

# Dufferin Wellington Local League

## Bylaws & Season Structure

Orangeville Minor Hockey

Erin/Hillsburgh Minor Hockey

Center Wellington Minor Hockey

Arthur Minor Hockey



## **Dufferin Wellington Local League (DWLL) Bylaws**

*Established to promote fair, competitive, and inclusive hockey within Dufferin and Wellington Counties.*

### **1. League Structure and Governance**

#### **1.1 Name and Purpose**

- The league shall be known as the Dufferin Wellington Local League (DWLL) and will operate under the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) and Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) House League regulations.
- Within this document Dufferin Wellington Local League will be referenced as DWLL.
- Rules will be inclusive for all tournaments that operate within the DWLL.
- DWLL's purpose is to provide a fair, competitive, and developmental hockey experience while maintaining an emphasis on sportsmanship, teamwork, and skill development.

#### **1.2 League Board & Elections**

- The DWLL shall be governed by an elected board consisting of:
  - Chairperson – Responsible for overall league operations, dispute resolution, and policy enforcement.
  - Vice-Chairperson – Assists the Chairperson and assumes responsibilities in their absence.
  - Secretary – Manages records, meeting minutes, and correspondence.
    - No one center can hold all positions and both Chairperson and Vice Chair MUST be from separate centers
    - The DWLL Board will consist of participating centers. If membership drops below three (3), DWLL will freeze operations until at least three (3) centers are involved in the interlock.
- Election Process:
  - Elections shall be held annually in April following the conclusion of the season.
  - Each center participating in the DWLL is allowed one vote per Center for each position
  - Board members serve two-year staggered terms to ensure continuity.
  - Vacancies will be filled by appointment until the next election.

- Meeting Frequency
  - DWLL will meet on an as needed basis and will be called at the request of the Chairperson no later than 2 weeks from suggested meeting date.
  - Quorum for meetings will be at minimum 50% of the board +1.
  - If quorum is not met, the meeting can still take place to ensure smooth operations but changes or deviations from the seasonal plan cannot be adjusted until quorum is met.
- Elected Individuals 2025/26 Season
  - Chair - Jeff Deason
  - Vice Chair - Ashley-Ann Maginnis
  - Secretary – Kenny Lewis

## **2. Season Structure**

### **2.1 League Schedule**

- Grading Days:
  - A standardized grading sheet will be used across all centers to evaluate players consistently.
  - Player evaluations will be completed no later than the third weekend of September to allow for balanced team selection.
  - Grading sheets must assess:
    - Skating ability: Forward, backward, stopping, turning
    - Puck control: Stickhandling, passing, shooting
    - Game awareness: Positioning, hockey sense, play recognition
  - Each center must keep on hand grading sheets in case review is required and must use the standard agreed grading sheet by the DWLL.
- Regular Season Start:
  - The regular season begins on the first weekend of October.
  - All Games will be tracked using the GameSheet Application.
    - All centers are responsible to have this application deployed for all of their teams with coaches and roster uploaded accordingly.
    - Any game that is not uploaded correctly is the responsibility of the home center to fix.

- Reg Season schedule
  - Second or third weekend of September
  - Oct 5&6 Season start
  - Season DOC would fall last weekend of March.

## **2.2 Game Length & Curfew Rules**

- Standard game length:
  - 10-10-12 periods (preferred).
  - If ice time does not permit, 10-10-10 periods will be used.
  - Any game with a goal differential of 5+ goals in the third period will have the clock run on run time.
  - 3 min warm up before every game.
  - Handshakes are to occur prior to gameplay.
- Curfew Policy:
  - If a center experiences four or more curfewed games in a season, a reduction in home games will be applied should another supporting center be available to take these on.
- Playoffs:
  - Playoffs shall begin after Family Day in February each season.
  - Championship Day will take place on the last weekend of March.
  - During DWLL Playoffs and into DWLL DOC, no tournaments will be allowed to be booked by any team without preapproved permission from the Home Center.

## **2.3 Playoff Format**

- The playoff structure will feature two groups:
  - Group A (EG: Top 4 Teams): Compete for the DWLL Championship.
  - Group B (EG: Bottom 4 Teams): Compete in a DWLL Consolation Championship.
  - If there are not enough teams for both Group A and Group B in the playoffs, all teams will be combined into one group and will compete in a single-elimination tournament for the DWLL Championship, with no separate consolation bracket.

