



**CENTRAL FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL  
HOCKEY LEAGUE  
OFFICIAL RULES & PROCEDURES**

KNOW ALL PERSONS PRESENT THAT THESE OFFICIAL RULES & PROCEDURES (hereafter referred to as the "Rules"), were adopted and ratified on this 26th day of January 2026, by the Central Florida High School Hockey League (CFHSHL). These League Rules and Procedures, which incorporate USA Hockey's most current Official Rules of Ice Hockey, shall be used in the administration of the CFHSHL, its games, and events. Capitalized terms used herein, but not defined, shall have the meaning ascribed to such terms within any "Bylaws" of the CFHSHL, as also amended and restated, supplemented, or otherwise modified, from time to time as may be necessary. Excluding the Disciplinary Appeals process outlined below, all decisions of the CFHSHL Board are final and binding.

**SECTION 1  
League, District Division & Season**

1.1. League – The CFHSHL shall welcome the following counties throughout Central Florida with teams eligible to be admitted as Teams (individually, or in combination form) per the following Bylaws. CFHSHL shall include the following Counties:

- Brevard
- Clay
- Duval
- Flagler
- Indian River
- Lake
- Nassau
- Okeechobee
- Orange
- Osceola
- Polk
- Seminole
- St. Johns
- Volusia

- 1.2. Team District Divisions – Teams within the League shall be assigned to one (1) of the following District Divisions based on the basic geographical proximity or “Florida County” location of the school or schools associated with that Team. Teams in the League shall be assigned to one (1) of the following District Divisions based on the location of the school or schools for that Team, as defined herein, or as CFHSHL Board-approved exceptions are noted and described within these official Rules and Procedures. The District Divisions and qualifying elements shall be as follows:
  - a. The “Orange Crush” shall be located and composed of Players generally within the geographical boundaries of Orange County.
  - b. The “Seminole Warriors” shall be located and composed of Players generally within the geographical boundaries of Seminole County.
  - c. The “Brevard Rockets” shall be located and composed of Players generally within the geographical boundaries of Brevard, Indian River, and Okeechobee Counties, and include points South.
  - d. The “First Coast” shall be located and composed of Players within the geographical boundaries of Clay, Duval, Nassau & St. John’s Counties, and include points North & West.
  - e. The “Volusia Stingrays” shall be located and composed of Players within the geographical boundaries of Volusia and Flagler Counties
  - f. The “Osceola Stampede” shall be located and composed of Players within the geographical boundaries of Osceola County.
  - g. Pool Players: Players from other than the aforementioned counties shall register or have their registration amended to reflect their status as a Pool Player
- 1.3. Modifications & waivers to any Team Structure may be made as necessary from time to time by way of a voting quorum cast by the League’s Board of Directors.
  - a. Any request to deviate from these team structures shall be forwarded to the Board of Directors via the most current Waiver Request Form.
  - b. Waivers shall not carry over from season to season. Waivers of any nature, regardless of their prior approval status, shall be resubmitted every year as necessary.
  - c. All waivers shall be voted on by the Board of Directors as soon as possible. The decision of the Board is final and non-appealable.
- 1.4. Spring Season – The CFHSHL shall have one (1) regular Spring season commencing no later than the first week in April of each year or such other date as determined by the League’s Board of Directors.
- 1.5. Board of Directors Composition
  - a. The Board of Directors shall be composed of several members associated with the functions of the League.
  - b. The Board of Directors shall meet regularly as determined necessary by the League President or designee. When teams are actively playing, the Board shall meet no less than every 30 days to ensure the orderly operation of the League. The functioning of the Board shall be consistent with the Roberts Rules of Order.

- c. Voting members of the Board shall consist of the following:
  - 1) President.
  - 2) Past President.
  - 3) Vice President.
  - 4) Secretary.
  - 5) Treasurer.
  - 6) Division Representatives from the respective Counties comprising the League.
  - 7) Representatives of each host rink, if different than the Division Representative.
- d. At Large Members of the Board may be voted into service by the Board of Directors; however, unless granted by the President or designee, have no voting authority and serve to counsel and advise the Board as necessary.
- e. The Board of Directors may be expanded as it democratically deems necessary. Any voting rights extended to At Large Members or other members not outlined above shall be through the majority approval/vote of the current voting members.

## **SECTION 2**

### **Teams & Schools**

- 2.1. Team District & Geographic Area – All public high schools with boundaries (including those with magnet, special, or International Baccalaureate programs and “Traditional High Schools”) shall be grouped into geographical areas combining one (1) or more schools into a “Competing District”. A “Team District”, having either or any private, charter, or non-boundary public schools, shall outline and define a “Geographic Area” for “Teams” within the League.
  - a. At least annually, the League’s Board of Directors shall review and consider modifying the Team District to consider any new or closed Traditional High Schools, school boundary changes, player population changes, and other demographic shifts with the goal of maintaining as much continuity as possible from the prior season.
- 2.2. Team Definition & Eligibility to Play – To participate in the League, a Team must have at least one (1) eligible head and assistant coach and at least 10 players, including the goalie(s), who are currently eligible to play for the team.
  - a. Players assigned to the Varsity B program shall only be eligible to play for the Varsity B Team associated with the Varsity A Team within their Team District.
  - b. Other than being called up from the Varsity B Program to play with the associated Varsity A program consistent with the League By-Laws, players are prohibited from playing for more than one (1) team in the league.
- 2.3. Team Compositions – A “Pure Team” is considered any Team with all its players, including each goalie, attending the same high school that form and join to play as one (1) “Team”. As the “Pure Team” structure would be the League’s primary goal and desire, the CFHSHL shall currently allow the concept of a “Combined Team”. As current demographics suggest and a specific County’s neighboring elements shall dictate, the Combined Team concept shall include any Team with the entire sum of its players coming together from several local high schools. This idea of team unity may also

include homeschooled students, or those players currently enrolled in a private, charter or non-boundary public school system, which may be combined, subject to the League's Board of Directors approval.

