



Chicagoland Metro Girls' High School Hockey League Bylaws

Written 05/2026

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Association shall be the Chicagoland Metro Girls' High School Hockey League (hereinafter referred to as "Metro Girls" or the "League").

ARTICLE II – OFFICES

The principal office of Metro Girls shall be located in the State of Illinois. The Metro Girls may also have such other offices, within or outside the State of Illinois, as its business may require. The registered office and registered agent shall be maintained in Illinois in accordance with the Illinois General Not-For-Profit Corporation Act of 1986, as amended. The registered office and registered agent may be changed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III – PURPOSES

Section 1. Mission

The mission of Metro Girls is to provide high school aged girls in the Chicagoland Metro area the ability to continue playing hockey and develop as competitive athletes at the high school level. The goal of the League is to maintain the spirit of hockey, sportsmanship, good character, teamwork, and to preserve the love of the game among all teams, coaches and players.

Section 2. Affiliation

The Metro Girls shall affiliate with the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois (AHAI) and USA Hockey and shall support their rules, regulations, and policies. Member clubs shall register with both organizations.

Section 3. Not-For-Profit

The Metro Girls is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

No part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any member, trustee, officer, or private person, except reasonable compensation for services rendered. No substantial part of the activities shall involve political campaigning or improper legislative influence. The organization shall not engage in any activity not permitted under Section 501(c)(3).

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Authority and Management

The business and affairs of the League shall be managed by the Board of Directors, which consists exclusively of the League Officers. The Board of Directors shall be the governing authority of the League. All Board actions shall be exercised in good faith, consistent with these bylaws, AHAI rules, and USA Hockey rules.

Section 2. Powers

The Board of Directors shall have authority to establish, interpret, and enforce rules, policies, procedures, eligibility determinations, and disciplinary measures consistent with AHAI and USA Hockey regulations. All such authority shall include an obligation to apply rules uniformly and without arbitrary or capricious enforcement.

Section 3. Members

The Members shall consist of duly recognized USA Hockey and AHAI registered girls' high school hockey clubs approved for participation in the League. Each Member club shall appoint one voting representative. Each Member club is entitled to one vote. No proxy voting shall be permitted except as expressly allowed by these bylaws. A substitute representative may be designated in writing to the President and Secretary prior to any meeting. Such substitute must be a member of the same Club and shall have full voting authority for that meeting.

Section 4. Admission of Members

Upon written determination by the AHAI Girls Committee, a new team application form may be submitted to the Metro Board of Directors for review.

Applications for new team membership must be submitted by August 1. The Board of Directors shall review applications and communicate decisions by September 1.

The Board of Directors may approve or deny membership applications at its sole discretion; however, such discretion shall be exercised in a non-arbitrary and non-discriminatory manner consistent with past practice and the stated purposes of the League.

To initiate the establishment of a new team within the League, the applicant team must demonstrate long-term sustainability and have "state viability," defined herein as comprising a constituent group of no more than six (6) individual schools.

If admitted to the League, a team may request approval to add additional schools after successfully completing a two-year probationary period and demonstrating operational sustainability to the satisfaction of the AHAI Girls Committee. Any request for expansion must be submitted for review and final approval to ensure the League's standards and long-term viability are maintained.

To facilitate the management of extensive travel distances within the state of Illinois, the Board of Directors shall define the Metro Girls League boundary map. Under this provision, approved clubs designated as "out of district" are granted the right to designate local venues as their home ice. For all such games, the "out of district" team shall retain all financial obligations associated

with a home game, including but not limited to the timely payment of ice rental and officiating fees.

Section 5. Suspension or Termination of Membership

A Member may be suspended or removed upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Members when, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, such action is in the best interests of the League.

Prior to any suspension or removal, the Member shall receive reasonable prior written notice, a statement of reasons, and an opportunity to be heard. All proceedings shall be conducted in good faith and consistent with due process principles under Illinois nonprofit governance standards and applicable AHAI rules.

Section 6. Voting Rights, Tenure and Qualification

A majority of the Members shall constitute a quorum. Actions shall be approved by a majority vote of Members present and voting, unless otherwise required by these bylaws.

