



# **WCHL By-Laws**

## **Revised 8/29/2018**

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## **LEAGUE OFFICERS**

General contact:

[WCHL.Hockeyboard@gmail.com](mailto:WCHL.Hockeyboard@gmail.com)

[League Website](#)

### **President**

Ron Smith

[Wchlpresident17@gmail.com](mailto:Wchlpresident17@gmail.com)

### **Secretary**

Tricia Angle

[wchlsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:wchlsecretary@gmail.com)

### **Treasurer**

Michelle Fitzpatrick

[Treasurerwchl@gmail.com](mailto:Treasurerwchl@gmail.com)

## **North Conference League Representatives**

Kathleen Schlagel

[wchlnorthrep1@gmail.com](mailto:wchlnorthrep1@gmail.com)

Dottie Degnan

[wchlnorthrep2@gmail.com](mailto:wchlnorthrep2@gmail.com)

## **South Conference League Representative**

Jason Martyniuk

[wchlsouthrep2@gmail.com](mailto:wchlsouthrep2@gmail.com)

Sean Sodko

[wchlsouthrep1@gmail.com](mailto:wchlsouthrep1@gmail.com)

### **Events Coordinator**

Open Position

## **Article I. GENERAL**

### **Section 1.01 Name**

1. The name of this organization shall be the Women's Central Hockey League and may be referred to hereinafter by the letters WCHL, or as the League.

### **Section 1.02 Purpose**

1. The purpose of the WCHL is:
  - a. To operate a competitive league in the geographic area of the central United States and to encourage player development and sportsmanship among member teams.
  - b. To operate various skill divisions to encourage all women, regardless of talent or experience, to participate in competitive ice hockey.

### **Section 1.03 Conferences**

1. The WCHL shall support geographic conferences open to all Women's Adult teams in the geographic area of the central United States.
2. A new conference may be added to the League through the following process:
  - a. A Proposal to add a conference must be submitted by a member team that would be participating in the new conference.
  - b. The Proposal must include a list of teams, with contact information, included in the conference.
  - c. The Proposal should include a description of each affected conference's playing season in order to show the ability to support a new conference.
  - d. The Proposal must be made by February 1 for consideration for the season beginning in the fall of that year.
  - e. The Proposal must be supported by at least one (1) team not part of the new conference, but affected by the change.
  - f. 2/3 acceptance vote by all league teams is required for the incorporation of the new conference.

## Article II. OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. The Officers shall consist of a President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
2. The Board of Directors (Board) of the WCHL shall consist of the Officers, and at a minimum of 1 Conference Representative per conference. Additional Conference Representative positions may be added to the Board at the discretion of the Board.
  - a. All matters concerning the conduct of the WCHL shall be managed by the Board.
3. Elections
  - a. The President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Conference Representatives shall be elected by the Team Representatives.
  - b. Terms shall be 2 years. There are no term limits. Terms will start on September 1st and will be concluded on August 31st. There will be a transition period between election and assumption of duties in order to effectively complete business. Elections shall be staggered in the following manner - President, Treasurer, North Representative 1 and South Representative 1 in year one, Secretary, North Representative 2 and South Representative 2 the following year.
  - c. Self-nominations will be accepted in writing to the current President no later than 7 days prior to the elections. Whenever there is more than one (1) candidate for office, voting shall be by secret ballot only visible to the Board. Only the winner will be announced. Whenever there is only one (1) candidate for office, that candidate will be automatically elected to that office. Nominations shall be accepted starting November 1st, voting shall occur in December.
  - d. The President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by all the teams in the League. Conference Representatives shall be elected by their respective conference.
  - e. Vacancies in any office shall be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and Team Representatives at any regular or special meeting which includes online voting.
4. Combined Duties: The duties of the Board shall include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Establishing and enforcing the regulations governing the WCHL. A majority of the members of the Board must support any initiative to adopt regulations and/or policies affecting the League.
  - b. Calling special meetings as necessary
  - c. Making emergency decisions not covered by the By-Laws
  - d. Handling internal and external correspondence
  - e. Generating and disseminating WCHL forms including: scheduling records, score sheets, rulebooks, ref guidelines, and contact lists.
  - f. Voting on matters as necessary.
  - g. The League Officers may appoint at least one (1) person per conference to act as League Statistician to maintain the standings and statistics for each division. The League Statistician is responsible for coordinating and maintaining the standings and statistics for the league by entering the scoresheet data. The League Officers may appoint at least one (1) person to act as Webmaster. The Webmaster's responsibilities will be to maintain the website and update it in a timely manner in conjunction with functions of the Statistician.
5. The duties of the President shall include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Presiding at meetings
  - b. Creating meeting agendas
  - c. Overseeing league operations
  - d. Coordinating league responsibilities and the playoff tournament.
6. The duties of the Secretary shall include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Keeping the minutes of each meeting,
  - b. Keeping an up-to-date list of all Directors
  - c. Having notices and minutes of all meetings available to Directors and Team Representatives.