2.4. Team Application – All Teams, both returning and new, shall verbally commit to the CFHSHL President or designee no later than January 1<sup>st</sup> of the upcoming season of play.

- a. New Teams requesting admittance to the CFHSHL must commit to a 1-year minimum to be eligible for consideration into the League.
- b. Any new or returning Team shall declare their “home” rink when making their commitment.
- c. A good faith effort shall be made by the CFHSHL to schedule all “home” games at the rink that a Team has identified as their “home” rink, assuming rink availability and safety standards are met.
- d. The CFHSHL reserves the right to deny, reject, or revoke any Team request, application, or current team status, at its sole discretion.

### **SECTION 3**

#### **Player Requirements/Eligibility**

3.1. Good Sportsmanship – All players, coaches, and team managers shall practice and promote good sportsmanship and ethics before, during and after any League game or event in accordance with current CFHSHL Rules, Statewide Amateur Hockey of Florida (“SAHOF”) rules, USA Hockey Official Rules of Ice Hockey and the USA Hockey Participant Code of Conduct.

3.2. Player Eligibility – Any student meeting the following requirements shall be eligible to play in the CFHSHL; the Player shall be:

- a. Enrolled full-time student, or if homeschooled, eligible for enrollment, in grades 9 (including rising 9<sup>th</sup> graders for the Spring Season) through 12 at a Florida public high school or Florida private school within the region defined as part of the CFHSHL boundaries & “Team District Division”.
- b. In good standing with USA Hockey, SAHOF, and CFHSHL, and not currently the subject of any disciplinary matters before the SAHOF Disciplinary Committee.
- c. Younger than 20 years of age as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the playing season.
  - 1) The Player is only eligible to participate in the CFHSHL for four (4) consecutive semesters, or the equivalent, starting with his/her freshman year.

3.3. All players may be required by the CFHSHL Board to provide proof of being a full-time student. If necessary, the player may have to produce proof of school attendance through any of the following documents:

- a. School identification card.
- b. Class schedule.
- c. Current transcripts.
- d. Letter from school stating he/she is enrolled full-time.

3.4. High School Academic Requirements – The Central Florida High School Hockey

CFHSHL strictly enforces the “No Pass/No Play” regulations for the Varsity A and Varsity B divisions.

- a. A Player must be a “student in good standing” at his/her school according to the academic pass/play rules for his/her school.
- b. To be eligible to play, all players must submit a copy of their current grades via an official school progress report or report card to the “Team Coach” on a monthly basis throughout the course of the CFHSHL season. Failure to produce the grade record will cause this player to be declared ineligible.
- c. A Player must maintain a 2.0 (on a 4.0 grade scale) current school year GPA to remain eligible to participate in CFHSHL-sanctioned events.
  - 1) If a Player fails to meet the minimum GPA requirements, he/she shall be deemed ineligible until the next progress report is due.
  - 2) A first-time offense is subject to a maximum of 30 days suspension. If a Player remains below a 2.0 current GPA beyond their first 30 days, they will no longer be considered a first-time offender and shall be subject to CFHSHL academic ineligibility policies.
  - 3) Following a first-time offense, student-athletes will be ineligible for play until the next progress report/report card is due.
    - a) If a Player fails to submit a progress report, the Player will be deemed ineligible until a progress report is submitted.
    - b) The CFHSHL shall grant 5 days to allow for the reception of monthly progress reports/report cards to be received for review.
  - 4) Any Player receiving one (1) or more failing grade(s) on his/her report card shall be immediately deemed ineligible to play in the CFHSHL.
    - a) To regain eligibility, the Player must pass ALL courses on the next progress report.
    - b) All Coaches and Team managers will be informed of the players' subsequent eligibility status immediately in the event they have an academically ineligible player.

3.5 Player Team Assignment – Excluding goalies, all Players shall play for the Team associated with the school they attend, regardless of where the player lives or prior affiliation with another Team.

- a. If a Player is enrolled at a private, charter, or non-boundary public school unaffiliated with a Team, then that player shall be deemed to attend, subject to the address verification requirements, the Traditional High School he/she would otherwise attend and shall be eligible to play for the Team affiliated with that Traditional High School.
- b. If a Player is deemed within an area that does not have a Team, then such player shall be deemed to be a “Pool Player” and will be placed on a Team by the CFHSHL’s Board of Directors.

3.6 Address Verification Requirements – The assignment of a player shall typically be determined by the address of the player’s school. In the event of home-schooled players, his/her primary residential address shall be utilized for their assignment.

