

Mississippi Valley High School Club Hockey Association



Official Ice Hockey Rule Book 2025-2026 Edition

**MVCHA RULE BOOK
2025 - 2026**

2025-2026 Season

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GENERAL RULES

MVCHA IS THE ABBREVIATION FOR MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL CLUB HOCKEY ASSOCIATION AND IS HEREIN REFERRED TO AS “LEAGUE”

Section 1: GENERAL

1-G-1 DIVISIONS

The MVCHA Board of Directors will determine team assignments to divisions, based on the survey of teams following the May All Schools meeting, in the best interest of all teams.

1-G-2 SEASON – LEAGUE GAMES

League games include all MVCHA scheduled regular season and playoff games. The schedule will typically start in November and conclude by mid-March; however, exceptions are made to accommodate no play weekends. The 2025-26 season will be as follows:

JV: October 19th, 2025 - February 28th, 2026

V: November 3rd, 2025 - February 23rd, 2026

****All dates & times are subject to change****

1-G-3 FINES and FEES

All outstanding League fines and fees must be paid to the League fee schedule. Fines are due within five (5) days of being incurred. If the fine is not paid on time, the club will forfeit all scheduled League games played after the due date, until such fines/fees are paid. All fines assessed during the regular League season must be paid prior to the start of the playoffs. Any fines accrued during the playoffs must be paid before the next scheduled League game (See 9-G-3). Teams with outstanding fines/fees will not be allowed voting privileges until such fines/fees are paid in full.

Intent to Play Fees will be due on or before June 30th for the following season. The due date and amount will be determined annually by the MVCHA Board or Directors. Once a club has paid their Intent to Play Fees, the fees are non-refundable. Intent to Play Fees will be applied toward each Clubs' annual fees.

If a club does not field any JV or Varsity Team after paying the Intent to Play Fee for that JV or Varsity Team, the club will forfeit the Intent to Play fee for that JV or Varsity Team and there will be an additional \$2,000 fine imposed, and the club will forfeit the Reduction of Ice credit for THAT team.

Reduction of Ice credits are applied toward each eligible returning club's second installment of League fees. The amount of the Reduction of Ice credits will be determined by the MVCHA Board of Directors annually.

League Fees Installments due dates are as follows:

October 1 \$3,500 due

November 1 ½ of remainder of balance due

December 1 remainder of balance due

A 10% LATE FEE WILL APPLY TO ALL LATE PAYMENTS

1-G-4 PRACTICE, EXHIBITION and TOURNAMENT GAMES

Any MVCHA member team may participate in practice, exhibition and tournament games at any time during the calendar year. Should an MVCHA team have a player(s) and/or team official(s) receive a match penalty while participating in any of

these games, that club shall report the details of this incident in writing postmarked or e-mailed within five (5) days of the incident to the MVCHA Disciplinary Committee Chairman in order to determine if additional action is required by the MVCHA Board of Directors. Failure to report such an incident shall result in a monetary fine of two hundred dollars (\$200) and possible additional suspensions and/or disciplinary action. Suspension penalties received by the player(s) and/or team official(s) will not count in the total required for suspension and/or fines from the League. (See 9-G-4 and 2-P-3)

Suspension penalties received by player(s) and/or team official(s) in a pre-season game can be served in another pre-season game. If a suspension penalty is received in the last scheduled pre-season game just prior to the team's first League game, then the penalty must be served in the first League game.

1-G-5 TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS AND GAME DAY PHOTOS

All varsity and junior varsity teams are encouraged to have team pictures taken. No electronic flash equipment may be used for photographs during any MVCHA game.

1-G-6 USE OF THE MVCHA NAME

The use of the Mississippi Valley High School Club Hockey Association name or its abbreviation, MVCHA, for any Tournament or other function, to include social media, without approval from the MVCHA in writing is prohibited. Any request for permission to use the Mississippi Valley High School Club Hockey Association name or its abbreviation, MVCHA must be submitted via e-mail to the MVCHA President and must include a description of the desired use to include location, purpose and length of time for use.

1-G-7 TEAM ANNOUNCEMENTS AT LEAGUE GAMES

Home Teams are required to have a game announcer at all home games for both varsity and junior varsity. Teams that fail to provide an announcer will be fined \$25.00 per game. Teams are allowed to make announcements at league games provided they are not considered offensive and are done in good taste.

1-G-8 MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA

A. INTRODUCTION

This Social Media and Networking Policy will encompass public communications through such internet mediums and Websites such as: X (formerly known as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Truth Social, WhatsApp, GroupMe and or any other social media network that allows users to communicate online. The Policy will apply to all members of the MVCHA Community, including MVCHA Board Members, Club Board Members, Clubs, Coaching Staff, Volunteers, Players, Parents, and both on-ice and off-ice officials.

The MVCHA recognizes and appreciates the value of social media and the importance of social networking to all of its stakeholders. The MVCHA also respects the right of all members and affiliates to express their views publicly. At the same time, we must be aware of the potential issues that social media and networking can present.

The purpose of this policy is to educate the MVCHA Community on the risks of social media and to ensure all members and affiliates are aware that conduct deemed to be inappropriate may be subject to disciplinary action by the MVCHA Board of Directors.

Blogs, social networks, and websites such as listed above, are exciting communication channels to share positive hockey experiences and achievements. The MVCHA supports participation and involvement with social media communities and will view comments and posts as public information.

The following general recommendations have been developed as guidelines to follow when posting to a blog or some other form of social media.

1. Think before you post
2. Respect the community in which you are posting
3. Be enthusiastic
4. Do not post personal information
5. Be accurate
6. Posting inappropriate pictures may cause issues for you, your team and your organization.
7. Double check your privacy/security settings
8. Personal Social Media Accounts should have the following disclaimer "View expressed are my own and don't necessarily reflect that of (insert team name)"

B. SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

1. The MVCHA holds all members who participate in social networking to the same standards as it does for all other forms of media including radio, television and print.
2. Comments or remarks of an inappropriate nature that are detrimental to an individual, a Team or the Association

will not be tolerated.

3. It should be recognized that social media and comments such as “texting” are on the record and can be instantly replicated, shared and published. Everyone, including Association and /or Team Personnel, players, corporate partners, and the media, can review social media communications. You should always conduct yourself appropriately and professionally.
4. Use your best judgement at all times – pause before posting or sending. Once comments are posted or sent, they cannot be retracted and are subject to interpretation by the receiver/viewer. Ultimately, you are solely responsible for your comments.

C. SOCIAL MEDIA VIOLATIONS

The following are examples of conduct through media, social media, and networking mediums that are considered violations of the MVCHA Social Media and Networking Policy and may be subject to disciplinary action by the MVCHA.

1. Any statement deemed publicly critical of Association officials or detrimental to the welfare of an individual, any team, or the Association.
2. Divulging confidential information that may include but is not limited to: Player injuries, penalties or suspensions, or any other matter of a sensitive nature to an individual, a team, an official or the Association.
3. Negative or derogatory comments about any of the Terms, and /or players or officials.
4. Any form of bullying, harassment, intimidation, or threats against players or officials.
5. Photographs, videos or comments promoting negative influences or criminal behavior including but not limited to drug use, alcohol abuse, public intoxication, hazing, sexual exploitation, etc.
6. Online activity that contradicts the current policies of the MVCHA or any of its members Associations.
7. Inappropriate, derogatory, racist or sexist comment of any kind.
8. Online activity that is meant to harm other individuals or to misrepresent fact or truth.

D. DISCIPLINE

1. The MVCHA will investigate reported violation(s) of this policy. If the investigations determines that a violation has occurred, the MVCHA Board of Directors will impose appropriate suspensions and/or fines. This decision is not subject to appeal.
2. The Club found in violation will be issued a fine for the violation, and violations will be handed down to the Club and not Club's Individual(s). Fines will start at \$150.00 for the first offense from a Club and will double for each following offense.

E. SUMMARY

When using Social Media and Networking platforms, The MVCHA community should assume at all times they are representing their team and/or the MVCHA. All members of the MVCHA community should remember to use the same differences with texting, social media, Team live stream of games, and networking as they do with other traditional forms of media.

1-G-9 GAME FACILITY GUIDELINES

On behalf of the MVCHA, we would like to ensure that all of our leagues' rinks run operations as close to the same as possible, to ensure there is no confusion from rink to rink throughout the season.

A. Cleanliness:

- a. The facility should include a consistent level of cleanliness that provides safety and comfort for everyone who enters. Mitigate the spread of easily transmittable germs and illnesses by ensuring that your facility is going above and beyond to create a healthy and clean environment. Showing consideration for your guests and team leaves a positive, lasting impression of a facility that strives to put its people first.

