

# THE CLEVELAND SUBURBAN HOCKEY LEAGUE



## STANDING RULES 2026-2027

## **CSHL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2026-2027**

|                      |                                                                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed, Sept 2, 2026    | Deadline to submit preseason home ice slots/blackout dates                          |
| Tue, Sept 8, 2026    | <b>Mandatory General League Meeting at 6:00 PM Garfield Hts.</b>                    |
| Sat, Sept 12, 2026   | Preseason Scheduling BAM Arena                                                      |
| Thurs, Sept 17, 2026 | Preseason play begins                                                               |
| Thurs, Oct 22, 2026  | USA Hockey Rosters are due to League Secretary and must be uploaded to team page    |
| Sat, Oct 24, 2026    | Preseason play ends                                                                 |
| Mon, Oct 26, 2026    | Final RPI posted - Noon                                                             |
| Mon, Oct 26, 2026    | Deadline to submit Petitions/Appeal of team placement - 8:00 PM                     |
| Mon, Oct 26, 2026    | Petitions posted on website by 9:00 PM                                              |
| Tues, Oct 27, 2026   | Cut off for accepting feedback from division coaches on Petitions - 3:00 PM         |
| Tues, Oct 27, 2026   | CSHL Board of Directors meet to determine team placement/decision posted on website |
| Wed, Oct 28, 2026    | <b>Mandatory General League Meeting at 6:00 PM Garfield Hts.</b>                    |
| Sat, Oct 31, 2026    | Regular Season Scheduling Location BAM Arena                                        |
| Thurs, Nov 5, 2026   | Regular season play begins                                                          |
| Tues, Nov 10, 2026   | Ten-Day FREE game change grace period ends                                          |
| Tues, Dec 1, 2026    | Deadline for all regular season game changes                                        |
| Mon, Dec 7, 2026     | ADM Blue Scheduling 7:00 PM Rocky River                                             |
| Sat, Dec 12, 2026    | CSHL Youth Hockey Day at the Cleveland Monsters - Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse        |
| Tues, Feb 2, 2027    | <b>Mandatory General League Meeting at 6:00 PM Garfield Hts.</b>                    |
| Thurs, Feb 11, 2027  | Regular season play ends                                                            |
| Sat, Feb 20, 2027    | League Playoffs - semi-finals BAM Arena, Strongsville                               |
| Sun, Feb 21, 2027    | League Playoffs - semi-finals BAM Arena, Strongsville                               |
| Sat, Feb 27, 2027    | League Playoffs - finals - BAM Arena, Strongsville                                  |
| Sat, May 8, 2027     | <b>Mandatory Annual Meeting @ The Foundry 8:00 AM</b>                               |

### **Division Representatives:**

|     |                |                         |
|-----|----------------|-------------------------|
| 8U  | Brandon Grote  | Brandon.Grote@gmail.com |
| 10U | Pete Kraguljac | petark@mac.com          |
| 12U | Josh Seigley   | jseigley@gmail.com      |
| 14U | Mindy Wahl     | wahlmn@gmail.com        |



## **CLEVELAND SUBURBAN HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDING RULES**

**2026/2027**

**(Approved May, 2026)**

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# CLEVELAND SUBURBAN HOCKEY LEAGUE

## STANDING RULES SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The following is a summary of the approved changes for the 2026-27 season. The changes given below are identified by a gray shading of the text within the affected sections

| <u>Section</u>   | <u>Type</u> | <u>Change</u>                                                                                     |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I-A              | Clerical    | Updated Birth Years.                                                                              |
| I-C              | Clerical    | Relocated statement from Rule II-J                                                                |
| II-A-1           | Clerical    | Clarifying language                                                                               |
| II-A-2           | Clerical    | Clarifying language                                                                               |
| II-G-1           | Clerical    | Included the injury designation for game scoring.                                                 |
| II-H             | Clerical    | Provided a rule reference.                                                                        |
| II-J             | Clerical    | Removed statement and relocated it to Rule I-C.                                                   |
| III-D-2          | Substantive | To put a timeframe on cancellation submission and a fee for a late submission                     |
| IV-A-1           | Clerical    | Clarifying language and note added.                                                               |
| IV-E-3           | Clerical    | Clarifying language                                                                               |
| IV-F-1           | Clerical    | Clarifying language and added chart to provide visual representation of the rule.                 |
| VII-C-2<br>(New) | Substantive | Rule added to cover any abuse and misconduct in social media and other electronic communications. |
| VIII-D           | Clerical    | Clarifying language to account for the digital scoresheet.                                        |
| IX-A-1           | Clerical    | Clarifying language.                                                                              |

INTRODUCTION

THE CLEVELAND SUBURBAN HOCKEY LEAGUE (CSHL) is a member in good standing of USA HOCKEY and its MidAm District Affiliate. The CSHL subscribes to all USA HOCKEY rules, regulations, and policies as presented in the USA HOCKEY Rule Book, MidAm District Rules and Regulations and in the USA HOCKEY Annual Guide and particularly the following:

The USA HOCKEY recommended guidelines for youth hockey encourage a non-competitive environment in which children and youth can learn the basic skills without the distractions that are often associated with an over-emphasis on winning. Mastery of the fundamental skills and the fun of playing are essential to the development of a lifelong interest in hockey. Programs must be conducted to accommodate the number of new players who wish to play hockey and to reduce the number who become disenchanted and drop out. These voluntary guidelines are directed at children's programs, but adults must implement them if they are to influence youth hockey programs. Coaches, parents, administrators and rink operators must all do their part to ensure that the USA HOCKEY philosophy and the CSHL Standing Rules are upheld.

In addition to the CLEVELAND SUBURBAN HOCKEY LEAGUE's commitment to uphold the philosophy of USA HOCKEY, All Member Programs shall abide by the State of Ohio's "Return-to-Play Law" (ORC 3707.511) for athletes participating in youth sport organizations as it relates to concussions and concussion management.

Violation of any of the Standing Rules contained herein may result in discipline to a team, an association, or any individual connected with them. Teams and individuals may be disciplined through the aforesaid system of discipline contained in the Standing Rules. Associations shall be disciplined by a majority of members of the board present at a meeting of said board.

All coaches, team managers, and program heads are required to read, learn and abide by these Standing Rules. These rules shall be enforced by the board of directors of the CSHL (the "Board"). The Board may adopt regulations to enforce these Rules.

ARTICLE I – Age Classifications and Levels of League Play

A. Age Classifications. The CSHL shall provide league play in the following age classifications:

| Age Classification | Age            | 2026/2027 Season |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
|                    |                | Year of Birth    |
| 14U                | (14 and Under) | 2012, 2013       |
| 12U                | (12 and Under) | 2014, 2015       |
| 10U                | (10 and Under) | 2016, 2017       |
| 8U                 | (8 and Under)  | 2018 and after   |

(Red, White, & Blue)

See the Youth Age Classifications contained in the current USA Hockey Annual Guide for more information.

- 1. The CSHL subscribes to the MidAm District policy which allows players to "play up" one(1) year in playing age (i.e. a second year 12U player may be allowed to "play up"on a 14U team) provided that the Member Program has determined that the player's skill level, emotional maturity and physical abilities will allow him to be successful on a higher age classification team

*It is recognized that in some instances there are exceptional players who would be better served by playing in the next, higher age classification and situations where a player(s) may need to play in the next higher age classification in order to form balanced teams with enough players.*

- 2. No more than 25% of any team roster may be composed of players "playing up".

B. Levels. Definition of Levels within age classifications:

For 10U, 12U and 14U age classifications

- “AA” level is an advanced skill level of competitive hockey
- “A” level hockey is an intermediate skill level of competitive hockey
- “B” level hockey is a recreational level of competitive hockey

The Board may create sub-levels of the A and B level if the number of teams justifies it (e.g. A1, A2, and A3).

For 8U age classification

- “Red” level is an advanced level of instructional hockey
- “White” level hockey is an intermediate level of instructional hockey
- “Blue” level hockey is an beginning level of instructional hockey

- C. Team Placement. **At least 10 days prior to the preseason scheduling meeting, each program shall provide the Board with a “best faith” estimate of projected level of play for their teams’ placement.** The Board reserves to itself or its delegate the right to decide any question of team placement. The Board shall place ALL teams pursuant to a ladder preseason schedule and relative power index (RPI) rating to rank the teams.
- D. The Board shall publish the league calendar at the Annual Meeting in May proceeding the regular season. Generally, the 5 week (6-8 games) preseason will be from mid-September to late October, the 14 week (14 +/- games) regular season from early November to mid-February with the playoffs in late February.
- E. Girls playing in the CSHL must play in the same age classifications as boys.

