

COLORADO GIRLS HOCKEY LEAGUE
BYLAWS (RATIFIED AUGUST 21, 2019)



ARTICLE I. NAME

1. NAME:

The Colorado Girls Hockey League, henceforth referred to as the “League”. The principal address of the League shall be (TBD) or other such place that may be subsequently designated by the Board of Directors.

2. ABBREVIATION:

The League is authorized by these by-laws to utilize the abbreviation “CGHL” in lieu of its full name with the same legal effect as its full name.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE AND PRECEDENCE

1. PURPOSE:

As a youth hockey league affiliated with USA Hockey, the national governing body for amateur ice hockey in the United States, and the Colorado Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA), the USA Hockey local affiliate organization, the League is a governing body recognized by CAHA for the oversight of teams competing at the 19U, 15U, 12U, and 10U age groups competing as a recreational team designated at the “A” level of competition for full member and probationary member associations. The League shall emphasize:

- a. Advance the principles of amateur hockey to improving and advancing the sport through the spirit of competition, fair play, development of character, sportsmanship, leadership and physical fitness.
- b. The fostering and promotion of established and developing programs that assist in growth initiatives to advance Girls recreational hockey throughout Colorado and surrounding areas.
- c. Fostering quality and common level competition in a responsible geographic footprint that minimizes excessive travel.

2. PRECEDENCE:

These Bylaws and the Rules adopted hereunder supplement Rules issued by USA Hockey and CAHA and place additional requirements, restrictions, and penalties upon Member organizations, clubs, teams, players, officials and other individuals participating in League events. In the event of conflict, the Rules of USA Hockey and CAHA take precedence over these Bylaws and the Rules adopted hereunder.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

1. MEMBERSHIP:

Membership in the CGHL will be limited to amateur ice hockey associations, which are eligible for membership under the terms of this article, and have met the following criteria:

- a. Each member organization must be organized as a corporation under Colorado Law and in good standing with the Colorado Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA). Member teams from outside the jurisdiction of CAHA must be organized under the law of their residing state, and their respective state affiliate.
- b. Each member association will abide by and act in accordance with Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Playing Rules of USA Hockey and CAHA, and all member teams, coaches and players shall be registered with USA Hockey and CAHA.
- c. Each member organization must include the ownership or an agreement between a Member Organization and a facility. This agreement must provide the necessary activity to operate a youth hockey organization, including, but not limited to, ensuring available ice time for league games (primarily on Saturdays and Sundays between 8:00am and 7:00pm MST).

- d. Each Member organization shall promote hockey skill development through a USA Hockey sanctioned Initiation Program.
- e. Each Member organization shall annually promote and provide to its constituents a “*grow the game*” initiative/“*learn to play*” program specific to Girls hockey.
- f. Each Member organization agrees to comply with USA Hockey standards for the USA Hockey American Development Model, including recommended roster sizes and game counts.

2. PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP:

- a. Associations may apply for probationary membership in the CGHL by presenting the President of the CGHL a formal application that includes a letter requesting consideration for Membership with copies of documents evidencing the requirements of Article III, Paragraph 1, a list of the association’s Board of Directors, and evidence of the following qualifications:
 - i. It must be a member of USA Hockey and CAHA in good standing.
 - ii. It must have a written developmental / growth plan to submit to the CGHL, which must at a minimum describe current and planned programs / events, and anticipated source of players and team growth.
 - iii. The President of the CGHL will notify the Full Member associations within thirty days of receipt of the application. Notification must be made at least fifteen days prior to the Board of Directors of the CGHL meeting to vote on the application. The applicant will have the right to be present at that portion of the meeting at which its application is taken up and discussed. A Probationary Member must receive an affirmative vote of 60% of all members (with all members present).
- b. New applications for the CGHL Probationary Membership will only be accepted for consideration during the annual meeting in May. If approved, membership will be for the upcoming season.
- c. Full Membership: Following the probationary period of 12 months from the time of application, in order for the Probationary Member to become a Full Member of the League, the Probationary Member must receive an affirmative vote of 60% of all members (with all members present). Probationary Members shall not be entitled to a vote of the admission of Probationary Members.
- d. Associations that fail to achieve Probationary Membership in the CGHL may reapply after one year.
- e. If an association does not attain full membership at the end of their probationary period the voting members may re-certify their Probationary membership for another year or dismiss the probationary membership for the upcoming season.

