

COMPETITOR'S GUIDE

2012

THE DOMINION

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

"REGIONS"



Revised **November 30, 2011**

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CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

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The Dominion Men's 2012 NOCA Regions

This event is open to all male competitors who are at least nineteen (19) years old as of December 31, 2011.

Your team has decided to participate in one (1) of the six (6) Regions being held January 5-8, 2012. Each of the six (6) regions will advance one (1) team to the field of twelve (12) teams competing in The Dominion Men's NOCA Provincial Championship at the Soo Curlers Association in Sault Ste. Marie, ON. This event will take place February 5 – 12, 2012. You will be provided with a travel allowance prior to the start of the Championship.

If a region does not have two (2) teams entered, the one (1) team entered must compete in the next geographically close region. The extra spot to provincials will be awarded to the Men's Qualifier with the most entries.

The Region entry fee is \$ 300 of which \$ 200 will be allocated as "prizes" or travel allowance. The balance is for administration (jackets, banners, host club support), registration service fees, and playdowns.com.

The title sponsor of this event is The Dominion, Canada's Trusted Insurance Company, and a great supporter of curling both in Northern Ontario and across Canada.

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COMPETITION FORMAT:

The preliminary competition for the 2012 The Dominion Men's Region will be:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| One to Four teams | - | Double Round Robin |
| Five to Seven teams | - | Single Round Robin |
| Eight or more teams | - | Triple Knockout with qualifiers |

In round robin draws when no playoff is required as the team with the top record will advance, with tie-breakers being utilized to break any ties to declare a region winner.

In triple knockout draws the four (4) qualifying teams will play in a modified page playoff to declare the qualifier.

In all triple knockout draws teams will be required to peer rank each team involved in the draw except their own. Final rankings will be prepared by the Executive Director.

STONE SELECTION, PRACTICE & LAST STONE ADVANTAGE:

Round Robin Draws: In each draw the team listed first shall have top of the scoreboard color and practice first, beginning thirty (30) minutes prior to the posted draw time.

Triple Knockout Draws: In each draw the team with the better average draw shot distance to that point between the two (2) teams shall have choice of rocks or second practice but not both, and will inform their opponent a minimum of forty (40) minutes prior to the scheduled game. In any team's first game the higher seeded team shall have the choice of rocks or second practice but not both.

Last Stone Advantage: Last stone advantage in the first end (hammer), any format, will be decided by a draw to the button following each team's ten (10) minute practice. Within one (1) minute following the pre-game practice, a player from the team will throw a stone (full sweeping allowed) and the closest draw to the button between the two (2) teams will receive last stone advantage in the first end. For this competition, each player on a team must deliver a minimum of one (1) draw shot for last stone advantage during the event. The draw to the button shall be played towards the home end. A team utilizing a fifth player must have a minimum of four (4) different team members throw the draw for hammer during the event. Should both teams record the same score in distance, the team with the better Average Draw Shot (see Competition Rules # 7) distance to that point will have last stone advantage. Prior to the first game, OR any game where the average draw shot distance is the same, ties in draw shots distance will be decided as follows:

- If the first team covers the button or records a distance of 185.4 cm, a second player from that team will deliver a draw to the button.
- If the second team records the same first throw distance as their opposition, a second player from that team will draw to the button.
- If the second player draw shot distances are the same, the team practicing first will toss a coin and the team practicing second will call. The winner of the coin toss will have last stone advantage in the first end.

PLAYOFF DRAWS

ROUND ROBIN FORMAT:

No playoff is required as the team with the top record advances with tie-breakers being utilized to break any ties to declare a region winner.

Teams tied with a qualifying record after the round robin will be involved in tie-breaker games. **The umpire will make all decisions with regard to the administration of tie-breakers.** Additional information relative to tie-breakers and sheet assignments will be discussed by the umpire with the teams involved after the last game of the round robin.

In all tie-breaker games, the team that won the round robin game between the two shall have choice of either last stone (hammer) or color, **but not both**. If after a double round robin, the teams involved in a tie-breaker game split their round robin games, then the team with the best average draw shot shall have choice of either last stone (hammer) or color, **but not both**. All teams shall use the complete set of rocks on the sheet assigned to the tie-breaker game(s).

