



## **2023 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships May 7-13, 2023: Winnipeg, Manitoba TECHNICAL PACKAGE (Final Version)**

All PTASB Teams participating in the NAHC must be registered members, in good standing with the Aboriginal Sport Circle (ASC).

*The Technical Package is a crucial part of the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC). It guides the selection of athletes by clarifying the age and eligibility requirements, assists the organizing committee by detailing tournament formats and scoring procedures, assists team coaches and managers in verifying eligibility, helps with budgeting by describing the number of participants permitted, advances coaching certification by stating minimum requirements and contributes to athlete development by identifying each Province and Territories display of elite Male and Female Indigenous Hockey players.*

*Every National Aboriginal Hockey Championships Provincial/Territorial representative, coach, manager, and trainer has an obligation to read and understand every aspect of the Technical Package. Failure to do so could inadvertently cost an athlete his or her eligibility for the NAHC or could affect the final standings or the conduct of the competition. If someone does not understand an aspect of the Technical Package, he or she should seek clarification from their P/T Representative or the ASC NAHC Hockey Committee.*

*The Technical Package is a standing document that is reviewed and revised as required, every year prior to the upcoming NAHC. Revisions are generally in the form of rule/guideline clarifications.*

# 2023 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) Technical Package

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For any 2023 NAHC inquiries and exemptions applications, please contact Krista Hodder at [nahc@aboriginalsportcircle.ca](mailto:nahc@aboriginalsportcircle.ca)

## NAHC DEADLINES

TEAM REGISTRATION	NOVEMBER 30, 2022
EXEMPTIONS: PLAYER, COACH & TRAINER	FEBRUARY 28, 2023
ONLINE PLAYER, TEAM STAFF REGISTRATION	MARCH 31, 2023
FINAL TEAM ROSTER	MARCH 31, 2023
TEAM ROSTER ANNOUNCEMENT	APRIL 15, 2023
ON-SITE ACCREDITATION	MAY 7, 2023
TEAM ROSTER CHALLENGE	MAY 9, 2023

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## 1. PARTICIPANTS

### FEMALE

Competitors: Max 24 PLAYERS: 18 skaters, 2 goaltenders, 1 alternate goaltender, 3 alternate skaters – SEE APPENDIX A for Alternates Eligibility

Staff: 1 General Manager  
1 Head Coach  
2 Assistant Coaches  
1 Trainer/Equipment Manager  
1 PTASB Rep

Two of the bench staff must be Female

### MALE

Competitors: Max 24 PLAYERS: 18 skaters, 2 goaltenders, 1 alternate goaltender, 3 alternate skaters – SEE APPENDIX A for Alternates Eligibility

Staff: 1 General Manager  
1 Head Coach  
2 Assistant Coaches  
1 Trainer/Equipment Manager  
1 PTASB Rep

One of the Coaches must be Male

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## 2. CLASSIFICATION

### MALE

Competitors must be U18 age for the competitive 2022/2023 season

**Year of Birth:** 2005 to 2009 inclusive

### FEMALE

Competitors must be U18 age for the competitive 2022/2023 season

**Year of Birth:** 2005 to 2009 inclusive

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## 3. ELIGIBILITY

### 3.1 ANCESTRY

All team members and staff must be of Indigenous ancestry. Every player and team staff **must carry (bring with) him/her** – documentation that verifies his/her Indigenous

ancestry. Picture identification **and** a Provincial Metis Card (from Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta or British Columbia), Certificate of Indian Status Card or Territories Health Card Nunavut Card will be acceptable.

If the athlete does not have such proof, a parent/grandparent card **accompanied** by a certified P/T ANCESTRY FORM – APPENDIX E – must be attached.

If the player and/or coach is considered a Non-Status Indian, a detailed ANCESTRY FORM – APPENDIX E must be completed to prove Indigenous ancestry. The ANCESTRY FORM will document their lines of descent. It will be authenticated and endorsed by the parent(s) or guardian(s), Head Coach and the Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sport Body (PTASB)

All ANCESTRY FORMS plus required back up MUST be submitted by **March 31, 2023**.

