



2009-2010 League Championship Playoffs Toronto Version

April 9, 2010

Dear Team Captain:

Congratulations on qualifying for the 2009-2010 Hockey North America League Championship Playoffs. It's been a long season already, but there are many more challenges that await you before the season is finally complete.

This year's League Championships will take place June 11-13, 2010 at the Westwood 5 & Chesswood Arenas , both just minutes from Toronto's Pearson International Airport. We are expecting as many as 60-80 teams for the weekend and we hope that you are planning to join us for this exciting and challenging weekend of hockey.

Westwood features 5 NHL sized skating arenas, 32 locker rooms, large pro shop, sports bar, and is conveniently located near restaurants, hotels, and shopping. Chesswood is similarly configured, but with 4 NHL sheets.

While there is no charge to participate in this event there are a couple of things that you will need to do before your team can gain a spot on the game schedule.

First, **all participating teams must submit a completed "No-Show Guarantee" form.** This document is your team's way of telling us, in a meaningful way, that the team is planning on attending the tournament. We require this document in order to avoid a situation where a team commits to a spot on the game schedule, and then withdraws or no shows, without bothering to tell anyone. We had that situation occur in the past, and the affected teams were, understandably, upset about losing a chance to play one of their games. Everyone has worked very hard all season to reach this tournament so everyone expects 3 good games. Be **very** sure when you submit your form that you plan to attend.

Without exception, no team will be included in the tournament game schedule without completing this form.

Second, we will need to get an **attending** team roster from you. Be sure to include only those players that are planning on actually coming. We already know who the players are on your team, but placement within a level or division will depend on whether you

are bringing your full roster, or just part. It's very important that you tell us as accurately as possible who will be attending so we can properly place you in a competitive division. If you have players that are not sure on their attendance, go ahead and include them. Once the game schedule is issued the rosters are locked in for the competition and no further changes will be permitted.

Third, you will need to complete and return the **color coordination & team uniform disclosure form**. In the past couple of years we have removed players from the tournament who were not in compliance with uniform regulations – and the first thing out of their mouth, even though these rules are more than 28 years old, was “I didn't know.”

Other than those three items all we expect out of you is to come to Toronto and enjoy yourselves. The League Office staff will be in attendance for the weekend and we will all be there working to make your tournament experience a fun one. The tournament is one of the largest of its kind in North America, and is one of the most unique aspects of your HNA membership.

Of course if you have any questions to ask please feel free to contact Elliott Root (elliottroot@earthlink.net). We also have a section on the Championships posted on the **HNA.COM** web site.

The game schedule should be ready no later than a week prior to the tournament. Please be sure to include an email contact with the roster information so that we can email the game schedule to all the teams when the time comes. When completed, the game schedule will also be posted on the **HNA.com** web site.

Regular winter league rules apply, so color coordination is mandatory, games are 3 15 minute stop time periods. One adjustment, for the sake of keeping the games on time, overtime is played on Sunday only. Round robin games can end in a tie. Be sure to bring home and away jerseys. Be sure to note on your roster form if you are one of the few teams that has only one jersey (and let us know what color it is). Make sure all your teammates bring picture ID with them to the arena. There is a check-in and validation process that will take place before your first game. **Picture ID is mandatory**. Directions to the arena will be included with the game schedule.

Good luck to your and your team. We hope you can join us.

Regards,

Elliott Root
HNA League Director

Planning for the 2010 League Championships

If your team is up for consideration of this feature, you're in for a treat. One of the most exciting features in all of recreational hockey is right here with the Hockey North America League Championship Playoffs (LCPO). This is the feature that all the other leagues try to offer, but can't.

During the weekend, you will take part in playoffs that matches representatives of all HNA Cities in a series of games to determine the champions of that particular level of play. It's fun, it's exciting, and it's all part of your League membership.

The rules are the same as you're used to and so will be the level of play.

Let this document help you plan out your trip to the League Championships. A well organized trip will be beneficial to your team, while a disorganized effort can almost end your weekend before it starts. Getting your team to this season's LCPO in Toronto is something that requires planning in order to be successful. Getting your team to the Playoffs rested, in shape, and ready to play in an organized fashion will keep everyone focused on the mission at hand - winning the League Championships.