- a. Players may need to provide documentation to support the player’s claimed primary residence.
- b. At the Board of Directors’ discretion, a student’s parent and/or guardian shall sign and complete an “Affidavit of Residence”, in the form provided and acceptable to the CFHSHL.

3.7 Players Cut from a Team – Any Player cut from a Team for any reason, including roster limitations, may not play for another Varsity A Team. Rather, they will be assigned to play on the Varsity B Team of the same Team District associated with the Varsity A Team.

- a. The CFHSHL Board realizes there may be circumstances for some Players that leave a Team “during the season”. Such events will be considered on a case-by-case basis via a written petition (with the proper “Player Release” forms) to the CFHSHL Board and if necessary, the CFHSHL Boundary Committee, which will decide on the matter.
- b. Players who are cut from the Varsity B Team of their respective District may seek a roster position with one of the other teams that comprise the League.
  - 1) Players wishing to seek a roster position on one of the other teams shall seek the approval of the CFHSHL through the waiver process prior to seeking placement upon another team within the CFHSHL.
- c. If approved on the waiver in advance of a team’s scheduled tryouts, Players may compete for a roster position; Players are prohibited from displacing a player who is already on the identified team.
- d. The CFHSHL Board may unilaterally grant a waiver to any player to try out for a team other than their home county if the totality of any circumstances surrounding the request are determined to be in the best interest of the player making the request.

3.8 Goalie Exception – A Combined Team may roster a goalie(s) that would otherwise not be eligible for such Team, assuming the goalie has been cut or released from another Team for which he/she would be eligible to play. The Team seeking to roster the goalie must seek the CFHSHL approval through the CFHSHL waiver process prior to placing the goalie upon their Team roster.

3.9 Official Roster – A Team’s roster may only include those players, coaches and team managers who are eligible, and who have provided copies of or have had verification by the Board, of all documentation required as appropriate, and who are on the Official Team Registration/Roster form submitted by the CFHSHL and signed by the USA Hockey Registrar (“Official Roster”).

- a. The Official Roster for any Team may include no more than twenty (20) and no fewer than ten (10) eligible players who have completed the CFHSHL registration process, including payment of player fees to the CFHSHL prior to the beginning of the season. Players shall only be included on the Official Roster if all of the above requirements are met.
- b. Teams must submit to the CFHSHL all required player and coach information no more than 14 days after the Team Tryout completion date, but prior to March 31<sup>st</sup>, for players or coaches to be included on the initial Official Roster.
- c. Teams should submit to the CFHSHL any roster changes by April 15<sup>th</sup> to ensure there is sufficient time to post changes to the Official Roster by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Any players added to the roster after May 1<sup>st</sup> may play with the Team, but are not eligible to participate in CFHSHL playoff or championship games.

## **SECTION 4**

### **Coach & Manager Requirements/Eligibility**

**4.1. Coach Eligibility** – To be eligible to serve as a “Coach” on a Team, the person must be in good standing with USA Hockey, in good standing with CFHSHL, and have provided copies of, or have had verification by the Registrar Committee, of all “Coaching Documentation” as follows:

- a. Current USA Hockey membership confirmation receipt;
- b. Completed and signed USA Hockey Waiver of Liability form (required only if the Coach did not use USA Hockey's online registration);
- c. Completed and signed USA Hockey Participant Code of Conduct form;
- d. Completed and signed USA Hockey Consent to Treat/Medical Release form;
- e. Completed and signed CFHSHL and Ice Rink Release forms;
- f. Current USA Hockey Coaching Education Program verification with a certification level and completion of any online age-specific modules as required by USA Hockey for high school;
- g. Background checks should be completed before the start of the Spring season indicating acceptable results as determined by the Boundary Committee. Background checks shall be required subject to and completed at the CFHSHL Board’s discretion.

**4.2. Team Manager Eligibility** – To be eligible to serve as a “Manager” for a Team, the person must be in good standing with CFHSHL, and have provided copies of, or have had verification by the CFHSHL, of all “Team Manager Documentation” as follows:

- a. Current USA Hockey membership confirmation receipt;
- b. Completed and signed USA Hockey Waiver of Liability form (required only if the team manager did not use USA Hockey's online registration);
- c. Completed and signed USA Hockey Participant Code of Conduct form;
- d. Completed and signed USA Hockey Consent to Treat/Medical Release form;
- e. Completed and signed CFHSHL and Ice Rink Release forms;
- f. Background check completed before the start of the season indicating acceptable results as determined by the CFHSHL Board of Directors.

## **SECTION 5**

### **Game Scheduling & Standings**

**5.1. Regular Season Game Scheduling** - All Teams will play the same number of regular season games each year against other Teams within the CFHSHL. The selection of the opposing Teams shall be determined randomly using a method that is consistently applied across all Teams and games. For each game, one (1) Team shall be designated as the home team and the other as the away team. The CFHSHL will prepare the CFHSHL regular season schedule each year and will have the authority to adjust the schedule as needed. The schedule shall also include tentative dates for the CFHSHL playoffs.