B. MVCHA Gate:

- a. \$5 per person for all games
- b. \$4 per student with school ID or younger
- c. \$8 per person for All Star Games ONLY

C. Staffing that will be provided by the east-side rinks:

- a. Rink evening supervisor
- b. Zamboni/Maintenance worker
- c. Cashier
- d. Ticket Taker
- e. Timekeeper*
- f. Scorekeeper*
- g. Every effort will be made to have a police presence if needed (Ex.: providing a schedule to local agencies and requesting a walk-through during games as available), however not guaranteed.
- h. Concessions & Pro shop areas will remain open during games where this applies
- i. We ask in an effort to help the rinks as well, that your concession be stocked and manned for

patrons

***Please note that a timekeeper AND scorekeeper are required for all games, unless there is an emergency staffing situation. The cost of the timekeeper is built into the gate split; the MVCHA pays \$25 per game for the scorekeeper staffing**

- D. All rinks will collect gate/admission in one area and take tickets/stamp hands within the arena.**
- a. Rinks will restrict fans to the bleacher area only.**
 - b. In an effort to protect our athletes we ask that only allowed personnel (coaches, referees, players in the following game, etc.) are allowed past a certain point**
 - i. East Alton - No fans past the far water fountain area in the arena**
 - ii. Granite City - No fans past the goal line on either side of the arena**
 - iii. McKendree Metro Plex - No fans behind the player benches or down by the glass; there are to be no fans in the "VIP" upper section behind the player benches as well**
 - iv. RP Lumber Center - No fans past the doors closest to concession; no fans allowed on the track**
- **In the event that overflow is needed due to high attendance, the rink may allow fans outside of assigned areas, however, please keep spectators away from designated team, referee, and announcing areas.**
- c. Should there be a complaint regarding any of the ice rinks handling game day operations, policies, and/or procedures, a rep from the MVCHA BOD will contact the rink and come to the next game to discuss recommendations and remedies.**
- E. Team game staff:**
- a. Each team will be required to provide a 50/50 seller, team rep, penalty box attendant, and announcer as in the past.**
 - b. These volunteers will sign in at the designated area in each area to pick up a badge.**
 - c. The Game Day Rep must provide a phone number for emergency situations.**
 - d. Badges will be provided by the MVCHA. Should the badge be taken home mistakenly, or misplaced, the rink shall contact the MVCHA game day chair to obtain new ones.**
 - e. Team Reps & MVHCA Reps must check in with the rink evening supervisor to ensure they are aware of who they are and where they will be seated in case of an issue.**

Section 2: OFFICIAL TEAM ROSTER & REGISTRATION

2-G-1 ROSTER

- F. Each team, both varsity and junior varsity, must submit their roster to the League Registrar by electronic means in numerical order by jersey number with no more than 25 players per team, on or before September 15th. Any club that cannot submit this form and any subsequent changes electronically will need special permission from the League registrar to submit their roster by other means. A team with fewer than 25 names on the original roster is permitted to add additional players to their roster, bringing the maximum number to 25. (See Pool Player Draft rules for exceptions). No player may be dropped from the original roster, but hardship cases may be reviewed by the Rules Committee. Failure To comply with the above deadline will result in a \$200.00 fine to the team and the team will not be allowed to compete until the fine is paid in full. (See 1-JV-2)**
- G. No out of district players will be allowed, except those players assigned by the Pool Player Draft.**
- H. If a team has been formed or will be formed for the new season at the player's school of current attendance, the player must play at that school. The player will not be allowed to play for any other high school team in the MVCHA or for any team in any other high school League.**
- I. MVCHA clubs must have at least two (2) coaches of record, who are properly certified and registered with USA Hockey prior to the start of the regular League season. (See 6-P-3-A)**
- J. Any team that has more than one JV team or more than one Varsity team must identify which team their swing players will be rostered to prior to the beginning of the season. (See Rule 1-JV-2)**
- K. Players who attend a high school of a combined/merged team MUST play for the combined/merged team and will not have the option to play for another MVCHA team or go into the draft.**
- L. At no time may an individual player nor entire team, while playing in the MVCHA, play in another High School League during the same season at the same level (JV, Varsity, or "B"), (example: MVCHA and Mid-States)**

2-G-2 ROSTER ADDITIONS

- A. Additions to a team's roster up to a maximum of 25 players per team can be made at any time up to December 31. (See Pool Player Draft rules for exceptions). The team must submit its request for additions by, e-mail to the League Registrar. The request should state the name of the player and any other information required on the original roster. (See 2-G-3, 2-G-4) The new player(s) will not be allowed to play until the third day after the postmark on the certified letter, three days from the sent date of the e-mail or three days after hand delivery unless the League registrar approves and notifies the team of earlier eligibility.**
- B. A player can be transferred from the junior varsity to the varsity roster at any time with the permission of the MVCHA**

President by giving verbal or written notice 12 hours prior to the next varsity game time (Rule 3-JV-1 applies).

- C. Failure to comply with the procedures for additions to the roster may result in forfeiture of games or fines as determined by the MVCHA Board of Directors.

2-G-3 REGISTRATION FORMS

- A. Prior to a player's participation in any MVCHA club's activities beginning Aug 31, each player will complete an on-line USA Hockey registration and "Waiver of Liability, Release of Assumption & Indemnity Agreement" form and provide a copy of confirmation of such to his/her member club to keep on file. The player will pay all appropriate fees directly to USA Hockey and Missouri Hockey via the on-line registration process by Aug for the USA Hockey IMR insurance. The member club will provide copies of the Confirmation of USA Hockey registration to the MVCHA Registrar by Aug 31.
- B. Players permanently dismissed from a MVCHA club due to disciplinary reasons or due to graduation prior to the end of the season, (unless governed by rule 7-G-3), must be designated as such on the appropriate varsity or junior varsity roster. The roster will be updated with a "D" in the Change column and the player's name shall remain on the roster. The updated roster must be electronically transmitted to the League registrar within five (5) days of the event. Injured players are not to be deleted from the roster. Failure to comply with these rules may result in game forfeiture(s) and/or fines as determined by the MVCHA Board of Directors.
- C. Players who have had their date of birth verified through USA Hockey do NOT need to have a birth certificate with the team documents. Players who do not have their date of birth verified through USA Hockey ARE required to have a birth certificate or other USA Hockey approved form of identification which includes any government issued document, including passport, military ID or a state issued ID with the team documents.

2-G-4 POOL PLAYER DRAFT

A pool player draft will be held in mid to late August. Clubs (combined varsity and junior varsity teams) must have no more than 24 rostered players, including 8th graders, in order to participate in the draft. Clubs that do not have at least two rostered goalies are also eligible for the goalie pool player draft. In general:

- A. The pool player draft will be in two parts, an 8th grade and a 9th thru 12th grade draft.
- B. The Annual MVCHA Pool Player Draft Rules will specify rules and eligibility requirements for the draft each year. Full details of the rules governing this section are listed in the document "MVCHA Pool Player Draft".
- C. DRAFT GUIDELINES & RULES
 - 1) Pool Player Draft Mission: To allow clubs that do not have large numbers of players to "draft" available players from a "blind" pool. To allow players that do not have an MVCHA High School team in their district, including "home schooled" students and private school students, or players cut from MVCHA teams to enter a pool player draft.
 - 2) Frozen Rosters of Teams Entering The Draft:
 - i) Clubs must note that a completed IMR listing of all players on the team must be received by the Registrar at least **48 hours before the draft is held**. This IMR listing will be considered the same as a roster for draft purposes only.
 - ii) Clubs must notify the MVCHA Board of their intent to participate in the draft at least **48 hours before the draft is held**. At that time the MVCHA Board will verify that the completed IMR list was turned in to the Registrar. Teams not following the above rules will not be eligible for the draft – no exceptions!!
 - iii) Teams declaring entrance into the draft will not be allowed to lower their roster number once they have entered the draft, without permission of the Pool Player Draft Committee.
 - iv) Drafting clubs will not be allowed to add players after the day of the draft.
 - v) Clubs who do not receive any players through the draft, due to lack of players in the draft, will be allowed to unfreeze their roster to add players.
 - 3) Eligibility For Clubs To Enter Pool Player Draft:
 - i) Clubs must have a minimum of twelve players rostered in order to participate in the MVCHA league and participate in the pool player draft.
 - ii) Clubs must have no more than 24 rostered players in order to participate in the pool player draft.
 - iii) Clubs that do not have at least two rostered goalies at each level (including swing) are eligible for the "goalie" Pool Player Draft.
 - iv) Any club that cuts a player is ineligible to enter the draft.
 - v) Merged Clubs will be allowed in the draft if all other eligibility requirements are met.
 - vi) Newly formed clubs will be allowed in the "Goalie" Player Pool Draft.
 - 4) Eligibility For Players To Enter Pool Player Draft:
 - i) Any 8th through 12th grader who resides in the area who is enrolled in a public or private High School or Junior High School that does not have a hockey team registered in the MVCHA, is eligible for entry in the Pool Player Draft.
 - ii) Any 8th through 12th grader who is Home Schooled at the Junior High or High School level, who lives in a school district that does not have an MVCHA team is eligible for entry in the Pool Player Draft.
 - iii) Any player cut from an MVCHA team, including Missouri MVCHA affiliated teams, is eligible for this draft.
 - iv) Any person who is Home Schooled or attends a Parochial or Private School, and lives in a school district where there is an MVCHA team, will be eligible to play for that MVCHA team without entering the Pool Player Draft.

