



SHARKS HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY LEAGUE

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Revised 6/1/24

ARTICLE I

DEFINITIONS

"SHSHL" shall mean the Sharks High School Hockey League.

"CAHA" shall mean the California Amateur Hockey Association.

"Commissioner" shall mean the individual designated to oversee the daily administration of the League and League activities. This position will also be a member of the League disciplinary board.

"Full-time Student" shall mean a student-athlete that takes four or more classes (12 units) at the same school.

"Home-Schooled" shall mean a student-athlete does not attend any instruction (class, lab or testing) at a brick & mortar school.

"League" shall mean Sharks High School Hockey League

"League Game" shall mean any Varsity or Junior Varsity Regular Season Game or Playoff Game.

"League Year" shall mean May 1 through the following April 30, encompassing one complete League Season.

"Member Team" shall mean any team, including any Varsity and Junior Varsity team, which has been accepted as a Member of the League pursuant to the procedures set forth herein.

"On-Line" shall mean a student-athlete that resides in California and attends an established school providing instruction on-line. School providing instruction has a brick & mortar presence attended by student-athlete for instruction, testing or labs AND must attend at least one (1) class on campus.

"Playoff Game" shall mean any one or more of the games played as part of the League playoff schedule, as such schedule is established from time to time.

"Regular Season Game" shall mean any one or more of the games played as part of the League's regular season schedule.

"Team Official" shall mean any person serving as a coach, manager, team representative or other official capacity assisting on or off the Players' Bench during a League Game pursuant to Penalties/Misconducts herein for a Member Team.

"League Operations game Day Rep" shall mean one of the League officials (Commissioner, Rules & Ethics Chair or the Operations Chair) available on game day.

ARTICLE II

MEMBER TEAM PARAMETERS

2.1. Application for Membership

2.1.1 Schools or districts teams wishing to join the League must submit a team declaration, which includes a Team Application Form via daysmart no later than the Second Sunday in July prior to the start of the upcoming season to participate. The League shall decide whether to admit the applicant through a review process.

2.1.2 Meeting the requirements set forth in the request does not guarantee admittance into the League. However, any teams meeting such qualifications but not admitted to the League at that time will be admitted as ice time becomes available or Member Teams drop out in the order in which qualified applications were received.

2.2 Coach Selection

2.2.1 Each Member Team shall be responsible for selecting all of its coaches and team officials. In the event a Member Team is having difficulty finding a Head Coach, the League may assist in the process by providing the names of potential coaches to a representative of the Member Team seeking a Head Coach. Any Head Coach change during the season will require League notification.

Upon selection of a Head Coach by a Member Team, such Member Team shall notify a member of the League administration of its selection. All coaches and team officials are subject to final approval by the League, with such approval not being unreasonably withheld.

2.3 Background Checks

2.3.1 All adults involved in any SHSHL member league/association, including coaches (head and assistant), team representatives, team managers, trainers and/or any other adults directly involved with the administration, organization, operation or coaching of the players of the team, will have to pass a basic background check and SafeSport certification that will be administered and required by CAHA and USA Hockey. Anyone not agreeing to this provision will not be allowed to hold any type of administrative or coaching position related to that team. Each respective league/association will be tasked with administration and enforcement of this regulation.

2.4 Accreditation of Coaches

2.4.1 All Coaches, Heads and Assistants, for each Member Team must have coaching accreditation, at Level 1 or above, from USA Hockey.

2.4.2 Proof of such accreditation shall be presented to the League prior to the first official team practice in which such coach is the Head Coach of a Member Team.

2.4.3 For games, all coaches are required to wear “business casual” attire with at a minimum either a sport coat or coaching jacket.

2.4.4 All Coaches and staff must complete Safe sport training prior to participating in any team event or activity.

2.4.5 All coaches and staff must complete CAHA Anti Bullying and inclusion training before participating in any team activity.

ARTICLE III

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY PARAMETERS

3.1 General

3.1.1 Eligibility

3.1.1.1 - Varsity

Students must be in the 9-12 grades and attend school full-time to be eligible for a Varsity team. Full-time attendance shall mean a student is taking four classes at his or her school. A player may not appear on different school Varsity rosters filed with the SHSHL. Post Graduate (PG) players are not eligible for participation.

3.1.1.2 - Junior Varsity

9th through 12th graders attending a school full-time are eligible for Junior Varsity. A player may appear on multiple JV roster filed with the SHSHL. A player may not appear on a JV-B or C roster if they are rostered on Varsity. A player may only play 1 level down from the Primary JV roster spot.

3.1.1.3 - SafeSport

All players 17 years of age or older on or before December 31 of that playing season and who play on a team in a classification that allows minor age players complete SafeSport Training before being added to such team and prior to participation (on-ice or off-ice).

3.1.2 Age Restrictions - Maximum Age

Any player turning nineteen (19) prior to December 31 for the upcoming season is not eligible to participate for that season.

3.1.3 Private School Students

In the event that the private school a student-athlete attends is not represented by a team in the League, the student shall be eligible to play for the SHSHL team which is shown on the League School List. If the private school is not shown on the School List, please contact the League.

3.1.4 Home Schooled & On-Line Students

Home-schooled and on-line students residing in a school's or district's attendance area are eligible to play only for the team representing that school or district (home-schooled children are not eligible for teams representing private schools), subject to the rostering rules under Section 4.2. A player's primary residence shall be verified by means of a current utility bill in the name of the primary parent/legal guardian. Home-schooled and on-line students will be considered as attending the represented school or district for purposes of roster composition.

Home schooled and on-line children must turn 14 prior to September 1 of the year in which a season begins to be eligible for both Varsity and Junior Varsity. Home-schooled and on-line students must also meet the maximum age limit set forth in section 3.1.2 above.

3.1.5 "Visiting" Players

Players shall not be eligible to play for a Member Team if such player is rostered on another ice hockey team outside the Northern California area during the current season, unless such player permanently relocates from such area to Northern CA. Players relocating to the area must comply with the deadlines set forth in sections 3.1.2, 3.1.8, 3.1.9, and 3.1.10. Players, officially rostered on the out of town team, returning from an out of town ice hockey team after the rostering deadline to finish the current school year in the Northern California area will not be eligible to participate in the League during such season.

3.1.6 International Players

International players, those required to complete the USAH transfer form, shall only roster to one SHSHL school and one independent club.

3.1.7 Tryouts

Each Member Team will be responsible for scheduling and coordinating its own try-outs. Try-out sessions may not be longer than 2 on ice sessions, 90 minutes each. Schools rostering players not attending or designated to their schools shall be responsible for any fees or costs occurred.

