Official League Rules
2026-2027

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Section 1 – Venue and Playing Area

a. All games will be played at the Lohas Rink in Lohas Park.
b. Lohas Rink – 58m X 26m
c. Two (2) locker rooms are available for teams to change and shower.

Section 2 – Teams

a. There will be four (4) teams –
    1. Aviators
    2. Black Dragons
    3. HK Panda
    4. Toro Bulls
b. Each team will consist of 16 players and two (2) goalies as well as two (2) General Managers (GMs) appointed by the Commissioner.
c. The GMs roles include –
    1. Drafting the team prior to the start of the season and any supplemental drafts afterwards.
    2. Inform the Commissioner and League broadcaster with the starting lineups and any players that will miss the game.
    3. Manage the team.
d. Trades are allowed subject to final approval from the Commissioner.
e. Teams are encouraged to always have both goalies dressed for a game.

1. If a team only has one (1) goalie dressed for a game and is unable to continue to play, then the team may play with an extra attacker. No time will be given to the team to dress a player in goal as each team should have a back-up goalie dressed.
2. If the team does have both goalies dressed and both get injured in the game, a player will be given ten (10) minutes to dress as a goalie.

Section 3 – Equipment

a. Players and goalies are required to wear full approved equipment. Requirement - HECC (Hockey Equipment Certification Council) and CSA (Canadian Standards Association) certification for helmets with working and secured straps.
b. All jerseys and socks are the property of the HKL. If any players or goalies require a new jersey for any reason, they will be fined $500hkd.
c. Matching team jerseys and socks are mandatory. Players will not be allowed to play if they do not have matching team jerseys and socks.
d. Face protection is required – full-cage or shield or half visor.
e. U18 Players require full face protection and neck guard.
f. Tinted visors where the player's eyes are not easily visible are prohibited.
g. GoPros or any non-hockey equipment will not be allowed on a player while anytime on the ice.
h. All players are required to wear neck guards.

Section 4 – Penalties and Suspensions

a. The HKL will be playing under the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Official Rulebook – 2026-27.
b. Players who still have time remaining on their penalty at the end of the period are not allowed to leave the penalty box unless permitted by the Game Officials.
c. Any player or team official who receives a **Misconduct for Abuse of Official** in the last five (5) minutes of the third period, overtime, shootout or after a game, will be subject to a hearing and may be suspended.
d. Fighting is not allowed. The number of games for the suspension will be determined after a review by the Commissioner.
e. Any player who leaves their bench to join or start an altercation, will result in a suspension subject to a review from the Commissioner.
f. All major and game misconduct penalties will be reviewed by the Commissioner to assess if any further suspensions may be required.
g. Players have twenty-four (24) hours to appeal any suspensions in writing by email to HKL@hkciha.com

Section 5 – Officials

a. The Commissioner shall appoint HKCIHA Registered Referees and Linespersons, and Off-Ice Officials for each game.
b. A four (4) man system (2 referees, 2 linesperson) shall be used to officiate all games when possible.
c. Officials may use video review for goal and offside situations.
d. Coach's Challenge –
    1. No penalty will be assessed if the call on the ice is overturned.
    2. A penalty for delay of game if the call is not overturned.
    3. No penalty will be assessed if the video is inconclusive or does not provide clear evidence and the call on the ice stands.
e. Officials have the option to use video to review all major penalties.

Section 6 – Physical Infractions

a. All physical infractions are referenced in the IIHF 2026-2027 Rule Book.
b. Open-ice or predatory hits are not permitted.
c. Any fighting or altercations on or off the ice within the venue will be subject to suspensions and local authorities will be notified.

Section 7 – Other Infractions

a. Line change will not be allowed if –
    1. The team that is called for icing.
    2. The defending team accidentally knocks the net off.
    3. The puck is shot into the end zone by the attacking team from their own side of the center line, and the opposing goalie freezes the puck resulting in a stoppage of play.
b. Forfeit of game –
    a. If a team has less than six (6) players and one (1) goalie or a total of seven (7) players, the game will be a forfeit, and the opposing team will be declared the winner with a score of 1-0.
    b. Exception - if there is a situation where the forfeit benefits the team in violation and affects the position of the teams in the standings, the score of 1-0 may not be used and will be reviewed by the Commissioner.

Section 8 – Game Flow

a. All games will be played with three (3) periods of twenty (20) minutes – stop time.
    a. Warm-up – 2:00.
    b. Intermissions – 1:00.
    c. If tied after regulation time, the teams will play a five (5) minute sudden-death overtime with the numerical strength of 3 players per team.

d. Overtime will not have offside or icing rules.
e. Goalies are not required to switch ends.
f. If no goal is scored in overtime, there will be a 1-player shootout. The first team that scores while the other team does not will be declared the winner. Teams can re-use the same players.
g. Players who have remaining time on their penalty will not be allowed to take part in the shootout and must stay in the penalty box until the game has been completed.

b. All faceoffs following a stoppage in play in the attacking zone will remain in the attacking zone except for the following –
    1. A goal is scored.
    2. A goal is scored illegally by the attacking team.
    3. End of the period.
    4. The puck was contacted by a high stick by the attacking team and touched before the defending team has control.
    5. A glove-hand pass by the attacking team.
    6. Any attacking team players join a scrum from the outside faceoff circle.
    7. A penalty to the attacking team.
    8. If the puck hits an opposing Player's glove or body that is hanging over the opposing team's Players' bench or enters the opposing team's Players' bench through an open bench door, the "face-off" shall take place in the neutral zone adjacent to the opponent's Players' bench.
b. Running time – If the difference of the score is 8 goals or more at any time in the third period, the game clock will not be stopped. The game will revert to stop time if the difference of the score is 7 or less.
c. Players should be ready at least 10 minutes before their scheduled game.
d. No one is allowed on the ice until the Game Officials approves.

Section 9 – Team Standings

a. Points System -
    a. 3 points – win
    b. 2 points – win in overtime/shootout
    c. 1 point – loss in overtime/shootout
    d. 0 point – loss
b. Rankings are based on –
    a. Most points
    b. Most wins
    c. Head-to-head
    d. Higher goal-difference
    e. Least amount of penalty minutes
    f. Puck toss

Section 10 – Player Conduct

a. Any incidents that cause damage to the venue will be the responsibility of the players involved. Players are responsible for their own actions.
b. Any incidents that are unacceptable and disrespectful to other players, officials, staff or anyone involved with the HKL, may result in a suspension or expulsion.
c. Any inappropriate social media posts are prohibited. This includes -
    a. Any hate messages.
    b. Act of bullying or harassing.
    c. Political views.
    d. Threats.
b. League officials reserve the right to eject any players, team officials or spectators from the venue for any misconduct.

Section 11 – League Info

a. www.hongkongleague.com
b. Social media – Facebook and Instagram account – **HKLHockey**
c. Live stream on YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/@officialhkciha/live

The HKL reserves the right to update and make changes to the Official League Rules from time to time and will inform the players.

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Chairman - Hong Kong China, Ice Hockey Association

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