TRIPLE KNOCKOUT FORMAT:

In the triple knockout draw, four (4) qualifiers will be declared with one (1) 'A', one (1) 'B' and two (2) 'C' qualifiers.

Following the conclusion of the triple knockout qualifier competition, the four (4) teams shall participate in a modified page playoff process.

A team finishing clearly ahead of another team **will gain** last stone advantage (hammer) in any Page Playoff. "Finishing ahead" means there is a difference in the qualifying position of the respective teams. Top qualifier is the 'A' qualifier followed by the 'B' qualifier and the two (2) 'C' qualifiers. The highest ranking team **will also have** choice of stones from all stones used in the event. (a full set of stones must be chosen)

When the qualifying position of the two teams involved in a Page Playoff game(s) is the same, the team with the better average draw shot shall have choice of either last stone (hammer) or colour **but not both**.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

ACCOMMODATIONS:

It is your team's responsibility to reserve your own rooms at one of the host venues.

DRESS STANDARDS:

Teams are required to wear appropriate curling apparel. Any clothing that is inappropriate as deemed by the Umpire will need to be replaced.

As a reminder please ensure all footwear is clean and free of any loose debris. The ice-team has spent countless hours preparing the surface and it is unfortunate to lose rocks to something that is totally under your control.

CRESTING/SPONSOR IDENTIFICATION

1. A team participating in a NOCA competition shall be allowed to wear non-competing sponsors' crests. If NOCA sponsor provided clothing is supplied, players are asked to wear such clothing either during games or off-ice.
2. The NOCA cresting rules allow for all teams to wear non-competing sponsors' crests. Any competing sponsors' crest will be deemed non-conforming and you will be asked to remove or cover it for the duration of the event.

OFFICIAL OBLIGATIONS:

A member of each team may be called upon to offer special thanks to the Committee, the sponsor and the NOCA at different functions during this event. You are encouraged to co-operate and participate.

MEDIA RELATIONS:

The media may be represented at this event. They will be located in the building but will not be allowed access to the dressing rooms. They will have access to you through the host committee who will approach you with any request for interviews. We ask that you co-operate with the media by granting interviews and answering questions when requested.

However a word of caution is offered – make certain that you do not make reference to anything that you do not want quoted. Also, if you have any problems or complaints, express them to the appropriate official and not the news media. Remember, there is no such thing as an "off the record" comment.

ATTENDANCE AT THE CHAMPIONSHIP:

All players must arrive at the Championship at the designated time, attend all functions and remain at the event until they are eliminated. Any player leaving the competition without prior authorization will be suspended from NOCA competitions for the following year.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

The official draw for each event will be sent to each registered team within five (5) days of the event closing deadline. It will also be posted on www.playdowns.com prior to the start of the competition. All scores and updates can also be found on this site.

CONDUCT:

Curling is based on a code of ethics, good sportsmanship and personal integrity. Display of emotion, broom banging, etc., which results in damage to any areas or part of the playing surface, players' dressing rooms or any other area of the curling club or hotel will result in suspension for one game. Subsequent infractions will result in suspension for the remainder of the championship. You are expected to follow this tradition and the rules of the game throughout the competition.

The consumption or use of alcoholic beverages by any player or coach at any time during a Junior or Bantam competition is strictly prohibited. This rule shall extend from the entire first day to the entire final day of play.

PENALTIES AND RULE ENFORCEMENT:

The CCA Rulebook has a number of different sections. You should take note of the section titled Rules of Curling for Officiated Play, and the NOCA Special Rules. Every rule has an enforcement procedure that will be followed at this Northern Ontario Championship.

It should be noted that there are no warnings for any infraction unless it is stated in the rulebook or brought to your attention by the Umpire prior to the start of the competition.

ATHLETE DOPING:

The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport may conduct unannounced doping tests.