3.1.8 Junior / Tier I

Players rostered on a Junior Club are eligible to play ten (10) games at the Junior level while retaining their High School eligibility. Once a player participates in their 11th Junior game, they are no longer eligible to participate in High School games for the remainder of the season. High School players are not eligible to participate in any Junior game after December 31st of that season. Players rostered on a Tier I 15O or Midget Team (16 or 18) are eligible to play the Varsity level ONLY. NO Tier I 15O or Midget player may play on a Junior Varsity team. JV teams using a Tier I Midget player will forfeit those games. Youth 14AAA is eligible for Varsity and JV-A only, any team rostering 14AAA players in JV B or JV C will be given a forfeit for the game and the head coach will receive a 1 game suspension. Girls 19u, 16uAAA are eligible for Varsity, JV A and JV B only. Any team rostering Girls 19u/16uAAA players in JV C will be given a forfeit for the game and the head coach will receive a 1 game suspension. Girls 14u AAA are eligible for Varsity, JV A, JV B, and JV C

3.1.9 Tier II/Youth Travel(A/BB/B)

Players rostered on youth 18u AA team are eligible for Varsity Only and can not participate in any lower level. Any team rostering 18AA players in JV will be given a forfeit for the game and the head coach will receive a 1 game suspension. Any player rostered on a youth 16u AA team are eligible for Varsity, and JV A(pending league approval) only. Any team rostering 16AA players in JVA (WITHOUT APPROVAL) JV B or C will be given a forfeit for the game and the head coach will receive a 1 game suspension. Players rostered on youth 14uAA are eligible for Varsity, JV A, and JV B. Any team rostering a 14U AA player in JV C will receive a forfeit for that game and the coach will be given a 1 game suspension. Girls 19u,16u,14u Tier II are eligible to play in any level of High School hockey in the SHSHL. Youth 16u A travel are eligible for Varsity, JV-A, and JV B Youth 16u BB/B/House, 14A/BB/B/House are eligible for all levels of High School hockey in the SHSHL

3.1.11 Proof of Eligibility

Each player will be required to upload a physical school ID indicating they are a student for their rostered school and a full-time student. Any player which has not completed this by the specified date below may not be eligible to participate in any League games until the school ID has been verified to a member of the League administration. If a school ID proves to be incorrect, all games played with that student-athlete will be forfeited. School ID's must be uploaded by 10/1 (fall semester) and 1/23 for any additional players added during the semester break. If a player is added after 10/1, but before the semester break, a letter is required to verify full-time student status.

3.1.10 Roster Deadline

No individual may be added to or deleted from a team's roster after the team has completed 50% of its scheduled league game **OR** December 15th, whichever comes first. Any player moving into the school in question after December 15th may practice with that team, but not play in games; provided such team has less than 30 players on the official roster at that time. No player may be added to a team, at any time, which already has thirty (30) players on the roster. Teams will be required to email the league commissioner a USA Hockey roster with a spreadsheet with players and their attending school prior to their first game. Failure to do so will result in a fine of \$250 per week late to the school. Varsity teams will be allowed a maximum of 5 USA Hockey roster changes for players throughout the season. Junior Varsity teams will be allowed a maximum of 5 USA Hockey roster changes for players throughout the season. Request to change a teams official USA Hockey roster must be received by the SHSHL Registrar a minimum of 72 hours in advance of when required. Any additional roster changes will incur a \$500 fee per roster change.

3.1.11 Playoff Eligibility

Players must participate in 50% (if odd number of league games, round **UP**) of the division league games to be eligible for playoffs. This requirement includes Tier I and Tier II players. "Participate" shall mean the player's name appeared on the official scoresheet for a game and that the player was verified by an official (on-ice or League) as one of the up to twenty (20) players dressed for that game. Varsity players may not appear on a JV roster, as described in under rule 6.7. Games missed due to injury do not count as games played for play-off eligibility. League scoring system will be the source for game participation.

3.1.12 Exceptions

Any deviations from the standards set forth herein shall be at the determination of the League. Persons or teams seeking such deviations shall submit in writing, a request for an exemption to the League Commissioner prior to December 1 of the League Year for which the exemption is sought. The League shall make a final determination of all such applications no later than December 15.

Matters must be communicated to the League no later than December 5 to ensure that a decision with respect to such matter will be reached for the upcoming season. If application is not submitted prior to December 5, the League cannot guarantee determination of eligibility for the upcoming season and the affected player(s) will most likely not be considered for eligibility until the following season.

3.1.13 Early Graduation

The league will not penalize a player who qualifies for early graduation, as long as the player in question began the season enrolled in the high school for which he/she is eligible to compete.

If and when an early graduate should enroll in a college or university, his/her eligibility to participate in sanctioned high school hockey play shall terminate when he/she begins taking classes on a full- or part-time basis.

3.1.14 No Pass/No Play

The Sharks High School Hockey League (SHSHL) strictly enforces the No Pass/No Play regulations for the Varsity and Junior Varsity divisions.

A player must be a "student in good standing" at his/her school according to the academic pass/play rules for his/her school. To be eligible to play, all players must provide their coaches or a team official with a copy of the most recent grading period report card. **THE LEAGUE MAY REQUIRE THE SUBMISSION OF THIS GRADE**

RECORD AT ANY TIME. FAILURE TO PRODUCE THE GRADE RECORD WILL CAUSE THIS PLAYER TO BE DECLARED INELIGIBLE.

Any player that is not academically eligible according to his/her school will not be allowed to play in any regular season or post-season games until such time as he/she becomes academically eligible according to their respective school.

This suspension is in effect until the student/athlete is reinstated by the school authorities. Should a student elect to transfer schools or enroll in either a private school or be home schooled while he/she is considered academically ineligible by the public school, that student will not be eligible to participate in the SHSHL. He or she must be a "student in good standing" at his/her school according to the academic pass/play rules for the individual school prior to withdrawing from that school. Should the student physically change addresses and become part of a different public school district while the student was academically ineligible at the previous school, the student must become a "student in good standing" at his/her new public school according to the academic pass/play rules of the public school the student is attending. All member teams must abide by the following rules:

- a) Each team is required to obtain a copy of their respective school's academic eligibility rules. If there are none, CIF rules will apply.
- b) Each team is required to complete an academic eligibility report for each grading period, which lists every player on their official USA Hockey **roster that is not in good standing only**. This report will declare those players as being academically ineligible. This report must be signed by both the team representative/manager and the head coach.
- c) Each team representative/manager will be required to verify the academic eligibility status of every player on the team's official USA Hockey roster each grading period. The representative/manager can satisfactorily meet this verification requirement either by reviewing the student's report card each grading period or by receiving a signed academic eligibility status report by a school official (i.e. Principal, vice-principal, club-advisor or counselor). This report need only declare whether or not the student is considered by the school as being academically eligible or ineligible according to the No Pass/No Play rules.
- d) Any player for which verifiable documentation as listed above is unavailable for any reason will be listed as ineligible and not allowed to participate in any games until the academic eligibility can be verified.
- e) A student that receives an "incomplete" on a report card for any grading period is ineligible until such time as the work is completed and a final passing grade rendered. An "incomplete" grade is considered the same as a failing grade until replaced with a passing grade.
- f) A student that is protesting a grade on a report card for any grading period is ineligible until such time as the protest is concluded and a final passing grade rendered.
- g) A student who receives, at the end of any grading period, a total GPA below 2.0 for that grading period may not participate in league activities for three school weeks. An ineligible student may practice, however. The student regains eligibility after the seven calendar day waiting period has ended following receipt of the grade or the 3 week school evaluation period during which the principal and teachers determine that he or she has earned a passing GPA in ALL classes has elapsed. All team representatives/managers are responsible for verifying the grades before the student represents the school in accordance with item c) above. This provision applies to all

grading periods.