- d. The Secretary shall assume the duties of the President in their absence.
- 7. The duties of the Treasurer include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Keeping full and correct account of receipts and disbursements
  - b. Depositing all monies and other valuable effects in the name of and to the credit of the WCHL in such a bank as may be designated by the Board.
  - c. Issuing invoices as necessary
  - d. Taking appropriate action to assure that all monies due to the WCHL are collected.
  - e. Signing and issuing checks for expenditures approved by the Board, keeping proper vouchers for such disbursements;
  - f. Reporting on the financial conditions and transactions at all meetings
  - g. Rendering an Annual Financial Report.
- 8. The duties of the Conference Representatives shall include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Assisting League Officers in making decisions regarding their conferences
  - b. Collecting contact information from teams in their conference and forwarding to the Secretary
  - c. Receiving rosters and scoresheets from teams in their conference and making sure the Board and statisticians have the most recent versions
  - d. Acting as a liaison between League Officers and teams within a conference.

### **Section 2.01 Removal and Retirement**

- 1. Directors may be removed from their position by an approval vote of 2/3 of the Board, and if that passes, shall be followed by a vote of member teams. Both a 2/3 vote by the Board and by member teams is required to remove a Directors from their position.
- 2. A Director may elect to retire midterm. At that point, a new election shall be held, and the new Director shall hold the post for the remainder of the term.

### **Section 2.02 Team Representatives**

- 1. Team Representatives:
  - a. Each non-probationary member team will designate two representatives to communicate with the board. Each team receives one (1) vote on matters which the Board has solicited a vote, even though there are 2 team representatives.
  - b. Team Representatives are responsible for communicating team concerns to their conference representatives and/or the Board via e-mail, as well as communicating information from the board to the teams.
- 2. Responsibilities:
  - a. The role of the Team Representatives shall include the following
    - i. At the discretion of the Board, teams may be asked to vote on specific league issues. The Voting Representative shall hold the official vote for their team
    - ii. Both Representatives shall receive official correspondence from the Board
    - iii. Both Representatives may participate at league meetings, although actual voting may only be done by one (1) of the Representatives.
  - b. The names of the Representatives from each member team shall be given, in writing, to the League Secretary prior to August 1 and whenever a member team replaces a representative.
  - c. The Board and Team Representatives shall elect a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Conference Representatives.
- 3. Meetings:
  - a. Annual meetings will be called only if there is an issue brought forth by either a team representative or the Board that cannot be settled via electronic surveys or email.

- b. An Annual Conference Meeting shall be held within two weeks after Labor Day for the purpose of scheduling. North and South Conferences do not have to meet at the same location, though the same weekend is helpful for cross conference scheduling.
- c. Additional Conference meetings may be scheduled throughout the year at the discretion the Board with the approval of majority of the teams, or at the request of 2/3 of the member teams.
- d. Member teams must request in writing no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting that items be added to the agenda. Items not on the agenda will not be discussed unless they are added to the agenda by a majority vote.
- e. All Representatives must be informed at least two weeks prior to the meeting of the time and location of the meeting.

### **Section 2.03 Committees**

- 1. Membership on committees is not restricted to the Board unless specifically mentioned below.
- 2. Rules and Ethics Committee:
  - a. At the discretion of the Board, a Rules and Ethics committee may be established. Absent a separate committee, the Board shall establish rules and investigate ethics violations. When a member of the Board is a member of a team that is being investigated for Rules and/or Ethics violations, that Board member shall remove themselves from the Committee until the conclusion of the investigation and hearing.
- 3. Playoff Committee:
  - a. At the discretion of the Board, a Playoff Committee may be established. Responsibilities shall include but are not limited to: securing ice, securing officials, securing scorekeepers, finding local accommodations, and creating and updating bracket sheets.
- 4. The Board may appoint other special committees to aid and assist in the management of the affairs of the WCHL.

## **Article III. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 3.01 General**

1. A member team will be defined as the manager, coaches, and/or a majority of the rostered players.
2. Application for membership in the WCHL shall be open to all Women's Adult teams in the geographic area of the central United States.
  - a. Membership may be limited by practical considerations on the maximum number of teams that can effectively be accommodated in the WCHL, geographic proximity to existing league teams, and by the judgments of the ability of prospective members to comply with the standards set forth in this Article.
3. Standards that are used in considering prospective members and for judging whether current member teams are meeting WCHL qualifications are as follows:
  - a. Has the ability to field a competitive team or teams at the ability level at which the WCHL is conducting competition.
  - b. Can provide sufficient "home" ice time, under satisfactory conditions, to fulfill the schedule of games.
  - c. Demonstrates attitudes and conduct that are compatible with other member teams in matters such as enlisting players, rules, player conduct, team officials conduct, etc.

### **Section 3.02 Membership Fees**

1. A membership fee in the amount set by the Board must be submitted annually to the WCHL Treasurer no later than the Scheduling Meeting, or a loss of eligibility may be imposed on any delinquent member team.
2. If for some reason a member team is unable to complete the season, the membership fee will be forfeited to the League.

### **Section 3.03 New Members**

1. Team Sign Up sheet for new members should be submitted to the Board before August 15 of the playing season or a fine may be imposed.
2. New member organizations shall be accepted on a probationary status for one (1) season with full membership rights with the following exceptions:
  - a. They are not permitted to vote on alignments, dues, fees, or league championship matters
  - b. They are not allowed to vote on league rules, policies, or guidelines
  - c. They are not allowed to rule on protests or other rules and ethics issues

### **Section 3.04 Current Members**

1. Current League teams must notify the Board of their membership intentions (whether they intend to remain) by August 15 of the playing season. If a team does not notify the Board, it will be assumed that they are not rejoining.
2. A team that fails to notify the board of their intent to remain with the League by September 1, but yet still wants to participate, shall be subject to disciplinary action which may include any of the following:
  - a. Monetary fines
  - b. Not allowing the team to attend the Scheduling meeting
  - c. Not allowing the team to participate in Playoffs
3. For any team which does not play in the League for at least one (1) season, (whether or not they notify the league by September 1) in the event they wish to rejoin the League at a future time, shall return as a probationary team and subject to the rules thereof.