### 3.2 Coaches

- a) The Head Coach must be **NCCP Development 1 CERTIFIED**
- b) Assistant Coaches must be **NCCP Development 1 TRAINED**
- c) It is mandatory that **all** team officials have taken the Hockey Canada “Speak Out” or “Respect in Sport” course (whichever is mandated in their P/T)
- d) Each team must have one (1) team staff that has completed the Hockey Canada “Safety Program” certification
- e) Each team must have one (1) team staff that has current certification in “Emergency” First Aid/CPR (higher certification is recommended) **on the bench at all times**
- f) It is recommended that all team staff (General Manager, Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, Trainer and Manager) have taken the Aboriginal Coach Modules (ACM) Workshop
- g) Each Female team is required to have a *minimum* of two (2) female staff (Head Coach, Assistant Coach or Trainer) **on the bench at all times**

Proof of certification for all team officials (as listed above) must be submitted by **March 31, 2023**.

### 3.3 “TRAINER”

Should teams be unable to bring an Indigenous coaching staff that has *current* First Aid Certification, they must submit a written request to the ASC NAHC Hockey Committee for a special exemption that would enable them to bring a certified NON-Indigenous Athletic Trainer, certified paramedic, or a medical doctor. The request for exemption must be submitted by **February 28, 2023**.

**IMPORTANT**

*It is mandatory that all Roster Staff (coaches, managers, and trainers) have a current (dated within one year of the NAHC attending) Criminal Record Check (CRC) and CPIC or Vulnerable Sector search completed prior to the event. To be submitted with the Team Roster, at the Team Roster Deadline (March 31, 2023).*

### 3.4 COMPETITORS

- a) Male teams *may not* select players who have played 20 regular season games during the 2022/2023 season in Major Junior Hockey, or athletes who remain on the roster of a Major Junior Hockey Team after **January 10, 2023** (WHL, OHL, QMJHL);
- b) All players and coaches must be registered, and in good standing with their Hockey Canada Branch, on or before March 31, 2023. Each P/T must submit an NAHC Roster Form signed off by their **Hockey Canada Branch** (ie. Hockey Alberta) by March 31, 2023.
- c) All players participating in the 2023 NAHC **must be** enrolled in – and attending school, and/or have completed the necessary requirements for their high school diploma (or the equivalent)

A letter of verification (registration and attendance) from the school (for each player) must be included when the final team roster is submitted at the roster deadline of March 31, 2023.

### 3.5 RESIDENCY

- a) Players must play in the Province or Territory where their parent(s) or **legal** (must be court appointed) guardian(s) **permanently** reside. Proof must be available and provided upon request (Provincial Health Card or court documentation)  
**OR**
- b) Players registered at a **Full time (Complete year) Hockey Academy**  
Examples: Pursuit of Excellence (BC), Notre Dame (SK), Balmoral (MB), Banff Hockey Academy (AB) may participate in the Province they are attending school in. These players must fill out the ACADEMIC RESIDENCY FORM – APPENDIX D.

Coaches must hold permanent residency in the P/T for which he/she coaches. Exceptional circumstances may be submitted to the ASC NAHC Hockey Committee by February 28, 2023.

### 3.6 P/T TEAM EXCEPTIONS

The four (4) provinces of NL, NS, PE and NB may jointly field two (2) teams (1 Male and 1 Female) and register as **Team Atlantic**. The three (3) territories may jointly field two (2) teams (1 Male and 1 Female) and register as **Team North**.

If a P/T is not entering a team in the 2023 NAHC:

- a) The players in that P/T may *request to try out* in the closest P/T to their residence.
- b) They will first contact their PTASB, and then **the PTASB will contact the closest P/T on their behalf**
- c) If the closest P/T does not require or is not accepting additional players, **the PTASB** may then contact the next closest PTASB.
- d) There is no guarantee that a P/T will be found for all players.

Akwesasne Mohawk Territory athletes – please refer to APPENDIX A for further details on residency and competitive eligibility.