All students are eligible during a school holiday of a full calendar week or more. When the bell rings to dismiss students for the December holidays, all students are eligible until classes resume in January. The same is true for summer recess and fall and spring breaks provided those breaks consist of at least a full calendar week. Consult your school's eligibility calendar for specific eligibility dates for each grading period.

h) All students must maintain a 2.0 or above in all subjects each grading period in order to be eligible to play. Eligible players remain eligible until the end of the next grading period, without submitting a progress report. The only exception to this would be if a student received a failing grade in a course that is listed by the school as being "Exempt". Each school is allowed under CIF to list certain classes as being exempt from the No Pass/No Play regulations. The team representative or manager must obtain a list of any and all exempt courses from their respective school at the beginning of each school year.

i) Any student that receives one or more failing grade(s) (F) on their report card is ineligible to play. The student remains ineligible until the progress reports are issued. In order to regain eligibility, the student must be passing ALL courses on the next progress report.

j) The Sharks High School Hockey League grants 5 days to allow for reception of report cards that are sent through the mail to be received. The 5 days will be added both to the original, beginning, and ending dates shown on the school's academic eligibility calendar for all grading periods. This procedure will be uniformly applied to all teams in the league. This procedure will be in effect from the start of the season and remain in effect throughout the season.

k) Bottom line, if a student is considered eligible by their respective school to participate in any other CIF approved sport, then he/she is eligible to play high school hockey in the SHSHL.

l) Grade checks will be done twice during the SHSHL season. The first will be in November and the second will be in February. All teams will be required to submit to the League confirmation that all student-athletes are in good academic standing.

3.1.15 School Suspension

Any player who is placed in the alternative education classes, suspended out of school, or placed in in-school suspension is not eligible to compete in any League scheduled regular season or post-season games until he/she has been back in the regular classroom setting for one complete school day. Should a student elect to withdraw from public school and enroll in either a private school or be home schooled while he/she is in or have been placed in alternative education classes or are under any type of school imposed suspension by the public school, that student will not be eligible to participate. He or she must be a "student in good standing" at his/her public school and have completed any and all disciplinary requirements or other suspensions or required attendance in alternative education classes assigned by the public school prior to withdrawing from that school. Should the student physically change addresses and become part of a different public school district while the student was attending alternative education classes at the previous school, the student must become a "student in good standing" at his/her new public school according to the rules of the public school the student is attending. This suspension is in effect until the player/student is reinstated by the school authorities.

In order to participate in the SHSHL, the player must be a student in good standing in his/her respective school. Generally, if a student would otherwise be eligible to play a CIF recognized sport for their respective school, then he/she is eligible to play high school hockey.

3.1.16 Maximum Number of Season

A player shall not participate in more than four (4) Seasons in the SHSHL. If a player becomes ineligible during the season (i.e. due to grades or suspension), this period shall count as part of, or as a full season.

3.1.17 Concussions

3.1.17.1 Any player who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in an athletic activity shall immediately be removed from the activity for the remainder of the day. Removal from play can be at the request of a coach, official, team manager, parent/guardian or the player.

3.1.17.2 Head Coaches or Team Managers are required to notify the SHSHL Concussion Program Coordinator within 48 hours of all suspected concussions or head injuries.

3.1.17.3 An athlete shall not be permitted to return to activity or play until he/she is evaluated by a licensed health care provider, who is trained in the management of concussions, acting within the scope of his/her practice. If the licensed health care provider determines that the athlete sustained a concussion or other head injury, the athlete shall also complete a graduated return-to-play protocol of no less than seven (7) days in duration under the supervision of a licensed health care provider.

3.1.17.4 An athlete shall not be permitted to return to activity or play until he/she provides the approved and completed USA Hockey Concussion Management Return To Play Form from the evaluating medical professional (clearance from an athletic trainer is NOT acceptable) to the SHSHL Concussion Program Manager and Team Manager. This Release Form will be required 48 hours prior to any game.

3.1.17.5 Failure to do either will result in a penalty at the discretion of the SHSHL Commissioner. Additionally, two or more violations of this rule may result in permanent dismissal from the SHSHL for the coach, player, or team representative designated with oversight responsibilities.

3.2 Social Media

Social Media policy will be the same as outlined in USA Hockey's Safesport Program Handbook. Member teams are responsible for the content posted to the team's official social media accounts. Any audio or video that contains, glorifies or celebrates illegal hits, major penalties, or injuries to opposing teams is not permitted. All such content is subject to League review and progressive fines may be assessed upon findings.

3.3 Media

It is recommended all schools notify League of any and all media requests made directly to the school or team.

ARTICLE IV

HIGH SCHOOL TEAM ELIGIBILITY PARAMETERS

4.1 Public/Private Single School Teams

The Sharks High School Hockey League encourages the growth of high school hockey and the addition of new teams to the league. When a new team is formed, players attending the school(s), or district, which comprise the new team will be required to play for that team, regardless of where they played in previous seasons. Players in their final season of eligibility, (HS Seniors), will be "grandfathered" for their final season, if they choose, and will be eligible to play with the team they played with the previous season. All other players attending the new member school must play for the new member team regardless of past affiliation. The decisions of the league will be final in all cases involving eligibility.

4.2 School Teams

4.2.1 Roster Composition (Varsity & JV)

Participating schools are encouraged to roster 100% from the active student body (Pure), for both Varsity and/or Junior Varsity division. Schools must complete a “pure” roster, with a minimum of 17 players, prior to the addition of a second team to the program. If the school cannot complete a “pure” roster, the following rostering rules will apply for the single team. Schools can roster players that do not attend that school to complete their roster. Students that do not attend the named school must reside in the school district of the named school([Website Page](#)). A player’s eligibility will be determined by his/her school ID (Section 3.1.9).

Schools can roster home schooled players to fill needed spots, as outlined in 3.1.4. Home schooled players can account for up to 6.7% of the total rostered players, this is a maximum of 3 home-schooled players per team. There is no limit of on-line players a team can roster. Home schooled players must not be dual rostered on a NORCAL, or CAHA team for the same season. Once a home schooled or on-line player is rostered with a school, he/she should remain part of that school for his/her entire SHSHL playing career. If a new school (or district) in which the home schooled or on-line player resides is added to the league, the home schooled or on-line player will be required to play for that school or district team. If a home schooled or on-line player wishes to change schools (other than his new school or district team as mentioned above), he/she may do so, but will be required to sit out from the SHSHL for one (1) season. Home schooled players must remain on one roster if the school offers more than one team (i.e. they can not be rostered on Varsity AND Junior Varsity.)