Each Member club shall appoint one representative and is entitled to one vote. No proxy voting shall be permitted.

All voting shall be recorded in a manner sufficient to permit verification of quorum and outcome.

Section 7. Voting

Voting on any question or in any election shall be via voice or written ballot at the Board of Directors' sole discretion. All voting results shall be a matter of public record.

Email voting is permitted when necessary, provided that voting eligibility and response records are maintained.

In the event of a tie vote by the Members, the Metro President shall cast the deciding vote.

Section 8. Voting Disputes

Any dispute relating to the validity of any vote shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for determination. The decision of the Board shall be final within the League.

Section 9. Jurisdiction

The Board of Directors shall have administrative jurisdiction over all amateur hockey games under the Metro Girls' sanction, subject to AHAI and USA Hockey authority.

Section 10. Annual and Special Meetings

An Annual Meeting of the Members shall be held no later than June 30 for the purposes of electing the Board of Directors and conducting other League business.

Special meetings may be called by the President or a majority of the Board of Directors.

Meetings may be held in person or electronically in accordance with Illinois Not-For-Profit Corporation Act.

Section 11. Notice of Meetings

Written notice shall be delivered not less than ten (10) nor more than thirty (30) days prior to any meeting by mail, email, or other lawful electronic transmission.

Section 12. Board of Directors Composition

The Board of Directors shall consist exclusively of the League Officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Rules and Ethics Chair.

Section 13. Members-At-Large

Members-at-Large may be appointed by the Board to serve in advisory or operational capacities. They shall not vote on Board matters and shall not be considered members of the Board of Directors unless expressly stated elsewhere in these bylaws. Such person(s) may be elected or appointed at the Annual Meeting or as otherwise determined by the Board. Regardless of the date the Member(s)-at-Large are appointed or elected, their tenure shall cease no later than the next Annual Meeting following their appointment. In the event of a vacancy of any Member-at-Large the Board is empowered to appoint a replacement.

Section 14. Standards of Conduct

Directors and Members shall discharge their duties in good faith, with the care an ordinarily prudent person would exercise, and in a manner reasonably believed to be in the best interests of the League.

Section 15. Removal

Any Director, Officer, or Member-at-Large may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Members when such removal is in the best interests of the League.

Section 16. Indemnification

To the fullest extent permitted by Illinois law, the Metro Girls shall indemnify any Director, Officer, or authorized representative, except in cases of willful misconduct or gross negligence.

Section 17. Insurance

The Metro Girls shall insure the obligations set forth herein by obtaining insurance coverage provided by USA Hockey and available through Metro Girls' affiliation with AHAI or by otherwise purchasing insurance coverage. All such insurance shall include coverage for acts, omissions and the indemnity described above or while acting as an agent or representative or otherwise on behalf of the Metro Girls.

Section 18. Arbitration / Dispute Resolution

The Metro Girls Hockey Association Board of Directors (the "Board") shall serve as the initial and primary authority for all disciplinary matters within the League, including without limitation issues involving player, coach, parent/guardian conduct, eligibility, and violations of League rules, policies, or standards. The Board shall act in good faith and in accordance with the governing rules, policies, and codes of conduct of the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois ("AHAI") and USA Hockey.

A. Governing Standards

All disciplinary matters shall be reviewed and determined in alignment with applicable AHAI and USA Hockey rules, policies, and standards to ensure consistent application of recognized amateur hockey governance principles.

B. Escalation to AHAI

The Board may refer any matter to AHAI for review and determination where required by governing rules or where, in the Board's discretion, escalation is appropriate, including matters involving sanctions beyond League authority or requiring interpretation of AHAI or USA Hockey rules. Any such referral shall be processed in accordance with applicable AHAI procedures.

C. Finality Within League

Board decisions are final and binding within the League, subject only to the appeal rights set forth herein and any applicable AHAI review. Participation in the League constitutes acknowledgment and agreement to this authority structure.

