, 2026

FROM: Sean Raphael
BC Hockey – Vice President Programs & Referee in Chief

SUBJECT: **BULLETIN: 2026-27 Minimum Suspension Guidelines – Minor / Women's & Girls**

Please ensure every participant registered to your team, league or association are made aware of this bulletin. The following minimum suspensions may not be reduced; Associations and Leagues may strengthen any of the listed infractions at their discretion. These guidelines represent all categories of Minor hockey and all divisions of Women's and Girls hockey, within BC Hockey.

Hockey Canada has published updated Playing Rules for the 2026-2028 seasons, available via the Hockey Canada Rulebook app or [PDF](#). This [VIDEO](#) summarizes all new rule changes.

I. GAME INCIDENT REPORTING PROCEDURES

Referees must submit required reports via the Hockey Canada Game Incident Report (GIR) system via their [Spordle account](#) for all BC Hockey sanctioned games. In games with two (2) Referees, the official who assessed the reportable penalty must file the report. If an infraction is reported to a Referee by a Linesperson, the Referee must include the Linesperson's email address and phone number in the report. Reports must be submitted by 8:00am on the morning following a game resulting in a reportable incident(s). This [VIDEO](#) outlines the submission process.

Reportable Incidents:

- a) Game Ejections:
 - i. Section 9 Stick Infractions & 4.8 (b) i.
 - ii. Head Contact Rule 7.6 (a) & 4.8 (b) ii.
- b) All Game Misconducts
- c) All Match Penalties
- d) All Gross Misconducts
- e) All infractions and allegations under Rule 11.4 - Discrimination
- f) All infractions under Rule 11.5 - Physical Harassment of Officials
- g) Violations of Rule 10.8 'Refusing to Start Play'
- h) Any unusual situations that should be brought to the attention of BC Hockey

Game incident reports are confidential and for administrative use only. They are not shared with teams, association, or programs, though excerpts may be cited during disciplinary reviews. Reports may be released with appropriate redactions for appeals or civil litigation when required.

Should officials have questions please contact the applicable BC Hockey officiating [Delivery Group Member](#)



II. HEAD CONTACT: MINOR & DOUBLE MINOR PENALTY ACCUMULATIONS

Accumulated minor & double minor penalty minutes under Rule 7.6 (a) Head Contact will result in:

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
7.6 (a)	Incurring 20 minutes under Rule 7.6 (a), same season	Education Module*
	Incurring 32 minutes under Rule 7.6 (a), same season	1 Game
	Incurring 44 minutes under Rule 7.6 (a), same season	3 Games
	Incurring 58 minutes under Rule 7.6 (a), same season	Indefinite (3 games) **
4.8 (b)	Game Ejection under Head Contact 7.6 (a) & 4.8 (b)	1 Game
	2 nd rule 7.6 (a) & 4.8 (b) Game Ejection, same season	3 Games
	3 rd or subsequent rule 7.6 (a) & 4.8 (b) Game Ejection	Indefinite (3 games) **
*The player is not suspended but must complete the education module below before continuing participation		
**Indefinite suspensions shall be no less than the games indicated in the parenthesis & may require investigation.		
NOTE: Accumulation totals in this section will reset to 0 – minutes prior to the start of BC Hockey minor championships.		

Head Contact Education Module:

- 1) Review head contact educational [VIDEO](#) (approximately 12-minutes).
- 2) Complete [VIRTUAL EXERCISE](#), with a minimum confirmed score of 12 / 16.
 - Enter full first & last name, then enter the 'access code' 2026
 - Be sure to keep your 'return code' so you can re-access the module if needed.
 - Upon completion, provide the score to the applicable discipline administrator.



III. MAJOR & GAME MISCONDUCTS (NON-FIGHTING)

Game Misconducts in the final ten (10) minutes of regulation or overtime result in an automatic additional one (1) game suspension, in accordance with rule 4.8 (c).

