



# **Nanaimo Islanders Female Hockey Association**

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*NIFHA League Charter*

October 2019

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## **Mission Statement**

Nanaimo Islanders Female Hockey Association (NIFHA) is dedicated to the promotion of adult women's recreational hockey for players of all skill levels in the Nanaimo region.

“Fun, learning, and encouraging better play” are the keystones to this league.

## **Mandate**

NIFHA's mandate is to offer reasonable recreational hockey league options to suit adult women hockey players of all skill levels in the Nanaimo region.

Our mandate is to provide a positive and supportive environment for all. Players are expected to be as positive and encouraging as possible toward one another.

## **Objectives**

- ✓ To provide a positive hockey experience to all of its members by offering a range of playing options for players of all skill levels in the Nanaimo region by offering:
  - House League which provides a safe avenue for beginners to develop their hockey skills in a fun-filled atmosphere;
  - Two travel teams committed to travelling and tournaments across Central Vancouver Island. These more experienced team players enjoy more competitive matches than house league. These teams are ideal for intermediate, experienced and emerging players.

- ✓ To remain in good standing with all governing and regulatory bodies pertaining to the operation of the league. These include but are not limited to:
  - Hockey Canada
  - BC Hockey
  - CARHA
  - ASHN
  - The Societies Act
  - Revenue Canada
  - All applicable legislation
- ✓ To ensure adequate policies and procedures are in place to protect all NIFHA members, volunteers and board members, including adhering to a constitution, by-laws, a league charter detailing the NIFHA's operations.
- ✓ To uphold NIFHA's mission statement and mandate by making decisions that take into account the best interests of all of its members.

## Values

The Nanaimo Islanders Female Hockey League strives to embody the following values and will measure the activities of the league and all of its members against the intent and meaning of these values.

We value:

- ✓ Safety and fair play at every level;
- ✓ Respectful communication between all players, coaches, officials, team representatives and Board members;
- ✓ A fun, friendly and supportive atmosphere;
- ✓ Diverse and inclusive membership;
- ✓ Equal ice time in House League: Power play and/or penalty killing units are prohibited in this division (Travel teams will have the freedom to determine ice allocation for themselves).

## **NIFHA Charter**

The following articles are the cornerstones of NIFHA and shall act as the league's reference guide and handbook.

### **1.0 Name**

The name of this league shall be the Nanaimo Islanders Female Hockey Association (NIFHA), herein referred to as the "league", "organization", "association", or "NIFHA".

### **2.0 Head Office**

The operations of the league are to be carried out in the city of Nanaimo, B.C. The mailing address for the league is Box 286, Station A, Nanaimo BC, V9R 5K9.

Members of the league and the general public can access league information, forms, schedules and other appropriate information on the league website at <http://www.nanaimoislanders.ca/>

### **3.0 Affiliation**

The league is a member of the Canadian Adult Recreational Hockey Association (CARHA) and Hockey Canada and is subject to the constitution rules and policies of these bodies.

### **4.0 Registered Player Eligibility**

To be eligible to play in this league, a player must be turning 18 years of age by December 31 of the registration year, and have graduated from high school.

No eligible players of the female sex and/or gender, regardless of skill level, shall be excluded from playing in this league unless they are on league suspension as a result of an infraction under Article 9 (Suspensions/Prohibitions), or the number of registered players has reached the maximum number of allowable players, as established by the league Executive.

## 5.0 Hockey Equipment

Required hockey equipment:

- ✓ CSA certified hockey helmet with a cage or full-face shield
- ✓ CSA Certified neck guard- (mandatory for Monday night recreation league, other leagues, it is strongly recommended)
- ✓ Chest protector/Shoulder pads
- ✓ Elbow pads
- ✓ Gloves
- ✓ Hockey pants
- ✓ Jill
- ✓ Shin guards
- ✓ Hockey Skates
- ✓ Hockey Stick
- ✓ Mouth guard (recommended, but not required)

## 6.0 Injuries

The Nanaimo Islanders Female Hockey League (NIFHA) is not responsible for any injuries incurred by any persons on their way to, from or at the place of participation of any league function. Pursuant to this article all league players must sign and submit a waiver form prior to accessing the ice.

## 7.0 Organizational Status

The league is registered under the Societies Act and is subject to its rules and regulations. We are an officially registered as a “Not-For Profit Society” with CRA.

## **8.0 Games/Practices**

House League games will consist of 3 run-time period periods, unless timekeepers are available where the first and second periods being stop-time periods with the third period run-time.

