

CLEVELAND SUBURBAN HOCKEY LEAGUE
NORTH COAST HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY LEAGUE DIVISION
STANDING RULES

2020-2021



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INTRODUCTION

THE CLEVELAND SUBURBAN HOCKEY LEAGUE (CSHL) is a member in good standing of USA HOCKEY. The CSHL subscribes to all USA HOCKEY rules and regulations as presented in the USA HOCKEY Rule Book.

The North Coast High School Hockey League Division (NCHSHL) is committed to providing a positive hockey experience for high-school aged players, coaches and parents based on the principles of sportsmanship, skill development and responsibility.

NCHSHL is dedicated to providing high-school aged players the opportunity to learn, understand and develop ice hockey skills through league play. Through the programs provided, NCHSHL allows athletes to build self-esteem, self-discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, camaraderie, ethical behavior, integrity and a respect for fellow players. The goal of this program is to promote and instill these fundamental values within each individual.

Violation of any of the Standing Rules contained herein may result in discipline to a team, an association, or any individual connected with them. Teams and individuals may be disciplined through the aforesaid system of discipline contained in the Standing Rules. Associations shall be disciplined by a majority of members of the board present at a meeting of said board.

All coaches, team managers, and program heads are required to read, learn and abide by these Standing Rules. These rules shall be enforced by the board of directors of the CSHL (the "Board"). The Board may adopt regulations to enforce these Rules.

ARTICLE I – Divisions and Levels of League Play

A. Divisions. The CSHL shall provide league play in the following divisions:

USA Hockey High School

The League will be known as the **North Coast High School Hockey League (NCHSHL)**

- B. Season Dates. The Board shall publish the league calendar no later than the meeting proceeding the regular season. The regular season will be from November to mid-February with the playoffs following the end of the regular season. Exact start and end dates will be as published in the league calendar.
- C. The League will consist of two (2) divisions: upper division (American Division) and lower division (National Division)
1. Interdivisional crossover games are not required and will be considered exhibition games.
 2. Points for wins, losses and ties will only apply to League Games played within each respective division. Points do not apply to any interdivisional crossover games.
 3. Rule changes will apply to each division separately. Voting by division teams will be conducted separately and can only affect the team's respective division.

ARTICLE II – CSHL – Games and Procedures

A. Definitions:

1. League Games are NCHSHL regular season games scheduled at the regular season scheduling meeting against other NCHSHL Teams and all playoff games. League Games are not to be played in Tournaments.
2. Non-League Games are all other games scheduled at the NCHSHL regular season scheduling meetings against other NCHSHL Teams. Non-League Games do not count in the League standings.

3. Independent Games are all other games (including tournament games) whether against NCHSHL Teams, OHSAAs Teams or OTHER teams. The Board encourages teams to schedule referees for independent games through the league assignor (contact information inside back cover).
4. Programs will be assessed a fee set by the Board for each League Game and Non-League Game for each season.
5. Any reference within these Standing Rules to NCHSHL Division Games refers to NCHSHL League Games and Non-League Games (and not to Independent Games).
6. A League Game that ends prematurely due to non-curfew rink problems such as electrical failure or bad ice is considered complete if at least two full periods have been played; otherwise it shall be replayed in its entirety. Non-League games and Independent games shall not be replayed
7. Referees in League and Non-League Games are paid by the CSHL. Referees in Independent Games are paid in cash at the game.

B. Ice Time and Curfew Games.

1. Minimum ice time is 100 minutes for all League Games.
2. There shall not be an admission fee/gate fee to any League Game.
3. Curfew Games In any League Game that is a curfew game, the home team must verbally notify the referees and the other team before the game starts: a) that it is a curfew game, and b) when the game slot ends. A team that fails to make such notification in a game that ends prematurely and that is protested in a timely manner (Article III, A-2), will have sanctions imposed against it, that may include the game being partially or entirely replayed to forfeiture, all at the home team's cost. The League recommends that no anthem or player line-up announcement take place prior to a curfew game.

Note: Per USA Hockey Playing Rule 636(f) no timeouts shall be permitted during a curfew game.

Any Independent Game played against an OHSAAs/Federation Team in Ohio shall follow OHSAAs/Federation rules.

- C. Off Ice Officials. The home team shall provide two off-ice officials for the scorer's table, a timekeeper and a scorer. Each team must provide an off-ice official for its penalty box. All off-ice officials must be 18 years of age or older.

D. Clock Management Guidelines for League Games shall be as follows:

1. Set clock for a minimum five (5) minute warm-up.
 - a. Sound horn when ice is ready for warm-up.
 - b. Except as directed by a referee, start clock to run down the warm-up time when both teams enter the ice.
 - c. Sound horn when 30 seconds of warm-up time remain.
 - d. Sound horn when warm-up time is over.
 - e. Announce starting line-up for both teams (optional)
 - f. National Anthem may be played but is optional.
 - e. Referees should then start the game within 1 minute of end of Announcements and/or Anthem.
2. Set clock for:
 - a. Three Fifteen (15) minute periods for the High School Division.
 - b. The first two periods will be standard stop-time. If the game is a curfew game, with proper notification under B-3, the third period shall be stop-time UNTIL purchased time for the game and the game clock time remaining are equal. At that time, the time keeper shall inform both benches and the referees that the clock will go to running time to assure that the game is completed within the required purchased ice time. If proper notification under B-3 was not made, the home team may not change from stop-time to running time. The game shall remain in stop-time until the rink ends the game, at which time the scorer should note the time remaining in

the game on the scoresheet. The home team should be prepared to partially or entirely replay the game or forfeit the game if it is properly protested, as noted above (Article II, B-3).