NOTE: When an official's report indicates that minor or double minor penalty was upgraded to a major due to an apparent injury, but also confirms that the injured player returned to the game, discipline administrators may waive the prescribed suspension. In such cases, the game sheet must be amended to reflect the applicable minor or double minor penalty. All minimum prescribed suspensions shall apply in accordance with the infraction recorded on the game sheet, unless amended by a discipline administrator. The discretion does not apply when a major penalty was assessed based upon any criteria of 'degree of violence,' regardless of a player's return to the game.

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
7.1 (b)	Grabbing hair, facial protector, helmet, chin strap or throat protector	2 Games
7.2 (b)	Boarding	1 Game
7.3 (b)	Body Checking	
7.4 (b)	Charging	
7.5 (b)	Checking from Behind (CFB)	
7.6 (b)	Head Contact	2 Games
7.8 (b)	Kneeing	1 Game
7.9 (b)	Roughing	
8.3 (b)	Interference	
8.4 (b)	Interference from the Bench	
8.5 (b)	Interference with the Goaltender	
8.7 (b)	Clipping	
9.2 (b)	Cross-Checking	
9.3 (b)	Slashing	
10.5 (b)	Throwing or Shooting Stick or Object	
10.8 (b)	Refusing to Start Play – Play Resumed	Indefinite (3 games) *
10.8 (b)	Refusing to Start Play – Game Suspended	Indefinite (6 games) *
Progressive Suspensions – Player		
Any player receiving 2 Majors in the same season for any of the above infractions		2 Games **
Any player receiving 3 Majors in the same season for any of the above infractions		4 Games **
Any player receiving 4 Majors in the same season for any of the above infractions		Indefinite Suspension **
Progressive Suspensions - Coach		
Team receiving 3 majors (incl. fighting) or match infractions in a same game		1 Game
For a 2 nd violation of the above, within the same season		3 Games
For a 3 rd violation of the above, within the same season		Indefinite Suspension*
NOTE: All 'progressive' suspensions are served in lieu of the prescribed minimum suspension within the main chart		
*Indefinite suspensions shall be no less than the games indicated in the parenthesis & may require investigation.		
**Head Contact majors resulting in progressive suspensions include one (1) additional game suspension.		



IV. FIGHTING SITUATIONS

Game & Gross Misconducts occurring in the final ten (10) minutes of regulation or overtime result in an automatic additional one (1) game suspension, in accordance with rules 4.8 (c) or 4.9 (b).

Rule #	Penalty Type	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
7.10 (b)	Major	Fighting, 1 st offence	1 Game
	Major	Fighting, 2 nd offence	2 Games
	Major	Fighting, 3 rd offence	4 Games
	Major	Fighting, 4 th offence	Indefinite Suspension *
7.10 (c)	Match	Fighting – Wearing rings or tape	3 Games
7.10 (e) ii.	Game Misconduct	Joining a fight or act as a peacemaker	2 Games
7.10 (e) iii.	Game Misconduct	Secondary fight on same stoppage	2 Games
7.10 (f)	Gross Misconduct	Fight or joining fight with or as team official	3 Games
7.11 (a)	Instigator or Aggressor of a Fight		
	Minor	Instigator or Aggressor 1 st offence	1 Game
	Minor	Instigator or Aggressor 2 nd offence	3 Games
	Minor	Instigator or Aggressor 3 rd offence	Indefinite Suspension *
	N/A	Coach of player receiving 3 rd offence	3 Games
Note: Rule 7.11 (a) – Players assessed both instigator & aggressor penalties must be suspended for both infractions.			
7.10 (b)	Pre / Post Game Altercations – Accumulations		
	Major & Game Misconduct	During a pre / post-game altercation	2 Additional Games
	Major & Game Misconduct	Coach of team penalized	Indefinite (1 game)*
10.4 (e)	Game Misconduct - 1 st player to leave players'/penalty bench		3 Additional Games
	Coach of team whose player is identified as 1 st to leave the bench		3 Additional Games
	Coach of team whose player leaves bench, but is not 1 st to do so		1 Additional Game
*Indefinite suspensions shall be no less than the games indicated in the parenthesis & may require investigation.			
NOTE: 'Accumulation' suspensions are in addition to any prescribed minimum suspension.			