## Section 3.05 Divisions

### 1. Tiered Divisions

- a. The following divisions may be offered at the discretion of the Board based upon the level and number of teams in each conference. The focus will be on fair play in each level in order to promote growth of the entire league and to encourage teams to recruit new players:
  - i. The WCHL may conduct a first tier of play for collegiate level skilled or equivalent Women's Adult teams. Teams in this tier can compete at the USA National C level. The Majority of players have above-average skill levels.
  - ii. The WCHL may conduct a second tier of play for advanced-skilled Women's Adult teams. Teams in this tier may have a variety of abilities, however, most players have high level skills. These teams usually are unlikely to compete closely with National C level teams. The overall level of the team makes it difficult to compete with first tier teams.
  - iii. The WCHL may conduct a third tier of play for advanced intermediate Women's Adult teams. Teams in this tier have a variety of abilities. Players generally have mastered basic and intermediate and advanced skating skills as well as advanced hockey concepts. The overall level of the team makes it difficult to compete with second tier teams.
  - iv. The WCHL may conduct a fourth tier of play for intermediate Women's Adult teams. Teams in this tier are generally composed of players that have mastered intermediate skating skills, stick handling and conceptual skills. The overall level of the team makes it difficult to compete with third tier teams.
  - v. The WCHL may conduct a fifth tier of play for lower intermediate Women's Adult teams. Teams in this tier are generally composed of players that have started to master intermediate skating skills, stick handling and conceptual skills. The overall level of the team makes it difficult to compete with fourth tier teams.
  - vi. The WCHL may conduct a sixth tier of play for advanced beginner Women's Adult teams. Teams in this tier are generally composed of players that have mastered basic skating skills, stick handling and conceptual skills. The overall level of the team makes it difficult to compete with fifth tier teams.
  - vii. The WCHL may conduct a seventh tier of play for beginner Women's Adult teams. Teams in this tier are generally composed of players that are new to the sport of hockey or who have limited skating and stick handling ability. The overall level of the team makes it difficult to compete with sixth tier teams.
- b. As determined by the Board, additional tiers of play may be offered for Women's Adult teams.
- c. As determined by the Board, the WCHL shall conduct a separate tier of competition at the college level for appropriate teams.

### 2. Division Alignment

- a. Placement of teams in divisions shall be determined by the Board.
  - i. Placement will be based on the previous year's records as well as the current year's roster. The Board reserves the right to move teams to a different division if changes to the initially submitted roster alter the competitive level of the team.
- b. After initial rosters are submitted, see 3.06, the Board will provide teams with their division alignment within ten days of receipt.
- c. Teams wishing to change their division assignment must submit a request in writing, outlining their case, to the Board no later than September 1st prior to the playing season.
- d. The Board reserve the right to disallow a team from participating in League Playoffs if it is determined that the team purposely placed themselves in a lower level, or purposely rostered more experienced player(s) in order to dominate games.

### **Section 3.06 Rosters**

1. All participating players must appear on an official roster for that team. Players must be rostered using their full legal names as they appear on their government issued ID and the same name they use for USA Hockey registration. Players may not double roster except as specifically detailed Section 4.3.
2. Initial rosters must be submitted by August 15<sup>th</sup> of the upcoming playing year.
3. Initial rosters must be submitted for certification by the scheduling meeting. Printed proof of submission must be brought to the scheduling meeting.

### **Section 3.07 Membership Violations**

1. Each member team is expected to conform to all the provisions of the WCHL By-Laws. If a member team is found in violation of these provisions by an investigation and report by the Rules and Ethics Committee, that team will be placed on probation for a term of no more than one (1) year by a majority vote of the WCHL Board. The Board will assess the length of probation. A member team that has been placed on probation will be monitored to ensure they comply with all league rules for the length of their probation.
2. If the violation which caused the problem is not resolved or any additional violation occurs during the term of probation, the offending team may be placed on suspension by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all WCHL members for a term of one (1) year. A member team that has been placed on suspension:
  - a. Will be expected to remit the annual membership fee.
  - b. WCHL teams will not be required to play the suspended team.
  - c. May be expelled from membership under the provisions of this Article.

### **Section 3.08 Termination**

1. Team membership shall remain in effect until:
  - a. Termination of its own membership is requested by a team, OR
  - b. Termination of a member team is voted by two-thirds (2/3) of the non-probationary member teams at any regular or special meeting of the Board, or by digital vote.
2. If a member team is not in attendance at the scheduling meeting, without making prior arrangements, that team's membership shall be terminated. If the team wishes to join in subsequent years, they shall return as a probationary team and subject to the rules thereof.

