



RULES AND REGULATIONS STATEWIDE AMATEUR HOCKEY OF FLORIDA, INC. (Revised July 1, 2024)



ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP, REGISTRATION AND ROSTERS

SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP

A. MEMBERSHIP - The membership of SAHOF shall be comprised of all amateur hockey teams, headquartered in Florida, seeking membership in USA Hockey, who have complied with all of the By-Laws and Rules Regulations of USA Hockey and SAHOF for payments of any required fees and tender of required information. The organization, association, hockey club, rink or other entity to which each team is affiliated must register all of the teams in their programs with USA Hockey and SAHOF to be accepted as a member team. The Member Organization representative will be the individual with whom SAHOF corresponds. Existing and previously approved Membership Organizations that already have USA Hockey software for team registration and a USA Hockey identification number must submit a registration form on the SAHOF website for approval annually by July 1st of each year for timely receipt of information from USA HOCKEY and SAHOF. All High School teams must also register by October 15 annually, but they are not responsible to pay the Member Organization fee. High School leagues are responsible to register and pay the fee. The SAHOF Registrar will only sign team rosters for SAHOF Member Organizations.

B. NEW MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS – This section only applies to New Membership Organizations that have NOT been “previously approved Membership Organizations.” A “previously approved Membership Organization” is one that already has USA Hockey software for team registration and a USA Hockey identification number. All New Membership Organizations must submit an application for approval as set forth herein. Any active amateur Organization, which is properly registered and in good standing with both USA Hockey and SAHOF shall be eligible to become a Member Organization if it meets the requirements set forth herein. The purpose of Member Organization status within SAHOF is to allow Registered Participant Members to be represented within SAHOF by a duly elected representative of their organization and to allow Registered Participant Members the right to participate in SAHOF sanctioned events in accordance with established SAHOF Rules and Regulations. Member Organization shall be an organization that has been duly organized as a nonprofit or for-profit corporation, a limited liability company, a sole proprietorship, a partnership or an Organization in the Florida Affiliate. Member Organization status may be acquired by written application to SAHOF on a membership application form which shall include, as a minimum, the following information:

- Name of the Organization;
- Location of the Organization;
- Names, addresses and phone numbers of principal officers;
- Signature of an Officer of the Corporation authorized to make application for membership in SAHOF and the Local SafeSport Coordinator;
- Proposed number and level of teams (must be at least two teams); and
- The legal nature of the Organization.

The Member Organization application shall also be accompanied by the following:

1. All prescribed fees (if any);
2. A certified copy of the applicant's Articles of Incorporation, Partnership Agreement, Organization Agreement, Constitution, Bylaws or other governing documents; a certificate of corporate good standing from the state of incorporation.
3. A signed letter from local ice provider(s) in order to show sufficient availability of ice to support its program and promote that program in accordance with the Bylaws and Rules of SAHOF and USA Hockey.
4. For youth Organizations, a list of all Organization Administrators, coaches, team managers, locker room monitors, team drivers, travel chaperones identified at the time of the application. The list shall include the **individual's full name, address and background screening expiration date. All Organization Administrators**, coaches, team managers, locker room monitors, team drivers, travel chaperones identified

at the time of the application must be screened in accordance with SAHOF rules – Screening prior to consideration of the **Organization's application for membership**.

5. All new Member Organization applications will only be voted on at the SAHOF Annual Board of Directors Meeting with the exception of applications for new ice facilities. New ice facilities may apply for membership at any time upon completion of construction (**as evidenced by a certificate of occupancy "CO"**) and shall be limited to house programs only within the current season. **No New Member Organization will be permitted to apply and receive a Local Association Number or team registration software from USA Hockey to register teams unless their application has been approved.**
6. For new ice facilities applying for membership for the first time, a "certificate of occupancy" must be submitted to and received by SAHOF prior to May 1st immediately preceding the upcoming season in order to be eligible to apply for membership in the immediately upcoming SFHL season.

As a minimum, each Member Organization's governing documents and/or operating procedures shall contain SafeSport adoption which includes a Physical Abuse Policy, Emotional Abuse Policy, Sexual Abuse Policy, Bullying, Threats and Harassment Policy, and Hazing Policy; Locker Room Policy, Social Media, Mobile and Electronic Communications Policy, Travel Policy, Billeting Policy, Education and Awareness Training Policy; Screening Policy, Zero Tolerance Policy and other such policies which complies with USA Hockey requirements.

The President of the SAHOF Board of Directors shall review each Membership Application and supporting documents for completeness. The President and the SAHOF Executive Committee shall provide applicants with assistance with completing the applications according to the Membership Application Procedure, reviewing the applications and making recommendations to the SAHOF Board of Directors on whether the applicant has satisfied the membership requirements for Member Organization status.

Any organization granted Member Organization status within SAHOF shall be deemed a Member Organization in good standing and shall be entitled to exercise all rights and privileges as that status may accord. The rights and privileges granted a Member Organization maybe revoked as determined by SAHOF.

Member Compliance: All Organizations, leagues, groups, individuals, or other organizations affiliated or registered with SAHOF shall, by their affiliation or registration, be deemed to have indicated their willingness to comply with the Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations of SAHOF and USA Hockey and shall be subject to the rules and regulations thereof including but not limited to the disciplinary procedures set forth herein.

Suspension: All Organizations, leagues, groups, individuals or other organizations suspended by USA Hockey shall be automatically suspended by SAHOF without further notice from SAHOF and shall remain suspended unless and until such suspension is lifted by USA Hockey.

Right of Membership Refusal: The Board of Directors shall have the right and discretion to refuse membership in SAHOF to any players, teams, Organizations, leagues, groups, individuals, or other organizations within the criterion established by USA Hockey.

C. SAFESPORT - SAHOF fully endorses and adopts the USA Hockey SafeSport Program.

1. **Member Organizations:** All Member Associations are required to adopt and implement the USA Hockey SafeSport Program in their association. All SafeSport Complaints are processed in accordance with USA Hockey Guidelines. See <http://www.usahockey.com/page/show/908963-safesport-program-reporting-policy>
2. **Local SafeSport Coordinators:** Each Member Organization shall designate a local SafeSport Coordinator for their association. Local SafeSport Coordinators shall monitor the association for compliance as well as assist the membership with the following: implementation and enforcement of policies, training requirements, screening requirements, responding, reporting and adjudication procedures as well as any other tasks that fall under the purview of SafeSport.

SECTION 2. TEAM & LEAGUE DEFINITIONS

Teams shall be defined and classified according to the following criteria. A team shall consist of a group of players that has complied with all the By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of USA Hockey and SAHOF. Said "Team Definition" criteria shall be utilized for the SAHOF State Tournament, league creation and may be utilized as guidelines for others desiring to operate tournaments within the State (for private tournament operation, see Article V). For the purpose of these rules **relating to team definitions, the term "Regular Season" means the Fall playing season which officially starts September 1st** and ends after the SAHOF State Championships, although all games played on a Regular Season roster in August preceding the official start of the season count as Regular Season games for all purposes under the Rules.