Gretzky rule will apply to house league games. Gretzky rule states that no player may score more than 3 goals in a game. If a player scores a fourth goal in a game it will be disallowed and the player will sit a 2-minute penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Travel team practices may be included in the schedule and will be either 1:15 or 1:30 long. The team coaches or designate will be responsible to determine the nature of each practice as best suits the needs of their team, however, the coaches will ensure their team learns all appropriate hockey rules regardless of player ability level.

## **9.0 Alcohol/Drugs**

The league and the Executive take no responsibility for any alcohol or drugs consumed on the premises.

Every player in this league has the right to expect other players will not cause injury while impaired by drugs or alcohol while on the ice. It is the responsibility of every player to respect the safety of every other player and if a player feels another player is impaired, they need to bring the issue forward to the coach, referee, team representative, or board member who will then address the situation at their discretion.

Anytime you are representing our league you must follow the arena rules.

## **10.0 Suspensions/ Prohibitions**

The league Executive is the sole decision maker with the authority to evaluate all potential infractions in relation to this article and issue notification of suspensions/ prohibitions to the individual.

Any player with an outstanding financial or equipment debt will be suspended/ prohibited from playing in the league until the situation is rectified and a release is submitted by the League Treasurer to the league Executive for confirmation (submitted written or verbal and documented within the meeting minutes).



Any player or Executive member who commits acts that deemed to be in violation of the Code of Conduct or other League policies may be suspended/ prohibited from the league at the discretion of the Executive. Depending on the nature of the violation, the Executive may implement a progressive discipline process such as initial verbal warning, followed by a second written warning and lastly notification of suspension/ prohibition. However, each specific situation may be evaluated by the Executive and the decision to implement progressive discipline or issue a direct suspension/ prohibition will be made by the Executive based on the evaluation of the nature of the violation.

Any player or coach who intentionally holds, touches, hits, pushes, threatens or verbally abuses another player, coach, referee, linesman or Executive – before, during or after a league game or practice – shall be automatically suspended for an indefinite period. The suspension, depending on the severity of the abuse, could range from 1 game to 1 year or more. The suspension levied will be at the direction of the league Executive.

In addition, any player or Executive member who is determined to have jeopardized, the continued existence of a team or the league, either through willful misconduct; negligence; the commission of illegal acts or financial mismanagement shall be suspended and/or prohibited from playing on any team in the league.

## **11.0 NIFHA Executive**

The NIFHA Executive shall hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the end of each hockey season, no later than May 31<sup>st</sup>. All board members shall retire at the end of each one year term (two year for President, Treasurer and Registrar). Elections shall be held at the end of the AGM.

Outgoing board members shall facilitate the transition for new board members. See By-laws for details.

## **12.0 Teams**

The NIFHA house league coordinator, in conjunction with members of the Executive structures house league teams according to skill and experience. All new players are subject to a season opening evaluation. NIFHA aims to balance house league teams based on skill and experience.

Travel team for the more intermediate and veteran players. Should the travel teams have more players registered than the roster cap, then between the executive and team representative and or team leader, a decision will be made as to increase the number of players on the roster, or have an evaluation skate in order to form a team based on skill level and experience.

The travel teams shall share ice time equitably based on ice and opposing team availability.

## **13.0 Fees**

League fees for the season must be submitted to the League Treasurer by the first ice time in the new season that begins September. The League MAY allow fees to be submitted in two payments: half by September 1<sup>st</sup> and the remaining half by January 1<sup>st</sup> of the season this will be at the boards' discretion. Any player with a balance owing on their fees after December 31<sup>st</sup> will not be allowed to play until such time as they are current with their fees.

Other fees over the season, such as tournaments, will be collected by the team representative and submitted to the League Treasurer along with a list of players which are covered in the submission, as well as identification as to what the fees are for.

### **Jersey Deposits Discontinued**

There will be no jersey deposits. All jersey's will be assigned at the first ice time of the season and will be signed by the player upon receipt, jersey's will then be returned and signed back in at the end of the season. Any player that does not return their jersey will not be allowed to play until it has been returned or league has been remunerated for the cost of replacing with a new jersey.

### **13.10 Pro-Rating Fees**

Players joining the league after the initial registration date, but prior to November 1<sup>st</sup> will pay FULL fees.