Remember, it took a whole season's worth of effort to qualify for the finals. Make sure your effort in actually getting there is of the same quality. Now with all that said, let's move on to the fun stuff!

First, the League and the League Championships

Hockey North America has been conducting the League Championships for 25 seasons, and over this time we've seen what makes for a good experience and not. Ideally, everyone wants the final result of a game or the playoffs to be decided based on talent and game skills as exhibited on the ice. But every now and then we see a few teams really, well, blow it. They show up unprepared, out of shape, exhausted from driving all night, stayed up too late the night before, and more.

Here are some things we've seen to avoid, as well as tips to save money and make the most of your trip.

Qualifying

Q. What are the on ice requirements?

A. Each HNA League varies in size and divisions so the qualifications likewise differ amongst each member League. Another factor will be the number of League Championship slots allocated for your particular level and division. The answer to this question, therefore, will come from your local administrator and the local playoff format.

Q. What are the off ice requirements?

A. There are a few administrative requirements to attend the League Championships. Only current team members may attend. All team members must be fully paid, as well as each team must have fulfilled its roster spot obligations. Every team member must be registered to play in HNA and have a Terms of Registration form on file with the League. Finally, every team member must be outfitted in matching jersey, sox, pants, and helmet. This means that all

the colors must be the same. Since none of these rules have changed in 25 years, there's nothing new here and should pose no surprise to any HNA team.

To attend the Playoffs each team has to qualify and fulfill all of these on ice and off ice requirements.

Getting There, Some Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Should we fly or drive?

A. Depends on your time restrictions, how far away you live from Toronto, and the availability of inexpensive airfares. Generally, the further away you live, the more likely you'll need to fly. If you absolutely have to be at work first thing Monday morning (and functionally coherent), flying is probably the way to go. Keep in mind that ***US citizens flying to Toronto will have to have a valid passport to board the airplane.*** If you have something other than a passport, don't wait until check-in at the airport to ask what you need to travel.

Q. How do I find the best airfares?

A. This one is fairly complicated as finding airfares these days is a bit of an art. So, first, who will do the looking? If it's a travel agent, make sure it's someone you trust. Travel agents don't always look in the right places unless you specifically tell them.

If it's you doing the looking, get ready to work the telephone or the Internet. Also be VERY sure to check baggage allowance, baggage fees, as well as the dimensions of what constitutes an "over sized" bag. United, for example, considers a hockey bag AND 2 sticks to be a SINGLE bag.

There are also low-cost carriers that do not appear on the major travel websites (like a Travelocity or Expedia). The best way to isolate the airlines you want to check out is to go a Google search for the airport you want to fly into, then check the airport's website to see which airlines fly from there. Finally, then hit the airlines website to shop for seats / price. Most airline site now guarantees that the lowest fare available is on their own site.

Next, try to book ahead of time. The rule of thumb is the farther out you plan and commit to your ticket, the lower the price.

Price coming in high? Try flying off peak hours or off peak days. Leave on Thursday in the morning or afternoon and maybe come back on Monday. Try a flight that isn't as full. And lastly, try an alternate airport. Going to Toronto? Buffalo is just 90 minutes away, Detroit is 3-4 hours away. Canadian taxes on airline tickets are steep, and it might work out that the money you save by not flying directly into Toronto will be substantial.

Still no luck? Check the list of Internet Sites at the conclusion of this document. Although the League has no official relationship with these sites and does not warrant their services, we do know players and teams that have gotten some really good airfares this way, ***low enough to make them decide to attend a tournament or playoff series!***

Keep an eye on the newspapers for sales and be persistent. Calling an airline to get a group rate isn't always the best way to go. Get on e-mail mailing list of the airlines so that you are kept up to date on all the latest airfares.

