

CHL RULES & REGULATIONS

SECTION I: Rostering and Divisions of Play

101: Player and or Coach Transfers

A. Prior to August 1st of each season, it will be the responsibility of each CHL Association Registrar to supply a listing of players or coaches "Not In Good Standing" with their home associations to the CHL Vice President. All players appearing on this list MUST have a "Letter of Good Standing" (Release) prior to any other CHL Association registering that player or coach for the next season's rosters.

B. After August 1st player or coach transfers from one CHL Team to another must be accompanied by a "Letter of Good Standing"

102: Rosters

All teams must meet the criteria listed below:

A. No player can be rostered on more than one CHL team regardless of age or level except for a female player who can be rostered on a girls only team and a coed team.

B. Players previously rostered on a Tier I team may only play for a CHL team under the following criteria:

1. Played Tier II or less for home association "A".
2. Was rostered on a Tier I association outside CAHA.
3. Can only play for home association "A" in CHL.
4. Must be in good standing with Tier I association and have been granted release (release must be provided to the CHL Executive Board of Directors).
5. If no release, must provide letter from Tier I association indicating good standing.
6. Must be rostered prior to December 31 Tier II roster freeze.

C. Only players properly placed on a team roster prior to December 31, are eligible for post season play.

D. All rosters must conform to regular and current USA Hockey and CHL standards.

NOTE ** Requests for exceptions to the above must be submitted to the Competition Committee in writing. Exceptions may be granted by the Executive Board based on the Competition Committee's recommendation.

E. Certified Team Rosters (T1) MUST be submitted to Director of Competition 14 days prior to the team's 1st game and with any change prior to a player becoming eligible to play. (Failure to do so will result in a \$100.00 fine per occurrence). Playing a non-rostered player will result in the win being awarded to the opposing team and a \$100.00 fine per occurrence will be assessed. (If the opposing team actually lost the game a 1-0 Win will be recorded)

- F.** All rosters for CHL games are frozen effective 12/31 of the affected season. Any changes after this date must be approved by the CHL Board of Directors.
- G.** As required by USA Hockey, every coach on the bench MUST have the appropriate USA Hockey Coaching Certification Level. There is NO provision in the CHL for a game protest for ineligible coaches. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH ASSOCIATION TO POLICE PROPER CERTIFICATION LEVELS FOR THEIR COACHING STAFF. If requested a coach MUST provide proof of their USA Hockey certification which can be done by looking the coach up on the online USA Hockey Coaching Certification list or by referencing the T1 roster. Any association found to be out of compliance will be referred to the disciplinary committee for action.

103: Composition of Divisions

- A.** A team census shall be submitted to the Director of Competition and Secretary/Treasurer by each association no later than the third Sunday in May. The census shall include the designated age group and proposed level of play.
- B.** Preliminary divisions shall be established based on the data collected in the team census.
- C.** For age groups electing a Play-in Tournament, the final divisions will be set within 7 days following the competition.
- D.** The structure of each division will be reviewed by the Board of Directors annually.
- E.** A previously registered team may apply to the Director of Competition to “play up” or “play down” one level and will be subject to all CHL and USAH rules for the new division.
- F.** In the event a Travel A team is required by the CHL to compete at the AA level, that team shall not be required to declare to be National Bound.

SECTION II: Procedural Rules

201: Scheduled Games

- A.** Each member association declares teams for CHL play by the third Sunday in May. All divisions will be set no later than fourteen (14) days after the play-in tournament concludes. This includes those divisions with no play-in tournament scheduled. At this point decisions on teams declared for league play are considered. Any ASSOCIATION that withdraws a team from League play after June 1 will be on automatic probation for the following season and not eligible for league play, subject to appeal to the Board of Directors.
- B.** The CHL strongly encourages scheduling games to minimize lost school days for players and to minimize the number of hotel overnights for each team during the season. To ensure that this happens, the CHL will have a standard start time for CHL games from 9AM EST on Saturdays to 4pm EST on Sundays. Teams may agree on another day and time in writing via email and copy to CHL Director of Competition no less than 1 week prior to the scheduled game.