V. MALTREATMENT & OTHER GROSS MISCONDUCT

Game & Gross Misconducts occurring in the final ten (10) minutes of regulation or overtime result in an automatic additional one (1) game suspension, in accordance rules 4.8 (c) or 4.9 (b).

Rule #	Penalty Type	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension
10.4 (f)	Gross Misconduct	Returning to or disrupting a game after ejection	Indefinite (5 games) *
11.1 (e)	Game Misconduct	Unsportsmanlike Conduct	1 Game
11.2 (e)	Game Misconduct	Abusive Behaviour	2 Games
11.2 (f)	Gross Misconduct	Abusive Behaviour	3 Games
11.3 (c)	Match	Spitting (also see Section VI 'Match Penalties')	5 Games
11.4	Gross Misconduct	Discrimination	Indefinite (5 games) * + Education Module
11.5 (c) i.	Match Penalty	Physical Harassment of Officials	3 Games
11.5 (c) ii.	Match Penalty	Physical Harassment of Officials	5 Games
11.5 (c) iii.	Match Penalty	Physical Harassment of Officials	Indefinite (8 games) *
11.5 (e)	Game Misconduct	Physical Harassment of Officials	1 Game
Multiple	Gross Misconduct	Anything not otherwise covered in the guidelines	3 Games
Accumulation – Player or Team Official			
Participant Accumulations within the same season			Minimum Suspension
2 Game Misconducts in a season under any of Rules 11.1 (e), 11.2 (e) or 11.5 (e)			2 additional games
3 or more Game Misconducts in a season under 11.1 (e), 11.2 (e) or 11.5 (e)			Indefinite Suspension
2 Gross Misconducts in a season under any of Rules 11.2 (f) or 11.4			Indefinite Suspension
3 or more Gross Misconducts in a season under any of Rules 11.2 (f) or 11.4			Indefinite Suspension
NOTE: 'Accumulation' suspensions are in addition to any prescribed minimum suspension.			
*Indefinite suspensions shall be no less than the games indicated in the parenthesis & may require investigation.			

Maltreatment Education Module:

- 1) Review Section 11 maltreatment educational [VIDEO](#) (approximately 15-minutes).
- 2) Complete [VIRTUAL EXERCISE](#), with a minimum confirmed score of 9 / 12.
 - Enter full first & last name, then enter the 'access code' 2026
 - Be sure to keep your 'return code' so you can re-access the module if needed.
 - Upon completion you will be provided a score, that must be sent to the discipline administrator that provided the notification of suspension.



VI. MATCH PENALTIES

All Match penalties suspensions are categorized based upon resulting injury.

Note: When a Referee's report indicates that an 'injury' occurred as a result of a Match penalty, but the report also indicates that the injured player 'returned to the game'; discipline administrators may determine a minimum suspension under the 'no injury' category outlined in the chart below. If the Referee's report indicates that an 'injury' has occurred and also indicates that the injured player did **NOT** return to the game, then the discipline administrator shall apply at least the minimum suspension within the chart for infractions resulting in injury. The discipline administrator may also, at their discretion, inquire with the injured player's team regarding the extent of the injury for further disciplinary consideration.

