

HIGH PLAINS HOCKEY LEAGUE RULE BOOK

REVISED 11 2025



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PREFACE

Mission Statement

The High Plains High School Hockey League (HPHL or the League) was established in December 2000 to promote and advance high school ice hockey in the State of Colorado—specifically within the Denver metropolitan and northern regions. In recent years, this area has expanded to include communities as far south as Colorado Springs and west into portions of the foothills.

As an affiliate of USA Hockey, the League adheres to and promotes USA Hockey’s core values: Sportsmanship, Respect for the Individual, Integrity, Pursuit of Excellence at the team/ individual/and organizational levels, Enjoyment, Loyalty, and Teamwork. By connecting the sport of hockey with players’ local communities, the League seeks to foster school pride in a healthy, positive environment.

The League recognizes that participating teams and clubs (also referred to as Members) may not be sanctioned or formally recognized as representatives of a particular high school or by that school’s administration. Such recognition is not required for participation in the League. The League further acknowledges that not all schools have a sufficient number of students to field an independent team. Therefore, the League will determine appropriate school pairings—including private, charter, and home-schooled students—to ensure the highest possible level of participation. These combined schools will compete on an equal basis with pure schools throughout League play.

I. APPLICATION OF RULES

A. League Affiliation and Compliance

The High Plains High School Hockey League (HPHL) is affiliated with both the Colorado Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA) and USA Hockey. The League shall abide by and act in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Playing Rules, and decisions of the Boards of Directors of CAHA and USA Hockey.

All coaches, players, managers, board members, and volunteers participating in the HPHL are required to register with USA Hockey. All members are expected to conduct themselves in full compliance with the standards of conduct established by the HPHL, CAHA, and USA Hockey.

II. LEAGUE GOVERNANCE

A. Board of Directors

1. The League is governed by a Board of Directors (the “Board” or “BOD”). The HPHL Board of Directors is comprised of representatives from the following divisions: South Division, South Central Division, North Division, and North Central Division.
2. **Members** elect **Board Members** to serve a two (2)-year term. The Board members, in turn, elect a President, Vice President, and any additional officers as needed to serve on the **Executive Committee**. **Division Directors** will be appointed by the board as a whole from the existing board members. In the event a Board member position becomes vacant during the year, the Board shall appoint an interim director to serve until the next Annual Meeting, at which time the position will be filled by election for a full two (2)-year term.
3. The Executive Committee appoints the **Disciplinary Committee, Tournament Committee, SafeSport Coordinator** and any other committees deemed necessary, each of which shall be chaired by a member of the Executive Committee or their appointee.
4. The Board of Directors also appoints an **Ice Scheduler, Administrative Assistant, and a CAHA Representative**, and is responsible for adopting and maintaining the rules of the HPHL as set forth herein.

III. TEAMS

A. Formation of New Teams

1. A written petition to join the League must be submitted to the Board of Directors (BOD) by **December 31** of the year preceding the season in which the team wishes to participate.
2. Selection of new teams shall be based on the following criteria:
 - a. The number of new teams the HPHL can accommodate for the upcoming season.
 - b. The number of players available to form a complete roster.
 - c. Identification of qualified managers and coaches.
 - d. Demonstrated readiness to participate in League play, including a financial plan, jersey plan, and other operational preparations.
 - e. The order in which petitions are received.

B. Team Registration

1. Good Standing: All teams, their players, and team officials shall be registered and in good standing with HPHL and USA Hockey prior to the start of League play.
 - a. HPHL does not require players to obtain financial release forms from their fall or winter teams in order to be eligible for the HPHL season.
 - b. Players that were placed on a HPHL team other than their school's affiliated HPHL team the prior year WILL need to obtain a financial release from that team in order to return to their designated team for tryouts. It is the responsibility of the team that is owed money to notify the league and the delinquent family of the amount owed and explain that prior to being placed on a roster next season they will need to settle the outstanding debt. It is the responsibility of the player's home team to verify that the player has been released financially from last year's team.
 - c. Dual Team Financial Responsibility: If a player is registered for and financially committed to both a co-ed and a girls' team during the same season, the player must remain in good financial standing with both teams in order to be eligible to play for either team.
2. Team Rosters: Each team must have a copy of its USA Hockey (1-T) certified team roster, approved by the designated Affiliate Registrar, on file prior to the start of League play. Roster changes must be made in accordance with CAHA and USA Hockey regulations. Failure to comply may result in a delay in the start of League play for that team and/or forfeiture of games.
3. Single-Team Clubs: If a club fields only one team, the Competition Committee of the Board of Directors shall determine the appropriate division placement for that team.