3. DISMISSAL OR RESIGNATION OF FULL AND PROBATIONARY MEMBERS:

- a. The CGHL may dismiss from membership any association which:
 - i. Fails, after notice, to satisfy its financial obligation to the CGHL.
 - ii. Fails or otherwise refuses, after notice, to comply with a decision of the Board of Directors of the CGHL on a matter concerning that association and within the jurisdiction of the CGHL.
 - iii. Fails, after notice, to remain in compliance with the criteria for eligibility for membership set forth in Article III, paragraph 1.
 - iv. Otherwise conducts itself in a manner likely to cause harm to the development of amateur ice hockey.
- b. The following procedure will be followed in the event the Board of Directors of the CGHL seeks to dismiss an association from membership:
 - i. Written charges of Dismissal will be drafted, adopted by the Board of Directors of the CGHL, and sent to the member association.
 - ii. Not less than fifteen days or more than thirty days thereafter, the Board of Directors of the CGHL will conduct a hearing on the written charges.

- iii. The association subject to the charges will have the right to be confronted with the evidence, and to make arguments in opposition to the charges.
- iv. A vote of 80% of all Full Members of the Board of Directors of the CGHL will be required to dismiss an association from membership, with 100% of the Board present for such a vote.
- c. Any member association may resign from the CGHL by submitting a letter of intent to the President of CGHL. There will be no refunds of any fees already paid.

4. PROBATIONARY STATUS:

- a. A Probationary Member shall be granted a twelve-month probationary period, at the conclusion of which a second vote will be taken as to the admission of a Probationary Member to a full membership status, a continuation of Probationary status or dismissal from the CGHL. Following the probationary period, in order for the Probationary Member to become a full Member of the League, the Probationary Member must receive an affirmative vote of 60% of all members (with all members present).
- b. Probationary Members shall not be entitled to a vote of the admission of Probationary Members. The admitted Probationary Member shall pay the usual and customary fees charged by the League.
- c. Probationary Members will not have voting rights in the CGHL except on matters directly affecting their teams in regard to league play during the league scheduled season.
- d. Probationary Members must attend all meetings of the Board of Directors of the CGHL and meet all financial responsibilities to the CGHL.
- e. Member associations, Full and Probationary, not in full compliance with the Rules, Regulations, and By-laws of the CGHL may be placed in a probationary status by a vote of the Board of Directors of the CGHL at any scheduled meeting.
- f. The President of the CGHL will notify that association, in writing, of their probationary status not less than 7 days prior to the next scheduled meeting. Notice will include reasons for probation and corrective actions required for return to "good standing". Member associations may not vote nor participate in discussion of CGHL business until removed from probationary status.
- g. Any association on probation must present their corrective actions to the Board of Directors of the CGHL at a scheduled meeting. The Board of Directors will then vote on their return to "good standing".

5. SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF BYLAWS OR RULES:

- a. The League reserves the right to review, investigate and determine appropriate sanctions, including the Dismissal of Membership or Probationary Status, for any violation of these Bylaws or the Rules and Regulations adopted hereunder by the League.
 - i. Any allegations of a violation may be brought forward by any Member Organization through its Director and will be referred to the CGHL Board President. If the violation involves the home association of the CGHL President, the matter will be referred to the CGHL Vice President, who becomes the presiding officer in such a matter.
 - ii. The CGHL Board of Directors shall review the allegations of violation and conduct an investigation, as it deems appropriate. At the conclusion of its investigation and upon ten (10) days written notice to the Member organization accused of violation, the Board of Directors will submit a report of its findings.
 - iii. The Member organization accused of violation shall have the opportunity to explain or rebut the findings of the Board of Directors. The Board shall find that a Member organization has committed a violation of these Bylaws or the Rules adopted hereunder by an affirmative vote of 60% of all members (with all members present). If a violation is found to have occurred, the Board may impose sanctions, including but not limited to termination of Membership, suspension or probation with conditions.

ARTICLE IV. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The Board of Directors of the CGHL will consist of the full time Hockey Director or the designated representative of each member organization. Each Full Member association will be entitled to cast one vote with respect to any matter before the Board of Directors of the CGHL.

2. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD:

The Board of Directors of the CGHL will meet 6 times per year through a video conference call. One of the six meetings must be in person, to be defined as the CGHL annual meeting. During each meeting, any and all business may be considered. In addition, the Board of Directors of the CGHL will convene at the call of the President of the CGHL or at the call of any two or more Full Member associations for the purpose of considering any business which the President of the CGHL or the Full Member associations set forth in the call of the meeting. The general meeting of the Board of Directors of the CGHL conducted in the second quarter of the calendar year (April/May/June) will be the Annual Meeting of the League. The Annual Meeting must be an in-person meeting only and attended by all Full Members at a central location to be determined on an annual basis. During the Annual Meeting, a publication of all updated documents shall be distributed.

3. QUORUM:

No business may be conducted at any meeting of the Board of Directors of the CGHL, general or called, unless all Full Member associations are present by designated representatives.

4. SIMPLE MAJORITY REQUIRED:

Unless otherwise specified in these By-laws or otherwise required by law, any action placed before the Board of Directors of the CGHL will be considered duly taken, adopted, or ratified if a simple majority of votes are cast in favor of the action at a meeting at which a quorum of Full Member associations were present at the onset. Abstention votes do not count in the tally.

5. NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS:

The CGHL will provide all members associations with at least thirty days written notice of a bi-monthly meeting. The CGHL will provide all member associations with at least ten days written notice of any called meeting.

6. PARTICIPATION OF MEETINGS:

Only designated representatives of member associations, Full and Probationary, will have the right to be recognized and heard at the Board of Directors of CGHL meetings. The President of the CGHL will have the discretion, but not the duty, to permit persons other than designated representatives to be heard at meetings of the Board.

7. ORDER OF BUSINESS:

All meetings shall be governed by an order of business. The order of business at all meetings of the Board of Directors shall be as follows:

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call / Confirmation of Quorum
- c. Election, if any
- d. Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meeting
- e. Communications
- f. Treasurer's Report
- g. Reports of Officers, Committees, and Administration
- h. Old Business
- i. New Business

- j. Adjournment

ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

1. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

There will be the following executive officers of the CGHL: the President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer.

- a. One person may hold not more than one of these positions. The President or lawful successor will be the Chief Executive of the CGHL.
- b. The President of the CGHL will organize and call to order and preside over all League meetings.
- c. The Vice President is responsible for ensuring League compliance and registration with the Colorado Amateur Hockey Association and shall have the duties and powers of the President when the latter is absent, disabled, or for whatever reason is unable to perform the duties of his/her office.
- d. The Secretary/Treasurer of the CGHL is responsible for recording all League meetings, and shall manage the finances of the CGHL.

2. TERM OF OFFICE:

Each executive officer will serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors of the CGHL for a two-year term.

3. LIMITATION ON SUCCESSION:

There is no limitation on the number of terms that may be served by executive officers.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Executive Officers will be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the CGHL in April/May/June of each calendar year. Nominations may be made, but need not be made in advance of the meeting, and nominations from the floor of the meeting will be accepted. No person will be elected to any executive office unless that person has provided the Board with indication that if elected he or she is willing to serve.

5. VACANCIES:

In the event of death, resignation, or removal of any Executive Officer, the President of the CGHL will appoint a substitute officer subject to confirmation at the next meeting of the Board of Directors of the CGHL. In the event of death, resignation, or removal of the President of the CGHL, the Vice President will assume the duties of the President until the next regularly scheduled meeting when the election of a new President will take place to fulfill the remaining term of that office.

ARTICLE VI. FINANCE AND ASSESSMENTS

1. CGHL ACCOUNTS:

All CGHL funds will be deposited and maintained in insured depository accounts, checking or savings. All such accounts will be maintained in the name of the League. The President, Vice President, and the Secretary/Treasurer will be the sole authorized signatures for withdrawal of CGHL funds. Withdrawals will require two of the three authorized signatures. The Secretary/Treasurer will have the responsibility of depositing all CGHL monies. The CGHL monthly statement will be addressed to the President of CGHL, and will be available at the regular bi-monthly meetings.

2. WITHDRAWALS:

All withdrawals must be approved at a CGHL regular or called meeting.

3. **ASSESSMENTS AGAINST MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS, FULL AND PROBATIONARY:**

The CGHL will have the power to levy assessments against member associations, Full and Probationary, for the following purposes:

- a. To raise funds sufficient to operate the CGHL in the manner contemplated by these By-laws.
- b. To raise funds for the purposes expressly authorized by the CGHL Board of Directors.

