



GOVERNING AGREEMENT

FOR

**METCALFE RUSSELL RIVER RATS
REP 'B' HOCKEY**

BETWEEN

**METCALFE & DISTRICT HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
(HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "MDHA")**

AND

**RUSSELL MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
(HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "RMHA")**

Effective August 31, 2011

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Definitions

It is possible to have a major level team and a minor level team at each of the Atom, Peewee, Bantam and Midget levels subject to the following criteria:

- “ Minor “ Minor teams consist of strictly first year players at this level.

- “ Major “ Major teams consist strictly of second year players at this level.

- “ Home Association “ The Association within the boundaries the player resides and first registers.

- “ Host Association “ The Association where the player is playing during the current year.

Article 1 – General Provisions

- 1.01 The Metcalfe & District Hockey Association (MDHA) and the Russell Minor Hockey Association (RMHA) agree to conduct combined tryouts prior to each hockey season for the Rep B Teams at all levels. Each Association will provide ice, subject to availability in September for this purpose. Ice costs for tryouts will be covered by tryouts fees.
- 1.02 The combined tryouts shall be designed to fairly form competitive Rep B teams, to be hosted as listed in Article 1.06 by the respective Associations for the current season.
- 1.03 To facilitate and administer this Agreement, a “ River Rat Committee “ (herein after referred to as RRC) has been formed. The RRC shall consist of the Vice President Competitive from each Association and three (3) designated Members respectively from the MDHA and RMHA. The 1st vice president of the GHA as Chairman.
- 1.04 RRC decisions shall be based on a majority vote, with the Chairperson voting only to break a tie. A minimum of four RRC members, with at least one designated representative from each association, must be present to constitute a meeting quorum.
- 1.05 The RRC shall oversee the coach selections, tryouts and team formations for Rep B hockey in accordance with the attached articles. As well as maintain ongoing promotion of the River Rats program while providing guidance to Head Coaches and team officials in areas such as player affiliation, travel permits, discipline and / or rule interpretation.
- 1.06 It is agreed that at all levels one Rep B team will be formed between the two associations (unless determined by the RRC that numbers and calibre warrant more than one team or no team be formed at a particular level). It is further agreed that the MDHA will host all Minor level teams formed, and the RMHA will host all Major level teams formed, unless both associations agree to a deviation during the current season. The RRC reserves the right at any point to alternate home games only between both Metcalfe and Russell home arenas.
- 1.07 If there are any aspects of this Agreement that cannot be agreed upon by the two associations and the RRC, the Executive of District 9 shall have the right to arbitrate the point of disagreement. However, the Executive of District 9 shall not have the right to alter the terms and conditions of this agreement.

- 1.08 It is agreed that the RMHA and MDHA will provide their respective teams at Atom and Pee wee a minimum average of 2 hours of ice per week and each Bantam and Midget team a minimum average of 2 ½ hours per week during the regular season schedule. This is inclusive of their regularly scheduled game time at their respective home arena or alternating arena subject to the terms of this agreement.
- 1.09 Notwithstanding paragraph 1.08 above, in the event that a Rep B team is eliminated from the playoff's, the allocated ice time is discontinued and returned to the respective host association, the team is then considered disbanded and no longer allowed to continue sanctioned on-ice activities unless approval from the RRC and Host Association is received prior to the event. Should a Rep B team wish to participate in exhibition games, practices or tournaments, they must first request permission by the RRC and if approved **must then obtain permission by the District Chair**. If approved, ice-time may be provided or purchased through respective host ice-scheduler or through other means available to the team.
- 1.10 The RRC will ensure that all information and procedures are distributed in a concurrent and timely fashion to both associations.
- 1.11 The RRC shall meet on an “ as required “ basis.
- 1.12 Once teams are formed, they will fall under the control and jurisdiction of the River Rats Rep B Agreement, OBMHL, the Host Association, the GHA and the ODMHA for all aspects of administration and operation which shall include all discipline matters. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach and all team officials to familiarize themselves with the operations guidelines to each of the above mentioned.
- 1.13 To ensure uniformity and consistency in the administration of Discipline, the two associations agree to form a Discipline Committee consisting of the appropriate Discipline Director of each association plus each VP Competitive from the Host Associations ensuring equal representation from each association. Participation in the Discipline Committee shall rotate throughout the season on an as needed basis.
- 1.14 The Host Associations shall be responsible for the funding of both home and away team jerseys for the River Rat teams. The RRC will facilitate the availability of all equipment to conduct tryouts. No change to River Rats jerseys or socks can be made by individual teams without the approval of the RRC.
- 1.15 The RRC shall be responsible for conducting evaluations of the Rep B hockey program provided by the associations through this agreement if applicable. Otherwise the RRC may develop and administer an evaluation system to evaluate the Rep B hockey program.