C. Team Declarations

1. Declaration: Member clubs are required to declare the number of teams they intend to field by the declaration date established by the HPHL.
2. Minimum Roster Requirements: Each declared team must have a minimum of thirteen (13) skaters and one (1) goaltender registered.

- a. Clubs fielding only one team wishing to proceed with fewer players must submit a waiver acknowledging that they will not forfeit games due to insufficient players.
 - b. Clubs consisting of **three (3) or more co-ed teams** must roster a minimum of thirteen **(13) skaters** and **one (1) goaltender** per team
3. Multiple Varsity Teams: Any member association registering more than one team at the Varsity level must assign players in a manner that places those teams in different tiers, unless alternative arrangements have been approved by the Board of Directors (BOD).
4. Multiple Junior Varsity Teams: Any Member Association registering more than one team at the Junior Varsity (JV) level must assign players in a manner that places those teams in different tiers. In cases where only one JV tier is available, Member Associations registering multiple JV teams must divide players as evenly as possible to ensure balanced competition.

D. Team Officials

1. Team management decisions shall be made by the Club Coordinator (and/or Team Manager) in conjunction with the coaching staff.
2. Team staff are responsible for the promotion and advertising of their team(s) to eligible players.
3. Team staff are expected to uphold and demonstrate an understanding of the HPHL philosophy, which emphasizes players participating with their school-affiliated teams. Staff members shall not recruit players or offer roster spots to individuals outside their designated club boundaries.
4. The Club Coordinator:
 - a. The Club Coordinator shall be elected or approved by the team's parents.
 - b. The Club Coordinator is responsible for the selection of the head coach(es) and manager(s) as necessary and may also choose to serve as a coach or manager.
 - c. The Club Coordinator serves as the liaison between League officials and the team's players, parents, and staff
 - d. The Club Coordinator is responsible for overseeing registration, collecting player fees, and assigning or delegating team responsibilities such as treasurer duties, scorekeeping, apparel orders, and other administrative tasks for each of the club's teams.
5. The Head Coach (HC)
 - a. The head coach is responsible for the selection of assistant coaches.
6. The Head Coach, or their designated representative, is responsible for the conduct of the team before, during, and after League games. This includes accountability for any facility damage caused by the team.
7. Team staff shall support and uphold all rules, policies, and decisions established by the HPHL.
8. Team staff shall respect, support, and comply with all requests and decisions made by the facilities in which League activities occur.
9. Each Club Coordinator (or designated representative) shall have one vote per club (including both JV and Varsity levels) at the HPHL Annual Meeting.

E. Team Fees

1. Each club shall be responsible for payment of team fees to the HPHL.
2. Team fees and payment due dates shall be established annually by the HPHL.
3. Clubs that fail to meet HPHL payment deadlines may be subject to game forfeiture and possible League suspension until all delinquent fees are paid in full.
4. Clubs shall collect player fees from individual players to cover team fees and other team-related expenses. Player fees and refund policies shall be determined by each individual team or club.

F. Scholarship Policy

1. The BOD Scholarship Committee shall approve scholarship applications based on demonstrated need, timely submission, and the availability of funds as determined annually by the League.

G. Suspension Guidelines For Fighting (Team/Staff)

1. A simultaneous fight involving multiple players (three or more from the same team) may result in the team's appearance before the Disciplinary committee and could result in the team's suspension or probation for a minimum of one season. The Disciplinary committee may specify who the representative or representatives of the team will be that appear before the committee.

H. Team and Staff Member Probation and Suspension Guidelines

1. Teams and/or staff members who demonstrate recurring disciplinary or administrative issues may be placed on probation by their Division Director, in consultation with the Disciplinary Committee.
 - a. Examples of disciplinary issues include, *but are not limited to*:
 - i. repeated game ejections for players or coaches due to unsportsmanlike conduct or abuse of Officials;
 - ii. multiple bench penalties in consecutive games;
 - iii. fighting or retaliation incidents involving multiple team members;
 - iv. inappropriate or abusive language directed toward officials, opponents, or spectators;
 - v. damage to locker rooms or rink property
 - b. Examples of administrative issues that may result in probation or suspension include, *but are not limited to*:
 - i. consistent failure to submit paperwork;
 - ii. use of ineligible or un-rostered players;
 - iii. disregard for League communications or deadlines;
 - iv. repeated forfeitures;

