

# Ohio Scholastic Hockey League

# OSHL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Revised 9/11/20

## **POLICIES and PROCEDURES**

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## **1.0 MEMBERSHIP**

### **1.1 Payment of Fees**

Each club 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 club'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 club'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 organization shall field a Varsity and/or JV team of players from their assigned OSHL districts. These shall consist of a single or multiple high school districts and the affiliated school systems that feed into those high schools.

The division of local school districts for the purpose of member organization teams shall be defined by the OSHL School District Team Assignments. This shall be a documented list of all eligible school districts and their appropriate member organization assignments. If a potential player's district is not represented on this list, the league president must be notified regarding the

status of the potential player by the association making initial contact with said player, or directly be the player. This must be done before any further interaction may occur with team sanctioned events. It will be the responsibility of the league President, or designee, to oversee the maintenance of district assignments and publication of this list appropriately.

Players shall be assigned to a member organization based on the school district in which they reside or attend school (see below for assignment conflicts).

## **2.1 JV Teams**

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

## **2.2 Eligibility**

Teams shall consist of Eligible 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. Additionally, teams shall comply with the current Buckeye Cup rules for player eligibility (see addendum) for the regular league season as well as post season play. This includes teams are not allowed 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, with roster limits for a High School team classification

Any player who participates in more than 7 varsity league games is no longer eligible to play at the JV level. Any goaltenders that dress as back-ups, but do not actually play any minutes will not have this counted as a game played in for the purposes of the 7 game limit for JV eligibility (exceptions may be made for the playoffs due to hardships on a team, as approved by the league board).

## **2.3 Assignment Conflicts**

Team assignment shall generally be based on the geographic school districts; however final determination resides with the league board, and must be approved by a majority vote of all board members.

If a new player, upon entering the league, resides in one member organizations assigned district, and attends (or will be attending) school in another, they shall notify the league of which of the two organizations they wish to join. Should the player fail to make any of that selected organizations teams, the player will be assigned to the other organization not originally selected.

Players whose assigned district has changed due to a new districting plan or because of a change in their residence or school attended are automatically grandfathered to their current organization from the previous season. However, these players may choose to tryout, and play for their newly districted organization.

The player must notify the league of any choice to play with the newly districted team or remain with the current member team. This is regardless of if they are staying with their grandfathered team or moving to the new team. This is a **onetime choice** and will be permanent for their remaining high school playing eligibility.

The OSHL may allow a player to appeal their assigned organization for due cause, as determined by the league board members. A formal appeal must be made to the league board of trustees by the parents or guardians of the player as soon as possible and, if the case is warranted, a formal hearing before the league board will be held for resolution.

## **2.4 Tryouts & Player Cuts**

Individual member organizations teams shall hold and complete scheduled tryouts no later than two weeks prior to the regular seasons first scheduled league games.

Players cut from the varsity level club team will automatically have the chance to tryout for that club's associated JV team. If no JV team exists for that association or they are cut from that team, the cut players are then assigned to the player pool. Teams cannot cut players in order to pick up players from the pool (see Player Pool).

### 3.

## PLAYER STATUS

A *new player* is any player who is not currently rostered on one of the OSHL teams and wishes to play within our league. Previous team affiliation does not come into play.

A new player coming into our league during the regular season will go to their assigned member organizations teams. If the assigned team does not place them on a team, they go to the player pool.

A new player outside any member organizations assigned districts must go to the player pool for assignment. These players may be eligible for “early assignment” (see section 4.1)

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 organizations teams once the regular league season has started (they may however be released). (*Separate paragraph now*)

### 3.1 Player release policy

A *released player* is any player in which the player, or the assigned 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.

Member organizations must notify the league president immediately when a release is being considered. If a players 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 will determine the placement for the player. The player may be sent to the player pool, or given permanent assignment to a member organization for the duration of their eligibility.

#### **4. PLAYER POOL**

The OSHL promotes the growth of organization teams from players within their assigned districts. A player pool of unassigned players shall be used to supplement an organizations team need for players, not replace assigned players to those organizations.

The Player Pool consists of players who do not live within an assigned school district, players who were released, or cut from their assigned member organizations tryouts. There shall be a separate player pool for position players and another for goalies. The league automatically assigns all cut players to the player pool.

Any team who cuts an eligible player from their designated OSHL school district team assignments 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 his assigned team to be eligible to play for another OSHL team.

##### **4.1 Pool player assignment**

The team with the greatest need will have first opportunity to request players.

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 districted 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 assigned 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. In any case, a player is only eligible to try out for one organization per season.

Early assignment – players outside current assigned districts may be assigned to teams prior to tryouts or player cuts. Consideration shall be given to proximity to current assigned districts relative to the players residence and school district, teams with the greatest need (based upon last seasons numbers), and/or losses from graduation or other relative criteria.

The President shall make such assignments, subject to approval of the board.

The assignment of a players from outside district boundaries does not award those players school districts to the assigned teams. Expansion of current district boundaries must be done as a separate process.

The league reserves the right to use great latitude to determine the location for players to play. The ultimate decision of which team/organization a player is assigned is up to the league board. No communication shall come from any of the other organizations to non- assigned players in the player pool without first approval by the OSHL board.

## **5. GEOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATONS**

See the OSHL School District Team Assignments in the Appendix for up to date school assignments.

The executive board shall define the districting area for all new teams subject to majority approval of the current board of trustees. Only teams approved by the board of trustees may participate in the OSHL.

Changes to current assigned geographic boundaries may be made by the executive board only. Member teams may submit a request for changes to their assigned boundaries at intervals not less than 3 years from the last change made.