- c. Any time in the game that there is a six (6) goal differential, the game will be played in running time, unless the goal differential becomes less than six (6) goals. At that time the game shall return to stop-time. If there is a ten (10) goal differential at the end of the second period or any time during the third period, the game will end at that point. The visiting team shall leave the ice and the home team may stay and use its ice time for practice.
- d. In running time, there will be no timeouts and no stoppage for goals, injuries, etc. The clock may be stopped only upon the instructions of a referee or if penalty times cannot be recorded without stopping the clock.
- e. Minor penalties in running time shall be 2 minutes, with no change in major or misconduct penalty time.
- f. Penalties for players already in the penalty box when running time begins shall not be adjusted.

E. Overtime.

1. If a League Game is tied at the end of Regulation Time, one - eight (8) minute sudden death overtime shall be played.
2. No additional Overtimes or Shootouts shall take place, except as noted in Playoff Game Rules.

F. Ice Cuts.

An ice cut should be made a minimum of once per Game, except with approval of both coaches and referees. This should be noted on the scoresheet and no further action shall be taken to hear complaints or replay the game.

G. Team Representative/Manager.

It is strongly recommended that a Team Representative/Manager be appointed for each team. This representative/manager should attend all League Games and be prepared to report to his Head of Program on any incidents involving a coach, player, manager, official or fan.

H. Scores and Score sheets.

1. The home team is responsible for providing the official NCHSHL score sheet before each game and for providing scorekeepers to correctly fill out the score sheet. The scorekeepers must put the game number and name (with correct spelling) of each referee on the score sheet before the game and ensure that referees and coaches sign the score sheet. Scorekeepers must also verify that the name and USA Hockey Coaching Education Program number (CEP #) of every coach present (head and assistant) be written or printed legibly on all copies of the score sheet. Scorekeepers should ensure that only players present on the bench at the game are listed. If a player listed on a preprinted form is not at that game, his name shall be crossed out. Additionally, if a player or coach is serving a game suspension, the name shall be crossed out and it must be noted on the score sheet that the individual is serving the suspension.
2. A scanned version of the original white score sheet and the Scores of League Games shall be uploaded into the League website immediately after the game by the HOME team. This shall be done within 48 hours of the game by the HOME team. Exceptions to the above procedures are forfeited games (see Article III-B-3)

The original copy of any score sheet should be kept by the HOME team representative/manager. Any score sheet not uploaded into the League website within 48 hours may cause the responsible program to be fined up to \$100.

3. Score sheets may not be used to lodge any protests or complaints by coaches or managers; the only persons to use the back of the original white score sheet will be the referees in order to record any penalties or descriptions of their official duties during a game. League Officials are to notify coaches if a player or coach is to miss a game or games due to a penalty assessment. A League Official's failure to make such notification shall not excuse a coach from enforcing all game suspensions.
4. Complaints regarding officiating shall be forwarded in writing to the League (NCHSHL Committee Chairman) with a copy to the CSHL Secretary and must be signed by the Head of Program making the complaint. Unsigned complaints will be discarded. The name(s) of the person(s) initiating the complaint must be included.

5. All League Games must be officiated by USA Hockey registered and approved referees, assigned by the League. There shall be two referees scheduled for each game. A Game will be considered official if officiated by only one referee and both teams agree to play the game. If no referee shows up at a League Game, the game may not be played and must be rescheduled. Teams are not permitted to use the ice time to play a “controlled scrimmage” without referees.
6. All League Games will use current USA Hockey Rules.

I. Protective Gear and Socks.

1. All players on a team shall wear the same color helmets, pants, jerseys and socks on each leg. Goalkeepers must follow this guideline except for helmets and socks. No stickers other than Team or League stickers are allowed on any helmets. Pants must be of matching length.
2. For the first violation of Rule II-I-1, the violating player shall be ruled off the ice and the coach shall be notified that for the next violation of this rule by any player on the team a 10-minute misconduct penalty shall be imposed.

J. Jersey Colors

Home Team shall wear White (or Light) Jerseys. The Visiting Team shall wear Dark Jerseys. Where a conflict in jersey colors exists, it is the responsibility of the home team to make the necessary changes.

- K. Home Ice Sheets. At least 10 days prior to the regular season scheduling meeting each team shall provide the Board an adequate number of ice sheets to play its home games

ARTICLE III – Protests, Forfeits, CSHL Game Changes and Cancellations

A. Protests.

1. Protests may be lodged only in conjunction with incidents/events that occur during the playing of a League Game. Only the violation of League rules as stated in these Standing Rules may be protested. Referee judgment calls shall not be subject to protest.
2. All protests shall be submitted by the protesting Head of Program and distributed via e-mail to the CSHL Secretary with a copy to the NCHSHL Committee Chairman, and to the opposing team Head of Program within 72 hours of the incident/event. This deadline may not be waived. The formal protest shall include the teams involved, game number, date and the specific rule that is alleged to have been violated with specific information about the incident/event.
3. The CSHL Disciplinary/Review Committee will review the protest to determine if it meets the criteria of a League Protest.
4. The League will assess each member program a “deposit” of \$100 that is included in League Fees. This money will be pledged for any protest submitted by the association’s head of program during the year. If a petition is turned down a \$100 protest fee will be charged to the association and the program will be invoiced to replace the “deposit”. No further protest may be submitted until the new deposit is received. The program deposit will carry forward from year to year if unused or until the rule is amended.
5. The CSHL Disciplinary/Review Committee will notify the involved parties of the time and place of the hearing. A hearing may be deferred until the end of the season. No more than 4 persons per program will be permitted at the hearing. One of those present must be the Head of Program of the protesting program.