- v. unprofessional conduct by staff toward League or club officials
 2. The severity and frequency of disciplinary or administrative infractions will determine the level of consequence imposed. Minor or first-time offenses may result in a formal warning or probation, while repeated or serious violations will result in escalating disciplinary action. Each case will be reviewed individually, with final determination made by the Division Director in consultation with the Disciplinary Committee and, when applicable, the Board of Directors.
 3. The following disciplinary actions serve as a guideline for addressing misconduct, repeated violations, or failure to comply with League rules and expectations. The League reserves the right to impose additional penalties as deemed appropriate based on the nature and severity of the offense.
 - a. **First Offense (Warning / Probation):** A formal warning and written notice will be issued, and the Team and/or Staff will be placed on probation. A corrective action plan will be developed in consultation with the Division Director and Team Staff/Coaches.
 - b. **Second Offense (1–2 Game Suspension):** Duration to be determined by the Disciplinary Committee in consultation with the Division Director. Applied when a player, coach, or team repeatedly violates League rules or fails to correct behavior after receiving a warning—such as multiple bench penalties, repeated abuse of officials, or continued administrative noncompliance.
 - c. **Third Offense (Minimum Three-Game Suspension; Possible Playoff Ineligibility):** Applied for significant or repeated misconduct, including multiple ejections, use of ineligible players, property damage, or other behavior that reflects poorly on the League or endangers player safety.
 - d. **Fourth Offense (Removal from League):** Applied for severe or ongoing violations that demonstrate disregard for League rules or authority—such as repeated fighting incidents, deliberate deception in roster management, or sustained unprofessional conduct by team staff.
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IV. PLAYERS

A. Player Eligibility

1. Each player must complete online registration and submit the required HPHL registration fee to be eligible for roster placement.
2. HPHL player registration fees are non-refundable.

3. Dual Rostering Players may not appear on the USA Hockey roster of more than one HPHL coed team or more than one HPHL girls team. Female players may participate on both a single coed team and a single girls team if they choose to do so.

B. Player Movement

1. A skater may not participate on a lower-level or equal-level team than the team on which they are rostered.
 - a. The only exception to this rule applies when a team does not have a goaltender available (e.g., the goaltender is on vacation, academically ineligible, injured with a doctor's note, etc.). In such cases, the Goalie Director or Division Director may approve the use of a goaltender from another equal or lower-level team if no other substitute is available.
2. A player may move between their club's lower-level and higher-level teams if they are officially rostered on the lower-level team (e.g., Varsity Tier 1 and Varsity Tier 2, Varsity and JV, or JV Tier 1 and JV Tier 2) until they have participated in four (4) games at the higher level. Once a player has played in four (4) games at the higher level, they are no longer eligible to participate with the lower-level team. Substitute skaters from other clubs are not permitted. Goaltenders are subject to Rules IV.K.3 and IV.K.1a-c.
3. **For clubs fielding three (3) or more teams:** A player may only move up one level higher than the level on which they were originally rostered. Players originally rostered on the club's lowest-level team may only move up to the middle-level team. Players rostered on the middle-level team may move up to the top team. Players may not move up two levels, even after participating in four (4) games at the middle level. Example: A player rostered on JV may move up to Varsity Tier 2, but may not move to Varsity Tier 1
4. Players participating in a game with a team other than the one on which they are rostered (e.g., players pulled up to their club's higher-level team or substitute goaltenders from another club) must be added to ESS as an "Affiliated Player."
5. Participation in any League game involving unapproved player movement shall result in a game forfeiture for the offending team and may subject the team to additional disciplinary action by the League.

C. Billed Players

1. Any billeted player participating in the HPHL for the first time shall be eligible to play for the school in which they are enrolled.
2. Any returning billeted player in subsequent seasons shall remain eligible to play for the same team.
 - a. Exceptions to this rule—such as a significant change in the billet's residence—must be reviewed and approved by the Player Placement Committee.

D. Player Suspensions From Other Leagues

1. Any player suspended by another association or league shall be ineligible to play in HPHL for the remainder of that season as defined by USA Hockey (September 1 – August 31).

