

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY LEAGUE

BY-LAWS, RULES AND PROCEDURES

30 April 2011

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**Rev. 0
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DEFINITIONS

“Advisory Board” (“AB”) shall mean that group of individuals serving as an advisory board to the League administration. The Advisory Board shall have formal decision-making powers and provide input and recommendations to League administration.

“At Large Member” shall mean the individual member of the “AB” that is independent from the other members and teams.

“Commissioner” shall mean the individual designated to oversee the daily administration of the League and League activities or his designee.

“League” shall mean NCHSHL, Northern California High School Hockey League and Advisory Board.

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

"League Year" shall mean September 1 through the following August 31, encompassing one complete League Season.

"Member Team" shall mean any team, including any Varsity and Junior Varsity team, which has been accepted as a Member of the League pursuant to the procedures set forth herein. Member teams may or may not be a member of the NCHSHL Board of Directors.

“School Sponsored Team” shall mean any team that is recognized and supported by one or more public or private high schools to play either JV and/or Varsity ice hockey. The team shall be allowed to represent the school(s) and use the school’s name and colors as appropriate for play in NCHSHL. School sponsored teams ideally include players from one school however schools not able to achieve this objective may have players from other near by schools or schools may have combined teams subject to review and approval of the NCHSHL Board of Directors.

"Regular Season Game" shall mean any one or more of the games played as part of the League's regular season schedule, as such schedule is established from time to time.

"Playoff Game" shall mean any one or more of the games played as part of the League playoff schedule, as such schedule is established for each season.

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

"NC" shall mean Northern California.

ARTICLE I

League Organization and Governance

1.1. NCHSHL, NORCAL, CAHA and USA Hockey

Northern California High School Hockey League's (NCHSHL) objective is recognition by NORCAL, CAHA and USA Hockey for conducting school sponsored youth ice hockey competition at the High School level. Top teams from NCHSHL and from the Southern California meet each spring for state playoffs conducted by CAHA.

1.2. NCHSHL Governance

NCHSHL is a nonprofit association governed by a Board of Directors consisting of the presidents or designated representatives of each school sponsored member club or association and the elected and appointed officers of the of the Board. Voting members of the Board of Directors include the president or designated representative of each member club, which are specified in its Bylaws. The Board also includes two voting members of Sharks Ice; Sharks Ice General Manager and Director of Hockey. The Board shall also include an "At Large" member with no affiliation with any member school, San Jose Sharks, Sharks Ice or Silicon Valley Sports & Entertainment (SVS&E). Selection of the At Large Board member shall be by unanimous vote of the NCHSHL Board of Directors. The Board shall elect a Board President at the beginning of each season to serve that season. The affairs of NCHSHL are conducted in accordance with its Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and policies that may be adopted by the Board of Directors from time to time.

1.3. Board Meetings

The time and location of NCHSHL Board of Directors meetings will be communicated to the Board members by the NCHSHL Board President. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors are open to the school sponsored clubs members. Issues or questions involving the operation of the league should be brought to the Board through a club or association president or representative.

1.4. Board Meeting Attendance

Each member club shall be responsible for representation at NCHSHL Board and other meetings and for the dissemination to its members of these Rules and Regulations as well as other NCHSHL league information. Any club not sending an appropriately designated representative to two or more consecutive meetings of the NORCAL Board of Directors for any reason barring "acts of God," shall be subject to loss of voting rights for a period of time determined by the active members of the Board..

1.5. Member Clubs

Only teams fielded by Northern California High schools in good standing may participate in the NCHSHL game schedule or playoffs. New member schools may be accepted in accordance with NCHSHL Bylaws. These schools and their teams agree to abide by all NCHSHL Rules and Regulations, NCHSHL Bylaws, NCHSHL Codes of Conduct and decisions; to keep their teams, players, and team officials informed of all NCHSHL rules, policies, decisions, and other pertinent information pertaining to their participation in NCHSHL sanctioned events and activities; and to provide all necessary resources as established by standards, rules and regulations of USA Hockey, CAHA , and NCHSHL for the conduct of their home games. Failure to comply with these conditions may result if loss of playoff eligibility or suspension of the club from NCHSHL voting rights.

1.6 Board Member Elections & Voting

Consistent with the NCHSHL mission statement Board members shall be from school sponsored teams. The Board membership objective is school sponsored teams rather than mixed school teams. Original NCHSHL Board membership requirement is they must represent school sponsored teams. Board members may vote to seat school sponsored mixed school teams to the Board. To encourage growth of school sponsored teams only school sponsored teams or school sponsored mixed teams may be on the NCHSHL Board and have voting rights. A unanimous vote of the NCHSHL Board is required to seat a new team on the NCHSHL Board. Teams without school sponsorship shall not be members of the NCHSHL Board. Each school sponsored Board member and the At Large member shall have one Board vote, Sharks Ice shall have two votes. For Board votes requiring a majority to pass where the vote has resulted in a tie the At Large Board Member shall cast an additional tie breaking vote.