B. Forfeits.

1. Any team that fails to show for a League Game will receive a forfeit and be subject to additional costs and disciplinary action, as hereinafter provided.
2. In the event of a forfeit of a League or Non-League Game, a fine of \$100, league fees and referee costs for both teams shall be levied against the forfeiting team. The non-forfeiting team shall not be assessed league fees or referee costs.
3. Forfeited League Games shall be recorded as a 1-0 win for the team being forfeited against, and this score should be uploaded into the League website immediately after the forfeit has been determined by the team benefitting from the forfeit. A copy of the score sheet must be scanned and uploaded into the League website AND e-mailed to the CSHL Secretary and NCHSHL Committee Chairman by the benefitting team.
4. Forfeits of League Games may result in a hearing before the Board and the possible suspension of team management. If the Board determines, in its discretion, that the forfeit was deliberate or avoidable by virtue of procedures outlined in these Standing Rules, the forfeiting team will be ineligible for the playoffs.

C. Rescheduled Games.

1. 10 Day Grace Period (2 coaches must agree). Upon the agreement of both coaches, regular season NCHSHL Games may be rescheduled without charge in the first 10 calendar days after the regular season scheduling meeting.
2. No NCHSHL Game may be rescheduled on or after December 1st. Any request for a waiver of this rule may be submitted only by the Head of Program of the requesting team to the CSHL Secretary and NCHSHL Committee Chairman and will be approved only in the rarest circumstances. A request from any other party will be disregarded and will subject the team to disciplinary action by the Board. The request for waiver must be in writing on a form provided by the CSHL. The CSHL will only accept requests for waivers that include the agreement of the Heads of Programs of both teams.
3. 5 Day Rule. The game reschedule form for any League Game rescheduled under this rule must be submitted at least 5 days before the originally scheduled game date in order to give the League time to reschedule referees.
4. Any rescheduled game must be played before/on the date determined as the end of regular season.
5. The program that initiates any reschedule will be assessed \$100 plus all costs if its request is approved.

D. Game Cancellations.

1. League Games. No League Game may be cancelled. This rule will be waived only in the rarest circumstances.
2. Non-League Games. The CSHL will accept game cancellations of Non-League games from the Head of Program of the team canceling the game ONLY after both Heads of Program have agreed to cancel such game. An attempt at cancellation by any other party will be disregarded and will subject the team to disciplinary action. The cancellation must be submitted on the official CSHL form and emailed to the Referee Assigner and NCHSHL Committee Chairman. The program that initiates any cancellation will be assessed \$100 plus all costs.

E. Weather Conditions/Clerical Error.

1. Any League Game cancelled due to any weather or ice conditions or clerical error by the League must be rescheduled within 10 days for play at a later date. There will be no fee levied for a League Game cancelled under this rule if it is rescheduled within 10 days.
2. Deliberate refusal to reschedule will result in disciplinary action by the Board, including the assessment of all costs involved to the refusing team.

Note: please notify the CSHL Secretary, NCHSHL Committee Chairman and the Referee Assigner (phone numbers inside back cover or as noted on a separate contact list) as soon as it is determined to cancel a game due to weather.

F. Substitution of Games.

Once a League Game is scheduled, no team may substitute for the originally scheduled teams without the permission of the Referee Assignor.

ARTICLE IV – Teams, Players and Coaches

A. Rosters and Eligibility

1. At least 5 days before the regular season begins, all NCHSHL Teams must submit to the NCHSHL Committee Chairman a copy of its Team Roster Registration Form approved by the USA Hockey District Registrar and a NCHSHL TEAM ROSTER in an excel spreadsheet format . Such list shall include player's name and jersey numbers (home and away), grade level (9,10,11,12) and such list may be posted on the League website. Any amendment to this form must be submitted with reasons for the change to the NCHSHL Committee Chairman for approval before any players added may play in a League Game.
2. Only players listed on the Official NCHSHL Team Roster may play in League Games. If a team violates this Rule by playing a player not listed on the team's Official NCHSHL Team Roster in a League Game, it shall forfeit that game and shall be ineligible for the playoffs. The coach may be penalized further by the CSHL Disciplinary Committee.
3. A player on an Official NCHSHL Team Roster may not play for any other registered team during the regular season without League/Board approval and the written permission of the NCHSHL Committee Chairman. A NCHSHL player who wishes to play for another registered team or during the regular season must send an email request through the team's Head of Program to the NCHSHL Committee Chairman detailing the name of the other team, head coach's contact information, how many games the player expects to play for the other team and the reason for the dual rostering. The NCHSHL Committee Chairman shall promptly respond with a decision. If a NCHSHL player plays for a non-NCHSHL team during the regular season without obtaining such permission from the NCHSHL Committee Chairman, then any subsequent NCHSHL games in which he plays shall be forfeited by his team.
4. Player eligibility shall follow the current year USA Hockey Annual Guide/Classifications, as it relates to enrollment as a High School eligible player.
5. Rosters will be posted on the League website. Any player not posted on the "official roster" on the League website as of December 31st is deemed ineligible for Buckeye Cup participation.

B. Team Rules.

A NCHSHL Team is one that participates in the NCHSHL regular season. All NCHSHL Teams must register a minimum of ten (10) team members by the start of the regular season, and must have a minimum of six (6) players in uniform for all League Games. A maximum of thirty (30) players may be on one team roster, with no more than 20 players dressed for any game. (per current USA Hockey Annual Guide, Team Membership and Registration)

Each Program/Team is required to secure USA Hockey Insurance and any additional insurance required to allow play with any OHSAA/Federation team as directed by the League.

A team interested in joining the NCHSHL League must play against at least five League teams prior to petitioning to join the League. Requests to be accepted into the League for the next season will be heard at the first League meeting following the end of the League season (including playoffs). No teams may join the League in mid-season.

A team previously a League member may petition to rejoin the League. Approval will require a 2/3 majority of current League members.