E. Player Conduct and Disciplinary Guidelines

1. Players are expected to adhere to all High Plains Hockey League (HPHL), CAHA, and USA Hockey rules and guidelines. Players who choose not to follow these rules will be referred to the HPHL Disciplinary Committee and/or CAHA for review.
2. Players who demonstrate recurring disciplinary issues may be placed on probation by their Division Director, in consultation with the Disciplinary Committee.
 - a. **Examples of conduct that may result in probation or suspension** include, *but are not limited to:*
 - i. fighting;
 - ii. multiple penalties in consecutive games;
 - iii. damage to locker rooms or rink property;
 - iv. abuse of officials (Rule 601 infractions);
 - v. ejection from games (e.g., game misconduct or removal by a coach);
 - vi. use of inappropriate or abusive language;
 - vii. threatening behavior toward other players, coaches, or spectators;
 - viii. deliberately attempting to injure another player
3. **Disciplinary Actions:** The following disciplinary actions serve as a guideline for addressing misconduct, repeated violations, or failure to comply with League rules and expectations. The League reserves the right to impose additional penalties as deemed appropriate based on the nature and severity of the offense.
 - a. **First Offense (Warning / Probation):** A formal warning and written notice will be issued, and the player will be placed on probation. A corrective action plan will be developed in consultation with the Division Director and Team Staff/Coaches.
 - b. **Second Offense (1–2 Game Suspension):** The player shall be suspended for one (1) to two (2) games, with the exact duration to be determined by the Disciplinary Committee in consultation with the Division Director.
 - c. **Third Offense (Minimum Three-Game Suspension; Possible Playoff Ineligibility):** The player will be suspended for a minimum of three (3) games and may be deemed ineligible to participate in playoffs.
 - d. **Fourth Offense (Removal from League):** The player will be removed from the League for the remainder of the season, subject to review and confirmation by the Disciplinary Committee and the Board of Directors. Severe offenses may result in a permanent ban from the League.

F. Grade Policy

1. Players must be in good academic standing. Refer to **Addendum A** for academic eligibility requirements.

G. Team Composition/Player Placement

1. Players must try out for their school or the team that their school is affiliated with. See the HPHL website for schools by division.
2. If a player's school does not have its own team, or is not affiliated with a team listed on the website, the player will be assigned to a nearby team by the Player Placement Committee.
 - a. The Placement Committee will follow the following criteria in determining player placement:
 - i. Players that are homeschool, attend on-line school, attend open-enrollment, charter, or private schools without a team affiliation will be assigned to teams based on the public school attendance area that they live in.
 - ii. Private, charter, open-enrollment, on-line, and home-schooled players living in the attendance area of schools that are not able to take players from outside of their school due to district or school policy, will be assigned to a nearby team by the Player Placement Committee.
3. Players must play for their assigned team/school. After tryouts are over, any player without a team will be assigned to another team by the Division Director.
 - a. Reassigned players will return to their original team for tryouts the following year.
 - b. However, seniors may choose to continue playing for the team they were previously assigned to for their senior year.
4. **Request for Assignment to a Different Team:**
 - a. A player may request placement on a team outside of their home team by submitting an application for alternative placement. Applications for such consideration are available from the HPHL Administrative Assistant, and the player's parent or guardian must submit the request in writing to the League.
 - b. All player placement applications shall be submitted to the Registrar.
 - c. The registrar will review the application and determine whether the application meets the criteria for alternative placement.
 - i. If it does not meet the criteria, the application will be denied.
 - ii. If it does meet the criteria, the registrar will forward the application to the Division Director and the Division Director will make a recommendation to the Placement Committee on whether the application should be approved or denied, but the Placement Committee has the final say in placement.
 - iii. If the Placement Committee has any questions, they will consult with the Division Director.
 - iv. The Placement Committee will provide a written response regarding their decision for placement or non-placement.

H. Varsity Division

1. The Varsity teams are expected to compete at the highest competitive level possible.
2. Players must participate with the team representing their assigned school or club. After tryouts conclude, any player without a team assignment will be placed on a team by the Division Director.
3. Players who are reassigned to another team will return to their original team for tryouts in the following season.

I. JV Division

1. JV teams are encouraged to emphasize individual skill development, equal playing time, and sportsmanship.
2. Players rostered on a Varsity team are not eligible to participate on a JV team, in accordance with League rules (see Rule IV.B.3).
3. Players rostered on Junior teams are not eligible to participate on JV teams. Youth AAA players, with the exception of ninth (9th) graders, are not eligible to participate on JV teams. Players rostered on a Girls AAA team may also be rostered on a JV team.
4. Clubs that do not have enough players to form a complete JV roster may create Combined JV Teams composed of players from the same general geographic area. The formation and approval of combined JV teams shall be coordinated and facilitated by the Division Directors.
 - a. It is recommended that JV players on combined teams be permitted to wear their own club's home or away jersey, corresponding to their team's designation as the home or away team.
 - b. Players placed on a team other than the one affiliated with their school shall return to their original team for tryouts in the following season.