Q. Team bus or mini-vans?

A. Arranging for a "Greyhound" type bus is unusual. It's been done before, just not frequently. It might be pricey, there'll be no "quicky" trips to 7-11 for that late night beer run, and you have to pay the driver (and likely his hotel room). The upside is that a team bus can make for a great road trip with the team and allows you to relax during the trip. Most teams arrange for mini vans. Regular mini vans, such as Dodge Caravans, are still roomy, inexpensive and allow parts of the team to travel at different times.

Q. Arrive the night before or just before the first game?

A. Over the past few years, the game results have shown that the team that shows up in town just before their first game, essentially piling out of the van and going right into a game, gets pounded. If you can, spend Thursday travelling, get checked into the hotel, have a night to relax and be fit and ready to play on Friday.

Q. What about hotels?

A. The League has a prepared list of hotels available, along with rates and contact names and phone numbers for the weekend. This information is included in this document (and are listed on the hna.com website).

There is a free program you can download from the Internet called Travelaxe (**www.travelaxe.com**). This program searches hotel databases for the best deals on rooms. We use this program all the time and it's a great time saver and will sniff out the deals for you.

Q. What if I need extra players?

A. A commonly asked question when people start telling you "I can't make it" to the tournament is to inquire about bringing players from other teams to fill out the roster. **You can only bring rostered members of your own team.** No player from any other team can attend and participate, no former team members of any type can play. You have to decide whether or not to attend the playoffs based on the response of your own teammates. Remember, this is a championship series that tests to determine the overall championship caliber of your team. The playoffs wouldn't mean much if a completely "new" team suddenly showed up. *(Note: See question below about a substitute goaltender)*

Q. What can I expect when I get to the arena the first time?

A. Come prepared with photo ID, because you will have to register and check in with playoff staff before you can even go back to the locker room area. Only properly identified players will be permitted back in the playing area. All players will show picture ID upon arrival at the arena. The process doesn't take long, but we don't recommend showing up for the first game just minutes before face-off.

Q. What if my regular goaltender can't make it?

A. If your regular goaltender cannot attend, **YOU ARE** permitted to bring your registered back up or another goaltender from your level of play, or lower. If none of those solutions work, give the League Office a call for a goaltender referral.

Then there's the playoff questions!

Q. When does the playoff tournament start?

A. Toronto - early Friday afternoon. Because of the volume of teams that participate we are unable to accommodate any scheduling request. If you have to know now when to be in town, get there Thursday night.

Q. Where do the playoffs take place?

A. Toronto - Westwood 5 Arenas in Rexdale. Westwood is a 5 sheet facilities with sports bar, restaurant, full service pro shop, and 32 locker rooms with working showers. There are plenty of hotels less than 10 minutes away located near the Pearson International Airport. Other ice facilities might be added to accommodate the teams (there are 60 sheets of ice within a 20 min. radius of Westwood, so they'll all be close). Chesswood is the twin to Westwood, though Chesswood has 4 sheets of ice. Chesswood is also located near both Westwood and the Airport hotels.

Q. How many games can I expect to play?

A. Every team that attends the series will play at least 3 games and could play as many as 5 games. Considering the tournaments takes place over a weekend (and in a fun town) you should expect to be very tired by Sunday afternoon.

Q. What's the format?

A. The playoff is round robin format, which means you will play your divisional opponents before moving on to the playoff level. Note: the round robin format means that sometimes a team's fate is determined by tie breaking procedures. Be sure that you know these procedures (it's in the rule book and will be posted in the arena during the games) and understand how they will affect your team.

Q. How are the levels and divisions determined?

A. The levels and divisions are determined solely by the senior staff of the HNA League Office. When considering placement the following variables are weighed:

1. Past experience of the same team in previous championships.
2. Past experience of a team from that same level / division in previous championships.
3. Prior tournament or playoff experience of that particular team.
4. Prior tournament or playoff experience of a team from the same level / division.
5. Relative level of play from the division as compared to other HNA divisions.
6. Regular season record.
7. Individual scoring statistics.
8. Which team members will actually be attending the weekend.

Q. When do the games end?

A. Generally, playoffs will end Sunday afternoon.

Good Luck to your team and as always if you have any other questions concerning this event please feel free to call on the League Office for assistance.

