

RSEQ - GMAA Governing Rules Secondary

RULE I - GOVERNING RULES AMENDMENTS

The Governing Rules may be amended at any of the Secondary Advisory Committee Meetings by a two-thirds vote of the Advisory Representatives. All notices must be received at the GMAA office not later than three weeks prior to that meeting and shall be circulated to the participating schools prior to the meeting at which time they will be discussed and voted upon.

RULE II - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Section 1 - Registered

Any student who is registered as a full-time Secondary student shall be eligible to compete in activities of this RSEQ Region.

Any Grade 12 student who is registered full-time at a GMAA Member High school, and who meets the age requirement, will be eligible to compete in activities of this RSEQ Region. It is understood that these individuals are not eligible for RSEQ D1, D2 or RSEQ D3 Provincial Competitions.

Section 2 - Full Time

A full-time student shall be one who is registered for 1,500 minutes or 25 hours per 5-day cycle of actual class work in the Secondary school.

Section 3 - School Team Eligibility

A student may only represent the school in which he/she is registered as a full-time student.

Outreach & Adult Ed

A student attending an outreach school, other alternative program or Adult Ed may be permitted to play for the school that sent them upon approval by the Board of Directors. To be eligible, this student must maintain full time status at the new institution, and a written application must be submitted by the Principals of both schools to the Board of Directors. This is restricted to only one (1) player per team.

Derogations

Teams designated girls be open to girls only; teams designated boys be open to boys only. Exceptions to this rule will be considered if the Principal submits a written application to the Board of Directors. All requests for girls playing on boys' teams will be considered as part of the GMAA Derogation process and must follow the procedures outlined below. All deadlines must be respected and for all contact sports a signed Acceptance of Risk form must be submitted with the request. The student would be deemed ineligible until written confirmation is received from the GMAA that the application had been accepted. Wrestling leagues will run for girls only or boys only.

Rugby Derogations

Any request for rugby at the cadet or juvenile level must also include a written confirmation from a medical practitioner, with an understanding of the demands of Rugby, stating that the player is in a physical condition to play Rugby at the desired level and that this view is supported by a Musculo-skeletal evaluation and/or other appropriate assessments.

GMAA Derogation Process

Any derogation process must not give any team a competitive advantage, nor should it cause any concerns for the safety of other players.

The process would be used to allow students to play in categories that match their grade level, but not necessarily their age. The following criteria will apply for derogation applications:

1. Applications for derogation must be made in writing and received before a scheduled Board of Directors meeting. Applications will only be discussed at Board of Directors Meetings – with no exceptions.
2. Applications should include any pertinent medical information. A release of medical information must have the parent's approval. This approval should be included in the application.
3. Only applications for a derogation of one (1) year will be considered for students who have been held back for reasons that are medically diagnosed. Students held back for behavioural problems will not be considered for derogation.
4. The application would have to be endorsed and signed by the coach, the student's parents/guardian, and the principal.
5. The application would have to contain assurances that the applicant's inclusion in a given sport would not give their team any competitive advantage.
6. The application would have to contain assurances that the applicant's inclusion in a given sport would not pose any safety concern to other players (due to size, weight, etc).
7. Applicants would agree to a possible interview with at least one member of the Board of Directors.
8. The coach of the applicant could also agree to a similar interview.
9. Members of the Board of Directors could go to a team practice to assess the applicant's abilities.
10. The Board of Directors would reserve the right to reverse a decision at anytime during the season or post-season if an applicant turned out to be a dominant force for their team.
11. If a derogation were reversed, the player's team could lose the points that it had earned while the player was on the team. The decision to forfeit points would be made by the Board of Directors.
12. An applicant would be deemed ineligible until they received written approval from the GMAA that their application for derogation had been accepted.
13. Any derogation granted would not supersede the provincial regulations concerning age limits (i.e. a derogated athlete could not compete in provincial championships).

Section 4 - Playoff Eligibility

For team sports where the eligibility requirements are not outlined in the sport handbook the following rule will be followed:

For a season of 4 games or less, a player must have participated in a minimum of 1 game to be eligible for the playoffs.

For a season of 5 - 8 games, a player must have participated in a minimum of 2 games to be eligible for the playoffs.

For a season of 9 or more games, a player must have participated in a minimum of 3 games to be eligible for playoffs.

*Call ups would still have to play a minimum of 2 games to be eligible for the playoffs (once they play a second game with that team, they are not permitted to go back down to their original team).

Any student who is registered on the original team roster but who did not compete in the minimum number of games because of injury or illness can be eligible for the playoffs for that team. The coach may be asked for a written proof of this injury or illness.

Section 5 - Ineligible Player Sanction

Default of game: A team playing an ineligible player shall default the game or games said player played. All points and records won by the student in individual sports shall be forfeited.

\$100.00 Fine: In addition, the school shall be fined \$100.00 per team.

Coaches Code: The coach shall be brought before the Coaches Code of Ethics Committee. The Coaches Code of Ethics Committee may request parties concerned to appear before the committee; in such a case, the parties will receive notice and may attend.

Ejection of Player: Any player who has been ejected will automatically be suspended for an additional 2 GMAA league games. This suspension will be reviewed by the discipline committee and can be increased or decreased.

Playing Ejected Players: The coach who plays a player under suspension will be sent to the coaches code of ethics committee.