1.7 Board Membership Expulsion

Schools, team officials, Coaches that do not compile with NCHSHL By Laws will be subject to removal from their seat on the NCHSHL Board of Directors and loss of voting rights.

ARTICLE II

MEMBER TEAM PARAMETERS

2.1. Application for Membership

2.1.1 Schools wishing to join the League must submit a Membership Application to the NCHSHL prior to the League Year in which the team desires to participate. The League shall decide whether to admit the applicant based on a number of factors, including availability of ice time.

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

2.1.3 All NCHSHL players/Coaches shall be USA Hockey registered for each season.

2.1.4 All NCHSHL Board of Director members and league officials are encouraged to register with USA Hockey for DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS LIABILITY INSURANCE AND CRIME COVERAGE

2.2 Coach Selection

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

Upon selection of a Head Coach by a Member Team, such Member Team shall notify a member of the League administration of its selection. All coaches and team officials must have required USA Hockey registration and be in good standing with USA Hockey and NCHSHL.

2.3 Background Checks

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

NCHSHL mandatory background screening requirement shall be the CAHA screening policy/process. Member schools/teams may choose additional screening as required.

Any Coach, Manager or other individual who is required to be screened per CAHA's SCREENING POLICY who continues to coach, manage or otherwise participate in any CAHA activities without the proper screening certification will be referred to the NCHSHL Disciplinary / Dispute Resolution Committee for appropriate action.

2.4 Accreditation of Coaches

2.4.1 All Coaches, Heads and Assistants, for each Member Team must have coaching accreditation, at Level 3 or above, from USA Hockey.

2.4.2 Proof of such accreditation must be presented to the League prior to the first Regular Season game in which such coach is the Head Coach of a Member Team.

2.4.3 An exemption to this rule may be granted for cause by the League upon petition by the Head Coach of a Member Team. Such exemption shall be at the sole discretion of the League.

ARTICLE III

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY PARAMETERS

3.1 General

3.1.1 Grade Eligibility

3.1.1.1 - Varsity

Students may be in the 8-12 grades and attend school full-time to be eligible for a Varsity team. 8th grades must have submitted an application be their desired private school or be in the region aligned for the public school team. Full-time attendance shall mean a student is taking four classes at his or her school.

3.1.1.2 - Junior Varsity

Eighth through twelfth graders attending school full-time are eligible for Junior Varsity. However, the League reserves the right to prohibit eighth graders from playing if they are clearly superior to the general level of play at the Junior Varsity level. Such players will be required to wait until the following season to play in the League. Students are required to play Junior Varsity in the program representing the high school they will be attending, as determined by acceptance or attendance zones.

3.1.2 Age Restrictions - Maximum Age

Any player turning nineteen (19) prior to September 1 for the 2010-2011 season is not eligible to participate for such season.

3.1.3 Home Schooled Students

Home-schooled students residing in a school's or district's attendance area are eligible to play only for the team representing that school or district. Home-schooled students will be considered as attending the represented school or district for purposes of roster composition.

Note: Home schooled students who wish to be eligible for State and Nationals will need to register with the School District in which they live as a "home schooled student"

Home schooled children must turn 14 prior to September 1 of the year in which a season begins to be eligible for Varsity and 13 for Junior Varsity. Home-schooled students must also meet the maximum age limit set forth in section 3.1.2 above.

3.1.4 "Visiting" Players

Subject to NCHSHL Board approval players shall not be eligible to play for a Member Team if such player is rostered on another ice hockey team outside the Northern California Metropolitan area during the current season, unless such player permanently relocates from such area to NC. Players relocating to the area must comply with the deadlines set forth herein. Players, officially rostered on the out of town team, returning from an out of town ice hockey team after the December 31 deadline to finish the current school year in the NC area will not be eligible to participate in the League during such season.

3.1.6 Open Tryouts

The league may hold an open tryout prior to each season for all those players who do not have a Member Team to tryout for. After the tryout is completed, the league will assign the player to an existing Member Team based on geographic location and need for players. The player will continue to play for that Member Team for the rest of his high school career unless his/her school enters a Member Team into the league at which point the player must play for the new Member Team. The open tryout is not for those players who are cut by existing Member Teams.

3.1.7 Junior Players

Players rostered on any Junior Club as of October 1 will not be eligible to participate in the league at either the Varsity or Junior Varsity level.

