

CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS
OF THE
MAINE AMATEUR
HOCKEY ASSOCIATION, INC.



ADOPTED AND APPROVED BY THE
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF MEAHA
REVISED: May 7, 2023

MAINE AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be Maine Amateur Hockey Association, Inc., hereinafter referred to as MEAHA, or the corporation.

ARTICLE II - NON-PROFIT STATUS

MEAHA shall have no capital stock and shall not be conducted for profit. It is and shall be organized exclusively for such non-profit activities as its members shall direct and shall qualify for and exist as an organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). In such regard, no part of the net earnings of MEAHA shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its member, trustees, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that it shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of its Section 501(c)(3) purposes.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, MEAHA shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Code or (b) by a corporation contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Code.

Upon the dissolution of this corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, or shall be distributed to the Federal, state, or local government, for a public purpose, or shall be distributed to a fund, foundation, or corporation organized and operated exclusively for the purposes specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

ARTICLE III – PURPOSE

The purpose of MEAHA shall be to:

1. develop and encourage sportsmanship among all players and participants for the betterment of their physical, social, and emotion well-being;
2. encourage and improve the standards of ice hockey in the State of Maine;
3. unite all Maine amateur youth hockey teams into one association and become an affiliate of the USA Hockey and its New England District (NED);
4. conduct annual tournaments to determine team champions of Maine and representatives of Maine to any regional or national USA Hockey sanctioned tournaments;
5. conduct regional and national tournaments for and at the request of NED and USA Hockey;
6. abide by, promote, and further the goals, objections, and values of USA Hockey.

ARTICLE IV - USAHOCKEY PREEMINENCE

MEAHA, and its members, an Affiliate Association of USA Hockey, shall abide by and act in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, Playing Rules, and decisions effected by USA Hockey in furtherance of its values and objectives.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

MEAHA, as the USA Hockey Affiliate for the State of Maine, will be the arbiter of the location of youth ice hockey programs in its geographic area, subject to reasonable standards regarding geographic competition and the size of the ice hockey community within MEAHA's geographic area.

There shall be three types of MEAHA membership as follows:

1. Associate Member

- a. All Associate Members shall be organized associations within MEAHA providing programs for Adult, Senior, Women's, Co-ed players 18 and younger and/or Girls U19 and younger and operating during MEAHA's typical hockey season (September through March)
- b. All Associate Members shall be eligible to vote on all MEAHA By-Laws and Executive Officers and shall make up the MEAHA Board along with MEAHA's Executive Officers.
- c. Any Associate Member considered to be "not in good standing" shall immediately be reclassified to Allied Member status and may be reclassified to Community Member status.
- d. All Associate Members shall be listed in Appendix 1.
- e. Associate Members shall only register/roster players and/or teams as approved in their original membership acceptance and noted in Appendix 1.
 - i. Changes to approved teams in Appendix 1 may be made by a motion, seconded and approved, by a majority of the MEAHA Board.
- f. Associate Members must attend ALL MEAHA meetings. Failure to attend 3 meetings, within any fiscal year, without having been excused by the President shall result in being listed as "Not In Good Standing".
- g. All Allied Members must meet the following requirements for consideration of acceptance as an Associate Member
 - i. Must have been an Allied Member for at least two consecutive seasons.
 - ii. Must request in writing their intent to seek Associate Member status at the March monthly meeting of MEAHA. This request shall be on the approved MEAHA Membership Application form.
 - iii. Requests must include but are not limited to the following: Name, Corporate structure (LLC, Sole Proprietor, Not-For-Profit, etc, Number of teams and age groups represented, Mission/description of program offerings, and whatever other information is deemed pertinent by the applicant.
 - iv. Must have a minimum of 20 registrants for at least two consecutive seasons who are not duplicative registrants within existing Associate Member associations.
 - v. All registered players must reside in or attend school in the State of Maine
 - vi. If accepted, the new Associate Member is considered to be on Probationary status for the first two fiscal years, during which time failure to comply with the original criteria in which they were accepted under and/or violation of any by-laws, rules or regulations of MEAHA, NED or USA Hockey may result in reversion to a lower member status or removal of full membership status.

2. Allied Member

- a. Allied Members shall be organized associations/leagues within MEAHA that have been granted recognition by MEAHA but have not met or applied to meet the qualifications of an Associate Member.
- b. Allied Members shall be eligible for participation in MEAHA open leagues.
- c. Allied Members shall not be eligible to vote, but are welcome and invited to express their views to MEAHA.

