

GARDEN CITY OVER-30 HOCKEY ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

1.0 LEAGUE CHARTER

The Garden City Over-30 Hockey Association (**GCOTHA**) was founded to provide a recreational hockey opportunity for adult hockey players from Garden City and the Metropolitan Detroit communities. It is a "Draft-League" where the teams are re-drafted every year from a rated "Draft-List." The goal is to achieve competitive parity among all teams. **GCOTHA** is a NO-CHECKING league where the enjoyment of participating in the game and the safety of the players are the main themes. **GCOTHA** will also endeavor, whenever possible, to forward the cause of youths, youth hockey, and the community at large.

2.0 GOVERNING BODY

GCOTHA is governed by a Board of Directors (**BOD**). The **BOD** is chartered with handling all administrative and business concerns for the **GCOTHA**. The **BOD** is elected annually by all of the active members of **GCOTHA**. The **BOD** consists of four people each holding a single position. The positions are:

PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, and TREASURER

2.1 AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The **BOD** derives its authority from these bylaws. The **BOD** has the responsibility for interpreting and enforcing these bylaws accurately in the best interest of the league. Any revisions to these bylaws must be voted on by the active members of the **BOD**. Revisions will only take effect if a majority of active **BOD** members and coaches approve the bylaw change(s). Revisions to these bylaws may take place at any time, (playing season or off-season).

The **BOD** also has authority to decide matters NOT COVERED by these bylaws. Such matters must be decided on at the **BOD** league meetings. Each member of the **BOD** has one vote and MUST be present at the meeting to cast it. A minimum of three (3) **BOD** Members must be present in order to conduct a vote. In the event of a tie, the vote of the **PRESIDENT** will carry.

2.2 Duties of the PRESIDENT

- Represent **GCOTHA** in civic meetings as required.
- Preside over all **GCOTHA** meetings.
- Schedule the monthly League Meetings during the regular season.
- Schedule the off-season **BOD** meetings to insure smooth operation and startup of **GCOTHA** for the new season.
- Solicit team sponsors as required.
- Help in the planning and execution of the end of the season banquet and golf outing.
- Sign Ice Contract with rink.
- Responsible for making arrangements for League Banquet.

2.3 Duties of the VICE-PRESIDENT

- Preside over all meetings in the absence of the **PRESIDENT**.
- Administer the league Substitute List.

- Contact all **BOD** members and Team Coaches to vote on permanent player placements. (Majority rule as to the player's placement).
- Responsible for obtaining substitute goalies for all **GCOTHA** teams when a regular goalie is unable to play.
- Be responsible for arranging referee and referee fees as approved by the **BOD**
- Acts as **GCOTHA** publicity chairman.
- Responsible for acquisition of the awards for the League Banquet.
- Help in the planning and execution of the end of the season banquet and golf outing.

2.4 Duties of the **SECRETARY**

- Publish the complete bylaws at the beginning of each season, and all amended page(s) when bylaw changes are made.
- Distribute registration forms and any necessary information prior to each season.
- Maintain all player registration information.
- Maintain league standings, scoring and penalty information.
- Record the minutes from all League Meetings.
- Reach out to previous year coaches during July to get status of players for the upcoming season.

2.4 Duties of the **SECRETARY (Cont)**

- Publish league schedules for regular season and playoff games.
- Provide balloting for and run the League All Star Elections.
- Develops game schedules for regular season and playoffs, arranges make-up or tie-breaker games if necessary.
- Register candidates for, provide balloting for, and run the League Officer Elections prior to the end of the playing season.
- Help in the planning and execution of the end of the season banquet and golf outing.

2.5 Duties of the **TREASURER**

- Collect all fees for league registration.
- Collect and promptly deposit all registration and ice fees throughout the year.
- Keep accurate financial records of all active players, and notify the **BOD** and the appropriate Team Coach of any delinquencies.
- Arranges the purchase and return of all league equipment and supplies.
- Arrange for, and purchase all necessary ice time with the Garden City Ice Arena.
- Obtain the best possible ice hours as desired by the **BOD**.
- Make recommendations to the **BOD** regarding league fees, based on referee costs, ice rental costs, and recurring annual expenses.
- Prompt payment of league expenses.
- Provide the **BOD** a financial update at the monthly league meetings.
- Present (when requested) a financial statement for the **BOD**.
- Help in the planning and execution of the end of the season banquet and golf outing.