Travel- and/or Tier -U18, U16 & U14 Players

Any player commuting or relocating to the NC area for the sole purpose of playing Tier is not eligible for any high school team. Each Travel- and/or Tier U18, U16 & U14 player, no matter what the circumstance, will have to submit a Travel /Tier 1 eligibility request form. The Northern California High School Hockey League reserves the right to determine eligibility. The Following are some examples to the rule:

Example 1

Johnny Dangle moves to the NC area from Arizona to play Tier hockey. League Ruling – Ineligible

Example 2

Freddy Slapshot's family lives in the NC area, has played in NC, and makes the local Tier team. League Ruling – Eligible

For the 2011 season

For any player to be eligible for the play-offs, each player must play in 4 of the first 10 regular season games (Varsity or JV).

For the 2011-2012 season and Beyond

For any player to be eligible for the play-offs, each player must play in 50% of the regular season games (Varsity or JV) excluding games lost due to injury subject to review by the NCHSHL Board of Directors.

Any Travel/Tier U18, U16 & U14 player is required to actively play to be eligible for the playoffs and State Tournament. That number will now be 5 of the first 13 regular season games, in addition to playing in 10 of the 20 regular season games (Varsity or JV).

3.1.8 Proof of Eligibility

Each team shall be required to provide School ID and complete the School Attendance Form ("SAF") (including signatures) and return to the League no later than the league scheduled due date. Any team which has not completed such form at that time may not be eligible to participate in any League games until the form has been turned in to a member of the League administration. Players added to the roster after the SAF has been turned in must complete an individual Eligibility Verification Form before such player will be allowed to participate in any League games.

3.1.9 Students Changing Schools

3.1.9.1 - On or Before December 31

Students who change schools prior to December 31 must play for the team representing the school that the student has transferred to, unless one of the following two (2) conditions is met:

1. New school does not have a team
2. New school's roster is full

In the event one of these two (2) conditions is met, the player shall complete the current season on the team representing the school that such player started the season with. However, the following season, such player must try out for the team representing the school he is attending. If the student's new school does not have a team, such player must petition the League for an exemption for such future seasons. He shall not necessarily be eligible to play in the League.

3.1.9.2 - After December 31

Students changing schools after December 31 shall be able to complete the current season with the team representing the school that such player started the season. However, the following season such player must try out for the team representing the school he is attending. If the student's new school does not have a team, such player must petition the League for an exemption for such future seasons. He shall not necessarily be eligible to play in the League.

3.1.10 Roster Deadline

The NCHSHL shall establish JV and Varsity roster deadlines by the start of each season. No individual may be added to or deleted from a team's roster after these dates. Any player moving into the school in question after these dates may practice with that team, but not play in games; provided such team has less than 30 players on the official roster at that time. No player may be added to a team, at any time, which already has thirty (30) players on the roster. Roster size is NTE 30 per USA HS Hockey guidelines.

3.1.11 Playoff Eligibility

For the 2011 season

Players must participate in 4 regular season games to be eligible for playoffs. "Participate" shall mean the player's name appeared on the official score sheet for a game and verified by the officials as one of the up to twenty (20) players dressed for that game. "Participate" shall also mean that the player was actively playing in the game. Injured players signed in as "injured" on the game roster and in attendance subject to the nature of their injury shall have the game counted towards the league game participation requirement. Varsity teams may use JV players in Varsity playoff games who have not met the 4 game Varsity minimum as long as they have played JV for a minimum of 4 games during the season. Players called up from JV for the Varsity playoffs may continue to play with their JV team.

For the 2011-2012 season

Players must participate in 50% of the regular season games to be eligible for playoffs. "Participate" shall mean the player's name appeared on the official score sheet for a game and verified by the officials as one of the up to twenty (20) players dressed for that game. "Participate" shall also mean that the player was actively playing in the game. Injured players signed in as "injured" on the game roster and in attendance subject to the nature of their injury shall have the game counted towards the league game participation requirement. Varsity teams may use JV players in Varsity playoff games who have not met the participation game Varsity minimum as long as they have played 50% of the JV games during the season. Players called up from JV for the Varsity playoffs may continue to play with their JV team.

3.1.12 Exceptions

Any deviations from the standards set forth herein shall be at the determination of the League. Persons or teams seeking such deviations shall submit, in writing, a request for an exemption to a member of the League administration prior to August 1 preceding the League Year for which the exemption is sought. The League shall make a final determination of all such applications no later than September 30.

Matters must be communicated to the League no later than deadlines established by the league Board prior to the start of the JV and Varsity seasons to ensure that a decision with respect to such matter will be reached for the upcoming season. If application is not submitted prior to these deadlines, the League cannot guarantee determination of eligibility for the upcoming season and the affected player(s) will most likely not be considered for eligibility until the following season.