Eligible but Unregistered: Any player who is eligible but not registered before the deadline shall be declared ineligible. In this case games played by this player will not be defaulted. All other sanctions for ineligible player will apply.

Section 6 – Proof of Identity

In GMAA basketball, if challenged by the opposing school prior to the start of the game, the coach of the team in question must present photo proof of identification of all the students (suggestion school 'Bottin'/GPI). Any individual student who cannot provide proof of identification will not be eligible to play.

RULE III - AGE CLASSIFICATION

Section 1 – Age Categories (*for most GMAA Sports)

The age classification for team and individual sports shall be:

BANTAM: 13 years of age or younger

CADET: 15 years of age or younger

JUVENILE: 18 years of age or younger

N.B. Bantam and Cadet ages as of September 30th of that school year. Juvenile as of Dec. 31st.

EXCEPTIONS exist in Hockey, Basketball, Indoor Track & Field, Outdoor Track & Field and Rugby. Please Annexe with annual age categories for reference.

Section 2 - Moving Up a Category

Competitors may participate in their classification or ANY classification higher.

Team sports: Once a student has participated in more than one game of that sport at the higher level, he/she may not return to the lower age classification in that sport during that year. In volleyball and badminton this rule applies after one tournament at the higher level. A player is considered to have played in that game once his/her name appears on the score sheet. (Exception: Please see Hockey handbook)

1st game at higher category must be recorded on the score sheet.

2nd game at higher category - the player must be registered at the higher category. The player must then be removed from the lower team on S1 and placed in the higher level.

RULE IV – REGISTRATION

Section 1 - Player Registration

A list of all students entering contests shall be registered on the S1 program. The ages recorded on S1 shall be those registered on school records and must be certified by the principal, both as to age and eligibility, as defined by the above rules. The player registration must be submitted on S1 before the deadline. Teams submitting player registrations after the deadline or playing an unregistered player shall be subject to a fine of \$100.00.

If the acceptance of risk forms have not been submitted to the GMAA office before the teams' first game it will result in a forfeit. If GMAA has not received a player's acceptance of risk form before that player plays his or her 1st game, that player will be ineligible, and the game(s) played will also result in a forfeit.

Section 2 - Supplementary Registration

Supplementary registrations may be submitted at any time during the regular season on S1. Please be aware of playoff eligibility requirements.

RULE V - TEAM ENTRIES

Entry deadlines for all activities shall be as set by the GMAA. All team entries must be registered on S1 prior to the deadline.

Section 1 - Late Entries

Late entries in all GMAA activities will be accepted only if the schedule or program of events has not been published. *Interpretation of 'published' means when the GMAA office has completed the draft of the schedule.

Section 2 - Outstanding Accounts

Overdue accounts will be charged a 15% surcharge. A school may be refused participation in GMAA activities until the outstanding account from the previous year has been settled.

Section 3 - Team Withdrawals

Any school team withdrawing after the scheduling meeting of that sport, will be fined \$100.00.

Multiple withdrawals from the same school:

If a team pulls out of a league after the schedule has been made, for a first offence, the penalty for the withdrawal for the school will be a fine of \$100. For all subsequent withdrawals of teams from that school, the fine will be doubled.

Section 4 – Non-Member Schools

GMAA member schools shall have the option not to travel to non-member schools for their Regular Season games. If they agree to travel, they can, but they are not obliged to.

All non-member schools will travel to GMAA Member schools in the playoffs regardless of seeds. (Example: 4A at 1B – 4A will host if 1B is a Non-Member school)

Section 5 – Home Games

Teams entering a GMAA league with no home field can be held responsible for the extra costs incurred by the hosting school. Examples of these costs include (but are not limited to), rental costs, travel costs, etc.

RULE VI - REGULATIONS GOVERNING ATHLETIC CONTESTS

Section 1 - Participation region:

1. Schools which are members of GMAA must compete in this regional school sports association.

2. Schools may enter invitational tournaments or meets provided such competition does not take precedence over GMAA's activities.
3. For a GMAA member school to compete in another RSEQ, the team must receive written permission from the GMAA before registering for the league. This permission form must be signed by the SAC Rep and Principal from the GMAA member school before it is submitted to the GMAA office. (GMAA Authorisation Hors Région Form)
4. The GMAA can accept the entry of non-member schools in GMAA leagues, however, those schools must submit their Team Registration Forms with written permission from their RSEQ. (Authorisation Hors Région Form)

Divisions: Activities will be organized into Divisions

Division 3 being the highest level of regional competition.

Division 4.1 being a participation division.

Division 4.2 being a participation division (only offered in high volume sports)

There will always be a Division 3. If less than four (4) teams apply for Division 3 all Division 4.1 teams will be moved up to Division 3 and there will not be a Division 4.2.

The decision to enter a team in Division 3, 4.1 or 4.2 will be left to the discretion of the coach and SAC Rep. Coaches are expected to choose to play in the division which offers the most balanced competition. Schools' principals and SAC Reps are asked to ensure the appropriate choice is made.

