



2023-2024 MEDIA POLICY

Last updated: September 18, 2023

RESPECT OF THE POLICY

Any organization which does not comply with the media policy, whether totally or partially shall be fined. The amount of these fines may increase should repeat incidents occur or depending on the seriousness of the incident.

ACCREDITATION

Journalists accredited by the QMJHL shall be admitted to regular season and playoff games, except for the Gilles-Courteau Trophy Final. For pre-season games, the CHL media passes issued during the 2022-2023 season will still be accepted.

A limited number of media will be granted access to watch QMJHL games in person. Journalists can obtain their pass from the QMJHL at the beginning of the season by sending to the QMJHL Director of Communications and Media Relations the appropriate form. Only accredited members of the media will receive a CHL Media Pass. For exceptions (blogs, podcast groups), two (2) QMJHL teams will have to support the request made by the journalist/media before being approved by the League.

Cameramen and photographers shall need specific passes to be admitted. Appropriate forms are available through the Commissioner's office and on the QMJHL website.

Each club shall send to the administrative offices a list of its media and include for each of them the name of the journalists as well as the address and phone number of the media outlet.

The Canadian Hockey League pass must only be used for editorial purposes. A licence must be obtained from the Canadian Hockey League or the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League in order for a photographer or a journalist to use his pass for commercial purposes. The cost of the licence is determined by the QMJHL. The licence is valid for one season, including the pre-season, the regular season and the playoffs, except for the Gilles-Courteau Trophy Championship Series. It also excludes CHL events.

SPECIAL EVENTS

To attend special events such as the the Kubota Top Prospects Game, the QMJHL's Annual Entry Draft presented by Fenplast, the Hall of Fame induction ceremony, the Gilles-Courteau Trophy Championship Series and the Memorial Cup tournament, journalists will need to obtain specific passes to these events, unless otherwise determined by the QMJHL.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE PRESS

The home team shall ensure that all members of the media (home and away) benefit from the tools and utilities necessary to help them adequately cover games. The media shall have access to the required equipment in order to communicate and transmit their work. The Commissioner can decide to have the required equipment installed at the expense of the home team should these requirements not be met.

Seats

Each team shall provide members of the media with a section in the arena or a press box suited for work. If the capacity of the press box isn't sufficient, the team must open a second press area suited for the needs of the media. Due to the limited number of available seats, it is preferable that media members advise the home team's Director of Communications that he or she will be attending a game at least 24 hours in advance.

The home team must reserve two seats on the press box for the visiting team's broadcasters, if necessary.

System put at the disposal of the public address announcer

The home team and building administration shall ensure that a speaker system enables members of the media to clearly and distinctly hear all information shared by the in-house announcer.

Press notes and statistics

Before the games, the home team shall provide the media with notes and statistics pertaining to the upcoming game at least sixty (60) minutes before puck drop. The home team will send a PDF file by email to the media attending the game. Both teams must publish their line combinations and starting lineups on their " X " feed at least thirty (30) minutes before puck drop. There will be no available printed copies of line-ups at the arena.

Internet

The home team and building administration are responsible for providing free high-speed wireless internet (protected by a password clearly displayed in the press box) and/or wired internet access to members of the media a minimum of 2 hours both pre- and post-game.

PRESS RELEASES

Distribution

Each team is responsible for establishing a good relationship with its local media. Teams shall ensure that press releases issued by the League will be forwarded to the local media in the briefest of delays.

Injured players

When a player is injured during a game, his team's public relations person shall inform the journalists on the condition of the player, the nature of the injury and the potential date of return to play as soon as the information is available.

Distribution of press releases issued by a team

In order for the League to be kept informed of all team developments, teams must send to the League a copy of all their press releases and notices of upcoming announcements or media conferences.

TRANSPORTATION

The decision to allow journalists to travel on the team bus is left entirely to the team. Should a team grant such permission, journalists shall make the necessary arrangements with the team at least 48 hours ahead of the departure time.

Teams should inform the media of their policy at the beginning of the season.

GAME RESULTS

Summary transmission

By no later than thirty (30) minutes following the conclusion of each game, teams must send the game summary to the League's head office.

Distribution of the results

At the end of each period, the in-house announcer must share the results of all ongoing QMJHL games.

ACCESS TO THE PLAYERS/COACHES

Before the game

Teams cannot deny access to the media during or after practice. However, there will be no access to dressing rooms at any point prior, during or after the game.

In order to facilitate and expedite interview requests, the team will typically provide three (3) media availabilities:

1. After the morning skate;
2. Two and half hours (2:30) before the game;
3. After the game.

For days when there is no media availability, journalists who wish to interview one or several players must forward their request to the team's Director of Communications or public relations contact before the game. The coaching staff and players will decline interview requests made directly to them.

The team is obligated to assist journalists with their requests two and half hours (2:30) prior to the game. Of course, the team can satisfy requests made fewer than two and a half hours (2:30) prior to the game. The time of the interview shall be agreed upon between the journalist and the team's Director of Communications or public relations contact. **If a player is not available for a reason that is beyond the team's control, the team is obligated to provide the journalists with an alternative.**

During the game

Players' dressing rooms are not accessible to the media at any time. However, for TV broadcasts, coaches or general managers are obligated to accommodate the media whenever possible. When games are broadcasted on TV by one of our media partners, the League's Director of Communications can request that players or hockey staff be made available during intermissions.

During televised games by our broadcast partners (RDS, TSN, TVA Sports, Eastlink, Optik TV), non-affiliated cameras are forbidden to record content inside the arena 30 minutes prior to the start of the game and until the broadcaster has signed off following the game.

After the game

Players' dressing rooms are not accessible to the media. Otherwise, win or lose, no player, coach or general manager may refuse to answer questions from the media.

No team or staff member may discriminate against a journalist assigned to cover a game based on race, language, sex, age, religion, sexual orientation or handicap, under any circumstances.

Only the League's broadcast partners will be able to conduct interviews with individual players on the ice or in any other predetermined and approved locations by the league and the team.

COMPLAINTS / DISPUTES

Any complaint or dispute must be brought to the attention of the QMJHL Director of Communications. If he deems it appropriate, he may request the help of a Committee to settle any situation.



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