- a. **Varsity A Season Games** – All teams within the CFHSHL will play the same number of regular-season games. The total number of games will be no fewer than 8 and no more than 3 post-season games, with half of a Teams schedule being “Home” games, and the other half “Away” games. Opponent breakdown

will vary based on the Division's schedule and will be made in advance of the Spring Season. The actual number of games played and the divisional mix shall be determined by the CFHSHL as follows:

- 1) Post-Season Play - Teams will play all those teams within the division advancing to the Varsity A Semi-Finals and the final Championship game.
- 2) Varsity B Season Games - All Varsity B Teams will play the same number of regular-season games each season. The total number of Varsity B games shall be a minimum of 6 games.

5.2 Varsity B "Call-Up" – A Varsity A Team may "Recall" a player from their Varsity B affiliate at any point in the season due to injury/illness/ineligibility of players on their Varsity A roster.

- a. Team Managers or Coaches shall provide a list of Varsity B players who are eligible to be called up during the season to the Board of Directors prior to the season's first game. Coaches shall endeavor to not deviate from this list during the season.
- b. If a Varsity A Team is below its maximum roster size, a Varsity B player may be placed on the Varsity A Team permanently. However, once permanently placed on the Varsity A roster, the Player shall not return to the Varsity B roster.
- c. A Varsity B player may play a maximum of 5 regular-season games at the Varsity A level.
  - 1) If a player has been called up five (5) times, and there is an existing need for another "Call-Up", the Head Coach, or Acting Head Coach of the team requesting the "Call-Up" shall contact the opposing team's Head Coach or Acting Head Coach seeking their approval of the additional "Call-Up".
  - 2) If the opposing team approves of the "Call-Up", the Head Coach of the team utilizing the additional "Call-Up" shall contact their County Representative on the CFHSHL Board of Directors responsible for their team as soon as possible after the opposing team agrees to the "Call-Up".
    - a) This notification shall be made by phone, text, or email and occur no later than four (4) hours following the conclusion of the game in question and include the rationale for the additional "Call-Up".
- d. Under no circumstances shall the "Call Up" procedures be utilized to enable the Varsity A roster to exceed 18 skaters for the specific game needing to utilize Varsity B players.
- e. Varsity B goalies are exempt from the "Call-Up" limitations and may be utilized by their Varsity A Team as needed to ensure a starting and back-up goal tender are available during any specific game.

5.3 Game Locations – Games shall be scheduled at the "Home" rink of the home team in any given matchup. Games may be played at other rinks based on ice availability, as the CFHSHL determines.

5.4 Rescheduling Games – In general, games may not be rescheduled except for conflicts with an ice rink or other extraordinary circumstances.

- a. If a team reschedules a game, the game must be played before the end of the season.

- b. Failure to play the rescheduled game within this time period will result in a forfeit to the Team requesting such change.
- c. The Teams rescheduling the game must first notify the CFHSHL and obtain the Board's approval for such event.
- d. The Teams shall be responsible for making their own arrangements for such rescheduled game (including ice time, referees, and scorekeeper) and any possible costs associated with moving the game.
- e. The CFHSHL, at their discretion, may reschedule a game to accommodate special events, including televised games.

5.5 Standings/Tie Breakers – Standings are determined based on total points earned in games played or forfeited. For each game, the winning Team is awarded two (2) points, and the losing Team receives zero (0) points. In case of a tie, both Teams are awarded one (1) point. In the event Teams are tied in total points, the following tiebreakers shall be applied in order to determine the Team given the higher standing:

- a. Team with the most wins.
- b. Team with the most points earned in games played between the tied Teams.
- c. Team with the fewest Goals Against during the regular season.
- d. Team with the highest Goal Differential.
- e. Team with the fewest penalty minutes accumulated during the regular season.

## **SECTION 6**

### **Playoffs**

6.1. Playoff Format – Only the top four (4) Teams in each of the Varsity A & B divisions (regardless of pure or combined classification or division) at the end of the regular season, as measured by total points or as provided in the case of tie-breakers, will qualify for the CFHSHL playoffs and seeded within their given division. The first-round matchups will be set as follows: 1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3 in each Varsity division. The winners of each playoff game move on to play in the championship game. The Teams with the highest seed will be the home team. Any player on the Official Roster as of April 1<sup>st</sup> shall be eligible to participate in the CFHSHL playoffs. However, no more than 20 players may dress for a playoff game as provided for within Section 7 of the CFHSHL Official Rules and Procedures below.

- a. CFHSHL playoff games shall follow all rules and procedures as outlined herein, except a five (5) minute sudden death overtime period, which shall be played if the regular period game ends in a tie. Each Team is permitted four (4) skaters and a goalie in the overtime period. If the game remains tied after the overtime period, a 3-player shootout shall be held.
- b. Should the game be still tied, a series of one (1) player shootouts shall be held with any player not in the penalty box or ejected from the game or serving a misconduct penalty at the end of the overtime period. The maximum number of shots in a one (1) player “shoot-out” shall be determined and limited to the maximum of the least number of Players upon a Team, with the Home Team determining which team shoots first in the shoot-out series.

## **SECTION 7** **Game Procedures**

7.1 Playing Rules – All CFHSHL games shall follow the rules herein and USA Hockey's current Official Rules of Ice Hockey ("USA Hockey Rules"). In the event any conflict exists between the CFHSHL Rules and the USA Hockey Rules, unless otherwise indicated herein, the USA Hockey Rules shall prevail.