J. Girls' Division

1. Girls may participate on a coed team, a girls' team, or on both a coed and a girls' team.
2. Girls participating on both a coed and a girls team must comply with Rule III.B.1.c.
3. Surplus players shall be referred to the Girls Division Director for placement on another team.
4. **Goaltenders:** When a Girls Division game does not have a female goaltender and cannot find a substitute within the Girls Division, the Goalie Director will first look for a co-ed Junior Varsity (JV) goalie, male or female. If no JV goalies are available, the Director will then look for a goalie from the lowest possible Varsity division, should the team choose to utilize a co-ed goalie rather than play with six skaters or dress a skater as goalie.
 - a. During playoffs, only goalies from the co-ed JV division are eligible to serve as substitutes for Girls Division teams.

- b. If a goalie cannot be found, or the team elects to play without a goalie, then they may use 6 skaters on the ice instead.

K. Goalkeepers

1. It is recommended that all (Varsity and JV) teams have at least two goalkeepers on their official (1-T) team roster. In the event that a team is unable to roster two regular goalkeepers, the use of a “backup” is authorized according to the rules described below.
 - a. A club’s higher level goalie may serve as a backup goalkeeper in a lower level game, but may not take the ice unless the regular goalkeeper for the lower level team is unable to continue due to injury.
 - b. A goalkeeper rostered on a club’s lower level team may serve as a backup goalkeeper in a higher level game. That game will not be counted against the goalkeeper’s higher team game count unless the goalkeeper takes the ice.
 - c. If all of the goalkeepers on the team’s game roster are unable to continue, a temporary goalkeeper may be designated per Rule 203 d (see the Glossary of the USA Hockey rulebook). Otherwise, another player may be placed on the ice who shall not have goalkeeper’s privileges (per Rule 203 d).
 2. The Goalie Director shall have the authority to investigate the circumstances that require the use of a backup. In the event that the Goalie Director determines that the backup was used in an effort to gain a competitive advantage, the Goalie Director shall have the authority to invalidate a game in which the backup was used and/or to suspend the responsible coach. The decision of the Goalie Director shall be subject to appeal to the Grievance/Disciplinary Committee.
 3. In the event that a team has no regular goalkeepers available to participate in a league or playoff game, the team’s coach or manager may request permission to use a replacement until either the regular or backup is able to participate. The permission to allow the use of a replacement must be approved by the Goalie Director.
 - a. If the goaltender is approved by the Goalie Director, the game will count in the standings or for advancement in tournament play just as if the regular or backup goalkeeper had played.
 4. Anytime a replacement is approved and used the scorekeeper must add the goalie to ESS as an “affiliated player” and also indicate in game notes that the player is a substitute goalie.
 5. The use of a backup who does not meet the rules described herein shall cause the game in question to be forfeited to the opposing team and could lead to suspension of the head coach by the Disciplinary Committee.
 6. Goalies released from their team will be placed in a goalie pool. The Goalie Director will make every effort to place the goalies from the pool on a team in need of goalies.
 7. Goalies released to the goalie pool and placed on another team will return to their original team for tryouts the following season.
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V. GAME ADMINISTRATION

A. League Games

1. Team Responsibility: An adult coach and/or team representative shall accompany each team at all League games.
2. Conduct: The head coach or the head coach designee shall be responsible for the conduct of their team(s) before, during, and after League games, particularly in regard to the use of dressing rooms. Incidents of damage or other conduct prohibited by these Rules and Regulations, the rules and regulations of CAHA or USA Hockey, or by law, should be brought to the attention of the Disciplinary Committee. The head coach or head coach designee shall be held responsible for damages or other loss caused by their team(s).
3. Home Team: The home team shall furnish official game pucks, an optional paper score sheet (to be filled in and saved as a backup), a penalty box attendant, locker room monitors, and a time/scorekeeper.
4. Visiting Team: The visiting team shall provide their own penalty box attendant and locker room monitors.

B. Referees

1. The League shall provide officials for all games.
2. If teams begin a game with fewer than the proper number or qualification of officials, the game shall be played to conclusion. If the proper officials are not on hand, the game shall be rescheduled by the HPHL Scheduler unless both teams agree to proceed using the available officials. Such agreement must be documented on the score sheet prior to the start of the game. There will be no exceptions or appeals.
3. Whenever possible, referees who are immediate relatives (parents or siblings) of players or coaches shall not officiate in games involving a relative. Exceptions may be granted only when both teams have been informed of the relationship and document their agreement to proceed on the score sheet prior to the start of the game.

C. Cancelled Games

1. Cancellation of a game must be approved by the Ice Scheduler at least two weeks before the game date.
2. Cancelled games will be rescheduled by the Scheduler and played prior to the end of the League season.
3. In the event these rescheduling conditions cannot be met, the Scheduler and the Executive Board will consult in order to take appropriate action.
4. Failure to comply with the above-stated rules may result in forfeiture, fines, and disqualification from playoffs.