2.6 **BOD Exemptions**

The elected **BOD** is exempt from all league fees during their elected term of office. This is provided that all **BOD** members are performing their assigned duties.

2.7 BOD Impeachment Procedure

In the event of a unanimous (3-0) vote by the other Board Members, a Board Member who is considered failing in his duties will be given a written notice that his performance is inadequate and that a further review and vote by the other Board Members will take place in 30 days. Upon a second unanimous (3-0) vote, the Board Member is removed from office and must pay a prorated registration fee and all league fees from that day forward for the remainder of the season. In the event a Board Member resigns or is removed from his position, a replacement may be appointed to complete the remainder of the season at the discretion of the remaining **BOD**. Any replacement must get a unanimous vote from the remaining **BOD** in order to take office. In the event that it is the **PRESIDENT's** post that becomes empty, the **VICE PRESIDENT** will become the **PRESIDENT** and the newly opened **VICE-PRESIDENT's** position will be the position that the **BOD** may fill. Any other league office (Vice President, Secretary and/or Treasurer) will be filled normally at the discretion of the **BOD**.

3.0 TEAM COACHES (Associate Board Members)

Team Coaches are volunteers who help run teams during the course of the playing season. Coaches are selected and approved by the **BOD** from a list of active **GCOTHA** members. A coach may also be a member of the **BOD**, but the **BOD** should strive to enlist Non-officers as Team Coaches. When a person is selected as a coach, they become an Associate Board Member. This means that the coach has a vote (only one vote per person) on all player replacement issues along with the **BOD**. **GCOTHA** recognizes the contributions that each coach makes to his team and the league by providing a monthly reduction in the coach's league fees. In return the coach will perform the following duties:

3.1 Duties of the TEAM COACHES

- Act as the primary communicator between the **BOD** and the individual team members.
- **Must** attend all monthly League Meetings; or send a team delegate.
- Must make their players aware of all monthly League Meetings and encourage them to attend.
- Collect league fees and sub fees from their players and forward them to the **TREASURER**.
- Must be in agreement at all times with the **TREASURER** on the financial status of his team members.
- Must be in agreement at all times with the **SECRETARY** as to the attendance of his team members.
- Collect funds and distribute tickets for all other league events, such as All-star games, raffles, extra league events, league banquet...etc.
- Notify the **VICE-PRESIDENT** as soon as they know that a player/goalie will not attend a league game.
- Notify the **VICE-PRESIDENT** when a vacancy or a player with excessive absences exists on his team.

- Attend all “rate skates” to evaluate potential new players.
- Participate in the “Draft” of his team.
- Distribute and collect all league jerseys; and wash team jerseys.
- Mark on the score sheet, all absences, injuries, and substitute players, as well as sign the score sheet.
- Help in the planning and execution of the end of the season banquet and golf outing.
- Reach out to their former team members at the end of July to determine their status for the upcoming season.

4.0 TEAM SPONSORS

Arrangements for sponsorship will be negotiated individually by the **PRESIDENT**, with final approval by vote of the **BOD**. The Sponsors provide funds to the **GCOTHA** for promotional purposes. This is usually done on a yearly basis for a period of three (3) years, if possible. Sponsorship funds are not used to purchase jerseys. Therefore, all jerseys that have been or will be purchased by **GCOTHA** are, and will remain, the property of **GCOTHA**. The **PRESIDENT** and the **VICE-PRESIDENT** must work together to ensure that all jerseys are of a good enough quality to last for three (3) seasons of use. As new jerseys are purchased, old jerseys are recycled. Anyone with an interest in the recycled jerseys must contact the **BOD** for approval.