## **Article IV. REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

### **Section 4.01 Team Registration**

1. All teams must renew their WCHL membership by paying the annual fee no later than the Scheduling Meeting and filling out the Team Sign Up Form..
2. All teams must be properly registered with USA Hockey.
  - a. Team registration forms must be received by the respective state registrar prior to the team's first game.
  - b. A copy of the certified Roster must be submitted to the Conference Representative before the first game.

### **Section 4.02 Player Registration Eligibility & Rosters**

1. Eligibility
  - a. Players and coaches shall not participate in any WCHL game while under suspension by USA Hockey, USA Hockey State Affiliates or the WCHL.
    - i. All WCHL games where an illegal player or coach has participated (not marked absent or suspended on the scoresheet) will be forfeited by the offending team.
  - b. Beginning with the 2013-2014 season, all players are encouraged to individually register with the WCHL.
2. Rosters
  - a. All rosters must be submitted for USAH certification.
  - b. Proof of submission of a USAH roster for certification must be brought to the scheduling meeting.
  - c. All changes to USAH registrar-approved rosters must be submitted for certification by December 31<sup>st</sup> per USAH regulations.
  - d. The USAH registrar-approved roster shall be submitted to the Conference Rep within two weeks of approval.
  - e. Adult team rosters are limited to 25 players, including goalies; a maximum of 20 players may dress for any given game.
  - f. Prior to participating in any league games, all players must be listed on the team's official USAH roster, and all players must be properly registered with the WCHL. A forfeit will be assessed when a non-rostered or non-registered player has participated in a league game.
  - g. If a player participates in a league game, and the player has properly registered with the WCHL and USAH, but does not appear on the team's roster, no forfeit will be assessed.
3. Age Requirements
  - a. All non-collegiate Adult women's teams must be comprised entirely of players 18 or older. Players must have turned 18 prior to their first league game.
  - b. Players cannot be added to a USAH certified- hockey roster until they turn 18.
  - c. Players must turn 18 by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the playing season. .
4. Roster Revisions
  - a. Women's Adult rosters may be revised, in writing, to the WCHL Board. Any and all changes made after the first submission must be sent to the conference rep and must be reapproved by the respective state registrar and resubmitted to the Conference Rep.
  - b. No player listed on a team roster may change teams after she has played in a league game, except as set forth below in Section 4.03 – Double Rostering.
  - c. A player cannot transfer or join a team if she has any financial obligations to her previous team. Disputes will be settled by the Board and will be reported as required by USA Hockey.

- d. When a player joins a team in mid-season, prior to participating in her first league game, the player must be listed on the team's official USAH roster submitted to the Conference Rep, and the player shall register with the WCHL.
5. Substitution of Players
  - a. No substitution of players is allowed per USAH roster regulations. All players must be on a team's certified roster to play in a league game, per the above rules.

#### **Section 4.03 Double Rostering**

1. The following requirements must be met in order for a player to double roster::
  - a. A player is limited to double rostering as a player on two (2) league teams.
  - b. A skater may only double roster onto teams that are in neighboring divisions. However, the neighboring division requirement may be waived, on a case by case basis, for multiple-team organizations that have a gap between divisions, subject to WCHL Board review. There will be a limit to those exceptions in order to foster recruitment in the league. Teams must file for these exceptions every year.
  - c. A goalie may double roster and may play one division below their skill level and as high above their skill level as they choose. It should be noted that a goalie's skill level is what sets their primary division.
  - d. Each team is allowed to have a maximum of 2 primary skaters roster with a second team. The designation of "primary" means the player intends to participate in playoffs with this team. For example, let's look at a hockey club called Our Team that has Division 6 and Division 5 teams. According to the double rostering rule, two Division 6 skaters can play up on Division 5 or down on Division 7, or one can play on Division 5 and one on Division 7, and two Division 5 skaters can play down on Division 6 or up on Division 4, or one skater can play on Division 6 and one on Division 4. For clubs with greater than one division gaps for their clubs they must submit a request for an exception. The League Officers will vote whether to approve or deny the request. All requests shall be tracked by the League Officers and monitored year to year.
  - e. Each team may also double roster a goalie, in addition to 2 skaters, however, they may only be rostered as a goalie, not as a skater.
2. Any double-rostered player, including goalie, must choose which team she wishes to participate with for league playoffs before the first league games of her teams are played. The declaration must be sent to the Board via letter, or time-stamped email.
3. All players, including goalies, who double roster must notify their primary and secondary team that they are double rostering.
4. Petitions to the WCHL Double Rostering Rules shall be heard by the Board.

#### **Section 4.04 Coaches' registrations**

1. It is strongly recommended that teams follow the USA Hockey Coaching Education Guidelines for the level of certification. All coaches who are on the bench during games must have a USA Hockey Coaching Card.

## **Article V. SEASON SCHEDULING & GAME REQUIREMENTS**

### **Section 5.01 Scheduling Meeting**

1. Scheduling of WCHL League games shall take precedence over all other games, except State Tournament, USA Hockey District, and USA Hockey National games.
2. During the scheduling meeting, each member team will be limited to two schedulers.
3. Any member team with outstanding fees greater than \$50 at the Scheduling Meeting will be placed on probation for that year. The fee may be paid at the scheduling meeting in order to avoid probation.