5. All Championship League games must be played on the dates scheduled by the Board of Directors.
6. Any team that fails to show up for, or refuses to play, a scheduled game will be subject to a \$900 fine, payable before their next scheduled game and may be ineligible for playoffs. The \$900 deposit will be cashed and a new deposit will be required prior to playing in any further games. Repeated offenses will be referred to the disciplinary committee and may result in probation and possible suspension for the offending club and staff.
7. A shortage of players does not constitute a reason to cancel a game.

D. Mercy Rule

1. A six (6) goal spread during the third period will result in running the clock until either the game ends or the score differential is less than six (6) goals, at which point the game reverts back to stop time.

E. After Game Procedure

1. When only one exit from the ice surface is available or, where locker rooms are similarly situated, the visiting team shall proceed first to their locker room upon instructions from their coach. Once the visiting team has entered their locker room, the home team shall proceed directly to their locker room upon instructions from their coach.

F. Electronic Scoring (ESS)

1. All teams shall be required to properly record the participants, goals, penalties, etc. of any game in the ESS to ensure disciplinary oversight for game misconducts and match penalties. The Club Coordinator or designee for the home team shall be responsible for ensuring all score sheets are processed correctly and within the timelines outlined in this section.
2. The home team shall be responsible for providing a scorekeeper and timekeeper for all games.
3. The scorekeeper shall be responsible for recording the names of the ice officials in ESS and designating players and coaches as either "playing," "sitting out," or "suspended."
4. The individual listed on the official (1-T) roster as the head coach shall be designated as the head coach on the score sheet if they are present for the game. If the head coach is not available for the game, the team shall appoint and designate the individual acting as head coach prior to the start of each game. The designated head coach shall be noted as such on ESS.
5. The scorekeeper shall make sure that any coaches and/or players serving a game misconduct are identified in ESS as "suspended."
6. The game MUST be scored live so that the official can sign off on ESS at the conclusion of the game. Games should be uploaded within two (2) hours (preferably as soon as the official signs off) of game completion. Teams that fail to enter the game are subject to a

\$100 fine. Fines will be assessed per CAHA P&P, Section 10: Disciplinary Actions, Hearings, and Appeals.

7. It is the home team's responsibility to return to the rink if the scorekeeper fails to finalize the game after the referee has signed off at the conclusion of play if using the rink Ipad.
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VI. GAME PROTOCOL

A. Number of Periods-Period Length

1. Varsity games will consist of three (3) periods, 17 minute stop time each.
2. The ice will be cleaned between the second and third periods.
3. JV and Girls' games will consist of three (3) periods, 15 minute stop time each (with no ice make between 2nd and 3rd periods).

B. Game Start/Warm-up

1. The time listed in the League schedule shall be the time that both teams are to take the ice. A five minute warm-up period shall be allowed for both teams (whether or not they are on the ice) commencing at the designated starting time, or at the time the ice becomes available, whichever is later.
2. There is no game warm-up following the second intermission.
3. A bench minor penalty may be imposed at the discretion of the game official for delay of game to the offending team who causes a delay in the start of the third period.

C. Over Time during the Regular Season

1. Regular season games that are tied at the end of the third period will switch ends and play one (5) five minute stop time 3 v 3 extra period. If still tied at the end of the extra period the game will be over and recorded as a tie.

D. Equipment

1. Each player participating in a League game shall wear the proper equipment at all times while on the ice prior to during and following a League game as required by USA Hockey rules.

E. Hand Shake

1. Teams will shake hands after each game.

F. Missed Games/Make-ups

1. Failure to appear as scheduled may result in forfeiture.
2. Failure to appear as scheduled because of adverse traffic and/or weather conditions necessitates that the game be rescheduled by the Scheduler and played prior to the end of the League season.

G. Refusal to Compete

1. Refusal to compete in any game is considered to be immediate forfeiture of the game. Also see Rules V.C.6-7.
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VII. PENALTIES

A. Penalty Length (All Divisions)

1. Players will be assessed 2 minutes for minor penalties,
2. Players will be assessed 5 minutes for major penalties AND 10 minutes for misconduct and game misconduct penalties. Major penalties must be accompanied by an additional infraction. Stand-alone major penalties are not permitted.