Players joining the league between November 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> will pay a pro-rated amount while any players joining in January will pay 50% of the applicable fees plus the cost of insurance (usually approximately \$25)

### **13.20 Spares and Associated Fees**

Players wishing to spare during the season must pay their CARHA insurance coverage and in addition will pay \$20 per game they spare in.

### **13.30 Refunds**

Refunds will be issued for:

- 13.3.1 medical reasons (injuries, pregnancy, inability to continue to play hockey)

13.3.2 moving away from the Nanaimo area.

All refunds will be issued on a pro-rated basis, minus the cost of insurance. In the event that sponsorship money was received, the refund will be payable to the sponsor and not the player (pro-rated based on the initial contribution).

Any requests for player or team refunds from the Executive will be reimbursed by the same method as was paid to the league. We do not accept cash payments any longer. Etransfer, paypal or cheque is acceptable payment.

\*The Executive reserves the right to request medical clearance from a licensed practitioner before allowing a league member, who has sustained an injury, to return to the ice.

## **13.40 Goalie Fees**

Any goalie playing for the season will pay \$50 registration fee this will allow them to play in any of the league's games and any number of games they wish to play in during the season.

## **14.0 Sponsorships**

All players and teams are eligible to seek sponsorships to mitigate the cost of league fees, jerseys, tournaments, etc. The League will provide a sponsorship letter to the sponsor outlining the use of their funds.

Sponsor bars will be purchased and affixed to player's jerseys, with the cost coming out of the sponsorship money. Players are responsible for attaching the sponsor bar to their jersey by the end of October.

## **15.0 Meetings**

Regular NIFHA Board meetings will be held on a monthly basis. All league members are welcome to attend board meetings provided they have made arrangements with a Board member.

Special extra meetings may be convened should circumstances require it. A minimum of 50% of the Board must be in attendance to validate the meeting.

## **16.0 League Governance**

NIFHA's constitution and by-laws details all legal governance applicable to the NIFHA, included all elected and appointed positions, job descriptions, the AGM and other governance matters.

All Board members must be registered players.

The Executive from the previous year will facilitate the transition, ensuring all previous business is completed prior to being released from Board responsibilities.

## **16.10 Complaints and Disciplinary Process**

All complaints are to be forwarded to a team leader, representative or board member for review. The Board shall discuss the nature of the complaint and determine what course of action, if any, is appropriate.

All disciplinary action concerning players, coaches and teams will be handled by the Board, as per the established disciplinary process.

## **17.0 Tournaments**

Tournaments are open to all league players, but spots are secured by paying the required fees by the pre-determined date, on a first pay, first play basis. Specific tournaments may require limitation placed on skill levels or total number of players being permitted to play, and will be determined by the Tournament Coordinator/ Executive. All decisions must be documented within the meeting minutes.

### **17.10 HCHC Annual Tournament**

All members are eligible to play in the annual HCHC tournament in October.

Every member is encouraged to support the tournament, including volunteering for a minimum of 2 shifts, contributing to the raffle prizes and a food dish for the luncheon (or otherwise revised by the Executive for a specific tournament year).

## **18.0 Penalties Resulting from Play**

Any player who receives 3 minor penalties in any one house league game shall be ruled off the ice to the dressing room for the remainder of the game.

Any player receiving a major, misconduct, match, game or gross penalty shall have the incident reviewed by the disciplinary committee and may be subject to additional discipline including suspension or expulsion, at the Board's discretion.

Travel team games shall be governed by the home ice insurer CARHA or BC Hockey.

## **19.0 Waiver Form and Insurance**

By paying registration fees and signing off on the league's code of conduct, each player accepts to:

Be insured by a carrier determined by the League (CARHA or ASHN) which covers some injury costs. However, the insurance coverage is not very comprehensive.

Adhere to safe play and be bound by the League's code of conduct. Any breach of either shall subject the player, coach or team to further discipline, including suspension or expulsion.

Insurance information can be reviewed at the following websites:

<http://www.carhahockey.ca/7/insurance> <http://ashl.adultrechockey.ca/insurance-s13229>  
<http://bchockey.net/RiskManagement/riskmanagement.aspx>

## **20.0 Cameras, Camera Phones, and Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs)**

We must respect the personal privacy of all league members.

Given the potential of violating another person's privacy through the taking and distribution of photographs, the use of any form of camera or video camera, is prohibited in any recreational facility change rooms.

Any league member taking photographs or video during a league managed/ sponsored social event must obtain approval from other league members contained in the photo/ video prior to sharing the photos/ video on any email distribution, website, social media, etc.