## **ARTICLE II - CSHL Games and Procedures**

A. Definitions:

1. **League Games** are CSHL regular season games **at the 10U, 12U, and 14U age classes scheduled** at the CSHL regular season scheduling meeting against other CSHL Teams and all playoff games.
2. **Non-League Games** are all other games scheduled at the CSHL preseason or regular season scheduling meetings against other CSHL Teams. **All games at the 8U age class are considered non-league games.**
  - a. Preseason Non-League Games are important in determining team placement for regular season league play.
  - b. Non-League Games played during the regular season do not count in the CSHL standings.
3. **Independent Games** are all other games (including tournament games) whether against CSHL Teams or non-CSHL teams. The Board encourages teams to schedule referees for independent games through the league assignor (contact information inside back cover). Referees in Independent Games are paid in cash at the game.

4. **Curfew Game** is one in which the game must end by a certain time of day. The home team is responsible for declaring the game a "curfew".
5. A Program fee is set by the Board for each League Game and Non-League Game and invoiced to each member program individually. Referees in League and Non-League Games are paid by the CSHL.
5. Any reference within these Standing Rules to CSHL Games refers to League Games and Non-League Games (and not to Independent Games).

**B. Ice Time and Curfew Games.**

1. Minimum ice time for 10U and 12U games: 1 hour - all levels.
2. Minimum ice time for 14U games: 1-1/4 hours - all levels.
3. There shall not be an admission fee to any CSHL Game. Any team playing in a rink with such a fee may not play in the CSHL.
4. Any CSHL Game that is a curfew game, the home team is responsible for all communication and proper scoresheet documentation prior to game start. A team that fails to make such notification in a curfew game that ends prematurely and is timely protested will have sanctions imposed against it, from the game being partially or entirely replayed to forfeiture, all at the home team's cost. The home team shall:
  - a. Verbally notify the referees and the visiting team head coach that the game is played under curfew rules including when the game slot ends.
  - b. Shall check the curfew box on the digital scoresheet.

*Note: Per USA Hockey Playing Rule 636(f) no timeouts shall be permitted during a curfew game.*

5. A CSHL League Game that is delayed or ends prematurely due to rink problems (i.e. rink utilities/equipment failures, rink scheduling, etc.) is considered complete if at least two full periods have been played. Otherwise, it shall be re-scheduled and replayed in its entirety with Referee costs for both teams levied against the home team Program. This rule shall be enforced regardless of a game being a curfew game (see Rule II-B-4).

**C. Off Ice Officials.** The home team shall provide two off-ice officials (timekeeper/scorekeeper) for the scorer's table, a timekeeper and a scorer. Each team must provide an off-ice official for its penalty box. All off-ice officials must be 18 years of age or older. It is highly recommended that those volunteering as off-ice officials refer to the current version of USA Hockey "Off-Ice Officials Manual" to familiarize themselves with the duties of the positions. Additionally, scorekeepers are to acquire the knowledge and ability in the use of the digital hockey scoring platform being utilized by the CSHL (See Rule II-G-1)

**D. Clock Management Guidelines for CSHL Games shall be as follows:**

1. Set clock for three-minute warm-up.
  - a. Sound horn when ice is ready for warm-up.
  - b. Except as directed by a referee, start clock to run down the 3 minutes when both teams enter the ice.
  - c. Sound horn when 30 seconds of warm-up remain.
  - d. Sound horn when warm-up is over.
  - e. Referees should then start the game within 1 minute of end of warm-up.

2. Set clock for:

- a. Three 14 minute periods for the 14U age class. Three 12 minute periods for 12U and 10U classifications.
  - b. Periods will be standard stop-time. If the game is a curfew game, with proper notification under II-B-4, the first two periods will be standard stop-time and the third period shall be stop-time UNTIL purchased time for the game and the game clock time remaining are equal. At that time, the timekeeper shall inform both benches and the referees that the clock will go to running time to assure that the game is completed within the required purchased ice time. If proper notification under II-B-4 was not made, the home team may not change from stop-time to running time. The game shall remain in stop-time until the rink ends the game, at which time the scorer should note the time remaining in the game on the digital scoresheet. The home team should be prepared to forfeit the game if it is properly protested.
  - c. Any time in the game that there is a six (6) goal differential, the remainder of the game will be played in running time. If there is a ten or greater ( $\geq 10$ ) goal differential at the end of the second period or any time during the third period, the game will end at that point. The visiting team shall leave the ice and the home team is to exercise their discretion on the use of the remaining ice time.
  - d. In running time, there will be no timeouts and no stoppage for goals, injuries, etc. The clock may be stopped only upon the instructions of a referee or if penalty times cannot be recorded without stopping the clock.
  - e. Minor penalties in running time shall the same duration as the penalty time during normal game stop time and with no change in major or misconduct penalty time.
- E. Ice Cuts. An ice cut should be made before a CSHL Game at all levels of all divisions, except with approval of both coaches and referees.
- F. Team Representative/Manager. It is strongly recommended that a Team Representative/Manager be appointed for each team. This representative/manager should attend all CSHL Games of their team and be prepared to report to his Head of Program on any incidents involving a coach, player, manager, official or parent/spectator.
- G. Scores and Score sheets.
1. Game scoring shall be done through a digital hockey scoring platform (i.e. GameSheet®). The League will upload scheduled pre-season and regular season games into the database. The HOME team is responsible for securing the required iPad tablet computer and for providing scorekeepers to correctly fill out the digital score sheet. The scorekeepers must access the game number from the database for the score sheet before the game and ensure that referees electrically sign the score sheet after the game.

The Head Coach has the duty to ensure that only players present on the bench at the game are selected as "playing" and that the gameday goalie is selected. If a player is listed on the roster and is not at that game, he shall be selected as "sitting out," **or if injured, selected as such.** A substitute player may be added to the roster in accordance with Rule IV-E-3 and selected "for that game only". Additionally, if a player or coach is serving a game suspensions, the name must be selected as "suspended", along with the game being served of a suspension (ex. 1 of 1).

- a. If circumstances exist where the necessary iPad tablet computer is unavailable or other difficulties keep the scorekeepers from digitally scoring the game, they are to score using the paper version of the CSHL score sheet. Upon completion of the game, the information on the paper version is to be transferred to the digital score sheet as soon as possible. The paper copy is to be kept by the HOME team representative/manager for record that the appropriate signatures were obtained.
2. The digital score sheet of CSHL Games (this includes preseason games) should be digitally

submitted to the League immediately after the game by the HOME team. A 48 hour grace period will be afforded to the HOME team for this submission. Exceptions to the above procedure are forfeited games (see rule III-B-3). Any score sheet not submitted digitally within 48 hours shall cause the responsible program to be fined \$25 per instance.

3. The referees are to identify any penalties or descriptions of their official duties during a game and sign off on the digital score sheet. Officials are to notify coaches if a player or coach is to serve a game or multiple games suspension due to a penalty assessment. An official's failure to make such notification shall not excuse a coach from enforcing all game suspensions (see Rule V-A)
  4. Complaints regarding the conduct of an official shall be submitted ONLY by the Head of Program of the complainant and distributed via e-mail to the CSHL Secretary. The complaint must contain a detailed account of the actions which prompted the grievance. The name(s) of the person(s) initiating the complaint must be included. A complaint submitted by someone other than the Head of Program will be disregarded.
- H. Referees All CSHL Games must be officiated by USA Hockey registered referees assigned by the League. There shall be two referees scheduled for each game. A CSHL Game will be considered official if officiated by only one referee. If no referee shows up at a CSHL Game, the game may not be played and must be rescheduled (**see Rule III-E-2**). Teams are not permitted to use the ice time to play a "controlled scrimmage" without referees.
- I. Protective Gear, Jerseys and Socks.
1. In compliance with USAH Rule 304(f), all CSHL players at the 12U level (12 & under) through High School (18 & under) are required to wear a colored (non-clear) internal mouthpiece, that covers all the remaining teeth of one jaw, customarily the upper. For the first violation of this rule, the violating player shall be ruled off the ice and the coach shall be notified that for the next violation of this rule by ANY player on the team a 10-minute misconduct penalty shall be imposed. It is strongly recommended that CSHL players at all age classifications wear a form fitted mouthpiece
  2. It is required that CSHL players wear a visible protective throat guard that is manufactured and sold as a throat protector (and cannot be altered from the original manufactured state). A hanging throat/neck laceration protector covering the throat/neck area and attached to the helmet are recommended for all Goalkeepers (USAH Rule 303(b)).
  3. In accordance with USAH Rule 203(b), all players on each team shall be dressed uniformly. Teams are required to wear distinguishing colors wearing the same primary color jersey and the same primary color socks on each leg. Home Team shall wear white or light jersey and Visitor team shall wear dark jersey. Where colors conflict, it is the responsibility of the home team to make the necessary changes. For a gross violation (multiple players violating the rule), an offending Team will be issued a warning with further reported gross violations subject to action by the league.
- J. Home Ice Sheets. At least 10 days prior to the preseason scheduling meeting, each program shall provide the Board with at least five (5) home sheets of ice for each team's preseason schedule. At the regular season scheduling meeting each team shall bring an adequate number of ice sheets to play its home games.