Some Internet Sites To Visit for Travel Help:
www.cheaptickets.com (online travel agency)

www.priceline.com (submit your bid for the fare you want to pay)
www.hotwire.com (excellent for low fares, hotels and car rentals)
www.ual.com (United Airlines, also online booking for other airlines)
www.aircanada.ca (Air Canada)
www.iflyswa.com (Southwest Airlines)
www.orbitz.com (site owned by several airlines)
www.travelocity.com (online travel site)
www.travelaxe.com (free hotel search program)
www.expedia.com (online travel site)

Tournament Hotels for the 2010 Finals Tournament.

Sandman Signature Toronto Airport - New Hotel for HNA Finals. \$99 CDN per night, 2 Queen Beds. \$109 CDN Per night Elite Room (w/ Microwave, Refrigerator, Balcony), \$119 CDN Per night Family Suite (multiple rooms).

Website: <http://www.sandmansignature.com/torontolocation.html>
Contact Person: Shafeela Gill

Raddison Suites Hotel - All Suite Property - \$105 CDN per night. Free Parking.

Website: http://www.radisson.com/torontoca_airport
Contact Person: Joelle Tardiff

Westin Bristol Place - \$109 CDN per night, includes parking.

Website:
<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/westin/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=1771>
Contact Person: Jeanette Costa

Marriott Toronto Airport - Featured Final Tournament Hotel - Pool / Free Parking. \$99 CDN per night + tax, includes free parking.

Website: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/yyzot-toronto-airport-marriott-hotel/>
Contact Person: Marie Gambardella



2010 Championship Finals "No Show" Guarantee Toronto, Canada

The last day to notify of attending is May 25, 2010



Part of the League Championship Playoffs, the Playoff Tournament is one of the most fun and important events of the season.

As part of your league playing fee, the costs associated with playing in a playoff tournament are paid for by Hockey North America. There is no additional charge to play. Further, in no way are you **required** to participate in any tournament event.

Because this event is so important to the attending teams - **an entire season's worth of effort has gone into qualifying** - Hockey North America now makes it a practice to require a security "no-show" deposit to safeguard against the possibility of a team not showing up to the tournament without prior warning.

This requirement in no way changes the nature of the playoff tournament. You will not be charged any fee to play in the tournament. You will not be charged if you decide not to play in the tournament. You will only incur a cost if you commit to playing in the tournament and then "no-show."

Committing to play and then failing to show up for any scheduled game means that the teams scheduled to play against you will have no opponent when they might otherwise would have had one, thus denying them of some portion of their tournament and playoff experience.

No team, under any circumstances, will be included in the tournament schedule without submission of this document.

League tournaments are under the exclusive operation of Hockey North America League Office Staff (only located in Sterling, Virginia). If you have questions regarding this or any other information concerning a league tournament, please contact Elliott Root or Doreen Maestas at (800) 446-2539.

1. This document is for security deposit purposes only, to prevent "no-shows".
You will not be charged if you attend the tournament.
2. The last date to notify the league office that you are not attending is May 25, 2010. If you fail to show up to the Toronto (Canada) Tournament June 11-13, 2010, or your team misses a scheduled game, your credit card will be charged **\$1,500.00 US**.
3. Your team will not be included in any tournament game schedule until this document is completed and received by the league office in Virginia. Legible fax copies of this document will be accepted.

Credit Card Type: Visa Mastercard AMEX Discover

Credit Card Acct. No.: _____

Expiration Date: ____/____ **Security Code:** _____

Your Name on Credit Card: _____

Authorizing Signature

HNA City: _____

Team Name: _____ **Date:** _____, 2010

Tournament Information

Type: 2010 Hockey North America League Championship Playoffs

Location: Toronto, Ontario Canada

Date: June 11, 12, 13 2010

Arenas: Westwood 5 Arena & Chesswood 4 Arena.

League Office Contact: Elliott Root or Doreen Maestas

Telephone: (800) 446-2539

Fax: (888) HNA- SKOR

Email: hnasupport@aol.com, or

(888) 462-7567

elliottroot@earthlink.net

* Arenas subject to change without notice



2010 LCPO Team Roster

Please be sure to fill this form out when you submit your No Show Guarantee Form. We ask for this form specifically if you have a prominent individual from the team that is not attending that would otherwise affect your ability to compete at your normal level of play.