C. Obligations When a Player Changes Programs.

1. Before a player may move from one NCHSHL or CSHL Member or Associate Program ("Program") to another, he shall submit a written request to be released from the member program that he is currently registered. He must complete his financial obligations and return program equipment or program records to his former Program. He must present evidence of this to the new Program in the form of a written "Release" issued by the Head of the former Program. A "Move" occurs upon the earlier occurrence of:

- a. the player being added to a team roster or
- b. the player playing in any game with the new Program.

If all obligations have been met, a release shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

2. The new Program shall be fined \$100 per player per game played, if a player:
 - a. Moves, and
 - b. Owes money to the former Program, and
 - c. Does NOT present a Release to the new Program, and
 - d. Plays any games with the new Program,

In addition, if the game is a NCHSHL League Game, it may be forfeited.

3. The CSHL Review Committee will resolve all disputes and will monitor compliance with this Rule. The only sanction allowed to be imposed on a player is a prohibition on playing for a Program until all obligations are satisfied. A decision of the CSHL Review Committee is only determinative of the parties' participation in the CSHL or NCHSHL; it is not a decision on the legal obligations of the parties or the merits of their case.
4. All member programs have sole responsibility for collecting any agreed upon fees/dues from their member players and are encouraged to obtain signed and dated contracts to clearly show the obligations incurred by a player. Absence of a signed contract is not fatal, but will be taken into account in making a decision.
5. After the first day of the regular season any movement of a player from one NCHSHL/CSHL program to another not only must receive written permission/release from the head of program of his original team, but the move must be submitted by the head of program of the team receiving the player to the CSHL Secretary and NCHSHL Committee Chairman for review. The NCHSHL/CSHL may deny or impose conditions upon movement. Until a decision is rendered, the player is ineligible from competing with his new team. Upon approval, the NCHSHL/CSHL will notify the teams.
6. Any player from a non-Member program (i.e. player moving into the jurisdiction of NCHSHL/CSHL teams) joining a team of a Member program requires the head of program of the team receiving the player to notify the CSHL Secretary and NCHSHL Committee Chairman for a review. The NCHSHL/CSHL may deny or impose conditions upon movement. Until a decision is rendered, the player is ineligible from competing with his new team. Upon approval, the NCHSHL/CSHL will notify the teams.

D. Intra-league Player Movement

1. Any player who was on a USA Hockey Roster (the "Roster") of a NCHSHL team anytime during the previous season but did not meet playoff eligibility requirements for the previous season (being present on the bench and noted on the game scoresheet for at least 50% of his/her team's League games) is free to transfer to a new NCHSHL team for the current season subject to the following conditions:
 - a. The player must satisfy all financial obligations to his previous team.
 - b. The player must be on the new team's Roster before the first day of the regular season.
 - c. Only one player from team A may transfer to team B per year. This applies only to players that did not meet eligibility requirements for the previous season.
 - d. The player must sit out the first four regular season games for his new team. This must be clearly marked on the game scoresheet involving the 4 game "sit out" rule. This applies only to players that did not meet eligibility requirements for the previous season.

Note: The purpose of this rule is to provide some flexibility for player movement while balancing the interests of players who wish to change programs with the interests of teams in avoiding disruption caused by too many players leaving at once.

2. If Rule Article IV, D-1.c causes hardship for two or more players, they may apply to the NCHSHL review committee for a waiver. The application must be submitted in writing prior to November 1 and include all pertinent information. The players must prove that there is a substantial hardship on both players that can be relieved by a waiver and that moving to two (or more) separate teams is impractical. The review committee can grant or deny the application solely on the submission of this application or may convene a hearing to consider oral testimony. The decisions of the review committee are final and not subject to appeal.

E. Anti-Recruiting Policy.

1. The League discourages "recruiting" of players from other teams in the -League. A player who played at the High School age level in the previous year and wants to play for a different team must follow the player movement procedures and obtain a release from the previous program as noted above.
2. Any ineligible player who plays in any NCHSHL League Game will cause the offending team to forfeit that game.
3. Any coach that is accused of recruiting and where proof of such recruiting practices is presented to the League may be required to attend a hearing of the CSHL Discipline Committee to determine if any further action is required.

F. Head Coaches/Assistant Coaches.

1. Head coaches and Assistant coaches of NCHSHL Teams must complete the appropriate level of coach's training as required by USA Hockey.
2. Requirements:
 - a. All Coaches must be registered with USAH before the regular season begins
 - b. All Coaches must complete the required USAH coaching education (CEP) Certification Level
 - c. All Coaches must complete the age appropriate module
 - d. All coaches must complete background check requirements
 - e. All coaches must complete concussion training as required by the state of Ohio
 - f. All coaches must complete Safe Sports training as required
 - g. All coaches must wear a HECC approved helmet with current date sticker on the ice.
3. Background checks as required by USA Hockey will be required for all coaches.
4. Only Coaches will be allowed on the ice for practice and on the bench for games.

ARTICLE V – Game Rules, Suspension and Conduct

- A. The CSHL/NCHSHL adheres strictly to the playing rules of USA Hockey. This allows the CSHL/NCHSHL to impose further penalties or suspensions. Teams that Play OHSAA/Federation Teams will adhere to the playing rules of OHSAA/Federation for those Games. **CSHL will view an OHSAA/Federation DQ (Game Disqualification) the same as a USA Hockey Game Misconduct.** It is the responsibility of the coaches to make sure that these rules are fully understood. All members must also comply with USA Hockey requirements with respect to Game Misconduct penalties and Progressive Suspensions as noted in USA Hockey Rules 404 and 411 (as noted in current USA Hockey Official Rules)

1. Limit on Game Misconducts. Any player, coach, manager or trainer who receives two Game Misconduct penalties in the course of one season (in **ANY** game) shall be suspended from two (2) NCHSHL Leagues Games in addition to the required USA Hockey suspensions required by the penalty assessment. These suspensions cannot be served concurrently. Should a third Game Misconduct penalty be assessed to any player, coach manager or trainer in the same season (in ANY game), that person shall be suspended from all further League play including Playoffs for the season.
2. For purposes of this rule, a season starts Nov 1st and ends March 30th. Programs and coaches have an affirmative duty to keep track of all of its player's game misconducts and inform the NCHSHL Committee Chairman and CSHL Secretary immediately when this rule applies.