### **ARTICLE III – Protests, Forfeits, CSHL Game Changes and Cancellations**

A. Protests.

1. Protests may be lodged only in connection with incidents/events that occur during the playing of a CSHL game. Only the violation of League rules as stated in these Standing Rules may be protested. Referee judgment calls shall not be subject to protest.

2. All protests shall be submitted ONLY by the protesting Head of Program and distributed via e-mail to the CSHL Secretary, and to the opposing team Head of Program. A protest submitted by someone other than the Head of Program will be disregarded. The protesting Head of Program shall submit the protest to the CSHL Secretary and the opposing team Head of Program within 72 hours of the incident/event. This deadline may not be waived. The formal protest shall include the teams involved, game number, date, and the specific rule(s) that is alleged to have been violated with specific information about the incident/event.
3. The CSHL Disciplinary/Review Committee will review the protest to determine if it meets the criteria of a League protest.
4. If deemed an actionable protest, the CSHL Disciplinary/Review Committee will notify the involved parties of the time and place of the hearing. A hearing may be deferred until the end of the season. No more than 4 persons per program will be permitted at the hearing. One of those present must be the Head of Program of the protesting program.
5. If a protest is upheld, (deemed an actionable protest), and notwithstanding any Disciplinary Hearing sanctions, a \$25 protest filing fee will be charged to the program filing the protest. A final protest fee will be assessed as follows:
  - a. if there is no fault found against the defending program, the protesting program will be assessed an additional \$75 Protest Fee
  - b. if the defending program is found to be in violation, the defending program will be assessed a \$100 Protest Fee and the \$25 filing fee shall be refunded to the protesting program
  - c. if found that both programs have shared responsibility regarding the violation, the protesting team will be assessed an additional \$25 Protest Fee and the defending program will be assessed a \$50 Protest Fee.

#### B. Forfeits.

1. There shall be no forfeiting of a league (CSHL Regular season) Game (except as levied by the League for violation of CSHL Standing Rules). Teams may not voluntarily forfeit a league game for any reason. Any team that is advised by another team that it is not playing a league game as scheduled, or otherwise a "no-show", must immediately report this to the CSHL Secretary and Referee Assignor.
2. In the event of a "no-show" of a league game, a fine of \$100, league fees and referee costs for both teams shall be levied against the Program of the offending team. The non-offending team shall not be assessed league fees or referee costs.
3. In that it is a league game, it must be played. The game is to be rescheduled for play at a later date (see Rule III-C-5) by following the established CSHL game change protocol with the subject being "No-Show Game Re-schedule"
4. Failure to show up or not playing a scheduled league game will result in a hearing before the CSHL Disciplinary/Review Committee and the possible suspension of team management. If the CSHL determines, in its discretion, that the "no-show" was deliberate, the offending team will be ineligible for the playoffs.
5. Forfeits of non-league games as related to CSHL pre-season games is highly discouraged as these games are important in determining team placement. In the event of a forfeit or "no-show" of any scheduled non-league game (pre-season or otherwise), provisions of Rule III-B-2 shall apply. Failure to show up or not playing a scheduled non-league game may result in a hearing before the

6. In the event that a league game is declared a forfeit by virtue of a violation of a CSHL Standing Rule, the score will be recorded as a 1-0 victory for the non-offending team.

C. Rescheduled Games.

1. 10 Day Grace Period (2 coaches must agree). Preseason CSHL Games may be rescheduled or cancelled without charge in the first 10 calendar days after the preseason scheduling meeting. A Head Coach of a team wishing to reschedule a CSHL Game during the 10 day grace period must obtain agreement of the opposing team's Head Coach and submit a game change per the CSHL Game Change Instruction protocol. Regular season CSHL Games may be rescheduled (following the same game change protocol) without charge in the first 10 calendar days after the regular season scheduling meeting.
2. Before December 1 (2 coaches and 2 heads of programs must agree). After the 10-day grace periods referred to in Rule III-C-1, the League strongly discourages rescheduling CSHL Games. A team wishing to reschedule a CSHL Game after the 10-day grace period must obtain the permission of the opposing team's Head Coach, its own Head of Program and the opposing team's Head of Program. The Head of Program of the team wishing to reschedule a CSHL Game is the only person authorized to submit a game change per the CSHL Game Change Instruction protocol. The League will disregard any attempt to reschedule a CSHL Game by any other person. The program initiating the change will be assessed a \$100 fee.
3. On or After December 1 (2 coaches, 2 heads of programs and the CHSL Board must agree). No CSHL Game may be rescheduled on or after December 1st. without League approval. Any request for a waiver of this rule must be submitted via E-mail only by the Head of Program of the requesting team to the CSHL Secretary and may be approved by the CSHL Board only in the rarest circumstances. A request from any other party will be disregarded. The CSHL will only accept requests for waivers that include a valid reason for the game change and the agreement of the Heads of Programs of both teams. The program that initiates the change will be assessed a \$100 fee if the request is approved.
4. 5/10 Day Rule. A game change for any CSHL Game rescheduled under Rules III-C-1 & 2 must be submitted at least 5 days before the originally scheduled game date in order to give the CSHL Referee Assigner time to reschedule referees. Any request for a waiver under Rule III-C-3 must be submitted at least 10 days before the originally scheduled game date in order to give the CSHL Board to review the request and allow the CSHL Referee Assigner time to reschedule referees if approved.
5. Any re-scheduled game must be played before/on the date determined as the end of regular season.

D. Game Cancellations.

1. League Games. No League Game may be canceled. This rule will be waived by the CSHL Board only in the rarest circumstances.
2. Non-League Games. The CSHL will accept game cancellations of Non-League games from the Head of Program of the team canceling the game ONLY after both Heads of Program have agreed to cancel such game. The Head of Program wishing to cancel a CSHL **Non-League** Game is the only person authorized to submit a game cancellation request. An attempt at cancellation by any other party will be disregarded. The cancellation must be submitted per the CSHL Game Change Instruction protocol to the Referee Assigner and to the CSHL Secretary **no later than three(3) days prior to the scheduled game.** The program that initiates any cancellation will be assessed \$100 fee. **If a cancellation request is submitted less than the 3-day period, an additional fee**

**of \$100 will be imposed.**

E. Weather Conditions/Clerical Error.

1. Any CSHL League Game that is subject to inclement weather, ice rink conditions, or clerical error by the League shall be grounds for a game postponement and must be scheduled within 10 days for play at a later date (see Rule III-C-5). There will be no fee levied for a CSHL Game postponed under this rule if it is rescheduled within 10 days.

*Note: Please call the CSHL Secretary and the Referee Assigner (phone numbers inside back cover) as soon as it is determined to postpone a game due to one of the conditions listed above.*

2. Deliberate refusal to reschedule will result in disciplinary action by the Board, including the assessment of all costs involved to the refusing team.

F. Substitution of Games.

Once a CSHL Game is scheduled, no team may substitute for the originally scheduled teams without the permission of the Referee Assignor.

## **ARTICLE IV – Rules Governing Rosters, Teams, Players and Coaches**

A. Rosters and Exclusivity

1. No later than two(2) weeks (14 calendar days) prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the regular season, all CSHL Teams must submit to the League Secretary a copy of its official USA Hockey Team Roster for the season approved by the USA Hockey District Registrar. This shall also serve as the “Official CSHL Team Roster”. This is critical as the team rosters will be automatically uploaded to the digital hockey scoring platform.

After the initial submission, Any proposed amendment to this roster must be submitted with reasons for the change to the League Secretary for CSHL approval before any players added may play in a League Game. Upon approval, a copy of the amended roster (**approved by the USA Hockey District Registrar**) must be transmitted to the League Secretary.

***If a team needs to add or remove players for tournaments, non-league games, or exhibition games, those changes must be identified on a separate USA Hockey roster, not on the Official CSHL League Roster.***

2. Only players listed on the Official CSHL Team Roster may play in League Games. If it is found that a member program team violates this Rule by playing a player not listed on the team's Official CSHL Team Roster (Rule IV-A-1) in a League Game, the member program and/or team management will be subject to a discipline hearing before the CSHL Disciplinary/Review Committee, at which time the Committee shall determine the appropriate discipline which may include one or more of the following: game forfeiture, suspension, probation, a monetary penalty, or other disciplinary action.
3. A player on an Official CSHL (primary) Team Roster may not play for any other team registered with a non-member or associate member (i.e. Barons) program during the regular season without the written permission from the Head of Program that they are members of and the CSHL. A CSHL player who requests to play for another USA Hockey registered team during the regular season must first receive the approval from their Head of Program. Second, if approved, the Head of Program is to send the request and completed “Request for Player Dual Rostering” form via e-mail to the League Secretary detailing the name of the other team, its head coach's contact information, how many games he expects to play for the other team, the reason for the dual

rostering, and affirmation that he will oblige commitments to his primary team. A request of such submitted by someone other than the Head of Program will be disregarded. The League Secretary shall promptly respond with a decision from the CSHL. If it is found that a CSHL player plays for a team other than their primary team during the regular season without following the reporting and approval procedures set forth in this rule, the CSHL shall impose discipline as deemed appropriate.