7.2. Score Sheet Procedures – Score sheets for CFHSHL games may be electronic or USA Hockey sanctioned paper score sheets. Each coach or team manager shall provide and confirm the playing roster is accurate, (including the Player names and their corresponding jersey numbers), which shall not exceed 20 players, including the goalie(s), to the score keeper before the start of the game.

- a. Any uniform number changes must be properly registered on the score sheet.
- b. The starting goalie must be marked on the score sheet, and if a Team has a substitute goalie, it must also be noted on the score sheet, and the scorekeeper shall be notified.
- c. If a paper score sheet is used, the head coaches shall sign the score sheet at the beginning of the game, with one (1) copy given to each coach after the game.
- d. It is the scorekeeper's responsibility to turn in the third copy of the score sheet to the CFHSHL in accordance with the instructions provided by the CFHSHL.

7.3. Player Eligibility for a Game – For a player to be eligible to participate in a CFHSHL game, the player must be on the Official Roster of his or her Team, on the roster for the game, completed all game suspensions, if any, and be registered and in good standing with USA Hockey, SAHOF, CFHSHL, and the Player's Team.

- a. Players must serve their suspension in their respective division before being eligible to play in any CFHSHL game. Suspended Varsity B players are ineligible for "Call-Up" until they have served their suspension.
  - 1) Varsity B players receiving a Game Misconduct and/or Suspension in their Varsity B game are NOT eligible to be "Called-Up" to play in a subsequent Varsity A game until their suspension is served.
  - 2) Varsity B Players who have been "Called-Up" to play in a Varsity A game who are suspended while playing in the Varsity A game, must serve their suspension in their next scheduled game in the CFHSHL, regardless of it being in Varsity A or B.
- b. If a CFHSHL suspension carries beyond the last game of the regular season, the unserved games will carry over to the playoffs. If the player's Team does not qualify for playoffs, then the remaining game(s) shall be served at the start of the following season.
- c. Suspensions incurred during playoffs will carry over to the following season. Suspensions are not eligible to be served during non-CFHSHL tournaments or other non-CFHSHL games. The suspended individual is permitted to participate in those non-CFHSHL tournaments or league games since the team is different from the one that the player incurred the suspension with.
- c. Players cannot serve CFHSHL suspensions while rostered on Spring or Summer teams. Match penalty rulings on acts committed during CFHSHL games will carry

over to the next CFHSHL Season.

d. Graduating players who are serving a suspension, during what would be their last game of the season, may participate in any planned ceremonies (on or off-ice) honoring the graduating senior players that may occur before or immediately following the game in question.

7.4. Substitute Goalie – If a Team has no goalie available for a game, that Team may use another goalie from within the CFHSHL provided that the goalie and the opposing coach agree to the substitution. Such substitution must be noted on the score sheet.

7.5. Substitute Coach/Team Officials – If a Team has no Coach available for a game, that Team may use another Coach from within the CFHSHL. Such substitution must be noted on the score sheet.

a. Each team shall designate on the scoresheet 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.

b. A team may have up to four Team Officials on the players' bench. Only players in uniform and properly rostered Team Officials may occupy the players' bench.

c. A player on the team roster who is unable to play (other than through suspension) may be on the team bench without being considered a Team Official if they are wearing the team jersey and all required head and face protective equipment. However, this player must not be included on the game sheet as an eligible player.

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.

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

7.6. Playing Time – Each game shall consist of a three (3) minute warm-up session followed by three (3) stop time periods. There shall be no overtime or shootouts for regular-season games, and such games can end in a tie.

a. The completion of two (2) periods shall constitute an official game.

b. There will be a running clock at any point in the game when the goal differential is six (6) or more in the third period. The clock shall return to stop time if the goal differential falls below 6 for either Varsity A or B Teams.

c. Each game, for either Varsity A or B, shall consist of three (3) fourteen-minute (14) stop time periods.

d. If a rink imposes a game time limit, then the first two (2) periods shall be 14-minute stop time periods and the third period shall be half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the remaining curfew time with stops.

7.7. Referees/Linesmen – All CFHSHL games must, at a minimum, be officiated by a 2-man system consisting of 2 referees with current USA Hockey certification.

a. In the event there are fewer than two (2) referees, the game shall not be played and must be rescheduled unless both coaches and the CFHSHL approve of playing the game.

b. All referees/linesmen must be independent from both Teams.

- c. Approval of the referees/linesmen or use of any official's association or organization must be approved by the CFHSHL.

7.8. Game Forfeit – Forfeiting a game shall be a last resort for any Team in the CFHSHL. Consideration shall be given to calling up Varsity B players consistent with CFHSHL Rules and Procedures to address bench shortages.

- a. Team Managers and/or Coaches shall notify their District's CFHSHL representative in advance, if possible, of any intention to forfeit and the facts supporting the decision.
- b. If a Team forfeits a game for any reason, the game will be recorded as a 1 to 0 win for the non-forfeiting Team, and no statistics will be entered for that game.
- c. With the approval of the District's CFHSHL representative, and consistent with USA Hockey, a Team may play an official game with a minimum of six (6) players. In the event the Team's bench is reduced to four (4) players, the game shall be forfeited. In this event, the current documented statistics will stand. In the event the forfeiting team is winning, the non-forfeiting team shall be given a one-goal advantage credited to the bench (non-player) to document the win.