### **Section 5.02 Seasons**

1. Each year the Board shall establish the WCHL playing season.
2. A WCHL Season will range from 10-20 division games, with efforts to create a 12-14 game season. The season can be more than 20 games, or less than 10 if all the teams in the division agree.
3. All league games between teams will be scheduled in accordance with the schedule provided by the Board at the scheduling meeting.
4. All league games shall be scheduled to be completed 3 weeks prior to the playoff weekend and any make up games must be completed by 2 weeks prior to the playoff weekend. No regular-season league games shall be played less than two weeks prior to playoffs. If a scheduling problem is anticipated and the outcome will impact division standings for playoff eligibility, then teams must submit a request to the Board for an exception to be made.

### **Section 5.03 Game Requirements**

1. Game Times
  - a. Local teams (about 1-1.5 hours from each other) should accept ice times if offered with a start time before 9:30pm Sunday through Thursday and 11:00pm on Friday and Saturday. Weekday games should not be scheduled prior to 7 p.m.
  - b. Teams within three (3) hours of each other should accept ice times if offered with a start time between 10:00am and 9:30pm on Saturdays, and 10:00am and 7:30pm on Sundays.
  - c. Teams farther than three (3) hours of each other should accept ice times if offered with a start time between noon and 10:00pm on Saturday and 10:00am and 3:00pm on Sundays.
  - d. Teams are encouraged to do their best to schedule mutually convenient ice times.
2. The home team must provide:
  - a. A minimum of one (1) hour of ice time. The home team is responsible for paying for ice time.
  - b. Games consisting of a minimum of three (3) 12 minute periods (teams can mutually agree to play longer periods but each period must be equal in time and cannot exceed 15 minutes)
  - c. Game lengths of at least 30 minutes stopped-time or 45 minutes running clock
  - d. One (1) trained scorekeeper
  - e. Referees
    - i. Teams must secure two certified USA Hockey officials
    - ii. Both officials must be at least level 2, preferably level 3 or 4.
    - iii. At least one (1) must be 18 years of age or older.
    - iv. The second referee may be 16 or 17 years old provided they are at least level 3
    - v. In the event that one of the two scheduled referees, does not appear, the game may be played if the referee is 18 years of age or older and at least a level 2
3. If no officials appear, USA Hockey protocol should be followed (each team will provide a USA hockey-insured person to act as referee).
4. In the event that one (1), or no referees appear, the home team must provide the name and phone number of the scheduler (for verification), and the names of the missing referees if known.

5. All protests regarding the referees must be filed prior to the start of the game. The protest must be written on the score sheet and initialed by both teams and the referees. If the game begins, it must be finished and no protest regarding the referee's age or certification level will be accepted.
6. The visiting team may also assign an official scorekeeper to assist or observe at the scorer's table.
7. "Home" ice will be considered any ice arranged by the teams and agreed upon as the team's "home" ice.

#### **Section 5.04 Rescheduling**

1. Games can only be rescheduled if both teams agree.
  - a. Rescheduled games cannot be open-ended. A new time and place must be given at the time of rescheduling, unless agreed upon by both parties involved.
  - b. Teams are under no obligation to accept games when the game slot is less than 2 weeks away. However, teams are expected to accept games when offered within League guidelines and when not in conflict with another game.
  - c. Failure to reach an agreement within two weeks will result in a 1-0 loss by the forfeiting team.
2. Rescheduling games within two weeks of the scheduling meeting results in no penalty for either team involved.
3. Any team requesting to change a scheduled league game within 7 days of the event, may be assessed a forfeit, and all forfeit penalties will apply.
4. Upon the third instance of games forfeited and being rescheduled by the same team, that team will be put on probation, and will not be allowed to participate in post season play.
5. Any and all rescheduled games must be reported to the Board within a week of rescheduling.

#### **Section 5.05 Score Sheets**

1. All score sheets are to be emailed to the respective Conference Representative (or conference statistician) by the winning team (home team in case of a tie) within seven (7) days of the game being played.
  - a. It is preferable that scoresheets are sent as a PDF attachment. All scoresheets received must be legible in any format sent.
  - b. Failure to adhere to the seven (7) day requirement will result in the game being declared a double loss.
  - c. If the home team does not send in the score sheet of a tied game, the visiting team shall be informed that they have seven (7) days to send their copy of the score sheet to the Conference Representative. In that case, the visiting team will be awarded one (1) point for a tie and the home team will be awarded zero (0) points for a loss. If neither team sends in the scoresheet, the game will be considered a double loss and no game credit will be given to the players.
  - d. Each team must keep their score sheets until playoffs have concluded. The League has the right to request a copy be re-sent in case there is a question posed by another team, conference statistician, League Officer or any other WCHL Committee.
  - e. Players must have their legal names, used for USA Hockey registration, as well as their jersey numbers on every score sheet. Nicknames are allowed in quotes but must be accompanied by the full legal name. Failure to use full legal names will result in a \$10 processing fee per score sheet.
  - f. Teams may use pre-printed stickers on score sheets but should cross out any players who are not in attendance at the game. The pre-printed sticker must match on all three pages of the score sheets, including markings of absent players.
2. Final standings, determining eligibility for and placement in the playoffs and regular season awards, are to be based on games played by the close of the season and properly reported.

## **Article VI. PLAYING RULES AND GAME REGULATIONS**

### **Section 6.01 General**

1. All USA Hockey rules pertaining to Adult Women's Hockey will be enforced.
2. Each team may dress a maximum of 20 players, with a maximum of 18 skaters.
3. Each team may have a maximum of four coaches or team officials on the bench.
4. All non-playing personnel on the bench must be 18 years of age or older.

