

MHL JUNIOR A MINIMUM SUSPENSION GUIDELINES

2026-2027 Hockey Canada/MHL Pilot Program

The following minimum suspensions are not to be reduced and apply to all MHL competition.

- Indefinite Suspensions - shall be subject to review or investigation by the League to determine the appropriate length of suspension unless otherwise stipulated in the guidelines. Any player or team official under indefinite suspension is deemed ineligible to participate in any game until a decision has been rendered and the suspension has been served in full.
- All incidents resulting in multiple suspensions to a single participant must be served consecutively.
- Discipline applied in accordance with any minimum suspension(s) within these guidelines are not subject to appeal.

TABLE 1: ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR - (Hockey Canada SECTION 11)

Rule #	Type	Penalty	Suspension
75.2 (ii) / HC 7.1(c)	Match	Biting or Scratching	5 games
75.2 (ii) / HC 7.1(c)	Match	Hair Pulling / Grabbing Helmet or Mask	5 games
89.4 (i) / HC 11.2(e)	Game Misconduct	Abusive Behavior	1 game
89.4 (iii) / HC 11.2(f)	Game Misconduct	Abusive Behavior - Travesty of game	2 games
23.4 (iii) / HC 11.3(c)	Game Misconduct	Spitting	5 games
90.1 / HC 11.4	Game Misconduct	Discrimination	Indefinite Suspension (Minimum 5 Games)
91.2 / HC 11.5(e)	Game Misconduct	Physical Harassment of Officials	1 game
91.3 / HC 11.5(c)	Match	Physical Harassment of Officials	Indefinite Suspension
Progressive Suspensions – Player or Team Official			
75.2 (ii) / HC 7.1 (c)	Receives 2 or more Match Penalties under Rule 75.2 (ii) / HC 7.1 (c) in a season.		Indefinite Suspension
89.4 (i) / HC 11.2(e)	Receives 2 Game Misconducts under Rule 89.4(j) / HC 11.2(e) in a season.		2 games
89.4 (i) / HC 11.2(e)	Receives 3 or more Game Misconducts under Rule 89.4 (j) / HC 11.2(e) in a season.		Indefinite Suspension
89.4 (iii) / HC 11.2(f)	Receives 2 or more Game Misconducts under Rule 89.4 (iii) / HC 11.2(f) in a season.		Indefinite Suspension
90.1 / HC 11.4	Receives 2 or more Game Misconducts under Rule 90.1 / HC 11.4 in a season.		Indefinite Suspension
91.2 / HC 11.5(e)	Receives 2 or more Game Misconducts under Rule 91.2 / HC 11.5(e) in a season.		Indefinite Suspension
91.3 / HC 11.5(c)	Receives 2 or more Match Penalties under Rule 91.3 / HC 11.5(c) in a season.		Indefinite Suspension

TABLE 2: AGGRESSOR - RULE 47.2

Incident	Suspension
2nd Offense	1 Game and \$500.00 Fine
3rd Offense	2 Games and \$750.00 Fine
4th and Subsequent Offenses	Indefinite Suspension and Fine TBD

TABLE 3: FIGHTING AFTER THE ORIGINAL ALTERCATION - RULE 47.6

Incident	Suspension
No instigator in 2nd fight	1 Game to each player
Instigator in 2nd fight	2 games minimum to Instigating player. The non-instigating player shall not be suspended.

TABLE 4: FIGHTING OTHER THAN DURING THE PERIODS OF THE GAME - RULE 47.8

Who is Penalized:	Suspension
Participating players	2 Games
Instigating player(s) (if identified)	5 Games
Coach of instigating player(s) (if identified)	3 Games and \$1500.00 fine

TABLE 5: FIGHTING PRIOR TO THE DROP OF THE PUCK (STAGED FIGHT) - RULE 47.9	
Incident	Suspension
Players participating in staged fight (No Instigator)	3 Games
2nd occurrence in the same game (No Instigator)	3 Games minimum to players involved
2nd occurrence in the same game (No Instigator)	Coaches are ejected and \$600.00 fine to each team
Staged fight where an instigator is identified	5 Games minimum to offending player
Staged fight where an instigator is identified	2 Games to Coach and \$600.00 fine

TABLE 6: INSTIGATOR - RULE 47.10	
Incident	Suspension
2nd Offense	1 Game and \$500.00 Fine
3rd Offense	2 Games and \$750.00 Fine
4th and Subsequent Offenses	Indefinite Suspension and Fine TBD

TABLE 7: FIGHTING IN LAST 5 MINUTES (SPREAD OF 2 GOALS OR MORE) – RULE 47.11	
Incident	Suspension
First fight (last 5 mins of game)	Warning delivered to both benches
2nd fight & thereafter (last 5 mins of game)	1 Game suspension to each player
2nd fight (last 5 mins of game with Instigator)	2 Games minimum to instigating player & non-instigating player shall not be suspended

TABLE 8: REMOVING EQUIPMENT TO FIGHT - RULE 47.13 & 47.14	
Incident	Suspension
A Game Misconduct (intentionally trying to pull or pry off the helmet of an opponent with force)	1 Game
A Game Misconduct (removing equipment other than helmet or gloves prior to a fight)	1 Game
NOTE: An additional 2 game suspension for each subsequent Game Misconduct for removing equipment in same season	3 Games