3.1.13 Early Graduation

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

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

3.1.14 No Pass/No Play

The NCHSHL strongly recommends No Pass/No Play regulations for the Varsity division. The Northern California High School Hockey League will support and enforce the No Pass/No Play academic eligibility rules for both Varsity and Junior Varsity divisions. No Pass/No Play is to be enforced by each member team.

A player must be a “student in good standing” at his/her school according to the academic pass/play rules for the individual school.

3.1.15 School Suspension

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

This suspension is in effect until the player/student is reinstated by the school authorities.

In order to participate in a high school league the player must be a student in good standing in their respective school. Generally, if a student would otherwise be eligible to play recognized sport for their respective school, then they are eligible to play high school hockey. They also must be in good standing with NCHSHL, NORCAL, CAHA and USA Hockey.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.1.18 Recruitment

No school or team official shall attempt to recruit a player to a team who is playing for another schools team. Each club shall be responsible for informing all club and team officials of this rule and for adhering to the spirit of this rule by actively dissuading officials and other persons from engaging in prohibited activities.

3.1.18A Upon receipt of a written complaint from a member club, the NCHSHL President shall appoint a Review Committee comprised of presidents or designated representatives of non-

affected clubs. The Review Committee shall conduct a hearing to investigate the charges and shall issue a penalty to a club and/or team found to be in violation of this rule. The penalty shall consist of forfeiture of one or more league. Additionally, an offending team shall forfeit any game in which the Committee determines an illegally recruited player has participated.

3.1.18B No team which was created initially as a Tier team shall be permitted to participate in NCHSHL league play competing for a NCHSHL

ARTICLE IV

HIGH SCHOOL TEAM ELIGIBILITY PARAMETERS

4.1 Public/Private Single School Teams

Any team representing a single public or private school shall have 100% of its roster attending such school.

However in order to promote League growth, new school teams may apply for admittance into the League by meeting the following criteria:

a. First year new school supported team may enter with not less than 8 players attending such school.

b. Each year thereafter the school team must add 2 players from such school continuing on until the roster is 100% attending such school (5th year).

c. Prior to 100% roster, the remaining roster spots must be petitioned to the League by each player desiring to play. Players must reside in proximity to the geographic area of the school to be eligible, unless there is no other option for the petitioning player as determined by the NCHSHL Board. The League will take all circumstances under consideration. Decision of the League to allow a non-attending player to play for the petitioned school is at the League's discretion. Decision of the League is final.

4.2 New School Construction

If a new school is constructed in a district having a single school team or teams, students attending the new school will be eligible to play for the existing team or teams for up to two seasons or until the new school establishes a team, whichever is earlier. Player eligibility for existing teams will be determined by the geographic attendance boundaries, as they existed prior to the construction of the new school.

4.3 Enforcement - Team Violations

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

4.4 Establishment of Team Parameters

The League shall establish parameters for individual teams for the upcoming season immediately preceding each season. Such parameters will be established pursuant to the guidelines set forth herein.

ARTICLE V

LEAGUE SCHEDULE – GENERAL

5.1. Game Location

League Games shall not be conducted at any rink that has not been approved by the League. The list of rinks that have been so approved shall be distributed to Member Teams preceding the League Year in which such approval shall be in effect. Any approved rink shall be eligible to conduct League games until such time as the League determines approval of such rink is no longer appropriate.

5.2 Organization of Teams by Conferences and/or Divisions

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

ARTICLE VI

LEAGUE GAMES

6.1 General

The rules and regulations set forth in this section shall be applicable to all League games, both Varsity and Junior Varsity, including Regular Season Games and Playoff Games.

6.2 Six Goal Rule

If during the third period of a League Game, the score differential reaches six (6) goals, the game clock shall be operated using a running time format until such time as the differential is reduced below six.

6.3 Jerseys

6.3.1 All League teams shall have two sets of jerseys and socks unless approved by the league - one white or light-colored and one dark. All teams must notify the League of their jersey colors prior to start of each season.

6.3.2 The designated home team shall wear white or light-colored jerseys.

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

6.4 Protective Equipment

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

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

6.4.3 All players are required to wear mouth guards and have them properly placed in their mouths during the game.

6.4.4 The League strongly encourages all players on Member Teams to wear neck guards for all League practices and games.

A neck guard shall be defined as a piece of protective equipment that is specifically designed to protect the neck and throat area. Sweat bands, socks and similar items are not considered neck guards for the purposes of this Section.