*Note: The intent of this rule is to keep “ringers” off CSHL Teams, not to keep CSHL players from playing on tournament teams.*

#### B. Team Rules.

A CSHL Team is one that participates in the CSHL regular season. All CSHL Teams must have a minimum of six (6) players in uniform for all League Games. A maximum of twenty (20) players may be on one team.

1. Prior to a CSHL Team playing any CSHL Game it must have in its possession their current USA Hockey Team Roster (a.k.a. Official CSHL Team Roster). Before any CSHL Game, a coach may review his opponent's Official CSHL Team Roster.
2. An official birth certificate must be secured from all CSHL players by the Team representative/manager before playing any CSHL Game.
3. All CSHL Teams must participate in pre-season play in order to be eligible for the playoffs.

#### C. Obligations When a Player Changes Programs.

1. Before a player may move from one CSHL Member or Associate Program (“Program”) to another, he shall submit a written request to be released from the member program that he is currently registered. He must complete his financial obligations and return program equipment or program records to his former Program. He must present evidence of this to the new Program in the form of a written “Release” issued by the Head of the former Program. A “Move” occurs upon the earlier occurrence of:

- a. the player being added to a team roster or
- b. the player playing in any game with the new Program.

If all obligations have been met, a release shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

2. The new Program shall be fined \$100 per player per game played, if a player:
  - a. Moves, and
  - b. Owes money to the former Program, and
  - c. Does NOT present a Release to the new Program, and
  - d. Plays any games with the new Program,

In addition, if the game is a CSHL League game, it may be forfeited.

3. The CSHL Review Committee will hear and resolve all disputes and will monitor compliance with this Rule. The only sanctions allowed to be imposed is a prohibition on a player playing for a Program until all obligations are satisfied and the fine to the new Program as stipulated in Rule IV-C-2 above. A decision of the CSHL Review Committee is not a decision on the legal obligations of the parties or the merits of their case.
4. All member programs have sole responsibility for collecting any agreed upon fees/dues from their member players and are encouraged to obtain signed and dated contracts to clearly show the obligations incurred by a player. Absence of a signed contract is not fatal, but will be taken into account in making a decision.

#### D. Head Coaches/Assistant Coaches.

1. Head coaches and Assistant coaches of CSHL Teams must be registered with USAH before the CSHL regular season begins and must complete the appropriate level of coach's training as required by USA Hockey and Mid-Am District.

*Please refer to USA HOCKEY/MID-AM DISTRICT/CSHL COACHING REQUIREMENTS located in the Appendix of these rules for additional details.*

2. The CSHL will check on coaching certification and if it is found that a Head Coach of a team is not in possession of the stated requirements by December 1<sup>st</sup>, that individual will be ineligible to coach for the remainder of the season.
3. In respect to the State of Ohio "Return-to-Play Law" (ORC 3707.511) ALL coaches:
  - a. Must successfully complete an online training program in recognizing the signs and symptoms of concussions and head injuries ("Certificate of Completion" to be on record with the Coach and the Member Program). The certification is good for three years.
  - b. Must remove a player from play if the player exhibits signs and symptoms of a concussion.
  - c. Assure that the player will not return to play on the same day that he or she has been removed.
  - d. Must not permit a player to return to play until they have been assessed and receive written clearance by a physician or any other licensed and approved health care provider.
4. As mandated in the USA Hockey Annual Guide (Reference Rules and Regulations V.A), Head coaches and Assistant coaches must properly wear an approved ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages and all Coaching Education Program clinics and/or workshops. Failure to comply will result in a 30 day suspension from all activities involving USA Hockey registered programs."

#### E. Player Movement within the Same Member Program.

1. No player may play any CSHL Game for a CSHL Team unless he is on that team's Official CSHL Team Roster at the time of the game.
2. Except as permitted below, no player may be on the Official CSHL Team Roster of more than one CSHL Team at one time.
3. A player (**other than a goalkeeper**) who is moved from one team's Official CSHL Team Roster to another team's Official Team Roster (for the same Member Program) for a League Game must be permanently moved (i.e. such player may not play again for his original team in League Games) subject to the following exception. A team may play a substitute player from within its own Program in a League Game (defined in Article II.A.1) if, and only if, the team has LESS THAN 10 SKATERS PRESENT (excluding goalkeepers) and they have 11 or more players on their official league roster. If they have 10 or less players (including goalkeepers) on their official league roster, they can only bring up players to match that total number of players on that roster and only IF officially rostered players are missing and listed as "sitting out" or "**injured**" on the game's digital score sheet. At the 14U and 12U age classes such substitute player(s) must come from a lower level/**sub-level** team within the age class or from any team in a younger age class except a AA team. At the 10U age class, the substitute player must be from a lower level/**sub-level** team in that age class or from the 8U age class except from the top "Red" team from the program. The substitute player in this instance must be in his last year at the 8U age class. Rule E.1 still applies and requires the player to be added to the Official CSHL Team Roster of the new team. He does not have to be removed from his original team's Official CSHL Team Roster unless he is being permanently moved. Such substitute player may play in a maximum of 3 League Games for any one team before he must be permanently moved. For each occurrence, the player's name shall be added to the digital score sheet along with an asterisk (\*) denoting that he is a substitute player.

*Example: This rule allows a 12U A-1 team with 9 or less skaters to pull up a substitute player from a 12U A-2, A-3, B-1 or B-2 team, or any 10U team except 10U AA.*

4. In the event of a player requesting a move to a lower level/**sub-level** team within the Program after the start of the regular season, the move must be submitted by the Head of Program to the CSHL Board for review and approval. The review is not to stop free movement of the player, but to determine if such a move will impact the competitive balance as established by the RPI and/or the impact on the standings. The CSHL may deny or impose conditions upon movement. Until a decision is rendered, the player is ineligible from competing with his new team. Upon approval, the CSHL will notify the teams within the affected playing Level of the movement.
5. Any team violating these rules in a League Game will forfeit such game. If the Board determines that the violation was deliberate, the forfeiting team will be ineligible for the playoffs.

#### F. Dual Rostering of Goalkeepers within a Member Program.

1. Goalkeepers may be dual rostered within a Member Program for a team as an emergency backup only. Any such goalkeeper must be designated on the Official CSHL Team Roster (and all score sheets for that team) as the backup goalkeeper with an asterisk (\*) next to his name and may play for that team only in emergency situations as a goalkeeper. At the U14U and 12U age classes, the backup goalie for a AA level team may come from any other team in its age class or the next younger age class. The backup goalie for a non-AA level team must come from an equal or lesser **sub-level** team within its age class or from any team in the next younger age class except a AA level team (**See Dual Roster Goalkeeper Matrix Chart Below**). A goalie can be an emergency backup goalie on more than one team within his program.

| DUAL ROSTER GOALKEEPER MATRIX |    |                                                               |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|---|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| IF YOUR TEAM IS...            |    | YOU CAN DOUBLE ROSTER A GOALKEEPER FROM ONE OF THESE TEAMS... |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|                               |    | 14U                                                           |    |    |    |   | 12U |    |    |    |    | 10U |    |    |    |    | 8U |    |    |    |    |
| Team                          |    | AA                                                            | A1 | A2 | A3 | B | AA  | A1 | A2 | A3 | B1 | B2  | AA | A1 | A2 | A3 | B1 | B2 | R  | W  |    |
| 14U                           | AA |                                                               | ✓  |    | ✓  | ✓ |     | •  | •  | •  | •  | •   | •  | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
|                               | A1 |                                                               |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓ |     | -- | •  | •  | •  | •   | •  | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
|                               | A2 |                                                               |    |    | ✓  | ✓ |     | -- | •  | •  | •  | •   | •  | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
|                               | A3 |                                                               |    |    |    | ✓ |     | -- | •  | •  | •  | •   | •  | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
|                               | B  |                                                               |    |    |    |   | --  | -- | •  | •  | •  | •   | •  | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 12U                           | AA |                                                               |    |    |    |   |     | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓   | •  | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
|                               | A1 |                                                               |    |    |    |   |     |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓   | •  | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
|                               | A2 |                                                               |    |    |    |   |     |    |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓   | •  | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
|                               | A3 |                                                               |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    | ✓  | ✓   | •  | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
|                               | B1 |                                                               |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    | ✓   | •  | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
|                               | B2 |                                                               |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |     | ✓  | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 10U                           | AA |                                                               |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |     |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | •  | •  | •  |
|                               | A1 |                                                               |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |     |    |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | •  | •  | •  |
|                               | A2 |                                                               |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |     |    |    |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | •  | •  | •  |
|                               | A3 |                                                               |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |     |    |    |    |    | ✓  | ✓  | •  | •  | •  |
|                               | B1 |                                                               |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |     |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  | •  | •  | •  |
|                               | B2 |                                                               |    |    |    |   |     |    |    |    |    |     |    |    |    |    |    |    | ✓  | •  | •  |

- ✓ With No Restrictions
- Only if 2nd Year Goalie at Age Classification
- Ineligible

*Note: For competitive reasons, a goalie on a AA-level team can only be a backup goalie on another AA-level team in an older age division.*

- a. A player rostered and who plays forward or defense on a team within an age classification for a member program will be allowed to be dual rostered as an Emergency Backup Goaltender (EBUG) on any other team(s) in the same member program within that age classification (or one age classification higher provided he meets Rule I-A-1 "playing up" age rules). By virtue of this rule, it makes them eligible to be an emergency back-up goalie on other teams within that Program and his/her participation shall follow CSHL Standing Rule IV-F-1 for the dual rostering of goaltenders within the program.