5) Pool Player Draft Process:

- i) All players wishing to enter the Pool Player Draft must submit the completed Player Entry/Information form along with the required deposit, postmarked no later than at least **48 hours before the draft is held.**
 - ii) The pool player draft will be broken down by grade levels. There will be an 8th grade draft first, for those who will be eligible, by virtue of their birth year, to play JV only; followed by a 9th through 12th grade draft, for those who are eligible to play varsity. Each draft will be held separately.
 - iii) There will be both an “out-skater” draft and a “goalie” draft at both grade levels, each held separately.
 - iv) The goalie draft will be held first, if any. If a team drafts a goalie, their total number of combined JV and Varsity rostered players will increase, and their respective JV roster or Varsity roster will increase, affecting their eligibility and positioning for the out-skater draft at both the 8th grade level and the 9th through 12th grade level.
 - v) The order of teams that pick in the draft will be determined by each entered team’s number of rostered players. In addition to providing the total number of players of their combined JV and Varsity roster, teams must report their total number of JV players, and their total number of Varsity players separately. Since the JV and Varsity drafts will be held separately, drafting an 8th grader who is eligible to play only JV will not change the number of the team’s Varsity roster. However, drafting any goalie will change the team’s total combined (JV and Varsity) roster number.
 - vi) The MVCHA Representative for the Pool Player Draft will have the final determination as to the breakdown of the groups and which geographic area each applicant falls under. Every effort will be made to keep players in their geographic area (North/West or South/East).
 - vii) In the event that a drafted player has a sibling(s) wishing to be drafted, the drafting team must also take the sibling(s). If the drafting team does not have room for the sibling(s) or would break the maximum allowed, the player will be returned to the draft box and another player will be picked.
 - viii) If a drafted player has a sibling who comes of age to play in the MVCHA during the years that he/she is with that drafting team, the sibling will be allowed to play for the same team without having to enter the draft.
 - ix) Proof of **(Primary)** residence of parent/guardian (such as utility bill or occupancy permit) must accompany application or be presented no later than the day of the draft. No change of guardianship will be allowed to enter the draft.
 - x) If the player notes that he is willing to travel anywhere on his/her entry form, that player will be included in the other geographic area pool draft if he/she hasn’t been picked. All team picks in his/her area must be exhausted first.
 - xi) Before a team in one geographic area can pick a player from another geographic area, all players in the respective area must have been exhausted.
 - xii) All eligible Pool Player entry forms will be folded and put into a draft box.
 - xiii) Eligible teams wishing to draft will be allowed to pick in the order based on the number of players listed with the registrar prior to the draft. Ex: Team #1 has 14 listed players, team #2 has 15 listed players and team #3 has 16 listed players. Team #1 will pick first; Team #2 will pick second and Team #3 will pick third. In the event that there are teams “tied” in the number of rostered players, the Chairman will pick each team out of a hat. That order will remain for the duration of the draft.
 - xiv) Each team picks “blind” out of the draft box. The order of pick will continue until all teams in the draft are equal in the number of rostered players. In the above example, after the first-round pick, team #1 would pick two more times and team #2 would pick once and then all teams would pick on rotation. The maximum number of players that a team may pick is 8 total players.
 - xv) Once a team picks a player from the pool, that team must allow him a roster spot until graduation. Pool players are not allowed to be cut in order to make room on the roster at a later date. Teams wishing to cut a Pool Player (due to discipline, non-payment, move etc.) must petition the MVCHA Board to do so.
 - xvi) Once a team picks a player, that player must play for that team until graduation or risk being ineligible. Exceptions (moving, non- ability to pay, etc.) must be made to the MVCHA Board for approval in order to be eligible next year.
 - xvii) The MVCHA Representative will log each drafted player and the team that drafted them.
 - xviii) Once the Pool Player Draft is closed there will be no other drafts until the following season, unless a supplemental draft is deemed necessary by the MVCHA Board.
- (1) A supplemental draft will only be considered for teams who do not have a Goalie at the completion of the above noted Draft date. This draft will occur at least two weeks prior to the first scheduled MVCHA game.**

- 6) The MVCHA Board has the final decision on any matter covering the Pool Player draft that may come up; including any that is not covered in this guideline.

D. Special Notes On Pool Players:

- 1) Every effort must be made by the team to include the drafted player as a vital member of the team, no matter what the ability of that player. The reason a team drafts is that they may not be able to field a team. The drafted Pool Player is a means to keep a struggling team viable. Any abuse of this will be reported to the MVCHA Pool Player Committee for further review of future ability of the offending team to participate in future drafts.
- 2) Every effort must be made by the drafted player to strive to become a vital member of the team that drafted him, no

matter what the ability of that team. The reason a player is allowed into the Pool Player Draft is that he/she has no other means of playing High School Hockey and wishes to do so regardless of the team's competitiveness. Any abuse by a player (no-shows to practice or games, non-payment for no excuse, etc.) will be reported to the MVCHA Pool Player Committee for further review of future ability of the offending player to participate in future drafts.

- 3) Players cut from an MVCHA team who enter the Pool Player Draft, may try out for their regular MVCHA team in subsequent years. If they are cut again, they must re-enter the draft again. However, a player who chooses not to try out again for their regular MVCHA team will remain with the original drafting team.

Section 3: SCORING, SCORE SHEETS, STANDINGS & STATISTICS AND GAME ROSTERS

3-G-1 PLAYER LIST

Three (3) copies of a typed or legibly printed eligible player list for each game are to be submitted to the scorekeeper in numerical order by jersey number, with the starting lineup annotated. The player list must designate the captain and designated alternates and all coaches' certification card numbers, level and year obtained. Each team shall designate on the score sheet a Head Coach prior to the start of the game. The second copy of the player list will be for the coach of the opposing team. The third copy of the player list is for the opposing team's Team Rep who will use the roster to validate all players listed were actually dressed and on that team's bench by the end of the 2nd period per Section 3-G-3. All copies shall be presented to the scorekeeper no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled ice time. The scorekeeper will notify the referee prior to the start of the game of an infraction. The referee may assess a bench minor penalty (penalties) for blatant infractions. Suspended players and coaches must be listed in the appropriate space on the player list. The suspension will not be considered served until the player's name appears as suspended on the score sheet for the appropriate number of games at the appropriate level(s).

A swing player (a player who is listed on both the varsity and junior varsity rosters of an organization) who receives a suspension penalty in either a junior varsity or a varsity game will serve the suspension at both the JV and Varsity levels. They will serve the suspension at the level where assessed and will also serve the suspension for an equal number of games at the other level. Failure to do so will result in a one hundred dollars (\$100) fine per incident, to be paid by the club within five (5) days.

3-G-2 ADDING PLAYER

Once the game has started, an eligible player or goalkeeper may be added to the scoresheet during a stoppage of play provided no players are deleted from the game roster and maximum roster size has not been exceeded. The offending team shall be assessed a bench minor penalty for illegal substitution for each player added. Any goals scored by the player(s) will count.

3-G-3 NO SHOW PLAYERS ON SCORE SHEET

Any player who does not dress for the game but whose name is on the game score sheet will result in a penalty, monetary fine or other disciplinary action against the player, team and/or coach as determined by the MVCHA Board of Directors, for listing an illegal player. If a player is expected to arrive late, his/her name may be listed on the scoresheet. However, no-show player's names must be scratched from the scoresheet prior to completion of the second period. It is the coaches' responsibility to notify the scorekeeper and/or referee of late arrivals or no-shows.

3-G-4 SCORE SHEETS

MVCHA score sheets will be prepared in triplicate by the scorekeeper and will be distributed in the following manner:

- A. 1 copy (original) to the MVCHA Statistician
- B. 1 copy to the visiting team
- C. 1 copy to the home team

3-G-5 SIGNING SCORE SHEET

The referee in charge of the game must sign the score sheet. Prior to the start of the game, both teams' coaches are required to sign the designated area of the scoresheet to verify the opposing team's roster on scoresheet matches the suited players on bench. At conclusion of the game, both coaches MUST initial next to final score to ensure they are satisfied with the sheet and both team's rosters in completion. No changes shall be made to the score sheet without the approval of the referee and all changes shall be made on all copies with the referee's initials next to the change. The referee in charge of the game must sign or initial the score sheet after the game. The coach's signature does not relinquish the right to protest, nor does it excuse the coach from recognizing penalties/suspensions, etc. Failure to sign the score sheet may result in game forfeiture.

The scorekeeper in charge must sign the scoresheet, along with the coaches of both teams, to ensure that it matches the suited players on the bench. At the conclusion of the game, both coaches MUST initial next to final score to ensure they are satisfied

with the sheet and both team's rosters in completion. No changes shall be made to the score sheet without the approval of the referee and all changes shall be made on all copies with the referee's initials next to the change. The referee in charge of the game must sign or initial the score sheet after the game. The coach's signature does not relinquish the right to protest, nor does it excuse the coach from recognizing penalties/suspensions, etc. Failure to sign and initial, the score sheet WILL result in game forfeiture.

3-G-6 STATISTICS

The MVCHA Statistician will maintain the official record of League standings and individual player statistics for administrative purposes and use by the MVCHA Board of Directors. Each team is responsible for maintaining a complete and accurate record of their players' statistics and penalties, and to ensure each player's eligibility to play in each game. No changes will be made 24hrs following games.

3-G-7 STANDINGS

Final division standings shall be determined by total game points in regular season League play. If there is a tie in game points, standings shall be determined as follows:

- A. Total points between the tied teams in games against each other
- B. Total number of wins in all regular season League games
- C. The goal differential in games played head-to-head involving the tied teams
- D. The goal differential (goals for minus goals against) in all regular season League games
- E. Fewest goals against in regular season League games.
- F. Most goals in regular season League games.

Should a tie still exist at this point, the final team/division standings shall be determined by the flip of a coin by the MVCHA President while the tied teams' representatives are present.