If you have any medical issues and/or are on any medications that may cause you to fail a drug test it is your responsibility to notify the organization prior to the start of competition. **“I did not know” is not a viable answer. It is your responsibility to know what you are taking.**

The Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP) went into effect on January 1, 2009 and details can be reviewed or downloaded at <http://www.cces.ca>

NOCA – SPECIAL RULES

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

The Northern Ontario Curling Association (NOCA) requires that athletes who wish to represent Northern Ontario at any National Championship must be Canadian Citizens, bona fide residents and domiciled within Northern Ontario. Each athlete must also be a fully paid member of a member facility within Northern Ontario and have paid their annual NOCA per capita fee.

ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

1. A player shall be eligible to play in an NOCA competition whether or not it leads to a Canadian Championship provided he/she has paid the approved NOCA per capita fee and is a member of a NOCA member facility immediately prior to and at all times during the competition, and meets the following criteria:

a) Is a bona fide resident within the defined geographical jurisdiction of the NOCA on October 1st, 2011 and at all times thereafter to the end of the competition. (A bona fide resident is defined as one who lives in a house or dwelling within the jurisdiction of the NOCA and is a resident or citizen of Canada). The NOCA reserves the right to verify residency of any athlete competing.

The only exception to this clause shall be members of the Canadian Forces, University or College students who are attending school on a full time basis outside their Province of permanent residence or in the Province where the athlete attends school, as well as others who apply for and receive an exemption from the NOCA Board of Directors.

b) A player may only compete for one CCA curling Member Association in any competition in the same curling season. (Note: Mixed Nationals held in November are considered to be part of the previous season). A player representing more than one region or Province may face suspension.

c) All competitors in events leading to a National Championship must be residents and/or citizens of Canada. Exception: Men's and Women's Championships, all competitors must be residents AND citizens of Canada.

d) Teams may be formed of any players from across the entire NOCA regions/jurisdiction. One member of the team must belong to the member facility in which the team is registered and actually have a domicile in that Region. All teams are responsible to have the member facility sign their registration form accepting the affiliation of their team.

A team consists of four players and does not include the fifth or coach.

2. For competitive play, it is the responsibility of the team to complete and submit the following forms to the NOCA office, one (1) week prior to the start of the event:

a) Team Member Registration and Member Facility Certification Form

b) Participation Agreement

c) Consent form and proof of age for athletes under the age of 18

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3. A team advancing to the next level of competition **must** retain three (3) of the original team members as shown on their team and member facility certification form.
 - a) Teams may only add one (1) player who has played in a previous level of the competition, including fifth players. (see notwithstanding below)
 - b) Teams may declare a fifth player prior to the start of any level of competition.

Notwithstanding rule 3 (a) the competition committee may allow a second substitution under extenuating circumstances only. Teams may apply for special consideration to the committee and the decision of the committee is final.

COMPETITION ENTRY

1. For all levels of competitions, each NOCA member facility is allowed unlimited entries at the first level of competition.
 - a) **Entry deadline is 11:59 pm on the stated closing date as per the competition schedule.** Entries to all competitions shall be submitted by the respective teams via the online registration system (NOCA website) prior to the entry deadline. It is the teams' responsibility to verify that their entry fee has been received. Team personnel need to be declared on the team entry registration.
 - b) Online entries will be paid for at the time of entry and require a signed NOCA Team Registration and Member Facility Certification and Participation Agreement to be sent to the NOCA office one (1) week prior to the start of the competition.
 - c) The NOCA Executive Director will not accept entries after the stated deadline (no exceptions).
 - d) Request for refund of entry fees will be reviewed on an individual basis, but as a standard policy, no refunds will be issued after the entry deadline.
 - e) An administrative fee will be assessed on any approved refunds.
2. A CCA competitor fee must be paid to be eligible for participation in Men's, Women's, Mixed, and Senior competitions. This fee is included in your entry for the first level of competition.
3. All competitors of minor age must submit a parental consent form with their official team competitive entry form.

