

Ohio Scholastic Hockey League – OSHL Policies & Procedures (Final - Adopted 1/12/26)

1.0 Payment of Fees

- Each organization will be responsible to pay a set amount determined by the Board of Trustees each hockey season. This set amount shall be equal to each organization's direct participation in league games and their related costs.
- Payment of the set amount will be required in accordance with the cash flow requirements and schedule (including due dates) of each season as determined by the Treasurer. All league payments including OSHL tournament fees shall be paid prior to a team's first tournament game.
- Failure to pay the set amount in accordance with the treasurer's requirements and schedule will forfeit the organization's participation in the league and its trustee status on the Board of Trustees. Failure to complete all payments prior to a team's first tournament game will result in a forfeiture for the entire tournament.

2.0 Teams

- Each member OSHL organization shall field a Varsity and / or Junior Varsity team(s) of players. Teams shall be registered as a USA Hockey High School team.
- An OSHL Team is one that participates in the OSHL regular season. All OSHL teams must register a minimum of ten (10) team members by the start of the regular season and must have a minimum of six (6) players in uniform for all OSHL League Games.
- A maximum of thirty (30) players may be on one team roster, with no more than 20 players dressed for any game (as noted in the current USA Hockey Annual Guide, Team Membership and Registration).

2.1 Junior Varsity Teams

- Member organizations that have sufficient players may field a Junior Varsity team(s) in addition to (or request instead of, if there are insufficient players with appropriate skills) a varsity team to promote the development of the maximum number of eligible players within their organization.

2.2 Eligibility

- Teams shall consist of players who meet the eligibility requirements as defined by USA Hockey in its Annual Guidebook and its Rules and Regulations classifications for High School players and teams. Teams looking to qualify for Buckeye Cup will find the most updated rules on the website at <https://www.gchschl.net/buckeyecup>
- Teams are not permitted to roster Tier I or Junior hockey players currently rostered on other teams. Teams in violation of this rule are subject to League penalties, including forfeiture of games. The League registrar shall validate any challenge made about a player's eligibility.
- Players and coaches shall be registered according to current USA Hockey and Mid-Am District rules for eligibility and qualifications.

- Any player who participates in more than 50% of the scheduled varsity league games is no longer eligible to play at the Junior Varsity (JV) level. Exceptions would be limited to extenuating circumstances and need approval from the OSHL president.
- Goaltenders will be exempt from the 50% rule provided they start varsity games as the backup. Further exceptions can be made in emergencies by notifying the OSHL president in advance.

2.3 Tryouts & Player Cuts

- OSHL organizations shall hold and complete scheduled tryouts no later than two weeks prior to the regular seasons' first scheduled league game(s).
- Organizations will provide their cuts and releases to the OSHL registrar no later than seven (7) days from the end of their try outs.
- Players going into their junior or senior year that are not selected to a varsity team for the upcoming season or are cut from their varsity team that they were a member of the year prior will be free to try out for another OSHL organization. They may instead request to be placed into the player pool. Teams cannot cut players in order to pick up players from the pool (see Player Pool).

3.0 Player Status

- Player eligibility shall follow the current year USA Hockey Annual Guide/Classifications, as it relates to enrollment as a High School eligible player.
- A new player is any player who is not currently rostered on an OSHL team and wishes to play within our league. Previous team affiliation does not come into play.
- A new player coming into our league has the option to try out for any OSHL organization. If the player's desired organization does not place them on a team, they may choose to try out for another OSHL team or go to the player pool where the OSHL league board will assist them in finding an OSHL team.
- A *cut player* is any player who does not make any of their assigned member organizations teams. The cut is for the current season. Players may not be cut from any member organization's teams once the regular league season has started (they may however be released).
- A released player is any player in which the player, or the member organization chooses to part ways with and elects to no longer be affiliated with each other. This can only be done with just cause.

3.1 Player Release Policy

- Member organizations must notify the league president immediately when a release is being considered. If a player's request from their organization is denied, they may make a formal appeal to the league board. See contact information for league officers on OSHL home page.
- The board does not promote players switching between teams due to internal issues between the player and the local organization, however we do recognize from time to time there may be a situation where a player may have just cause to be released.