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#### 4. COMPETITION

The National Aboriginal Hockey Championship will be played using the Hockey Canada Official Rules (2022-2024) applicable for Minor Hockey with the exceptions as listed below:

- a) A maximum of twenty (20) players may dress for each game and the coaching staff shall be allowed to have four (4) members (Head Coach, 2 Assistant Coaches and Trainer with First Aid qualifications) permitted on the bench. The game rosters shall consist of eighteen (18) skaters and two (2) goaltenders.
- b) An official team, according to Hockey Canada, for Championship play is comprised of thirteen (13) skaters. You must have a minimum of nine (9) players and one (1) goalie to start a game.
- c) FIGHTING MAJORS – Zero tolerance, players will be expelled from the Championship immediately. All other suspensions will be as per the Hockey Canada Bulletin A1133 dated June 2022 – Minimum Suspensions for ON-ICE Infractions (APPENDIX C)
- d) All match penalties will be reviewed by the On-Ice Disciplinary Committee.
- e) ZERO TOLERANCE RULE – ALCOHOL, DRUGS, CANNABIS, AND TOBACCO (cigarettes, E-Cigarettes, vaping and chewing tobacco). For any infraction of the zero tolerance rules that occurs during or at a Championship event, the identified participant (player or coaching staff) **will immediately be expelled from the Championships** and may also receive further sanctions from his/her PTASB.
- f) OBSCENE LANGUAGE, GENDER or RACIAL SLURS – Zero tolerance. Any participant (player or coaching staff) caught using obscene language, or gender or racial slurs **will immediately be suspended** and the NACH Off-Ice Disciplinary Committee will review the infraction. If guilty of an infraction, the participant will be expelled from the Championships and may also receive further sanctions from his/her PTASB.
- g) CODE OF CONDUCT – The NAHC Code of Conduct will be used for all on-ice and off-ice infractions. This code has been established by the ASC, which used Hockey Canada's Code of Conduct as a minimum standard.

#### **4.1 TEAM FORMAT**

Teams will be seeded based on the final standings from the 2022 NAHC. The top four (4) teams from the final standings from the 2022 NAHC will hold the top four (4) rankings. Any new or returning teams will be strategically placed in the seedings by the ASC Hockey Committee.

#### **4.2 COMPETITION SCHEDULE**

The preliminary round schedule will be posted by **December 15, 2022** after the Team Registration deadline of November 30, 2022.

#### **4.3 COMPETITION FORMAT**

The 2023 NAHC game schedule will start on May 7, 2023 and end on May 13, 2023 with the Bronze and Gold Medal Games. The NAHC Awards presentation will take place at the closing ceremony on the Friday before the semi-final games.

Each team will be guaranteed a minimum of 5 games

#### **4.4 HOME AND VISITING TEAM**

During the Round 1 and Round 2, the home team shall be the higher ranked team from the 2022 NAHC. During the Quarter Finals, Placement, Semi-Finals and Medal Games, the home team shall be the team ranked higher after the Round Robin.

#### **4.5 GAME FORMAT**

Warm-up will be 15 minutes.

All regulation games will consist of three (3) stop-time periods of twenty (20) minutes. The ice will be resurfaced following the warm-up, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods. An intermission of 15 minutes will be set on the score clock.

Each team will be allowed one (1) – thirty (30) second time-out in a game.

#### **4.6 MERCY RULE**

If there is a difference in score of five (5) goals or more at any point in a game, then the time shall run. If that difference becomes three or less, then the time shall become stop time again. If at any point a five-goal lead is once again attained, then the clock shall continue running.

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## 5. OFFICIALS

MALE – Referees shall have a **minimum** of Level IV Certification, while the linesperson shall have a minimum of Level III Certification.

FEMALE – Referees shall have a **minimum** of Level III Certification, while the linespersons shall have a minimum of Level II Certification. Female games will be officiated by female officials when and where possible.

*All reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that referees and linespersons have the minimum levels of certification as stated in this rule, for all games played during the NAHC. In the event that such referees and/or linespersons, for any reason, whether foreseeable or otherwise, or as a result of any action or omission of the ASC NAHC Hockey Committee or the NAHC Host Society, are not available to officiate any or all games of the NAHC, a game shall be officiated by an available referee or linesperson having the next highest level of certification.*

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## 6. GAME SCORING

2 points for the WINNING team at the conclusion of regulation time

1 point for both teams at the conclusion of regulation time if the game is TIED

0 points for the team losing the game in regulation time

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## 7. TIE GAME

### 7.1 ROUND ROBIN GAMES WILL REMAIN A TIE

### 7.2 QUALIFYING, QUARTER-FINAL AND RELEGATION ROUND GAMES

If at the end of three (3) regulation, twenty (20) minute periods, the score is tied, the rules of Hockey Canada shall apply:

