

RGHL Policy Manual



2019-20 Season

The Richmond Generals Hockey League will use this policy manual for day-to-day operations. While we have strived to cover all aspects of running the RGHL, league management reserves the right to amend or change policies set forth in this manual if the need arises. All league management decisions are final.

Goals & Objectives

This policy is aimed at achieving three basic goals and objectives in our program.

- **Teach basic fundamentals of hockey**
- **Provide a good, positive recreational experience**
- **Teach sportsmanship, comradeship and respect for coaches, officials, spectators, teammates and opponents.**

General Polices

League Divisions:

League divisions will be set up according to USAH guidelines and the number of the participants registered to play in the specific season. There is a concern by the league that too few players on a team creates problems equal to or greater than those associated with teams that have the maximum number allowed. Divisions will be comprised of no fewer than 3 teams unless there is agreement with the coaches and league management that two teams will comprise a division. Traditionally divisions include but are not limited to:

8U Lower

10U Middle

12U Upper

14U

18U

Possible other divisions include:

9U

11U

13U

16U

League Evaluations:

Player evaluations will be held prior to each season. Players will skate in specific age groups and be ranked by ability during the evaluation. The coaches selected for each division will, with the guidance of the league hockey director, divide the players onto teams based on those rankings. All possible effort will be made to ensure balanced teams in each division. No player may “play up” to a higher division without prior league approval --- with no exceptions. Players moving up to higher divisions are discouraged by the league.

Team Makeup:

Teams will have a maximum of fifteen (15) skaters and two (2) goalies assigned for the season. The league reserves the right to add players to rosters who register late and there are open slots on the team. Rosters will be frozen the last month of the current season to assure balance and so no team gains a competitive advantage.

League Playing Rules:

RGHL will adhere to all USA Hockey playing rules as published by USA Hockey. The league reserves the right to amend certain rules as allowed by USA Hockey.

(See Addendum as final page of this document)

League Game Officials:

The RGHL will use only certified and trained USA Hockey game officials for league games.

League Coaches:

The volunteer coach in youth hockey programs contributes a great deal to his/her community through his services. However, beyond this he gains personal benefits as a result of his/her efforts. These benefits are in direct proportion to the services he/she renders and the effort he/she puts into the program. The following is the policy set forth for the coaches.

Responsibilities

- You are the most important member of our hockey program. Make your teaching and influence be positively felt.
- Conduct training and game experiences in such a manner that the welfare of each player is always of paramount consideration.
- Become knowledgeable of the rules of USA Hockey and the RGHL.
- Report promptly for all practices and games
- Be loyal to our hockey program, players and fellow coaches. Any criticism should be constructive and should never go beyond the league management and those involved.
- Be responsible for the conduct and welfare of his team at all time.
- You are a role model for our players. Proper conduct and language is always expected when you are at the rinks.

The RGHL will appoint coaches to the divisions prior to the player evaluations. Coaches will be USA Hockey-registered and certified. In addition to reimbursement for USA Hockey fees the RGHL coaches will receive the following:

Head Coaches:

- 20% discount on player fees (RGHL and HNIR)
- Free Skate Sharpening
- Free Public Skating

Assistant Coaches:

- 10% discount on player fees (RGHL and HNIR)
- Free Skate Sharpening
- Free Public Skating

League Players

Players should play within their age classification. RGHL prohibits playing below one's appropriate age classification with the exception of female players, on a case by case basis. Requests to move up from coaches and/or parents will not be allowed. Player movement requests from the hockey director will be allowed based only on team alignment issues (if players are needed to provide adequate team numbers to fill rosters).

Player Responsibilities:

- Be gracious in defeat and modest in victory.
- On-ice and off-ice officials should be respected.
- No profanity will be tolerated before, during or after a practice or game.
- Be a positive example for spectators.
- Use self-control and good sportsmanship.
- Always consult your coach if you are to miss a game or practice.
- Education comes first.

Parents

- Must be good fans not fanatics. "Hockey nuts" should be a positive label.
- Inform coaches about family obligations throughout the season.
- Always use constructive criticism. There is a tremendous power in praise.
- Support the whole team. Friction between players and parents can ruin individual or team success.
- Be supportive of coaches. For minor problems schedule a meeting with the hockey director and/or team rep and coaches, discuss and resolve the problems.

Procedure when problems arise:

- **24 hour cooling off period.** Do not approach an official, coach or team member with a concern until after this period. ***If this policy is ignored, an immediate 7-day suspension from any RGHL event can be issued to the offender.***
- Take the concern to the hockey director after the 24-hour cooling off period with a signed letter or email outlining your concerns.
- Hockey director will channel solutions to the proper parties for review.
- ***Abuse of coaches, officials, players, members of the rink staff or league officials will not be tolerated at any time.***

League Team Representative

Each team should have a Parent/Team Representative. The team representative is a communication link between the coach/league and the parents.

Duties:

- Organize team functions
- Information source for their respective team
- Help resolve minor team problems
- Buffer between coach and parents
- Assist the coach in coordinating locker room supervision

Playing Rules Addendum

Game Format:

- All divisions play three (3) 13-minute stop clock periods unless otherwise noted by the league.
- Game slots are one (1) hour and ten (10) minutes in length. If the game does not have sufficient time in the game slot to play a full third period, the third period will have clock time calculated by half time remaining time in the slot (i.e. 18 minutes in slot = 9 minutes clock time).
- Any game that falls under the curfew will not allow timeouts to be taken.
- Penalty time lengths will be:
 - Minors 1:30
 - Majors 4:00
 - Misconducts 8:00

Fighting

- Any player receiving a major for fighting will be suspended for the next two league games.
- Any player receiving a second fighting major in the same season will be suspended for the next 5 league games.
- Any player receiving a third fighting major in the same season will be suspended for the remainder of the current season and will have to attend a disciplinary hearing to be reinstated into the league.

Travel player policy

- For the fall/winter season: No player who has been rostered on a Tier I or Tier II travel team will be assigned to a house league team after January 1 of the same season.