D. Appeal Process

Any affected Participant may appeal a disciplinary decision of the Board by submitting a written appeal within fourteen (14) days of notice of the decision. Appeals are limited to: (i) material procedural error; (ii) new, previously unavailable material information; or (iii) inconsistency with AHAI/USA Hockey rules or clear disproportionality of sanction.

Upon receipt of a valid appeal, the Board may: (a) affirm its decision; (b) reconsider the matter; (c) appoint an independent review panel; or (d) refer the matter to AHAI. The appellate decision shall be final within the League, subject only to AHAI review where applicable.

E. Independent External Review (AHAI)

Any sanction involving (i) suspension exceeding one (1) game, (ii) postseason ineligibility, (iii) removal from the League, or (iv) denial of membership or participation rights shall be eligible for independent external review by AHAI upon written request.

Upon such request, the League shall transmit all relevant records to AHAI. The Board's decision shall remain in effect unless modified, stayed, or overturned by AHAI. AHAI shall serve as the final external reviewing authority for such matters.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS (BOARD OF DIRECTORS)

Section 1. League Officers

The League Officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Rules and Ethics Chair, who collectively constitute the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Election and Term

Officers shall be elected annually by the Members at the Annual Meeting and shall serve one-year terms, with eligibility for re-election.

Section 3. President

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Metro Girls and shall in general supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the Metro Girls. He/she shall preside at all meetings of the Members and of the Board of Directors. He/she shall serve as an ex-officio member on all committees. He/she may sign, with the Secretary or Treasurer or any proper officer of the Metro Girls thereunto authorized by the Board of Directors, any bonds, contracts, or other instruments which the Board of Directors has authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors or by these By-Laws to some other officer or agent of the Metro Girls, or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed; and in general shall perform all duties incident to the office of the President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time. In addition, the President or his/her designee(s) shall represent the Metro Girls and its members in meetings with other ice hockey associations, AHAI and USA Hockey.

Section 4. Vice President

In the absence of the President or in the event of his/her inability or refusal to act, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President and in general perform all the duties incident to the office of the Vice-President and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the President or the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Secretary

The Secretary shall:

- A. Keep the minutes of the Members and the Board of Directors meetings in one or more books provided for that purpose;
- B. See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws or as required by the law;
- C. Be custodian of the corporate records of Metro Girls;
- D. Keep a register of the post-office and email addresses and the phone numbers of each member;
- E. In general perform all duties incident of the Office of the Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned him/her by the President or the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

- A. Have charge and custody of and be responsible for funds and securities of Metro Girls; receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to Metro Girls in such Banks, trust companies and other insured depositories as shall be selected in accordance with these By-Laws;
- B. In general perform all the duties incident to the Office of the Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the President or the Board of Directors.

C. File federal and state tax returns, the Illinois Annual Statement, any other filings required by the Internal Revenue Service or the Illinois Department of Revenue and arrange for an annual audit if required by the state of Illinois.

D. Provide a financial report to the Board of Directors on an annual basis.

Section 7. Rules and Ethics Chair

The Rules and Ethics Chair shall establish and oversee a Rules and Ethics Committee composed of individuals appointed in accordance with League bylaws or Board approval procedures. The Committee shall assist in the review, investigation, and recommendation of disciplinary and ethics matters as assigned.

- A. Receive, review, and process complaints, disciplinary matters, and alleged violations involving members, teams, coaches, players, parents, or affiliated programs.
- B. Interpret and enforce the League's bylaws, codes of conduct, disciplinary procedures, and applicable rules and regulations of AHAI and USA Hockey.
- C. Serve as the primary point of contact regarding disciplinary actions, ethics complaints, suspensions, conduct reviews, and related compliance matters.
- D. Recommend disciplinary action to the Board of Directors or other authorized governing body when appropriate, including warnings, suspensions, probationary measures, or additional corrective actions consistent with League policies.
- E. Organize and conduct hearings or review meetings when required under League bylaws or USA Hockey procedures, ensuring due process and fair consideration of all parties involved.
- F. Maintain confidential records of complaints, investigations, disciplinary actions, hearings, and resolutions in accordance with League policies and applicable legal requirements.