- 1.16 The total cost of playing Rep B hockey shall be determined through discussion by the associations prior to registration. The cost of the association fees and Rep B fees will be indicated in the individual player registration packages and/or on the respective association and River Rat websites.
- 1.17 Each player is responsible for paying the difference in cost between the Rep B fee at their level and their respective Home Association registration fees.
- 1.18 The RRC shall have the power to amend or alter within the terms of the Rep B Agreement. All changes shall be posted on the River Rat website.

Article 2 – Head Coach and Team Officials Selections

- 2.01 Individuals who wish to coach a Rep B team are to complete a coaches' application form and submit it together with proof of certification, if available to the RRC.
- 2.02 The RRC will meet to review all coaches' applications received.
- 2.03 The RRC will develop a list of questions for the coaches' interviews.
- 2.04 The RRC will schedule the interviews and each applicant will be interviewed.
- 2.05 The RRC will select the Head Coaches and submit the names to both Home Associations for approval. Upon approval the RRC will notify all candidates of the decision in each level.
- 2.06 Head Coaches require NCCP Intermediate/Development 1 and assistant coaches require coaching stream level 1 certification. All team officials must obtain the required certification and the speak-out course by a deadline date predetermined each season by the RRC.
- 2.07 The clinic fees for the Rep B coaches and trainers will NOT be reimbursed by the RRC, however this may be considered by either Home Association. It is recommended that such fees if required become part of the team budget.
- 2.08 The Head Coach will propose the other team officials, including assistant coaches, trainers and manager for approval by the RRC. The application for approval shall be received no later than 2 weeks after the formation of the team, and include each official's certification documentation or proposed time frame for completion of the required certification, (as outlined in 2.06).

- 2.09 The RRE maintains the right to dismiss a coach or any other team official at any time if their conduct is deemed detrimental to the aims and objectives of the MDHA / RMHA and the GHA.
- 2.10 No parent of an active player may participate in Coach Selection at their child's age level. This restriction will also apply to any person that the RRC considers to have a close familial relationship to a child in the MDHA / RMHA.
- 2.11 All Team Staff must complete a Criminal Records Check Application and submit it to the RRC by a predetermined date each season.

Article 3 – Player Evaluation Process

- 3.01 Any player registered in the MDHA or RMHA for the current season may tryout at his/her level.
- 3.02 The evaluation fees will be determined by the RRC prior to the tryouts. The RRC will hire referees to facilitate intersquad/exhibition games for a total of two hours for Atom and Peewee levels and for three hours for Bantam and Midget levels. The Head Coach needs to provide the RRC with 72 hours notice. Additional needs for on ice officials are the responsibility of the team to manage.
- 3.03 Each association will provide ice time for tryouts, as per Article 1.
- 3.04 The RRC will develop a schedule for tryouts providing each level with four (4) tryout sessions. Each player will be guaranteed two (2) tryouts sessions which are the first two scheduled ice-times for each level. Goalies will be evaluated with and at the same time as players unless numbers cause a safety issue. Based on sufficient registration numbers the RRC may schedule a separate goalie evaluation in addition to the normal evaluation sessions. A player selected to a team as a goalie, shall remain as a goalie for that season. No player will be released until the completion of the second scheduled tryout session. The only acceptable reason for missing the first two (2) tryout times will be due to an ongoing higher level tryout, an injury or illness. A doctor's note prior to the next tryout session will be required for proof of such incidents of injury or illness.
- 3.05 If a player is injured before or becomes injured through the tryout process the following shall guide the decisions of the RRC:
- a. must produce a doctor's certificate disclosing the injury/illness (type, duration and anticipated return date) within 24 hours, if occurring during tryouts or, of occurring prior to tryouts, at the first tryout session.

- b. must provide a doctors' certificate permitting the player to return to tryouts and/or specifying conditions which would restrict the players' full participation.
- c. if the illness/injury precludes participation or prevents ample time for evaluation during the first two tryout sessions by the RRC independent evaluators the players skill level and inclusion into the top 20 will be assessed following the guidelines specified below:
 - i. player played at a level higher than Rep B in the previous season.
 - ii. player was a River Rat in the previous season.
 - iii. all other players will be returned to their home association.
- d. players meeting the criteria (above c) are included in the top 20 and are eligible for selection by the coach for the final roster.
- e. if the illness/injury prevents a player's return to the ice beyond the first month after the start of the regular season (-Nov 15) a place on the final roster cannot be held for that player and he must be returned to his/her home association. A doctor's note must be provided to validate the timeframe for a player's return.