LATE TEAM ARRIVALS:

If a team fails to arrive on time to play its first game or any subsequent games in this competition, the team will forfeit the game(s). Illness, accident or extenuating circumstances will not be considered unless the number of teams involved makes it impossible for the competition to continue. If a team arrives too late to participate in the scheduled pre-event practice they will forfeit that right. All issues of late arrival shall be reviewed by the Head Umpire in consultation with the Competition Chairman or delegate prior to final determination. The only exception to the above rules will be severe weather that was not predicted. (i.e. Freezing rain or severe snowstorm)

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DEFAULTS:

1. Where a qualifying team in a Region or Challenge Round is unable or unwilling to continue in a competition, the team representative shall notify the NOCA Executive Director to this effect, within twenty-four (24) hours after qualifying for the next level of competition. That team will not be entitled to the position, rights, privileges and awards as it has defaulted and may be suspended. A runner-up team from that competition shall be entitled to the position, rights, privileges and awards of the team that has defaulted.
2. Each member of a team that defaults during any level of competition, subject to paragraphs 3 and 4 below, may be suspended. The length of the suspension will be determined by the NOCA Competition Committee on a case-by-case basis.
3. The NOCA Executive Director shall notify each member of a defaulting team in writing of such suspension and the method of appealing the suspension. A suspension may be appealed in writing and/or in person to the Board of Directors within a period of two (2) weeks from notification of suspension and in such event the suspension shall be lifted until the appeal is heard.
4. The suspension shall not apply to the level of competition in which the default occurred if, in the opinion of the Umpire-in-charge or Head Umpire of the NOCA, the team in question has a reasonable explanation for a default.

START OF EVENT:

1. All competitions are considered to have started one (1) hour prior to the scheduled pre-competition practice.
2. At all levels of competition, prior to the start of the first game, the umpire in charge may ask for proof of age.

TEAM MEETING:

Prior to the start of all competitions, a team meeting will be scheduled. At least one member of your team must attend the team meeting with the Umpire, other NOCA Officials, and the host committee as scheduled and before play commences. At this time any questions your team may have on the draw, officiating or rule interpretation will be discussed.

At least one player or coach from your team shall attend the team meeting, otherwise your team will forfeit last rock advantage for subsequent non-playoff games.

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PRACTICE:

1. All events will have a pre-competition practice session of ten (10) minutes per team per competition sheet as scheduled. Each game shall also have a pre-game practice session of ten (10) minutes per team which starts thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled draw time.
2. At the discretion of the Head Umpire or Umpire in Charge, a team having a bye in a competition shall be entitled to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes practice on a sheet of ice other than the sheet on which they are next scheduled to play, if ice is available.
3. A team receiving a bye due to default will be permitted to practice on the sheet of ice that they would have played on for the length of time that the game would have taken.

AVERAGE DRAW SHOT:

The NOCA has adopted the new Average Draw Shot format for all competitions. This format will calculate each team's average draw shot for hammer in each game. After each draw a team will receive a score by adding their total distance of all draws and dividing by the number of games played. (average draw shot distance = total accumulated distance / number of games played) Only the team's first attempt per game shall be recorded for the average draw shot calculation. In all competitions, all players on the team must take at least one (1) attempt per competition for last stone advantage. In any event that requires teams to potentially play three (3) games or less, the team must use a different team member for each attempt until all players have made at least one (1) attempt or the team does not have any other games to play.

STONE SELECTION:

Teams shall not be permitted to select stones off other sheets of ice at the facility unless during a scheduled playoff format. (Note: Tie breakers are not included in the playoff format)

COACHING:

1. At all levels of competition, coach training will be required. All coaches must be trained as per the table below. Only qualified coaches will be granted access to the ice surface at any point during the competition. Coaches must provide their NCCP number on the team entry form.
 - a) A coach accompanying a team to a Canadian Championship must have a minimum of Competition Coach Certified or equivalent for curling and shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
 - b) A coach is permitted to coach only one (1) team during any competition. This restriction includes any competitions that are run simultaneously at the same place, such as Junior Men and Women. A coach will not be permitted to coach a team in both competitions until such time as one team is eliminated.