3-G-8 POINTS EARNED

- A. A. 2 points are earned by the winning team.
- B. B. 1 point is earned by each team for a tie.
- C. C. No points are earned by the losing team.
- D. D. Players earn 1 point for each goal scored and 1 point each for first and second assists.
- E. E. In forfeited games: The forfeiting team will not be credited with any goals or points. The other team will be credited with two (2) points and all the goals they have scored. The winning goaltender will not be awarded a shutout for a forfeited game.

Section 4: UNIFORMS & PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

4-G-1 UNIFORMS

- A. All players on a team must be dressed in similar color and design jerseys, pants, socks, and helmets worn in the intended manner and in reasonable condition and repair. Failure to have proper uniforms during the game will disqualify those players from that game until the violation is corrected and a two (2) minute penalty will also be assessed. The MVCHA Board of Directors may give a written waiver to this rule, but the team must have this waiver present at each game. Under no circumstances will a player display on his/her uniform anything other than the school name, logo, player's name and number, or captaincy designation. Advertising, sponsors, and other information must be approved by and in accordance with MVCHA guidelines for sponsorship advertising.
- B. Goaltenders are required to wear team socks but are not required to wear the team helmet.
- C. If for any reason one or more schools consolidate with the approval of MVCHA.
- D. The home team will wear light color uniforms. The away team will wear dark color uniforms.
- E. Players of a combined/merged team must wear the uniform of the combined/merged team unless they are a senior the first year of the combined/merged team and in that year they may have a helmet waiver.

4-G-2 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Each participant is personally responsible to wear protective equipment for all games, warm-ups and practices. Such equipment should include gloves, shin pads, shoulder pads, elbow pads, hip pads or padded hockey pants, protective cup, tendon pads plus all head protective equipment as required by USA Hockey rules. It is recommended that all protective equipment be designed specifically for ice hockey. All protective equipment, except gloves, padded hockey pants, helmet/facemask and goalkeeper's leg guards, must be worn under the uniform. For violation of this rule after a warning

by the Referee a minor penalty for an equipment violation shall be imposed. *(Note) Players, including goalkeepers, violating this rule shall not be permitted to participate in the game until such equipment has been corrected or removed.*

If the goalkeeper's helmet/facemask comes off during play, the Referee or Linesman shall stop play immediately. If a player's helmet/facemask comes off during play, the Referee or Linesman shall stop play immediately. The player shall be ruled off the ice and may not participate in the game until completion of the ensuing face-off.

A minor penalty for delay of game shall be assessed to a goalkeeper or player who causes a stoppage of play by deliberately removing his helmet/facemask during play.

It is compulsory for all players to wear a hockey helmet, with helmet strap properly fastened. It is mandatory that all players wear a HECC approved helmet (including ear protection). All players, including goalkeepers, are required to wear a facemask certified by HECC, plus any chin protection that accompanies the facemask. (Note) Any helmet or facemask that is altered except as permitted in USA Hockey Rule 304(b) shall be deemed to be illegal equipment and shall not be allowed to be used in a game. (This shall include helmets from which a part has been cut or removed, from which the chin-cup has been removed or any other such alterations from the original manufacturing specifications.)

All players on the players' and the penalty bench must wear the protective helmet/facemask while in the bench area. For a violation of this rule, after a warning by the Referee, a misconduct penalty for an equipment violation shall be assessed to the offending player.

4-G-3 MOUTHPIECE

During all games, warm-ups and practices, all players, including goalkeepers, are required to wear a colored (non-clear) internal mouthpiece that covers all the remaining teeth of one jaw, customarily the upper. For the first violation of this rule, the team shall be issued a warning. A misconduct penalty for an equipment violation shall be assessed to any player or goalkeeper of that team for a subsequent violation during that game. It is strongly recommended, in all classifications, that all players wear a mouthpiece form fitted by a dentist.

4-G-4 – NECKGUARD

MVCHA will require the use of neck laceration protection be worn for all players in all MVCHA games and team practices. For the first violation of this rule, the team shall be issued a warning and player must immediately leave the ice and not return until the protector is worn. After a warning has been issued to a team, any subsequent player found to be in violation of not wearing neck laceration protection will result in a misconduct penalty for equipment violation for that player. The player will be required to leave the ice and rectify the equipment violation before returning.

4-G-5 FIRST AID KIT

Each team will have to have their own first aid kit and kit must be present on the bench at time the team takes the ice. A \$50 fine will be assessed by each team for any penalty assessed by referees during the game for not having a first aid kit on the bench (unless trainers are provided by MVCHA).

Section 5: INSURANCE

The MVCHA registrar shall submit the required USA Hockey information and fees to carry the USA Hockey Insurance (IMR) package liability coverage on all participating teams, players, coaches, and team managers. The member club will be responsible for submitting the required forms and fees to the MVCHA registrar within the appropriate time frame as outlined in the annual IMR submission package and the MVCHA letter of instruction. Member clubs are responsible for appointing a club registrar and submitting by e-mail such name to the MVCHA registrar by August 15 of each year. Failure to comply with this rule may result in fines and/or suspensions as determined by the MVCHA Board of Directors.

Section 6: CONDUCT

The MVCHA strongly endorses the USA Hockey zero tolerance policy for team officials, players and fans. Each team's coach shall have complete responsibility for and authority over the team's conduct, including the use of profanity. The coach shall at all times stress good sportsmanship and friendship. The MVCHA will investigate all incidents involving the conduct of its membership that may reflect upon the MVCHA in an unfavorable manner. This includes behavior in all locations, including, but not limited to, rink facilities, locker rooms, warming rooms, spectator stands, refreshment areas, and parking lots. The team's coordinator or a qualified substitute is encouraged to attend all of the team's games.

Section 7: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

7-G-1 MAXIMUM NUMBER - ROSTER and GAME

The number of players on the team roster may not exceed twenty-five (25) of which a maximum of twenty (20) may be suited for game play. Excluding goaltenders, no more than 18 players are allowed to be listed on the game roster. Violations of this rule may result in penalties, fines, and/or game forfeitures as determined by the Rules Committee and the MVCHA Board of Directors.

7-G-2 AGE and GRADE IN SCHOOL, "IN GOOD STANDING"

- A) Players of teams designated as varsity may be of various ages but must be in grades 9 through 12. They must be students of the public high school on whose roster they are listed or in the 9th grade of a junior high school in the same school district. Where more than one junior high school or senior high school exists in a district, the 9th grader is eligible to be on the high school club roster of that high school which the player must attend upon entering the 10th grade.
- 1) If a player is a student at an affiliated technical or vocational school, the MVCHA Board of Directors must be notified in writing prior to the start of the season or at the time of transfer.
 - 2) Home schooled students and students attending a private school that does not have an MVCHA team, who live in a school district with an MVCHA team, will play for that MVCHA team.
 - 3) Home schooled students and students attending a private school who live in a school district that does not have an MVCHA team may enter the Pool Player Draft.
 - 4) Students attending a private school that does have an MVCHA team will play for that team.
 - 5) Failure to comply with this rule may result in fines and/or suspensions as determined by the MVCHA Board of Directors.
- B) Players who are suspended or expelled from school are not considered in good standing and are, therefore, ineligible to participate in **all MVCHA team functions, practices and games** during the term of said suspension or expulsion.
- C) Players of teams designated as Junior Varsity must be born in years **2009 through 2012**. They must be students in a middle/junior high school and be eligible to attend an MVCHA member high school by virtue of their current (**PRIMARY**) residency in that school district. A parochial school is allowed to have an unlimited number of middle/junior high players, who were born in the required birth years making them eligible to play JV for the current season, rostered to that high school's junior varsity team without restrictions if these students:
- 1) are attending an approved parochial school in the club's diocese; or
 - 2) are the child of an alumni; or
 - 3) have a sibling that is or has already attended this school; or
 - 4) are in public school districts that don't have teams in this League in the diocese.
 - 5) will be attending said parochial school (official acceptance document needed) at the available opportunity. For example: if the parochial school is 9-12 only, the student must attend beginning in their 9th grade year. Failure to attend said school will result in the player immediately becoming ineligible for the MVCHA roster until the beginning of next season.

7-G-3 GRADUATION CREDITS COMPLETED

A player who has completed the requirements for graduation after the fall semester and is no longer attending high school after the 1st of the year shall be eligible to finish League games only if that player has attended the same high school for the previous three years plus the fall semester prior to graduation.

7-G-4 MAXIMUM AGE

A player becomes ineligible when he/she reaches the age of nineteen (19) prior to July 1st of the year in which the current season begins.

7-G-5 OUTSIDE LEAGUE SUSPENSIONS

When money is owed by any player removed from participation for more than a normal suspension in another hockey program (e.g. Missouri Amateur, Junior), the player shall have his/her eligibility in the MVCHA subject to review by the Disciplinary Committee. The request for this review shall originate from the suspending program.

7-G-6 MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SEASONS

A player shall not participate in more than four (4) seasons after the player's initial entry into the ninth (9th) grade. Placement of the player's name on the roster form constitutes a season. If after entry into the program a player becomes ineligible during the season (e.g. inadequate grades), this period shall count as a season.