5.0 THE DRAFTING OF PLAYERS

The construction of the Draft List for the new season is the most important task performed by the **BOD** and the Associate Board Members (Team Coaches). It is what ensures an equal mix of talent for all teams. All players who completed play in the previous regular season and play-offs, whether starting from the beginning of the season or entering mid-season, have the right to return to the league for the next season. However, it is vital that the **BOD** knows well in advance the status of all players from the previous season. A player wishing to continue playing in the **GCOTHA** for the next season, must communicate that information to the **BOD** by paying the registration fee by the posted deadline or by a phone call to one of the board members and/or coaches. Players failing to pay their registration fee, and do not inform the **BOD** and/or coaches of their intentions for the up-coming season prior to the draft, will not be included in the Draft List.

5.1 Draftable Players

It is the intent of the **GCOTHA** to be an over 30 hockey league. Therefore, all players must have attained the age of thirty (30) by December 31st of the year in which they are registering. The **BOD** does, however, recognize that there are situations that would support the waving of the age requirement. The decision to wave the age requirement will be determined by a vote of the **BOD**, with majority rule. In the event that there are openings available for the new draft, the priority for players to be entered into that draft will be as follows:

1. **EX-VETERANS**. An ex-veteran is defined as a player who has played in the **GCOTHA** league for at least 1 complete season. In the event that positions are limited, selections will be based on position availability, league standing, attendance record, and seniority.

2. **NEW PLAYERS.** A New Player is defined as a player who has been a substitute player in any previous season, and/or who has played as a temporary full time league member for a player who is out for an extended period of time. In the event that positions are limited, selections will be based on position availability, and league standing.

3. **RATED PLAYERS.** Once the three above categories of players has been exhausted and there is still room on the Draft List, players who participate in the most recent Rate Skate (see section 5.3) are entered on the Draft List. The decision of which players are entered on the Draft List is made by the **BOD** and the Associate Board Members (Team Coaches) when the Draft List is finalized just before the actual Draft.

5.2 Additional Draft List Rules

Any player that was authorized by the **BOD** to enter the league because of player shortages cannot be dismissed from the **GCOTHA**. This also includes any player that was permitted to enter the league under the age of 30. Once accepted into the **GCOTHA**, they are subject to the same rules and conditions as all other players and are automatically welcome to return to the next season.

All players are subject to expulsions from **GCOTHA**. The reasons include but are not limited to:

1. Player misconduct.
2. Consistent failure to pay **GCOTHA** league fees.
3. Consistent and excessive absences.

In any case, the **BOD** and Associate Board Members (Team Coaches) must review each case and must conduct a vote for the player expulsion, majority rule.

5.3 New Player Rating (Pre-Season)

New players wishing to join the **GCOTHA** must attend at least one (1) of the two pre-season Rate Skates. Typically the Rate Skate sessions occur in early September. Typically the Tuesday and Friday following Labor Day. This is how a new player is assigned a Rating. No new player may take the ice to be rated unless they have paid the skate fee, signed the league registration form, and has the proper protection equipment (see section 9.6). Once a player is rated, they are either placed on the Draft List and drafted to a team, or they are put on the Substitute List to be used during the season. **BOD** members and Coaches will fill out rating sheets for all new players. The rating of a player will be determined by an average of all individual ratings from the **BOD** and Coaches.

5.4 New Player Rating (Mid-Season)

Occasionally a mid-season Rating is required to rate a player. This is done **ONLY** with the agreement of the **BOD**. The Mid-Season rating can only take place for players that will be absent for (2) or more games. This does not apply for players who will only be absent for one game. The new player will take the ice for the absent player for one of the two games he will be absent. The rating of new player will be performed by the **BOD** and Coaches. The rating of the new player will be determined by an average of all the individual ratings made by the **BOD** and Coaches. If the **BOD** and Coaches agree that the rating of the new player is equal to the absent players rating, the new player will be

allowed to continue to sub for the remainder of the absent players games. If the **BOD** and Coaches do not agree that the rating of the new player is equal to the absent players rating, the new player will not be allowed to skate for the remainder of the absent players games. The Vice-President will have to find a different replacement for the absent player for the remainder of his games.