4. **FISCAL YEAR:**

The fiscal year of the CGHL shall begin September 1st and end August 31th of the following year, and may be changed, as the Board of Directors shall at any time determine.

5. **COMPENSATION:**

The CGHL Board of Directors may approve and pay stipends to persons in volunteer positions for the CGHL based on their functionality. The CGHL Board of Directors may approve and pay appropriate compensation to any hired/contracted administrators as per these Bylaws by an affirmative vote of 60% of all members (with all members present)

ARTICLE VII. POWERS OF THE CGHL

1. **LEAGUE POWERS:**

The CGHL will have the following powers with respect to its member associations, Full and Probationary:

- a. The power to schedule and to conduct competition by teams of member associations during the period of October 1st through March 31st.
- b. The power to resolve all disputes and controversies arising out of competition by teams of member associations scheduled or sanctioned by CGHL, including under *due process* formalities the power to suspend any player, parent of player, coach, or member association for cause shown, from participation in CGHL scheduled or sanctioned play.
- c. The power to disseminate policies and rules governing all competitive play by the teams of member associations.
- d. The power to conduct clinics, showcases, events or other instructional programs for players or coaches, and the power to establish minimum standards of competency and experience for coaches.
- e. The power to obtain and maintain membership in any amateur ice hockey association, including USA Hockey, and CAHA, including the power to send appropriate CGHL officers to meetings and conferences of all such organizations.
- f. The power to publish a website, newsletter, or other similar publications to increase the awareness of the CGHL and of the activities of its member associations.

2. **RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

The Board of Directors of the CGHL will have the power and the duty to publish "CGHL Rules and Regulations" governing member association activities to Full And Probationary members, including the scheduling of CGHL ice hockey games. Such "Rules and Regulations" will be furnished to all member associations prior to the start of the CGHL season.

ARTICLE VIII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. **INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE:**

- a. Any person made or threatened to be made a party to any action or proceeding, whether civil or criminal, by reason of the fact that he or she, his or her estate, or its personal representative is or was a Board member, officer or employee of the CGHL or an individual (including a medical staff appointee) acting as an agent of the CGHL or who serves or served any other corporation or other entity or organization in any capacity at the request of the CGHL while he or she is or

was a Director, officer or employee or agent of the CGHL, shall be and hereby is indemnified by the CGHL.

- b. Said indemnification shall be against all judgments, fines, amounts paid in settlement and reasonable expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and necessarily incurred as a result of any such action or proceeding, or any appeal therein, to the fullest extent permitted and in the manner prescribed by the laws of the Colorado, as they may be amended from time to time, or such other law as may be applicable to the extent such other law or laws are not inconsistent with the laws of Colorado.
- c. The foregoing provisions of this Article shall be deemed to be a contract between The CGHL and each Director, officer, employee and agent of the CGHL, in such a capacity at any time while this Article is in effect. Any repeal or modification of this Article or any applicable provision of the laws of Colorado shall not affect any rights or obligations then existing as they relate to any action or proceeding therefore or thereafter brought or threatened, based in whole or in part upon any such state of facts. However, the right of indemnification provided in this Article shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which any Director, officer, employee or agent of the CGHL may now be or hereafter become entitled apart from this Article.
- d. Limitation on Liability - No Director of the CGHL shall be personally liable for monetary damages as such for any action taken or for any failure to take any action.

2. DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION OF THE CGHL:

In the event that the League shall be dissolved, then all of the assets of the League remaining after provision has been made for payment of its known debts and liabilities, as provided by law, shall be distributed equally to active Full Member associations. No private individuals shall share in the distribution of any League assets upon dissolution of the League.

3. AMENDMENTS:

These By-laws may be amended by an affirmative vote of 60% of all members (with all members present). The President of the CGHL will provide at least thirty days notification of the intent to present By-law amendments to the Board of Directors of the CGHL. Where these By-laws or other law requires that action be taken by a higher percentage vote of the Board, then that By-law cannot be amended except by a vote of that required percentage.

4. NON-DISCRIMINATION:

The League does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious belief, sex or national origin.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE:

These Bylaws shall become effective upon final ratification of the Full Membership.