TABLE 9: THREE OR MORE FIGHTS ON THE SAME STOPPAGE	
When three or more fights occur during the same stoppage of play, players involved in the second fight and all subsequent fights shall be subjected to an automatic suspension.	
If a team is identified as the instigator of the multiple fight situation, the following minimum penalties shall be applied:	
Incident	Suspension
Instigating player(s)	5 Games
All players from instigating team who participated in multiple fight situation	2 Games
Coach of the instigating team	1 Game
Instigating team	\$1000.00 Fine
If there is clear by the evidence that the multiple fights were instigated by one team, players from the non-instigating team shall not be suspended.	
If an instigator is not identified, the following minimum penalties shall be applied:	
Incident	Suspension
All participating players	2 Games
Coach from each team	1 Game
Each Team	\$1000.00 Fine
Players involved in the initial fight shall not be subject to multiple fight penalties and suspensions	

TABLE 10: GOALTENDER FIGHTS - RULE 47.20	
Incident	Suspension
Any fights between goaltenders	3 Games
Goaltender travels down the ice inside the other club's blue line to fight an opposing goaltender	5 Games
2nd offence with an opposing goaltender	6 Games
Goaltender who leaves the crease to engage in a fight with any player other than a goaltender	2 Games

TABLE 11: ACCUMULATING FIGHTING MAJORS		
Incident	Suspension	Fine
5 TH fighting major	1 Game	N/A
6 th fighting major	3 Games	\$750.00
7 th fighting major	4 Games	\$1000.00
8 th fighting major	8 Games	\$1250.00
Any subsequent fighting major after the 8 th	League to determine	League to determine

TABLE 12: OTHER GAME MISCONDUCTS AND MATCH PENALTIES			
Rule	Major + Game Misconduct	Match	Fine
Boarding (Rule 42)	1 Game	3 Games	N/A
Charging (Rule 43)	1 Game	3 Games	N/A
Checking From Behind (Rule 44)	1 Game	3 Games	N/A
Checking to the Head (Rule 44B)	1 Game	3 Games	N/A
Blind Side Hit (Rule 44C)	1 Game	3 Games	N/A
Clipping (Rule 45)	1 Game	3 Games	N/A
Elbowing (Rule 46)	1 Game	3 Games	N/A
Head Butting (Rule 48)	1 Game	3 Games	N/A
Kicking (Rule 49)	N/A	3 Games	N/A
Kneeing (Rule 50)	1 Game	3 Games	N/A
Roughing (Rule 51)	N/A	3 Games	N/A
Slew Footing (Rule 52)	N/A	3 Games	N/A
Throwing Equipment (Rule 53)	1 Game	3 Games	N/A
Hooking (Rule 55)	1 Game	N/A	N/A
Interference (Rule 56)	1 Game	N/A	N/A
Butt Ending (Rule 58)	1 Game	3 Games	N/A
Cross Checking (Rule 59)	1 Game	3 Games	N/A
High Sticking (Rule 60)	N/A	3 Games	N/A
Slashing (Rule 61)	1 Game	3 Games	N/A
Spearing (Rule 62)	1 Game	3 Games	N/A

Accumulated Match Penalties Non-Fighting: A player shall receive an additional 2 game suspension upon receiving their 3rd Match penalty (and for all subsequent Match penalties) in the same season.

Accumulated Major + Game Misconducts Non-Fighting: A player shall receive an additional 2 game suspension upon receiving their 2nd Major + Game Misconduct (and all subsequent Major + Game Misconduct penalties up until their 5th offence) in the same season.

NOTE: See the Table 13 for the suspensions for the 5th Major + Game Misconduct and subsequent Major + Game Misconduct penalties in the same season.

TABLE 13: ACCUMULATING MAJOR + GAME MISCONDUCTS - NON-FIGHTING		
Incident	Suspension	Fine to Team
5 th Offence	(3) + 1 Additional Game	\$500.00
6 th Offence	(3) + 2 Additional Games	\$750.00
7 th Offence	(3) + 3 Additional Games	\$1000.00
8 th Offence	(3) + 4 Additional Games	\$1250.00
9 th Offence	Indefinite – League to determine	League to determine
NOTE: Additional Game suspensions are in addition to the (3) game accumulated in Table 12.		

TABLE 14: INTERFERENCE OF THE GOALTENDER - RULE 69		
Penalty Options	Suspension	Fine
1 st minor penalty in game to team	No minimum	
2 nd minor penalty in game to team	No minimum (Warning delivered to both benches)	
3+ minor penalties in same game to a team (Minor + Game Misconduct)	1 Game	\$500.00 per occurrence
Major + Game Misconduct)	1 Game	
Match	3 Games	
Accumulations: A player shall receive a minimum 2 game suspension upon receiving their 3 rd minor penalty for Goaltender Interference (and for all subsequent Goaltender Interference penalties) in the same season. A player shall receive an additional 2 game suspension upon receiving their 3 rd Match penalty for Goaltender Interference (and for all subsequent Match penalties) in the same season.		

TABLE 15: LEAVING THE PLAYERS/PENALTY BENCH – RULE 70.6	
Incident	Suspension
Player Identified	6 games
Player's team	\$1500.00 fine