A school may enter 2 teams in the same level. If possible, these teams will not be in the same geographical section, (so travel for the second team may be increased) and the teams must have two distinct rosters with no "transfers" permitted during the season. The teams will also be required to have photo ID's at the game which could be verified by the referee or opposing coach before the game. (Please see tennis handbook re: team entries)

Guidelines to determine who should be in Division 3, Division 4.1 or Division 4.2:

1. Pool of city players - any school that draws a large proportion of its' student body from areas of the city that provide inter-city leagues etc., should consider themselves a Division 3 team.
2. Past Record - any school that has in the past few years been competitive at the Division 3 in GMAA should consider themselves a Division 3 team.

Players may not move 'down' in the same age category. For those schools that have more than 1 team at the same age category, students are permitted to play 'up' for one game. Once they play their second game with the higher-level team they cannot go back down to lower level. (Same rule as people who play 'up' an age category).

Section 2 - Recognized Activities

Any competition organized by this regional association must have a minimum of four (4) schools participating.

Recognized sports to be included into the sports calendar of this regional association (if there is enough interest) are listed below:

Team Sports

Football (Boys)
 Soccer (Boys & Girls)
 Basketball (Boys & Girls)
 Curling (Co-ed)
 Hockey (Boys & Girls)
 Volleyball (Boys & Girls)
 Rugby 15's (Boys & Girls)

Individual Sports

Cross Country Running (Boys & Girls)
 Cross Country Skiing (Boys & Girls)
 Outdoor Track & Field (Boys & Girls)
 Swimming (Boys & Girls)
 Wrestling (Boys & Girls)
 Indoor Track (Boys & Girls)
 Halo Road Race (Boys & Girls)

Rugby 10's (Boys & Girls)
Rugby 7's (Boys & Girls)
Touch Football (Boys & Girls)
Flag Football (Girls)
Softball (Boys & Girls)
Field Lacrosse (Boys)
Ultimate Frisbee (Boys, Girls & Mixed)
Futsal (Boys & Girls)

Dual Sports

Tennis (Boys & Girls)
Badminton (Boys & Girls)
Golf (Boys & Girls)

Any new activity or sport to be added to the sports calendar of this regional association may be organized with fewer than 4 participating schools. However, after the fourth year of scheduled competition at least four schools must be competing in that sport or that sport shall be dropped from the sports calendar.

Section 4 - Coach or Staff Member

All teams participating in interscholastic contests must have a member of that school's staff present. A GMAA game may not be started until the staff member has signed the score sheet. Teams appearing without a staff member shall default the game or games (if tournament games are involved) and the appropriate sanctions will apply.

Staff Member Rule:

The staff member will assume responsibility for the team:

- To assume the responsibility for the students the staff member must be an employee of the school, school board or independent school and legally able to assume said responsibility.
- The staff member is responsible for providing adequate supervision of the team members and must be with the students from the moment the team members enter a host school (arena, etc.) until the team members leave said venue. Supervision includes the locker room, corridors as well as the site of the competition.
- Visiting teams should not arrive more than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time at which time the home team will accommodate them.

The intent of the rule is to ensure that outside people volunteering to coach are always accompanied by a staff member. A coach who is hired just to coach cannot be considered a staff member.

The following classified employees in a school board can be considered as staff member for a school in that school board or independent school:

- certified teacher -guidance counselor -retired teacher -substitute teacher
- integration aid -support staff -special aid teacher -child care worker
- administrator -full time supervisor of students

It is recommended that the school appoint one person as staff member per team per sport.

Coaches Commitment Program:

All Coaches and staff members in GMAA competition must complete the online Coaches Commitment program. The exam must be completed only once and not yearly (unless there is a coach's code issue, or if the program has been updated). It is mandatory that SAC Reps assign a coach and a staff rep to every team on S1 for the office to be able to double check who has completed the Coaches Commitment Program. Every coach or staff rep must get a score of at least 6 out of 8. If they do not, the SAC rep will be contacted, and the coach will be expected to redo the program.

Section 5 - Uniforms

- 1) Team members must be in uniform dress, shirts must be of the same colour, shorts, where required, must be of the same colour and style.
- 2) The only logos permitted on team uniforms will be those of the manufacturer – no sponsor info will be permitted.
- 3) Where the rules of a sport permit - coaches must decide what the permitted uniform will be. This decision must be made at the pre-season meeting.
- 4) Exceptions will be made for religious reasons, provided it does not pose any danger to the players or officials.
- 5) Any team appearing at a GMAA championship game out of regulation uniform for that sport, or with different colour and style of t-shirts or shorts which are displayed and worn under the regulation uniform could be fined \$150.00.
- 6) If there is a uniform colour conflict the home team will be required to change or wear pinnies.

Section 6 – Scheduling and Starting Times

Schedules will be drawn up by the coaches or SAC Reps at the pre-season scheduling meetings. Each team must have a representative present to do the scheduling for that team (not one person doing all the scheduling with 4-5 student runners.) Any school not represented at the scheduling meetings (with 1 scheduler per team) will be automatically fined \$50 per team not represented. There will be no 5-day grace period for those teams, all changes made will be assessed a fee of \$10 per change.

Uneven Home & Away Schedule

After the scheduling meeting, if it is brought to the attention of the office that one of the teams scheduled an uneven home and away schedule, they will be forced to adjust their games based on the directives from the office.

Starting Times

All matches/games should start between 3:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. unless both schools agree to an alternate time. A later time can be dictated by the home team based on facility availability with 4:30pm being the latest a team can be required to start. Due to the difficulty getting early dismissals in the spring, playoff games will start no earlier than 4:00pm unless both schools involved have early finishes.