Rule #	Penalty Description	Minimum Suspension	
7.1 (c)	Attempt to injure (when no injury results)	3 Games	
7.1 (c)	Deliberate Injury	Indefinite (6 games)	
		No Injury	Injury
7.1 (c) i.	Head Butting	4 Games	7 Games
7.1 (c) ii.	Grab hair, neck guard or any part of helmet		
7.1 (c) iii.	Kicking	3 Games	6 Games
7.1 (c) iv.	Using equipment as a weapon		
7.2 (c)	Boarding		
7.3 (c)	Body Checking		
7.4 (c)	Charging		
7.5 (c)	Checking from Behind (CFB)	4 Games	7 Games
7.6 (c)	Head Contact		
7.8 (c)	Kneeing		
7.9 (c)	Roughing		
7.10 (c)	Fight (rings / taped hands etc.) to inflict punishment		
8.3 (c)	Interference	3 Games	6 Games
8.4 (c)	Interference from the Bench		
8.5 (c)	Interference with the Goaltender		
8.7 (c)	Clipping		
8.8 (c)	Slew Footing		
9.1 (c)	Butt-Ending		
9.2 (c)	Cross Checking		
9.3 (c)	Slashing		
9.4 (c)	Spearing		
10.5 (c)	Throwing or Shooting Stick or Object	5 Games	
11.3 (c)	Spitting (also see Section V 'Maltreatment')		
Progressive Suspensions – Player			
Receiving two (2) Match penalties in same season for any of the above		Indefinite Suspension	
Receiving three (3) Match penalties in same season for any of the above		Indefinite Suspension	
* NOTE: All 'progressive' suspensions are served in lieu of the prescribed minimum suspension within the main chart			



VII. SERVING OF SUSPENSIONS

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. All discipline applied in accordance with any prescribed minimum suspension(s) within these guidelines are NOT subject to appeal.
- 1.2. Suspension notifications are issued by a BC Hockey, District Association or League discipline administrator to the MHA President program operator of the suspended participant(s) for further distribution to the suspended participant's team. Notifications are confidential but may be released if an incident has been accepted for video review, appeal or if an incident results in civil litigation.

Due to scheduling variables, notification may be delayed. However, teams remain responsible for immediately enforcing all applicable minimum suspensions, regardless of whether formal notification has been received, in accordance with the penalties recorded on the game sheet. Teams must confirm the participant's suspension status with their league administrator prior to participation.

Suspension notifications confirm prescribed suspension(s) and may include additional conditions at the discretion of the discipline administrator. Teams are also responsible for monitoring each participant's discipline history throughout a season, including implications related to progressive or cumulative suspensions as outlined within this bulletin.

Participants are required to serve all applicable suspension(s) incurred in BC Hockey sanctioned games and must also comply with suspension guidelines of other Hockey Canada or IIHF Member Federations when offences occur under their jurisdiction.

- 1.3. All 'indefinite suspensions' may be investigated or reviewed by the applicable discipline administrator to determine the appropriate suspension duration. Investigations may include, but are not limited to, requests for written statements, phone or virtual interviews, educational training, or a formal hearing. Any participant under 'indefinite suspension' is deemed ineligible to participate in any sanctioned games until a decision has been rendered and any resulting suspension has been served in full. Infractions that prescribe an 'indefinite suspension' may not be reduced to a duration less than the minimum prescription within this bulletin.
- 1.4. All suspensions within this bulletin are prescribed in accordance with Hockey Canada's minimum guidelines and shall not be reduced. BC Hockey discipline administrators retain the discretion to increase any suspension based upon the severity of the related infraction(s). BC Hockey Membership has strengthened some minimum suspension standards within this bulletin in accordance with authorization outlined within Hockey Canada's Minor / Female Minimum Suspensions Bulletin point #1.
- 1.5. All suspended participants are prohibited from participating in any BC Hockey / Hockey Canada sanctioned games in any participant capacity (e.g. player, team official or on-ice official) for the duration of their suspension.
- 1.6. Multiple suspensions to the same participant must be served consecutively.
- 1.7. Suspensions commence immediately upon the conclusion of the game in which the infraction(s) occurred. When a suspension is being counted in 'days,' the first day of the suspension shall be the day following the original infraction, unless the participant has additional games on that original incident date.



