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Information about Hockey Canada-sanctioned programs

To ensure that players, parents, coaches and administrators across the country are equipped to understand what Members that participate in Hockey Canada-sanctioned programs are entitled to, we felt that it was important to outline how this structure varies from non-sanctioned hockey.

- **Teams that fall under Hockey Canada’s jurisdiction are eligible to compete against sanctioned teams from other Member National Associations of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF).**
 - A non-sanctioned team in Canada or elsewhere is not eligible to compete against, for example, a team in the United States Hockey League, which is sanctioned by USA Hockey.
- **Any player or coach on a non-sanctioned hockey team after September 30 is ineligible to participate in hockey activities sanctioned by Hockey Canada for the remainder of the season, pending a hearing from the reinstatement committee, even if they are released by their non-sanctioned team at any point during the season.**
 - This includes ineligibility to be considered for selection to national teams or to attend other Hockey Canada high performance activities.
- **Only athletes registered with a team sanctioned by Hockey Canada are eligible to be Affiliate Players for sanctioned junior hockey teams.**
- **Only trained and certified officials within the Hockey Canada Officiating Pathway are eligible to officiate Hockey Canada-sanctioned programs to ensure that the Playing Rules are applied consistently for the safety of all participants.**
- **Participants in hockey activities that are not sanctioned by Hockey Canada are not able to submit complaints of abuse, harassment or maltreatment to the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (OSIC) or Hockey Canada’s Independent Third Party (ITP).**
 - The manner in which a complaint of abuse, harassment or maltreatment in non-sanctioned hockey would be addressed is at the sole and absolute discretion of the organization operating the program.
- **Each year, Hockey Canada’s Members provide effective education, certification and registration for thousands of coaches in sanctioned hockey, including courses through the Respect in Sport module and coach screening through a criminal record check and vulnerable sector check.**

Ultimately, Hockey Canada and our Members are tasked with ensuring that participants of all ages and abilities can enjoy playing hockey in communities across the country, both recreationally and competitively. While we feel strongly that our model for delivering hockey is to the benefit and safety of players, coaches, officials, parents, administrators and volunteers, others remain free to enjoy the game outside of sanctioned programs.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us or your Member Branch.