B. Game Misconduct

1. A player or coach who receives a penalty requiring sitting out a game shall be suspended for at least his/her team's next League game. If the team has a non-league game prior to their next league game, then CAHA and USA Hockey rules apply and this may result in the suspended person sitting out the non-league game as well. This includes game misconduct and match penalties.
2. A player, coach or team representative who receives 2 game misconducts in a HPHL season (including non-league games) may be called before the Disciplinary Committee for possible further action.

C. Supplemental Action by Board Member

1. Any Board Member who observes inappropriate actions on or off the ice may raise the issue with the Board of Directors. Supplemental disciplinary action may be imposed in accordance with USA Hockey Rule 410.

D. Association Member Self-Discipline

All Member Associations are required to comply with the CAHA rules pertaining to supplementary discipline.

E. Supplemental Penalty Rules

1. **Fighting and Abuse Penalties:** The following are League rules that impose supplemental discipline to game misconducts issued under USA Hockey Rules 601d, 601e, 615a, 615d, and 615f. They are intended to reduce the amount of fighting and abuse occurring at the High School Division. These rules will be imposed for violations that occur during League and/or Playoff games. The League hopes that this will reduce the amount of fighting and abuse during non-League games as well. The League may, at its sole discretion, apply these rules to include non-League games. Individual Clubs may impose additional penalties and suspensions at their own discretion.
 - a. **Fighting or Abuse Game Misconduct:** Any player in the HPHL who receives a game misconduct for violation of Rule 615a or 615d (Fighting) or Rule 601d or 601e (Abuse) during an HPHL or Playoff game shall be subject to the following:
For the first offense, the player will be:
 - i. suspended from one (1) HPHL game and a fine of \$200.00 shall be levied against the player's team.
 - ii. A Game Misconduct under Rule 615f results in a three (3) game suspension per USA Hockey rules and also results in a \$200 fine levied against the player's team per HPHL policy.
 - iii. Payment arrangements must be made with the Division Director or authorized designee prior to the team participating in the next HPHL game. Failure to make payment arrangements prior to the next scheduled game will result in the team forfeiting that game.
 - iv. Rule 601e(3) is an automatic match penalty per USA Hockey rules. There is no additional fine associated with the match penalty.
 - b. **Second Fighting or Abuse Game Misconduct:** A player who receives a second game misconduct during the HPHL season for a violation of Rule 615a, 615d, or 615f or Rule 601d or 601e will be:
 - i. suspended three (3) games.
 - ii. The player's team will be fined another \$200.00, which must be paid (or payment arrangements made) before the next scheduled League game.
 - iii. The player must also appear before the HPHL Disciplinary Committee before being allowed to play in another HPHL League or Playoff game.
2. **Leaving the Bench:** Any player who leaves the bench to engage in a fight and receives a game misconduct under USA Hockey Rule 629 will be immediately suspended pending a hearing before the HPHL Disciplinary Committee.
3. **Simultaneous Fight:** Any team or players participating in a simultaneous fight involving multiple players will result in the team being immediately placed on probation for the remainder of that season and the following season, as provided in Rule III.G.1.

4. **Suspended Players:** A Player that receives a game suspension will serve the suspension during the next game according to the schedule for the team the player is rostered on. The player may not play in any games for teams at other levels until the penalty has been served.
 5. **Suspended Coaches:** Coaches that are coaching more than one team and receive a suspension must serve the suspension with the team they received the game misconduct. They are eligible to continue coaching the other team(s) with which they are rostered.
 6. **Suspensions in Non-HPHL Games:** HPHL will recognize suspensions received by players and coaches during games that are played by any USA Hockey–sanctioned team, such as a Tier team. The CAHA Discipline Committee will coordinate the serving of suspensions when a player is playing on multiple USA Hockey–sanctioned teams.
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VIII. ABUSE POLICIES

Abuse, harassment, screening, and hazing regulations will be enforced in accordance with HPHL and USA Hockey Rules and Policies as defined in the HPHL and USA Hockey SafeSport Program Handbooks (available on the USA Hockey and HPHL websites).

Upon proof of violation of these policies, the violator may be permanently or temporarily banned or suspended from League programs and events and/or the programs of its member teams.

Please refer to the HPHL SafeSport Handbook for more information.

IX. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

A. Purpose

The purpose of the Grievance Committee is to provide a fair and consistent process for addressing alleged violations of League rules, USA Hockey and CAHA policies, and the HPHL Code of Conduct by players, coaches, team staff, officials, or spectators. Abide by the 24-hour rule before reaching out with a concern. If after the 24-hour time period, you have a grievance, please first take this to your coach or club coordinator first. If needed, they can refer you to your division director for further assistance with your concern.