Under no circumstances will this player be allowed to “skate out” on the team that he is designated as an emergency back-up goalie.

*e.g. Jimmy Smith is a forward on the 12U AA team at Kent. He has offered to be an emergency back-up goalie (EBUG) for the Program. He therefore, can be rostered as an EBUG on one or more teams at the 12U Division at Kent at any level (A1, A2, B, etc.). Since Jimmy is a 2nd year 12U player, he would also be eligible to serve as and EBUG on any 14U team at Kent.*

2. Any team violating rule IV-F-1 or IV-F-1a in a League Game will forfeit such game. If the Board determines that the violation was deliberate, the forfeiting team will be ineligible for the playoffs.

*Note: A player, including a goalkeeper, should not be on the rosters of two tier II USA Hockey Tournament Bound teams. See the USA Hockey Annual Guide for more information*

#### G. Limits on Player Movement Between Member Programs.

1. After the first day of the preseason, a player that has signed an Official CSHL Team Roster may not play for another CSHL Program without a written release from the head of program of his original team (see Rule IV-C-1). A denial of a release may be appealed to the Board only on the grounds that the head of program failed to follow these Standing Rules.

*Note: this rule is intended to prevent the disruption caused by players moving between programs once they have signed a roster and to encourage Member programs to get team rosters signed in a timely fashion.*

2. Upon the conclusion of preseason play at midnight, any movement of a player from one CSHL program to another not only must receive a written release from the head of program of his original team, but the move must be submitted by the head of program of the team receiving the player to the CSHL Board for review and approval. The review is not to stop free movement of the player, but to determine if such a move will impact the competitive balance as established by the RPI and/or the impact on the standings. The CSHL may deny or impose conditions upon movement. Until a decision is rendered, the player shall be ineligible from competing with his new team. Upon approval, the CSHL will notify the teams, within the affected playing Level of the movement
3. In order to manage the transfer of players from one CSHL Member Program to another, a CSHL Team may roster a maximum of three(3) players who appeared on the roster of a particular CSHL Team registered with a different CSHL Member Program in the previous year. This rule does not apply to siblings.
  - a) A team may have “imported” players from several teams, but may only have three(3) players from one particular team.

*Note: This is designed to discourage an unhappy family who is leaving one CSHL Member Program from recruiting multiple families to join them on the same team at a different CSHL Member Program.*

- b) Per VIII-B this Standing rule may be waived by the CSHL Board for good cause, but the reasons must be overwhelming.
- c) Associate Members (i.e. Barons, etc.) are not Member Programs. Therefore, this rule does not apply to players coming from Associate Members (see Rule IV-H-1)

- d) A player returning to his home CSHL Member Program, defined as the CSHL Member Program that he played for in the year before playing for the team that he is transferring from, shall be excluded from this rule with supporting documentation proving such.
- e) A waiver of this rule would be granted if the Head of Program from the CSHL Member Program affected by this movement submits written authorization to the CSHL Board allowing more than three(3) players from a team in his program to transfer to another single CSHL Member Program team.

#### H. Conditions on Incoming Player from Non-Member Program.

- 1. After the first day of the regular season, any player from a non-Member program (i.e. player moving into the jurisdiction of CSHL teams) or from an Associate Member (i.e. Barons, etc.) joining a team of a Member program requires the head of program of the team receiving the player to notify the CSHL Board for a review. The review will take into consideration the team playing level that the player was with previously and notify the teams, within the affected playing Division, of this occurrence.

### **ARTICLE V – Game Rules, Suspension and Conduct**

- A. The CSHL adheres strictly to the playing rules of USA Hockey, which also allow the CSHL to impose further Supplementary Discipline as noted in USAH Rule 410. It is the responsibility of the coaches to make sure that these rules are fully understood. All members must also comply with USA Hockey requirements with respect to progressive suspensions as noted in USAH Rules 411 and 615(f) and Game Misconduct Suspensions as noted in USAH Rules 401(b), 403(b), 404(a) and (b). Any Coach, upon findings of the Board, that allowed the participation of a suspended, or otherwise ineligible, player or Coach in a game(s) that they were required to serve a suspension, will be subject to disciplinary action and may lead to a forfeiture of the game(s)

#### 1. Game Misconduct and Progressive Suspensions

The CSHL will adhere to USA Hockey Rules pertaining to Game Misconducts and Progressive Suspensions as noted in Rules 411 and 615(f) of the USA Hockey Official Playing Rules

- a) For purposes of this rule, a season starts September 1st and ends August 31st the following year. Programs and coaches have an affirmative duty to keep track of all of its player/Coach game misconducts, suspensions and inform the Board immediately when this rule applies.
- 2. Any game misconduct penalty called after the conclusion of play of a CSHL League game will be subject to CSHL review and possible supplemental discipline.
- 3. If a referee determines that a coach contributed in any fashion to a player receiving a game misconduct penalty during or after the handshake that coach may also be assessed a game misconduct penalty.
- 4. Only a Head of Program may contact the CSHL Secretary to request a League review regarding a suspension. Only one contact for this purpose will be permitted. NO coach, player, or parent may initiate contact for this purpose. Non-compliance with this rule will result in the review being denied and the suspension will stand.

#### B. Parent/Spectator Abuse.

- 1. If an official determines during a CSHL Game that any parent/spectator is continually abusive to a player, an official, or to other fans, that individual may be ejected from the viewing and game

area. The officials are responsible for the enforcement of this rule when they identify the disruptive behavior or are informed by minor officials. If that particular individual refuses to leave, the team with which he is affiliated will forfeit the game.

2. If an official determines during a CSHL Game that parent/spectator abuse is excessive, he has the authority to remove both teams from the ice (excepting minor officials) until all of the spectators clear the arena. If the parent/spectators refuse to leave, the game is terminated and the matter will be referred to the Board.
3. It is the responsibility of the home team coach and/or team management to protect all officials from irate and/or abusive parents/spectators, and to assure their safety out of the rink. Neglect to do so will result in disciplinary action by the Board.

C. Use of Noisemakers at games:

1. Those that are permitted: Bells, popcorn kernels, etc. in plastic bottles - where permitted by rink management.
2. Those that are not permitted: Whistles (interfere with officials' whistles), air horns, or any other extremely disruptive noisemakers as determined by the game officials.

D. Handshake

1. The customary handshake between teams will take place after the game in all Divisions. The handshake will be with the right hand with the glove on or off. The visiting team will leave the ice surface first.
2. At the conclusion of the game, both teams will return to their respective benches and wait for the referees' signal to return to the ice for the handshake. At the discretion of the referee, where he senses a potential problem following a game, he may not signal for the handshake. The Board will take the appropriate action with any team starting trouble or fighting during the handshake immediately upon notification.

E. Game Ejection.

1. A referee may eject any player, coach or manager from any game for any reason. This game ejection IS NOT a game misconduct and does not carry a game suspension. The digital score sheet must indicate this by using the phrase "GAME EJECTION" in the notes area of the digital score sheet. Upon ejection, the individual shall leave the rink (i.e. playing surface, bench, spectator area, etc.). Failure to abide to this may result in a harsher penalty

F. Referee Rating System.

1. The Board may from year to year adopt a referee rating system to reward good referees with recognition.

G. Game Misconducts and Match Penalties

1. The League may publish the names of players who have received game misconducts and match penalties.

## **ARTICLE VI - Playoffs**

A. Banners will be awarded to all division champions and all playoff champions in the 10U, 12U, and 14U Age Classes. If teams are tied in points for first place, the tiebreaking procedures described in Rule VI-D below will be used to determine the champion. A Team award will be awarded to all playoff runners-ups.