- d. Any Allied Member considered to be “not in good standing” shall immediately be reclassified to Community Member status.
- e. Allied Members shall only register/roster players and/or teams as approved in their original membership acceptance and noted in Appendix 2.
 - i. Changes to approved teams in Appendix 2 may be made by a motion, seconded and approved, by a majority of the MEAHA Board.
- f. Allied Members must attend MEAHA meetings as follows:
 - i. Allied Members participating in MEAHA Tier II, Tier III or Tier IV leagues must attend ALL MEAHA meetings. Failure to attend 3 meetings, within any fiscal year, without having been excused by the President shall result in being listed as “Not In Good Standing”.
 - ii. Allied Members not participating in MEAHA Tier II, Tier III or Tier IV leagues must, at a minimum, attend the MEAHA Annual Meeting.
- g. All Community Members must meet the following requirements for consideration of acceptance as an Allied Member
 - i. An Allied Member shall be organized associations/leagues within MEAHA that have been granted recognition by MEAHA but have not met or applied to meet the qualifications of an Associate Member.
 - i. The association/league must submit a request, in writing, to the MEAHA Executive Board, by the March meeting, in order to be recognized as an association/league eligible to be granted recognition with MEAHA and therefore receive a MEAHA registration number with USA Hockey for the registration and rostering of players through USA Hockey for the upcoming season. This request shall be on the approved MEAHA Membership Application form.
 - 1. Requests must include but are not limited to the following: Name, Corporate structure (LLC, Sole Proprietor, Not-For-Profit, etc, Number of teams and age groups represented, Mission/description of program offerings, and whatever other information is deemed pertinent by the applicant.

3. Community Member

- a. Community Members shall be any individuals or associations within MEAHA that wish to participate in the furtherance of MEAHA, NED and USA Hockey initiatives and interests with MEAHA’s jurisdiction.
- b. Community Members shall not be eligible for participation in MEAHA leagues and shall not be eligible to receive MEAHA recognition for registration of participants with USA Hockey.
- c. Community Members shall not be eligible to vote, but are welcome and invited to express their views to MEAHA.
- d. Community Members deemed detrimental to the furtherance of MEAHA, NED and USA Hockey programs and the betterment of hockey within MEAHA may be removed from any and all membership status.
- e. All individuals or associations must meet the following requirements for consideration of acceptance as a Community Member
 - i. A Community Member may be any individual or association within MEAHA’s jurisdiction that wishes to participate in the furtherance of MEAHA, NED and USA Hockey initiatives and interests.

4. General Membership requirements

- a. All Members shall be required to follow all by-laws, rules and regulations of MEAHA, NED and USA Hockey.
- b. All Members must register ALL teams with USA Hockey.
- c. No Member may allow any team to participate in any Non-USA Hockey event.

- d. All Members shall be required to attend MEAHA meetings as detailed within Article V Sections 1f and 2f.
- e. All Members shall maintain “Good Standing” with MEAHA at all times or face disciplinary action by MEAHA.
 - i. “Good Standing” shall be;
 - 1. Compliance at all times with all MEAHA, NED and USA Hockey policies, by-laws, and rules
 - 2. Attend all required MEAHA meetings as outlined in Article V Sections 1f and 2f.

ARTICLE VI – STATE LEAGUE PLAY

- 1. MEAHA League Play and subsequent MEAHA Tournaments shall determine MEAHA representation for all USA Hockey national and NED regional/sectional tournaments.
- 2. MEAHA Associate and Allied Members shall be eligible for participation in MEAHA Leagues per their approved teams in Appendices #1 and #2.
- 3. All players within MEAHA shall only be eligible to participate in one MEAHA tournament per season.
- 4. MEAHA Leagues shall follow the MEAHA League Policies as published.
- 5. All MEAHA league policies must be adopted at or prior to the MEAHA monthly meeting immediately preceding the start of the season. Any changes to the approved policies during season play will not go into effect until the following season. A current season change may only be brought for vote by the MEAHA Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII – VOTING