C. It is the responsibility of the home team to insure 75 minutes on-ice time for all league games, including warm-ups but excluding resurfacing time. The Board of Directors must approve any variation to this.

D. Associations must schedule a minimum of a 75-minute break between games in all divisions.

E. A resurfacing is required before every CHL league game unless force majeure applies.

F. If a scheduled game cannot be played due to circumstances clearly beyond the control of the home team, such as unplayable ice, non-availability of facilities or similar circumstances, the game will be rescheduled as mutually agreed by the opposing teams. The Director of Competition will be informed and the schedule changed accordingly.

G. If a visiting team is prevented from traveling to a scheduled game due to adverse weather or act of God, the game will be rescheduled as mutually agreed by the opposing teams. The Director of Competition will be informed and the schedule changed accordingly.

H. If a postponed game cannot be rescheduled due to lack of playing dates, ice time, or other irresolvable conflict, the game will be declared a tie, the score will be recorded, as 0-0, and each team will receive one point in the League standings. Disputes arising from this procedure will be referred to the Director of Competition, as applicable, for resolution.

Note ** In rescheduling games, member associations are bound by the scheduling principle that the primary scheduling obligation is to the League. Competition with non-League opponents is encouraged, but any scheduling conflicts must be resolved in favor of the CHL obligation. Disputes arising from this procedure will be referred to the Director of Competition, as applicable, for resolution.

I. Should either team fail to appear for a scheduled game, except as provided for in Rule 201f and 201g, the game will be declared a WIN for the team that is prepared to play. In addition, the team that failed to appear is obligated to reimburse the opposing team for the game costs including ice time and officials. The score of the game will be recorded as 6-0.

J. It is the responsibility of the home team (in cases involving playing dates, facilities, and ice conditions) and the visiting team (in cases involving weather or traveling conditions) to notify the scheduled opponent reasonably in advance of circumstances that would delay the start of the game or force a postponement.

K. Any time changes to the final CHL schedule must be done at least 14 days prior to the current scheduled game date and be agreed to by all parties in writing via email. This information must be forwarded to the Director of Competition so that the schedule can be changed accordingly.

L. There are NO schedule cancellations accepted, except for facility failure. There will be a \$100.00 per game fine imposed on the member association for any team cancelling or forfeiting games.

M. If a scheduled game cannot be played due to a scheduling conflict outside of the CHL, the canceling team must pay for the cost of the ice and officials if notice of the cancellation is not made prior to 14 days of the scheduled game date and in the event that the home team cancelled, they must travel for the makeup games.

Note ** Goaltenders will not be eligible for award of the USA Hockey Zero Club patch from shutouts resulting from cancellations of forfeits.

N. A two Referee System will be used for ALL 10U & 12U games. A minimum three Official System will be used for ALL 14U, 16U, and 18U games. All on-ice Officials must be at least 1 age bracket older than the age of the teams they are officiating.

O. ALL on-ice Officials MUST be USA Hockey Certified. There must be a minimum number of USA Hockey Officials present in order for a League Game to be played. For ALL Divisions the minimum is two. In the event that a game cannot be played due to a lack of officials, and it cannot be made up on the same game weekend, the game must be rescheduled at the home team's expense and they must travel for the makeup game(s).

P. The CHL Schedule posted on the league website will serve as the "official" League Schedule. Any discrepancies MUST be reported immediately in writing to the Director of Competition and league scheduler.

202: Time of Play and Clock Operation

A. All CHL league games shall be comprised of a three-minute warm up, one-minute break between periods, three stop- time periods, subject to curfew based on 75 minutes on ice for all levels.

B. 1st & 2nd Period – must be 15 Minute Stop Time for all levels- 3rd Period – standard stop time for the age group or, if necessary, ½ of the balance of curfew time (remaining time available divided by 2) – set as a Stop Time Period. The time set at the beginning of the 3rd period will serve as the curfew time. Should events during the period, such as stoppages for fighting or injury cause the potential to go beyond curfew, the referees, upon consulting with the scorekeeper and at their discretion, may go to run time to stay within the curfew. Run time will always be used when the score differential reaches five (5) or more goals beginning in the third period. Run time will continue regardless of any additional goals by either team.