Section 7 - Completion of Games

Scoring for Team Standings (Game Points)

For all GMAA team sports:

- Win: 3 points in the standings
- Tie: 1 point in the standings
- Loss: 0 points in the standings

Completion of Regular season games

For all sports (with the exceptions listed) in regular season games ONLY, if 75% of a game is completed, the game would stand. If 75% is not completed the game would be rescheduled and played from the beginning.

Exceptions:

Hockey - If two periods are played the game stands. If two periods are not completed the game will be replayed from the beginning.

Softball – If four innings have been completed the game will stand. If four innings have not been completed the game will be replayed from the beginning.

Volleyball – if one set has been completed plus the leading team in the second set has a minimum of 13 points, the game is completed. If not, the game will be replayed from the beginning.

Curling - If four ends have been completed the game will stand. If four ends have not been completed the game will be replayed from the beginning.

Completion of Playoff Games:

In all sports for playoff games ONLY, a game must be completed from where it stood from the moment it was stopped, at the discretion of the losing team. The same game sheet must be used to complete the game. No players may be added to the lineup.

Section 8 - Postponing of Games

- 1) All schools entered in GMAA activities must give priority to league contests over exhibition contests.
- 2) All changes to any schedule *will carry a \$25 fine* (excluding emergency situations). No change will be accepted unless it has been confirmed by both schools before 12:00 noon the school day before. Any request for a change (other than for an emergency) after that time will be denied by the office. *If the two teams cannot agree to a new date, the teams must make themselves available to play on the original date, or the team having requested the change will lose the game by default. If a new date is agreed upon by both teams, and confirmed by the league, this same procedure will start again.*
- 3) If for any reason, no referee arrives, and the schools have not been notified beforehand, then the coaches will have the option of rescheduling the game. The game must be played before the end of the regular season for that sport. It will be the responsibility of the coaches involved to notify GMAA of the new date. GMAA will notify the referees association.

Section 9 - Defaults

- 1) Any team shall default a contest for the following reasons.
 - not having the required number of players to start a game (as specified in the rules of that sport).
 - no staff member present
 - not on the court ready to play within 15 minutes of the scheduled start of the game.
 - playing an ineligible player.
 - not meeting the participation rule of that sport
- 2) Schools entering teams in GMAA must fulfil their commitment to play all scheduled games.

Minimum sanctions: For "late defaults" will be \$25.00 plus referee costs. All other defaults will be \$50.00 plus referee costs. In the case of a volleyball "no show" or any other event where multiple competitions are scheduled for the same day, the sanction will be 1 x \$50.00 plus referee costs.

The school defaulting the game could also be required to pay the rental of the playing surface, transportation costs, and any other costs incurred by the non offending team.

Default but game played: If a game was played but had to be defaulted by one of team teams (for an ineligible player, for a participation violation, etc), the \$50 fine for the default be waived. The team defaulting the game would still lose the game by default (and lose the points in the standings) but there would be no fine associated with this kind of default.

Multiple defaults from the same school: Fines for multiple defaults from the same school will double to a maximum of \$200 for each subsequent default. The total number of defaults will reset to zero at the beginning of every season (Fall, Winter, Spring).

Section 10 - Spectators

Visiting teams who would like to bring spectators to their away games or any schools whose students wish to attend a GMAA activity at another school MUST:

- 1) Request and receive permission from the host school's PRINCIPAL before bringing spectators to any away games.
- 2) Guarantee to provide adequate supervision of their spectators. The supervision must be carried out by staff members of the visiting school. These staff members must be someone other than the Coaches of that team.

Host Schools MUST:

- 1) Grant or refuse permission to other schools.
- 2) If the host school agrees to permit spectators from the visiting school to attend the game, the host school must also provide supervision for home games. Once again, the supervision must be by members of the host school's staff and other than the coaches of the team.

Responsibility for spectators:

Competing schools will be held responsible for the disciplining of students, competitors and spectators while on a competition site, before, during and following a GMAA competition.

"Competition Site" includes school building and its grounds or the facilities and their grounds used for the competition.

In the event of spectator problems before, during or after a GMAA activity, the following procedure is to be followed: Upon receipt of a written complaint by one of the parties involved (referee, SAC rep or administrator), the Executive Director shall determine whether the incident is dealt with at the school level, or shall refer the incident to the appropriate committee (discipline, coaches code, principals committee, etc).

Sanctions for non-athletes:

- a) Any school whose students are involved in a violent or physical act related to a GMAA activity shall be immediately suspended from that GMAA activity and level pending a final decision by the GMAA.
- b) A decision must be made within one week (5 SCHOOL DAYS) of the incident.
- c) It is recommended that the Staff member of the school or schools involved, and who was present at said incident, be asked to attend the meeting at which a decision is made.
- d) A school or individual may be censured or placed on probation in addition to, or in lieu of, other penalties.

Section 11 - Officials

- a) Rated officials must be used in all interscholastic competitions wherever and whenever possible.
- b) The record of the official scorer at the conclusion of the game is final once the score sheet has been signed by the officials.

Section 12 – Ethical Points

As requested by the GMAA Board of Directors, in an effort to encourage good sportsmanship and to reduce the number of discipline issues in our leagues, ethical points will be added to the standings for all team sports. Each team will start every game with two (2) Ethical Points.