- A. RECREATIONAL YOUTH TEAM (REC)** - Any team not registered and certified as Tier I or Tier II is designated as a Recreational Youth Team. Teams which otherwise qualify as a Recreational Youth Team but which are composed of players mixed from different age classifications as defined by USA Hockey (see Appendix B) must register to compete at the higher age classification. A Recreational Team shall also be defined as any 10U – 18U team having players appearing on multiple rosters.
- B. COMPETITIVE YOUTH TIER II TEAM** - Any team that registers with USA Hockey as a Tier II team and plays in a league in which the teams therein are registering as Tier II teams or primarily competes against other Tier II teams. The following rules apply to Tier II teams:
1. Tier II teams can have no more than two (2) players not living within the team's geographical district. (See Addendum 1)
 2. Any 14U through 18U Tier II team designating itself as "AA" is deemed competing for a National Championship and is required to participate in the SAHOF State Championship and, if after the State Tournament it becomes the SAHOF State Champion, representing SAHOF in the SE District Championship or USA Hockey Youth National Tournament.
 3. 10U teams registered as "Rec" teams per USAH standards playing in any of the leagues within the state will be recognized as a competitive youth team.
 4. No Tier II team or player registered on a Tier II team may participate in more than 10 games or two (2) tournaments at the "AAA" or Tier I level.
 5. Any team or player registered on a Tier II team that chooses to participate in more than two (2) tournaments as set forth above will be deemed ineligible for SAHOF State Championships or to represent SAHOF at USA Hockey Youth National Tournament AND IS SUBJECT TO BECOME INELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE ON ANY SFHL TEAM IMMEDIATELY.
- C. TIER I TEAM** - Tier I is the highest form of competitive youth hockey as recognized by USA Hockey. The following rules apply to Tier I teams:
1. Any team that registers with USA Hockey as a Tier I team, plays in a league in which the teams therein are registering as Tier I teams, participates in more than one Tier I or "AAA" tournaments, or primarily competes against other Tier I teams.
 2. Tier 1 or "AAA" tournaments are defined as any Tournament that solicits Elite, Tier I teams, or "AAA" teams as part of its advertisement.
 3. A Tier I team is also a team having more than two (2) players not living within the team's geographical district. (See Addendum 1)
 4. SAHOF shall have one sanctioned program for Youth and Girls Tier 1 play, the Florida Alliance, which is administered by SAHOF.
- D. HIGH SCHOOL TEAM** - A team made up solely of players attending the same high school and which meets the qualifications for the USA Hockey National High School Tournament is a "Pure" High School team. A team formed of high school age players and whose High School or Club does not have enough players to form a Pure team is a "Composite" High School team. A Composite team must be formed with the approval of and comply with all the parameters of the High School league in which they participate. Middle School rules pending.
- E. JUNIOR TEAM** - See USA Hockey Annual Guide for current registration procedures and team definitions. All New Junior Team requests must be handled under the process established by USA Hockey and is subject to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SAHOF regarding the eligibility of 16U SAHOF Players.
- F. ADULT TEAM** - See USA Hockey Annual Guide for team definitions.
- G. TOURNAMENT TEAM** - A team that is formed for the limited purpose of playing in a Tournament(s) during the Regular Season (September 1 through the State Championships) and is composed of players currently and regularly playing games on another Member Organization's rostered team or teams. Any Tournament Team that is deemed to be playing the equivalent of a full Regular Season schedule will be deemed an independent Tier I or Tier II team and players rostered on said team are ineligible for any other team during the same season. General Guidelines:
1. Tournament teams will be limited to no more than 2 tournaments. No Tournament Rosters will be signed for Tier 1 or "AAA" events.
 2. Except for a player playing on a Florida Alliance Tier 1 team, any Player who participates in more than 10 games or two tournaments on a Youth Tier I roster, that Player will be ineligible for Tier II SAHOF State Championships, SE Districts, and USA Hockey Nationals AND IS SUBJECT TO BECOME INELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE ON ANY SFHL TEAM IMMEDIATELY unless approved by the Affiliate President or the SAHOF Board.
 3. These guidelines above do not apply to players playing on a HS team.
 4. Only tournament teams that are adding players from other organizations must fill out a tournament team request form. The request form is attached to these Rules as Addendum 4 and must be

presented to the SAHOF Executive Director or his or her designee for approval at least ten (10) days prior to the start of the tournament the roster is intended for.

5. Any Tournament team found to have added players from another organization without receiving approval may render ALL the players on that team ineligible for any post season play. (SAHOF State Championships)

H. ALL OTHERS - Teams playing a Regular Season (September 1st through March 31st) as a Tier I or Tier II Independent team created in the State are required to register as Tier I National Bound or Tier II *National Bound*. These teams and all other teams not so registered that may be playing Rec /Select are considered "Independent Member Organizations". Those Independent Member Organizations will be deemed fully independent for the purposes of all programming. Independent Member Organizations will not be eligible to field SFHL teams or host SFHL games. Independent Teams must comply with all applicable Affiliate rules regarding Team Registration.

I. LEAGUES

1. There is one youth travel league that operate within the state of Florida and is therefore exclusively under SAHOF's jurisdiction, and that league is the SFHL. SAHOF reserves the right to address all league policies, including allowing teams to play up a division, so that the leagues are administered consistent with the American Development Model (ADM). All Tier II Florida teams that participate outside of the in-state leagues remain under the jurisdiction of "SAHOF".
2. The SFHL is an open league and therefore any Member Organization with a Tier II team is eligible to participate as long as they qualify under SFHL eligibility rules. Any Tier II team that does not participate in a league under the jurisdiction of SAHOF shall be considered an independent team and are otherwise ineligible to participate in the end of the season SAHOF State Championships or advance to Tier II USA Hockey Nationals as SAHOF representatives. This rule does not apply to Tier II Girls teams.
3. Any non-sanctioned Independent Tier I team must apply to the SAHOF Executive Committee no later than October 1st to be considered for eligibility to participate in a Tier I State Playoff.

SECTION 3. VOTING MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION:

Each amateur ice hockey team in Florida, youth through Adult, shall register with USA Hockey and SAHOF as set forth below or as additionally required by the Registrar.

INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

- A. Registration (IMR):** All individuals intending to participate on a USA Hockey team or USA Hockey programs must register with USA Hockey online. In the event online registration is not possible, a complete Individual Membership Registration ("IMR") must be provided to the SAHOF Registrar for each "USA Hockey Annual Registration Period".
- B. Team Membership Application:** All teams intending to register as a USA Hockey participating team through a sanctioned membership Organization, whether set forth in the team definitions here of or not, shall submit to the SAHOF Registrar, the team's 1-T form for any team organized during the time period of September 1st through March 31st, during the Regular Season.
- C. Team Roster (FORM 1-T):** All teams intending to register as a USA Hockey participating team, whether set forth in the team definitions hereof or not, shall submit to the USA Hockey Associate Registrar a roster of Players, coaches and managers on the USA Hockey form "1 -T" for each team organized.
- D. House Teams:** Teams which play in one rink, under the management of the rink or similar body, may be defined as a House (**Rec**) Team by the Associate Registrars. If deemed house teams, the governing body for the house program needs only provide one master list of all players, after they have been transmitted to USA Hockey and claimed by the organization with the USA Hockey Registration Program. Each player must be USA Hockey registered and any team fees equal to each team playing in the house organization. Individual team rosters will not be required for house teams. Players may be transferred between house teams with no additional reporting requirements. Teams playing outside of one rink or a league with independent teams will not qualify as House. If players from one house program wish to form a team to play games outside their rink for exhibition purposes or to enter tournaments, the team must submit a team roster (1 -T), designated as a "tournament team" following the tournament team request procedure.

SECTION 4. YOUTH TEAM ROSTERS

A. PLAYERS ROSTERED ON MULTIPLE TEAMS - All youth players may be rostered on only one Tier I or Tier II team in the same age classification or above with the following exceptions:

1. Girls may dual-roster on a youth and girls' team if the Affiliate rules permit dual registration for females. Dual-rostered females playing on youth and girls'/women's teams may continue playing on both teams until the end of the regular season. However, the player must declare in writing to her appropriate registrar, or his/her designee, by December 31 on which national championship-bound team she wishes to be eligible to advance to the district, state, regional and national championship. If the player does not indicate on which team she wishes to be eligible for district, state, regional and national tournaments, the appropriate registrar shall have the final authority to certify the eligibility of any such player solely on the basis of the date of the earliest team roster registration form, as provided above, is received.
2. Girls or Boys may be rostered on a High School Team plus a Tier I or Tier II team.
3. No 10U team at any playing level will be permitted to roster more than three (3) 8U aged players.
4. Youth double roster rule no longer exists.
5. All players appearing on more than one roster may continue to play on both teams until the end of the regular season.
6. Any Youth player playing for or rostered on a Tier I or Tier II youth or girls'/women's National bound team and a USA Hockey sanctioned **Junior** Program team as of December 31, can only play for one team after December 31. If the player plays in any USA Hockey sanctioned Junior game after December 31, he/she loses all eligibility on his/her youth team for the remainder of the season, regardless of how many games are played at the USA Hockey sanctioned Junior level.
7. Players may participate on a Tournament Team within the provisions of Article I. Section 2. G. Tournament Teams.