### **B. Number of Teams and Eligibility for CSHL Playoffs and Regular Season Champion Banner.**

1. For every level, there shall be a single elimination playoff with the following number of teams.
  - a. In levels with 9 or fewer teams, the top 4 eligible teams.
  - b. In levels with 10 or more teams, the top 6 eligible teams, with the top two teams receiving a bye in the first round of the playoffs.
2. The following teams will not be eligible for the CSHL playoffs or the Regular Season Champion Banner:
  - a. A team guilty of deliberately forfeiting a league Game, as determined by the Board.
  - b. A team that did not participate in preseason play.
  - c. A team that played a non-rostered player in violation of Rule IV-A.
  - d. A team from a program who's League Fees has not been paid.

### **C Player Eligibility for CSHL Playoffs.**

1. A player is ineligible to participate in his team's playoff games unless he was present on the bench for at least 50% of his team's League Games. Players who were approved to join a team after the start of regular season, must be present for at least 50% of the games left to play once they were approved to join the team. Within 3 days of the end of the regular season each playoff team shall submit to the CSHL Secretary a "CSHL Player Playoff Eligibility Certification" form completed by the coach indicating which players on that team's Official CSHL Team Roster meet this 50% rule and which do not. Such form will include a statement by the coach that he will not dress in any playoff game any player that does not meet this 50% rule. A player who does not meet this rule because of injury may request through their Head of Program, a waiver from the Board. An emergency back up goalkeeper from the same program on a Roster under Rule IV-F-1 is not subject to this Rule.
2. A playoff eligible team that does not transmit playoff eligibility certification to the CSHL Secretary within the 3 day time period may cause the responsible member program to be fined \$100.00.

D. Tiebreakers. Teams earn 2 points for a win and 1 point for a tie in League Games (regular season games). If two or more teams have an equal number of points (and have played an equal number of League Games), their positions in the standings shall be determined by the following tie-breaking formula. In order to break the tie, if one tie-breaker establishes a position for one or more teams, each team is placed in the applicable position. Once a team/teams is/are placed, the remaining tied teams shall start the tie-breaking process over again at step 1.a. The tie-breaking formulas are as follows:

1. The results of the games played between the teams tied in the following order (this formula D-1 can be applied when three or more teams are tied only if the teams have played each other an equal number of times, otherwise see D-3):

- a. Standings - The points acquired in these games.
  - b. Most Total Points
  - c. Differential - Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus.
  - d. Quotient - Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. If goals scored against are 0, the denominator shall be 0.5.
2. If after applying the formulas of 1 a, b, c, and d, the tie still exists, 1b, 1c and 1d shall be applied using all of the League Games played by the teams tied. Note: The formulas shall be applied in order 1a, b, c, d and 2.

*Example: A beats B 5-2, B beats C 4-0, C beats A 4-2*

| <u>Team</u> | <u>GF</u> | <u>GA</u> | <u>G Differential</u> | <u>G Quotient</u> |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| A           | 7         | 6         | +1                    | 1.17              |
| B           | 6         | 5         | +1                    | 1.20              |
| C           | 4         | 6         | -2                    | 0.67              |

Under D-1-a, each team has 2 points in the games among the tied teams; under D-1-b, each team has the same total wins among the tied teams. Under D-1c goal differential is +1, +1 and -2, so C is placed 3rd and teams A and B go back to rule D-1-a. Under D-1-a, in the games between the tied teams A and B, A has 2 points and B has 0 (A beat B 5-2). Therefore, A gets 1st place and B gets 2nd place. C is 3rd.

3. In a level in which all teams have NOT played an equal number of League Games, then the standings shall be determined by percentage, with ties counting as  $\frac{1}{2}$  win and  $\frac{1}{2}$  loss (e.g. a record of 6-3-1 would have a percentage of 0.650, while a record of 6-2-2 would have a percentage of 0.700).
4. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in rule D-1 and D-2, if tiebreakers D-1-a (points obtained in head to head games) and D-1-c (goal differential in head to head games) do not break a tie for first place, both teams will be declared co-champions and be awarded Division Champion banners. The first seed in the playoffs will be determined by a coin toss as conducted by the CSHL Board.

#### E. Playoff Games.

1. The Board shall determine the time and place of all playoff games.
2. The higher seeded team shall be designated the home team and shall wear its white or light colored jerseys. Failure to do so shall result in a delay of game minor penalty and a game misconduct for the Head Coach.
3. All playoff games shall be played within a 60 mile radius of downtown Cleveland. No playoff game may start before 8:00am.
4. A 4-team playoff structure shall use traditional seeding (i.e. winner of 1v4 plays winner of 2v3). In a 6-team bracket, the first and second place teams will receive byes in the first round, while 3<sup>rd</sup> Place plays 6<sup>th</sup> Place and 4<sup>th</sup> place plays 5<sup>th</sup> Place. After the completion of the first round, the first place team will play the lowest seeded team remaining and the second place team will play the other remaining team.
5. OVERTIME Any playoff game tied at the end of three(3) periods shall be continued until a winner

is determined by scoring a goal (sudden victory).

- a. Overtime periods shall be 14 minutes for 14U games and 12 minutes for 12U and 10U games with a 1 minute rest period between periods.
- b. There shall be no additional timeouts in overtime.
- c. Teams shall change ends in the first overtime, and alternate after that. The referees shall decide whether ice cuts are necessary for safety in overtime.
- d. In any semifinal (and any quarterfinal) the first overtime shall be played with 5 on 5 skaters. The second and subsequent overtime periods shall be played with 4 on 4 skaters and shall follow the principles of NHL Rule 84.3 regarding penalties.
- e. For Championship Games, all overtime periods will be played with 5 on 5 skaters

*Note: NHL Rule 84.3 governs penalties in 4 on 4 overtime periods using the principle that neither team can go below 3 skaters*

## **Article VII – Jurisdiction, Best Interest of the League and Conduct Unbecoming a Member.**

### **A. Jurisdiction.**

By participating in the CSHL, member Programs, teams, players, coaches and parents submit to the jurisdiction of the Board over all matters pertaining to the League, games and disciplinary matters regardless of actions taken or determinations made by any other body (e.g. Mid-Am Hockey, USA Hockey, etc).

### **B. Best Interest of the League.**

Notwithstanding any other provision contained in these Standing Rules, the Board may take any action or make any determination it deems necessary in the best interest of the League, provided that if the Board takes any action or makes any determination based on this Article, it shall set forth its reasons therefore in writing and promptly distribute such to the heads of programs.

### **C. Conduct Unbecoming a Member.**

1. Any member Program, team, player, coach or parent who engages in conduct unbecoming a member of the CSHL or detrimental to the League as determined by the Board, in its sole discretion, shall be punished as the Board deems appropriate.
2. **Social media and other means of electronic communication can be used to commit abuse and misconduct (e.g., bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by any team (including players, coaches or parents) from a member Program, will not be tolerated and are considered violations of USA Hockey's Safe Sport Program. If notified of such abuse, the CSHL Board shall alert the Head of Program of the offending program that they are to take action to immediately cease the abusive communication coming from their organization. The failure to do so in a timely manner shall subject the offending party to a disciplinary hearing in accordance with USAH Bylaw 10 *Dispute Resolution, Discipline, Arbitration* (per Rule VIII-F). Disciplinary action may include, but not limited to: game forfeiture, playoff ineligibility, suspension, or other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate.**

### **D. Responsibility.**

1. Each program head is responsible for compliance with these Rules and decisions of the Board by all teams, coaches, parents and players in his program.

2. The CSHL conducts four(4) mandatory meetings for the Head of Programs throughout the season. A \$100.00 penalty shall be imposed for each missed meeting to programs that are not represented at these meetings unless of an excused absence as approved by the CSHL Board. Proxy representation shall be accepted upon prior notice to the CSHL Secretary.
3. CSHL Programs are obligated to abide to the State of Ohio "Return-to-Play Law" (ORC 3707.511) in terms of informing and educating coaches, athletes, and the parents, of the signs and symptoms of concussion or head injury and the risks of continuing to practice for or compete in athletic events or activity after sustaining a concussion or head injury.

## **Article VIII - Miscellaneous.**

### **A. Amendment.**

All proposed amendments to these Standing Rules must be submitted in writing to the Board for review, and shall then be placed before the membership for discussion and balloting. All proposed amendments shall be distributed to the membership at least 30 days before the meeting at which such amendments are to be voted on. Amendments may be passed by a majority vote of the voting members present at the Annual Meeting or by a 2/3rds vote of the voting members present at any other meeting of the membership.

### **B. Waiver.**

The Board may, upon receipt of a written request from a Head of Program, waive any Standing Rule for good cause. The Board must issue its waiver in writing setting forth its reasons therefore. If the request is granted in whole or in part, the Board shall promptly distribute the request for waiver and the Board's decision regarding the request to all the Heads of Programs

### **C. Self-Reporting of Violations.**

Each member Program (including all individual members thereof) is required to promptly inform the CSHL Secretary whenever it discovers that a player, coach, manager or team belonging to that Program violated any of these Standing Rules. If the Board discovers in the course of an investigation of a potential rules violation that a member Program knew about a violation but did not report it, the disciplinary consequences will be higher.