Section 8. Authority

The Officers collectively constitute the Board of Directors.

Section 9. Compensation

No Officer shall receive compensation except reimbursement of expenses.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

Section 1. Authority

The Board of Directors may establish committees and task forces as necessary.

Section 2. Standing Committees

The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, establish committees and task forces as it considers necessary to carry out its responsibilities. Such committees and task forces shall function under the direction and authority of the Board and may include Directors, Members, Members at Large, and any other individuals the Board determines are appropriate to fulfill the purpose designated by the Board.

Section 3. Rules and Ethics Committee

At the first organizational meeting of each season, a committee known as the Metro Girls Rules and Ethics Committee shall be formed. The purpose of this Committee is to review matters affecting the League, including issues related to play, conduct, and disputes submitted by the Board of Directors, and to provide recommendations for consideration.

All individuals and entities within the jurisdiction of Metro Girls—including registered team members, players, coaches, officials, referees, parents, guardians, agents, and volunteers—are expected to respect and cooperate with the Rules and Ethics Committee’s review process as part of their participation in the League.

The Rules and Ethics Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and interpreting the Bylaws and Playing Rules and Regulations of Metro Girls and may recommend disciplinary actions, including suspension, probation, or other sanctions, for violations or conduct deemed contrary to the best interests of the League.

All findings and recommendations of the Rules and Ethics Committee are advisory in nature and shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for review. The Board of Directors retains full and final authority over all decisions, including the acceptance, modification, or rejection of any recommendation made by the Rules and Ethics Committee.

Any person, team, or organization affected by a matter reviewed by the Rules and Ethics Committee may submit a written appeal to the President of Metro Girls within ten (10) days of notification. All appeals shall be reviewed and decided by the Board of Directors, whose decision shall be final.

All disciplinary determinations shall be formally documented and communicated in writing to all affected parties, including the individual(s) subject to the disciplinary action, and to Metro Rules and Ethics Committee. Such communication shall include a clear summary of the findings, the basis for the determination, and any resulting actions or sanctions imposed. Notifications shall be issued in a timely manner and in accordance with applicable policies and procedures.

Any member of the Rules and Ethics Committee may be removed at any time by the Board of Directors if that member’s conduct or behavior is deemed unacceptable or not in the best interests of the League. Such removal shall be at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors and shall be final.

ARTICLE VII – FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The Board of Directors shall oversee financial operations, including contracts, banking, budgeting, and reporting.

Section 1. Contracts

The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name and on behalf of the Metro Girls, and

such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 2. Loans

No loans shall be contracted on behalf of the Metro Girls and no evidence of indebtedness shall be issued in its name unless authorized by a resolution of the Board of Directors. Such Authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 3. Checks, Drafts, Etc.

All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidence of indebtedness issued in the name of the Metro Girls, shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the Metro Girls and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Deposits

All funds of the Metro Girls shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Metro Girls in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board of Directors may select.

Section 5. Annual Audit

An audit will be conducted, if necessary under IRS or State of Illinois rules or regulations, at the conclusion of each fiscal year and will be available for inspection upon request by Member organizations.

Section 6. Compensation

Compensation to any person or persons shall only be determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Conflict of Interest

All Directors, Officers, Members-at-Large and any other appointed or elected official within the Metro Girls are required to disclose any and all financial and/or organizational relationships or personal interests in entities, organizations or individuals that do business with the Metro Girls or propose to do business with the Metro Girls. Directors, Officers and Members-at-Large with such relationships may not participate in Board votes or business decisions related to the entities with whom they have an interest or financial relationship – with the exception that 1) Directors may participate in Board votes and business decisions that may affect a member Club that they may represent, 2) Directors, Officers and Members-at-Large may serve on Boards and Committees of AHAI and USA Hockey.