Any team found to have played with a player rostered on more than one team, including non-approved tournament teams, other than the provisions outlined here will be deemed to have played with an improper roster, and can be sanctioned from participating at the SAHOF State Championships and may be subject to further discipline.

B. TEAM COMPOSITION:

1. **8U-Aged Players Playing Up:** USA Hockey has mandated that the appropriate playing surface for 8U players is cross-ice or half-ice. It is the Affiliate policy that 8U-aged players should participate on teams registered at the 8U age classification with the following exception:
 - a. The SAHOF Associate Registrar will reject all 10U rosters of any organization if the aggregate total of all 8U-aged players across an organization's 10U rosters exceeds three (3).
 - b. Any 8U-aged player wishing to play on a 10U team must NOT have finished the immediately previous season on the roster of a SAHOF member organization (or home rink program of a SAHOF member organization) that is different from the SAHOF member organization that the player wishes to play "up" with in the current season.
 - c. While an 8U player is on an approved 10U roster, that player is not eligible to be on an 8U age division roster (no double rostering).

It is SAHOF's intent in the future to further limit the number of mite aged players "playing up" and for the Affiliate to become fully compliant with the American Development Model (ADM). No mite aged player will be permitted to play on any roster above the 10U level.
2. **Playing Down Policy:** SAHOF shall follow the Playing Down Policy as administered by the SE District attached hereto as Addendum 6.
3. **Playing Up Policy (12U-aged players):** Allowing players to move from a non-body checking age classification into a body checking age classification represents the greatest risk and shall not be allowed. As per the USA Hockey Annual Guide, no 12U aged players or younger may be rostered on a National Bound team. SAHOF also precludes 12U aged players or younger to be rostered on any Competitive level team older than the 12U age division which includes Tier I, Tier II, Tournament Teams or Independent Teams.
4. **Playing Up Policy (10U-aged players):** Players that are 10U aged or younger are NOT permitted to be on a 12U aged division roster with the following exception:
 - a. The 12U team that the player is to be rostered on must be at the 12U 'AA' level. If the organization does not have a 12U 'AA' team, then the player shall remain in the 10U age division.
 - b. Any 10U-aged player wishing to play on a 12U 'AA' team must NOT have finished the immediately previous season on the roster of a SAHOF member organization (or home rink program of a SAHOF member organization) that is different from the SAHOF member organization that the player wishes to play "up" with in the current season.

**ARTICLE II
TEAM AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

SECTION 1. RECRUITING/TAMPERING

- A. RECRUITING** - SAHOF shall endeavor to take such action as to maintain the competitive balance throughout the playing season of all USA Hockey registered youth teams in Florida. As a means of maintaining this competitive balance, SAHOF shall encourage the stability of team rosters during said season. Pursuant to the attainment of stability, it shall be a violation of these rules, regulations and policies for any person or persons to actively encourage, entice, induce, or solicit any player or coach that has signed a letter of intent or has committed to another organization by virtue of such signed commitment OR during the period of August 1st and forty eight (48) hours after the last championship game of the USA Hockey Youth Nationals has been played, inclusive, of each year to leave a team on which that player is rostered, to join the roster of another team in Florida to play on said team during said season or next season. Complaints for alleged violations of this rule should be directed to the Disciplinary Committee of SAHOF.
- B. TRYOUTS** - Tier I *refer to the Tier I section*. Tryouts may be advertised for Tier II the day after SAHOF State Championships. Tier II teams' tryouts may begin no earlier than May 1st. No contracts may be offered to players outside the member organization until after tryouts are held.
- C. ADVERTISING**— No organization may advertise or guarantee a second 'AA' team until all tryouts in that organizations geographic area have been completed or June 21st whichever occurs first. Any organization found to have advertised or "guaranteed "a second 'AA" team in any form will become immediately ineligible for a second 'AA' team.

SECTION 2. PLAYER TRANSFERS

A. PLAYER TRANSFER STANDARDS

It is the policy of SAHOF to minimize transfers during a season to promote organization stability and to require financial releases to promote the fiscal solvency of Member Organizations. USA Hockey has established a rule regarding Financial Disputes. See Addendum 7. SAHOF shall follow the policy and procedures set forth therein regarding Releases and Financial Disputes. This rule shall apply to all teams regardless of level and regardless of how the teams are classified by roster.

1. Player Transfers During A Season:

A player who wishes to transfer to another organization after signing a player commitment letter and paying any required deposit must notify the current organization of the desire to transfer and request a financial release. An organization **MUST** have had the player execute a player commitment letter from the organization if it wants SAHOF to enforce these Player Transfer Rules.

The current organization must respond within ten (10) days of the request for a release. Thereafter the parties shall follow the process in Addendum 7 and address any issues with the SAHOF Chair of Player Transfers and Releases.

SECTION 3. PLAYER AND TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. TEAM MANAGEMENT, PLAYER ELIGIBILITY** - Each team rostered with SAHOF, through its Team Manager, who is designated on the USA Hockey team registration form and USA Hockey certified player roster, shall maintain the information set forth in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, under the section entitled, "Registration-Team Membership and Registration-Team Management". Such records shall travel with the team at all times. Failure to maintain such records shall be referred to the SAHOF Disciplinary Committee for review and appropriate action based on the circumstances.
- B. IMPROPER ROSTER** - Any team which has registered as a USA Hockey participating team, whether set forth in the team definitions hereof or not, whose roster is found to be improper for failure to comply with the requirements of the USA Hockey and SAHOF By-Laws, Rules and Regulation, or Operating Procedures, shall be declared to be an "Improper Team" and referred to the Disciplinary Committee for appropriate action. The Disciplinary Committee is empowered, in its discretion, to sanction such teams by requiring a forfeiture of some or all previous games played against other teams in league or tournament play or other standings and to prohibit the Team to play in the SAHOF State Championships for that playing season as well as other USA Hockey events. Each organization/team and player bear the responsibility to submit a correct roster which complies with the USA Hockey and SAHOF By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and Operating Procedures. It is mandatory to clarify, clear up and obtain a ruling on any roster question or fact that may cause someone to question a roster prior to submitting a roster to USA Hockey and SAHOF or any league or prior to participation in any game, even if it is believed the question or otherwise is resolved. If there is any question about a roster, or there is any

information that may cause anyone to doubt or to question a roster, the organization/team and player have an affirmative obligation to bring the matter to the attention of the USA Hockey District Registrar or SAHOF USA Hockey Associate Registrar, as may be appropriate, and obtain a ruling in writing, prior to submitting a roster but in no event later than immediately after the question or fact is known to the organization/team or player. **USA Hockey or SAHOF do not bear the responsibility to initiate the review of, nor initially review rosters, but rather it is the responsibility of the organization/team and player to submit a true and correct roster.** The USA Hockey District Registrar or the SAHOF USA Hockey Associate Registrar, as may be appropriate or both, will review any roster question brought to their attention in accordance with all respective By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and Operating Procedures. Each organization/team and player is responsible to be familiar with and comply with all USA Hockey and SAHOF By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and Operating Procedures.

C. ORGANIZATION, TEAM AND PLAYER PROHIBITIONS –

No organization, team or player shall:

1. Practice or play any game unless it is properly registered with USA Hockey and SAHOF.
2. Play any Florida team that is not a member of USA Hockey and SAHOF.
3. Participate in any game, practice, event or other activity with which a person or entity suspended by USA Hockey or SAHOF is participating or otherwise involved.
4. Use any player not properly rostered to its team in any games. Players within the same organization may play for another team in the same organization in “practice games” (against teams within the same organization).
5. Failure of an organization or team to abide by the above rules may result in forfeiture of its league games played during which said rules are violated or other disciplinary action by the Rules and Ethics Committee as they see appropriate under the circumstances or both.
6. All Florida Players, Teams, and Organizations shall adhere to the SAHOF Concussion Policy set forth in Addendum 3 to these Rules.