### **D. Referee Conflict of Interest.**

No referee shall officiate in a game in which his father, mother, sister, brother, son, daughter, husband or wife is a coach, manager or player on one of the participating teams. A coach, manager or player who is also a referee may not officiate a game in the same age group as the team in which they are associated. If a scheduling mistake is made and this occurs, the referee must notify the coach of the opposing team of this relationship and obtain his agreement **to play the game. This acknowledgment shall be noted on the Digital scoresheet under the "scorekeeper notes" tab** prior to the start of the game. Failure to obtain such agreement will cause such game to be forfeited.

### **E. Use of Gender.**

Within these Standing Rules, the words "he," "him" and "his" are used to include both male and female participants.

### **F. Disciplinary Review Committee**

The Board shall annually create a CSHL Disciplinary/Review Committee. The Committee, through its

Chair, is directly responsible to the Board in performing its functions

1. Organization of the Committee – The Committee shall consist of an appointed member of the Board as the Chair of the Committee and at least two(2) other members of the Board.
2. Committee Meeting Dates – This standing Committee convenes as necessary to review and act upon rules violation or other incidents brought to the attention of the Board.

Committee actions will be initiated by:

- a. Notice to the CSHL by a Mid-Am District representative informing them of a referee report of a match penalty infraction of USA Hockey rules
- b. A request from the CSHL Board for violations of the Standing Rules.

The Committee will respond/act on any such notification, as soon as all pertinent materials and persons involved in the issue at hand can be assembled, but no later than 30 days after such notification.

3. Committee Actions/Decisions - Committee actions will be based on the current issue of USA Hockey Official Rules, Mid-Am District hockey rules and regulations, CSHL Standing Rules, and generally accepted policies for implementation of all such rules and regulations. The Committee shall conduct any proceeding in accordance with USAH Bylaw 10 *Dispute Resolution, Discipline, Arbitration* and this Bylaw shall constitute the sole and exclusive remedy for dispute resolution.

Committee decisions are to be based on a simple majority vote. In situations where a tie vote is possible, a vote by the chair will be reserved and occur only as a tiebreaker. The chair may note conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest and excuse him/herself or request another member of the committee to excuse him/herself from the proceedings in which the conflict or appearance of conflict is thought to occur. The Chair as necessary to compensate for abstaining or absent members and conflict of interest exclusions pro tempore will appoint members. The Co-Chair will serve as Chair should the appointed chair be absent, or in a conflict situation.

4. Hearing Notice - A hearing notice shall be issued on matters involving disciplinary or other similar action. This notice is to provide the Disciplinary/Review Committee and the involved parties full information on the nature of the hearing. This hearing notice shall be distributed no less than seven(7) days prior to the hearing. In order to ensure a fair procedure, the notice is to include:
  - a. The date, time and place of the hearing.
  - b. Summary of violation(s) with sufficient detail to enable the individual against whom the action is being considered to answer to the charges.
  - c. The right of the individual to be accompanied at the hearing by their representatives (parents, head coach, Head of Program, etc).
5. Hearing Procedures - Any hearing involving a disciplinary or other similar action of a confidential or quasi-confidential or personal nature shall be conducted in closed session with those present being members of the Committee and:
  - a. The person against whom an action is being considered.
  - b. If the person against whom an action is being considered is a minor, his/her parent(s) or designated guardian shall accompany them.
  - c. Head of Program of the individual against whom an action is directed.
  - d. Head Coach of the team if the individual against whom an action is being considered is a player.
  - e. Any aggrieved person, including parents or designated guardians and/or coach for players, team or program involved.

Individuals providing testimony in such proceeding shall appear in the proceeding singly, and be excused after providing testimony.

The deliberations of the Committee shall be in closed session and will be duly recorded. The Committee shall use reasonable efforts to render its written decision within three (3) business days of the completion of the hearing

Penalties imposed by the Committee may affirm or overturn the original penalty imposed by a game official. It shall be understood that the CSHL has the right to impose supplemental discipline under Rule VII-C of the CSHL Standing Rules and Rule 410 of the current issue of USA Hockey Official Rules.

Any Party that is suspended, otherwise disciplined, or subject to an Administrative Action resulting in discipline, and after a hearing, has the right to appeal such action per USAH Bylaw 10.E

#### G. Team Tryouts

1. CSHL Member Programs may conduct tryouts for their teams no earlier than 48 hours after the completion of the CSHL Playoffs. This restriction does not apply to Associate Member Programs.

### **Article IX – Specific Rules for 8U Age Classification Teams/Games**

As a supplement to the rules in Articles I thru VIII above, this rule section is specific ONLY to games and teams as the 8U Age Classification

#### A. Season

1. For Red and White level teams, a 5 week preseason will be from mid-September to late October to determine competitive schedules and a 14 week **developmental** season from early November to late February/early March.
2. For Blue level teams, a season will be from early December to late February/early March.
3. There are NO playoffs for teams at the 8U Age Classification.

#### B. Playing Surface Set-up.

1. At the 8U age classification, the standard playing surface for all CSHL sanctioned games shall be cross-ice or half-ice in alignment with USA Hockey's American Development Model (ADM) guidelines. For the levels of play the surface set-up are:
  - a. Red and White – ½ half ice game with border down the center red line.
  - b. Blue – cross-ice game with borders on the blue lines.

#### C. Game Clock Set-up and Operation.

1. Red and White – Three(3) 14 minute periods with face-off at the beginning of each period. Horn shall sound every two(2) minutes and clock will stop until started by referee whistle.
2. Blue - Two(2) 20 minute halves with one(1) minute rest between halves. Horn shall sound every two(2) minutes and clock will stop until started by referee whistle.

#### D. Scorekeeping

1. Scorekeeping shall only be kept in Red level games with a maximum of six goal differential being

recorded. Play to continue but no further scores above that differential is to be recorded.

2. No scorekeeping to be kept in White and Blue level games.

#### E. Referees

1. Referees are involved in Red and White level games only. At the sound of the horn, the referee shall retrieve the puck, raise his arm, hold for a count of ten(10) seconds for a player change, and blows the whistle while tossing the puck in the corner to restart play.
2. No referees in Blue level games. The puck is played at the spot when the horn sounded.
3. If there are two(2) games on the rink at the same time, there will be one referee on each side. If two different level teams are playing each other, the format for the game will be the "higher" level.

#### F. Coaches

1. Red and White – No on-ice Coaches permitted.
2. Blue - On-ice Coaches permitted.

#### G. Penalties

1. Referee shall monitor the game for obvious penalties such as tripping, hooking, pushing/roughing or any illegal stickwork. There is no stoppage of play when a penalty is committed. The referee shall remove and escort the offending player to the team bench for the remainder of the 2-minute set/shift with no substitution for that team.

#### H. Goalie Saves/Scores

1. Referee to blow whistle to stop play if the puck is covered by the goalie or if a goal is scored.
2. To restart play after a save, the opposing team is to retreat back to mid-ice and the goalie to throw/shove puck to the side to continue play until the horn sounds and shift ends. After a goal the referee should assist in removing the puck from out of the net and to throw the puck to the side/end to continue play.

#### J. Handshake

1. In accordance with Rule V-D-1, a handshake between teams shall take place.

10U and 12U: three 12 minute periods

14U: three 14 minute periods

### 2026-2027 CSHL REFEREE FEES

|             |               |                                    |
|-------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| ADM U8      | (1 official)  | \$34                               |
| Squirt      | (2 officials) | \$35 each, three 12 minute periods |
| Peewee      | (2 officials) | \$40 each, three 12 minute periods |
| Bantam      | (2 officials) | \$51 each, three 14 minute periods |
| High School | (2 officials) | \$80 each, three 15 minute periods |

## **To Request Referees for a Game**

### **(A Game that doesn't already have a game number)**

Send the request to [cshlassignor@gmail.com](mailto:cshlassignor@gmail.com).

In the subject line, please put "Request for referees".

In the text of the message, please put date (please include the day, i.e. Wednesday), time (am/pm), rink, period length (i.e. 12 minute), level (i.e. peewee), team responsible for payment, name and phone number of the person making the request. Any game scheduled after the scheduling meeting will be cash at the game.

I will e-mail back a confirmation that referees have been scheduled and confirm the referee fee for that game. A two day notice would be appreciated.