B. Authority

1. The HPHL Board of Directors delegates responsibility for reviewing grievance matters to the Grievance Committee. The Committee has the authority to investigate complaints, impose penalties, and recommend additional action to the Board of Directors when necessary.

C. Composition of the Committee

1. The Grievance Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members, including one Executive Board member who shall serve as Chair.
2. Additional members may be appointed by the Board of Directors as needed to ensure impartiality and representation from multiple divisions.
3. Any Committee member with a conflict of interest in a particular case must recuse themselves from that review.

D. Filing a Grievance or Complaint

1. A grievance may be submitted by any player, coach, team official, referee, or parent concerning conduct that violates HPHL or USA Hockey rules or policies.
2. Grievances must be submitted in writing to the HPHL Administrative Assistant or Committee Chair within seven (7) days of the incident in question.
3. The grievance must include:
 - a. A description of the incident;
 - b. The rule or policy allegedly violated;
 - c. Names of the individuals involved; and
 - d. Any supporting documentation or witness statements.

E. Review Process

1. Upon receipt, the Committee Chair will determine whether the grievance falls within the Committee's jurisdiction.
 - a. If accepted, the Committee shall review the evidence, interview relevant parties as needed, and deliberate in a closed session.
2. The Committee may impose or recommend disciplinary measures in accordance with HPHL, CAHA, or USA Hockey rules.
3. In cases involving serious misconduct, such as abuse, assault, or harassment, the matter shall be immediately referred to USA Hockey SafeSport and/or CAHA Discipline Committee for handling under their authority.

F. Disciplinary Actions

1. Penalties may include, *but are not limited to*:
 - a. Written warning or reprimand
 - b. Suspension from practices or games

- c. Probationary status for a specified period
 - d. Fines or forfeiture of deposits
 - e. Expulsion or permanent removal from the League
2. All disciplinary actions shall be documented and maintained by the League for the duration of the current and following season.

G. Notification of Decision

1. The Committee's decision shall be communicated in writing to the individual(s) involved and their Club Coordinator within five (5) days of the decision.
2. The decision will outline the findings, any penalties imposed, and information on the right to appeal.

H. Appeals

1. An appeal may be submitted in writing to the HPHL Executive Board within five (5) days of receiving the Committee's decision.
2. Appeals may only be granted based on:
 - a. New or previously unavailable evidence
 - b. Procedural error
 - c. Disproportionate disciplinary action
3. The Executive Board may affirm, modify, or overturn the Committee's decision. All appeal decisions are final.

I. Records and Confidentiality

1. All grievances and disciplinary proceedings are confidential.
2. Records shall be securely maintained by the League and made available only to those with a legitimate need to know, including USA Hockey or CAHA representatives when required.



HPHL GRADE POLICY

○ **WHEN GRADES ARE CHECKED:**

- BEFORE SEASON STARTS: Use 1st semester grades OR current grade progress report
- PLAYOFFS: Must submit current grade progress report

○ **REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY:**

A) TRADITIONAL (NON IEP / NON HOME SCHOOL) STUDENTS:

- Minimum of 2.0 GPA (for the report turned in – NOT the cumulative GPA for all semesters) AND no F's (regardless of the GPA)
 - Pass/Fail classes do not count toward this GPA
 - Official Honors/AP/Dual Credit courses count for one grade higher (in other words, this is the weighted GPA – for an Honors Calculus B=A for calculation)
 - NO F's regardless of GPA
- # of Classes Enrolled
 - Grades 9-11 must be enrolled full-time
 - Seniors do not need full-time, but must be on track to graduate in spring AND have not already received their diploma.

B) IEP STUDENTS:

- Submit a letter from their counselor in lieu of a grade report stating that the player is on an individualized learning plan, has turned in all work to date, and is putting forth a satisfactory amount of effort.

C) HOME SCHOOL

- Submit a letter stating they are carrying a full-time course load and are in good academic standing to satisfy grade checks.
- *If they attend a home school that is connected with a home school organization/program, the letter should come from the organization/program. Otherwise the "teacher" would write the letter.*
- *If their letter is not on official letterhead from an organized program and they do not have a school ID, they must provide a copy of their driver's license.*

○ **IF PLAYER DOESN'T MEET REQUIREMENTS:**

- Player CAN participate in practices/tryouts but CANNOT play in games. Team will forfeit any games where an ineligible player played.
- Once a player's grades have improved to meet requirements, they can immediately submit an updated progress report SIGNED BY A COUNSELOR OR TEACHER - **(They do not need to wait to submit improved grades until the next HPHL grade checkpoint).**
- Once this has been approved by the Division Director, they would become fully eligible (until the next HPHL grade checkpoint).