Note: Because of the definition of a season, any game misconduct penalty received in any league game, any tournament game or any other game while playing for team on or after Nov 1st will count towards the total number of game misconduct penalties.

3. Any player who receives a five minute major penalty **with less than 5 minutes left in regulation time or in overtime in a League Game and** which cannot be fully served because time runs out in regulation Time or in the overtime period must sit the next League Game.
Coaches are expected to inform all players of this rule and report any such penalty to the NCHSHL Committee Chairman immediately following the conclusion of the League Game.
4. Any Overtime period shall be considered part of the game and all unexpired penalties shall remain in force (USA Hockey Rule 638 (b). Additionally any timeout that is not used during regulation time will be allowed to be used in overtime (USAH Rule 636(f). No additional timeouts are added for an overtime period.
5. Player, Coach, Manager or Trainer eligibility will be determined by the CSHL discipline committee following occurrence of the second Game Misconduct, regardless of whether the Game Misconduct was received in a League Game, non-League Game or Independent Game.
6. Only Program Heads may contact the CSHL Secretary to request a hearing regarding a suspension. Only one contact for this purpose will be permitted. NO coach, player, or parent may initiate contact for this purpose. Non-compliance with this rule will result in the hearing being denied and the suspension will stand.
7. Rule 410 (Supplementary Discipline) of the USA Hockey Official Playing Rules empowers the Board/CSHL Disciplinary Committee to impose disciplinary action whether or not the referee has penalized such offense.
8. The League may publish the names of players who have received Game Misconducts and match penalties on the League website.

B. Fan Abuse.

1. The League will provide security for Playoff Games.
2. If an official determines during a NCHSHL Game that any fan is continually abusive to a player, an official, or to other fans, that fan may be ejected. The officials are responsible for the enforcement of this rule when informed by minor officials. If that particular fan refuses to leave, the official will instruct Security to remove the fan from the arena.
2. If an official determines during a NCHSHL Game that fan abuse is excessive, he has the authority to remove both teams from the ice (excepting minor officials) until all of the spectators clear the arena at the direction of Security. . If the fans refuse to leave, the game is terminated and the matter will be referred to the Board.
3. It is the responsibility of the home team to protect all officials from irate and/or abusive fans, and to assure their safety out of the rink. Neglect to do so will result in censure or suspension by the Board.

C. Use of Noisemakers at games:

Those that are not permitted: Whistles (interfere with officials' whistles), air horns, or any other extremely disruptive noisemakers at the discretion of the on-ice officials.

- D. The customary handshake between teams will take place after the game. The visiting team or the team closest to the exit will leave the ice surface first as directed by the on-ice officials..
1. At the conclusion of the game, both teams will return to their respective benches and wait for the referees' signal to return to the ice for the handshake. At the discretion of the referee, where he senses a potential problem following a game, he may not signal for the handshake. The Board will deal with any team starting trouble or fighting during the handshake immediately upon notification.
 2. Any Game Misconduct penalty called after the conclusion of play of a CSHL League game will incur a two (2) game suspension. This suspension shall be served in the next two (2) scheduled League Games.
 3. If a referee determines that a coach contributed in any fashion to a player receiving a Game Misconduct penalty during or after the handshake that coach may also be assessed a Game Misconduct penalty.

E. Game Ejection.

A referee may eject any player, coach or manager from any game for any reason. This game ejection IS NOT a Game Misconduct and does not carry a game suspension. The score sheet must indicate this by using the phrase "game ejection" in the penalty area of the score sheet. Upon ejection, the individual shall leave the rink (i.e. playing surface, bench, spectator area, etc.). Failure to abide to this may result in a harsher penalty.

F. Official's Rating System.

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a business-like, sportsman-like and non-vindictive manner at all times. The actions of an Official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches is strictly prohibited.

The Board may from year to year adopt an Official's rating system to reward good Officials with recognition. On-Ice Officials are ambassadors of the game and shall always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

ARTICLE VI – Playoffs and Buckeye Cup

- A. Banners will be awarded to all Regular Season Division winners (2) and the Playoff Champions (2). If teams are tied in points for first place of the regular season, the procedures described in Annex E will be used to determine the Division champion. Teams will be seeded based on points earned during the Regular Season. Points for Regular Season are based on Two (2) points for a Win, One (1) point for a Tie and Zero (0) points for a Loss
- B. Individual awards may be presented as determined by the League for:
1. Most Valuable Forward
 2. Most Valuable Defenseman
 3. Most Valuable Goaltender
- C. NCHSHL Division Playoffs.
1. Teams will be seeded based on points earned during the Regular Season. Points for Regular Season are based on Two (2) points for a Win, One (1) point for a Tie and Zero (0) points for a Loss. If teams are tied in points for the regular season, the procedures described in Annex E will be used to determine Playoff seeding.

2. Playoff Overtime / Shootout Procedures shall follow USA Hockey Guidebook format as noted in Annex D.
3. The following teams will not be eligible for the CSHL playoffs or the Regular Season Champion Banner:
 - a. A team guilty of deliberately forfeiting a NCHSHL Game, as determined by the Board.
 - b. A team that played a non-rostered player in violation of Rule IV-A.
 - c. A team from a program whose League Fees have not been paid.