6.5 Official Rosters

Players must be rostered on the official roster that is turned into the League. Rosters are due prior to the start of the regular season and will become final after the halfway point in the schedule. Total number of players will not exceed 30 per USA Hockey High School rules.

6.6 Tag-Up Offside Rule

The NCHSHL will play the "tag-up" offside rule.

6.7 Teams Require Adult Coach

All NCHSHL games require a minimum of one adult coach on each team's bench. If a coach fails to appear or appears and is unable to continue for any reason, the team must provide a USA Hockey registered adult with credentials appropriate to the teams involved to serve as a temporary coach. Officials should provide a reasonable period of time to find a replacement. If no replacement can be found, the team without a coach will forfeit the game. The ice slot length may not be extended due to a delay resulting from a coaching change. Any properly credentialed coach may serve as an emergency temporary coach.

ARTICLE VII

REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE – VARSITY

7.1 General

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

7.1.2 As determined by the league each season, no Regular Season Game shall be scheduled prior to September 1 or later than the first weekend of May during any League Year.

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

7.2 Regular Season Game Format

All Regular Season Games shall be limited to three periods of not less than fifteen (15) minutes utilizing the stopped clock concept. There will be no ice cuts during regular season games.

Tie Games are part of the NCHSHL until further notice. Points are awarded as follows: Win, 2 points, Tie, 1 point, Loss 0 points.

7.3 League Standings - Regular Season

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

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

7.3.2.1 Tie between **two** teams:

- 1) Points
- 2) Wins
- 3) Fewer Game Misconducts
- 4) Head to Head points
- 5) Fewer goals against
- 6) Fewer Losses
- 7) Head to Head goal differential
- 8) Coin Toss

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

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

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

7.3.3 At the discretion of the League, the playoffs or the regular season will be used to select Varsity participants to represent the League at post-season and state tournaments.

ARTICLE VIII

LEAGUE PLAYOFFS-VARSITY

8.1 Playoff Format

Varsity Playoff Format:

- All teams make the playoffs
- All playoff games are single elimination
- Regular season final standings determine playoff seeds
- Up to 8 Teams
 - If more than 8 teams, play-in games to get to 8 teams
 - If less play-in games to get to 4 teams
 - If 4 teams, seeds per customary hockey pairings
- First round will be as follows:
 - Seed #1 vs. Seed #8 (Quarter Final #1)
 - Seed #2 vs. Seed #7 (Quarter Final #2)
 - Seed #3 vs. Seed #6 (Quarter Final #3)

- Seed #4 vs. Seed #5 (Quarter Final #4)
- Second round will be as follows:
 - Winner of Quarter Final #1 vs. Winner of Quarter Final #4 (Semi Final #1)
 - Winner of Quarter Final #2 vs. Winner of Quarter Final #3 (Semi Final #2)
- Championship Game will be as follows:
 - Winner of Semi Final #1 vs. Winner of Semi Final #2

Rules:

- All suspensions from regular season carry over into playoffs
- Players must have played in at least 4 of 10 or 12 regular season games or 10 of 20 regular season games in order to be eligible for the playoffs
- In the case of a game ending in a tie:
 - Quarter Final, and/or Semi Final games:
 - 5 on 5, five minute sudden death overtime period
 - If still tied, a 5 player per team shootout will occur
 - If still tied, a sudden death shoot out will occur until a winner is declared
 - In a shootout, no player may shoot a second time until all eligible players have shot at least once
 - Any player in the penalty box at the end of overtime may not partake in the shootout
 - Championship Game:
 - 5 on 5, ten minute sudden death overtime periods will occur until a winner is declared
 - Teams will switch ends after each ten minute period
- Decisions made by Northern California High School Hockey League AB are final

ARTICLE IX

REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE - JUNIOR VARSITY

9.1 General

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

9.1.2. As determined by the league each season, no Regular Season Game shall be scheduled prior to September 1 or later than the first weekend of May during any League Year subject to Board approval.

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

9.1.4 The league shall have a Gold and Silver division at the JV level. Teams will have the opportunity to apply for the division most appropriate for their teams' competitive level. The league reserves the right to place a team in the most appropriate division.

9.2 Regular Season Game Format

All Regular Season Games shall be limited to three periods of not less than Seventeen (17) minutes utilizing the stopped clock concept. There will be no ice cuts during regular season games.

Tie Games are part of the NCHSHL until further notice. Points are awarded as follows: Win, 2 points, Tie, 1 point, Loss 0 points.