- 1.8. Suspended participants shall not be permitted in the dressing room one (1) hour prior to, or one (1) hour following, the scheduled start time of any BC Hockey / Hockey Canada sanctioned game. Suspended participants may attend sanctioned games as a spectator unless otherwise specified in the original notice of suspension. While under suspension, participants must not attempt to direct their team in any manner or otherwise disrupt the game or its participants.
- 1.9. Participants may attend practice and training sessions with their team(s) during the term of a suspension in non-game programming, unless otherwise stated in the notice of suspension.
- 1.10. Participants are permitted to register for and attend any Hockey Canada training or certification programs while under suspension, unless otherwise stated in the notice of suspension.
- 1.11. All player or team official suspensions may be served in accordance with the following chart in either 'games' or 'days,' with the suspension expiring upon whichever condition is satisfied first, notwithstanding the carry-over provisions outlined in Part 2 of Section VII.

Minimum Suspension in Games	Minimum Suspension in Days
1 Game	7 Days
2 Games	10 Days
3 Games	15 Days
4 Games	21 Days
5 Games	25 Days
6 Games	30 Days
Suspensions beyond six (6) games, shall have each additional game served at a ratio of 1 game to 7 days.	

NOTE: For the purposes of applying a suspension measured in days:

- a) Suspensions will commence at 12:01 am on the day following the disciplinary infraction. An exception applies when the team with which the player was suspended has an additional game(s) scheduled on the date of the original offence, in which case the suspension may commence immediately for the purpose of counting applicable days served.
 - b) Suspensions will expire at midnight on the date of expiry.
- 1.12. All suspensions must be served in accordance with the schedule of the team with which the participant received the original suspension(s); primary, affiliate or dual registered. Participants are therefore not permitted to count games from multiple teams towards the serving of a suspension.

Exhibition, regular season, tournament and playoff games may count towards the serving of a suspension. In the case of exhibition games, only those scheduled prior to the date of the original infraction shall be eligible to count towards the serving of a suspension. Any exhibition games added to the schedule after the original infraction shall not count towards the serving of a suspension. Rescheduled, cancelled or postponed games during a period of suspension may only count towards the serving of a suspension if they are played to a final result.

Any player receiving a suspension while participating with an affiliate team shall have the number of games served towards the suspension deducted from the number of games that they are otherwise eligible to participate in under their affiliate status with that team during the season.



- 1.13. Any participant incurring a suspension while participating with a 'tournament team' may serve the suspension with that tournament team and, if necessary, complete their suspension with their primary club team should the suspension carry-over beyond the conclusion of the tournament in which the suspension occurred.

Subsequently, if a participant incurs a suspension with their club team but is dually rostered to a 'tournament team' prior to the suspension, the participant may serve their active suspension in accordance with the tournament team's schedule upon the participant taking a leave from their club team to join that tournament team. A suspension will only be deemed 'served in full' if the participant serves all outstanding games associated with the suspension in accordance with their tournament team's schedule. Once they have taken a leave from their primary club team, only games scheduled for the tournament team may count towards the serving of the suspension during that period.

- 1.14. Should a minor / female hockey participant be suspended with a team in a junior or senior category of play, then the corresponding suspension must be served in accordance with the suspension guidelines of that junior or senior league and the participant will remain ineligible with their minor / female team until the suspension is served in full.

2. Carry-over Suspensions

- 2.1. **Winter Break:** Suspensions remaining in effect upon the conclusion of the final exhibition, league, playoff, or tournament game prior to the pre-scheduled 'winter break' shall be considered to be in a 'carry-over' suspension status. Such suspensions shall pause following the final date of games scheduled prior to the winter break for the team with which the participant was suspended. The suspension shall recommence upon the first scheduled exhibition, league, playoff or tournament game following the winter break (after December 25). Accordingly, all days during the winter break will NOT count towards the serving of a suspension relating to the games-to-days ratio chart.