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NOCA coaching requirements:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>REQUIREMENT</u>	<u>EXEMPTION</u>
Bantam Regions	Club Coach Trained	none
Provincials	Competition Coach Certified	exemption **
Junior Regions	Competition Coach Trained	exemption **
Provincials	Competition Coach Certified	
All Other Events	Competition Coach Certified	

** exemptions – coach must be in-training and must apply to the NOCA Technical Coordinator for a one (1) time only exemption which will be for one season only. This exemption will allow in-training coaches access to their teams and functions as required. All coaches must have taken the minimum training to be either completely trained or certified as required. For confirmation of your status please contact the NOCA Technical Coordinator:

Dick Henderson (807) 621-4259 dickhenderson@curlnoc.ca

2. All current coaching certification (Level I or II) will qualify for conversion to the new NCCP certification. Coaches may confirm their status on the CCA website at the following link: www.curling.ca/programs-and-services/high-performance-programs-and-services/national-coaching-certification-program/old-to-new-transfer-policy/
3. All coaches coaching youth under the age of 18 must have a Criminal Records Check (CRC). Coaches applying for a CRC for the first time must apply for the Vulnerable Sector Check. Coaches who currently have a PRC, will be required to apply for a Vulnerable Sector Check when it is due for renewal (every three years).

ALTERNATES/SUBSTITUTES

1. The NOCA strongly endorses the utilization of four (4) player teams. In extenuating circumstances, a team shall be permitted to begin play with three (3) players as ruled by the Head Umpire.
2. The NOCA permits the use of fifth players at all levels of play. Each team must declare their fifth player prior to each level of competition. A team who does not declare a fifth player before the start of the competition must use players from the players' pool only.
3. **ONLY IN THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP SHALL THE FIFTH PLAYER ADVANCE TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.**
4. Eliminated players may not be used during the same level of competition. *Interpretation:* At any level of competition a player may not become an alternate or spare until that level of competition is completed.
5. Eliminated players may enter the provincial players' pool as required by the host organizing committee. The pool is only open to non-participating and eliminated players from the host region, with the exception of the NOCA Women's provincial where the players pool is

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province-wide. A player in the players' pool does not have to pay a competitor fee and may not advance to the next level unless said fee is paid. The players' pool shall be posted and closed prior to the start of the Provincial Championship.

DRAW AND GAMES

1. The NOCA Executive Director and/or Competitions Chair shall be responsible for all draws for the Regions, Inter-Regions, Superspiels, Qualifying or Provincials. All draws will be provided to each team in a timely manner and within five (5) days of the entry deadline.
2. At all levels of competition the draw is pre-determined and is posted on the NOCA website. The order of games shall remain the same. The type of draw will be as follows:
 - a) Four (4) teams or less – Double Round Robin
 - b) Five (5) to seven (7) teams – Round Robin
 - c) Eight (8) teams or more – Triple Knockout with qualifiers **

** (except for Junior, Senior, and Bantam provincials where an eight (8) team round robin will be played, and Men's provincial where a 12 team round robin will be played.)

3. Three (3) games per day may be scheduled for all competitions with the following exceptions:
 - a) Seniors -- three (3) games cannot be scheduled for two (2) consecutive days.
 - b) Masters -- maximum of two (2) games per day may be scheduled.
4. All games are ten (10) ends, except Superspiels, Masters, Bantams, Wheelchair and Dominion Club, which shall be eight (8) ends.
5. The compulsory fourth/fifth end break shall be a maximum of five (5) minutes.
6. In all games extra ends shall be continuous play.
7. Time clocks are mandatory at all Provincials and are strongly recommended for all other levels of competition.
8. Games may be conceded at any time.

GAME TIME OPERATION:

- a) Bantam, Masters, Dominion Curling Club Championships - 8 ends, 59 minutes
- b) Wheelchair – 8 ends, 68 minutes
- c) Juniors – 10 ends, 73 minutes
- d) Men, Women, Seniors, Mixed – 10 ends, 71 minutes

TIME OUTS:

- a) Each team will be ALLOWED to call two (2) time-outs per game and one (1) time-out for each extra end.
- b) Each time-out will last 90 seconds which includes travel time.
- c) Coaches running or jogging during the time-out will not be tolerated. The game clock will start if this occurs.
- d) Additional time can be added at club-based events at the discretion of the Chief Umpire.
- e) Coach or 5th (but not both) can meet with the team anytime during the 90-second time-out.
- f) The Coach or 5th of the team NOT calling the timeout will be allowed to meet their team on the backboard at the home end only.