The referee will be asked to write the ethical points on the scoresheet for each team. Both coaches must be present when the referee writes down the ethical points for each team. The home coach will be responsible for putting in the ethical points when inputting the score on S1 at the end of the game.

The home coach will be expected to determine the ethical points if the referee does not do so. The office will have control when it comes to removing points if the referee does not do so.

GMAA Ethical Points Distribution

Sport	2pts	1pts	Opts
Badminton	No incidents	N/A	Ejection or default
Basketball	<i>1 unsportsmanlike foul or 1 technical foul</i>	any combination of 2 Technical and/or Unsportsmanlike fouls	Ejection or default or 3+ Technical and/or Unsportsmanlike fouls
Curling	No incidents	N/A	Ejection or default
Lacrosse	Less than 8 penalty minutes	9 to 12 penalty minutes	Ejection or default or 13+ penalty minutes
Flag Football	No incidents	One (1) Unsportsmanlike or Unnecessary roughness penalty	Ejection or default or two (2) Unsportsmanlike or Unnecessary roughness penalties
Futsal	Zero (0) or one (1) yellow card	Two (2) yellow cards	Ejection (red card) or default or (3) yellow cards
Hockey	<i>Less than 12 penalty minutes</i>	<i>13 to 17 penalty minutes</i>	<i>Ejection or default or 18+ penalty minutes</i>
Rugby	One (1) or two (2) yellow cards	Three (3) yellow cards	Ejection (red card) or default an or (4) yellow cards
Soccer	Zero (0) or one (1) yellow card	Two (2) yellow cards	Ejection (red card) or default or (3) yellow cards
Softball	No incidents	N/A	Ejection or default
Volleyball	No incidents	One (1) yellow card	Ejection or default or two (2) yellow cards
Wrestling	No incidents	N/A	Ejection or default

All schools are encouraged to have visible signage in their gym or at their gym entrance concerning abuse of officials and sportsmanship.

RULE VII - PROTESTS

Section 1 - General

All protests should be stated on the score sheet by the coach (or staff member) at the time of the procedural issue. All official protests must then be made in writing to the GMAA within forty-eight (48) hours after the contest has been held, or prior to that team's next scheduled game. A copy of the letter of protest should be sent to the other school concerned. Protests arising from judgment decision during the game will not be considered, there must be an error in either the application of the game rules or GMAA's rules.

All protests must be signed by the principal of the school and the coach (or other officials) of the team making the protests.

Section 2 - Protest Committee

A committee composed of the Sports Committee Chairman concerned, the Chairman of the Secondary Advisory Committee and the Director shall make the decision regarding the protest within seven (7) school days of its receipt by the GMAA office. Should a member of the Protest Committee represent one of the schools concerned in the protest, that member shall be replaced by a member of the Secondary Advisory Committee.

RULE VIII - ATHLETES SANCTION

A player may be suspended as a participant in GMAA activities for unsportsmanlike conduct or for violation of the rules of the game.

Section 1 - Player Ejected from a game

- 1) Referee to report the incident to GMAA within 24 hours of the game.
- 2) Discipline committee will meet and render a decision before the next scheduled contest, whenever possible.

3) Coach, Advisory Representative and principal of the school concerned as well as the opposing coach, will be informed of sanction in writing.

Section 2 – Sanctions

1) The discipline committee may assess a penalty which is more severe than the minimum suspensions hereinafter described.

2) Automatic minimum suspensions for all sports - players will receive an automatic minimum two game suspension for being ejected from any GMAA game (See exceptions below). This suspension must be immediately enforced by the coach. This suspension will be reviewed by the discipline committee and can be increased or decreased.

3) Exceptions:

a) Forced Technical Red Cards: Any 'forced technical red card' be an automatic one game suspension instead of two. Some examples of forced technical red cards include, yellow cards for team infractions in rugby, denying an obvious scoring opportunity outside of the box in soccer, a handball denying a goal in the crease in soccer.

b) Forced Technical Red Cards in a season of 4 games or less be a minimum of half a game. If the ejection occurs in the 1st half, the player would serve their suspension in the 2nd half of the game. If the ejection occurs in the 2nd half the player will sit out the remainder of the game as well as the 1st half of their next game.

c) In leagues with 4 or fewer games, for any ejection, there is an automatic 1-game suspension with the possibility of more to be determined by the regular process (discipline committee).

d) Fighting: The aggressor and/or instigator who is named in a fight will be suspended for the remainder of the season (or its equivalent).

All other participants in the fight will be suspended for between 2 and 6 games based on the referee report.

e) Violent conduct, deliberate intent to injure during the game: a minimum of 4 games subject to the decision of the discipline committee.

f) Verbal abuse of the referee: Minimum of 4 games

g) Threatening or attacking the referee: 365 days

4) After the Game:

a) Fighting: The aggressor and/or instigator - one complete sports year – 365 days

If no instigator/aggressor is named, all students who are active and willing participants:
The remainder of the season (or its equivalent).

Non-aggressor/instigator but is still a participant: 6 games.

b) Verbally threatening after the game: 3 games

5) A player who has been ejected from a game and then becomes involved in any altercation, that incident will be treated as having happened after the game. Suspension: see #d

6) A player who has been ejected for the 2nd time during the same sports season
Suspension: remainder of that sports season

7) Any repeat offender resulting from physical or verbal aggression will be subject to further review by the Board of Directors for supplementary discipline, which may include a lifetime ban from GMAA activities. This will carry over from year to year as well as school to school.