- 3.06 Coaches are responsible for selecting the players for their team according to Article 3.10. He/she must use the forms supplied by the Committee, unless using a form pre-approved by the Committee and maintain accurate records of player evaluations. Coaches must be prepared to justify their selections based solely on the evaluations.
- 3.07 In the event a Head Coach is not designated or unavailable at the time of try-outs, the RRC shall assume sole responsibility for selecting the team through the use of impartial and independent evaluators. The results of the independent evaluators shall be final and not subject to re-consideration. The RRC shall endeavour to have a Head Coach in place prior to the try-outs, or as soon as possible through or upon completion of the try-out process. The RRC shall be responsible for the operation of the team until a Head Coach is in place for the remainder of the season.
- 3.08 Evaluators are not permitted to evaluate at level(s) where their child is trying out. A player, or goalie which is the child of the coach or a RRC member, must fall within the selection criteria of the independent evaluator's as outlined in 3.10 below.

- 3.09 The RRC will develop a schedule for evaluators, coaches, and arena lobby volunteers to cover the Rep B tryout period.
- 3.10 The Head Coach is responsible to evaluate each tryout session at their level. The Coach shall calculate and record results on the RRC's evaluation form or a pre-approved form, based on skill level and Rep B suitability; determine the top, mid and bottom rated players; and provide the RRC with the evaluations prior to releasing any player. The RRC will have in place independent evaluators at all levels during the first two evaluation sessions to identify the top 20 skaters and top 3 calibre goalies for each level. The coach must select his/her team from this list provided they are of calibre see (3.12 & 3.13)
- 3.11 The RRC will decide on the basis of registration numbers prior to the first tryout session that if 15 or less players are registered or after the second session 20 calibre skaters cannot be identified the RRC reserves the right to expand the tryout roster to a maximum of 20 players from within District 9 (unlimited) and outside District 9 (at the discretion of the RRC but with expressed approval of the Association President's and the District 9 Chair).
- 3.12 If the evaluators determine there are not 11 calibre players and 1 calibre goalie, the RRC will make its best effort to find placements for the players who are determined to be calibre. The Rep B calibre player may be released from Metcalfe/Russell and the RRC will endeavour to help find tryout opportunities within District 9.
- 3.13 If the evaluators determine there are at least 11 calibre players and 1 calibre goalie, the RRC will then endeavour to make a team subject to the terms of this Agreement. The RRC will endeavour to contact other Associations within District 9 to inquire if players released from the same level would be interested in trying out for the team the RRC is trying to complete. The RRC may solicit other hockey organizations with a view to giving their players an opportunity to tryout. Such players MUST obtain a release from their Association/District prior to trying out, as well as permission from MDHA/RMHA Presidents and the District 9 Chair.

Article 4 – Rep B Teams

- 4.01 Teams will consist of nine (9) forwards, six (6) defence, and two (2) goalies (when registration numbers and calibre warrant).
- 4.02 Where at all possible affiliated players must be chosen from those players who “tried out” for Rep B Hockey and were released from the Rep B respective levels. An effort must be made to choose players from each Association where possible.
- 4.03 Any deviation from the team sizes specified in paragraph 4.01 above must have prior approval of the RRC.
- 4.04 Coaches and the other Team Officials are required to operate their teams in accordance with the rules governing the operation of all MDHA and RMHA hosted “Rep B” teams which is Attachment “A” of this Agreement. It is to be noted that Gloucester Hockey Association’s Rules and Regulations supersedes those of the MDHA and the RMHA.
- 4.05 A Designated Liaison from the RRC will be assigned to each team to ensure that the Rep B teams operate in accordance with the Rep B Agreement and its appendices and schedules, the decisions of the RRC and for keeping the RRC informed of pertinent issues. Duties include the following:
- attends preliminary team meeting;
 - ensures parents approve team budget set by Coach;
 - monitors the teams’ progress
 - ensures completion of Players’ and Coach’s evaluations; and
 - ensures all parents receive team operation budget twice a year.
- 4.06 All River Rats team apparel and merchandise must be purchased through the RRC. Forms, guidelines and pricing will be provided to all teams soon after the teams are formed. No deviation from current home and away jerseys or home and away socks is permitted.
- 4.07 Consistent with the Rules and Regulations of the GHA, the fundamental philosophy of the River Rats Program is the consistent use of players in regular shifts on a rotational basis. However, as it is not possible to guarantee that each player will receive equal ice time during the course of any individual game, the official River Rats Program policy with respect to ice time is “fair” ice time. (see attachment C)