7.9. Uniforms – All Teams must have a CFHSHL-approved matching set of colored and styled team jerseys with all players wearing matching identical socks.

- a. Each Team is required to have their official jerseys at each game, with all Players wearing their appropriate uniform jersey by the third regular season game.
- b. Players may not participate in a game unless they wear the approved Team uniform.
- c. Any player new to a Team shall have three (3) weeks to obtain a Team uniform and may play in a game during that time period, provided the uniform worn is close in color to those used in that game for his/her Team.
- d. All players shall be assigned a single or double-digit number by his/her Team, and each jersey shall have the Player's number on the back printed with a minimum of eight (8) inches in height.
- e. No two (2) players on the same Team may have the same numbered jersey.
- f. The Player's name on the back of the jersey is optional, and the maximum height of the letters may be no more than five (5) inches.

7.10. CFHSHL Patches & Sponsorships – The CFHSHL will require all Teams to adhere patches and other insignia to their uniforms, designating various CFHSHL sponsors & supporters. The placement of CFHSHL required patches will be determined at the sole discretion of the CFHSHL.

- a. CFHSHL Uniform Inventory – The CFHSHL reserves the following areas on all CFHSHL uniforms for the purpose of sponsorship and CFHSHL insignia:
  - 1) Upper right chest.
  - 2) Right shoulder.
  - 3) Jersey tail.
  - 4) Back, lower right of the helmet.
- b. Team Uniform Inventory – Should a Team secure sponsorship, they are permitted to adhere sponsor insignia in the following areas, subject to prior CFHSHL approval of the design of the insignia as required above.
  - 1) Left shoulder.
  - 2) Jersey nameplate.

- 3) Back, lower left of the helmet.
- 4) Tail of jersey.

7.11. Disciplinary Rules & Appeal Process – The CFHSHL will abide by all current USA Hockey's Official Rules of Ice Hockey. Any player assessed a third game misconduct penalty during any given season may be required to appear before the Disciplinary Committee before playing in a subsequent game.

- a. Any incident or matter that may need to be reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee shall first be reviewed by the CFHSHL's Board of Directors. The CFHSHL's Board of Directors may, at their unilateral discretion, forward the matter to the Disciplinary Committee or, in time-sensitive matters, render an instant decision on culpability and discipline for the subject player(s).
- b. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the authority to suspend or place on probation (including determining its duration), or impose other disciplinary sanctions against any player, coach, or team manager it determines to have violated the USA Hockey Rules.
- c. Any decision of the Disciplinary Committee shall be by majority vote and shall be final unless a written appeal is submitted to the President within five (5) days of the ruling.
- d. Members subjected to discipline wishing to appeal the decision of the:
  - 1) Disciplinary Committee; shall communicate their wishes to the CFHSHL's Board of Directors within five (5) days of being given notice of the Disciplinary Committee's decision.
    - a) The Board of Directors shall review the appeal for merit. This can include, but not be limited to, new evidence.
    - b) The Board of Directors may, based on the merit of the appeal, uphold or amend the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.
  - 2) Board of Directors unilateral decision(s) have no recourse.
- e. Coaches serving suspensions
  - 1) Coaches shall serve their suspension in the team division in which the suspension was earned; e.g., suspensions earned in Varsity A shall be served in their next Varsity A game.
  - 2) No coach waiting to serve a suspension shall assist or head coach any other bench until their suspension is served.
  - 3) A coach waiting to serve a suspension in Varsity A shall not coach on a Varsity B bench until their Varsity A suspension is served, and vice versa.
  - 4) The CFHSHL's Board of Directors may, at its discretion, amend game schedules to accommodate a suspended coach in serving his/her suspension.

7.12. Game Protests, Video Review and Grievances – All game protests, video reviews, and grievances shall be governed by the Disciplinary Committee. Any protest, video review, or grievance involving officiating, procedures, rules, and/or regulations at league games shall be handled according to these procedures.

- a. Protests, video reviews, and grievances shall only be written and submitted by the Team's District CFHSHL representative to the CFHSHL Board of Directors within 48 hours of the perceived infraction.
- b. Protests, video reviews, and grievances involving judgment calls by the Referees are not permitted and shall not be considered, notwithstanding the SAHOF Video Review Policy.
- c. The Disciplinary Committee shall provide a copy to the opposing Team's coach or

team manager.

- d. A \$150.00 protest fee must be submitted with the written protest. This fee will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
- e. A maximum of 5 days is given to decide each protest.
- f. For ineligible player protests, a post-game check of rosters for eligibility shall be done by the Disciplinary Committee. If a player is not on the Official Roster, then the game is considered a forfeit for the Team with the ineligible player. If all players are eligible, the game stands.
- g. Video Review - Video evidence may be utilized by the CFHSHL consistent with these procedures and the SAHOF Video Review policy and related addenda that are incorporated into this document by reference. In all instances, the video review shall commence with a review by the League President or designee. The League President, in consultation with the CFHSHL Board, may render an immediate decision on the matter or refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee.