8) Schools have 48hrs to submit video from a game if they felt there was a deliberate attempt to injure that had gone unnoticed by the referee. If there is video evidence that indicates malicious

play or intent to injure, the discipline committee can assess suspensions based on this video evidence. This will not change the outcome of the game. SAC reps and/or Principals are the only people who are permitted to submit a video for review.

Section 3 - Carry over Suspensions

Individuals who have been suspended toward the end of a sport's season shall have their game's suspension applied to the next team sport that he or she plays.

Students that compete in more than one sport in the same season must serve the suspension in the sport in which the suspension applies, and they are not eligible to participate in any other GMAA activity until the suspension is served.

All suspensions from GMAA activities carry over to RSEQ Provincial competitions and vice versa.

Section 4 - Discipline Committee Members

The Committee shall be formed of the following members:

- Chairperson of the sports committee involved
- Secondary Advisory Committee Chairperson
- GMAA Executive Director

Should a member of the discipline committee represent the school concerned in the suspension that member shall be replaced by another member of the Secondary Advisory Committee.

Section 5 – Complaints from other schools

Any complaint received in writing from a School SAC Rep or administrator concerning an opposing School, Coach, Team or Students' behaviour which is not in direct violation of the rules of the game but is deemed improper and lacking in respect will be forwarded to the Principal and SAC Rep of the school in question. The GMAA reserves the right to intervene if deemed necessary.

RULE IX - APPEALS

Section 1 - General

The appeal procedure may only be invoked where decisions have caused a student to be suspended for more than 2 games. The principal of the school concerned shall submit a written request to appeal a decision rendered by the discipline committee. The request shall be made within three school days from the date the school has been verbally notified of the protested decision.

Section 2 - Appeal Committee

- 1) No member of the discipline committee may be a member of the appeal committee.
- 2) The appeal committee will receive only written reports.
- 3) A decision shall be rendered within 10 school days of receipt of the appeal.
- 4) The decision of the appeal committee is final.

The appeal committee shall consist of five members:

- Committee chair - Member of Board of Directors
- Committee members - 3 members of SAC
- 1 sports chair

It is recommended that the committee members should represent each of the boards and the private schools. There shall be 2 alternate members named – 1 sports chair and 1 other member of the GMAA Board of Directors. Should the school of a member of the committee be involved that person will be replaced by the corresponding alternate.

RULE X - COACHES CODE OF ETHICS COMMITTEE

Members of the Committee

The Committee shall consist of nine (9) members, namely: four (4) administrators, an EMSB administrator, a LBPSB administrator, a private school administrator and an 'at-large' administrator, the current SAC Chairperson, one member of the Secondary Advisory Committee, one current sport chairperson, a past SAC or Sport Chairperson and the Chairperson of the GMAA Sports Committee which is involved in the violation.

Vacancies on the Code of Ethics Committee may be filled by direct appointment by the Executive Director with the approval of the majority of the remaining Committee members.

Procedure for Coaches Code of Ethics Hearings

1. Any SAC Rep or School Administrator may submit a complaint against a coach for breach of the code of ethics. If the SAC Rep is the coach, the complaint must come from the School Administrator. Any such complaint must be submitted in writing within a reasonable delay with all documents and/or written statements necessary to support his complaint.
2. Upon receipt of the documents and/or written statements from the complainant, GMAA shall forward a copy to the coach concerned.
3. The coach against whom the complaint has been made shall be required to state his case in writing and produce all documents and/or written statements he so wishes.
4. All documents will be sent to the members of the Coaches Code of Ethics Committee to be reviewed and render a decision.
5. The Coaches Code of Ethics Committee may request parties concerned to appear before the Committee; in such a case, both parties will receive notice and may attend.
6. Parties may be assisted by an attorney at any stage of the procedures but must advise GMAA in advance.
7. The decision may be suspension, expulsion or any means considered useful in order to have the Code of Ethics respected.

Coaches sanctions:

a) Ejection of coach from a GMAA game carries an automatic 2 game suspension. The case shall be brought before the Coaches Code of Ethics Committee and additional disciplinary action may be taken against the coach which may include increased suspension or expulsion from the League.

Coaches who coach more than one team in the same season, must serve the suspension in the sport and team to which the suspension applies, and are ineligible to coach any other GMAA team until the suspension is served.