- a) The puck shall be “faced-off” at centre ice and play shall continue for a ten (10) minute stop-time “sudden victory” overtime period, with the first goal ending the game
- b) If the score is still tied after the sudden victory ten (10) minute overtime period, the game will be decided by a shoot-out.
- c) Teams will select five (5) different players to alternately shoot on the opposing goaltender. If there is still a tie after all five (5) shooters have completed their shots, then there will be a sudden victory shoot-out.
- d) Each team will select one shooter (*different from the previous five*) to shoot on the opposing goaltender. If a tie exists, this sudden victory continues with different



shooters until only one team scores and the other misses. Note: The number of different shooters is determined by the team with the least participants for said game.

### 7.3 SEMI-FINAL GAMES, GOLD AND BRONZE MEDAL GAMES

- a) In the case of a tie after regulation time, the teams will remain at the same ends and commence one (1) ten (10) minute sudden-victory stop-time period.
- b) The game shall be declared over with the first goal being scored.
- c) If still tied after ten (10) minutes, the two (2) teams will retire for ice resurfacing, change ends and then commence sudden-victory overtime periods of twenty (20) minutes each, with the first goal winning the game.

Note: Any overtime period shall be considered part of the game and all unexpired penalties shall remain in force

If either team declines to play in the necessary period(s), the game shall be declared a loss for that team.

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## 8. TIE-BREAKING POINTS PROCEDURE

Conclusion of Round 1 and Round 2 – If two (2) or more teams are tied at the conclusion of Round 1 and Round 2, then the following tie-breaking procedure will apply until the tie is broken:

- a) The result of the round-robin game involving the tied team gains the higher position
- b) The team with the most wins in the round robin gains the higher position
- c) If teams are still tied after a) and b) have been applied, then the team with the best goal average gains the higher position. The goal average of a team is to be determined in the following manner:

Total number of goals-for divided by the total number of goals-for and against.

**The goal ratio shall be for games amongst the tied teams only.**

Example: for = 10 goals; against = 4 goals

Percentage:  $\frac{10}{10+4} = .714$

A maximum of a 7 goal difference in any one game will be used in the calculation of the goal ratio. This is calculated using the actual “goals for” of the losing team in this particular game.

Example: Final score is 15-5; the score considered in goal ratio calculation is 12-5.

- d) If teams are still tied after a), b) and c) are applied, then the team to gain the higher position would be the one that scored the first goal in the game between the two teams.

**Note: Should there be three (3) or more pools and/or three (3) or more teams tied, then they shall advance to e).**

- e) If teams are still tied after all previous methods have been applied, the higher position shall be determined by a single toss of a coin.
  - f) Should there be three (3) or more teams tied after all previous methods have been applied, the higher position shall be determined by a draw where each team's name shall be entered.
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## 9. MEDALS

GOLD	30 (one for each member of the team and the PTASB)
SILVER	30 (one for each member of the team and the PTASB)
BRONZE	30 (one for each member of the team and the PTASB)

**Note: Only those that are on the Team Roster will receive a medal.**

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## 10. COMPETITIVE UNIFORM

Provincial/Territorial colors must be worn. Any change in jersey colors from previous year must be presented to the ASC Hockey Committee for approval by **January 31, 2023**. Each team must have two (2) sets of Official Jerseys (light and dark in color) and matching socks. One set of Official Jerseys must be white (light) as the home team wears white. If there is a conflict, the visiting team changes.

For the 2023 NAHC Team Jerseys:

Front crest - The Provinces/Territories may use either the Official National Aboriginal Hockey Championship (NAHC) logo or the Provincial/Territorial logo or name.

Shoulder – the Official NAHC logo must appear on one or both shoulders. The PTASB logo may go on the other shoulder or sleeve if applicable. Other logos may appear on the second shoulder with ASC Hockey Committee's review and approval by **January 31, 2023**.

Back – the Provinces/Territories name on the back nameplate above the player number and if applicable, the sponsor logo(s) must go below the player number on the back and may not be larger than four (4) inches in height.

Final approval of team jerseys will be submitted by **January 31, 2023**.