6.0 PLAYER DRAFT

6.1 Who Attends the Draft

The **BOD** will set a date and time for the draft each season. The draft is attended by the Team Coaches and **BOD** members only. The **BOD** members will run the draft. At no time during the draft process is a **BOD** member permitted to offer any comments or suggestions regarding the selection of players to a Team Coach.

6.2 Draft Procedure

The draft begins with the Team Coaches drawing numbers in a blind draw (1 through 6). The Team Coach who picks #1 will start the Draft by taking any player on the draft list. The Coach who picked #2 will select next ... and so on ... up to Coach #6. When Coach #6 makes his selection, the drafting order will then be reversed, with Coach #6 to start the second round. The drafting order will then reverse at the end of each round until all players have been drafted. Additional rules of the draft:

- Coaches may select one and only one player from each rating.
- Coaches cannot select any player for their own rating.
- Coaches cannot select other coaches.
- In the event there are more than one league officers on any one team. The officers must recuse themselves from voting on any issues that would affect his team.
- Jersey assignments will be decided by reverse order of draft order.

6.3 Player Trades

At the completion of the regular draft, thirty (30) minutes will be allocated in which time Team Coaches may conduct trades. All trades are based on the rating at which the players were picked. You can only trade players within a rating. Multiple player trades are allowed as long as the above player rating rule is followed. All trades will be screened by the **BOD** for fairness and accuracy.

7.0 PLAYER PLACEMENTS

7.1 SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS

When a player is going to be absent for any reason. A player of equal rating will be obtained from the Substitute List by the VICE-PRESIDENT. If the rating value of the Substitute player is equal to the League player they are replacing, no other action is required. If there are no players on the Substitute List of equal rating, then one is chosen from the Substitute List with a rating as close to the player they are replacing. In the event that the "closest player" available is a higher rating the **BOD** must approve the placement by a majority vote. If only one player will be absent from the game then no substitute player will be given and the FLEX player will cover that position. If more than

one player will miss a game then the VICE-PRESIDENT will supply the appropriate number of substitute players.

7.2 SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS ASSIGNMENT

Substitute players are chosen by the VICE-PRESIDENT. If for whatever reason the VICE-PRESIDENT is unavailable then substitute players will be decided by the **BOD**.

7.3 REPLACEMENT PLAYERS/GOALIES

When a vacancy occurs on a **GCOTHA** team either from a player dropping out of the league or a player declaring himself injured, a player of equal rating is to be obtained from the Substitute List by the VICE-PRESIDENT. If the rating value of the Substitute player is equal to the League player they are replacing, no other action is required. If there are no players on the Substitute List of equal rating then one is chosen from the Substitute List with a rating as close to the player they replace. The selection of the player in this case must be approved by a majority vote of the **BOD** and all of the Team Coaches. The vote may be taken over the phone by the VICE-PRESIDENT to save time. If a player cannot be placed successfully from the Substitute List, the **BOD** must attempt to recruit and rate enough new players so that one can be placed on the team. The goalie of a team has an increased responsibility to his team and his coach. A game can be reasonably played if a forward or defensemen is absent, but not if the goalie is absent. Therefore, a goalie must always inform the coach, with enough advance notice as possible, that he will not be present for a game. It is then the responsibility of team's coach to communicate that information to the VICE PRESIDENT as soon as possible. It is then the VICEPRESIDENT's responsibility to find a substitute goalie. Substitutes should first come from the **GCOTHA** Substitute List. If none are available, goalies from outside leagues can be brought in to sub. If a substitute goalie is not available, another active **GCOTHA** goalie (from another team) could be asked to fill in. If the league age requirement has not been previously waved, the **BOD** reserves the right to wave the age requirement for goalies on game-by-game basis. In the event any goalie is suspended during a game, the team will not be able to use a substitute goalie for the remainder of that game. However, any ensuing games the goalie must miss due to penalties, a substitute goalie will be used.

7.4 PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS (PLAYOFFS)

For a substitute player to be eligible to play in playoffs they must play at least the last two games of the regular season for the same full time player. They are then eligible to play in playoffs for that full time player as long as they miss games. Once the full time player returns for a game then the substitute player is no longer eligible to play.

7.5 GOALIE SUBSTITUTIONS (PLAYOFFS)

If a goalie is to miss time in playoffs then the substitute goalie will be picked from an eliminated team first.