- 1. “Vote by Membership” – Each Associate Member in good standing shall cast one vote per player registered. The number of registered players for each Associate Member shall be determined as of the date of each MEAHA annual meeting and shall be the number of record until the next MEAHA annual meeting.
- 2. “General Vote” - Each Associate Member in good standing shall cast one vote.
- 3. When voting for the election of officers at the MEAHA annual meeting, a “Vote by Membership” shall be used.
- 4. All votes at MEAHA meetings except as noted in #3 above shall be a “General Vote”. Any Associate Member may call for a “Vote by Membership” to be taken in lieu of a “General Vote” at any meeting or on any single matter. A “Vote by Membership” is then taken.
- 5. Each Associate Member president shall identify in writing to the MEAHA secretary, the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the Associate Member representative and one alternate, either of whom shall have voting authority for the Associate Member.
- 6. No one may vote, even if a MEAHA officer, unless he/she is named as an Associate Member representative.
- 7. The MEAHA president shall cast the deciding vote in the case of any tie.
- 8. Proxies shall not be allowed.
- 9. MEAHA shall be bound by any business transacted by vote of a majority of Associate Member representatives voting, provided a properly formed quorum exists.
- 10. Quorums for meeting shall consist of one more than half of the Associate Members. Allied members will not count toward the quorum.

ARTICLE VIII - ELECTED OFFICERS

1. The officers of MEAHA shall be: President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The term of the officers shall be for 2 years based on the following matrix of dates of implementation, with all terms starting at the close of the annual meeting:

President, 1st Vice President and Secretary- May 3, 2010 – Bi-annually thereafter

2nd Vice President & Treasurer- May 1, 2011 – Bi-annually thereafter

2. The officers of MEAHA shall be elected by the Associate Member representatives at the annual meeting of MEAHA.
3. A nominating committee shall be appointed yearly. This committee shall be formed at the regular business meeting in February of each year.

ARTICLE IX - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. **The President** shall preside over all meetings of MEAHA, appoint such committees and chairpersons as may be necessary, and perform all executive and administrative functions required to perform the duties of the office. He/She shall be the voting member of the NED Executive Board and represent MEAHA interests at all NED meetings. He/She shall represent MEAHA at the USA Hockey Affiliate Presidents Meetings and represent MEAHA interests with USA Hockey.
2. **The 1st Vice President** shall exercise the powers of the President when the latter is incapacitated, unavailable, or unable to preside at meetings. He/She may also perform such additional functions as are delegated by the President. He/She shall also be the VP of MEAHA Hockey, overseeing Tournaments, MEAHA Leagues and Player Development Events, assisting with the duties of each Chairperson for each MEAHA Hockey program.
3. **The 2nd Vice President** shall exercise the powers of the President only if both the President and 1st VP shall be incapacitated, unavailable or unable to preside at meetings. He/She may also perform such additional functions as are delegated by the President. He/She shall be the VP of Member Services, overseeing growth and retention of MEAHA and its members. He/She shall also be the keeper of the MEAHA policies and by-laws, ensuring each are updated annually or as necessary.
4. **The Secretary** shall keep all records and minutes of all regular or special meetings, email copies of all meetings to officers and each Associate Member representative, alternate or President, and provide copies of minutes and correspondence as required. Submit agendas for each meeting and collect reports from each Officer and Committee Chair for each meeting. He/She shall update and maintain these items on the MEAHA Website. He/She shall also be the MEAHA Risk Manager/SafeSport Coordinator, handling all correspondence to/from USA Hockey and NED with regard to risk management and SafeSport issues as well as acting as liaison to Associate and Allied Members for questions and/or concerns regarding risk management and SafeSport issues.
5. **The Treasurer** shall be the custodian of all MEAHA funds and shall maintain all financial records of MEAHA. He/She shall receive and disburse monies on behalf of MEAHA, as directed by its members or its officers. A statement of the financial condition of MEAHA shall be made at the annual meeting and such other times as its officers may direct, and copies of such statements shall be provided when requested. A proposed budget for the coming year shall be presented at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE X - APPOINTED OFFICIALS

USA Hockey/New England District shall appoint a state registrar, referee-in-chief, and coaching director.