- 4.08 As player development is a fundamental element of the River Rats program, the RRC does not support teams playing with reduced rosters when a regular team member is unavailable. Head coaches are expected to make every effort at contacting affiliated players (and their coaches) to ensure that the team is playing with a full roster in accordance with the ODMHA playing rules. The RRC and Team Liaisons will monitor all affiliation and team activity reports to ensure that teams are not playing with reduced rosters.

- 4.09 All River Rats teams must invite affiliate players to practice each month, even if affiliate is not used in a game. Having affiliated players participate in team practices on a regular basis provides development opportunities and ensures that affiliated players are knowledgeable and in tune with a team's routines, playing tactics, and personnel.

Article 5 – Player Registration Fees

- 5.01 Player registration fees will be based on the Host Association fee schedule subject to the provisions of paragraph 1.16 herein.

Dated on this _____ day of _____ in 2011.

(Print Name)
President MDHA

(Print Name)
President RHMA

Article – 6 FUNDRAISING / SPONSORSHIP

- 6.01 Each individual team will govern all fundraising and sponsorship activities and the policy is administered by each Team Manager and overseen by the RRC Administration.
- 6.02 RRC does not permit players to solicit money on street corners or other areas that may be dangerous to their safety.
- 6.03 Monies raised through fundraising and sponsorship cannot be used for the payment of MDHA / RMHA registration fees or Rep B fees.
- 6.04 All monies raised through fundraising and sponsorship efforts shall be used for team activities (extra ice, team apparel, skating / goalie clinics...to name a few) and all players benefit equally from fundraising and sponsorship monies.
- 6.05 Money raised through sponsorship can be recognized by placing one sponsor bar on the back of a player's jersey, creating a team banner or newsletter, website or any other suitable recognition.
- 6.06 All monies raised through sponsorship and fundraising will be recorded in the team financial reports. Names of anonymous donors can be withheld however the amount of the sponsorship must be disclosed and reported in the team revenues.
- 6.07 Any surplus money at year end must be spent on the players and at no time will money be given back to the parents. Corporate or public business sponsorships are not returned to team parents, as parents are not to gain financially from sponsorship or fundraising efforts.

Attachment A – Rules Governing The Operation of Rep B Hockey Teams

- A1. The Head Coach bears overall responsibility for all aspects of the team for which he has been selected. The Head Coach is expected to lead by setting a good example.
- A2. Any Head Coach who does not possess the NCCP Coaching Intermediate/Development 1 Level Certificate shall obtain this level before going on the bench for the season or otherwise be accompanied by a certified NCCP Developmental 1 person. The Head Coach shall provide the Committee with proof that the required level has been obtained as soon as possible following certification, (as per 2.06). The Head Coach is responsible for ensuring that his team's Trainer possesses the CHA Trainer's Certificate or recognized equivalent as soon as possible (a certified Trainer must be present at all games).
- A3. The Designated Liaison shall in consultation with the Head Coach convene a meeting of the players' parents within 10 days of the team's formation. The Head Coach shall propose a budget for approval by the parents. The parents are to be notified of the meeting with as much advance notice as possible and not less than three (3) days. The budget will be provided to the liaison 48hrs prior to the parent meeting.
- A4. At this meeting, the parents will, by majority vote and through secret ballots, decide the following:
- Team manager;
 - Team fees (maximum \$700.00)
 - The number of tournaments/exchanges in which the team may participate is limited to six (6) such events.
 - The number of out-of-branch tournaments — the maximum number permitted is two (2) which is inclusive of the total of six;
 - the number of additional hours of ice which may be purchased by the team — the maximum number permitted is twenty-four (24);