ARTICLE III REGISTRAR ACTIVITIES

SECTION 1. TEAM MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

All teams joining SAHOF are required to submit to the USA Hockey/SAHOF Registrar a USA Hockey Team Roster (form 1-T) before the first game played as a team, however, membership is not considered official until the required fees (if any) are received by USA Hockey and form 1-T is signed by the USA Hockey Associate Registrar. For purposes of this rule once a **valid** roster has been sent to the registrar by electronic means it is considered approved. However, if upon review of submitted roster it is found to be deficient of requirements of USAH and or SAHOF, said roster is considered null and void. SAHOF requires each member organization to designate a local registrar to be the contact for any and all teams requiring 1 -T Registration. For independent teams not associated with an organization, this contact can be the Team Manager or coach.

SECTION 2. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION:

All players and coaches participating on USA Hockey registered teams or USA Hockey programs are required to register with USA Hockey. Registration is required once each year (refer to the USAH definition of the current season) regardless of the number of teams or programs the member participates on.

SECTION 3. TRAVEL PERMITS:

The SAHOF Registrar shall receive, approve, and collect the fee (**if any**) for all requests for "Travel Permits" for International travel only. The failure to obtain the "Travel Permit" shall be referred to the SAHOF Disciplinary Committee for a hearing and possible sanctions and fines.

SECTION 4. TOURNAMENT APPROVAL:

The SAHOF USA Hockey Associate Registrar shall receive, approve (in conjunction with the USA Hockey District Registrar as necessary) and collect the fee for all requests for "Tournament Permits". The failure to obtain a "Tournament Permit" shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for a hearing and possible sanctions and fines.

SECTION 5. REGISTRAR COMMUNICATIONS:

The Registrar is responsible for distributing the information of USA Hockey and SAHOF. It is also the Registrar's responsibility to help members comply with and explain the proper registration procedures. In this regard, the Registrar shall develop, prepare and update operating procedures pertaining to such registrations, travel permits and tournaments, subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV
SAHOF STATE TOURNAMENTS

SECTION 1. GOVERNING COMMITTEES:

All SAHOF State Championships shall be under the control and supervision of:

- A. SAHOF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE** - Responsible for all tournaments; 10U through 18U and High School.
- B. SAHOF HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE** – Will assist the SAHOF Tournament Committee with all High School related tournaments.
- C. DEFINITION OF "STATE TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL"** - "State Tournament Official" as used hereafter means a member of the Tournament Committee, a person appointed by the Chairman of the appropriate Tournament Committee or any other Officer or Director of SAHOF.

SECTION 2. TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:

Complete SAHOF State Championships bulletins containing fee schedules, playoff structures, and methods of pairings, qualifications, rules and deadlines shall be prepared by the appropriate Tournament Committee, approved by the Board of Directors and distributed to all member teams as early as possible.

SECTION 3. GENERAL TOURNAMENT RULES

SAHOF State Championships rules will be in accordance with USA Hockey rules as published in the Annual Guide.

A. GAME RULES - USA Hockey rules shall prevail at all SAHOF State Championships games with any exceptions to be detailed by the SAHOF Tournament Committee or as may be set forth herein or elsewhere for "Modifications to Game Rules". The length of periods, both stop time and running time, shall be determined by the SAHOF Tournament Committee for each team level and age classification. All other game or tournament rules shall be determined by the SAHOF Tournament Committee at its discretion and published before the SAHOF State Championships.

B. PARTICIPATION - Any team that enters the SAHOF State Championships shall fully participate and complete all SAHOF State Championships games or otherwise as anticipated by the Tournament Committee. Any team not fully participating or completing a game shall forfeit all games of the tournament and shall be subject to sanction by the SAHOF Tournament Committee. Such sanction may include disqualification of that organization's teams from the subsequent year's SAHOF State Championships.

C. ELIGIBILITY-Any team wishing to be considered for a berth in the SAHOF State Championships must:

1. Be playing in one of the recognized leagues within the state.
2. Be playing in their appropriate age division. (Any team playing up in a league is ineligible for any division)
3. Registered as Tier II, and classified as a AA or A team.
4. Must adhere to the 10/20 rule before the commencement of the SAHOF State Championships.
5. Must have validated that their Coach(s) are properly registered and that they have the appropriate completed modules for their age bracket prior to December 31st.
6. Not have had any Junior players on its roster for any games after December 31st.
7. Complete all entry forms and application as deemed appropriate by the Tournament Committee.

The tournament committee reserves the right to "invite" any team not meeting the eligibility requirements in the event such team is needed to field a division in the SAHOF State Championships.

D. INELIGIBLE PLAYER - The playing of an ineligible player, whether questionable or not, automatically forfeits the game the player participated in. In the event that a team forfeits a game because of playing an ineligible player, such team shall automatically be disqualified from participating beyond the round robin portion of the schedule. Such team must continue to abide by Section 3 (C) entitled "Participation" through the conclusion of the round robin schedule. The offending team shall be placed in the lowest position in the Round Robin Standings, and all non-disqualified teams will be re-seeded accordingly. Each such player, team, coach, manager, and sponsoring organization (any or all) so disqualified may be subject to additional sanction or suspension by the SAHOF Tournament Committee, as it shall determine in its best judgment. Any team found to have played with a player rostered on more than one team, (including non-approved tournament teams) will be deemed to have played with an improper roster and can be sanctioned from participating at the SAHOF State Championships and may be subject to further discipline outlined Section 3.

E. PROTESTS - Protests during the SAHOF State Tournaments must be made immediately and as soon as practical. Hearings and appeals must be conducted as soon as practical. Protests of player eligibility must be filed in writing to the Tournament Committee Chairman immediately upon knowledge of the protesting party.

Protests on an event occurring during a game must be made in writing by noting the protest on the score sheet of that game prior to signing the score sheet at the end of the game, with the protesting party providing the Tournament Committee Chairman or Representative with a copy immediately. No protests of judgments, rulings by referees or linesman shall be permitted.

Protests on other matters must be filed in writing with the Tournament Committee Chairman immediately but no later than twenty-four (24) hours after completion of the game or incident under dispute. All protests will be decided by the Tournament Protest Committee appointed by the Tournament Committee Chairman and the decision of the Tournament Protest Committee shall be final unless notice of appeal is filed as set out below. Due to time constraints and the need to have an efficient tournament, decisions of the Tournament Protest Committee are final except appeals may be filed to the Tournament Chairman for final and non-appealable resolution only if the grounds are:

1. There is new evidence not known to the appealing party or the Tournament Protest committee prior to the original hearing with the Tournament Protest Committee or
2. There is no rational basis for the decision of the Tournament Protest Committee and there is sufficient time to hear a protest prior to completion of the tournament without postponement or undue disruption of the tournament.

All protests based on the interpretation of any game rules shall be construed by the Tournament Protest Committee consistent with the rules for the USAH National Tournament which SAHOF tournament rules are based upon. The Tournament Protest Committee's decision is final and non-appealable to the SAHOF Board. Any further appeals must be consistent with the procedures in the USAH Annual Guide.

- F. FORFEITS.** In the event a team forfeits a game for any reason, such team shall automatically be disqualified from participating beyond the round robin portion of the schedule. Such team must continue to abide by Section 3 (C) entitled "Participation" through the conclusion of the round robin schedule. The offending team shall be placed in the lowest position in the Round Robin Standings, and all non-disqualified teams will be re-seeded accordingly.

SECTION 4. SAHOF TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS

A. YOUTH DIVISION.

1. Competitive Youth Division- USA Hockey Tier I/II, Regional/National qualifying division, Tier I (AAA) and Tier II (AA). Champions of this bracket must represent Florida in the USA Hockey Regional and National tournaments.
 - a. Any association or club whose team registers for the Tier II Division tournament and fails to fully participate therein or which qualifies for the subsequent USA Hockey Regional and/or National tournaments and fails to fully participate therein may not be permitted to enter ANY team in the State Tournament at any age level in the succeeding Playing Season and shall be referred to the Tournament Committee for other appropriate sanction.
 - b. In the event there is no Tier I Florida Alliance full season team for any youth division, the Tier I representative for SAHOF may be determined by the SAHOF board of directors. There will be no representative from Florida in the USA Hockey Regional and National Tournaments (Tier I) unless otherwise approved by the SAHOF Board of Directors.
2. Competitive Youth Division-Tier II 12U 'AA' and 12U 'A' through 18U 'A' (Non-National Bound) This division shall be for all competitive youth teams that are registered as Tier II and classified as 12U 'AA' or 12U 'A' through 18U 'A', provided there are at least 4 Teams in that classification. All Applicable Tier II rules still apply. There will be no advancement to a Regional/National tournament.
3. Recreational Youth Division - This division shall be for all Recreational Youth Teams, including any 10U travel teams or combined house teams, if allowed by the Tournament Committee.

B. HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION - The High School Committee shall determine the State Playoff divisions for High School teams and the method for qualifying those teams for the State Championships and shall notify the Tournament Committee of such divisions for final approval.

C. ADULT DIVISION - The Adult Committee shall determine the State Playoff divisions for Adults and shall notify the Tournament Committee of such divisions.

ARTICLE V
PRIVATE TOURNAMENTS & TRAVEL PERMITS

SECTION 1. TOURNAMENT PERMIT:

No tournament may be held within the jurisdiction of SAHOF, without the procurement of a Tournament Permit from the Registrar (see Article III, Section 4). All tournaments must be approved by the SAHOF Registrar (and USA Hockey District Registrar, if required). Upon receipt of the Tournament Permit, the tournament personnel may promote the tournament as a USA Hockey sanctioned event.

SECTION 2. PRIVATE TOURNAMENT DEFINITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

A. DEFINITION - A tournament is designated as any number of games with teams outside of the normal league competition and/or teams from outside of Florida; an entry fee is required; there is a play down of games to determine a final winner in any division. All invitational tournaments qualify as a tournament.

B. REQUIREMENTS - Each tournament must comply with the following:

1. All players participating in such tournaments must be properly registered with USA Hockey or possess the appropriate documentation and approvals from their Hockey Federation.
2. Tournament personnel must mail a written request for a Tournament Permit along with the appropriate Tournament Permit Fee to the SAHOF State Registrar including the following: a listing of the age levels and team classifications of the anticipated participating teams, where the games are to be played and a copy of all rules and procedures of the tournament. To receive USA Hockey tournament sanctioning, the SAHOF Registrar may request any other documentation required by USA Hockey or SAHOF from time to time.

ARTICLE VI
DISCIPLINARY ACTION

SECTION 1. VIOLATIONS:

Violations of the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, Operating Procedures of SAHOF and/or USA Hockey constitutes conduct detrimental to hockey and makes the Player, Parent, Coach, Manager, Team, Minor Official, Referee and/or Linesman and/or sponsoring organization subject to a disciplinary action with possible suspension(s) by the SAHOF Board of Directors and/or its Committees so empowered.

SECTION 2. NOTICE, HEARING & PROCEDURE

A. NOTICE & HEARING - Normally, sanctions (other than playing rule sanctions) may be imposed only upon notice and a hearing, which is interpreted to be a reasonable opportunity to be heard. However, under certain circumstances, sanctions may be imposed without a hearing.

B. GENERAL PROCEDURE - The general procedure for imposition of sanctions is: Notice; a reasonable opportunity to be heard which may be formal or informal, including discussions in person, by telephone or in writing; they may also include the statements or attendance of factual witnesses and the production of documents; and a decision which normally will be in writing, setting forth the sanctions and time periods as appropriate.

C. SANCTIONS & NO HEARING - Sanctions may, however, be imposed without hearing:

1. Where there is no factual dispute and the sanctioned party does not request a hearing, setting out the facts supporting a factual dispute, in writing within seven (7) days of receipt of written or verbal notice of the sanctions.
2. Where the Committee determines that the conduct is such that immediate sanctions are necessary in the best interests of amateur hockey. The sanctioned party may request a hearing by motion in writing, setting out the facts and reasons supporting the need for a hearing and why immediate sanctions are not appropriate, within seven (7) days of receipt of notice of the sanctions or the sanctions shall remain in effect. If the sanctioned party provides this notice, a reasonable opportunity for a hearing shall be provided within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice or the sanctions shall be suspended until a reasonable opportunity to be heard can be provided. Where a reasonable opportunity to be heard is provided, the sanctions shall remain in effect until the hearing is conducted.
3. For Playing Rule sanctions.

D. NOTICE TO SANCTIONING BODY - Notice requesting a hearing shall be sent to the Chairman of the Committee imposing the sanctions.

E. RECEIPT OF SANCTIONS GIVEN - Receipt of written notice of sanctions will be presumed three (3) days after deposit of the written notice, preaddressed and correctly stamped in the United States mail.

SECTION 3. MATCH PENALTIES –

Any Player receiving a Match Penalty cannot participate in ANY on ice or off ice activities with ANY USAH registered team or sanctioned event, for a period of 30 days or until a hearing can be held. Every effort will be made to expedite the hearing process however, the SAHOF Disciplinary Committee has up to 30 days to convene said hearing. Match Penalties must be reported to the appropriate Supervisor of Officials and the Disciplinary

Committee Chair of SAHOF as set forth in the Match Penalty Protocol posted on the SAHOF website. SAHOF reserves the right to review all Match Penalties and apply modified or supplemental discipline if deemed appropriate. The following is minimum discipline that must be applied by the Disciplinary Hearing Boards for Match Penalties Actual suspension lengths may exceed these minimums.

- A. First offense in one season- Three (3) scheduled, league games and any intervening tournament or exhibition games.
- B. Second offense in one season – Six (6) scheduled, league games and any intervening tournament or exhibition games.
- C. Third offense – Three (3) month suspension from all USA Hockey activities.

SECTION 4. JURISDICTION FOR MATCH PENALTIES –

Discipline resulting from Match Penalties will apply to all jurisdictions within the State of Florida and may be extended outside Florida to all USA Hockey affiliates. The affected player, coach or official may appeal to SAHOF within 7 days of the hearing that the disciplines apply only to the jurisdiction of the hearing committee.

SECTION 5. REQUESTS FOR SUPPLEMENTAL DISCIPLINE AND VIDEO REVIEW

Each league under SAHOF Jurisdiction shall establish a protocol for requests for Supplemental Discipline and Video Review which follows the process in Addendum 5 attached to these Rules.

SECTION 6. PARENT / SPECTATORS SUSPENSIONS

- A. A game will be stopped by on-ice officials when the parents/spectators displaying inappropriate or disruptive behavior interfere with other parents/spectators or the game. The on-ice officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the parents'/spectators' viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced. Violators will incur a minimum mandatory 3-game suspension from that team's games and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body. No matter why a spectator is asked to leave, the minimum suspension is 3 games. There is emphasis on a minimum of 3 games.
- B. An official will file an electronic "Incident Report" detailing the official's version of the occurrence with the SAHOF Disciplinary Committee. The Committee sends the report to the spectator's club in order for the Member Organization to conduct an investigation. Upon completion of the parent / spectator's Member Organization investigation (that should include talking to the accused parent / spectator) the investigating Member Organization will report back to the SAHOF Disciplinary Committee for final approval of the minimum 3-game suspension or any additional imposed suspension.

ARTICLE VII APPEALS

SECTION 1. APPEALS: Appeals of any SAHOF Chairperson or committee decision, except the Tournament Protest Committee, which is addressed herein elsewhere, may be made to the Board of Directors by the following procedure:

- A. WRITING** - Appeals for consideration by the SAHOF Board of Directors must be submitted in writing to the President of SAHOF by the affected individual, member teams' organization officers and/or directors. The appeal must state the reason and basis for the appeal and have progressed from Chairperson to Committee before going to Board.
- B. FEE** - Must be accompanied by a \$250.00 Filing Fee which shall be nonrefundable. The Filing Fee, if paid by check, must be a "cashier's check". Any stop payment will be considered conduct detrimental to hockey or a fee not paid for purposes of suspension. Each appeal must be accompanied by the \$250.00 fee.
- C. DEADLINE** - Must be received by the President of SAHOF within ten (10) calendar days of the Committee decision.
- D. WRITTEN SUBMISSION** - Must complete and submit to the President of SAHOF an "Appeal Form" within ten (10) days of submitting the appeal. The Notice of Appeal form is on the SAHOF website. No appeal will be considered unless the Form is used and the process in this Section is followed.
- E. APPEAL PRESENTATION** - Individuals, member team officers, and/or directors and persons with knowledge, must appear before the SAHOF Board of Directors at the time and place specified by the Board and present the appeal. Nonappearance is sufficient reason for denial of the appeal.
- F. DECISIONS** - Decisions of the Board of Directors will generally be given to the individual, member team officer and/or directors within 7 calendar days after the appeal presentation. All decisions of the Board of Directors are final.