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## 11. EQUIPMENT

Athletes must provide their own hockey equipment.

***All equipment must be as required by the Minor Hockey governing body in their Branch.***

CSA approved helmets with full face masks and a BNQ approved neck guard are mandatory for all teams.

Mouth guards are mandatory at all times if they are mandatory in the respective players' Branch. Mandatory mouth guards for the 2022-2023 program year are for Manitoba, Hockey Northwestern Ontario and the OMHA. Sanctions for not wearing a mouth guard will be immediate removal from the game until the equipment has been put on. The player may proceed back to the game once remedied.

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## 12. RULES AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Prior to the Championship, an Off-Ice Disciplinary Committee and an On-Ice Disciplinary Committee will be formed to accept and rule on protests arising from competition. The Committees will be comprised of individuals not directly involved with the hosting of the 2023 NAHC of a participating team.

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## 13. DAILY TEAM REP MEETINGS

One day prior to Game 1, there will be a meeting with **all Team Representatives**, hosted in the evening, after all team training sessions have been completed for the day.

On Game Day 2 – up to and including Medal Day, there will be a Team Rep meeting daily, beginning at 7:00 AM, local time. The meetings will update teams on the events of the Championships. These meetings will also deal with suspensions and sanctions that have or may occur. Representation may be in-person or via Zoom.

It is mandatory for each team to be represented by at least one (1) of the following each morning: Manager, Head Coach, Assistant Coach or the PTASB Representative. Teams that fail to attend will face sanctions.

1 meeting missed: Head Coach sits out one (1) game.

2 meetings missed: Head Coach sits out two (2) additional games.

3 meetings missed: Head Coach sits out the remainder of the NAHC.

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## 14. TEAM PRACTICE

Teams will be provided (by the Host) a minimum of one (1) hour of practice time prior to the start of the NAHC. During the practice, all players are **required to wear full equipment** and coaching staff are required to wear helmets and gloves.

Should teams require additional ice time, they must contact the 2023 Host Organization to make the necessary arrangements *at their own cost*.

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## 15. MEDIA RELATIONS

It is valuable for the Teams to complete the online Media Forms to ensure complete and proper information can be communicated to the media about the NAHC Participants.

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## 16. NAHC TEAM REGISTRATION

All PTASB's must have their Team Registration form and \$2000 entry fee submitted to the 2023 NAHC Host Society **no later than November 30, 2022. NO late entries will be accepted.**

The Team entry fees can be made payable to the 2023 Host Committee and can be sent by an E-Transfer or check by the **November 30, 2022** deadline.

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## 17. NAHC PROTOCOL

- a) All teams must be in attendance for the NAHC opening AND closing ceremonies.
  - b) All teams must attend the Social Function. Additional details and dress code will be provided by the host.
  - c) An opportunity will be provided for all teams to have a team photograph taken. This will occur at a pre-scheduled time and date as allocated by the Host Committee.
  - d) All teams, including the host province/territory must stay at the host hotel(s). Any teams that choose not to will not receive airport pick up, or transportation to/from the rink during NAHC.
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## 18. AWARDS

Individual awards (male and female) based on individual game play are as follows:

- a) Players of the Game

Individual awards (male and female) based on round robin play are as follows:

- a) Most Valuable Defense
  - b) Most Valuable Forward
  - c) Most Valuable Goaltender
  - d) Most Sportsmanlike Player
  - e) Most Sportsmanlike Team voted upon by all teams (male and female separately)
  - f) Most Sportsmanlike Player on each team, voted upon by their respective team
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## 19. 2023 NAHC FORMS TO BE COMPLETED ONLINE

2023 NAHC Player Consent/Conduct Form

2023 NAHC Coach/Team Staff Form

2023 NAHC Team Roster Form (Branch Verification on NAHC Chart)

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## **APPENDICIES GUIDE (SEPARATE ATTACHMENTS)**

APPENDIX A – Competitor Eligibility Details

APPENDIX B – Hockey Canada Non-Sanctioned Leagues (Bulletin A1528)

APPENDIX C – Hockey Canada Minimum Suspension Guidelines (Bulletin A1133)

APPENDIX D – Academic Residency Form

APPENDIX E – Accepted Ancestry Documents

APPENDIX F – Declaration of Indigenous Ancestry