D. Player Eligibility for NCHSHL Playoffs and Buckeye Cup

A player is ineligible to participate in his team's playoff games unless he was present on the bench for at least 50% of his team's League Games. Within 3 days of the end of the regular season each playoff team shall submit to the NCHSHL Committee Chairman and CSHL Secretary a certification by the coach indicating which players on that team's Official NCHSHL Team Roster meet this 50% rule and which do not. Such form will include a statement by the coach that he will not dress in any playoff game any player that does not meet this 50% rule. A player who does not meet this rule because of injury may request a waiver from the Board.

All Buckeye Cup eligibility requirements are described in the latest revision of the Buckeye Cup Rules set up by the Buckeye Cup representatives from participating cities. These requirements will be made available to the League contacts upon completion.

E. NCHSHL Playoff Games.

1. The Board shall determine the time and place of all playoff games.
2. The higher seeded team shall be the home team, and shall wear its light colored jerseys.
3. All playoff games shall be played within a 60 mile radius of downtown Cleveland. No playoff game may start before 8:00am.
4. The playoffs shall use seeding as follows – 2 divisions of 4 teams. Divisions will be noted as American and National. Each Division will have a Playoff Champion. If the division has more than 4 teams, play-in game(s) will determine the Four (4) teams advancing to the playoffs as noted below:
 - a. The 1st and 2nd place teams in regular season will have a bye for the Play-in Round.
 - b. The 7th and 8th place teams in regular season will not be eligible for the playoffs
 - c. Play-in games will be #3 vs #6 and #4 vs #5 based on regular season placement.
 - d. Semi Final Round will be #1 vs winner of #4/#5 and #2 vs winner of #3/#6
5. Winners of the Semi Final Round games will play the Championship Game for each division.
6. Play-in Games shall be played on Friday, Semi-Final Games played on Saturday and Championship Games played on Sunday per the League calendar.

F. Buckeye Cup Qualifications – Refer to current Buckeye Cup Rules for Clarification

1. Automatic berth (1) to the NCHSHL Buckeye Cup will be the NCHSHL Upper Division (American) Playoff Champion. If the Playoff Champion is ineligible to participate in the Buckeye Cup, the following order shall be used to determine the automatic berth:
 - a. Playoff Runner-up
 - b. Regular Season Upper Division (American) Champion

- c. Next Eligible Upper Division (American) team ranked by points. If teams are tied using this format, the USA Hockey tie-breaker formulas shall be used to determine the team receiving the automatic berth. This format is also shown in the Buckeye Cup Rules, Section 21.

2. Any remaining at-large seeds will be determined by Buckeye Cup Rules.

G. Buckeye Cup Team Fees

1. A qualifying Team must be prepared to pay the Buckeye Cup Fee immediately to the Buckeye Cup hosting league.
2. Fees must be paid upon determination that the team earned one of the automatic bids.
3. Failure to pay the Buckeye Cup fee upon qualifying results in denial of participation in the Buckeye Cup

Article VII – Jurisdiction, Best Interest of the League and Conduct Unbecoming a Member.

A. Jurisdiction.

By participating in the CSHL-NCHSHL, member Programs, teams, players, coaches and parents submit to the jurisdiction of the Board over all matters pertaining to the League, games and disciplinary matters regardless of actions taken or determinations made by any other body (e.g. USA Hockey, OHSA, etc).

B. Best Interest of the League.

Notwithstanding any other provision contained in these Standing Rules, the Board may take any action or make any determination it deems necessary in the best interest of the League, provided that if the Board takes any action or makes any determination based on this Article, it shall set forth its reasons therefore in writing and promptly distribute such to the heads of programs.

C. Conduct Unbecoming a Member.

Any member Program, team, player, coach or parent who engages in conduct unbecoming a member of the CSHL/NCHSHL or detrimental to the League as determined by the Board, in its sole discretion, shall be punished as the Board may direct.

D. Responsibility.

1. Each program head is responsible for compliance with these Rules and decisions of the Board by all teams, coaches, parents and players in his program.
2. The CSHL/NCHSHL conducts mandatory meetings for the Head of Programs throughout the season. A \$100.00 penalty shall be imposed for each missed meeting to programs that are not represented at these meetings unless of an excused absence as approved by the CSHL Board Proxy representation shall be accepted upon prior notice to the NCHSHL Committee Chairman or CSHL Secretary.

Article VIII - Miscellaneous.

A. Amendment.

All proposed amendments to these Standing Rules must be submitted in writing to the Board for review, and shall then be placed before the membership for discussion and balloting. All proposed amendments shall be distributed to the membership at least 30 days before the meeting at which such amendments are to be voted on. Amendments may be passed by a majority vote of the voting members present at the Annual Meeting or by a 2/3rds vote of the voting members present at any other meeting of the membership.

B. Waiver.

The Board may, upon receipt of a written request, waive any Standing Rule for good cause. The Board must issue its waiver in writing setting forth its reasons therefore. If the request is granted in whole or in part, the Board shall promptly distribute the request for waiver and the Board's decision regarding the request to the heads of programs

C. Self-Reporting of Violations.

Each member Program (including all individual members thereof) is required to promptly inform the NCHSHL Committee Chairman or CSHL Secretary whenever it discovers that a player, coach, manager or team belonging to that Program violated any of these Standing Rules. If the Board discovers in the course of an investigation of a potential rules violation that a member Program knew about a violation but did not report it, the disciplinary consequences will be higher.