**** Curfew Exception*** If a penalty shot is called during a running clock in the 3rd period, but the clock runs out prior to the penalty shot being taken, the penalty shot will be allowed to take place and the game will end following the completion of the penalty shot.

C. The official clock operator (supplied by the HOST site) prior to the start of the game shall make the curfew time known to both coaches and the referee and note it on the USA Hockey Score Sheet. (score keeper supplied by "home" team for that game).

D. For stop-time, the clock shall be stopped for all referee/linesman whistles.

E. A game must have at least 22:30 minutes of playing time at all levels to be considered a completed league game. In the event that a game has to be rescheduled due to lack of time, a full game will be replayed at an agreed to time and location. (see rescheduling policy).

F. Each team is allowed one, 1-minute time-out per game under normal stop-time play. There are no time-outs allowed in the third period once the curfew time has reached 2 Minutes or less. (This is an exception to rule 636f in the USA Hockey Rule Book).

203: Penalty Times

A. Minor penalties for all 10u and 12u level games will be 90 seconds regardless of period length. Minor penalties for 14u, 16u, and 18u games will be 2 minutes regardless of period length.

B. All major and match penalties will remain at 5 minutes at all levels, and all misconducts will remain at 10 minutes at all levels.

204: Tied Games

If a League game is tied at the end of regulation play, the game will be declared a tie and each team will be awarded one point in the standings.

205: Standings and Statistics

A. Results of League games will be recorded on an official USA Hockey Score Sheet (may be manual or electronic). It is the responsibility of each member association to procure these sheets from USA Hockey or have access to the Gamesheet app. All Associations MUST use GameSheet or USA Hockey score sheets for league games. Further, the HOST team must supply an official scorekeeper.

B. Teams will qualify for the season ending tournament as per the rules defined in the CHL Participation document. For tie breaking purposes, the maximum goal differential for any regular season game shall be six (6) goals. The winning team's recorded goal total will be equal to the losing team's actual goal total plus 6.

C. The Webmaster and Director of Competition will receive all game reports and will maintain official team standings within each age group. The HOST association is responsible for providing the Webmaster and Director of Competition with all weekend game scoresheets by midnight on Tuesday following a game weekend. *Associations that fail to submit their game reports by the Tuesday midnight deadline will be fined \$100.00 for each occurrence.*

D. Team standings will be based on the total points method, with two points awarded for a win, one point for a tie.

206: End of Season Tournament

A. An End of Season (EOS) tournament will be held for divisions which contain a minimum of four (4) teams unless otherwise approved by Board of Directors vote at the CHL Annual meeting.

B. The number of teams qualifying for the EOS tournament is determined each year by the Competition Committee. The guidelines/rules for this can be found in the CHL Tournament Participation Guide found on the Tournament section of the CHL website.

C. Teams who qualify for the EOS tournament are required to attend and participate. Any association with a team that does not participate in an EOS tournament for which that team has qualified must pay the appropriate tournament entry fee to remain in good standing with the CHL. Additionally, said ASSOCIATION will be automatically placed on probation for the following season and not eligible for League play, subject to appeal to the Board of Directors.

207: Unequal Playing Conditions

In the event of unequal playing conditions, such as poor lighting at one end of the rink, sunlight, lack of goal crease at one end, poorly defined blue line at one end, etc. the referee may direct that the teams switch ends during a stoppage in play close to the midpoint of the third period.

208: Protests

A. Member associations have the right to protest a game when, in their opinion, conditions existed or events transpired during the conduct of the game that constituted a gross violation of the rules and directly affected the outcome of the game. Recognizing the basic purpose of the League to promote sportsmanship and fair play, protest procedures are established expressly for the purpose of redressing obvious instances of wrongdoing, such as of an ineligible player. Trivial or "nuisance" protests will normally not be considered.

B. Only the member association may file a protest. However, the coach of the protesting team must indicate to the official scorer through the referee his intention to file a protest prior to the end of the game in which the incident or condition occurs. The lone exception is use of an ineligible player that was not detected until after completion of the game. The official scorer will annotate the game report with the words "Protest Pending" under the scoring summary portion of the game report.

