

HOCKEY – GIRLS’

1. SEASON OF PLAY

Girls = Winter

2. LEVELS OF COMPETITION

Senior (Varsity) Level

3. CLASSIFICATION

The following classifications shall apply for Seniors Boys’ Basketball	
A	500 students and under
AA	501 – 950 students
AAA	951 students and over
The following classifications shall apply for Junior Boys’ Basketball	
A	700 students and under
AA	800 students and over
School classification is based on enrollment on October 31 st of the previous school as determined by OFSAA.	

Note: According to the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Constitution a team may opt to play at a higher classification if they declare their intention by the Declaration of Play deadlines.

4. ELIGIBILITY

a) Team/School Eligibility: To represent a school in any SOSSA/OFSAA bound sport coordinate by the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association, a school must:

- I. Conduct a ‘bona fide’ high school program consisting of one (1) practice each week (on ice or dry land training) or four (4) practices a month from December until the OFSAA Championship, under the supervision of a teacher as certified by the school principal.
- II. Participate in the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association approved league and play a regular schedule of games with other school teams, consisting of a minimum of six (6) games and taking place over at least a one-month period.
- III. Participate in the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association championship or qualifying event.
- IV. Use only eligible athletes in any competition during the school year or the school forfeits the right to participate in SOSSA and/or OFSAA Championships.
- V. In accordance with Rowan’s Law, have all coaches and coaching personnel confirm, that they have reviewed the concussion awareness resource within the school year.

b) Individual Eligibility: To represent a school in any activity coordinated by the Federation a student must:

- I. Be eligible for competition under the Constitution, By-Laws, and Playing Regulations of the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association.
- II. Be certified as eligible by the principal of the school.

- III. Meet the following age requirements:
The individual's birth certificate indicates that he has not reached his 19th birthday by January 1st, prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.
- IV. Be in Grades 9-12.
- V. Be eligible under the OFSAA Transfer Policy (OFSAA By-Law 5, Section 4(f)).
- VI. Be eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive years from date of entry into Grade 9 (OFSAA By-Law 5, Section 4(g)).
- VII. Participated as a member of a 'bona fide' high school program as outlined in (a) above and attended the majority of practices and competitions.
- VIII. No competitor is eligible for SOSSA Girls' Hockey whose name has appeared on a game sheet and has dressed, after December 1st or after the first schedule game scheduled for any team in the competitor's high school league schedule, whichever comes first, for a team in any of the National Women's Hockey League (ie. Beatrice Aero, Brampton Thunder) or who is a member of the National Junior or Senior Team as per OFSAA regulations.
- IX. Any team using ineligible players in any competition during the school year forfeits the right to move beyond Niagara Catholic Athletic Association league and/or playoff play.

5. ELIGIBILITY SHEETS

Eligibility lists are to be entered in the OFSAA HUB at least 24 hours prior to the team's first game.

6. GAME TIME

Game time is contingent to home school ice availability.

7. PAYMENT OF OFFICIALS

The home team is responsible for payment of officials for all league and playoff games. The amount will be announced prior to the first game of the season.

Should a game be moved by the home team to either a neutral location or the visiting team's gym, the location only will change on the schedule. The home and visiting team designate will remain unchanged, and the responsibilities (see below) of the home team will also remain unchanged.

If a gate is charged at an Niagara Catholic Athletic Association league or playoff game then all expenses will be paid from the gate (referees, minor officials, linesmen, security, score keepers, etc.) and the remainder of the gate will be divided equally between the home and visiting team.

8. REPORTING SCORES

The home team will input scores and score sheet on to the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association website, by noon the day after the game.

9.HOME SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES ON GAME DAY

Responsible for paying officials.

Responsible for supplying minor officials (scorers, timers, etc.).

Responsible for providing the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association scoresheet.

Responsible for inputting the score and scoresheet on to the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association website by noon the day after the game.

10.UNIFORMS

The home team is to wear a white or light-coloured jersey. The away team is to wear a dark coloured jersey.

11.OFFICIALS

All officials must be accredited.

12.OFFICIAL RULE BOOK

Niagara Catholic Athletic Association policies first, then SOSSA/OFSAA, then Hockey Canada rules shall govern play in Zone.