7-G-7 ELIGIBILITY CHALLENGES, PROCEDURES, FORFEITURES & TIME LIMIT**A. CHALLENGES & PROCEDURES**

Any team that believes another team is playing an ineligible player under any section of these rules and bylaws must contact the MVCHA President in writing to request verification of the player's eligibility. The President will contact the player's coach, and/or coordinator, and/or player, and/or the player's parents or guardian to verify or support the player's eligibility. The player and/or the offending team's representative will be notified of the player's eligibility status by

certified letter or email within five (5) days after the initial verification request to the President with a copy to the challenging team's representative. If the offending team does not accept the judgment, then they may file a protest in writing within five (5) days of their receipt of the notification with the Chairman of the Rules Committee. This protest letter must state the reason why the player should be eligible in spite of the information furnished by the President. The Rules Committee shall meet within ten (10) days of the receipt of the protest letter. In order to review the protest, the coach, coordinator, player and the complaining party shall be required to attend the hearing. Failure to comply with the MVCHA President's request will offer the Rules Committee no alternative but to declare the player ineligible. The Rules Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors who will make the final decision.

B. FORFEITURE

Any games where the player's name appears on the official score sheet while in an ineligible status shall be forfeited and a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) per incident, to be paid by the club within five (5) days, will be assessed. (See 9-G-2)

C. TIME LIMIT

There is no time limit as to when player eligibility may be challenged for verification, but during the last twenty (20) days of the season, the Disciplinary Committee shall determine what sanctions shall be taken against the player, team or coach.

7-G-8 SCHOOL TRANSFERS**A. ELIGIBILITY**

A student is eligible to participate with his/her school's team in all on-ice activities forty-five (45) days after he/she is registered in good standing at that particular school. If a student is transferring from a public school with a current team in the MVCHA to a private school that has a current team in the MVCHA the waiting period will be three hundred sixty-five (365) days before the student is eligible to participate with his/her school's team in all on-ice activities.

B. TRANSFER NOTIFICATION

A player who transfers schools for any reason will not be eligible under any of the above rules until the MVCHA League Registrar is notified in writing of the transfer.

C. TRANSFER - FINANCIAL RELEASE

A player who transfers schools must have a written financial release from the player's previous team. When a financial release has been requested by a player, the former team has five (5) days in which to respond. If a response is not received within five (5) days, the MVCHA will assume that no financial obligation exists for that player.

A dated copy of the player's request letter must be sent to the MVCHA League office. This is only applicable to those financial obligations incurred over the last 365 days.

D. TRANSFER PENALTIES

A player and/or team that does not comply with the above transfer rules will be penalized with a \$100.00 fine and/or forfeiture of all games in which the player was rostered, as determined by the MVCHA Board of Directors.

7-G-9 ELIGIBILITY CHANGES & NOTIFICATION

Each team will immediately notify the MVCHA Registrar of any changes affecting the eligibility status of a player. Any team that sues or plays an ineligible player forfeits all games won in which the player was listed on the scoresheet and the player forfeits all individual records earned in the forfeited games and a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) per incident, to be paid by the club within five (5) days, will be assessed. (See 9-G-2)

7-G-10 PLAYOFF AND ALL-STAR ELIGIBILITY

A player must have played in Fifty percent (50%) of the regular season Varsity games (odd numbers rounded down) in order to be eligible for the Varsity playoffs and Varsity All Star Game. Players who are selected for the Varsity All-Star game are ineligible for the JV All Star Game. For Junior Varsity only players, the player must have played in Fifty percent (50%) of the regular season Junior Varsity games (odd numbers rounded down) to be eligible for the junior varsity playoffs and JV All Star Game. A swing junior varsity player must have played in two thirds (2/3) of junior varsity regular season games to be eligible for the junior varsity playoffs (See 2-JV-2). All requests for waiver to any and all rules regarding the eligibility of players for the playoffs must be referred to the Rules Committee Chairperson NO LATER THAN two (2) weeks prior to the start of the applicable playoffs at a date set and communicated by the Rules Committee Chairman. The MVCHA Board of Directors will review and vote on the Rules Committee recommendations. Game suspension penalties assessed during the regular season and the All-Star game, if applicable, will carry over into the play-offs.

7-G-11 HARDSHIP PROVISION

The Board of Directors may grant a student who does not meet the transfer standards eligibility when sufficient evidence is provided to show that it was necessary for the student to transfer because of unforeseen, unavoidable, or unusual circumstances including, but not limited to, broken home conditions, death of parent(s) or of guardian, or abandonment, and provided the transfer was not for athletic reasons and there was no undue influence.

Section 8: RECRUITING, AMATEUR STATUS & AWARDS**8-G-1 RECRUITING**

- A) If a player transfers from one school to another for the purpose of playing hockey and, if there has been undue influence by anyone connected directly or indirectly with the new school or with the hockey club at this school, the player shall be ineligible for 365 days from the date of transfer. Additionally, the hockey club at the new school shall be subject to dismissal from the MVCHA as determined by a hearing with the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will determine what shall constitute undue influence. Undue influence shall always include, but not be limited to, the following:
- 1) Offer or acceptance of a home or living quarters with any person affiliated with the hockey club. (Extenuating circumstances will be considered if presented to the Board of Directors.)
 - 2) Offer or acceptance of any club privilege not available to other team or club members.
 - 3) Payment of moving expenses, rent, or providing employment by the hockey club, as related to the parents/guardians or the player.

8-G-2 AMATEUR STATUS

- A) A player who represents a team shall be an amateur in that sport and engage in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social and pleasure benefits derived there from. A player becomes ineligible for further participation in the MVCHA League by:
- 1) Competing for money or accepting money, or other monetary compensation. (It is permissible for a player to accept necessary meals, lodging and transportation, when connected with playing in a contest).
 - 2) Receiving any award or prize of monetary value which exceeds a monetary value of \$15.00
 - 3) Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money, gifts of monetary value, or merchandise.
- B) Amateur status shall not be jeopardized by accepting a nominal, standard fee, or salary for instructing, supervising, or officiating in organized youth sports programs, recreations, or playground activities.

8-G-3 AWARDS

Only symbolic awards of no intrinsic value may be accepted by a player as a result of participation in a hockey program.

- A) A player may receive the following without violating this standard: unattached school letters or emblems, medals ribbons, plaques, trophies, and certificates.
- B) B. A player shall not accept or compete for the following types of awards: services, cash, gift certificates, jewelry, blankets, balls, watches, etc., regardless of their value.
- C) C. This standard shall not prevent a player from signing an agreement that binds him/her to play only for a particular team
- D) D. Awards in the form of high school scholarship or concessions on tuition because of athletic ability shall cause the player to be ineligible for future competition.

Section 9: SUPPLEMENTARY DISCIPLINE & FINES**9-G-1 AUTHORITY OF THE MVCHA**

At the conclusion of a game or season the MVCHA Board of Directors may, at their discretion, investigate any incident, game related or not, that occurs, and may assess suspensions and/or fines, in addition to any suspensions and/or fines that have already been imposed under MVCHA Hockey or USA Hockey rules, for any offense committed by a player, trainer, manager, coach, or team official, whether or not such offense was penalized by the referee. The MVCHA Board of Directors will be required to contact the offending party or parties so they may present their side of the incident before additional penalties are imposed.

9-G-2 FINE FOR INELIGIBLE PLAYER

Any club playing or listing an ineligible player(s) on the scoresheet during League games will result in a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) per game to be paid by the club within five (5) days as well as forfeiture of those games(s) in which the player participated while ineligible. The team's coach will appear before the MVCHA Board of Directors for possible disciplinary action. **Any team found playing one half or more of the regular season total games with an ineligible player, the entire**

team will be ineligible for playoff participation for that year.

9-G-3 FINE FOR SUSPENSIONS NOT SERVICEABLE

All game suspensions received by players and coaches in the last game(s) that cannot be served during the current season will result in a maximum fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) per violation to be paid by the club within five (5) days. If the player or coach serves the game suspension(s) in the first game(s) of the subsequent season, the club may apply in writing to the MVCHA Board within five (5) days of serving the suspension for a credit in the amount of the fine. Failure to recognize and pay this fine may result in additional fines and/or penalties as determined by the Rules Committee.

9-G-4 FINES - FIFTH GAME SUSPENSION

Beginning October 1st of each season, after a team has played four games in which a player, coach, and/or administrator has been removed from the game (this includes game suspensions), the team shall be subject to the following penalty: On the commission of an offense in the fifth game, the team will be fined \$ 100.00, payable to the MVCHA within five (5) days, and the team will be suspended from the League and will forfeit all games after the five day period until the fine is paid. It is the responsibility of the team to recognize the fifth offense and to pay the fine. Ignorance is no excuse since every team has a copy of the score sheet.

For each offense after the fifth the fine shall be increased \$50.00; i.e. 6th \$150.00, 7th \$200.00, 8th \$250.00, etc., all payable within five (5) days. On the sixth offense the head coach of record shall be suspended for one game and, on the seventh offense, the head coach of record shall be suspended indefinitely until a hearing before the Disciplinary Committee. Fines payable to MVCHA are due within five (5) days of the incident. The team will forfeit all games played after the five-day period if payment has not been received.

Penalties incurred by the head coach with regard to his/her team receiving fifteen (15) or more penalties in one game will be counted with regard to this ruling. (See 2-P-3)

9-G-5 50/50 TICKET SALES

Teams are no longer required to sell 50/50 tickets at each home game.

Section 10: PROTESTS & APPEALS

10-G-1 AUTHORITY & DECISIONS BY THE MVCHA

Commissioners can be appointed by the MVCHA President and shall have authority over matters pertaining to the application of rules, regulations, and game situations, as well as disciplinary and protest matters. Such commissioners are responsible to the MVCHA Board of Directors.