Carry-over suspension: Any coach who is suspended for any reason must serve that suspension in the sport where the infraction occurred. That coach would also be under probation for that sport and any other sport they coach during the year.'

b) Unsportsmanlike behaviour of a coach - Should a coach accumulate two penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct such as 2 technical fouls in the case of basketball; 2 bench minors in the case of hockey; 2 yellow cards in the case of soccer, etc. a letter of warning will be sent to his school principal with a copy to the coach concerned. Should the same coach receive a 3rd penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct the coach will automatically be suspended until his case has been reviewed by the Coaches Code of Ethics Committee.

c) Coaches behaviour which is not in direct violation of the rules of the game but is deemed improper and lacking in respect for others including his students will also be considered a violation of the Coaches Code of Ethics. The Principal of the school shall be sent a letter reporting the violation.

d) The coach must take responsibility for the behaviour of his/her players and coaching staff – both on the ice/field/court/ as well on the bench. This applies to before, during, and after the game. In the event of a major team incident, the coaches involved will be held accountable and will be subject to sanctions that could include probation for a specified period of time, suspension from GMAA activities for a specified period of time or expulsion from all GMAA activities. In addition, the teams involved could also face a period of probation or suspension from GMAA play. The following procedure will be in effect:

- The coach and a member of the school's Administration from each of the teams involved will be required to meet with a discipline committee to explain why the incident occurred, what steps were taken to try to prevent it, and what follow up is planned at both the team and school levels. This committee will consist of: Two members of the GMAA Board of Directors, The SAC Chair, The Chair of the sport involved and the Executive or Assistant Director of the GMAA.
- Until this meeting takes place, the coach is suspended from GMAA activities. The team may continue to play but a member of the school's Administration must be on the bench for all games until a decision has been made.
- Should the coach be placed on probation, he will be subject to immediate suspension from GMAA activities should any further team incident occur.
- Any team placed on probation that is involved in a further incident, will be subject to immediate suspension of the players involved, and if necessary, the entire team. In addition, any team on probation must have a member of the school's administration on the bench for the entire period of the probation.

12. Appeal

The complainant and/or coach, party to any decision rendered by the Coaches Code of Ethics Committee, may appeal the decision rendered.

a) The appeal must be made in writing within 15 days of reception of the decision and must state the reasons for the appeal and all the appellant's arguments. The letter of appeal must be signed by the school Principal and the SAC rep.

b) Copies of all documents will be sent to the GMAA Board of Directors who will then decide whether the original suspension should be upheld or reduced.

c) Parties will be advised of such decision within reasonable delays.

RULE XI - CHAMPIONSHIPS & PLAYOFFS

Section 1 - General Rules

1) The championship of all GMAA activities shall be contested annually.

2) All playoffs will be sudden death except where the handbooks indicate otherwise.

3) Playoff games will be played on the scheduled date. The only accepted reasons for changing a game are:

- 1) Spring Break
- 2) Ped Days
- 3) Religious Holidays
- 4) A school-sanctioned, grade-wide, overnight or out of town activity

- 5) Parent/Teacher Interviews
- 6) When the coach has a conflict with another GMAA playoff game on the same date
- 7) *In spring juvenile leagues only, Graduation Convocation, or Graduation Dance/Prom*
- 8) *In spring leagues only, an end-of-year, school wide event.*

Deadline to submit playoff conflicts is 1 week before the end of the season. Otherwise, the conflict is not valid, and the team will be expected to attend the game or default.

No other conflicts will be accepted. Game times may be adjusted if they are agreed upon by both schools. If a time cannot be agreed upon, the original time stands. Time changes, proposed or confirmed by the office, will be made to accommodate double headers. Playoff dates will be set as soon as possible after the schedule is posted. Teams must make themselves available to play or the games will be defaulted.

4) The 1st & 2nd placed team of the same section shall not meet until the finals. If sections crossover in the regular season, and no section is guaranteed a spot in the playoffs, those sub-sections will be considered one section for playoff purposes. Teams will be reseeded prior to the playoffs beginning to ensure that they appear on separate sides of the playoff bracket. When reseeding the lower seeds will be switched.

5) The guidelines for the GMAA office to use regarding playoff structures are as follows:

4 or fewer team – top 2 make the playoffs

5 or 6 teams – top 3 make the playoffs

7, 8 or 9 teams – top 4 make the playoffs

10 or 11 teams – top 6 make the playoffs

12 or more teams – top 8 make the playoffs

Principles: As much as possible, at least 50% of the teams would make the playoffs. The office will consider the number of games played and the length of the season when producing playoff structures. The number of teams from each section making the playoffs will be declared at the scheduling meeting.

6) Tied score at the end of a sudden death game - The game shall be extended into overtime periods to determine a winner as described in that sports handbook.

7) Home court advantage shall be given to the 1st placed or higher ranked team in the quarter and semi final playoff games (provided that the playing facilities meet the minimum requirements as established by each sports committee). If the facilities of the higher placed team are deemed inadequate it is the responsibility of said team to provide a suitable neutral facility. If a neutral site is not available, then the game is to be played at the home of the lower placed team.

If possible, Division III championship games will be played as a showcase on a site that will be determined prior to the start of the season. Schools interested in hosting the showcase must make their intentions known to the GMAA office prior to the scheduling meeting and the GMAA will select the facility best suited to host.

If two teams are tied in the standings at the end of the regular season and both teams make the playoffs, the team that has defaulted a game during the regular season would automatically be the lower seed for playoff positioning. If both teams have defaulted games, or if neither team has defaulted games, the regular tie breaker rules apply. If two teams are tied, and a tiebreaker game has to be played, and one of the two teams has defaulted a game, that team would have to travel to the opposing team's home field/court for the tiebreaker game.

8) Completion of Play off Games: In all sports for playoff games ONLY, a game must be completed from where it stood from the moment it was stopped, at the discretion of the losing

team. The same game sheet must be used to complete the game. No players may be added to the lineup.