8.0 PLAYER RIGHTS + RESPONSIBILITIES

8.1 Player Conduct

Each player is ultimately responsible for his own behavior and actions. **GCOTHA** and its **BOD** will not tolerate abuse OF ANY KIND directed at referees, arena employees, the arena facilities, or any part of Garden City Park. Should any such infraction occur, the player in question will not be able to play until the **BOD** has reviewed and ruled on the incident. Players are subject to dismissal from the league for their offense. Players and friends must vacate the ice arena no later than thirty (30) minutes following the completion of the last game of the night.

8.2 Player Monthly Ice Fees

Because of the lack of availability of substitute skaters, each player is responsible for their entire monthly ice fee, whether they skate or not. In the event that a substitute is available and plays, the absent player MAY receive a refund for that ice time. The monthly ice fees for all players are due NO LATER THAN the first Friday of each month. Payment MUST be made by a personal check, Venmo, Cash, or Money Order only. Payments are made to your Team's Coach. Team payments are to be turned into the TREASURER on the following Tuesday at the monthly League Meeting by the Team Coach. **If a player does not have his payment in at this time, the player will be suspended from the team's next game and no sub will be awarded.** The delinquent player will then remain on suspension until their monthly ice payment is paid in full.

8.3 Next Season's Registration

Each player should have a good idea whether or not they are going to stay in the **GCOTHA** for the next season. In order for the **BOD** to plan for the next season they need to know well in advance who is going to be playing. The registration fee for the following season MUST be turned in to your Team Coach by the last game of the current season's Round Robin Playoff. Players failing to pay their registration by the due date will be removed from the active player roster. If a player pays their registration fee then decides not to return to the **GCOTHA** for the next season they will receive a full refund of their registration fee as long as they notify a member of the **BOD** before Sept 1st of the new season. Players that drop out of the **GCOTHA** after Sept 1st will forfeit their registration fee.

8.4 Player's Ice Time Rights

Hockey is a very dynamic game where player changes are made while the game is in progress. Also special situations can occur, like power plays, penalty kills, or close goal differentials late in the game. Individual ice time will never be absolutely even among all players on a team in any one game. Each player should play regularly throughout a game based on the number of players present and the game situations (as listed above). If you as a player feel that a serious and consistent abuse of your ice time is occurring you must contact you team coach. If you have not obtained satisfactory response and/or action from your Team Coach, you are to then report it to any member of the **BOD**. The entire **BOD** will do their best to remedy the situation with the Coach as soon as possible (hopefully by your next game).

8.5 Player's Right To Attend BOD Meetings

The general **GCOTHA** membership, (individual players), have the right to attend league meetings that must be held by the **BOD** once a month during the playing season. At these meetings, members can comment and initiate motions to be put to a vote of the members in attendance. The minimum number of league members that can be present to conduct a vote of the general membership (quorum) is 20% of the normal player complement in the league including the Board of Directors. In order to vote a player must be currently permanently assigned to a team (not a Substitute Player) and not be in arrears in league fees. Notice of league meetings must be posted within the arena at least 14 days in advance of the scheduled meeting date, or be included in the League Schedule that is passed out to all players at the beginning of the season. At the discretion of the **BOD**, certain votes and other events can be held at the arena on a night when all teams are playing for the convenience of the membership.

2nd Friday of every month @7:00pm.

- Board Members 6:45 – 7:00pm
- Coaches 7:00 – 7:15pm
- Everybody 7:15 – 7:40pm

8.6 Player Equipment

The safety of all **GCOTHA** players is of the utmost importance. For this reason, all player equipment used must be approved for use by U.S.A. Hockey. Players not meeting the equipment requirements will be immediately ineligible to participate in play until the discrepancy is corrected.