9.3. League Standings - Regular Season

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

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

9.3.2.1 Tie between **two** teams:

- 1) Points
- 2) Wins
- 3) Fewer Game Misconducts
- 4) Head to Head points
- 5) Fewer goals against
- 6) Fewer Losses
- 7) Head to Head goal differential
- 8) Coin Toss

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

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

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

9.3.3 At the discretion of the League, the playoffs or the regular season will be used to select junior varsity participants to represent the League at post-season and state tournaments, if any.

ARTICLE X

LEAGUE PLAYOFFS-JUNIOR VARSITY

10.1 Playoff Format

Junior Varsity Playoff Format:

- All teams make the playoffs
- All playoff games are single elimination
- Regular season final standings determine playoff seeds
- Up to 8 Teams
 - If more than 8 teams, play-in games to get to 8 teams
 - If less play-in games to get to 4 teams
 - If 4 teams, seeds per customary hockey pairings
- First round will be as follows:
 - Seed #1 vs. Seed #8 (Quarter Final #1)
 - Seed #2 vs. Seed #7 (Quarter Final #2)
 - Seed #3 vs. Seed #6 (Quarter Final #3)
 - Seed #4 vs. Seed #5 (Quarter Final #4)
- Second round will be as follows:
 - Winner of Quarter Final #1 vs. Winner of Quarter Final #4 (Semi Final #1)
 - Winner of Quarter Final #2 vs. Winner of Quarter Final #3 (Semi Final #2)
- Championship Game will be as follows:
 - Winner of Semi Final #1 vs. Winner of Semi Final #2

Rules:

- All suspensions from regular season carry over into playoffs
- Players must have played in at least 4 of 10 or 12 regular season games or 10 of 20 regular season games in order to be eligible for the playoffs
- In the case of a game ending in a tie:
 - Quarter Final, and/or Semi Final games:
 - 5 on 5, five minute sudden death overtime period
 - If still tied, a 5 player per team shootout will occur
 - If still tied, a sudden death shoot out will occur until a winner is declared
 - In a shootout, no player may shoot a second time until all eligible players have shot at least once
 - Any player in the penalty box at the end of overtime may not partake in the shootout
 - Championship Game:
 - 5 on 5, ten minute sudden death overtime periods will occur until a winner is declared
 - Teams will switch ends after each ten minute period
- Decisions made by Northern California High School Hockey League AB are final

ARTICLE XI

PENALTIES / MISCONDUCTS

11.1 General

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

11.1.2 Any player or Head Coach suspended pursuant to this section must serve the suspension at the same level of play (Varsity or Junior Varsity) at which such suspension was incurred.

11.1.3 If a player is on both the Varsity and Junior Varsity roster, he/she may NOT play for the team for which the suspension did not occur during the suspension. However, if a player is suspended pursuant to a Match Penalty, the suspended player cannot participate in any USA Hockey activities during such suspension.

11.2 USA Hockey Rules

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

USA Hockey Rules document at Link:

http://www.usahockey.com/uploadedFiles/USAHockey/Menu_Officials/Menu_RulesEquipment/2009%20-%2011%20Rulebook%281%29.pdf

ARTICLE XII

MATCH PENALTIES

12.1 Discipline Committee

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

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

- 12.1.3 Any suspension rendered by the Disciplinary Committees shall be retroactive to the date of the incident. Once a decision is rendered, the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committees shall, within three (3) business days of the hearing, notify the Head Coach of the appropriate Member Team and TAHA of any suspension imposed.
- 12.1.4 Any player, coach or team official suspended pursuant to this section shall be suspended from all League activities, including practices, until such suspension has been served in full.

12.2 Appeals

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

12.3 Fisticuffs

- 12.3.1 Any player who receives a major penalty for Fisticuffs (Fighting) (USA Hockey Rule 613) shall be assessed the following:
- 12.3.1.1 First Offense: a five (5) minute major penalty, a game misconduct and a three (3) game suspension.
 - 12.3.1.2 Second Offense (same League Year): a five (5) minute major penalty, a game misconduct and a six (6) game suspension.
 - 12.3.1.3 Third Offense (same League Year): a five (5) minute major penalty and suspended for the remainder of the season.
- 12.3.2 Any player who receives a penalty for being the third man into an altercation (USA Hockey Rule 613(d)) shall be assessed a one (1) game suspension in addition to any other penalties assessed pursuant to this section (i.e., Fighting).
- 12.3.3 Any player identified as the instigator of or aggressor in an altercation (USA Hockey Rule 613(a)) shall be assessed a three (3) game suspension unless the player also receives a fighting major then one (1) additional game for instigating will be added to the suspension received for fighting.
- 12.3.4 Any player who receives a penalty for leaving the bench to participate in an altercation (USA Hockey Rule 613(f)) shall be assessed a three (3) game suspension in addition to any other penalties assessed pursuant to this section (i.e., Fighting).