- 2.2. **End of Season:** Suspensions remaining in effect upon the conclusion of a participant's current season shall be considered in a 'carry-over' status. Such suspensions shall pause upon the completion of the final exhibition, regular season, playoff or tournament game of the current season until the start of the next season. The continuation of such carry-over suspensions may be served as follows:

- 2.2.1. The start date of the next season shall be in accordance with the first scheduled exhibition, regular season, or tournament game for the minor hockey team with which the suspended participant is registered to for in the following season. Should the participant not be registered with a minor hockey team for the following season, then the start of the following season shall be in accordance with the first scheduled exhibition, regular season or tournament game of the junior or senior team (including Hockey Canada sanctioned adult recreational leagues) that the participant is registered with for the following season.

- 2.2.2. Should a participant not register for the following season in the same participant capacity (e.g. player re-registering as a player) in which they were originally suspended, their carry-over suspension may recommence in accordance with the schedule of the team they are registered in a different participant capacity (e.g. team official). In cases where the participant is not registered to a team (e.g. player or team official) but remains a participant with BC Hockey / Hockey Canada (e.g. on-ice official), the suspension shall recommence upon the first available sanctioned game in any category of play in which the participant is eligible to participate at the start of the following season.

- 2.2.3. Should the team to which a participant is registered to for the following season not have any sanctioned games prior to September 30, then the suspension shall recommence no later than September 30, unless the BC Hockey Member Minor District or League has established an earlier season start date. Therefore, no carry-over suspension shall recommence later than September 30.



- 2.2.4. Should a suspended participant have an opportunity to participate in BC Hockey / Hockey Canada sanctioned games during post-season programming (e.g. spring or summer), the carry-over suspension may recommence upon the start of that post-season schedule. Should the remainder of the suspension be fully served and the participant participates in at least one (1) sanctioned game during the post-season schedule, then the suspension will be considered 'served in full'. BC Hockey sanctioned spring and summer programming includes any sanctioned games that occur between April 1 and July 31 that were not part of the previous season's programming.
- 2.2.5. Suspensions that cannot be fully served due to the conclusion of a player's final season of minor hockey (ex. age eligibility limit), the suspension must be documented on the participant's HCR profile with an 'indefinite' end date. The prescribed suspension may be served upon any future sanctioned participation, in any registered capacity, prior to reinstatement. Future administrators may exercise discretion regarding whether clemency should be requested for a carry-over suspension that would have been served within a single season schedule but was not due to the participant's cessation of participation.
- 2.2.6. Should the duration of any prescribed minimum suspension be updated in a manner where it differs in a subsequent season's edition of the Minimum Suspension Guidelines (enhanced or reduced), the carry-over suspension shall be served according to suspension originally prescribed.

3. Affiliate or Dual Registration: Any participant affiliated to or dually registered with multiple teams may serve the remainder of a 'carry-over' suspension in accordance with their affiliate or dual registered team's remaining schedule within the current season, under the following conditions:

- 3.1. Should the team with which a participant received a suspension no longer have any sanctioned games remaining within the current season, a participant may serve the remainder of the suspension with their other team, under the condition that they participate in at least one (1) game with their other registered team prior to the conclusion of that current season.
- 3.2. A suspended participant is permitted to practice or train with an affiliate or dual registered team while under a carry-over suspension status, unless otherwise indicated within the original notice of suspension.

4. Tryouts: Players under 'carry-over' suspension status shall be eligible to participate in 'tryouts' that occur between the conclusion of the current season and the start of the next season for the purpose of player evaluation.