Players must wear the following items for all **GCOTHA** Rate Skates, Practices, and Games:

1. Hockey skates with rear blade guards if part of original equipment.
2. Hockey shin guards worn inside of the socks (except goalies).
3. Hockey pants or "Cooperall" type pants.
4. Protective cup.
5. Hockey Gloves.
6. Approved helmet.
7. If a player wears glasses, a protective face shield, full or partial covering the eyes, must be worn. If a player wears contact lenses, or athletic/safety glasses, no mask is required.
8. Goalies must wear a full face mask of the wire cage type. No plastic, fiberglass, or other molded type masks are allowed under any circumstances. Substitute goalies are not exempted from this rule.
9. Shoulder pads are not required, but are recommended.
10. Helmet face shields (cage or eyetech) are not required, but are recommended.

A team may be subject to forfeit of the game, if a player is in violation of any of the equipment rules, and continues to play after being notified of a violation. If a player's protective equipment becomes damaged in some way during a game, it will be left to the discretion of the referee as to whether the player is allowed to complete the game without penalizing the player or the team. Players must have started the game with the required equipment in good order.

8.7 Player Absence Policy

A player should ALWAYS (when possible) notify their Team Coach when they are going to miss a game. If a player is absent for a league game for ANY reason, (even when the coach is notified) they will be replaced with a player from the Substitute List, if available, by the VICE-PRESIDENT. If a player has eight (8) absences during the course of a season, the **BOD** will review the status of that player. The player will be replaced with a player from the Substitute List, if deemed appropriate by the **BOD**. A player removed for excessive absences is ineligible to participate for the remainder of the regular season and the playoffs, and their status will be reviewed for entry into the next season's draft.

8.8 Player Injury Policy

If a player becomes injured, they are allowed a one game absence, with no replacement player coming in for that game. If the injury still inhibits the player from playing and more games will be missed, a replacement player will be selected from the Substitute List and placed on the team. If the injured player returns to good health, they may return to their old team only after the replacement player has had the opportunity to play a minimum of two (2) games. The player is still responsible for all ice fees when no replacement player was available. The games the player misses are recorded by the SECRETARY as injuries and are not counted toward the eight (8) absences which would require a review of the player.

9.0 PENALTIES

All penalties will be issued in accordance with the rules of U.S.A. Hockey except as follows:

9.1 Body Checking

If body contact is determined to be deliberate and constitutes a body check, a two minute minor penalty will be called.

9.2 Slap Shots

Slap shots are allowed in this league, however, each player assumes the risk of being hit with the puck and is full responsible for their injury.

9.3 Suspensions

When a player is suspended from a game, the player must leave the bench area immediately after receiving the penalty, and his team is responsible for placing one of the players from the ice in the penalty box to serve the penalty (excluding Misconducts). The suspended player is to leave the ice rink in a timely manner. Any player receiving a suspension MAY be subject to review by the **BOD** for disciplinary action.

9.3.1 Automatic Suspension - Four Penalty Rule

Any player or coach receiving four (4) penalties (any combination of majors and minors) in a single game will be suspended for the remainder of the game and suspended for the next game.

9.3.2 Automatic Suspension - Penalties

Any player or coach receiving any ONE of the following penalties will be suspended for the remainder of the game as well as the next game. (Fighting, Kicking, Gross Misconduct, Game Misconduct and Boarding) . Subject to Board review.

9.3.3 Automatic Suspension - Dropping Gloves

Fighting of any kind will NOT be tolerated in the **GCOTHA**. If at any time during a game a player drops their hockey gloves with the intent of fighting, the referees have been instructed to issue an automatic Game Misconduct. If a player drops their gloves with intent to fight and a Game Misconduct is not called by the referees it is the responsibility of both coaches or any **BOD** member present to tell the referee to call a Game Misconduct and to send the player to the dressing room. The player is also suspended for their next game. Subject to Board review.

Need to review any situations involving a sub player.

9.4 Gross Misconduct Suspension

Any player receiving a Gross Misconduct will receive an automatic three (3) game suspension plus a review by the **BOD** before he's allowed to play again.

9.5 Board Review Suspension Penalties

Any player or coach receiving a Match Penalty or any two (2) of the penalties listed in 9.3.2 above is immediately suspended and remains suspended until they appear before the **BOD** for disciplinary action.

9.6 Offsetting Penalties

When offsetting penalties are called, it will NOT result in the teams playing shorthanded. A two minute penalty to one team and a three minute penalty to the other team are not considered offsetting.