### **Section 6.02 Equipment**

1. All players must wear numbered uniforms in the proper team colors.
2. All players must wear the protective equipment required by USA Hockey during games and warm-ups.
3. All players are strongly encouraged to wear a face shield and mouthpiece but are not required to.

### **Section 6.03 Game Time Regulations**

1. Games will consist of three 12-minute stop time periods. Before the game, both teams may agree to increase the periods up to three 15-minute stop time periods. All three periods must be equal in length.
2. A minimum of three (3) minutes of warm-up time must be provided. The normal warm-up time will be five (5) minutes. However, if a game slot is 60 minutes in length (i.e. 50 minutes of ice time plus resurface), then the warm-up will be 3 minutes in length.
  - a. The home team should ensure that the visiting team is aware of the time slot length and therefore the possibility of curfew.
3. If the final period of play will not be able to be completed in its entirety due to curfew, at the first whistle with 5 minutes remaining in the ice slot, the clock will be changed to reflect the remaining time in the ice slot minus 2 minutes. The game will then continue with a stop clock.
4. At the point that a five (5) goal deficit exists in the 3rd period, the clock may remain running at the sole discretion of the losing team.
5. There is no provision for overtime in the WCHL due to varying ice lengths of home teams. The difference in ice lengths causes an uneven playing field, and therefore, even if both teams agree, the result after a period of overtime will still be tied, with both teams earning 1 point in the standings.
6. All timing clocks and score sheets must be made available to the visiting team.
7. For WCHL league games, there will be one (1) time-out per team allowed unless the game is curfewed and it is questionable as to whether the game will be able to be completed in its entirety, and there is a chance that both teams may not be able to have their time-out.
8. USA Hockey rules require that all teams be dressed and ready to play 20 minutes before the scheduled time. The on-ice referee will make the final determination if a team is not available to play.

### **Section 6.04 Manager/Coaches Conduct**

1. The managers and coaches in charge of a team for a WCHL game shall be regarded as responsible for their team for that game, and for the conduct of their team officials, players, parents, and guests during that game and while at the place where the game is being played. Referees have the right to eject anyone from the rink. Please tell your guests that any unsportsmanlike conduct may get them ejected from the rink.
2. Managers and coaches are obligated when requested, to do whatever possible to assist game officials and others involved in controlling the spectators at that game. Suspension for the coach or the manager or the entire team, and/or a forfeit of the game could result from lack of such action in attempting to control any person or group in the arena.

## **Section 6.05 Penalties, Game Misconducts, Match Penalties, and Suspensions**

1. Penalties shall be served as follows for games consisting of periods less than 15 minutes in length:
  - a. Minor penalties = 1:30
  - b. Major penalties = 4:00
  - c. Misconducts = 8:00
2. Penalties shall be served as follows for games consisting of periods equal to 15 minutes in length:
  - a. Minor penalties = 2:00
  - b. Major penalties = 5:00
  - c. Misconducts = 10:00
3. Any player who receives a Game Misconduct penalty shall be suspended until after her next WCHL League game. The offending team must report this to the league within 24 hours of the misconduct or before the next WCHL game if another game is scheduled in less than 24 hours.
  - a. Any player who receives two majors in one (1) game shall receive a Game Misconduct and be suspended for her next two WCHL League games.
  - b. Any player who receives a second Game Misconduct during the course of the season shall be suspended for her next two WCHL League games. If her second Game Misconduct is the result of two majors in a game she will be suspended for her next three WCHL League games.
4. Any coach of a team that receives ten (10) or more penalties in one (1) game shall be suspended for the next WCHL League game. If no coach is present at the game, then the team captain shall serve the suspension.
5. Any player, coach, or team official receiving a Match Penalty shall be immediately suspended from all WCHL activity until the case is heard by the proper governing body.
  - a. Any player, coach, or team official who receives a second Match Penalty or a third Game Misconduct during the course of one (1) season shall be suspended indefinitely. The player or coach must appear before the WCHL Rules and Ethics committee and apply for reinstatement. The Rules and Ethics Committee may reinstate her at the beginning of the next season, may continue her suspension for a set number of WCHL games, or may deny her petition for reinstatement. A player or coach may petition for reinstatement once a year until reinstatement is granted.
6. A player serving a suspension cannot be on the players' bench during her suspension, but can be in the stands or rink area.
7. A team official cannot be in the vicinity of the players' bench while serving the suspension.
8. Players and/or coaches serving suspensions must be noted on the score sheet.



## **Article VII. FORFEITURE**

### **Section 7.01 General**

1. Teams who refuse to play a league game, fail to provide the required elements as the home team, request to change a scheduled league game within 3 days of the event, or do not appear for a scheduled game will be charged with a forfeit.
  - a. In case of a forfeit due to inappropriate officials, the officials must print their name and referee registration number or phone number on the top of the score sheet. All protests regarding the officials must be filed prior to the start of the game. The protest must be written on the score sheet and initialed by both teams and the officials. If the game begins, it must be finished and no protest regarding the referees age or certification level will be accepted.
2. If agreed upon by both teams, the game may be rescheduled, but the entire cost of both the forfeited game and the make-up game (ice, refs, etc.) shall be covered by the team responsible for the forfeit.
  - a. Rescheduled games cannot be open-ended. A new time and place must be given at the time of rescheduling, unless agreed upon by both parties involved.
  - b. Failure to reach an agreement in a mutually agreed upon time frame will result in forfeiture by the team responsible for the initial forfeit.