C. The formal protest will be submitted in letter format by registered mail (returned receipt) directly to the Vice President/Director of Discipline and must be signed by the President of the association submitting the protest. The protest letter will detail the facts and circumstances surrounding the protest and state the desired remedy.

Protest letters must be postmarked within ten (10) days of the completion of the protested game and be submitted with a check for \$100.00.

D. The Vice President/Director of Discipline will investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the protest consult with coaches, League officials on-ice officials, and minor officials as necessary, and adjudicate the protest as soon as possible, but not later than ten (10) calendar days from the time the protest letter is received.

E. Protest adjudicated by the Vice President/Director of Discipline may be subject to appeal to the Board of Directors.

F. If an appointed Vice President/Director of Discipline is a member of an association that is party to the protest, he/she shall automatically pass the protest to the Director of Competition for adjudication; if the Director of Competition is also a member of an association that is party to the protest, he/she shall pass the protest to an at-large member of the Board of Directors, whose decision shall be final. (Note: The term "at-large" refers to a member of the board of Directors who is not an officer of the Board and who is not a member of an association that is party to the protest.)

G. Judgmental decisions of a referee or linesman are final and are not subject to protest.

H. If a protest is denied, the protesting association shall lose their filing fee of \$100.00. If the protest is upheld, the filing fee will be returned to the protesting association.

209: Complaints

Member associations have the right to file formal written complaints to redress perceived conditions or events that are not appropriate for protest. Complaint procedures are identical to the protest procedures in Rule 208 except that results will not affect the outcome of a game and no fee will be assessed.

SECTION III: Playing Rules

301: Authority

Playing rules for all League games in all classifications shall be those of USA Hockey and CAHA.

SECTION IV: Disciplinary Rules

401: General

A. It is the implied duty and responsibility of all members of the League to conduct themselves and their affairs in a manner that reflects credit on themselves, their teams, their respective associations, the League, and the game of hockey. For violation of the spirit of intent of this rule, the Board of Directors may impose censure, suspension or expulsion as considered appropriate. As a League the CHL will strictly enforce the conduct guidelines set forth in USA Hockey's "Zero Tolerance" policies and "Codes of Conduct".

B. Whereas a team is assessed twelve (12) or more penalties during one game:

➤ First Offence - Head Coach will serve the one (1) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey.

- Second Offence - Head Coach will serve the one (1) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus and additional one (1) game suspension being mandated by CAHA.
 - Third Offence - Head Coach will serve the one (1) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus an additional two (2) game suspension being mandated by CAHA.
 - Subsequent Offences will add an additional game suspension for each occurrence of this rule infraction in addition the prior offence.
- ***Fines levied by CAHA against associations will be utilized to fund Coach, Parent, and Player Education in support of USAH's "Zero-Tolerance Initiative" within the CAHA Affiliate.

402: Responsibility

Primary responsibility for enforcing and maintaining appropriate standard of player discipline rests with the parent associations of the affected player(s), including notifying its teams, players, coaches, referees of CHL Rules. Member associations have full power and authority to impose such additional punishments over and above those specified in USA Hockey and CHL rules as may be considered necessary, but not reduce such penalties.

403: Infractions of the Playing Rules

Infractions of the playing a rule for which a minor, major, misconduct, or match penalty is assessed shall be penalized as specified in current USA Hockey rules.

404: Fighting

A. The League Fighting Suspension Policy applies to infractions incurred in CHL games only. Any fighting infractions incurred in non-league play will be served in accordance with USA Hockey Playing Rules; enforcement is the responsibility of the individual team's association. CHL suspensions must be turned into the league by the penalized team no later than the Wednesday following the infraction.

Any offense: Additional Game Suspension

1. The player must sit the next currently scheduled game regardless of whether or not the game is CHL or non-league to satisfy the USA Hockey next game requirement.
2. If the games following 1. above are non-league, the player may play in those games until the next scheduled CHL game which the player must sit.
3. If the next game following 1. above is also CHL, the player sits that game and has fulfilled his/her additional game requirement.