12.4 Leaving Penalty Bench or Players' Bench

Any player penalized under playing rule 625(a) (Leaving bench to join altercation) is automatically subject to supplementary discipline

12.5 Intent to Injure/ Players injured as result of penalty

Any player who injures another player during an NCHSHL game as a result of intent to injure or any other penalty called by game officials may be suspended indefinitely by league officials subject to Board review. As a minimum subject to Board review the player will be ineligible to practice or play in an NCHSHL game until the injured player has been able to play again. Example – if a player Y is injured by another player X where player X was given a penalty and the injured player Y misses 3 games then player X shall miss a minimum of 3 games.

ARTICLE XIII

COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

All League coaches shall:

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

The Following behavior by League coaches shall not be tolerated:

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

Responsibilities

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

ARTICLE XIV

REFEREES CODE OF CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All League referees shall:

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

The Following behavior by League referees shall not be tolerated:

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

Responsibilities

- (i) All League referees shall maintain proper certification as required by USA Hockey;
- (ii) Referees shall be responsible for attending all League Games which they are scheduled to officiate;
- (iii) Referees officiating League Games shall conduct periodic equipment checks before and during games to ensure all players are wearing the appropriate and required protective equipment; and
- (iv) Referees shall stay abreast of all rules, policies and procedures implemented by the League.

ARTICLE XV

PARENTS AND SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

All parents and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a proper, respectful and sportsmanlike manner while attending League Games. Obnoxious behavior, verbal abuse of players, coaches, referees and other spectators or the use of profanity will not be tolerated. Any parent or spectator engaging in inappropriate behavior may be asked to leave the arena. If they do not, the proper law enforcement agency will be summoned. In the case of consistent or particularly egregious behavior, the League may ban a parent or spectator from all League activities. Any parent or spectator so banished shall have the rights of appeal set forth herein above.

Noisemakers

No spectator may use a noisemaker of any sort at any NCHSHL game. Repeated offense during a game will result in the offender being asked to leave the game

ARTICLE XVI

COMPLAINT PROCESS

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

16.2 The following procedures will be followed with respect to complaints registered with the League pursuant hereto:

16.2.1 First Incident during a Twelve (12) Month Period.

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

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

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

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

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

16.3. In addition to the above:

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

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

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

Article XVII

Player Code of Conduct

The behavioral policy for NCHSHL players is based on the philosophy that emphasizes both the development of sportsmanship and the personal responsibility of individuals. It also conforms to NCHSHL guidelines to establish “...reasonable controls to promote the individual players development and self-discipline. The NCHSHL player, in turn, must assume responsibility for his or her actions both on and off the ice. To that end, a player who is uncooperative or deceives Coaches, game officials or NCHSHL league members, specifically during a disciplinary investigation, is liable for suspension from the league.

In addition to the NCHSHL’s Player Code of Conduct players are subject to governance and must abide by their schools Student Code of Conduct. Players will be subject to NCHSHL disciplinary action for violations of either NCHSHL and/or school Code of Conduct.

1. Players are expected to dispose of trash properly at all times in rink locker rooms and other areas of rinks.,

2. Players are expected to refrain from inappropriate language (spoken or displayed) at all times both inside and outside the rink and whenever they represent NCHSHL as participants in NCHSHL sponsored event. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- commonly defined foul language
- any words normally deemed racist, sexist, or homophobic
- any language that is used to incite or provoke others
- any language that is malicious or disrespectful to others
- any language or subject matter deemed inappropriate by a team managers, rink staff, or NCHSHL league officials (e.g., drugs, sexual content, etc.).

Serious Behaviors

The following are behaviors for which Players may face significant disciplinary actions:

1. Physical assault or battery, or any threat of force or violence (gesture, verbal, written, or online) directed toward a player, a parent, Coach, Game official or a member NCHSHL. Continuing to fight after receiving a warning from an Official. Striking a official, Coach, team manager or parent in any way, even if they do so inadvertently, while attempting to break up a fight. Encouraging fighting among peers will result in disciplinary consequences.

Deliberately impeding or blocking movement, as well as any intimidating interference with normal work or movement.

Any behavior that is degrading, offensive, inflammatory, or devalues the dignity of a person, including Internet communications, the display of posters, cartoons, written words, drawings, symbols, and gestures. Verbal assault/harassment, including derogatory comments and jokes/slurs as well as threatening words spoken to or about any person on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, immigrant status, homelessness, economic status, age, gender, sexual orientation, medical condition, physical appearance, or physical or mental disability.

Willfully threatening harm to another person, even if there was no intent to carry out the threat, if the circumstances surrounding the incident were such that the person threatened would reasonably fear for his or her safety (this is also a criminal offense).