- For the purposes of this section and in particular the votes required to modify the team budget and the vote required to increase the number of tournaments/exchanges in which the team may participate, a majority vote is declared as representing 75% of team members/parents. All other votes required to be taken by the team on any other issue or question may be by way of simple majority vote being 50 +1%.
 - Note the date required for payment in full of team fees and date of the last opportunity to receive any refunds if applicable. Team fees are refundable if the child quits or is unable to continue within seven days of the formation of the team. Beyond 7 days but up to the first 30 days following the formation of the team, the refund is reduced to 50% of the total team fees paid. After 30 days no refunds will be issued.
 - Failure to forward team fees in a timely manner shall prevent the player from continuing to participate in the teams' activities subject to the RRC's discretion if required.
 - Any exceptions to the above require the prior approval of the RRC.
- A5. Team rules for Rep B teams are provided by the RRC (Attachment B-1). If the Coach intends to present any additional rules to the parents for their consideration, they shall obtain approval from the RRC prior to presenting such to the parents for approval by majority vote.
- A6. The Head Coach shall provide each player and team official with a copy of the approved team rules with clearly laid out consequences which are to be reviewed with the players at a team meeting organized by the Head Coach as soon as possible following the parents' meeting.
- A7. The Head Coach shall endeavour to provide fair ice time to all players. Players' and/or parents' concerns surrounding fair ice time are to be discussed with the Manager, and then referred to the Designated Liaison if unresolved.
- A8. The Manager/Treasurer shall ensure that financial statements of team finances (Attachment B-4) are submitted to the Designated Liaison and the parents no later than January 15th and no later than April 30th of the current year. The financial statements shall accurately reflect revenues and expenditures and be verified.
- A9. Coaches and Players' evaluations are mandatory and required to be completed and submitted to the Rep "B" Committee once during the regular season. The evaluations will be distributed to the manager or Head Coach by the RRC with a deadline for return (typically January 15th).

- A10. All player/coaches suspensions, misconducts, etc. must be reported to the VP of Discipline of each host association immediately after the incident(s) occur. They must be reported via E-mail within 24 hours and a copy of the game sheet must be faxed through to the VP of Discipline of respective Host Association. Reports must also be sent/copied to the GHA Discipline Chair, the District 9 Chair and the Association President.

Attachment B - RIVER RATS HOCKEY PARENTS/COACHES PRE-SEASON MEETING

SAMPLE AGENDA

- A. Introductions.
- B. Advise parents of River Rat website location and content. (Rep B Liaison)
- A. Distribute agenda with attachments. (Team Officials)
- B. Elect a Manager by secret ballot. (If more than two nominees)
- C. Nominate a merchandising coordinator. (Coach)
- D. Complete the Rep B Team List and submit to Host Association's Registrar. (Coach)
 - A copy of the team list is to be given to each parent.*
- E. Review the team rules (see B-1). (Coach)
 - Note that any additional team rules require the support:*
 - *of a majority of the parents in attendance (1 vote per player)*
 - *and the prior approval of the Rep B Committee Designated Liaison.*
- F. Discuss the operation of the team including ice-time, timekeepers, game sheets, car pooling for games and practices, etc. (Manager/Coach)
- G. Set the team budget for the season (see B-2). (River Rat Liaison)
 - Note that all financial matters are to be determined by a majority of the parents through secret ballot votes. This includes the number of in and out of town tournaments, extra ice purchases, team fundraisers, and team fees.*

H. Other business:

- *purchase of team practice jerseys;*
- *practice socks;*
- *team apparel/merchandise;*
- *dress code; and*
- *mandatory coach evaluation.*

B-1 - SAMPLE RIVER RATS TEAM RULES

1. Complete attendance is expected at all practices and games. If unable to attend, the player is to make every effort to inform the Coach before the absence if it is possible to do so.
2. Players and coaching staff should be in the dressing room at least 30 minutes before a game or practice. Players are to be completely dressed and ready 10 minutes before game-time in order to listen to the Coach's instructions.
3. Proper conduct is required from the players and the coaching staff while in the dressing room, on the ice and around the arena.
4. Players are to remain in the dressing room after they have started dressing for the game or practice.
5. Practices are for having fun while learning. A full and honest effort is expected at all times.
6. Only players and team officials are permitted in the dressing room before and after games and practices, except at the invitation of the Coach.
7. At least two team official shall remain in the dressing room anytime that players are present in the room.
8. Players and team officials are to show respect and be courteous to each other and to the on-ice officials. Discipline and self-control is required from players and team officials both on and off the ice. Bad language and/or disrespectful behaviour by players/team officials will not be tolerated.
9. Players are to support team mates. Criticism of team mates will not be tolerated.
10. Players and the coaching staff are not permitted to be under the influence of alcohol and/or non-prescription drugs at team practices or games.