For example, if you have a 40 goal scorer on your team and he is not coming, you should note that on the roster so we can adjust your team's level of play accordingly. While placement in a tournament this large is an inexact science, the more information we have about your team the more likely you are to be placed in a competitive level for the weekend.

If you are unable to submit this form prior to the release of the tournament game schedule the assumption will be that all members of your team are attending. **PLEASE NOTE: ONCE THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBMITTED AND THE GAME SCHEDULE RELEASED THE ROSTER WILL BE FINAL. NO ADDITIONS WILL BE PERMITTED (as in a player that wasn't attending, now wanting to attend at the last minute).** This form may be amended up to the schedule release date.

HNA Team Name: _____ Contact Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Telephone: (_____) _____

Please Fax Completed Form to (888) HNA-SKOR

	<u>Jersey</u>	<u>Player Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
1.	_____	_____	Goaltender
2.	_____	_____	Back Up Goal
3.	_____	(C) _____	_____
4.	_____	(A) _____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____	_____
13.	_____	_____	_____
14.	_____	_____	_____
15.	_____	_____	_____
16.	_____	_____	_____
17.	_____	_____	_____
18.	_____	_____	_____
19.	_____	_____	_____
20.	_____	_____	_____
21.	_____	_____	_____
22.	_____	_____	_____



Color Coordination Disclosure Form

Note: Completion of this document is required for the team to be placed on the Tournament game schedule.

Hockey North America has a long standing policy of complete color coordination, defined as follows:

1. Matching Team Jersey. Team jersey must be in team colors, and player number on back. Unless otherwise indicated, the team is required to have both a home and away set of uniforms for tournament play. If one of your players needs a replacement shirt call Jonco Enterprises immediately at (301) 871-6561 or your shirt supplier.

2. Matching Sox. The sox worn must match those of the entire team. In the past some teams have worn just one pair of sox (always white or always away, regardless of which jersey is worn) which is permissible so long as the entire team matches. "Cooper-Alls," for those last few that still wear them, are specifically designed for hockey protection and are permitted so long as they match the appropriate team pant color. (For example, team wears black pants, the Cooper-Alls must also be black).

3. Matching Pant Color & Helmet Color. Every team member must wear protective equipment specifically designed for ice hockey. Everyone on the team must have the same color pants & helmet. For those teams that wear blue pants, there are pants of different shades of blue (same with helmets). This is acceptable so long as the basic color is blue. If a team member does not have the same color, he/she needs to purchase a new pair of pants, or (less expensive) a pant shell. Pant shells are available from Jonco by calling (301) 871-6561 as well as other suppliers. A pant shell is a slip-over piece of light fabric that changes the color of hockey pants. If a helmet color needs to be changed a player may tape the helmet to the correct color (electrical tape is usually best and most durable). A painted helmet is not permitted as the paint weakens the integrity of the helmet as well as voiding the helmet warranty.

CLARIFICATIONS:

- Glove color does not need to match.
- Goaltender helmet does not need to match as a goaltender helmet is a very particular piece of equipment and usually custom made.
- Goaltender pant color does not need to match that of the team. Goaltender pants cost roughly twice that of regular pants because of the extra padding needed. In addition, the attending goaltender is not always the team's regular goaltender. Goaltender is the one position where you may bring a sub if your regular goalie is not available.
- Goaltender jersey does need to at least match the general color of the team while on the ice. This applies particularly for those teams participating in which their regular goaltender cannot. If you are bringing a goaltender from another HNA team (**prior approval required**) that goaltender needs to at least wear the same general color shirt. For example, if the team is white for the game, the goaltender shirt must be white. Same with away, a blue uniform team - goaltender wears blue (or a dark shirt).

I understand these requirements and have made my team aware of the same. I also understand that anyone in violation of the above requirements will be removed from the competition until in compliance.

Signature -Team Captain, on behalf of the team.

Date

Captain Name: _____

City / Team Name: _____