### **Section 7.02 Fines and Retribution**

1. A forfeit fee of \$50 will be assessed to the forfeiting team, made payable to the WCHL.
2. The offending team will reimburse the non-offending team 1/2 the cost of ice and the full amount of the officials.
3. Any team who does not appear for a scheduled game must pay the home team the cost of their officials if the home team was required to pay them anyway.
4. The forfeiting team will be given a game played and a 0-1 loss. The game will be recorded as a game not played for the team against whom the forfeiting team was scheduled to play. The standings for the entire division will then be calculated by winning percentage of games played.
5. In the case where a game is rescheduled, forfeiture fines and retributions will not be applied.
6. Any team who is found at fault of forfeiting three games will be placed immediately on probation.
  - a. The team will be removed from the league standings.
  - b. All games against the offending team will be deleted from the league standings.
  - c. The team will remain on probation until the end of the next playing season or until their expulsion from the league.
  - d. Teams will not be required to play previously scheduled league games against them. Although, teams may choose to play the game. These games will not count as official league games and will not be reflected in the standings.
7. All fines for the season are due prior to playoffs. If fines are not paid, the team assessed the fine will be ineligible for playoffs. Additionally, a team assessed fines will be ineligible to join the league the following season until all fines are paid.

### **Section 7.03 No-Fault Forfeits**

1. If the forfeit was caused by factors outside control of the team (e.g., the arena double-booked the ice, a power loss, dangerous weather, etc.), the game must be rescheduled at the earliest possible date.
  - a. Rescheduled games cannot be open-ended. A new time and place must be given at the time of rescheduling, unless agreed upon by both parties involved.
  - b. Rescheduled games must be reported to the Board within a week of rescheduling.
- c. If the game cannot be rescheduled, and the teams were only scheduled to play once that season, the game will be considered a non-played game. In this no-fault case, affected teams will have one (1) game fewer than the other teams in their conference.
  - i. No win, loss, or tie statistics will be added to team standings.
  - ii. No player can be counted present or absent at a no-fault forfeited game, and playoff eligibility shall be determined by attendance at the actual number of physical games played by the affected teams.

In the case where one (1) or more teams in a division have been affected by a no-fault shortened season, standings will be determined by a normalized point system:  
 $(\text{POINTS EARNED} / \text{ACTUAL GAMES PLAYED}) * \text{SCHEDULED GAMES IN THE SEASON}.$

## **Article VIII. PLAYOFFS**

### **Section 8.01 General**

1. Playoffs will be held for the top 50% of the teams in each tier (division) within each conference (north and south) (unless there are five or less teams in a division). If enough ice time can be procured and the teams are interested, the playoffs may be expanded to more than 50% of teams.
2. Only teams that are in good standing with the League (i.e., don't owe money to the League or to other teams, have all registration materials in, etc.), are eligible to participate in Playoffs.
3. Qualifying teams must notify the board if they elect not to participate two weeks prior to playoffs.

### **Section 8.02 Playoff Requirements**

1. In order to play in any WCHL Playoff or Championship Game, a player must appear on the score sheet (not marked absent) of at least 50% of her team's league games from the date she joins the roster.
  - a. Players who run the risk of not being able to meet the minimum requirements to participate in playoffs should submit a petition to the Board for eligibility no later than 3 weeks prior to playoffs. The Board shall have the authority to grant or deny petitions.
  - b. Double-rostered players will be restricted to the higher-tiered team if they played in 50% or more of the higher-tiered team's league games, unless declared otherwise.
  - c. In the case where a double-rostered player declares to play with a team in the playoffs, and that team does not qualify, the player may compete with her second team as long as she meets eligibility requirements.
  - d. All players are required to provide government issued identification before each playoff or championship game.

### **Section 8.03 Registration and Eligibility**

1. Teams eligible for the playoffs are determined from the final standings. The standard system shall be used unless otherwise stated.
  - a. Point Systems
    - i. Standard (2 point system):  
win = 2 pts, tie = 1 pts, loss or forfeit = 0 pts,
    - ii. Brampton (5 point system)  
Winning the game = 2 pts, tying the game = 1 pt, loss or forfeit = 0 pts,  
Winning a period = 1 pt, tying a period = 1/2 pt, losing a period = 0 pts
    - iii. Round Robin (3 point system):  
Winning the game = 3 pts, tying the game = 1 pt, loss or forfeit = 0 pts.
  - b. Final Division Standings will be determined as follows (unless otherwise stated):
    - i. Most points (as stated in Point Systems)
    - ii. The following tie breakers will be applied first to head-to-head competition and then to all league games until one team wins:
      1. Most points (as stated in Point Systems)
      2. Goals against
      3. Goals differential (goals for – goals against)
      4. Goal quotient (divide goals for by goals against)
      5. Fewer losses
      6. Most wins
      7. Least penalties
2. Tournament Rankings shall be determined as follows (unless otherwise stated):
  - a. Most points (as stated in Point Systems)