- Should there be a situation where a player has requested to be released from a team and the team agrees, the board may assist regarding placement for the player. The player may try out for another OSHL team (during the organization's established try out period, NOT in conflict with regular season activities) or be sent to the player pool.
- Players must settle all outstanding financial commitments before they can commit to another team and provide documentation showing settlement with their former OSHL club.
- Players and families will be held to the financial and academic commitments and expectations of their current / future OSHL club.
- OSHL organizations may not recruit players to join or coerce players to leave other existing OSHL organizations. Attempts to do so will be met with OSHL board discipline which could include but would not be limited to suspensions and fines.
- No OSHL organization can take more than 2 released players from any other OSHL organization.

4.0 Player Pool

- The OSHL promotes the growth of organizations / teams and will use the player pool to assist organizations and facilitate on behalf of players and parents. A player pool of unassigned players shall be used to supplement an organization's need for players, not replace current players in those organizations.
- The Player Pool consists of players who were released or cut from an organization's tryouts. There shall be a separate player pool for position players and another for goalies.
- Any team who cuts an eligible player is not eligible to draw players from the player pool, but can still participate in the goalie pool.
 - A team cutting only a goaltender cannot participate in the goalie pool but can still participate in the player pool.
- A player must be cut or released by their current team to be eligible to try out for another OSHL team.

4.1 Player Pool Assignment

- Teams should indicate to the OSHL board a need for players and what positions are of greatest importance. The list of organizations and corresponding positions needed will be distributed by the league to prospective pool players / families.
- Pool players will be assigned to organization teams once all individual team tryouts are completed and / or the needs of individual teams are known.
- A team is not eligible to pick up a pool player if they have 18 skaters and 2 goaltenders on their roster until all other teams have passed, or they have cut players during their tryout process.
- If players were cut during tryouts resulting in fewer than 18 skaters 2 goaltenders, that team is still not eligible to pick up pool players.
- Any player entering the pool may choose to try out for his / her originally desired team the following season or he / she may try out for the team that accepted the player from the pool the previous year. If that player is cut again from his originally assigned team or the team that

he / she played for the previous season, the player will re-enter the pool to be assigned by the OSHL board to another team.

5.0 Website and Score Sheets

- The home team has the responsibility to update the web page. This is to be done within 48 hours of the game. Only the stats that are on the scoresheet are required to be entered.
- The home team has the responsibility to ensure the Vice President of the OSHL receives the score sheet within 5 business days from the game. Repeated failures to submit game sheets in a timely fashion could be met with OSHL board discipline which could include but would not be limited to suspensions and fines. Only the white top copy will be accepted. Scanned versions can be sent via email with the approval of the Vice President.

6.0 Tournaments

6.1 Blue Jackets Cup

- Most recent, board approved, posted Blue Jacket's Cup Tournament rules are to be posted in the amendments, implemented, and followed for tournament play. See current season tournament rules.
- All league and tournament fees shall be paid prior to the first tournament game. See 1.1 payment of Fees.
- All OSHL teams are required to play in the tournament.
- Seeding: The seeding for the end of season tournament shall be based on a point value system:
 - Two points for every victory and one point for a tie.
 - The number one seed shall be the team with the most points, number two seed with the second most points and so forth.
- The most current USA Hockey Tie-Breaker Rules found in the Tournament Guidebook will determine seeding in the event two teams are tied in points.

6.2 Buckeye Cup Tournament

- Most recent board approved posted Buckeye Cup Tournament rules will be found on the website <https://www.gchschl.net/buckeyecup> when available.
- Tournament date, OSHL representatives, and seeding will be determined annually by the Buckeye Cup Tournament committee.

6.3 All Star Game

- An annual All-Star Game will be held after the Blue Jacket Cup Tournament. The League President shall present a proposed date, format for player selection, coaches, and team formation to the board for approval at least 2 weeks prior the Blue Jacket Cup Tournament.
- OSHL representatives will manage the game clock and score sheets, provide game pucks and schedule referee's and AT's. The head coach of each team shall provide water bottles and warm up pucks if need.

- Any player serving a suspension is ineligible to participate.
- Standard league rules will apply unless otherwise stipulated.

7.0 Code of Conduct

- OSHL will follow, abide by, and enforce all USA Hockey policies and procedures as written in the most current version of the USA Hockey rulebook.
- League recommends a code of conduct contract be signed between organizations, players, and coaches. OSHL will provide a sample upon request.