Schools/Teams that cannot meet “pure” rostering requirements from one school can roster students from within the common school district/zone as specified by the league. This will then be known as a “Combined” team and all the rostered players must attend a high school within that school district. In an effort to maximize the “essence of High School Hockey”, combined teams will be evaluated by the League Rules Committee for district composition and student enrollment. Combined teams will be limited, by the League, to which schools players can be rostered from to generate their official USA hockey roster. As potential districts get added, or existing districts remain in the league, these eligible schools within districts will be reviewed by the league and be communicated to districts prior to try-outs. This will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

Schools that for whatever reason cannot meet these roster requirements may petition the SHSHL for a waiver or exemption. Such petition must be made prior to December 15th of the relevant league year. In all cases, the Sharks High School Hockey League has final authority over all teams.

4.2.2 School Transfers

Students transferring between participating schools before July 1st, must have the new school notify the league of the student transfer by July 1st. Students transferring between participating schools, or districts, after July 1st of each season will be required to sit out (not participate) for 4 league games plus ALL team practices during that period.

4.3 Enforcement - Team Violations

Any team which uses a player who does not satisfy the requirements set forth herein shall forfeit any game(s) in which such player participates. The official score of such game shall be 1-0 and all individual statistics shall be recorded as if there had not been a forfeit.

4.4 Establishment of Team Parameters

The League shall establish parameters for all teams for the upcoming season no later than the August 31 immediately prior to such season. Such parameters will be established pursuant to the guidelines set forth herein.

ARTICLE V

LEAGUE SCHEDULE – GENERAL

5.1 Game Location

League Games shall not be conducted at any rink that has not been expressly approved by the League for league play. Additional rinks may be added as needed and approved by the League.

5.2 Tournaments and Scrimmages

Member teams may play in games other than League Games. However, League Games take precedence over other games. Any team not participating in a scheduled League Game shall forfeit such game and shall be subject to such disciplinary action as is deemed appropriate by the League (see rule 12.12). All officiated home scrimmages/games are under the jurisdiction of the Sharks High School Hockey League.

5.2.1 Added Players for Tournaments or Scrimmages

Schools will not be allowed make roster additions for tournaments or scrimmages that do not follow the pure/districted team rules.

5.3 Organization of Teams by Conferences and/or Divisions

Organization of Member Teams into Conferences and/or Divisions shall be at the discretion of the League. The goal of such alignment shall be to provide a relatively balanced playing schedule, to promote geographical and traditional rivalries and to conform to State Championship divisional organization.

5.4 Preseason

League may schedule as needed preseason games. Games will be played as follows:

5.4.1 Regular season game rules, EXCEPT NO OVERTIME.

5.4.2 All players eligible from 30 man USA Hockey roster.

5.4.3 Games will NOT count towards playoff eligibility or locked game count.

ARTICLE VI

LEAGUE GAMES

6.1 General

The rules and regulations set forth in this section shall be applicable to all League games, both Varsity and Junior Varsity, including Regular Season Games and Playoff Games. General game format shall be as described by USA Hockey, with the exceptions noted below.

6.2 Game Day Rosters

Each team (Head Coach or Team Manager) must meet with a league official, or the game scorekeeper, a minimum of 10-minutes prior to the start of the game to confirm team rosters for both student-athletes and coaching staff, electronically, in the scoring system and provide their roster stickers for the paper scoresheet. For JV coaches must provide the league roster form. Players not playing in the game or arriving late will be marked as "absent" within the system. Players suspended or injured will also be marked as appropriate to ensure proper system notification is created. Team staff may not change roster (add/delete players) on the scoring system at any time, USA Hockey roster updates can only be uploaded by a League Representative. After designation of the head coach within the system, the head coach will review for accuracy and then sign, thus validating the roster. Any changes after this time shall only be initiated by the league only. Late players must arrive to the team bench prior to the puck drop of the 2nd period; appropriate USAH penalties will be assessed.

Players arriving ANY time after that may not participate and will be considered not playing for that game. Failure to supply roster will result in a fine of \$250 to the team's HEAD COACH for the first offense, \$500 plus a League hearing for the second. This penalty is at the discretion of the SHSHL Commissioner.

6.3 "Run-Time" Rule

If at any point in the third period of a game, including Playoff Games, the score reaches a six (6) goal differential, the clock shall go into run-time mode. Once in run-time mode, the game shall remain in run-time mode regardless if the goal differential drops below six goals. Penalties will remain the same length in run-time mode as they are in stop-time mode. If a referee or off ice official believes the game will not be completed within its game curfew, they may put the game in to running time.

6.4 Face-Off Locations & Player Changes

6.6.1 Per USAH

6.5 Jerseys

6.5.1 All League teams shall have two sets of matching jerseys, one white or light-colored and one dark. All teams must notify the League of their jersey colors prior to August 1 of each League Year.

6.5.2 The designated home team shall wear dark jerseys.

6.5.3 Temporary numbers may not be taped on to jerseys at any time.

6.5.4 Temporary jerseys and socks may not be used at any time. All game jerseys must match. Players with socks that do not match will be assessed a double-minor unsportsmanlike conduct penalty when they enter the game. Once the penalty is served the player is eligible to participate in the game.

6.6 Protective Equipment

6.6.1 All protective equipment required by USA Hockey Rules must be worn by all players on Member Teams for all on-ice League practices and games.

6.6.2 Ear and mouth guards must be worn by all players on Member Teams for all on-ice League practices and games.

6.6.3 USA Hockey will require the use of neck laceration protection on August 1, 2024, for players in all age classifications, except adults, in games and practices – as well as for on-ice officials under the age of 18. Neck laceration protectors are required for players in all age classifications except adults. For clarity, this includes youth, girls and junior age classifications.

Rule enforcement will be the same as any other equipment violation: an initial team warning followed by a 10-minute misconduct penalty for any violations after the initial warning.

6.7 USA Hockey Official Rosters

Players must be rostered on the official roster that is turned into the league. For example, a player must be rostered on both the varsity and junior varsity rosters if you wish to play him/her at both levels. If a player is rostered on the junior varsity team's roster and not the varsity team roster, you are not allowed to call the player up to play

varsity. Just because a player is listed on the junior varsity roster doesn't mean you can automatically pull a player up to play varsity. The player MUST be listed on the official roster to play.