10-G-2 PROTESTS INVOLVING MVCHA RULES

If a member club feels that another club has violated the rules of the MVCHA, the protesting club may lodge a formal written protest with the MVCHA President within five (5) days of the alleged rule violation, accompanied by a fee of fifty dollars (\$50). This section does not apply to eligibility challenges under Rule 7-G-8. This fee will be refunded only in the event of a ruling in favor of the protesting club. (See 5-P-1)

10-G-3 FIRST APPEAL

If a member club or penalized party feels that a ruling has been in error, that club or party may lodge a formal written protest with the MVCHA President within five (5) days (See 5-P-1) of notice of the ruling. This written protest shall contain all pertinent details of the case and shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50.00.

In the case of particularly controversial matters, and those for which there is no clear-cut rule or precedent, the President may choose and has the right to refer the matter directly to the Disciplinary Committee.

The Disciplinary Committee shall review the information presented and either decline to review the matter or investigate it further according to the merits of the case. If further study is needed the Disciplinary Committee will hold a formal hearing with all participants in the dispute present, including the President, within ten (10) days after receipt of written notice of such appeal and issue a decision as expeditiously as possible.

The appeal fee at each level of appeal shall be refundable only in the event of a ruling in favor of the appealing member or party. Any suspension or other disciplinary action shall remain in effect during the entire appeal procedure unless suspended or changed by any appeal decision.

10-G-4 SECOND APPEAL

If the Disciplinary Committee declines at any stage of its investigation to review the first appeal or, if after a formal hearing they rule against the first appeal, the protest may be taken to the MVCHA Board of Directors. The appeal must be presented to the MVCHA, in written form, accompanied by a check for an additional \$50.00, within five (5) days of receipt of the written notice from the Disciplinary Committee. The MVCHA Board of Directors will expeditiously consider the appeal and issue its conclusion in writing.

10-G-5 THIRD APPEAL

If the MVCHA Board of Directors declines at any stage of its investigation to review the second appeal or, if after a formal hearing, they rule against the second appeal, the protest may be taken to the **Missouri Hockey Board**. The written appeal must be presented within five (5) days of receipt of the written notice of the MVCHA Board of Directors ruling and accompanied by a check for \$50.00.

No appeal to the USA Hockey Board will be considered appropriate for any penalty to an individual unless said penalty is greater than three (3) games.

10-G-6 LAWSUITS

Any recourse to the courts of any jurisdiction by any individual or group of individuals before all of the appeals procedures outlined in the MVCHA and USA Hockey Rules, Regulations and Procedures have been exhausted will subject such litigants to immediate suspension or permanent disqualification.

Section 11: RULE CHANGES**11-G-1 MVCHA RULE BOOK**

No changes in the MVCHA general and playing rules will take place after the publication of the annual Official Ice Hockey Rule Book.

11-G-2 PLAYOFFS

No changes in the playoff rules will take place after the publication of the playoff format.

PLAYING RULES**Section 1: REGULATION PLAY - TIME OF MATCH****1-P-1 OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES**

All games will be played in accordance with the Amateur Hockey Association of the United States (USA Hockey) Official Playing Rules (current edition), except as specifically modified herein.

1-P-2 PLAYING TIME ALLOWED

A. REGULAR VARSITY LEAGUE GAMES: After a three (3) minute warm-up, the game shall proceed as follows: 1st period 14 min. clock stop time 30 sec. break

2nd period 14 min. clock stop time 30 sec. break

3rd period 14 min. clock stop time

Time out One – thirty (30) second time out allowed per team per game.

Minor penalties will be assessed at 2:00 per incident

Major penalties will be assessed at 5:00 per incident

B. SHORTAGE OF TIME REMAINING: The game clock will be shortened to two minutes of playing time at the first stoppage of play when five minutes of ice time remain. The decisions pertaining to the length of the game made by the referee are final and are not subject to any appeal or protest.

C. TIME BETWEEN PERIODS: At the end of the three (3) minute pre-game warm-up and in between periods, the timekeeper will place 30 seconds on the game clock. The game will start at the end of that 30-second period. Any team not ready to start will, at the discretion of the referee, be assessed a minor penalty (2 minutes) for delay of game.

1-P-3 TIED GAMES: Regular season games may end in a tie. Tiebreakers will only be played during **deciding** playoff games, in accordance with playoff rules issued by the MVCHA.

1-P-4 EARLY TERMINATIONS

- A. SEVEN (7) GOAL LEAD:** If, after the completion of the second period of play, or any time during the third period of play, a team has or attains a seven (7) goal lead over the opposing team, the game will proceed from that point as a running time game. The game clock will be stopped for injuries and the recording of penalties and goals. The game will return to stop time if the lead is cut to less than seven (7) goals.
- B. TWELVE (12) GOAL LEAD:** If a team obtains a twelve (12) goal lead at any time during the game, the game will be terminated at that point and both teams will leave the ice.
- C. SHORTAGE OF TIME REMAINING:** The reducing of playing time due to the lack of allotted time does not preclude each team's ability to call a thirty (30) second timeout.

1-P-5 HANDSHAKE

The teams may exchange the traditional handshake. If the referee determines that the handshake should be suspended the referee will so notify both teams' coaches.

Section 2: PENALTIES

Penalties will be assessed and served in accordance with USA Hockey official playing rules except as otherwise stated in this section. **At the disciplinary committee's discretion, it may use any non-edited video that it can obtain, from outside sources, of the event to use in its review and decisions. The committee will only review the actual event that was called by the referee and will not take into consideration any event(s) prior to the assessment of the penalty.**

2-P-1 GAME MISCONDUCT

A game misconduct penalty assessed against a player or team official will require suspension for the balance of that game and the next League scheduled regular season or playoff game. (See 3-JV-1) All players removed from the game must be accompanied to the locker room by a coach or the penalty box attendant.

2-P-2 COACH SUSPENSION

A coach who receives a suspension penalty in either a junior varsity or a varsity game will serve the suspension in the next League game at the level where assessed. (See 2-P-4)

Penalties incurred by the coach with regard to his/her team receiving **thirteen (13)** or more penalties in one game will be counted with regard to this ruling.

A suspended coach will not be allowed to communicate in any manner with his/her players or other coaches after the team leaves the locker room to enter the ice for the pre-game warm up. If, in the referees determination, communication is suspected, a two (2) minute unsportsmanlike penalty will be assessed and the suspended coach must then leave the premises. If the coach refuses, an additional two (2) minute delay of game penalty will be assessed. In all cases a hearing by the Disciplinary Committee will be held within ten (10) days and any additional penalties (e.g. game suspensions and/or fines) will take place after this hearing. (See 2-P-5)

2-P-3 THREE SERIOUS PENALTIES

Any player, coach, or team official accumulating three (3) serious penalties, including ten-minute check from behind, five-minute major or game misconducts in MVCHA games at the JV level or Varsity level must appear before the Disciplinary Committee and shall be suspended from play in the League until a hearing before the Disciplinary Committee. The accumulation of penalties will be counted separately at the JV and Varsity levels, however, if a swing player is suspended, he will serve the suspension at both levels. If the Disciplinary Committee does not meet to review the case within 7 days after the third (3rd) incident, the suspension shall be deemed terminated, provided that all game suspensions have been served in accordance with MVCHA rules. The offending party must then appear at the next scheduled Disciplinary Committee meeting. Once a player has accumulated three (3) serious penalties at either the JV or Varsity level, each subsequent ten-minute check from behind, five-minute major or game misconduct at the same level in League games shall carry the immediate suspension and review described above. It is the responsibility of the team to recognize such third (3rd) and subsequent incidents and self-impose the suspension and to advise the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee immediately so that the proper review may be held. This does not apply to third man in penalties or to coaches suspended with regard to the team receiving fifteen (15) or more penalties in one game. (See 9-G-4)

2-P-4 COACH OR TEAM OFFICIALS REFUSING TO LEAVE

A coach or team official receiving a game misconduct penalty shall not be on the bench, in the locker room or spectator area after this time. Any such person who offers assistance to the team will receive disciplinary action by the Disciplinary Committee or the MVCHA Board of Directors and may cause the team to forfeit the game when such action takes place. (See 2-P-2)

2-P-5 SUSPENSION CARRY-OVER

Any penalty that involves a suspension is understood to carry over into the playoffs. Penalties involving suspensions will not affect participation in the All-Star game, Skills Competition, or any other similar MVCHA activity. Penalties, which are incurred in an All-Star game, that involve a suspension will be served by the offending player or coach in their next League game.

2-P-6 SUSPENSIONS - RESCHEDULED GAMES

Players who were to serve their suspension during a canceled game (e.g. mutual agreement between coaches due to weather, poor conditions or facilities as determined by rink management or referees, and/or other MVCHA action) will serve the suspension at the next scheduled League regular season or playoff game. "Next scheduled" shall include any intervening make-up game that is scheduled by the League office. Any game scheduled by the offending team shall not count as service of the penalty.

2-P-7 ACCOSTING GAME OFFICIALS AND USE OF OBSCENITY

A player, coach or team official who assaults or accosts a game official in a disrespectful manner will be suspended from participation in League events until a hearing before the Disciplinary Committee. Game officials will include the League scorekeepers, MVCHA Board members or other game officials as well as the game referees.