ARTICLE VIII OFFICIALS

SECTION 1. REGISTRATION:

All Officials within the State must be duly registered and fall under the jurisdiction of the Supervisor of Officials as appointed by USA Hockey.

ARTICLE IX NON-RESIDENT LEAGUE PLAY WITHIN SAHOF JURISDICTION

SECTION 1. NON-RESIDENT LEAGUE PLAY:

All non-resident teams participating regularly in league play, which occurs within the jurisdiction of SAHOF, must become a member of SAHOF.

A. All Florida teams that participate outside of the in-state leagues remain under the jurisdiction of "SAHOF".

ARTICLE X SPRING OR SUMMER HOCKEY

SECTION 1. DEFINITION:

The period from the end of the SAHOF State Championships through August 31st of the same calendar year is considered the Spring or Summer hockey season. All applicable SAHOF By-Laws, Rules and Regulations are in effect with the following exceptions:

- A. SPRING/SUMMER TEAMS – Organizations or associations may advertise or solicit players for these teams no earlier than December 1st of the upcoming Spring/Summer Season. No organization or association may conduct team tryouts, clinics, skates, or other team related activities and no deposits for placement on any team may be collected until after January 1st. Any players that are on existing Regular Season teams that are still District and/or National Bound after the SAHOF State Championships must get permission from their coach to participate. This rule applies to League spring teams, Independent teams, development camps, showcase events, and any and all organization on ice activities where promotion, coaching and development is being conducted.
- B. RECRUITING/SANCTIONS. – SAHOF endeavors to maintain the stability of all Regular Season teams and considers Spring / Summer Teams a potential distraction to that end. Any organization or association that violates the rules regarding the formation of Spring / Summer Teams will be referred to the SAHOF Disciplinary Committee for appropriate sanctions. (See Article II, Section 1. A. above)

ARTICLE XI YOUTH HOCKEY COACHES

SECTION 1. COACHING CERTIFICATION:

A. MINIMAL CERTIFICATION REQUIRED - All youth age classification coaches in the State of Florida must be certified in accordance with the guidelines established by USA Hockey. All coaches must meet USA Hockey guidelines for coaching level by December 31st. Failure to meet these guidelines can result in that coach being prohibited from being on the bench for any games until those guidelines have been met.

- 1. Lack of Certification or Waiver - Any coach who fails to request a waiver of minimal coaching certification may be automatically excluded from all USA Hockey activities or teams by the SAHOF / USA Hockey Associate Coach-In-Chief or the SAHOF Board upon written or verbal, formal or informal notice, to said Coach, until such time as the coach submits a written request for a waiver as stated above. Any coach who fails to abide by such notice to refrain from coaching shall be referred to the SAHOF Disciplinary Committee for additional sanction. Any coach who has been refused a waiver shall not be permitted to coach youth hockey in the State of Florida. Organizations allowing coaches without certification or a waiver to coach shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for sanction. Participants possessing knowledge of coaches who are not certified or who have not obtained a waiver are advised to notify the Coach-in- Chief. All Coaches must complete the SafeSport Awareness Training prior to being certified on any team roster at any level of play.

SECTION 2. COACHING ETHICS CODE AGREEMENT:

Each Youth, High School, or Junior coach in the State of Florida is required to read USA Hockey's Coaching Ethics Code by obtaining a copy from USA Hockey, is advised of their obligation to be familiar with this Ethics Code, as it may be amended, and that lack of awareness or misunderstanding of an ethical standard is not itself a defense to a charge of unethical conduct.

SECTION 3. SANCTION AVOIDANCE BY COACH:

A coach who allows a player who has been suspended by virtue of a Match Penalty, to dress, play or participate in practice or games shall be automatically suspended from any further games until a hearing has been scheduled by

the SAHOF Disciplinary Committee. A coach who allows a player who has been suspended by virtue of a game misconduct pursuant to Article XIII hereof to play in a game in which the suspension was to be served or fabricates a "scheduled game" to avoid serving the suspension shall be automatically suspended from any further games until a hearing has been scheduled by the SAHOF Disciplinary Committee. A reasonable opportunity to be heard shall be provided within thirty (30) days after the incident by the SAHOF Disciplinary Committee or failing the scheduling of a hearing after said thirty (30) days, the Coach shall be automatically reinstated.

SECTION 4. FIRST AID/CPR TRAINING:

It is strongly recommended that at least one official from each team receive appropriate training in first aid and CPR.

ARTICLE XII TIER I

Tier I is the highest form of competitive youth hockey as recognized by USA Hockey. Tier I teams will be exclusively operated by the Florida Alliance as a SAHOF operated program. If the Florida Alliance program does not field a full season or tournament team at an age group that involves Districts or Nationals, SAHOF may grant sanctioning to a Member Organization team to represent SAHOF at that level.

ARTICLE XIII PLAYING RULES

SECTION 1. USA HOCKEY RULES:

SAHOF shall follow the Official Playing Rules of USA Hockey. Any exceptions or additions to these Playing Rules must be approved by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. MODIFICATIONS:

USA Hockey Playing Rules are modified as follows:

A. FISTICUFFS/RULE 613 - The SAHOF Supervisor of Officials shall advise State of Florida Officials to strictly enforce USA Hockey Rule 613.

B. GAME SUSPENSIONS – If a player has received game suspension(s), they are to be served in games played by the team on which the penalty was incurred (forfeits or scheduled games not played does not constitute a game played). For Tier II teams, the games must meet the SAHOF definition of a game.

B. DEFINITION OF A GAME – (to count towards the Tier II, 10/20 rule qualification for District/National Championship competition and game suspensions). A game is a scheduled match played against another team which is registered with USA Hockey of the same team divisional level and officiated by USA Hockey Officials which includes a dated and signed score sheet, by the Officials, Scorekeeper and Coaches of the respective teams. A non-league game is determined scheduled if it has been planned by both teams on their records, ice has been allocated and referees confirmed before the assessment of the game misconduct suspension. Whether a non-league game is deemed scheduled before the next league game shall be determined by appropriate league personnel. League Personnel decisions shall be final." The actual playing time must be at least 50 minutes in duration, must be officiated by USA Hockey Certified officials, must be played between teams of the same age (For example, Pee Wee vs. Pee Wee –except Girls/Women/s teams under the age of 19 (and the game needed to be previously scheduled.)"

ARTICLE XIV USA HOCKEY NATIONAL SCREENING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

SECTION 1. GENERAL. USA Hockey has implemented a National Level Screening Policy in accordance with USA Hockey Policies as well as Florida Law. This screening is mandated by and is in compliance with Florida Statute § 943.0438. All volunteers or employees over the age of 18 with access to youth participants within the SAHOF jurisdiction must consent to be screened. The USA Hockey Screening Policy can be located here:

<https://www.usahockey.com/backgroundscreen>

The foregoing Rules and Regulations of the Statewide Amateur Hockey of Florida, Inc., were adopted and approved by the Board of Directors thereof, on August 15, 2022 notice being given and a quorum present. SAHOF reserves the right to make any changes to these rules if it is found an error or omission was made upon final draft and posting of these rules.

The President and Secretary of SAHOF hereby certify the foregoing as of the dates below written.
Statewide Amateur Hockey of Florida, Inc.

By: *Jeffrey S. Wood*

Jeffrey S. Wood, President

Date: June 21, 2023

Addendum 1-Geographical Districts

At the Annual Meeting of SAHOF conducted May 7, 2011 the Board of Directors approved the designations of Geographical Districts for the purpose of establishing “community” based Tier II teams. The SAHOF Board approved revisions to the Geographical Districts on May 3, 2019. Effective beginning with the 2025-26 season, Tier II rosters in the state of Florida shall be restricted to residents in the state of Florida. The only exception being those non-Florida residents that reside within 60 miles of the home rink of the SAHOF member organization with which they are to be rostered.