ARTICLE XI - DUTIES OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS

The duties of the registrar, referee-in-chief, and coaching director shall be those as provided by USA Hockey/New England District and described in detail in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

ARTICLE XII – COMMITTEES

1. There shall be the following standing committees, which shall enact and enforce policies, rules, and regulations as may be necessary for the orderly operation of MEAHA and for player participation:
 - a) Disciplinary
 - b) Player Development
 - c) Tournament
 - d) Travel-Competitive (Tier I, Tier II & Tier III Leagues)
 - e) House (Tier IV)
 - f) Girls/Women
 - h) Adult
 - i) Nominating
2. The President shall appoint all committees and chairpersons, and each committee shall consist of no less than 3 and no more than 5 members, President and Vice-President not included.
3. The President shall appoint persons from Associate Members that are voting members and in good standing and shall limit appointment to 2 committees per individual person.
4. The President shall appoint and name at any time as may be necessary such additional committee(s) to assist, accomplish, and promote the duties of MEAHA.
5. Each standing committee shall be formed between the May and August meetings of MEAHA.
6. The 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice-President shall be members of the Disciplinary Committee, though shall not serve as chairperson.
7. The committee chairpersons shall schedule and conduct meetings, take such actions necessary, and/or make such recommendations as to accomplish such duties as designated by the officers and/or directors of MEAHA.
8. The Nominating Committee shall be formed at the February meeting of MEAHA in preparation for the election of officers at the annual meeting. The committee shall forward the names of all interested persons without giving recommendations to the voting membership at the annual meeting. Additional nominations are acceptable from the floor at the annual meeting.
9. Each Associate Member will have one member appointed to a minimum of one standing organizational committee.

ARTICLE XIII - RESIGNATIONS AND VACANCIES

1. Any officer or committee member or chairperson resigning during their term, or time of appointment, shall submit their resignation in writing to the Secretary, who shall immediately notify the President. If an Associate Member representative resigns, they must submit their resignation to the Secretary, and may not vote thereafter. MEAHA shall act at the next regular or special meeting on the resignation of any officer to accept or reject the tendered resignation. The President shall act immediately upon the vacancy of any committee member or chairperson to fill that vacancy.
2. In the event of the vacancy of an officer, a successor for that vacancy will be elected at the next regular meeting and shall complete the term of the vacant position.
3. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the 1st Vice-President shall assume the position and a new vice president shall be elected pursuant to the preceding paragraph.

ARTICLE XIV – MEETINGS

1. The annual meeting of MEAHA shall be held each year between the 10th of April and the 20th of May, at the discretion of the President.
2. MEAHA will hold monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month except in May or June. In person meetings will be held in the Augusta area or other location deemed centrally located for all members attending. Meetings held in August, December, February and May (MEAHA's Annual Meeting) will be held in person. All other meetings will be held via web meeting technology.
3. The President, or any three (3) officers and/or Associate Member representatives may call for a special meeting. If so, the Secretary must notify all officers, Associate Member representatives, and interested parties of the date, time, and purpose of the meeting, providing at least one week's notice.
4. The conduct of all meetings shall follow Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XV - ORDER OF BUSINESS/AGENDA

The order of business/agenda at each meeting shall be:

1. roll call
2. adoption of minutes of prior meetings
3. receipt of communications
4. reports of officers and registrar
5. reports of committees
6. old business
7. new business
8. other business
9. adjournment

The Secretary shall provide notice of any additional items for regular meetings as advised by the officers. Notice of meetings and additional agenda items shall be mailed and/or electronically mailed to members in good standing seven (7) calendar days prior to such meeting.

ARTICLE XVI – AMENDMENTS

1. This constitution and by-laws may be amended by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the Associate Member representatives, provided written notice of the proposed changes shall have been mailed and/or electronically mailed to all members in good standing at least seven (7) calendar days prior to such meeting.
2. MEAHA's By-Laws shall be posted on MEAHA's Website and shall be updated within 30 days of any change directed by the MEAHA Board.

ARTICLE XVII - SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

1. Any violation of this constitution and by-laws, rules and regulations of MEAHA, or decisions of the officers, board of directors, or established committees by any member shall render such member liable to suspension by affirmative vote of 2/3 of the Associate Members until the next annual meeting. At that time, such member may be liable to expulsion by affirmative vote of 2/3 of Associate Members.
2. All players, coaches, referees, teams, or leagues suspended by USA Hockey or MEAHA shall be suspended automatically by MEAHA and remain suspended until USA Hockey or MEAHA lifts the suspension.
3. Copies of all correspondence between individual teams, programs, or members thereof with officials of USA Hockey or MEAHA shall be sent to the Secretary of MEAHA. Failure to comply shall be considered a violation of paragraph 1, above.

ARTICLE XVIII - COURT ACTIONS

In order to preserve the voluntary nature and the purity of amateur hockey, all members and individuals of this organization agree, by virtue of their participation in MEAHA, to pursue all rights and privileges afforded under the constitution and by-laws and rules and regulations of MEAHA before the full board of directors and to exhaust all such remedies before seeking redress in the courts. All members and individuals agree they have waived any jurisdiction of the courts to deal with any issue or conflict until all such rights and privileges have been exhausted within MEAHA. Any member or individual violating the provisions of this article shall be deemed guilty of conduct warranting immediate expulsion upon the filing in court of any document.