- i. The following tie breakers will be applied first to head-to-head competition and then to all League Playoff teams and then to all season games until one team wins:
    1. Most points (as stated in Point Systems)
    2. Goals against
    3. Goals differential (goals for – goals against)
    4. Goal quotient (divide goals for by goals against)
    5. Fewer losses
    6. Most wins
  - ii. If still tied after these tie breakers, the following tie breakers will be utilized first in head-to-head, then compared to the other playoff teams, and then to the whole season:
    1. Penalty minutes
    2. Number of penalties
  - iii. Coin toss.
3. Championship games will use the following tie breakers:
  - a. One 5 minute overtime will be played (5 on 5).
  - b. If still tied, a 5 woman shootout will be used.
  - c. If still tied, sudden death shootout will be used, until one team scores and the other doesn't.
  - d. Players may not repeat until the entire roster has been used.
  - e. Once a team has used the entire roster in the shootout (even if the other has not), both teams may start over with the first shooter.

#### **Section 8.04 Playoff Rule Exceptions**

1. All WCHL Rules and Regulations apply to playoff games, with the following exceptions:
  - a. Officials
    - i. On-ice officials will be furnished by the Playoff Committee rather than the participating teams.
    - ii. Minor officials will be provided by the team hosting the playoffs or by the Playoff Committee, unless otherwise noted.
  - b. Games will be played to the end of regulation time unless the tournament rules state otherwise.
  - c. No time-outs will be allowed in any playoff game, unless the tournament rules state otherwise.
  - d. Championship games
    - i. In the event of a tie score at the end of regulation play, and if time permits, the teams will play a "sudden victory" overtime period of 6 minutes. If the game is still tied, the "sudden victory" overtime periods shall be repeated until one team scores. There will be a one minute break between each overtime period if time permits.
    - ii. With 5 minutes remaining in available game time, the game will be decided by shoot-out. Each team will pick 5 players to participate; the score after all 10 players have shot will determine the winner. If the score is still tied at the end of the first shoot out, sudden-death shoot-outs shall be utilized with a different set of 5 skaters. Sudden-death shoot-outs must include an equal number of skaters for each team. In the case where one team has more participating members than the other, at the point where one team has run out of players, both teams can re-use players.
    - iii. Each team will be allowed one (1) time-out during the Championship game.

## **Article IX. SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION**

### **Section 9.01 Violations**

1. In order to preserve so far as possible the purity of amateur hockey in the WCHL, any recourse to the courts, or legal action by a member team or individual before all the rights of the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of this League shall have been exhausted, shall be deemed unsportsmanlike conduct entailing the immediate suspension of any such member team or individual and further rendering the same liable to expulsion by the Board.
2. Any violation of the By-Laws, or Rules and Regulations of the WCHL or any conduct detrimental to hockey, either on or off the ice by any member team or individual could render such member team or individual liable to probation, suspension, or expulsion by the Board, upon recommendation of the Rules and Ethics Committee.
3. Abusive or threatening words or actions, on or off the ice, before, during, or after a game towards any officer or game official, player, manager or coach shall be considered detrimental to hockey and shall be grounds for the immediate suspension of any individual guilty of such action.
  - a. A WCHL referee should forward a written description of events to the Board, in any case where a player, coach, or manager is given a game or match misconduct or otherwise removed from the game due to extreme verbal or physical abuse, recommending further action, such as probation, suspension or expulsion, as a result of such abusive action.

### **Section 9.02 Protests**

1. All complaints of violations of conduct or notice of disputes (including suspected roster violations) shall be in writing, signed by a Team Representative and sent to the Board.
  - a. Any protest must be submitted in writing, and must be received by the Board within seven (7) days from the day of the game and must be accompanied by a \$25 check from the member team.
    - i. The \$25 is refundable only if the protest is upheld and is forfeited to the WCHL if the protest is denied. Protests that are based on a referee's judgment or a mistake by a referee will be automatically denied.
  - b. Complaints of conduct detrimental to hockey must be submitted in writing.
  - c. All protests will be reviewed first by the Board and all practical efforts to hear all sides of the issue(s) including a hearing, if needed, will be undertaken before a written response is forwarded to all involved parties.
  - d. A team may appeal the decision made by the Board by sending an additional \$25 to the WCHL. At that point, the protest will be sent out to the entire Rules and Ethics Committee. If the Rules and Ethics Committee has not been created, the protest will go to all member teams for vote.
    - i. The \$25 is refundable if the protest is upheld and is forfeited to the WCHL if the protest is denied. The ruling made by the Rules and Ethics Committee is binding.

## **Article X. AMENDMENTS**

1. These By-laws may be amended or changed at any meeting of the Board.
2. The Board will make all efforts to gather team feedback prior to making amendments to the bylaws.
3. Any amendment must be submitted in writing to the President and all the Directors a minimum of 14 days prior to the meeting.
4. Amendments can only be proposed by non-probationary member teams.
5. Amendments may be altered or changed at a meeting or conference call. Amendments must meet the following criteria:
  - i. The meeting must have a majority of the Directors present.
  - ii. The meeting must have a majority of the League Officers present.
  - iii. A vote shall be called and held at the end of the discussion. Since all rule changes discussed in this manner must be proposed at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting, the vote shall take place at the end of the discussion.
  - iv. A 2/3 vote of Board members at the meeting shall pass the proposal.