D. Referee Conflict of Interest.

No referee shall officiate in a game in which his father, mother, sister, brother, son, daughter, husband or wife is a coach, manager or player on one of the participating teams. If a scheduling mistake is made and this occurs, the referee must notify the coach of the opposing team of this relationship and obtain his agreement in writing on the score sheet to play the game prior to the start of the game. Failure to obtain such agreement will cause such game to be forfeited.

E. Use of Gender.

Within these Standing Rules, the words "he," "him" and "his" are used to include both male and female participants.

F. Disciplinary Review Committee

The Board shall annually create a CSHL Disciplinary/Review Committee. The Committee, through its Chair, is directly responsible to the Board in performing its functions

1. Organization of the Committee – The Committee shall consist of an appointed member of the Board as the Chair of the Committee and at least two (2) other members of the Board.
2. Committee Meeting Dates – This standing Committee convenes as necessary to review and act upon rules violation or other incidents brought to the attention of the Board.
Committee actions will be initiated by:
 - a. Notice to the CSHL by a Mid-Am District representative informing them of a referee report of a match penalty infraction of USA Hockey rules
 - b. A request from the CSHL Board for violations of the Standing Rules.

The Committee will respond/act on any such notification, as soon as all pertinent materials and persons involved in the issue at hand can be assembled, but no later than 30 days after such notification.

3. Committee Actions/Decisions -
Committee actions will be based on the current issue of USA Hockey Official Rules, Mid-Am District hockey rules and regulations, OHSA Official Rules, CSHL Standing Rules, and generally accepted policies for implementation of all such rules and regulations. Committee decisions are to be based on a simple majority vote. In situations where a tie vote is possible, a vote by the chair will be reserved and occur only as a tiebreaker. The chair may note conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest and excuse him/herself or request another member of the committee to excuse him/herself from the proceedings in which the conflict or appearance of conflict is thought to occur. The Chair as necessary to compensate for abstaining or absent members and conflict of interest exclusions pro tempore will appoint members. The Co-Chair will serve as Chair should the appointed chair be absent, or in a conflict situation.

4. Hearing Notice - A hearing notice shall be issued on matters involving disciplinary or other similar action. This notice is to provide the Disciplinary/Review Committee and the involved parties full information on the nature of the hearing. This hearing notice shall be distributed no less than three(3) days prior to the hearing. In order to ensure a fair procedure, the notice is to include:
 - a. The date, time and place of the hearing.
 - b. Summary of violation(s) with sufficient detail to enable the individual against whom the action is being considered to answer to the charges.
 - c. The right of the individual to be accompanied at the hearing by their representatives (parents, head coach, Head of Program, etc).
5. Hearing Procedures - Any hearing involving a disciplinary or other similar action of a confidential or quasi-confidential or personal nature shall be conducted in closed session with those present being members of the Committee and:
 - a. The person against whom an action is being considered.
 - b. If the person against whom an action is being considered is a minor, his/her parent(s) or designated guardian shall accompany them.
 - c. Head of Program of the individual against whom an action is directed.
 - d. Head Coach of the team if the individual against whom an action is being considered is a player.
 - e. Any aggrieved person, including parents or designated guardians and/or coach for players, team or program involved.

Individuals providing testimony in such proceeding shall appear in the proceeding singly, and be excused after providing testimony.

The deliberations of the Committee in session will be duly recorded. The decision of the Committee is to be 48 hours upon the conclusion of the hearing and at which time the parties to the action shall be apprised of the committee's decisions.

Penalties imposed by the Committee may affirm or overturn the original penalty imposed by a game official. It shall be understood that the CSHL has the right to impose supplemental discipline under Article VII-C of the CSHL Standing Rules and Rule 410 of the current issue of USA Hockey Official Rules.

Annex

A. To Request Officials for a game (one that doesn't already have a game number)

Send the request to cshlassignor@gmail.com. In the subject line, please put "Request for referees". In the text of the message, please put the date (please include the day, i.e. Wednesday), time (am or pm), rink, level (USA High School), team responsible for payment, name and phone number of the person making the request. Any game scheduled after the scheduling meeting will be cash at the game. Don Lewis will e-mail back a confirmation that referees have been scheduled and confirm the referee fee for that game (NCHSHL fees for 2020-2021 are \$75.00 per official per game). A two day notice is greatly appreciated.

B. To Request a game change (this is a game with a game number already)

Requesting coach (before grace period ends) or Requesting Head of Program (after grace period ends) or opposing Head of Program (after grace period ends) notifying him/her of the game change particulars (i.e. new date/time/rink). The opposing coach or Head of program must forward that request to cshlgamechange@gmail.com with their approval of the game change. Once the forwarded e-mail is received by Don Lewis, the change will be made in the Arbiter referee assigning website and also on the CSHL website. When the requested changes have been made in both websites, Don Lewis will send a reply to all (and copy the League for the processing of game change fees) stating that the changes have been made. The e-mail from the requesting coach or Head of Program must follow this protocol or it will be returned and no changes will be made until a corrected e-mail is received.

C. E-MAIL PROTOCOL

Requesting Coach/Head of Program

1. Subject Line – Game Number/Date/Time
2. Text of e-mail – New date, new time (am or pm), new rink
3. Coach/Head of Program - Name, Organization (i.e. Vikings), team number, phone number

Opposing Coach/Head of Program

FORWARD TO cshlgamechange@gmail.com

1. Do NOT change the subject line
2. "I approve the change" in text area
3. Coach/Head of Program – Name, organization, team number, phone number

ANNEX D – PLAYOFF OVERTIME AND SHOOTOUT

METHOD OF DETERMINING CHAMPION (USA Hockey Guidebook 2020)

(1) Overtime for Nationals (Recommended for Districts)

(a) High School Varsity Preliminary-Round Games

1. All Games Played to a Winner

If the game is tied following regulation play, one five (5) minute sudden-death overtime period shall be played. At the completion of the third period, the tied teams shall receive a two (2) minute rest period. The teams will remain on the ice. The teams shall change ends. If the score is tied at the end of the five (5) minute sudden-death overtime period, there shall be a shootout. The winner of the shootout will be credited with one additional goal in the final score.