The minimum number of players in a program to field two teams will be based upon player registration by JULY 31st and will need be 26, 24 skaters and 2 goalies (35 players minimum for three teams). For clubs with two teams, a minimum of 12 players must permanently be rostered (locked) to the higher level team. For clubs with three teams, each team in that club's program must permanently roster 12 players on each team's roster. If the SHSHL registrar creates your teams USA Hockey Roster clubs will be required to submit to the league their list of players rostered to both their teams twenty-one (21) days prior to the first regular season game of the season. Teams that have their own registrar a USAH Roster must be submitted to the league no later than 14 days before your first scheduled game. Any player rostered on the lower level team will be eligible to play games for the higher level team. These players are eligible to play 6 games at the higher level while still be eligible to play at the lower level. Once a player plays in their 7th game at the higher level, they are then "locked" to the higher level team. By December 15th, 50% (2 teams) or 33% (3 teams) of the players (if odd number, round up) must be locked to the higher level team. Each school will notify the league of these "dual" players, and they will be designated with asterisk (*) on the League website. Players are only eligible to dual roster on two teams and those two teams shall be only one level of play difference. Additional players for additional team (school with 3 teams) will be designated with a pound ("hashtag") sign (#). Players that are rostered to a Junior Varsity team will be reviewed throughout the season by the League to ensure the proper level of play. If a player is deemed inappropriate for the JV level, the League will move the player permanently to the Varsity level. In such case, that player's roster spot will not be eligible to be filled. Game day rosters must only include players and staff who are listed on the Official USA Hockey Roster on the day of the game.

Violation of this rule (6.7) will result in incremental penalties. First offense will result in a forfeit of the game in which the violation occurred. The second infraction will result in the Head Coach suspended for the League Play-Offs. The third violation will result in the team being suspended from the League Play-Offs.

6.7.1 If a school has more than 1 team, ANY senior that will be rostered on the JV team will require a League approved petition.

6.7.2 If a Team's Head Coach has a child(ren) that is eligible for the SHSHL, but they reside outside of the area in which the Head Coach coaches, his child(ren) is eligible to play for that school. This will apply only to the Head Coach.

6.8 Schedule

6.8.1 Schools will be required to notify the League of dates they are not able to participate. Acceptable reasons are travel to an out-of state High School hockey tournament or school conflict.

6.8.1.1 July 31th is the deadline to notify the League for conflicts throughout the upcoming season.

6.8.2 Schedule changes for teams that did not notify the League will result in a \$500 fine.

6.8.3 Teams playing their home games at a facility out side of Sharks Ice San Jose must submit their ice slots specified for High School Hockey no later than July 31st. Any teams that have not submitted ice will not be guaranteed scheduled home games before December 31st.

7.1 General

7.1.1 The number of Member Teams, number of League Games each such team plays, times of games, length of season and other elements of the League schedule shall be determined at the discretion of the League.

7.1.2 No Regular Season Game shall be scheduled prior to September 1 or later than the last weekend of February during any League Year.

7.1.3 Each Member Team shall play the same number of Regular Season League Games each Season.

7.2 Regular Season Game Format

All Regular Season Games shall be limited to three periods of seventeen (17) minutes utilizing the stopped clock concept, with a five (5) minute warm-up. If at any point in the third period of a game, including Playoff Games, the score reaches a six (6) goal differential, the clock shall go into run-time mode. Once in run-time mode, the game shall remain in run-time mode regardless if the goal differential drops below six goals. Penalties will remain the same length in run-time mode as they are in stop-time mode. If a referee or off ice official believes the game will not be completed within its game curfew, they may put the game in to running time.

7.3 Tiered Varsity Divisions

The Varsity Division will be divided into a maximum of three conferences (North, South & National Bound). The separation of the schools into each division will be at the discretion of the League.

7.4 League Standings - Regular Season

7.4.1 League standings shall be determined by awarding two (2) points for a victory, One (1) Point for a Tie, Zero (0) points for a regulation loss.

7.4.2 In the case of a tie, the following guidelines shall be followed:

7.4.2.1 Tie between **two** teams:

- 1) Most wins in all league games
- 2) Points earned in head to head games between the 2 teams
- 3) Fewest goals allowed in all league games
- 4) Largest goal differential total in all league games
- 5) Fewest penalty minutes allowed in all league games
- 6) Coin toss

7.4.2.2 Tie among **three or more** teams:

- 1) Most wins in all league games
- 2) Fewest goals allowed in all league games
- 3) Largest goal differential total in all league games
- 4) Fewest penalty minutes allowed in all league games
- 5) Coin toss

Only those games that count in the League standings will be used for tiebreaking purposes.

7.4.3 At the discretion of the League (and CAHA), the playoffs and/or the regular season may be used to select varsity participants to represent the League at post-season and state tournaments.

ARTICLE VIII

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS-VARSITY

8.1 Championship Format

The League Championship format will be based on the League Standing at the conclusion of the regular season. Division break down for playoffs are as follows and are subject to change depending on the number of teams per division:

Varsity North and South: Top 6 teams will make playoffs with 1st and 2nd seed getting a first round bye

National Bound: 3 game series between top 2 teams.

JV-A: Top 6 teams will make playoffs with 1st and 2nd seed getting a first round bye

JV-B/C: Top 4 teams will make playoffs

The seedings for the play-off brackets will be based upon the above-described point system for all league games played. If teams are tied after this seeding process, the tie-breaking rule of 7.4.2 will be used.

8.2 Championship Game Format

8.2.1 All Championship Games shall consist of three periods of not less than seventeen (17) minutes utilizing the stopped clock concept. The higher seed team will be the designated home team for all Championship games. Sudden death overtime shall be utilized to determine the outcome of Playoff Games in the following manner:

All Championship Games, tied at the end of regulation time shall play one (1) five minute, Three on Three, stop-time, sudden death overtime period to be treated as a new period (teams switch ends). If the game remains tied at the end of such overtime, a shoot-out, as described below in section 8.3, will be utilized to determine the winner.

8.3 Shoot-Out Format

8.3.1 Each coach will pick three (3) players to participate. Each of those three players will shoot on the opposing goalie in penalty shot fashion. The Home team coach will elect whether he wants his team to shoot first or second. Once that is determined, the teams will alternate shooters until three from each team have gone. The team scoring the most goals out of the three shooters is the winner.

If an equal number of the three shooters from each team score, each coach will select a 4th shooter (who was not among the original three). The teams will continue to alternate shooters in the order until one shooter scores and the other does not. Each team will continue selecting shooters who have not shot yet, until all players dressed for that team for that game have shot.

8.4 Game Re-Play

No game, playoff or regular season, will be replayed in part or in full for any reason, including administrative errors by the scorekeeper, officials or league management.

8.5 Playoff Roster “Call-ups”

If a school's lower level team has been eliminated from the Playoffs, players from the lower level team can participate for the duration of the playoffs for the upper level team. These players will be required to be on the USA Official Roster.

ARTICLE IX

REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE - JUNIOR VARSITY

9.1 General

9.1.1 The number of Member Teams, number of League Games each such team plays, times of games, length of season and other elements of the League Schedule shall be determined at the discretion of the League.