- 1) Video That May Not Be Reviewed:
  - a) The CFHSHL will generally not accept the following:
    1. Videos for the purpose of reviewing goals or disallowed goals.
    2. Videos for the purpose of reviewing the conduct or actions of any team or individual player, unless otherwise outlined in this policy.
    3. Videos for the purpose of reviewing on-ice officials' calls or non-calls, nor for the purpose of reviewing the on-ice officials' penalty selection, unless otherwise outlined in this policy.
- 2) Video That May Be Reviewed
  - a) CFHSHL may review the following:
    1. Videos for the purpose of identifying the correct player in situations where an incorrect player may have been identified by the on-ice official(s) and issued a penalty resulting in suspension (this does not apply to incorrectly identified players who have been issued a penalty without a suspension).
    2. Videos for the purpose of reviewing the conduct of game officials and team staff (coaches, staff, referees).
    3. Videos for the purpose of reviewing a situation that involves a reckless or endangering action towards a participant, whether a penalty was assessed or not. CFHSHL may use this video when determining the appropriate length of suspension for any participant who may have been directly involved in the reckless or endangering action towards a participant, whether a penalty was assessed or not at the time of the act being committed.
    4. Videos for the purpose of reviewing the conduct of spectators or parents.
- 3) Video Review Procedure
  - a) Submitted video review may include, but is not limited to:
    1. Referral of the matter to the CFHSHL Disciplinary Committee for resolution. This may result in the assessment of supplementary discipline for any infraction committed during such activity by any player(s) or team official(s) whether or not such infraction has been previously penalized by the

referee.

2. Consultation with individuals deemed by league leadership as appropriate/necessary (e.g., players involved, team officials, on-ice officials, etc.).

b. After review, the CFHSHL will make one of the following determinations regarding the matter:

1. The review is conclusive in that the act being reviewed either:
  - Warrants a suspension in cases where a suspension was not assessed, in which case, a suspension shall be levied against the offending participant, **OR**
  - Warrants a suspension in addition to the suspension assessed, in which case, supplemental discipline shall be levied against the offending participant.
2. The review is conclusive in that the officials made the appropriate call or non-call, and thus the suspension(s) as a result of the penalty/penalties or non-suspensions remain in effect and unchanged.
3. The review is conclusive in that a suspension is not warranted and thus any suspension(s) will be rescinded, and the participant under review is to be reinstated immediately.
4. The review is inconclusive. A review may be deemed inconclusive if the video recording does not provide a sufficiently clear view of the incident. Therefore, any decisions and/or suspension(s) resulting from a penalty or penalties assessed shall remain in effect.

c. In all instances, the review is final and shall not be subject to any further appeal unless the CFHSHL Disciplinary Committee assesses supplemental discipline.

7.13. Music/Bands at Games – Live or recorded music is permitted at all CFHSHL games and may only be played during pre-game, during intermission, and stoppage of play. Players and/or team officials shall immediately address any complaints relating to live or recorded music being played by their team.

7.14. Penalty Box Attendants - Home and visiting teams shall provide an adult penalty box attendant for each scheduled game.

- a. This person is under the supervision of the score-keeper and on-ice officials.
- b. Coaches shall ensure penalty box attendants are aware of the necessary responsibilities up to and including how the attendant shall conduct themselves and that violations by the attendant may result in the head coach being suspended.

## **SECTION 8**

### **Practice Protocol & Procedures**

- 8.1. All Teams shall hold a minimum of one (1) full-ice practice per week beginning the first week of April and ending at the end of the CFHSHL regular Spring season. All practice time ice costs are the responsibility of each Team within their Team District division.
- 8.2. Only Players and coaches affiliated with a given Varsity A or B Team may be on the ice with their Team for practice. This is limited to coaches and players (rostered or practice) on either of the Varsity A or B Team, subject to the following:
  - a. Certain exceptions may be made if a Team is without a goalie for practice. In such an instance, the substitute practice goalie must not be below 8<sup>th</sup> grade;
  - b. Specialty coaches, including current players and coaches of any specialty teams, semi-pro, professional, and/or other NHL Alumni, are permitted to assist in any CFHSHL practice regardless of team affiliation. Any coaches permitted to assist shall be properly certified and current with his/her USA Hockey certification.
- 8.3. Practices shall not exceed 75 minutes in length.

## **SECTION 9**

### **Tryout Protocol & Procedures**

- 9.1. All Varsity Teams shall hold a tryout to select their final Official Roster:
  - a. Potential players must be registered with the CFHSHL before attending an official Team tryout. A complete list of registered players within a Team's District Division will be provided by the CFHSHL to Coaches and Managers before the scheduled tryout date.
  - b. Spring Season tryouts may take place between March 1st and March 14<sup>th</sup> with all Spring tryouts completed by March 14.
  - c. Team Coaches and Managers shall notify the CFHSHL as to the desired date and time to hold their tryout.
- 9.2. The tryout session shall consist of one (1) 60-minute on-ice session for each Team. This 60-minute tryout session is covered by the respective team holding the tryout.
  - a. Total tryout sessions shall be considered a Team District Division's prerogative.
- 9.3. A designated Team's District CFHSHL Representative shall administer all tryout check-in and registration processes on the day of the tryout.
- 9.4. To be selected to a Varsity Team roster, players must meet all prior player eligibility requirements as listed within the aforementioned section above, and unless waived by the Team District Division, must also attend the Team tryout on-ice session.
  - a. If a player is not able to attend the Team tryout, that player shall disclose such information to the CFHSHL for the purpose of declaring their desire to play on the Varsity Team while having a schedule conflict that does not allow them to attend the tryout. Any player failing to declare their intentions 48 hours or more from the scheduled tryout shall not be eligible for the Varsity roster.
  - b. Coaches may select a player who has made notice to the CFHSHL of their

inability to attend the tryout. However, the CFHSHL, with the assistance of the Boundary Committee, reserves the right to deny any such roster request at its sole discretion.