## **To request a Game Change**

### **(A Game with an existing game number)**

Requesting coach (before grace period) or Requesting Head of Program (after grace period) must send an e-mail to opposing coach (before grace period) or opposing Head of Program (after grace period) notifying him/her of the game change particulars (i.e. new date/time/rink). The opposing coach or Head of program must forward that request to [cshlgamechange@gmail.com](mailto:cshlgamechange@gmail.com) with their approval of the game change. Once I receive the forwarded e-mail, I will make the change in the arbitersports referee assigning website and also on the CSHL website. When I have made the requested change in both websites, I will send a reply to all (and cc Chris Kendel – if it is after the grace period for the processing of the game change fee) stating that the changes have been made. The e-mail from the requesting coach or Head of Program must follow the following protocol or it will be returned and no changes will be made until a corrected e-mail is received.

## **E-MAIL PROTOCOL**

### Requesting coach/Head of Program:

1. Subject Line – Game number/Date/Time.
2. Text of e-mail – New date, new time (AM/PM), new rink.
3. Coach/Head of Program - Name, Organization (ie. Shaker Hts.), team number, phone number.

### Opposing Coach/Head of Program: (forward to [cshlgamechange@gmail.com](mailto:cshlgamechange@gmail.com))

1. Don't change the subject line.
2. "I approve the change".
3. Coach/Head of Program – Name, organization, team number, phone number.

## **USA HOCKEY/MID-AM DISTRICT/CSHL (tjo-8-16-26) COACHING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2026-27 SEASON**

All coaches (head & asst) must complete these requirements before they may be added to a team roster except req. #5, which must be completed by Dec 31.

1. Register as a coach with USA Hockey.  
[www.membership.usahockey.com](http://www.membership.usahockey.com)  
Cost \$59 (\$54 to USAH and \$5 to the Mid Am). It takes about 15 minutes all online.  
Good for 1 year.
2. Complete the USA Hockey Background Screen Program.  
[www.usahockey.com/backgroundscreen](http://www.usahockey.com/backgroundscreen)  
Cost \$30. It takes about 30 minutes all online. Good for 2 years.
3. Complete the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program Training.  
[www.usahockey.com/safesporttraining](http://www.usahockey.com/safesporttraining)  
Free. Coaches must take every year.  
A person must first take the course known as "SafeSport Core Training," which takes about 1-2 hours online. After that, a "SafeSport Refresher Course" is available each subsequent year for a person that has completed the SafeSport Core Training.  
The Refresher Course takes 30 minutes or less to complete.
4. Complete the USA Hockey Online Age-Specific Module ("ASM") for the age level you are coaching.  
[www.usahockey.com/agespecificmodules](http://www.usahockey.com/agespecificmodules)  
Cost \$20/module for 06U/08U and \$25 for every other module. It takes approximately 6-7 hours, all online. An ASM only needs to be completed once per age level.
5. Complete the USA Hockey Coaching Education Program ("CEP").  
[www.usahockey.com/coachingcertification](http://www.usahockey.com/coachingcertification)  
Cost \$65. All courses are online. It takes approximately 6-7 hours over two nights. There are 6 levels of the CEP starting at 06U/08U (entry level) and culminating at level 5, the highest level. If you are coaching 06U/08U you start at that level. If you are starting at 10U or older, you enter CEP at level 1. You must continue your education with a coaching clinic every year until you achieve level 4. A coach may attend only one CEP per year. Once you achieve level 4, you need to take level 5 within 3 years or take 5 credit hours of continuing education every 3 years. Once you achieve level 5, you need to take 5 credit hours of continuing education every 3 years.
6. Complete the Ohio Concussion Training Module.  
<https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/child-injury-prevention/resources/onlineconcussiontraining>  
Free. We recommend this training, but it is not required. It takes about 1 hour, all online.  
Good for 3 years.
7. Comply with Ohio Lindsay's Law about Sudden Cardiac Arrest ("SCA").  
<https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/Lindsays-Law/Lindsays-Law>  
Free. Watch the video. Read the coach information sheet  
It takes about 20 minutes, all online. Good for 1 year.
8. Wear a helmet for all on-ice activities.  
[www.usahockey.com/rules](http://www.usahockey.com/rules)  
All ice hockey coaches must properly wear an approved ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions.

## **Coaching Resources**

1. **USA Hockey Mobile Coach Application**  
<https://mobilecoach.usahockey.com/#login>
3. **USA Hockey Website**  
[www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com)
4. **Mid Am District Website**  
[www.midamhockey.com](http://www.midamhockey.com)
5. **Cleveland Suburban Hockey League Website**  
[www.cshlhockey.org](http://www.cshlhockey.org)



## Request for Player Dual Roster on CSHL and Non-CSHL Team

CSHL Team Program: \_\_\_\_\_ Team Number: \_\_\_\_\_

CSHL Team Head Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

CSHL Team Head of Program: \_\_\_\_\_

.....

Non-CSHL Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-CSHL Team Head Coach Phone Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-CSHL Team Head Coach E-Mail Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Games Expected to play for Non-CSHL Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for the Dual Roster Request: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement that the CSHL Team above is the players Primary and Affirmation that the player will not willingly miss League games due to games/practices/tournaments of the Non-CSHL Team:

Player's Parent or Guardian (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Player (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Approval of the above request:

CSHL Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Head of Program (Signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### CSHL Use Only:

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Notes**

## **Board of Directors**

### **Commissioner:** (Term Ends)

|                          |                      |                |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Tim O'Shaughnessy (2027) | timosh1313@yahoo.com | (216) 299-3939 |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|

### **Secretary:**

|           |                         |                |
|-----------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Jim Smith | cshlsecretary@yahoo.com | (330) 501-9842 |
|-----------|-------------------------|----------------|

### **Treasurer:**

|              |                              |                |
|--------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Chris Kendel | christopherjkendel@gmail.com | (216) 400-2155 |
|--------------|------------------------------|----------------|

### **Director of Officiating/Assignor:**

|           |                        |                |
|-----------|------------------------|----------------|
| Don Lewis | cshlassignor@gmail.com | (330) 931-1574 |
|-----------|------------------------|----------------|

### **Directors:**

|                      |                         |                |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Brandon Grote (2027) | brandon.grote@gmail.com | (216) 650-1161 |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|

|                   |                         |                |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Nick Komma (2028) | nicholas.komma@eyha.net | (440) 655-7675 |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------|

|                       |                |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Pete Kraguljac (2027) | petark@mac.com | (216) 502-7171 |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|

|                       |                    |                |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Mike Radosevic (2027) | mkrado3450@att.net | (440) 334-6885 |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|

|                     |                    |                |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Josh Seigley (2028) | jseigley@gmail.com | (419) 205-6966 |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|

|                    |                 |                |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| John Stojak (2028) | jstojak@att.net | (216) 272-2118 |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|

|                   |                  |                |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Mindy Wahl (2028) | wahlmn@gmail.com | (216) 533-1504 |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|

### **Website:**

|            |                                                                                    |                |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Mike Goetz | <a href="mailto:michael.thomas.goetz@gmail.com">michael.thomas.goetz@gmail.com</a> | (440) 213-3749 |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|

### **Committee/Chairs:**

|                           |                                                             |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Coaches & Referees:       | John Stojak/Don Lewis                                       |
| Discipline:               | Mike Radosevic/John Stojak/Josh Seigley                     |
| IT:                       | Mike Goetz/Pete Kraguljac                                   |
| Marketing / Social Media: | Mike Goetz/Jim Smith/Mindy Wahl                             |
| Playoffs:                 | Nick Komma/John Stojak//Mindy Wahl                          |
| RPI:                      | Tim O'Shaughnessy/Nick Komma/Joe Walkish/<br>Brandon Groteh |
| Rules:                    | Mike Radosevic/Pete Kraguljac/Josh Seigley                  |
| Scheduling:               | Brandon Grote                                               |

**Websites:**

[cshlhockey.org](http://cshlhockey.org) (Cleveland Surburban Hockey League)

[midamhockey.com](http://midamhockey.com) (MidAmerican District)

[usahockey.com](http://usahockey.com) (USA Hockey)

[midamreferee.com](http://midamreferee.com) (Mid-Am Referees)

**To Report Scores:**

**The Digital Score Sheet of CSHL Games (this includes preseason games) should be digitally submitted to the League immediately after the game by the HOME team. A 48 hour grace period will be afforded to the HOME team for this submission. Exceptions to the above procedure are forfeited games (see rule III-B-3). Any score sheet not submitted digitally within 48 hours may cause the responsible program to be fined up to \$100.**

DO NOT submit score sheets from tournament games, independently scheduled games, etc.

**To Schedule Referees for Independent Games:**

Don Lewis, Assignor (330) 931-1574

Email: [cshlassignor@gmail.com](mailto:cshlassignor@gmail.com)

**To Reschedule / Cancel Games:**

Please follow protocol listed in CSHL Standing Rules

**For Team Roster Information:**

USA Hockey MidAm District Association Registrar

Cathy Fievet (440) 409- 3864 [cm.fievet@gmail.com](mailto:cm.fievet@gmail.com)