9.1.2 No Regular Season Game shall be scheduled prior to September 1 or later than March 30 during any League Year.

9.1.3 Each Member Team shall play the same number of Regular Season League Games each Season.

9.2 Regular Season Game Format

9.2.1 All Regular Season Games shall be limited to three periods. All periods will be seventeen (17) minutes in length and utilize the stopped clock format, with a five (5) minute warm-up. If at any point in the third period of a game, including Playoff Games, the score reaches a six (6) goal differential, the clock shall go into run-time mode. Once in run-time mode, the game shall remain in run-time mode regardless if the goal differential drops below six goals. Penalties will remain the same length in run-time mode as they are in stop-time mode. If a referee or off ice official believes the game will not be completed within its game curfew, they may put the game in to running time.

9.3. League Standings - Regular Season

9.3.1 League standings shall be determined by awarding two (2) points for a victory in regulation, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a regulation loss.

9.3.2 In the case of a tie, the following guidelines shall be followed:

9.3.2.1 Tie between **two** teams:

- 1) Most wins in all league games
- 2) Points earned in head to head games between the 2 teams
- 3) Fewest goals allowed in all league games
- 4) Largest goal differential total in all league games
- 5) Fewest penalty minutes allowed in all league games
- 6) Coin toss

9.3.2.2 Tie among **three or more** teams:

- 1) Most wins in all league games
- 2) Fewest goals allowed in all league games
- 3) Largest goal differential total in all league games
- 4) Fewest penalty minutes allowed in all league games
- 5) Coin toss

Only those games that count in the League standings will be used for tiebreaking purposes.

ARTICLE X

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS-JUNIOR VARSITY

10.1 Championship Format

The League Championship format will be based on the League Standing at the conclusion of the regular season. The top 6 teams within each division, or 6 for each conference if division is split, will advance to the League Championship Bracket for that division, or conference. Number of teams participating in the post season can change at the desertion of the league depending on number of teams in a division.

The seedings for the brackets will be based upon the above-described point system for all league games played. If teams are tied after this seeding process, the tie-breaking rule of 9.3.1 will be used.

10.2 Championship Game Format

10.2.1 All Championship Games shall consist of three periods of seventeen (17) minutes utilizing the stopped clock concept. The higher seed team will be the designated home team for that play-off game.

10.2.2 Sudden death overtime shall be utilized to determine the outcome of Championship Games in the following manner:

10.2.2.1 All Championship Games tied at the end of regulation time shall play one (1) five-minute, three on three, stop clock sudden death overtime period to be treated as a new period (teams switch ends). If the game remains tied at the end of such overtime a shoot-out, as described below, will be utilized to determine the winner.

10.3 Shoot-Out Format

Each coach will pick three (3) players to participate. Each of those three players will shoot on the opposing goalie in penalty shot fashion. The Home team coach will elect whether he wants his team to shoot first or second. Once that is determined, the teams will alternate shooters until three from each team have gone. The team scoring the most goals out of the three shooters is the winner.

If an equal number of the three shooters from each team score, each coach will select a 4th shooter, who was not among the original three. The teams will continue to alternate shooters in the order until one shooter scores and the other does not. Each team will continue selecting shooters who have not shot yet, until all players dressed for that team for that game have shot.

ARTICLE X1

ALL-STAR GAMES

11.1 General

11.1.1 Subject to availability, the league will hold a Varsity & Junior Varsity All-Star game during the season. Each member team will have an opportunity to nominate 2 players to participate in the game. The league will select the team rosters from the nominated players. Each school shall have at least one representative in each game. The league and coaches will select up to three (3) goalies for each Team to participate. The Varsity division will consist of players only from the Varsity division

11.1.2 Head Coaches will be selected by league.

ARTICLE XII

PENALTIES / MISCONDUCTS

12.1 General

12.1.1 The rules and regulations set forth in this section shall be applicable to all League games, including regular season and playoff games.

12.1.2 Any player or Head Coach suspended pursuant to this section must serve the

suspension at the same level of play (Varsity or Junior Varsity) at which such suspension was incurred.

12.1.3 If a player is dual rostered, the player may NOT play for the team for which the suspension did not occur during the suspension. The player will be suspended until the suspension is served for the team in which the penalty occurred, including games the other team he is rostered on plays. For example, if a player is suspended during a JV game, that player can not participate in EITHER a Varsity or Junior Varsity game until the complete suspension is served covering Junior Varsity games only. However, if a player is suspended pursuant to a Match Penalty, the suspended player cannot participate in any USA Hockey activities during such suspension.

12.2 USA Hockey Rules

USA Hockey's Official Rules of Ice Hockey ("USA Hockey Rules"), as applicable to the Midget age division, in conjunction with League playing rules as set forth herein, shall be used in all League games.

12.3 5-Minute Majors

If the major penalty occurs in the 1st, 2nd or 3rd period (other than final 5 minutes), an additional 10-minute misconduct penalty shall be assessed. If the major penalty occurs with 5 minutes or less remaining in the 3rd period, an additional game misconduct shall be assessed.

Note: This rule is applicable to all major penalties with the exception of the major penalty (no associated game misconduct) option under rule 620 - Head Contact. However, if a second 5 minute major penalty for head contact is assessed to the same player in the same game a game misconduct will also be assessed in addition to the major penalty. A player receiving a game misconduct for two major penalties assessed in the same game, will also be suspended for his/her teams next two games per USA Hockey rule 404b.

12.4 Fisticuffs

12.4.1 Any player who receives a major penalty for Fisticuffs (Fighting) per USA Hockey Rule 615.

12.4.2 Any player who receives a penalty for being the third man into an altercation (USA Hockey Rule 615(d) shall be assessed a one (1) game suspension in addition to any other penalties assessed pursuant to this section (i.e., Fighting).

12.4.3 Any player identified as the instigator of or aggressor in an altercation (USA Hockey Rule 615) shall be assessed a one (1) game suspension unless the player also receives a fighting major. If the instigating player has also received a fighting major, then one (1) additional game for instigating will be added to the suspension received for fighting.

12.4.4 Any player who receives a penalty for leaving the bench to participate in an altercation (USA Hockey Rule 613(f) shall be assessed a three (3) game suspension in addition to any other penalties assessed pursuant to this section (i.e., Fighting).

12.5 Major or Match Penalties received by a non-senior in the final game of the season

Any player in the last game of his or her high school team's current competitive year/season that receives a major penalty will serve a minimum of a one game suspension at the start of the next high school competitive season. This penalty will follow the player, which means the player will serve the suspension regardless of what high school team he or she may be playing for in the next competitive season.

Any player in the last game of his or her high school team's current competitive year/season receives a match penalty will abide by and comply with the decision and ruling of the respective high school association's hearing conducted as per USA Hockey rules concerning players receiving match penalties.

In both cases the Sharks High School Hockey League maintains the right to review and adjust the penalty as the case dictates. The league may increase the penalties set forth above but may not reduce the penalties set forth above.