(last change 2018/19 season)



## **6. 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 received the score sheet within 5 business days from the game. Only the white top copy will be accepted. Scanned versions can be sent via email with the approval of the VP.

## **7. TOURNAMENTS**

### **7.1 Blue Jackets' Cup**

- A. 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
- B. All league and tournament fees shall be paid prior to the first tournament game. See 1.1 payment of Fees.
- C. All OSHL teams are required to play in the tournament.
- D. 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.

In the event that two teams are tied in points the following tie breaker shall be used:

- a. Most points
- b. Head to head: if team A wins 3 out of four games or the majority of games that involve ties (A wins two games, B wins one game, one game ended in a tie) team A will be seeded above team B who has an equal number of points based on the regular season total win loss record.
- c. Most victories
- d. Fewest goals allowed
- e. Goals against/goals for (lowest number)
- f. Coin Flip

### **7.2 Buckeye Cup Tournament**

- A. Most recent, board approved, posted Buckeye Cup Tournament rules are to be posted in the amendments, implemented, and followed for tournament play. See current seasons Buckeye Cup Rules.

- B. Tournament date, OSHL representatives, and seeding will be determined annually by the Buckeye Cup Tournament committee.
- C. The winner of the Bluejacket Cup Tournament shall automatically qualify. This might possibly displace the lowest seeded team that otherwise would qualify.

### **7.3 All Star Game**

- A. An annual All Star Game will be held after the Bluejacket Cup. 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 Bluejacket Cup Tournament.
- B. 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.
- C. Any player serving a suspension is ineligible to participate. Any game suspension incurred during this game will carry over to the next season.
- D. Standard league rules will apply unless otherwise stipulated.

## **8. CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **OSHL** **(Ohio Scholastic Hockey League)**

#### **CODE OF CONDUCT COMMITMENT**

**OSHL will follow and enforce all USA hockey policies and procedures and any actions or conduct by players, coaches or parents detrimental to the league (including cyber bullying, social media abuse, off ice conduct etc.) will be subject to a Code of Conduct hearing that may result in a suspension, and/or other suitable consequence's as determine by the Code of Conduct committee.**

In order to provide a positive, safe, and responsible high school hockey experience for all players, parents and coaches, this "Code of Conduct Commitment" must be read, understood, and signed by each player, parent and coach in order to participate in all aspects of league activities including, but not limited to, league and tournament events at both the Varsity and JV levels, "All Star" and/or exhibition practices and games. In addition to and separate from League events, the individual member clubs are encouraged to adopt and enforce this or a similar code of conduct with respect to club activities including practices. By their signature below, each player, parent and coach agrees to abide by and adhere to the rule and policies of the OSHL include the restrictions and regulations contained herein and those contained in the OSHL Playing Rules.

## **A. Misconduct**

In addition to the governing body Hockey Rules the following will apply:

1. Players, parents and coaches recognize that this league has adopted a zero-tolerance policy with respect to physical and verbal misconduct, which will be upheld by both the referees and league officials. The zero-tolerance policy also includes any cyber bullying and/or Internet exploitation of players, coaches and officials.
2. Coaches understand they are role models for their players and further recognize that achieving a good clean physical win or loss is more important than winning at all costs. Coaches will not teach or encourage physical or verbal misconduct or tolerate the same from any of their players. Coaches witnessing any physical or verbal misconduct from any of their own players are expected to take appropriate action. Any team incurring 15 penalties shall have the head coach suspended for the next league event. Subsequent occurrences of game misconducts for 15 penalties in a game during the same season shall have the head coach suspended per A.3 herein.
- 2a. Coaches will follow the same code of conduct as our players. All other suspensions and rules will apply per the players COC.
3. All COC violations are to be reported to the VP immediately as these could impact the player's opportunity to play the next day. It is the offending player's team that is to report any such violations.

Any player or coach exhibiting a pattern of abusive behavior including physical, verbal, or a combination of both will be subject to suspension from play.

4. Match penalties or Game Disqualification for "Attempt to Injure", require immediate league review. A player receiving a match penalty will get a minimum of a 2 game suspension and must come before the COC Review committee.

All "Attempt to Injure: Penalties shall be reported to the Conduct Committee within 48 hours by the team manager or President. A review of the incident shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure outlined herein. Upon receiving notice of the automatic league suspension, the offending player has 72 hours to request a league hearing. Any player not requesting a league hearing shall be suspended for the remainder of the season.

A minimum of three (3) members of the Conduct Committee, not including the suspended player's team representative or a representative from the opponent's team at the time of the infraction, shall be

required to hold a hearing to determine the appropriate term of the suspension. Conduct committee members are encouraged to solicit input from the on-ice game officials during this hearing and if possible having the officials attend the hearing. A majority vote of the members of the Conduct Committee present is required to determine the length of suspension.

Until such time as the hearing is conducted, the player shall not participate in any league or club activities including practices. Any hearing to modify the term of suspension shall be conducted within a maximum of five days of the request for hearing. The league representative of the suspended player's team may be present at the hearing but may not vote with respect to the action taken on the request for modification.

**B. Game Suspension – Carry over**

1. If the ejection occurs in the last contest of the season or the full suspension cannot be completed during the regular season or tournament, the player/coach shall be ineligible for the remaining period of time to be served during the next regular season game(s).

**I have read and understand the OSHL Code of Conduct as stated and agree to abide by all items within the Code without question.**

Player's printed name: \_\_\_\_\_ Team: \_\_\_\_\_  
Player's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parents signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read and understand the Code of Conduct as stated and agree to abide by all items within the Code without question.**

Coach's printed name: \_\_\_\_\_ Team: \_\_\_\_\_  
Coach's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_