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TEAM REGISTRATION AND MEMBER FACILITY CERTIFICATION

I certify that all members of the team listed below and representing _____ (club) in the 2012 _____ Championship are members in good standing of the Northern Ontario Curling Association and are a (minimum or maximum) age of (16) (19) (20) (50) or (60) years of age on December 31, 2011. Please circle the appropriate category.

SKIP

(Print name in full)

THIRD

(Print name in full)

SECOND

(Print name in full)

LEAD

(Print name in full)

FIFTH (if necessary)

(Print name in full)

COACH

(Print name in full) CC # _____

I _____, representing this member facility of the Northern Ontario Curling Association, hereby confirm that the above mentioned team is representing our member facility in this year's _____ playdowns.

(Signature)

(Print name in full)

FORWARD BY FAX, EMAIL OR COURIER TO:

Northern Ontario Curling Association
P.O. Box 940, 214 Main Street West, Unit 4
Atikokan, ON P0T 1C0
807-597-4241 Fax lesliekerr@curlno.ca

THIS FORM MUST BE RECEIVED ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE START OF THE FIRST COMPETITION

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NOCA ADULT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

In consideration of NOCA accepting my application to participate in the 2012 Championship, I hereby agree with the following:

1. I acknowledge that I have reviewed the CCA "Rules of Curling for Officiated Play" (Rules) as well as the 2012 Competitor's Guide for the event I am entering.
2. I hereby agree to comply with all provisions of the Rules and with all provisions of the Guide and, in particular but without limiting my agreement to comply with all Rules and the entire Guide, I agree as follows:
 - (a) The Rules and Guide apply from the time I leave home to attend the event until I return home following the event.
 - (b) I understand that the curling CODE OF ETHICS set out at the beginning of the Rules is an intrinsic part of the sport of curling generally, and of this event in particular, and I agree to abide by that code.
 - (c) That if the NOCA provides a team leader to accompany my team to a National Event, I will comply with the instructions of the appointee.
3. I agree to comply with all rules and regulations respecting advertising, promotion, and dress code established by the NOCA and its sponsors as communicated through the Rules and the Guide.
4. I consent to the NOCA and their agent or appointees:
 - (a) photographing;
 - (b) videotaping;
 - (c) filming; and/or
 - (d) recording my voice; and further
 - (e) exhibiting, publishing and broadcasting my name or photograph, video tapes, films, or any other likeness of me or any sound recordings of my voice in any promotion, reports or advertising about or in connection with the NOCA or the event.
5. I hereby waive the right to any payments or royalties in connection with the actions described in subparagraphs 4 (a), (b), (c) and (d) above.
6. For the purpose of promoting the sport of curling during the event, I consent to:
 - (a) being interviewed at the event, and
 - (b) wearing, upon the request of the NOCA, a portable microphone during competition.
 - (c) Videotaping of games only with consent of both teams or teams' coach.
7. I, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns release NOCA, its employees, agents, and local organizers from any claims, demands, actions or causes of actions arising out of any loss, injury, or damage to my person or property incurred while traveling to or from, or attending at, or participating in the event, even if any such loss, injury, or damage arises by reason of negligence of NOCA, its employees, agents or local organizers. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I further release any recourse which I may now or hereafter have resulting from any decision taken by the NOCA.
8. I have been given the opportunity to obtain independent legal advice prior to signing this agreement, and fully understand its provisions. No person has attempted to unduly influence my signing of this agreement. I have signed this agreement on my own after careful consideration of all provisions.

Date at _____, this _____ day of _____, 20__

I have duly executed this agreement as attested by my signature below.

(Participant – SKIP) PRINT NAME

(Participant – THIRD) PRINT NAME

(Participant – SECOND) PRINT NAME

(Participant – LEAD) PRINT NAME

(Participant – FIFTH) PRINT NAME

(Participant – COACH) PRINT NAME

PLEASE RETURN TO NOCA OFFICE ONE WEEK PRIOR TO START OF PLAY