9.7 Suspensions for Accumulated Misconduct Penalties

Players that accumulate misconduct penalties at or above the number listed below, during the regular season and play-offs will be assessed suspensions as follows:

3 Ten-Minute Misconducts - 1 Game Suspension

4 Ten-Minute Misconducts - 2 Game Suspension

5 Ten-Minute Misconducts - 3 Game Suspension

6 Ten-Minute Misconducts - Suspension for remainder of the regular season and the playoffs and a review by the **BOD** for the next season.

3 Game Misconducts - 1 Game Suspension

4 Game Misconducts - 2 Game Suspension

5 Game Misconducts - 3 Game Suspension

6 Game Misconducts - Suspension for remainder of the regular season and the playoffs and a review by the **BOD** for the next season.

All suspensions will commence in the current game, at the time the penalty puts the player at or over his limit. The additional games of suspension will then be served as defined in the above tables.

Coaches should always be aware of any player that is near his limit so this call can be made. If neither Team Coach is aware, and the player exceeds his limit and continues to play, no additional suspensions other than that defined in the above tables will be served by the player. If at a later point of the game the infraction is realized, the player will then be asked to leave the game.

9.9 Suspensions and Playoff Rollover

All assessments of 1, 2 and 3 game suspensions as a result of minutes accumulated during the regular season will be served during the playoffs if the suspensions rollover into the playoffs.

9.10 Suspensions for Misconducts during Playoffs

A Gross Misconduct, or Match Penalty during the playoffs results in an automatic suspension for the remainder of playoffs regardless of other minutes accumulated, and a review by the **BOD** for the next seasons playing status.

A single Game Misconduct in the playoffs will result in the player missing the remainder of the current playoff game as well as the next playoff game. A second Game Misconduct in the playoffs will result in a suspension for the remainder of playoffs regardless of other minutes accumulated.

9.11 Suspensions General

Players must be made aware of any suspensions by a member of the **BOD** (usually the Vice President) 24 hours before their next game starts. If the player is not given adequate notification, the player may play their next game, but must serve the total amount of suspensions starting with the following game. In the event that no "live" contact is made with the player, and the VICE-PRESIDENT leaves an e-mail and/or voice mail ... That constitutes adequate notification and the player will not be allowed to play in his next game whether he shows up to the arena or not.

10.0 THE REGULAR SEASON

10.1 Regular Season Games

Games will consist of three 14 minute stop-time periods. The League Championship will be awarded to the team with the most points at the end of the regular season. Two points are given for a win, one point for a tie, and none for a loss. If two teams are tied in points at the end of the regular season, a one game playoff will be played to determine the League Champion, unless otherwise determined by the **BOD**. The League Champion will be based on head-to-head regular season record. If a tie still exists, goal differential (GF-GA) in those games will be used.

10.2 Basic Regular Season Schedule

Assuming a six team league, each team will play every other team eight (8) times.

10.3 Forward - Defense Substitution Rule

Players must skate in the position they were drafted. A team cannot switch a forward and a defenseman during a game. If due to a defenseman or two being absent, a forward could go back and play defense, or if a forward or two were absent a

defenseman could go up and play forward. A team can do one or the other but not both. This rule also does not apply during power-plays or short-handed situations.

11.0 THE PLAYOFFS

11.1 The Round-Robin

All teams begin the Playoffs with zero points. The playoffs will consist of one Round-Robin (each team plays all others once) with the top four teams in playoff points advancing to the Semi-Finals.

In the event of a tie among two or more teams, the following tie-breakers will be used to determine the Final Playoff Standings:

1. Result of game between tied teams. If more than two teams are tied, use points earned by tied teams in games among all tied teams.
2. If a tie still exists, goal differential (GF-GA) using all five games played will be used.
3. If a tie still exists, the least goals against (GA) using all five games played will be used.
4. If a tie still exists that affects which team(s) make the semi-finals, the team with the best regular season record will advance.
5. If a tie affects only the order in which the top four teams will finish, the team with the most wins will be given the upper position.
6. If a tie still exists, the **BOD** will conduct a coin flip to determine the positions for the semifinals.