NOTE: For purposes of calculating sixty miles, the distance is calculated based on a straight line distance, not based on travel by any road or highway).

- North Central - Will be comprised of all recognized associations within the boundaries set forth herein: North Florida/Georgia line, South, 60 miles from Space Coast Ice Plex to Route 68 (Ft Pierce) and the Western Line as established by the Western district lines.(see below).
- West- Will be comprised of all recognized associations approximately 34 miles east of Brandon Ice Forum and Wesley Chapel with Route 33 connecting to Route 441 to Ocala north of I-75 and Route 570 connecting to Route 98 to the south of I-75 being the boundary lines. And 60 miles to the South of Ellenton Ice rink.
- The new facility being built in Lakeland shall be considered in the West District however its boundary to the east shall be extended to Highway 27, South of I-4. for three (3) years to be reassessed for the 2023-2024 season. All other West boundaries shall apply.
- South West- Will be comprised of all recognized associations 75 miles north, east and west of Skatium Ice rink in Ft Myers, 75 miles north, south, east and west of Germain Arena.
- South East- Will be comprised of all recognized associations 60 Miles north, east and west of Palm Beach Ice Works, 60 miles west of Palm Beach Ice Zone and Panther Ice Den and the Florida Keys.

Refer to the district maps for more detailed boundaries as posted on the SAHOF website.

Addendum 3- Concussion Policy

SAHOF CONCUSSION POLICY

This Policy is intended to be in compliance with Florida's concussion law (Florida Statute § 943.0438)

The law requires:

- education of coaches, parents, athletes
- removal from play of any athlete suspected of having sustained a concussion
- requires written authorization from a medical professional before the athlete can return to practice/game

Florida Statute §943.0438 Athletic coaches for independent sanctioning authorities. (2) An

independent sanctioning authority shall:

(e) Adopt guidelines to educate athletic coaches, officials, administrators, and youth athletes and their parents or guardians of the nature and risk of concussion and head injury.

(f) Adopt bylaws or policies that require the parent or guardian of a youth who is participating in athletic competition or who is a candidate for an athletic team to sign and return an informed consent that explains the nature and risk of concussion and head injury, including the risk of continuing to play after concussion or head injury, each year before participating in athletic competition or engaging in any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity associated with the youth's candidacy for an athletic team.

(g) Adopt bylaws or policies that require each youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or competition to be immediately removed from the activity. A youth athlete who has been removed from an activity may not return to practice or competition until the youth submits to the athletic coach a written medical clearance to return stating that the youth athlete no longer exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or other head injury. Medical clearance must be authorized by the appropriate health care practitioner trained in the diagnosis, evaluation, and management of concussions as defined by the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee of the Florida High School Athletic Association.

SAHOF REQUIRES A PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGN AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM PRIOR TO THE START OF THE REGULAR SEASON. THE FORM IS AVAILABLE ON THE SAHOF WEBSITE AND SHOULD BE EXECUTED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN FOR EVERY MINOR PLAYER REGARDLESS OF THE PLAYER'S LEVEL OF PLAY.

Addendum 4 – Tournament Team Request Form

Tournament Team Request Form

This is a fill-able pdf form; you should be able to type on the form.

YOU DO NOT NEED THIS FORM IF ALL PLAYERS ARE FROM SAME ORGANIZATION

TOURNAMENT TEAM - A team that is formed for the *limited purpose of playing in no more than Two(2) Tournament(s)* and is composed of players currently and regularly playing games on another rostered team or teams. All applications for a Tournament Team must be approved by the SAHOF President which will limit these teams in terms of scope and time. Any Tournament Team that is deemed to be playing the equivalent of a full fall calendar schedule will be deemed an independent Tier I or Tier II team and players rostered on said team are ineligible for any other team during the same season. ALL Players rostered on a non-approved Tournament teams are ineligible for any post-season tournaments. Any Tournament team found to have violated the conditions granted from the Executive Committee may render **all the players on that team ineligible for post season play.**

_____ hereby requests approval for a certified tournament team roster.
(Name of Organization)

This _____ team will be participating in _____ tournaments together. (Max of 3)
Level of Team

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| (1) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Name of Tournament | Name of City, State | Tournament Dates |
| (2) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Name of Tournament | Name of City, State | Tournament Dates |
| (3) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Name of Tournament | Name of City, State | Tournament Dates |

Further this team will practice _____ times together for a total of _____ hours.

Name of Head coach for this team: _____ (print)

Name of President or Registrar of requesting organization. _____ (print)

Signature of Organization President or Registrar _____ Date _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Please be sure to include with this form: Email all documents to: Steve Lynch slynch@sahofhockey.org

1. USAH Roster produced on Cyber sport software. It will not be signed by Cindy until approved.
2. Word or Excel Roster with all players' full names and principle organization.
3. Approval Letter from player's principle organization President or Head Coach (managers and AC do not count).
(If the player plays for another organization)

Guidelines for approval of tournament teams

1. YOU MUST SUBMIT THIS REQUEST NO LESS THAN **10 DAYS** PRIOR TO OPENING DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT IN ONE EMAIL.
2. All players must have approval from their principle organization.
3. Players will be limited to no more than 3 tournaments with the same or materially same team.
4. Teams or materially same teams will be limited to no more than 2 tournaments together.
5. Tournament Roster will expire the day following stated tournament dates.
6. We will forward USAH roster to the Affiliate Registrar for certification upon approval.

For Official Use only

Request Approved _____ Request Denied _____ Date _____

Addendum 5 - VIDEO REVIEW POLICY (revised: 8/15/22. updated: 6/26/21)

1. Introduction

- a. The use of video in hockey has become increasingly prevalent, along with the quality of available technology. Many teams involve the use of video technology as a teaching or player/team development tool, in addition to parents or family members recording games for personal use. With that in mind, SAHOF viewing of such videos for situations that may occur during a game continues to be a recurring issue.

2. Purpose

- a. In the interest of supporting SAHOF in arriving at the most informed decision with respect to protests, appeals, and other matters, the information gathering process may include any number of sources including but not restricted to personal interviews, parties directly involved in or witness to the event/incident, as well as technical subject matter experts from USA Hockey and/or SAHOF. In consideration of this, there may be instances where video evidence may form part of the available information. SAHOF acknowledges that video evidence may possibly support the decision makers, and as such, may consider it in the decision-making process, where appropriate.

3. On-Ice Official Judgment

- a. By way of this policy, SAHOF wishes to communicate its position on when it is appropriate and responsible to use video review:

USA Hockey Rulebook Rule 502 (a) begins by stating: “The “REFEREE” shall have general supervision of the game and his decision shall be final in all matters occurring before, during or after the game. The role of the official is to “enforce” the rules of the game and in doing so shall have full authority over all participants.”

- b. It is important to understand that a protest on a referee’s decision will not be considered unless it is **outlined in this policy**.

4. Video That May Not Be Reviewed

- a. SAHOF will generally not accept the following:
 - i. Videos for the purpose of reviewing goals or disallowed goals.
 - ii. Videos for the purpose of reviewing the conduct or actions of any team or individual player **unless otherwise outlined in this policy**.
 - iii. Videos for the purpose of reviewing on-ice officials’ calls or non-calls, nor for the purpose of reviewing the on-ice officials’ penalty selection unless otherwise outlined in this policy. The rationale behind these guidelines is that all on-ice officials have the appropriate rules at their disposal to penalize in these situations.

5. Video That May Be Reviewed

- a. SAHOF may review the following:
 - i. Videos for the purpose of identifying the correct player in situations where an incorrect player may have been identified by the on-ice official(s) and issued a **penalty resulting in suspension** (this does not apply to incorrectly identified players who have been issued a penalty without a suspension).
 - ii. Videos for the purpose of reviewing the conduct of game officials and team staff (coaches, staff, referees).
 - iii. Videos for the purpose of reviewing a situation that involves a reckless or endangering action towards a participant whether a penalty was assessed or not. SAHOF may use this video when determining the appropriate length of suspension to any participant who may have been directly involved in the reckless or endangering action towards a participant whether a penalty was assessed or not at the time of the act being committed.
 - iv. Videos for the purpose of reviewing the conduct of spectators or parents.
- b. Only videos submitted or endorsed by an Association Hockey Director or Executive leadership (eg. President of the Association) will be reviewed.