13.LEAGUE FORMAT

1. **8 Team Leagues**- Every team plays each other once, before AAA teams separate into playoff bracket and AA teams separate into playoff bracket.
2. **7 Team Leagues**- Every team plays each other once, before AAA teams separate into playoff bracket and AA teams separate into playoff bracket.
3. **6 Team Leagues**- Every team plays each other once, before AAA teams separate into playoff bracket and AA teams separate into playoff bracket.
4. **5 Team Leagues**- Every team plays a home and home, before AAA teams separate into playoff bracket and AA teams separate into playoff bracket.
5. **4 Team Leagues**- Every team plays a home and home, before AAA teams separate into playoff bracket and AA teams separate into playoff bracket.
6. **3 Team Leagues**- Every team plays a home and home, before AAA teams separate into playoff bracket and AA teams separate into playoff bracket.
7. **2 Team Leagues**- League home and home will be played, before AAA teams separate into playoff bracket and AA teams separate into playoff bracket.
8. **1 Team League**- Exhibition games will be played. The team moves on to SOSSA.

14.TIMING OF GAMES

Games will have 3 – 12 minute periods (stop time) OR until curfew, whichever comes first. There will be a maximum rest of three (3) minutes between periods.

In the last ten (10) minutes of the game with a five (5) or more goal spread, the clock shall run. With three (3) minutes remaining in the game with a three (3) or more goal spread, the clock shall run.

During hockey playoffs, the home team should book two hours of ice time to try and prevent the implementation of arena curfew procedures.

The referee has the option to stop a game at any time.

15. GAME FORFEITURES

See the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Constitution By-Law XVI – Game Forfeitures

15. PLAYOFF FORMAT FOR BOYS' HOCKEY

The NCAA will have junior and senior league and playoff structures. The highest seeded regular season team will be home.

- Four team playoffs will consist of 1st vs 4th and 2nd vs 3rd. The winner of both games will compete for the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Championship.
- Three team playoffs will consist of 1st place receiving a bye, 2nd vs. 3rd. The winner of 2nd vs 3rd will play 1st place for the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Championship.
- Two team playoffs will consist of 1st vs 2nd for the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Championship.

16. BREAKING A PLAYOFF TIE BECAUSE OF AN ARENA CURFEW

TIED PLAYOFF GAME: If a playoff game is tied at the ten (10) minute point before the arena curfew, the game is to be stopped. There will be a five (5) minute sudden death overtime (straight time) period played. If a tie still exists, then a sudden death shootout will occur.

NOT TIED AT 10 MINUTE POINT BEFORE ARENA CURFEW BUT BECOMES TIED AT CURFEW: If a playoff game is NOT tied at the ten (10) minute point before the arena curfew, the game continues. If the game becomes tied at arena curfew, the winner will be the team ahead at the ten (10) minute point before the curfew.

BREAKING A TIED PLAYOFF GAME AT THE END OF REGULATION TIME (ie. Overtime):

1. All overtime is sudden death (ie. The first goal scored wins the game)
2. All overtime periods are stop time.
3. If the game is tied after regulation time, then the team will play one five (5) minute period of 5 on 5.
4. If the game remains tied after the first five (5) minutes overtime period, then the team will play one five (5) minute period 4 on 4.
5. If the game remains tied after the second five (5) minute overtime period, then the teams will play one five (5) minute period 3 on 3.
6. Teams will continue to play five (5) minute periods of 3 on 3 hockey until a winner is determined.
7. If at any time an overtime game is within 10 minutes of an arena curfew, the game will be stopped and a 3-penalty shot system will be implemented. (i) Total goals of a 3-player pool from each team. (ii) If still tied, the remaining players will take alternating shots until a winner is determined.

Note: Both (i) and (ii) will only be in effect if the curfew comes before the end of the regulation game time.

14. LEAGUE STANDINGS- TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

These procedures shall be used when determining a playoff position when a league schedule leads to playoffs:

1. Record between tied teams.
2. Record against teams higher in the standings (1 above, then 2 above, etc.).
3. Record against teams lower in the standings (1 below, then 2 below, etc.).
4. Other sport specific rules agreed to by Program Chairs.
5. Coin flip to determine playoff position only. The convenor will perform the coin flip. The school that is alphabetically highest will have heads in the coin flip. The convenor will notify schools of the results.
6. Playoff on a neutral field/court or a coin toss for home field if both coaches agree, if it is to determine the final playoff position.

In the event of a four-way tie, the convenor in consultation with the NCAA Executive and the schools involved will determine a tie-breaking procedure.

16. EJECTIONS and SUSPENSION

OWHA Suspension List rules shall govern suspensions.

See the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Constitution By-Law

17. APPEALS AND PROTESTS

If a school(s) wishes to proceed with a protest, see the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Constitution for further direction.

18. ADVANCING TO SOSSA

The Niagara Catholic Athletic Association championship team will advance to SOSSA as the Zone 2 representative.