Additional Notes

- Note 1. Any additional team rules to those listed above must be submitted to and approved by the Committee prior to being presented.
- Note 2. Violation of any of these team rules may result in disciplinary action ranging from verbal reprimand to suspension or termination of playing privileges in accordance with the Rules of the Host Association.
- Note 3. The Coach is required to inform the Designate Liaison for his level of all discipline, as soon as possible. A record of disciplinary action will be held which can result in denial of playing privileges in the Metcalfe/Russell Rep B league.
- Note 4. A Coach who intends to suspend a player more than his suspensions limit per season (1 game) must seek approval from the appropriate discipline chair. The Host Association will decide on all such recommendations.
- Note 5. The Host Association will investigate any alleged violation(s) of these rules and decide on discipline if deemed appropriate.
- Note 6. The Head Coach shall immediately inform the Director of Discipline of the Host Association of any and all suspensions received by any team member.

B-2 - SAMPLE RIVER RATS TEAM BUDGET

(Submit to Designated Liaison and parents upon approval)

Team _____ Coach _____

EXPENSES

Tournaments	<i>Use \$900.00 as registration fee per tournament. (650 for 1 day tournaments. Maximum number of tournaments is 6 Maximum number of out of town tournaments is 2.</i>	= \$ _____
Ice Purchases	<i>Use \$150.00 as cost of ice per hour. Maximum number of additional hours of ice which may be purchased by a team is 24.</i>	= \$ _____
Officials' Fees (Exhibition games)	<i>(Ranges from \$75 - \$90)</i>	
Name Bars	<i>Include cost of both player and sponsor bars</i>	= \$ _____
Season-End Function	<i>If applicable</i>	= \$ _____
Miscellaneous	<i>If applicable</i>	= \$ _____

REVENUES

Sponsorship	<i>Unlimited</i>	= \$ _____
Team Fundraisers	<i>If applicable</i>	= \$ _____
Other Income	<i>If applicable</i>	= \$ _____
Team Fees	<i>Subtract the Revenues from the Expenses — then divide the remainder by the number of players on the team to determine the team fee. The maximum amount for the team fee is \$700 per player. The team fee is an addition to the registration fee and must be paid by _____ (date).</i>	= \$ _____
TOTAL TEAM EXPENSES		= \$ _____

Coach's signature

Date

B-3 – SAMPLE RIVER RATS FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(Submitted to Designated Liaison and Parents not later than January 15 of the current)

Team _____ Coach _____

EXPENSES:	Budget	Year to date
Tournaments	_____	_____
Ice Purchases	_____	_____
Officials' Fees	_____	_____
Name Bars	_____	_____
Season-end Function	_____	_____
Miscellaneous	_____	_____
TOTAL	\$ _____	\$ _____
REVENUES	Budget	Year to Date
Sponsorship	_____	_____
Team Fundraisers	_____	_____
Team Fees	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____
TOTAL	\$ _____	\$ _____

REVENUES: \$ _____ MINUS EXPENSES \$ _____ = \$ _____
(team balance)

Coach's Signature

Date

NOTE 1: The Head Coach shall provide the Designated Liaison and Parents with a season-end financial statement not later than April 30.

Attachment C – FAIR ICE POLICY

The River Rats Hockey Program is a competitive hockey program. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to play and coach all players fairly and equally.

The River Rats operate a Fair Ice Time policy at all levels and age groups, all on ice situations and for all types of games (exhibition, tournament, regular season, playoff and championship).

Atom and Peewee:

- Teams are not to establish power play units for use in man advantage situations at any time.
- Teams are not to establish penalty killing units for situations where they are short handed at any time.
- Teams are not to ‘ shorten the bench ‘ , limit the ice time for certain players, increase the ice time for certain players (double shifting)
- Double shifting is defined as allowing a player to return to the ice before all other players have been on for their regular shift.

Bantam and Midget:

- Power play units are not recommended but can be used in limited situations (last 10 minutes of regular season game, playoff game, tournament game)
- Penalty killing units are not recommended but can be used in limited situations (last 10 minutes of regular season game, playoff game, tournament game)
- Teams are not to ‘ shorten the bench ‘ , limit the ice time for certain players, increase the ice time for certain players (double shifting), except during the last three (3) minutes of ANY game.
- Double shifting is defined as allowing a player to return to the ice before all other players have been on for their regular shift.

It should also be noted that players, coaches and parents within MDHA and RMHA are bound by additional codes of conduct and fair play guidelines as periodically established by the GHA (Gloucester Hockey Association)