12.6 Major or Match Penalties received by a senior in the final game of the season

If a senior in the last game of his or her team's current competitive year/season receives a major penalty, the head coach of that team will receive a minimum of a one (1) game suspension to be served in the first regular scheduled high school game of the next competitive season.

If a senior in the last game of his or her team's current competitive year/season receives a match penalty, then the head coach of that team will receive a minimum of a two (2) game suspension to be served in the first two regular scheduled high school games of the next competitive season.

In both cases (12.5) and (12.6) above, should the head coach of that team be different for the upcoming competitive season, then the penalty will follow the team, not the coach, and the new head coach of that team will serve the penalty.

12.7 Non-Team Officials

12.7.1 No more than four (4) individuals, other than players, shall be in a Member Team's Players' Bench area during League games.

12.7.2 No parents, friends, relatives or other individuals who are not a player or Team Official shall enter the players' bench area, penalty box area, scorekeepers' area or attempt to enter any of these areas or the ice surface during a League Game.

12.7.3 Any Member Team violating the rules set forth in this section shall be assessed the following:

12.7.3.1 First Offense: A two (2) minute minor penalty and the game shall be stopped until the offending individual is removed from the building.

12.7.3.2 Second Offense (same League Game): The game shall be ended and declared a forfeit.

12.7.4 A violation of any rule set forth in this Article II shall be considered a first offense and any subsequent violation of any rule in this Article I shall be considered a second offense for the purposes hereof. (It is not necessary that the violation be of the same type to declare the game a forfeit.)

12.8 Multiple Penalties in a League Game

12.8.1 Any player incurring four (4) penalties of any kind in the same League Game shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

12.8.1.1 A double-minor penalty shall be counted as two (2) penalties for the purposes of this section.

12.8.1.2 Any ten (10) minute misconduct or other misconduct penalty shall be counted as one (1) penalty for the purposes of this section.

12.8.1.3 Any misconduct incurred pursuant to this section shall be applicable for the next League Game scheduled at the time the penalties were incurred. Any games scheduled after the penalties are incurred shall not be relevant for the purposes of serving any suspensions related to such misconduct. However, in the event such a game(s) is scheduled after the suspension is incurred, the suspended player must sit out the first such game, in addition to the next scheduled game as of the time of the suspension.

12.8.2 Any Head Coach whose team incurs twelve (12) or more penalties in the same League Game shall be suspended for that team's next scheduled League Game (including Playoffs).

12.8.2.1 A double-minor penalty shall be counted as two (2) penalties for the purposes of this section.

12.8.2.2 Any ten (10) minute misconduct or other misconduct penalty shall be counted as one (1) penalty for the purposes of this section.

12.8.2.3 Any suspension incurred pursuant to this section shall be applicable for the next League Game scheduled at the time the penalties were incurred. Any games scheduled after the penalties are incurred shall not be relevant for the purposes of serving such suspension. However, in the event such game(s) is scheduled after the suspension is incurred, the suspended Head Coach must sit out the first such game, in addition to the next scheduled game as of the time of the suspension.

12.9 Multiple Game Misconduct's

Any Head Coach whose team incurs 5 game misconducts shall be suspended for that team's next scheduled League Game and must appear before the Advisory Board for review. Match Penalties will be referred to as one (1) game misconduct.

12.10 Notification of Suspensions

All game misconducts and suspensions (other than Match Penalties) less than five games or thirty days are automatic, non-appealable according to USA Hockey and SHSHL League Rules. No written notification other than the scoresheet shall be issued.

12.11 Serving Suspensions

A player suspended pursuant to this section (not including those players suspended for a specified number of days), shall be listed on the official scoresheet as a Suspended Player for any game(s) for which such player is suspended. If a suspended player is not so listed on the official scoresheet for the Game, such game shall not count toward the player's suspension, regardless of whether or not the player participated in such game.

12.12 Forfeits

12.12.1 All teams are required to be present for all regularly scheduled SHSHL games (including exhibition games). Games not played may result in forfeiture by the team(s) responsible for canceling. Teams that incur forfeits must:

-Pay ice costs for the full ice slot and allow non-offending team to occupy the ice (if available)

- Pay for actual referee costs, including travel expenses if cancellation is within 24 hours of puck drop.

- Pay a \$500 penalty assessed by SHSHL, including the possibility of being found not-in-good standing and removal from the league next season.

12.12.2 If a team's absence was unavoidable as determined by the SHSHL Coordinator, the SHSHL fine in rule 6.9.C shall not apply and the game may be rescheduled.

12.12.3 Any team that refuses to start play or to continue play will be subject to the same penalties as a No Show, in addition to penalties provided by playing rules. Disagreement with on-ice or off-ice officials is never a valid reason for refusal to continue play.

6.9.g- *Forfeit Game Results*- If a team must forfeit a game, the forfeiting team will be given a 1-0 loss. The winning goal will be attributed to the Captain of the opposing team. The forfeiting team will also be required to schedule a make-up game for the two teams covering all the costs of the make up game and notify the league of this make-up game within 3 weeks of the originally scheduled date. This make-up game will not be counted in the league standings.

ARTICLE XIII **MATCH PENALTIES**

13.1 Discipline Committee

13.1.1 Any player, coach or team official who receives a Match Penalty shall be suspended from all USA Hockey activities (including all League activities, including practices), until a hearing is held by the appropriate Disciplinary Committee.

13.1.2 The Disciplinary Committees shall hold hearings pursuant to a schedule established by the Disciplinary Committees. No hearings shall be held other than those held pursuant to such schedule, unless a hearing is not scheduled within thirty (30) days of the date on which the match penalty or gross misconduct was incurred.

13.1.3 Any suspension rendered by the Disciplinary Committees shall be retroactive to the date of the incident. Once a decision is rendered, the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committees shall, within three (3) business days of the hearing, notify the Head Coach of the appropriate Member Team and CAHA of any suspension imposed.

13.1.4 Any player, coach or team official suspended pursuant to this section shall be suspended from all League activities, including practices, until such suspension has been served in full.

13.2 Appeals

13.2.1 Procedures for any appeals shall be in accordance with CAHA and USA Hockey By-Laws and Rules and Regulations, and will be discussed on an individual basis between the Commissioner and the appropriate Team Representative as necessary.

ARTICLE XIV **COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The League is very appreciative of the time, effort and dedication its coaches contribute to the program. All coaches are representatives of their respective school as well as the League. To ensure that all League coaches perceive their position and responsibilities in the same manner, the following code of conduct and responsibilities have been developed:

Code of Conduct

All League coaches shall:

- (i) Refrain from engaging in any activities or conduct which are, or may be viewed as being, detrimental to any player, team, school or district or the League;
- (ii) Conduct themselves in a positive and sportsmanlike manner at all times; and
- (iii) Strive to provide a safe and positive environment at all times and promote fair play and

sportsmanship among all players, coaches, referees and parents.

The Following behavior by League coaches shall not be tolerated:

- (i) Any type of physical, verbal or sexual abuse of a player;
- (ii) Verbal or physical confrontations with other coaches, players, referees, parents or spectators; and
- (iii) Excessive use of profanity.