Failure to report to an official or Coach knowledge of actions or plans of another player where those actions or plans, if carried out, could result in harm to another person(s) or damage property.

2. Any misconduct of a sexual nature.

Unwelcome advances, verbal and/or physical misconduct in the interpersonal relationships between students and any misconduct of a sexual nature that causes discomfort to a player. The following are examples of such misconduct (although not limited to these examples):

- Unwelcome sexual advances or physical contact of a sexual nature.
- Verbal, written, typed/Internet requests for sexual favors; sexually demeaning comments; sexual statements, questions, slurs, jokes, anecdotes, or epithets.
- Suggestive or obscene letters, notes, invitations, or electronic communication.
- Unkind and/or unlawful physical touching, contact, assault, deliberately impeding or blocking movements, or any intimidating interference with normal study or movement.
- Leering, gestures, displays of sexually suggestive objects or pictures, cartoons, or posters.

Should a player be the object of behavior that is offensive and unwelcome, he or she should tell the individual causing the harassment that his/her conduct is offensive and must stop. If the objectionable behavior does not cease immediately, the individual should report this to his/her Coach or team manager. Violations shall be reported to the NCHSHL.

3. Speeding or reckless driving on or near rink facilities. This is a serious threat to both life and property.

4. Theft of property from a player or other NCHSHL member or from the rink itself, or possession of stolen goods. Witnessing or being aware of theft and failing to report it to a school authority may be interpreted as the assistance of theft. Finding an item and not immediately turning it in to a Coach or rink official may be interpreted as theft.

5. The possession, use, exchange, distribution, reception, intention to sell, sale, or purchase of controlled or mind-altering substances or paraphernalia at any time and in any place by an NCHSHL player, or being under the influence of these substances.

6. Defacing rink property, including defacing the front of lockers, and other acts of vandalism on or near the rink.

a) Witnessing or being aware of vandalism, and failing to report it to a school authority, may be interpreted as the assistance of vandalism.

7. Gang-related conduct/activity, which includes, but is not limited to, symbols, graffiti, apparel (e.g. excessively baggy pants), colors, hazing/initiations, and hand signals commonly associated with gangs. Players who engage in gang-related activity shall be subject to expulsion.

8. Refusal to follow Coach or Rink instructions and failure to comply with any written or verbal communication from a Coach, team manager or rink official. Any player found to be disrespectful to a Coach, team manager, or rink or league official. Any player found guilty of insubordination, or a malicious, willful, and publicly defiant disobedience.

9. Initiating a fire alarm, bomb scare, anthrax or other threat, or calling 9-1-1 when no emergency exists.

10. Participation in any form of a “prank or hazing”

11. Gestures, verbal and written threats of violence. Use or possession of firearms (loaded or unloaded), replica weapons, or other potentially injurious weapons or objects. These include, but are not limited to, the following: matches and lighters; laser pointers; chain hanging from pocket or wallet; any knife (including pocketknife, Swiss Army knife); BB guns; shurikens and dirks; ice picks and screwdrivers; razors; stun guns and tasers; metal knuckles; nanchaku sticks; explosives/fireworks.

12. Possession, sale, promotion, or engagement in Internet activity with pornographic or other offensive material.

16. Using the NCHSHL name, initials, or logo without direct permission. It is unacceptable to display pictures of players, Coaches, league members and officials, or league activities without direct permission from the parties involved. Deliberate publication on the Internet, or anywhere else, may result in disciplinary action. It goes without saying that anything that is digitally altered, degrading, lewd, threatening, or violent in relationship to the above will result in serious disciplinary action, including the possibility of league suspension.

ARTICLE XVIII

BEST INTEREST OF THE GAME CLAUSE

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

ARTICLE XIX

EXONERATION FROM PERSONAL LIABILITY

NCHSHL hereby consents and declares that each Board Member, Officer, members of the Executive Committees, chairman and members of all other committees, and all elected or appointed officials in any capacity, shall be deemed to have assumed office or assignment on the express understanding, agreement and condition that each one of them and his/her heirs, executors and administrators, estate and effects respectively, shall be saved harmless against all liabilities, judgments, costs, charges and expenses whatsoever which such member sustains or incurs in or about any action, or suit or proceeding which is brought, commenced or prosecuted against him or her for and in respect of any act, deed, matter or thing whatsoever made, done or permitted by him or her in or about the execution of the duties of his/her office and also from and against all other costs, charges and expenses which he or she sustains or incurs in or about or in relation to the affairs thereof, except such costs, charges or expenses as are occasioned by his/her own willful neglect, intentional wrongful act or fraudulent act