11.2 The Semi-Finals

In the semi-final rounds, the first place team plays the fourth place team, while the second place and third place teams will meet. Games are conducted as a regular season game is, with the exception that 7 minute sudden death overtime periods will be played in the event of a tie. Two 7 minute periods will be played 5 on 5. If the score is still tied then 3 on 3 will be played until a winner is decided.

11.3 The Finals

In the Final round, the semi-final winners will face each other. If tied at the end of regulation, 7 minute sudden death periods will be played. Two 7 minute periods will be played 5 on 5. If the score is still tied then 3 on 3 will be played until a winner is decided.

11.4 Flex Injury

In the event that the flex player is injured for playoffs then the coach will decide **one** flex player from their roster for the remaining games.

12.0 LEAGUE ELECTIONS

The **GCOTHA** will conduct League Elections each year to elect the Board of Directors for the next year's season. The rules governing the election are as follows.

12.1 Registration of Candidates

The SECRETARY is to begin to solicit and register candidates for the four League Officer and coaching positions no later than the three-quarter point of the Regular Season (after 30 games have been played). Registration of candidates will be closed at

a date three (3) weeks prior to the election date. Each candidate will receive a copy of their registration for the election from the SECRETARY. A candidate may only register for one (1) office. The SECRETARY must make known to the league who is running for what office no later than two (2) weeks prior to the election date. Board Voting will be held before coach voting. In the event a candidate loses the board vote, they are eligible to be a coach candidate if they desire.

12.2 Candidate Duties

Once a candidate has been registered, they may campaign for their office up to the day before the election date. No materials may be passed out on the day of the election. Candidates may not “linger” around the voting area on the day of the election other than the time necessary to cast their own ballot.

12.3 Eligible Voters

Active Players in good financial standing are allowed to participate in the election.

12.4 Absentee Voting

If an Eligible Voter knows they will be absent on the day of the election, they may cast an Absentee ballot. The SECRETARY will provide Absentee ballots to those requesting them no earlier than one (1) week prior to the election. The SECRETARY will seal all Absentee ballots in envelope(s) and will not open them until after all players have voted on Election Day and the votes are counted. The names of players casting Absentee ballots will be recorded by the SECRETARY to insure they do not vote again at the regular election.

12.5 Election Ballots

The format of the election ballot must be such that the names of each candidate for a specific office are in the same column. Also, if there are any additional election issues to be decided such as Bylaw changes or a “Survey Referendum” these choices are to be placed on the bottom of the ballot.

12.6 Suggested Time of League Election

Traditionally the League Election is held on the first Friday of the Playoff Round Robin. This allows the following Friday to be used in the event a Run-off Election is necessary.

12.7 Counting the Votes

Once all eligible voters have cast their ballots the results are to be counted by the SECRETARY, another member of the **BOD**, and a non-member of the **BOD**. The candidate receiving the most votes for a particular office is declared the winner. In the event of a tie for any of the offices a run-off election is to be held the following week. Only the candidates who were tied in votes will have their names entered in the run-off election.

13.0 AWARD BANQUET

GCOTHA will hold a post-season awards banquet each season to recognize the achievements of individuals and teams and to get the players together for a fun evening

at the conclusion of a long season. Every effort must be made by the **BOD** each season to keep the price of banquet admission as low as possible. Individual awards will be given to the Regular Season Champions and the Playoff Champions. Sponsor awards will be given to the sponsors of the Regular Season and Playoff Champions. Sponsor recognition awards will be given to each sponsor. The night of the Banquet is also when the old Board of Directors transfers their positions over to the newly elected board Members.

14.0 ADDITIONAL RULES

14.1 GENERAL RULES

The rule books of the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association and USA Hockey shall be incorporated and made part of the **GCOTHA** Bylaws. Pursuant to city ordinance and arena rules, alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the arena.

14.2 GENERAL STATEMENT

In the event that there is a discrepancy in the interpretation of any of the by-laws listed above, the **BOD** will interpret the by-law as to its actual intent keeping **GCOTHA's** best interest in mind.