Responsibilities

- (i) All League coaches shall adhere to certification requirements established by USA Hockey or the League.
- (ii) Coaches shall make efforts to continually develop their coaching skills and to learn new drills and coaching methods.
- (iii) Coaches shall ensure that their players wear any and all equipment required by USA Hockey and the League for all practices and games.
- (iv) Coaches shall stay abreast of all rules, policies and procedures implemented by the League and shall maintain an open line of communication with team parents and officials to ensure that they are kept informed of any and all rules, policies and procedures so implemented that may affect them.

ARTICLE XV

REFEREES CODE OF CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Code of Conduct

All League referees shall:

- (i) Refrain from engaging in any activities or conduct which are, or may be viewed as being, detrimental to any player, team, school or the League;
- (ii) Conduct themselves in a positive and sportsmanlike manner at all times; and
- (iii) Strive to provide a safe and positive environment at all times and promote fair play and sportsmanship among all players, coaches, referees and parents.

The Following behavior by League referees shall not be tolerated:

- (i) Any type of physical, verbal or sexual abuse of a player;
- (ii) Verbal or physical confrontations with other coaches, players, referees, parents or spectators; and
- (iii) Excessive use of profanity.

Responsibilities

- (i) All League referees shall maintain proper certification as required by USA Hockey;
- (ii) Referees shall be responsible for attending all League Games which they are scheduled

to officiate;

(iii) Referees officiating League Games shall conduct periodic equipment checks before and during games to ensure all players are wearing the appropriate and required protective equipment; and

(iv) Referees shall stay abreast of all rules, policies and procedures implemented by the League.

ARTICLE XVI

PARENTS AND SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

All parents and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a proper, respectful and sportsmanlike manner while attending League Games. Obnoxious behavior, verbal abuse of players, coaches, referees and other spectators or the use of profanity will not be tolerated. Any parent or spectator engaging in inappropriate behavior may be asked to leave the arena by an on-ice official, League Representative or facility staff and be suspended and fined in accordance with CAHA and USA Hockey policies. If they do not, the proper law enforcement agency will be summoned. In the case of consistent or particularly egregious behavior, the League may ban a parent or spectator from all League activities. Any parent or spectator so banished shall have the right to appeal the ban, subject to final review by the appropriate CAHA & USA Hockey policies.

ARTICLE XVII

COMPLAINT PROCESS

17.1 Complaints regarding a player, coach, referee, parent, spectator or other individual must be made in writing to the League administration. A response to such complaint shall be provided in a prompt and appropriate manner by the League. All written complaints shall remain on file with the League for a period of one year from the date of such complaint.

17.2 The following procedures will be followed with respect to complaints registered with the League pursuant here to:

17.2.1 First Incident During a Twelve (12) Month Period.

The Commissioner shall contact the individual involved to discuss the circumstances of the complaint. If warranted, the appropriate code of conduct and responsibilities shall be reemphasized. The League may take other actions it deems appropriate.

17.2.2 Second Incident During a Twelve (12) Month Period.

The appropriate individual(s) must appear before the Commissioner, or committee, to discuss the circumstances surrounding the complaint. If it is determined the allegations surrounding the second incident are valid, the League shall take action as it deems necessary. Such action may include termination from any and all duties involving the League and/or banishment from League events.

17.2.3 Third Incident During a Twelve (12) Month Period.

The appropriate individual(s) must appear before the Commissioner, or a committee designated thereby, to discuss the circumstances surrounding the complaint. If it is determined the allegations surrounding the third incident are valid, provided the actions alleged in the first two incidents in the same twelve month period were also valid, the individual involved shall immediately be terminated from any and all duties involving the League and shall be banned from all League events. If the circumstances in either of the first two incidents were unfounded, the League shall take action concerning the third incident as it deems appropriate.

17.3 In addition to the above:

17.3.1 Any written complaint of physical abuse by any individual toward a coach, referee or player shall be thoroughly investigated by the League. If it is determined the allegation of physical abuse is valid, such individual shall be permanently terminated from any and all League duties and banned from all League events.

17.3.2 Written complaints of the use of excessive profanity by a coach or other team official will require the individual to appear before the Commissioner. If it is determined the allegations are true, such individual shall be suspended for three (3) League Games (including Playoffs, if any). If the League receives a second written complaint regarding the use of excessive profanity within a twelve (12) month period and concludes such allegations are valid, such individual shall be suspended for one (1) year from all League duties.

17.3.3 Written complaints of the use of excessive profanity by a referee will require the referee to appear before the Commissioner. If it is determined the allegations are true, such referee shall not be permitted to officiate League Games for one (1) month. If the League receives a second written complaint regarding the use of excessive profanity within a twelve (12) month period and concludes such allegations are valid, such referee not be permitted to officiate League Games for one (1) year.

17.4 Supplementary Discipline

17.4.1 Focus on concussions, head injuries, and hitting from behind is a major emphasis of discipline for the league. Any incident that occurs before, during, or after a game that a HEAD COACH feels should be reviewed may be reviewed by the League Administration regardless of whether the action was penalized by the Referee. Game Misconduct penalties are not reviewable.

17.4.2 A request must be submitted in writing to the League by the HEAD COACH within four (4) calendar days following the game. Video of the incident must accompany the complaint and the video will be the responsibility of the submitting team. Plays involving potential injury plays, penalized and non-penalized plays can be reviewed.

17.4.3 The video will be reviewed by a committee consisting of at least a League representative and a referee representative. Written findings will be returned to the HEAD COACH and shall include one of the following results: Suspension (more games added), written warning, video review with violator and League representative or no further action.

17.5 Eligibility Challenges

17.5.1 Any team, or league official, that believes another team is playing with an ineligible player must contact the League in writing to request verification of the player's eligibility. The League shall call upon the player's team representative to verify the current status the player's eligibility. After review, the League will notify both team representatives of the outcome of the review within 10 days.

17.5.2 Any game in which the player's name is listed on the scoresheet, while in an ineligible status, shall be forfeited.

ARTICLE XVIII

HARDSHIP/LEAGUE PETITION

A member team may petition the league for a rule variance regarding any above rule for an emergency situation **ONLY**. A League "Petition Form" will need to be completed and e-mailed to the League Commissioner. The petition will be reviewed and ruled on by the SHSHL Rules Committee. If one of the coaches on the rules committee is filing a petition, his voting seat will be replaced by the League President. The League will respond to the petition within (1) week of receiving the petition. Only one petition will be allowed for each situation. Ruling on the petition will be final.

ARTICLE XIX**BEST INTEREST OF THE GAME CLAUSE**

The league reserves the right to assess additional sanctions or penalties against any player, coach, team official or team/association member and/or modify rules and/or regulations if the league feels it is in the best interest of the league and its members. This includes, but is not limited to penalties assessed under USA Hockey rule 410, Supplementary Discipline.