- c. Video, if available, may be requested or sourced by SAHOF at any time to aid in its decision making around on- or off-ice conduct.

6. Submission Process

- a. A review will be considered jointly by a member of the SAHOF Discipline Committee (or SFHL Commissioner if review submission originated from an SFHL game), Florida State Referee-In-Chief and the SAHOF Executive Director, when the following has been submitted by the respective Association or Team to the SAHOF Disciplinary Coordinator:
 - i. A copy of the video in its entirety. The unedited version MUST be included in the submission. The video must also include footage from a minimum of 30 seconds before the act that is being reviewed, and a minimum of 30 seconds after, as well as any additional footage requested by the video review committee from any other part of the game.
 - ii. A deposit of \$100.00 (this deposit is refundable only in instances in which the video review appeal is successful in whole or in part). Should the appeal be denied or ruled inconclusive, the deposit is forfeited to SAHOF to be donated to a charity selected at the SAHOF Annual Meeting or a SAHOF Monthly Board Meeting.
 - iii. A copy of the scoresheet.
 - iv. The submission takes place within 72 hours of the game in question (start time of the game) or 72 hours after a suspension has been issued, whichever occurs later.
 - v. Submission form is properly filled out with a detailed statement regarding what is being reviewed.
- b. The maximum allowable requests from any single team within a member association shall be three (3) per season.

7. Review Procedure

- a. During intake, the video review may include but is not limited to:
 - i. Consultation with or referral of the matter to another SAHOF Board member (or SFHL Commissioner for incidents occurring during an SFHL game) if necessary.
 - ii. Referral of the matter to the SAHOF Discipline Committee for resolution. This may result in the assessment of supplementary discipline for any infraction committed during such activity by any player(s) or team official(s) whether or not such infraction has been previously penalized by the referee.
 - iii. Consultation with any other individuals as deemed appropriate (i.e. players involved, team officials, on-ice officials, etc.).
- b. After review, SAHOF will make one of the following determinations regarding the original matter:
 - i. The review is conclusive in that the act being reviewed either:
 - a. warrants a suspension in cases where a suspension was not assessed, in which case, a suspension will be levied against the offending participant, OR
 - b. warrants a suspension in addition to the suspension assessed, in which case, additional supplemental discipline will be levied against the offending participant.
 - ii. The review is conclusive in that the appropriate call or non-call was made by the officials and thus the suspension(s) as a result of the penalty/penalties or non-suspensions remain in effect and unchanged.
 - iii. The review is conclusive in that a suspension is not warranted and thus any suspension(s) will be rescinded and the participant under review is to be re-instated immediately.
 - iv. The review is inconclusive. A review may be deemed inconclusive if the video recording does not provide a sufficiently clear view of the incident. Therefore, any decisions and/or suspension(s) resulting from a penalty or penalties assessed will remain in effect.
- c. **The review is final and shall not be subject to any further appeal unless supplemental discipline is assessed by the SAHOF Discipline Committee in accordance with Bylaw 10.**

Addendum 6- PLAYING DOWN WAIVER POLICY

PLAYING DOWN WAIVER POLICY

Allowing players to play down is not a trivial matter. Considerations extend beyond the excepted player. There are 39 other players on the ice and they also have a right to an expectation for fairness and safety. As in many life situations a separator must be established at some point. Exceptions to that separator create situations where one participant has an advantage over all other participants, creating an inequity that perpetuates unfairness. This exception policy allows individuals with severe handicaps, such as autism, the opportunity to experience ice hockey within a safe environment.

1. The player must have a debilitating medical condition that necessitates the need for exceptional consideration. Disabilities akin to Autism are the types of the severe disabilities that warrant a waiver.
2. The Parents/Guardians must request a waiver in writing to the District Registrar's Office, complete an A-Typical Medical Condition Release form and attach the two documents discussed below.
3. An attending physician must identify in writing the medical condition necessitating the exception, the number of additional "on-ice aides" necessary to ensure the safety of all on ice members including the child and other players and indicate a willingness to fully discuss the child's condition with myself or my designee.
4. The Local Association must approve the parents' request in writing. The written approval will stipulate that the child will play in that association's house program, the excepted team will not play outside the house program, the additional "on-ice aides" that the physician indicated were needed to ensure safety in his/her letter will be identified, the officials for all games will be USA Hockey certified, and the opposing team's coaching staff and on-ice officials will be aware of the excepted player's condition, who the "on-ice aides" are and any modified rules to ensure a safe experience for all participants.
5. I will review the above documentation in addition to any other information I deem appropriate to decide the matter. A written response will be sent to the parents with copy to the Local Association's President.

NOTE: THIS POLICY IS ADMINISTERED BY THE SE DISTRICT REGISTRAR, NOT SAHOF.

Addendum 7 - USA Hockey Rule Regarding Financial Disputes

(j) Procedures Applicable to Participant Ineligibility Determinations Based on Financial Disputes

1. Decisions Internal to the Program A local program may, pursuant to its internal procedures, determine that a player that is delinquent in dues or fees owed to the program is not eligible to continue participating in the program during such delinquency. Such determination shall only apply to eligibility within that program.

2. Disputed Claims and Extension of Ineligibility Determination to Other Programs In the event a local program desires to cause a player to be ineligible to participate throughout the program's applicable Affiliate based on a determination that the player that is delinquent in dues or fees owed to the program, such extension of the suspension or ineligibility must comply with the procedures of the applicable Affiliate, which at a minimum shall include the following:

a. Notice Required The local program must deliver a written notice to the player's parents (or other person(s) responsible for payment) that, at a minimum: (i) describes the nature of the delinquent fees (e.g., membership dues, ice fees, equipment/uniform fees, etc.), (ii) states the amount due, (iii) advises that the family must notify the local program in writing within thirty (30) days if it disputes the financial obligation, and (iv) advises that, if the full amount is not paid within thirty (30) days of the parent's receipt of the notice, the local program may in its discretion seek to enforce the liability for the financial obligation and have the player deemed ineligible throughout the local program's Affiliate Association.

b. Discussion Period During the thirty (30) day period, the parties may discuss the matter and seek to amicably resolve any disputed amounts and provisions for payment. The parties are encouraged to amicably resolve any disputed debts, and if at any time the local program and player enter into a written agreement to resolve the debt and also making provisions for payment, then the player shall become immediately eligible to participate in all USA Hockey programs.

c. Financial Obligation Not Disputed Upon expiration of the thirty (30) day period described above, if (i) the parties have not otherwise resolved the matter, (ii) the amount claimed in the local program's notice has not been paid, and (iii) ***the local program has not received written notice from the player's parents that it disputes the financial obligation***, then the local program may request that the applicable Affiliate Association deem the player to be ineligible to participate in any program within the Affiliate (which request shall include proof of compliance with A-C of this subsection). In this circumstance, the Affiliate Association may extend the ineligibility of the player throughout the Affiliate in accordance with the Affiliate's procedures.

d. Financial Obligation Disputed If the amount of the financial obligation has not been paid or otherwise resolved, and the local program has received written notice from the player's parents that it disputes the financial obligation, then the local program may seek extension of the ineligibility throughout the Affiliate in accordance with the Affiliate's procedures, provided that, the local program shall take reasonable affirmative steps to enforce the obligation. The Affiliate may deny the local program's request in the Affiliate's discretion. Any determination by the Affiliate that the player is ineligible throughout the Affiliate shall not be a determination that the debt is owed or the amount of such debt, but only that the player is ineligible based on the existence of a disputed debt.

e. Any dispute about whether these procedures have been followed shall be decided in a hearing conducted by the Affiliate pursuant to the Unified Procedure and shall be appealable to the Executive Committee pursuant to Bylaw 10.E. The hearing and appeal shall only address whether the procedures set forth in this Bylaw (10.(j)(2)) have been followed, and shall in no way address the liability for or amount of the financial obligations.

See USA Hockey Annual Guide, page 97-98