(b) High School Varsity Championship Games

1. All Games Played to a Winner

If the game is tied following regulation play, one (1) sudden-death overtime period shall be played. At the completion of the third period, the tied teams shall receive a two (2) minute rest period. The length of the overtime shall be equal to the length of the third period and shall be sudden death. Teams shall switch ends at the end of the third period. If the score is tied at the end of the sudden-death overtime period, there shall be a shootout. The winner of the shootout will be credited with one additional goal in the final score.

2. Shootout Procedures

The shootout will be conducted as follows:

- A shootout is defined as a player attempting to score a goal and the opposing goalkeeper attempting to stop the shooter from scoring the goal.
- The referee shall call the two captains to the referee's crease to flip a coin to determine which team takes the first shot. The home team shall call the coin toss. The winner of the coin toss will have the choice whether his/her team will shoot first or second.
- All goalkeepers and all players from both teams listed on the official game sheet shall be eligible to participate in the shootout.
- The goalkeepers will defend the net they were defending in the 3rd period.
- Any penalized player whose penalty had not been completed when the overtime period

ended or who receives a penalty during a shootout procedure is not eligible to participate in any portion of the shootout procedure(s) and must remain in the penalty box.

- The shootout procedure shall begin with five (5) different individual shooters from each team taking alternate shots. The players do not need to be named beforehand.
- The goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot.
- The players of both teams will take the shots alternately until a decisive goal is scored. The remaining shots will not be taken.
- If after the shootout, the shootout score is still tied, there will be a sudden death shootout.

3. Sudden-Death Shootout

The sudden-death shootout will be conducted as follows:

- A sudden-death shootout is defined as each team attempting a shot. Should one team be successful and the other team not, the successful team shall win the shootout.
- Teams will select their shooters to participate in any order in the sudden death shootout, whether or not they shot in the previous round. The last player in the first round of the shootout may be the first player in the sudden death shootout.
- Players in a sudden death shootout shall not be allowed to take another shot until four additional shooters have completed their attempts.
- All goalkeepers and all players from both teams listed on the official game sheet shall be eligible to participate in the shootout.
- Any penalized player whose penalty had not been completed when the overtime period ended or who receives a penalty during a shootout procedure is not eligible to participate in any portion of the shootout procedure(s) and must remain in the penalty box.
- The goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot.
- The official scorekeeper shall record all shots taken indicating the players, goalkeepers and goals scored.

ANNEX E - TIEBREAKERS

(c) High School Varsity – Tie-Breaking Rules to Determine Standings Position (USA Hockey Guidebook 2020)

If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their position in the standings shall be determined by the following tie-breaking rules listed below. If at any point during the application of the tie-breaking rules, any or all of the teams can be seeded higher or lower than the other teams, the seeded teams will be placed in their position in the standings and the tie-breaking process will begin at Step 1 for any teams that remain tied.

NOTE: *If all tied teams have not played each other, the tie-breaking process will begin at Step 2.*

The tie-breaker rules are as follows:

1. The results of only the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:
 - a. Most points earned.
 - b. Most total wins (whether in regulation, overtime and shootout).
 - c. Most regulation wins.
 - d. Differential — Subtracting goals against from goals for in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus. A maximum goal differential of plus or minus eight (8) per game will be used in tie-breaking rules.
 - e. Quotient — Dividing the goals for by the goals against in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. If a game has a goal differential of more than eight (8) goals, the goals for will be decreased until there is a maximum of eight (8) more than goals against in a given game prior to dividing (i.e. 10-1 game would use 9-1 for purposes of quotient). A quotient involving dividing by zero (0) has higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any number other than zero (0). Where two or more teams have no goals against and the quotient tie-breaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of “goals for.”
 - f. Most periods won — In the games played by each tied team, points will be awarded for each

regulation period won (2 points) and for each regulation period tied (1 point). Positions shall be in the order of highest point total.

2. If after applying the formulas of 1 a, b, c, d, e or f the tie still exists, the results of all the games played by the teams tied in the following order:

a. Most total wins (whether in regulation, overtime and shootout).

b. Most regulations wins.

c. Differential — Subtracting goals against from goals for in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus. A maximum goal differential of plus or minus eight (8) per game will be used in tie-breaking rules.

d. Quotient — Dividing the goals for by the goals against in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. If a game has a goal differential of more than eight (8) goals, the goals for will be decreased until there is a maximum of eight (8) more than goals against in a given game prior to dividing (i.e. 10-1 game would use 9-1 for purposes of quotient). A quotient involving dividing by zero (0) has higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any number other than zero. Where two or more teams have no goals against and the quotient tie-breaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of “goals for.”

e. Most periods won — In the games played by each tied team, points will be awarded for each regulation period won (2 points) and for each regulation period tied (1 point). Positions shall be in the order of highest point total.

f. Lowest number of penalty minutes — Calculate the number of penalty minutes accrued during all preliminary round games. The teams shall be ranked low to high in ascending order of “penalty minutes for.”

g. Quickest first goal — The team that scored the quickest goal in their preliminary round games shall be ranked highest.

3. If the above procedure does not break the tie, the teams shall use a shootout procedure as previously described.

NOTE: A team may go into the tie-breaking process having defeated another of the tied teams and still not advance.

NOTE: If a team forfeits any of its games, and becomes involved in any tie-breaking formula, the team that forfeited will not advance and all games played against the forfeiting team shall be recorded as 1-0 victories for all opposing teams.