Any player, coach or team official who receives a game misconduct for profanity, obscene gestures, racial slurs or physical abuse, whether directed toward game officials, players, team officials or spectators will appear before the disciplinary committee prior to becoming eligible to participate in League games.

Any player, coach or team official who uses social media to direct profanity, obscene gestures, racial slurs or verbal abuse, toward game officials, players, team officials, MVCHA board members or spectators will be immediately suspended and must appear before the disciplinary committee prior to becoming eligible to participate in any MVCHA activities.

2-P-8 HAZING INCIDENTS

It is the responsibility of every MVCHA team and its team officials to not encourage or tolerate hazing activities or player initiation rites or rituals. Reports of such activities will be aggressively investigated by the MVCHA Disciplinary Committee and, if necessary, civil authorities. If activities are found to be factual and evident, the head coach and other team officials will be held accountable. The head coach will be suspended for a period of time as determined by the Disciplinary Committee and the team will be fined an amount not to exceed five hundred (\$500) dollars.

2-P-9 – FIGHTING (FISTICUFFS)

- A. Any player who engages in fighting shall be assessed a major plus a game misconduct penalty.
- B. Any player or goalkeeper whose helmet/facemask comes off their head during an altercation shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.
- C. Any player who deliberately removes his (or opponent's) helmet/facemask before or during an altercation shall be assessed a match penalty.
- D. Any player or goalkeeper who is the first to intervene in an altercation that is in progress (third person in) shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.
- E. Any player who receives their second major penalty for fighting with the same team during the same season shall receive a three-game suspension. The suspension shall encompass the time it takes for the three games to be served at the level the penalty was received. Any player who receives a third fighting major in the same season shall be suspended from all MVCHA activities until a hearing is conducted by the proper authorities under USA Hockey Rule 410 Supplementary Discipline.

Section 3: INSTRUCTIONS TO REFEREE**3-P-1 REPORTING GAME MISCONDUCT and MATCH PENALTIES**

When a game misconduct or match penalty is administered there shall be clear notations on the score sheet and the penalty shall be reported to the Disciplinary Committee Chairman or to a designated substitute within 24 hours. Action will be taken against officials who fail to file a report.

3-P-2 REFUSING TO LEAVE AFTER SUSPENSION

Should a player receiving a suspension penalty refuse to leave the ice and bench area immediately, the referee shall issue a warning to the coach that he/she will invoke the rule of "refusal to obey a referee" and declare the game forfeit if the player does not leave the playing area and bench within one (1) minute.

3-P-3 OBSCENITIES

The referee is encouraged to use a zero-tolerance policy to any player or coach using obscene language, gestures, racial slurs or exhibiting other unsportsmanlike behavior. All individuals penalized for obscenity will appear before the Disciplinary Committee at its first convened meeting after the incident. Failure to appear will result in the individual becoming ineligible to participate in League games until an appearance is made. The Disciplinary Committee will have the right to impose further sanctions.

3-P-4 FAN CONDUCT

The referee is encouraged to use a zero-tolerance policy against a team for the unsportsmanlike conduct of its fans. The official is asked to bring the violation to the attention of the minor officials so that they can make an announcement to the crowd when possible. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include obscene cheers and other actions that would bring discredit upon the League. Action will be taken against all fans that are reported to violate the zero tolerance policy; which may include suspension from all MVCHA functions. MVCHA bans the use of artificial noise makers at all rinks and at all games. The MVCHA will only allow hats to be tossed on the ice when a player scores a "hat trick".

3-P-5 COACH ENTERING ICE

Any coach or other team official entering the ice without the consent of the referee may be assessed a bench minor penalty and may be subject to a suspension upon action by the Disciplinary Committee and the Board of Directors. Should such an incident occur, the referee will make a clear notation on the scoresheet.

3-P-6 DELAY OF GAME

When a penalty is called on a player, that player will immediately skate to the penalty box. Failure to do so shall result in an additional bench minor penalty for delay of game. The team captain or an alternate may speak to the referee who called the penalty for clarification. Any delay beyond the time necessary to receive such clarification will result in a bench minor penalty being called against the offending team. The referees are encouraged to assess a bench minor penalty for delay of game before assessing any misconduct penalty.

3-P-7 GOALKEEPER REPLACEMENT

Should a goalkeeper incur a game misconduct or a match penalty, his place will be taken by a member of his own team, or by a substitute or temporary goalkeeper who is available, and such player will be allowed the goalkeeper's full equipment. Any other penalties assessed to a goalkeeper, including minor, major, misconduct or match penalties, shall be served by another member of the team on the ice at the time the offense was committed. The player shall be designated by the Coach of the offending team through the Captain and such substitute may not be changed. (See USA Hockey Rule 407 (b)).

3-P-8 PENALTY NOMENCLATURE

It is most important that the game officials adhere strictly to the nomenclature of penalties, particularly match, misconduct and game misconduct penalties. When an official rules a player off the ice, the official must designate the offense and any special amount of time to the penalty timekeeper and shall have the penalty announced. The official must also see that such penalties are clearly recorded on the score sheet at the time of the occurrence and before play continues. No corrections are allowed on the score sheet after being signed by the referee unless such change is initiated by the referee.

In the event that an official score sheet is received by the League statistician with incorrect penalty nomenclature or lacking proper notation of automatic game suspension penalties, the appropriate changes will be made by the League statistician. Affected teams will be notified. These changes will be considered corrected clerical errors and are not subject to protest.

3-P-9 VIDEOTAPING

Game officials shall not be allowed to use videotaping during or after a game to assist in making any decisions.

Section 4: GAME SCHEDULE & CHANGES

4-P-1 GAME CHANGES

All MVCHA regular season and playoff games will be played at the time and place designated on the schedule. Coaches may not agree to change a game except as provided for in Rule 6-P-5. In cases of natural disaster, the MVCHA may reschedule a game with as little as 24-hour notice. If, because of unforeseen difficulties, a rink has trouble with ice or other equipment and the MVCHA Directors deem it unwise or unsafe to play a scheduled game at the designated time,

there will be no additional cost to the involved teams.

4-P-2 SUSPENDED GAMES

If a game has started but two periods are not complete and the referee suspends the game, the penalties are still in effect and any suspension shall be served in the next scheduled League game. When the game is rescheduled only those players' names that appeared on the original game score sheet are eligible for the rescheduled game. The game will start from the point it was suspended with penalties in effect.

If the game has completed two periods and is then suspended: The game will be considered complete at that point. Either team may appeal this decision to the MVCHA President.

Section 5: PROTESTS INVOLVING REFEREES' DECISIONS

5-P-1 PROTESTS

Protest of referee's decisions must be submitted in writing within five (5) days of the occurrence to the MVCHA Disciplinary Committee Chairperson, accompanied by a protest fee of \$50.00. The fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.

- A) Referee's judgment calls are non-protest actions (e.g. penalties that are assessed for cross-checking, high sticking, off-sides, goal or non-goal calls, etc.).
- B) Referee's decisions that are in conflict with non-judgment rules may be protested.
- C) The Disciplinary Committee Chairperson may hold a hearing within ten (10) days after receiving the written protest and shall respond within five (5) days thereafter.
- D) The burden of proof in all protests is on the person or team lodging the protest.
- E) The Board of Directors will determine the procedure used for protests during the playoffs.

Section 6: MISCELLANEOUS PLAYING PROCEDURES

6-P-1 INSUFFICIENT PLAYERS

A team must start a game with a minimum of six players. Any time that a team has been reduced to less than four players, the game shall be declared a forfeit. A maximum of 20 players, of which not more than 18 are skaters, shall be permitted to play in the game.

The game score for a forfeited game will be recorded as 0-1. Players' stats - goals and assists - scored in a game that is recorded as a forfeit are credited to the players who scored them, with the following exception: If a player was not on the team's official roster and/or not cleared by MVCHA registrar to play in a game, that player will not be given credit for playing in the game nor for goals and/or assists scored in the game.

If a player is on the team's official roster but is ineligible to play in a game due to suspension, and he/she plays in a game while ineligible, they must sit out their suspension in the next game(s) until the suspension has been fully served. Rules for playing an ineligible player still apply.

6-P-2 LATE ARRIVAL-SHORT TIME GAME

If either team arrives late but time permits at least two full periods to be played, the game shall be considered complete. Failure of a team to arrive and/or to play this short game shall be considered a forfeited game by the late or no-show team. Teams are asked to exercise all care to avoid a forfeit.

6-P-3 COACHES CERTIFICATION, SCREENING AND ELIGIBILITY

- A. All coaches must be properly certified in order to be eligible to coach an MVCHA team and must comply with the Coaching Education Program certification requirements as mandated by USA Hockey. Certification requirements can be found on the USA Hockey website, www.usahockey.com, under 'Coaches, Coaching Certification'. All teams must submit verification of their coaches' certification by Oct 31 of the current season to the MVCHA Game Day Chairperson. Verification must include CEP#, level and age-specific component, and date of expiration. A team that does not have properly certified coaches is subject to disciplinary action by the MVCHA Board of Directors.
- B. All Team board members and all volunteers who have routine access to the players as well as all Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers, Trainers, etc. must have a background check (screening) through Missouri Hockey, at their club's expense. Screening is good for three years. A roster of board members and completed safe-sport training will need to be submitted to MVCHA prior to the start of any season.
- C. A team must have two certified adults (age 18 or older) behind the bench before a game starts. Failure to comply may result in forfeiture of the game by the offending team if proper protest is made to the MCVHA within five (5) days.
- D. If at any time during the game, through penalties, illness, or any other reasons, there are no Team Officials on the players' bench to be in control of and responsible for the team, the game shall continue provided there is adult supervision on the

bench. If no adult supervision is available, the referee shall suspend the game and submit a report to the proper authorities.