## **2.4 Tie Breaker Rules:**

- In the event of a tie after regulation, the following criteria will be applied in order:
  - **Goal Differential** (total goals scored minus goals allowed).

- **Goals Against Average (GAA)** (lowest goals allowed per game).
- **Penalty Minutes (PMs)** (fewer penalty minutes).
- If the tie remains after the above criteria, a **coin flip** will determine the winner.  
(Note: Effort will be made to avoid coin flips if possible.)

## 2.5 No Timeouts:

- No timeouts will be allowed during regular season or playoff games.

## 3. Day of Champs (DOC) Finals and Semi in game rules

- Game Format:
  - All playoff games will be played in a single-elimination format leading to a final championship/consolation game.

### 3.1 Overtime (Semis & Finals):

- In the event of a tie during the semifinals and final game, teams will move to a 3v3 5 min (stop time) Overtime sudden victory.
- If still tied it will move to a **1v1** shootout sudden victory.
- Teams will take shots at the same time, with each team's shooter alternating every round.
- Teams must cycle through 5 shooters before reusing anyone from the original 5 shooters.
- The shootout will continue until one team scores more goals than the other after an equal number of attempts otherwise known as Sudden Death.

### 3.2 Timeouts in Semis and Finals:

- In the **semifinals** and **finals**, each team is allowed **one (1) 30-second timeout** during the game.

## 4. Player Movement & Team Balancing

### 4.1 Player Movement Policy

- Player movement between teams is permitted to ensure competitive balance until December 1st of the season.
- Each center is responsible for ensuring balanced teams through regular review and adjustments.
- No lateral player movements will be allowed after December 1<sup>st</sup>. Exception for teams with rosters of 11 or less no movement once playoffs start.
- Centers can "AP" a player from a lower age bracket to assist with a team's needs.

- A player from a lower age bracket can only be used in non-consecutive games.
- AP Players MUST be rostered through OMHA and be added to the GameSheet Roster for validation.
- Conveners/Directors must track and ensure compliance with this rule.
- Failure to comply with any of the above items will result in the forfeiture of the game or any of the above rules were not followed.
- Goalies may move between teams during the year but only when a team's regular goalie is absent due to illness or injury. The first point must be followed in these cases.

#### **4.2 Compliance & Accountability Measures**

- To ensure fairness, each center must:
  - Submit initial rosters and player grading scores to the DWLL board no later the Oct 31.
  - GameSheet will be used to track goal differentials.
  - Teams with a goal differential average exceeding +5 or -5 over a five-game stretch may be required to adjust (e.g., player movement, line matching).
  - A failure to take corrective action will result in review by the DWLL board, which may impose forfeitures, player redistribution, or coaching suspensions for non-compliance.

#### **5. Game Play & Rules Compliance**

- The DWLL shall follow OMHA House League rules, with the following league-specific modifications:
  - No body checking permitted at any level.
  - Teams must have a minimum of 9 skaters and 1 goalie to play a scheduled game. *Games should be rescheduled is ice time is available*

#### **6. Inclement Weather Policy**

- The traveling team must notify the home center a minimum of:
  - 2 hours before game time.
- If the traveling team does not provide timely notice, the game will be considered a default loss unless reviewed and waived by the DWLL board.
- The rescheduling of postponed games will be coordinated between team representatives and must be completed within 14 days of the canceled game.

- If there is no ability to reschedule, the game will be removed from the schedule and will result in no loss or forfeiture.

## **7. Disciplinary Actions & Appeals**

### **7.1 Disciplinary Process**

- Coaches, players, and team officials may be subject to disciplinary action for:
  - Violations of league rules, unsportsmanlike conduct, or player abuse.
  - Failure to comply with team balancing or grading procedures.
  - Improper cancellation of games outside of the inclement weather policy.
  - With appropriate notice (1 week), and available ice time games should be rescheduled if possible.
- The DWLL board will issue disciplinary actions, which may include:
  - First offense: Written warning.
  - Second offense: One-game suspension.
  - Third offense: Multi-game suspension or expulsion.

### **7.2 Appeals Process**

- Any disciplinary action may be appealed within 48 hours of the ruling by submitting a written appeal to the DWLL board.
- A final decision will be made by the board within 5 days of receiving the appeal.

## **8. Amendments & Review Process**

- Bylaw amendments may be proposed by any league representative and must be submitted in writing.
- All proposed amendments require a majority vote (51%) of the league board to pass.
- These bylaws will be reviewed annually in April following the conclusion of the season.