Section 2 – Breaking Ties in Fall and Winter Seasons

Ties shall be broken in the following manner (Unless otherwise stipulated in that sports handbook):

1) General Tie Breaker Rules

- a) Tie breakers will only be played if the result of the game will eliminate a team from the playoffs.
- b) Tie breakers will not be played in order to determine which team has home court advantage or the position of the team in the playoff draw. In each case the home court advantage or position in the draw will be decided by regular tie-break procedures.
- c) All tie breaker games shall be sudden death

2) Breaking ties in standings when all teams involved in the tie make playoffs:

- a) The higher place will go to the team(s) which defeated the other in the game(s) between the tied teams. (Head-to-head competition)
- b) When teams play the same number of games. Win percentage of the teams involved in the tie. The higher place will go to the team with the higher win %.
- c) The percentage of points available (wins and ties) of the teams involved in the tie. The higher place will go to the team with the higher percentage of points available.
- d) The higher place will go to the team(s) with the better goal/points differential in the game(s) between the tied teams.
- e) points against over the entire season. In sections with an uneven number of games, the average points against per game over the entire season.

3) Breaking ties in standings when a team will be eliminated from playoffs:

- a) The higher place will go to the team(s) which defeated the other in the game(s) between the tied teams. (Head-to-head competition)
- b) The percentage of points available (wins and ties) of the teams involved in the tie shall be calculated. The higher place will go to the team with the better higher percentage of points available.
- c) If still tied, the teams will play a sudden death tie breaker. The team with the better points differential, in the games between the tied teams, will host the game.
- d) 3 teams tied, and tie breaker required
 - The team with the better points differential (in the games among the tied teams) will receive a bye.
 - The team with the second-best points differential will host the third team in a sudden death game.
 - If the teams are still tied, we look at points against over the entire. The team with the fewest points against will host the game.
 - If needed the winner of the sudden death game will travel to the team having received the bye.
- e) 4 teams tied and tie breakers required
 - 2 games shall be played

- The team with the better points differential (in the games among the tied teams) will host the fourth team in a sudden death game.
- The team with the second-best points differential (in the games among the tied teams) will host the third team in a sudden death game.
- if two teams qualify for playoffs, the 2 winners advance to playoffs and the 2 losers are eliminated (places to be determined by a coin toss)
- if one team qualifies for playoffs, the 2 winners will play another tie breaker game, the winner will advance to playoffs and the loser will be eliminated

Section 3 – Breaking Ties the Spring Season

Ties shall be broken in the following manner (Unless otherwise stipulated in that sports handbook):

If teams are tied in the standings, the following tie-breaking procedure shall apply:

- a) The higher place will go to the team which defeated the other in the game(s) between the tied teams.
 - b) The win % of the teams involved in the tie shall be calculated. The higher place will go to the team with the better win %.
 - c) Point differential in the games between the tied teams.
 - d) *Total points against over the entire season. (In the result of win by forfeit, an average of points scored by the forfeiting team over the season will be added to that team's forfeit win when breaking spring ties.*
 - f) The team which wins a coin toss shall advance.
- A forfeit cannot be used to break a tie and eliminate a team from the playoffs.

RULE XII – AWARDS

Section 1 - Banners

A banner will be presented to each championship team in each sport in each activity.

Section 2 - Team Sport Awards

All members of the championship team, including the coaches and team manager, shall receive a gold medal. All members of the runner-up team in the championship game, including the coaches and team manager, shall receive a silver medal.

The MVP of each championship game shall receive a bannerette.

Section 3 - Individual Sports

Those students placing first, second and third in each championship event shall receive a gold, silver or bronze medal respectively.

In addition, fourth to tenth places may receive ribbons as outlined in each sports handbook.

In Track & Field Area Meets the first three competitors in each event shall receive ribbons. In both Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field, there will be an aggregate award presented to the top athlete in each category.

Section 4 - Dual Sports

The members of the championship team, including the team manager and coach, shall receive a gold medal. The members of the 2nd place team, including the team manager and coach, shall receive a silver medal. Students placing first second and third in singles and doubles shall receive a gold, silver, or bronze medal respectively.

RULE XIII - ELIGIBILITY FOR PROVINCIAL COMPETITION

Section 1 - General

Refer to RSEQ Rules governing Provincial competitions for that school year. All Rules of this association apply to teams or individuals representing this association at Provincial school competitions.

Section 2 - Eligibility

For all team sports this region shall be represented at Provincial championships by the regional champions or second place team in the event of withdrawal of the champions. All teams representing this regional association must be accompanied by a Staff member. All members of the team representing GMAA at the Provincial must have been eligible to represent their school. All suspensions from GMAA activities carry over to RSEQ Provincial competitions, and vice versa.

Section 3 - Responsibility

Teams entering Provincial championship competitions are to assume such competition will take place over two days and will require at least one night away and return home late at night. Teams must be chaperoned by an adult (parent, teacher or coach) of the same sex. Team members and coaches once entered into Provincial competitions (i.e. submitted entry form), must assume the full responsibility of representing our region to the best of their ability at all times, (i.e. before, during and after competition). All students representing this regional association must co-sign with their parents a statement of "undertaking".

Section 4 - Sanctions

Withdrawals will be heavily penalized. All expenses incurred by the GMAA for that individual or team who has withdrawn will be charged to the school. Individuals withdrawing may be suspended from all activities of this regional association for one complete school year.

June 2023