6-P-4 LACK OF SUFFICIENT GAME OFFICIALS

All MVCHA games must be played with at least two (2) game officials on the ice and will not be played with only one (1) official. If only one game official is available, the Coaches or Managers of each team shall agree upon a replacement official. Preferably the replacement will have some MVCHA officiating experience. If the Coaches cannot agree upon the replacement official, one player from each team shall be appointed. The player of the Home Team will act as Referee, and the player of the Visiting Team as Linesman. It is important that the above guidelines are followed so that insurance coverage for all participants (players, Team Officials, On-Ice Officials) will remain intact.

6-P-5 WEATHER CANCELLATION PROCEDURES

The MVCHA will make the final decision on all-weather cancellations. MVCHA officials will notify both teams of cancellations at least three (3) hours before the scheduled game. The MVCHA will be responsible for rescheduling the canceled game.

6-P-6 FINES - INSUFFICIENT PLAYERS & NO-SHOW

Any team that forfeits a game due to lack of players or a no-show will be fined \$100.00, plus game expenses (\$300.00 varsity, \$250.00 junior varsity) payable to the MVCHA within five (5) days or the team may not be allowed to continue to play in the League. They may lose their eligibility for playoffs and may jeopardize their ability to participate in League play in future seasons.

6-P-7 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, SMOKING & CHEWING TOBACCO

No alcoholic beverages are permitted in the locker rooms, playing areas or in the spectators' area inside the rink. This rule pertains to players, coaches and spectators. Alcoholic consumption by persons age 21 or older may be permitted in some rinks only in the lobby or concessions area. No smoking is permitted in accordance with Illinois Law. No tobacco products of any kind are allowed on the bench, playing surface or in locker rooms.

6-P-8 LOCKER ROOM RESPONSIBILITY & LIABILITY

The team is liable for damage to rink facilities. The MVCHA will pay for the damage. The team will then be billed with payment due in five (5) days of notification or the team may be suspended. The team will also be liable for damage to rink facilities caused by their fans. MVCHA does not own any of the facilities or have representation at any of the facilities that MVCHA teams may be required to play at. The MVCHA is limited in what it can do for any special request that includes the facilities played at. Any request, outside normal team procedures already provided by the facilities, will need to be between the individual and the facility for accommodation. At no time should the individual or team make a request on behalf of the MVCHA.

6-P-9 TEAM OFFICIALS IN THE PLAYERS BENCH AREA

Each team may have up to four (4) team officials on the players' bench. All such persons must be registered as a coach with USA Hockey, must have obtained the appropriate certification level as outlined in Rule 6-P-3 and must be listed as having the appropriate background check. Each team shall designate on the score sheet a Head Coach prior to the start of the game. The Head Coach shall be in control of and responsible for the actions of all team personnel, including players.

JUNIOR VARSITY

The preceding General and Playing Rules apply to all junior varsity teams, players, and games. The following rules apply only to junior varsity teams, players, and games and are additions and/or exceptions to the preceding General and Playing Rules.

Section 1: ROSTER

1-JV-1 ROSTER

See 2-G-1.

1-JV-2 ROSTERS for VARSITY and JUNIOR VARSITY

A. Organizations with both varsity and junior varsity teams must also submit a copy of their varsity roster attached to the junior varsity roster. The varsity roster must designate seven (7) varsity players who will not be permitted to play junior varsity. Only one of these designated seven (7) may be a goalkeeper. These players will be referred to as "frozen." They must conform to all eligibility rules and be capable of physically participating. All varsity teams will have up to and including their first three (3) scheduled League games to unfreeze one (1) player and replace with another player. 7th and 8th grade players will not be included in the total number of rostered players for freezing.

Organizations with less than 25 players will conform to the following schedule:

Organizations with a combined varsity and JV roster of 24 players will freeze seven (7) players.

22-23 players will freeze 6 players.

21 players will freeze 5 players.

20 players will freeze 4 players.

19 players will freeze 3 players.

18 players will freeze 2 players.

17 players or less will freeze 1 player.

Organizations with a combined varsity and JV roster of less than 17 players must request a waiver to this rule from the MVCHA Board of Directors.

B. No JV eligible swing player will be allowed to be rostered on more than one varsity team.

1-JV-3 MINIMUM NUMBERS for VARSITY and JUNIOR VARSITY

An organization with both varsity and junior varsity teams must have a minimum of seventeen (17) players on the combined rosters. Waiver requests must be submitted to the MVCHA Board of Directors.

1-JV-4 SENIORS

Seniors are not allowed on the junior varsity roster.

Section 2: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

2-JV-1 JUNIOR TEAM MEMBER

A player who has been a member of a Junior A, B, C team, or a Tier 1 AAA team in the past 24 months of the current season's start date, or is currently a member of a Junior A, B, C team, or a Tier 1 AAA team, may not play on a junior varsity team except 7th and 8th grade age eligible JV players.

Any player who is in the 11th grade who is rostered on a Central States CSDHL team, may not play on a junior varsity team.

Any player who is a Sophomore or younger that plays on a Female AAA team shall be permitted to be a member of a Junior Varsity roster.

2-JV-2 SWING PLAYER-JUNIOR VARSITY/VARSITY GAME ELIGIBILITY

A swing player (a player who is listed on both the varsity and junior varsity rosters of an organization) must participate in two thirds (2/3) of that team's MVCHA scheduled regular season Junior Varsity League games (odd numbers rounded down) to be eligible for the junior varsity playoffs. For junior varsity only players, the player must have played in fifty percent (50%) of the regular season junior varsity games (odd numbers rounded down) to be eligible for the junior varsity playoffs per Section 7-G-10.

A swing player who has scored 36 goals in JV league games, or 24 goals in Varsity league games, or 40 goals in combined junior varsity and varsity league games prior to participating in 2/3 of regular season junior varsity league games will no longer be eligible to play the remaining regular season junior varsity league games or the junior varsity playoff games. For the purposes of this section, participating means being listed as an eligible player on the game scoresheet (See Section 3). The number of games calculated to determine 2/3 participation will be rounded down to the nearest whole game. Each team shall be responsible for keeping an accurate goal and game total for all swing players.

Section 3: SUSPENSIONS

3-JV-1 SWING PLAYER SUSPENSION

A swing player (a player who is listed on both the varsity and junior varsity rosters of an organization) who receives a suspension penalty in either a junior varsity or a varsity game will serve the suspension at both the JV and Varsity levels. They will serve the suspension at the level where assessed and will also serve the suspension for an equal number of games at the other level.

Section 4: REGULATION PLAY - TIME OF MATCH**4-JV-1 PLAYING TIME ALLOWED.**

League games shall provide for a three (3) minute warm-up and shall proceed as follows:

1st period 12 minutes clock stop time 30 seconds break

2nd period 12 minutes clock stop time 30 seconds break

3rd period 13 minutes clock stop time

Time out One - thirty-second time out per team

Minor penalties will be assessed at 1:30 per incident

Major penalties will be assessed at 4:00 per incident

POTENTIAL GAME FORFEITS AND/OR MONETARY FINES

The following summarizes sections of the rules that may or will result in forfeiture of games and/or fines. It may not contain every penalty noted in the rulebook. The actual text in the rulebook will be the governing body.

1-G-3 (A) Non-payment of fines

1-G-4 Failure to report match penalty received in non-League games

2-G-1 (A) Failure to meet roster deadline

2-G-2 (C) Improper roster additions

2-G-3 (B) No consent to treat form on the bench

2-G-3 (C) No notification of roster dismissal

3-G-1 Failure to submit accurate player list to scorekeeper

3-G-3 No show player on the scoresheet

3-G-5 Failure to sign scoresheet prior to the game

5-G-1 Failure to submit name of club registrar by August 15

7-G-1 Exceeding number of players allowed on the team roster or suited for a game 7-G-2

(A) Use of player not in "good standing"

7-G-7 (B) Listing an ineligible player as eligible on the game scoresheet

7-G-8 (D) Failure or improper notification of a transfer student

7-G-9 Failure to notify MVCHA of player eligibility status

9-G-2 Playing an ineligible player

9-G-3 Game suspensions received in last League game

9-G-4 Fifth game suspension

9-G-5 50/50 ticket sales

2-P-2 Communication to a team during a game by a suspended coach

2-P-3 Accumulation of three serious penalties

2-P-4 Coach or team official refusing to leave

2-P-7 Accosting game officials and use of obscenity

2-P-8 Hazing incidents

3-P-5 Coach or team official entering ice without referee consent

6-P-3 (C) Coaches not properly certified behind the bench

6-P-6 Forfeiture of game due to lack of players

6-P-8 Locker room damage

The following summarizes sections of the rules that require an appearance before the Disciplinary Committee prior to re-gaining eligibility:

2-P-2 Communication to a team during a game by a suspended coach

2-P-3 Three Serious Penalties

2-P-7 Accosting game officials and use of obscenity

2-P-9 Fighting (any player who receives a third penalty for fighting)

3-P-3 Obscenities

**PLEASE REFER TO GAME DAY GUIDELINES FOR ADDITIONAL
RESPONSIBILITIES.**