- 4.1. 'Tryouts' pertain to programming being offered by any BC Hockey Member or Branch program [e.g. Program of Excellence (POE)].
- 4.2. 'Tryouts' also permit the suspended participant to participate in any sanctioned exhibition games during the 'try-out' evaluation period, provided they are not yet rostered to the team. Therefore, a player may participate in exhibition games during the 'try-out' process while under suspension, unless the suspension occurred during the 'try-out.'
- 4.3. Should a team choose to roster a participant that has a carry-over suspension, the participant's suspension may recommence immediately.
- 4.4. Should a player have a 'carry-over' suspension with more than six (6) games remaining upon the start of the try-out period, approval is required from either the Minor Discipline Coordinator and/or BC Hockey CEO in order to permit the participant to participate in exhibition games during the 'try-out' process.



5. **On-Ice Officials:** Any on-ice official that receives a suspension outlined below shall also be prohibited from participating in sanctioned games in any other capacity (e.g. player or team official) for the duration of the suspension. It is the responsibility of the participant to inform the relevant officiating administrator(s) of any suspension received under this bulletin.

Should a participant be suspended as a player or team official and have a subsequent game(s) scheduled as an on-ice within 24-hours of the infraction, officiating administrators must do their best to reassign the game but may exercise discretion to allow the participant to fulfill the officiating assignment, should their removal result in the potential cancellation of the game.

Hockey Canada Officiating Program (HCOP) Minimum Suspension Guidelines

Warnings may be issued in writing by an Officiating Delivery Group Member when applicable. It is reasonable for an initial warning to be issued upon the first offence of infractions under Category 1, while all subsequent offences should result in the prescribed minimum suspension outlined. All Warnings are to be reported to BC Hockey Referee in Chief and the offending official's MHA President, Referee in Chief and / or game assigners.

As per the BC Hockey Regulations, the minimum suspension will be applied where a submitted allegation is founded:

OFFICIATING PROGRAM MINIMUM SUSPENSION GUIDELINES	MINIMUM SUSPENSION
Category 1	
Failure to report for an assignment ('no-show')	7 days
Failure to submit a Game Incident Report by the deadline outlined in Section I	7 days
Tardiness (late for assignment)	7 days
Inappropriate attire, unapproved uniform or Hockey Canada uniform used in unsanctioned game	7 days
Accepting assignment with conflict of interest without approval, except due to emergency	7 days
Non-compliance to Hockey Canada rules or procedures (excluding judgement errors)	7 days
2nd offence of any of the above, in the same season	14 days
3rd or subsequent offences of any of the above, in the same season	Indefinite*
Category 2	
Excessive use of profanity or inappropriate language	7 days
Detrimental comments toward Officials, Hockey Canada Members, Participants or Spectators	7 days
Unnecessary contact with a player, coach or official	7 days
Discriminatory comments [e.g. Rule 11.4], including on social media	30 days
Subsequent offence of any of the above, in the same season	Indefinite*
Category 3	
Reporting to an assignment while intoxicated by drugs or alcohol	Indefinite*
Excessive physical contact with or force resulting injury of a player, coach, spectator or official	
Officiating while not certified or while suspended	
Officiating at a category without appropriate qualification without approval, except emergency	
Conduct unbecoming of an official not otherwise covered	
*Indefinite suspensions shall result in no less than 14 days	



A sanction beyond the minimum prescribed suspension may be applied, when more severe consequences are deemed necessary. The intent of these guidelines is to provide consistent standards and advise officials of the possible consequences for inappropriate actions or the neglect of their responsibilities.

An Official with a suspension that carries over past the final game of a season shall be permitted to attend an HCOP certification clinic, for purposes of preparing for the subsequent season. However, while under suspension the official will be prohibited from upgrading to a higher level of certification within the officiating pathway or participating in games until the suspension has been served in full. The application of suspensions that carry-over from one season to the next will follow the principles within these guidelines, as outlined for players and team officials.

6. **Video Review:** Please see **BC Hockey Policy** B.03 'Video Review Policy' regarding the video review process. Of note, video review is not a form of appeal but rather a process to provide additional information to the applicable administrators to clarify the application of rules during an incident in accordance with the criteria outlined within the policy.