B. Any additional fighting penalties during CHL games will be enforced according the USA Hockey Fighting rule as per USA Hockey bylaw 615(f): Any player who receives a second major penalty for fighting with the same team during the same season shall receive a three-game suspension. For a third fighting major with the same team in the same season, the player shall be suspended until a hearing is

conducted by the proper authorities under Rule 410 Supplementary Discipline. These penalties under Fighting Rule 615 (f) will be served in succession regardless of league or non-league games.

C. All CHL game suspensions, including coach's suspensions, are to be posted onto the official CHL Website no later than the Wednesday following the infraction. Suspensions will be tracked for compliance by the CHL Vice President/Director of Discipline. Playing a suspended player will result in the game being awarded to the opposing team. Players must serve CHL suspensions with their CHL rostered teams and not through adult hockey, high school hockey, scrimmages, etc. Suspensions shall be served in the next game(s) present on the team's schedule before the incident occurred. Late season suspensions not able to be served in a given season will carry over, and will be served in the player's first CHL game(s) of the following season.

405: Match Penalties

A. The individual organizations will handle all discipline regarding Match Penalties with the exception of B. below. (Note: USA Hockey Rule 405 (Match Penalty) requires suspension of the affected individual for 30 days, during which time a hearing must be held to either reinstate the individual or impose appropriate penalties. If a hearing is not held or if no action is taken, the individual is automatically reinstated at the end of 30 days. Responsibility for conducting the required Summary Suspension Hearing is that of the member association with which the player is registered, as well as submitting the meeting summary and decision to CAHA immediately following the hearing.

B. Match Penalties as a result of a 601(e1) (e2) (Physical assault on an official), or Hateful speech under rule 601(e3) will be conducted by the CAHA affiliate Disciplinary Committee.

406: Abuse of Officials, Rule 601 (d) - whereas a coach/team official is assessed a game misconduct by the official:

➤ **First Offence** - Coach/Team Official will serve the one (1) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus an additional two (2) game suspension being mandated by CAHA.

➤ **Second Offence** - Coach/Team Official will be suspended for a thirty (30) day period and must attend a hearing with the CAHA Discipline Committee. The Coach/Team Official's Association shall be fined in the amount of \$250.

***Fines levied by CAHA against associations will be utilized to fund Coach, Parent, and Player Education in support of USAH's "Zero-Tolerance Initiative" within the CAHA Affiliate.

407: Leaving the Players' Bench, USA Hockey Rule 629 (a) - whereas any player leaves the players' bench during an altercation or for the purpose of staring an altercation:

➤ **First Offence** - Head Coach will serve a three (3) game suspension being mandated by CAHA.

➤ **Second Offence** - Head Coach will be suspended for a thirty (30) day period and must attend a hearing with the CAHA Discipline Committee. The Head Coach's Association shall be fined in the amount of \$250.

***Fines levied by CAHA against associations will be utilized to fund Coach, Parent, and Player Education in support of USAH's "Zero-Tolerance Initiative" within the CAHA Affiliate.

408: Carryovers

CHL Fighting Suspensions imposed, which cannot be completed during the regular season, carry over to the CHL EOS Tournament or next regular season CHL game(s). CHL Fighting Suspensions imposed during the CHL EOS Tournament carry over to the next regular season CHL League Game(s).

409: Enforcement of Suspensions

A. Primary responsibility for enforcing mandatory suspensions imposed under USA Hockey or CHL rules rests with the member association of the affected players, coaches, managers or organization officials.

B. Notwithstanding action taken by the member associations, the League Statistician shall provide to the Supervisor of Officials copies of all game reports in which a Game Misconduct or Match Penalty was assessed and shall provide the names of any player(s), coach(es), or others suspended as a result of such penalties to the scheduled opponents of the individual's team during the period when such suspensions shall be in effect.

C. Use of an ineligible (non-rostered or suspended) player or coach in a League Game will result in a mandatory forfeiture of the game in which the ineligible player or coach participated. The Coach shall receive a 2-game suspension for each occurrence.

410: Enforcement of Fines

Each member Association will be invoiced no later than February 15th by the CHL Secretary/Treasurer for payment of any applicable fines or penalties. Payment will be due to the CHL Secretary/Treasurer within 30 days. Any Associations with outstanding balances as of April 1st shall be placed on probation, forfeiting voting and league scheduling privileges for the following season.