

# SUBURBAN HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY LEAGUE

## *Middle School (MS)*

### RULES

**NOTE:** All MS Games are played usually EVERY Sunday beginning the last Sunday in October, **except on the following dates:** Sunday of Thanksgiving, Super Bowl Sunday, MLK and Sunday of Presidents Day Weekend. There is no blackout calendar for the Middle School level. In addition, a few games may be during the week depending on ice availability and number of teams.

1. **NAME:** The league shall be known as The Suburban High School Hockey League, Inc. – Middle School (SHSHL-MS).
2. **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:** The SHSHL Executive Board will appoint an administrative committee (MSAC). All MS issues, questions, discipline, etc. must be addressed to, and handled by this MS Administrative committee. In addition, the SHSHL Executive Board will appoint one of the MSAC members as the Chairperson.

**3. LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP:** League Membership must comply with the SHSHL Operating Rules.

All MS teams must supply to the league prior to the start of the season's first game; the teams President, Varsity Coach, and MS head coach contact info including email address, phone number, cell phone number. These three (3) members are the only approved contacts that may contact the MSAC.

Team Board members, assistant coaches, parents of players or your spectators are not permitted to contact any school or SHSHL Executive Member.

Placement of Middle School teams will be based on a Matrix of multiple variables used to determine the skill level of each team. Teams may request to play-up, but a matrix still must be filled out.

**4. NEW TEAMS:** Please refer to the SHSHL League Operating Rules

**5. FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:** Please refer to the SHSHL League Operating Rules

**6. ELIGIBILITY:** Team rosters (USAH T1, Website and Matrix) must be on file with the league prior to any member (player or coach) being permitted to play in any games. Upon receipt of USA Hockey's Registration form, each member will be considered eligible for league play. It is the responsibility of the teams to insure and verify the eligibility of its members. If it is determined that any member (player or coach) is ineligible, all games in which said member participated while ineligible will be subject to forfeiture and the head coach suspended for two games. All eligibility challenges by any opponent must be submitted by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

The game will be recorded at a 1-0 win. All ineligible player(s) shall have points stricken from the official league records. All points for eligible players for both teams will remain. The Commissioner will review the actions of the Club's personnel for possible disciplinary action.

All players must attend the Middle School which feeds the High School of the Varsity program. No player in grade below fifth or above eighth will be permitted to play at the middle school level. Home School, Charter School, Cyber School, Alternative School, Magnet and Vocational-Technical School players are eligible to play for the public school district of domicile. **An exception may be made for a goalie for a MS team, but that MS team will be ineligible for playoffs.** For a team to be eligible for the playoffs, all players (including the goalie) MUST attend a public school for the public high school they feed.

Two teams that are short on players for a full team may combine to form a Co-Op consisting of 5 or more players from each team and league approval. This team would still be playoff eligible if all eligibility is met for both teams.

Schools with only a Middle School team in this league cannot have players from any other league play in this League. It is recommended but not a requirement that Tier One Players (as defined by USAH) and any Tier Two (AA) Players in 8<sup>th</sup> grade must play in the second middle school division or higher. It is recommended but not a requirement that any Tier One player will not be permitted to play in the lowest Middle School division.

There will not be checking permitted at the Middle School level.

Players in fifth grade are eligible to play in Middle School League only with application completed and on file with that club.

For fifth graders to be eligible to play at the Middle School level, the following requirements must be met. The club must keep all the paperwork on file and available upon request:

- a) The parent/guardian of the fifth-grade player must make a written request by December 31, to the club program petitioning their child to participate at an age level that is above recommended guidelines,
- b) Parent/Guardian must sign the enclosed "Parent/Guardian's Release of all Claims" form,
- c) Parent/Guardian must sign the enclosed "Player Movement-Risk Acknowledgment and Liability Waiver".

Any exceptions to Middle School player eligibility must be approved by the Middle School committee.

7. **PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY:** Please refer to the SHSHL League Operating Rules
  
8. **PLAYOFF GOALTENDER ELIGIBILITY:** If for any reason a team who has only one goaltender loses its only goaltender due to injury or suspension, and if the team is still eligible for further playoff games, the team may use any goaltender from the MS League, with the permission of that team, provided such team has already been eliminated from post-season play. The substitute goalie should be at the same league level or lower (ex: a MSAA team cannot get a MSAAA goalie) and be similar or weaker to their rostered goalie (ex: a team cannot add a BanAA goalie if the team currently has a PWAA goalie).
  
9. **LEAGUE PLAYING RULES:** Please refer to the SHSHL League Operating Rules

10. **SUSPENSIONS:** Please refer to the SHSHL League Operating Rules
11. **BUDGET:** Please refer to the SHSHL League Operating Rules
12. **BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS:** Please refer to the SHSHL League Operating Rules.
13. **PLAYOFFS:** Playoff format will be determined each year, based on the number of divisions and the number of teams in each division. For MS Divisions that have 6 or fewer teams, we will have the top 2 teams play in a championship game for a one game playoff. For MS Divisions that have 7 or more teams, we will have the top 4 teams play in the playoffs with two semi-final games and then the winners playing in a championship game. The playoff format will be agreed upon prior to the start of the regular season and recorded in the Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the year.

League standings will be determined by points percentage of which the numerator will be the total points earned and the denominator the total possible points. Each team shall earn two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and no (0) points for a loss. If two or more teams are tied at the end of the regular season, their position in the standings will be determined by:

- a. The points acquired in games played between the tied teams,
- b. The highest number of games won between the tied teams,
- c. Goals against average in games played between the tied teams,
- d. If after applying the formulas of a, b, or c, the tie still exists, they shall be applied using all the games played by the teams tied,
- e. Coin toss.

14. **TEN (10) GOAL RULE:** Please refer to the SHSHL League Operating Rules
15. **FINE FOR FORFEITURE:** Please refer to the SHSHL League Operating Rules
16. **PLAYER MOVEMENT RULE:**

A. Organizations that have more than one team at a specific level may move players up to the next team at that level; no players may move down. No more than 5 players (excluding goalies) per game will be allowed to move up.

B. If a team has no goalie for a particular game, the team may use another goalie from another Middle School team, the goalie should be at the same level or lower (ex: a MSAA team cannot get a MSAAA goalie) and be similar or weaker to their rostered goalie (ex: a team cannot add a BanAA goalie if the team currently has a PWAA goalie). No

players/goalies from outside the SHSHL can be used as a substitute goalie. This rule MUST be approved by someone on the Middle School committee each and every game.

And each game in which a substitute goalie is used will be a forfeit (not subject to fines).

C. All player movement must be entered on the website prior to the game.

D. Failure to follow the above procedures will cause the player to be declared ineligible, and the game to be forfeited,

E. The Chairperson may grant exceptions to this rule due to extenuating circumstances.

**17. TEAM UNIFORMS:** Please refer to the SHSHL League Operating Rules

**18. COACHING ACCREDITATION:** Please refer to the SHSHL League Operating Rules