It is customary for Illinois High School hockey clubs to have a paid statistician. Metro Girls has traditionally paid a statistician. Other than the position of Statistician, Directors, Officers, Members-at-Large, and other elected or appointed officials of the Metro Girls may not negotiate with or execute Metro Girls business with individuals or entities with whom they may have a personal, organizational or financial interest or relationship - with the exception of AHAI and USA Hockey. Individuals who provide services directly to the Metro Girls may not serve as a Director, Officer or Member-at-Large and may not participate in decisions related to the amount and form of their compensation. Exceptions for amounts exceeding \$250.00 may be approved by a majority

vote of the Board of Directors. Failure by a Director, Officer, Member-at-Large, or other appointed or elected official to disclose potential conflicts of interest or recuse themselves from decisions involving a conflicting interest shall be grounds for removal or termination.

All directors, officers, and key employees shall complete and sign a separate Conflict of Interest disclosure form annually.

ARTICLE VIII – CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

Member clubs are responsible for their own operational costs and compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, as well as AHAI and USA Hockey regulations.

Section 1. Definition

The Metro Girls is composed of multiple operating units assembled from teams competing within the Metro Girls (such units being called Clubs or Member Clubs)

Section 2. Compliance with Rules and Regulations

Member Clubs of the Metro Girls League are accountable and responsible for compliance with federal, state and local regulations (including all requirements for Illinois Not-For-Profit and IRS 501(c)(3) status), for compliance with AHAI and USA Hockey rules and regulations and these By Laws.

Section 3. League Responsibilities

The Metro Girls delegates most functions related to hockey operations for the individual teams to the Clubs but retains the right to administer, manage or supervise hockey operations for appropriate execution or compliance with federal, state and local laws and regulations, compliance with USA Hockey and AHAI rules and regulations and these By Laws. The Metro Girls retains the rights for the following functions. This list is by example and is not intended to be exclusive.

- A. Maintaining status as an Illinois Not-For-Profit corporation and submitting all required reports required by that status;
- B. Maintaining status as an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code and submitting all required reporting consistent with that status;
- C. Establishing an annual budget for the Metro Girls including season fees charged to each Member Club that are sufficient to cover the annual expenses of the Metro Girls;
- D. Arranging, if necessary, for an annual audit of the Metro Girls' accounts and financial records;
- E. Operating, if desired, a website for the benefit of the Clubs;
- F. Purchasing of awards, banners, forms and other supplies and services necessary for hockey operations;
- G. Determining the number of games played during the season and the playing rules for those

games including but not limited to period length, number of officials and opponents, and insuring that all games shall be played within the rules established by USA Hockey and AHAI

- H. Coordinating the scheduling of League games;
- I. Scheduling referees for games;
- J. Maintaining appropriate statistics and standings for games played within the League and posting them on a designated website;
- K. Organizing end-of-season playoffs and a league special game as desired;
- L. Maintaining a Rules and Ethics Committee for Metro Girls which is empowered to oversee the behavior of players, coaches, fans and clubs, both on and off the ice.
- M. Such other supervisory, administrative or management functions that may be necessary or appropriate from time to time.
- N. Promoting Girls' hockey, Girls' High School hockey, and working to reduce the barriers to the formation of new Girls' High School hockey clubs through such activities, expenditures and cooperation with other bodies as reasonable determined to further those ends.

Section 4. Financial Independence of Member Clubs

Each Club is entirely responsible for the cost of its own operations, including the budgeted fee for the league.

ARTICLE IX – WAIVER OF NOTICE

Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provision of the Articles of Incorporation or under the provision of the General Not-For-Profit Corporation Act of the State of Illinois, a waiver thereof in writing, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

ARTICLE X – DISSOLUTION

The assets of the Metro Girls are permanently dedicated to exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provisions of future laws). The Metro Girls shall not be operated for pecuniary profit and shall have no capital stock and shall make no distribution of dividends to its members, directors, officers or persons having a private interest in the activities of the corporation. In the event the Metro Girls is to be dissolved, the Metro Girls Officers shall pay, satisfy and discharge all liabilities and obligations of the Metro Girls or make adequate provision thereof. Upon dissolution of Metro Girls, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

ARTICLE XI – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall run from August 1 through July 31.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Members, following review and recommendation by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIII – EFFECTIVE DATE

These bylaws shall become effective on June 30, 2026, or upon adoption, whichever is later.