ARTICLE XIX - YOUTH DIVISION

The Youth Division consists of teams and programs, which are of the USA Hockey classifications of Youth18 and under and Girls 19 and under, and shall be bound by the following:

1. Teams shall be registered in one of the following categories:
 - a. Youth - Teams which are registered in accordance to Article V and Article VI and whose association is a current Associate or Allied Member of MEAHA, in accordance with its By-Laws.
 - b. Girls - Teams which are registered in accordance to Article V and Article VI and whose association is a current Associate or Allied Member of MEAHA, in accordance with its By-Laws.
 - c. Club - Organizations/Teams which do not fit into the definitions above, and to be registered within MEAHA as club, middle school, girls and independents, they shall be bound by:
 - i. Agree to abide by MEAHA Rules and Regulations and USA Hockey Sexual and Physical Abuse Policies;

- ii. Comply with all USA Hockey and MEAHA registration procedures;
- iii. Agree to be governed by the following restrictions:
 - 1. Cannot participate in any MEAHA Hockey leagues, MEAHA Tournaments, USA Hockey Regional, Sectional and National Championships;
 - 2. May only play against USA Hockey and Canadian Amateur Hockey Association registered teams, and compete in sanctioned USA Hockey events.
- 2. Registration Requirements:
 - a. Registration procedures for all teams will follow USA Hockey procedures and all teams shall include a copy of the Coaches current USA Hockey Coaching certification with Level and certification number, for all coaches for the teams.
- 3. Eligibility:
 - a. Teams and players participating in MEAHA Associate or Allied Member programs shall be bound by the following requirements:
 - i. All associations, teams and individuals must be in good standings and complying with the rules and regulations of USA Hockey and MEAHA and are eligible for membership in MEAHA.
 - ii. A player may register and play with only one MEAHA Associate or Allied Member registered program.
 - iii. Any player who wishes to change associations must abide by the MEAHA release policy.
 - iv. All players must reside or attend a school in the State of Maine.

ARTICLE XX - SENIOR DIVISION

The Senior Division shall consist of teams and programs that are of the junior and senior age classification, as set forth by USA Hockey. Registration and eligibility requirements shall be the same as described in Article XIX.

ARTICLE XXI - PLAYER CLASSIFICATION

Player age classification and registration shall be in accordance with the guidelines, policies, rules, and regulations of USA Hockey for the youth, junior, senior, and girls divisions as listed in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

ARTICLE XXII - COACHES CERTIFICATION

MEAHA will follow the USA Hockey Coaches Certification Policies and rules stated within USA Hockey Annual Guide.

MAINE AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

APPROVED AND REVISED: May 7, 2023

With Appendix #1 and #2

Appendix 1 Associate Members

Association Name	Permitted Teams												
	Boys/Coed						Girls			Other			
	Midgets			Bantams & Younger			U19 & Younger						
	Tier II	Tier III	Tier IV	Tier II	Tier III	Tier IV	Tier II	Tier III	Tier IV	JR	Middle	Adult	Disabled
Aroostook Amateur Hockey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Biddeford Youth Hockey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Brewer Youth Hockey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Casco Bay Youth Hockey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Central Maine Youth Hockey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Greater Portland Industrial Hockey League												X	
Maine Gladiators	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Maine Junior Black Bears	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Maine Moose	X	X	X	X	X					X			
Maine Nordiques	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
MC Storm	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
ME Evolution Hockey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
ME Inferno Hockey							X	X	X				
Midcoast Recreation Center						X							
Midcoast Youth Hockey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Penquis Youth Hockey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Skating Association of Maine	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Southern Aroostook Minor Hockey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		

Appendix 2 Allied Members

Association Name	Permitted Teams												
	Boys/Coed						Girls			Other			
	Midgets			Bantams & Younger			U19 & Younger						
	Tier II	Tier III	Tier IV	Tier II	Tier III	Tier IV	Tier II	Tier III	Tier IV	JR	Middle	Adult	Disabled
Kennebec Ice Arena												X	
Maine Hockey Academy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Maine Wild	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Penobscot Ice Arena												X	
Southern Maine Middle School League											X		
St. John Valley Youth Hockey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	