- 9.5. All players who have been cut from their Varsity A Team shall be assigned to their Varsity B affiliate.
  - a. If a team has enough cut players to form its own Varsity B Team, the CFHSHL will make every effort to create a Varsity B Team specifically to feed one (1) Varsity A affiliate;
  - b. If a Team does not have enough cut players to form its own Varsity B Team, cut players will be assigned to a combined regional Varsity B Team compiled of Varsity B Players from multiple Varsity affiliates, as designated by the CFHSHL.

## **SECTION 10**

### **CFHSHL Administration & Other**

- 10.1. Permanent Committees – The CFHSHL shall enlist the assistance and insight of three (3) committees to aid in the execution of CFHSHL rules and regulations and the enforcement of its policies. All committee members shall be selected and serve at the discretion of the CFHSHL Board.
  - a. Boundary Committee – The Boundary Committee, if assembled, shall make recommendations regarding a Team's eligibility to participate each season and its classification as pure or combined, review Team Books to ensure compliance with the required documentation, determine the placement of players who do not have a designated Team, and review all background checks.
  - b. Disciplinary Committee – The Disciplinary Committee shall be responsible for, and have jurisdiction over, determining if any disciplinary action is warranted for infractions (whether assessed by an official or not) that occur at a game or series of games, committed by any player, coach, or team manager. Only disinterested committee members, selected by the CFHSHL President or designee, may vote on a disciplinary action. The committee shall also be responsible for administering game protests and for ensuring that all rules of play are communicated to referees, coaches, and players. The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of no more than 3 individuals selected at the discretion of the CFHSHL. If necessary, the CFHSHL may seek counsel and/or guidance from the SAHOF Disciplinary Committee and/or refer matters to the SAHOF Disciplinary Committee as determined necessary (e.g. inability to convene disinterested members).
- 10.2 Parents/Spectators Committing Infractions Warranting Disciplinary Action – The game will be stopped by game officials when parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The game officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectators' viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time shall not be replaced, and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include, but not be limited to:
  - a. Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
  - b. Taunting of players, coaches, officials, or other spectators through baiting,

- ridiculing, threat of physical violence, or physical violence.
- c. Throwing any object in the spectator's viewing area, player's bench, penalty box, or on the ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

10.3 Player Registration & Fees – All players are required to register with the CFHSHL before each season.

- a. Player Registration – Before each season, the initial registration period for all returning players shall begin on or about Jan 1st and will close on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- b. Registrations received by the CFHSHL beyond the initial registration period will be subject to CFHSHL approval. The CFHSHL shall not unreasonably deny such player registrations.
- c. Any designated Try-Out fee shall be paid before trying out to play in the CFHSHL.

10.4 Season Dues – Dues are the responsibility of each District Team.

- a. Unless approved by their District's CFHSHL representative Players shall submit their total team fee to their identified representative before the first scheduled game. If approved, players may pay their team fee in equal installments consistent with this procedure. District Teams shall either pay their total league fee before the first scheduled game or in installments consistent with this procedure.
- b. Monthly Installments – Payments shall be submitted by the player or team to the team or CFHSHL on the first day of April, May & June to remain in good standing with the CFHSHL.
  - 1) A five (5) day grace period will be granted each month.
  - 2) If a player fails to submit payment, he/she will not be considered in good standing with the CFHSHL and therefore will become ineligible for any CFHSHL-sanctioned event, including but not limited to games and practices, until the player is current with all financial obligations owed.
- c. Additional Player/Team Fees – A Team may not collect additional fees from their Players without first obtaining approval from the CFHSHL.
  - 1) Should an Additional Funding Request be approved by the CFHSHL, the CFHSHL will request the required additional funding from the Players associated with the requesting Team directly based on the total amount listed in the funding request.
  - 2) The CFHSHL shall then submit payment to any vendor directly for any approved services/items.
- d. Team Fundraising/Sponsorships – Teams are highly encouraged to do all they can to bring the cost down for their individual players. This includes Team fundraisers, as well as obtaining Team sponsorships.
  - 1) All funds collected by a Team directly through fundraisers or sponsorships shall be submitted to the Team.
  - 2) The CFHSHL shall in turn, disburse those funds amongst the players associated with the fundraising team equally, lowering their individual Season Dues.
- e. Player Scholarships/Sponsorships – In the event an individual player is not able to submit payment for the Season Dues, a Team may elect to scholarship or sponsor that player. A Team Official (i.e. a coach or manager) may submit payment on that player's behalf.
- f. Background Checks – Before the start of each season and at the CFHSHL discretion, all non-student adults involved in the CFHSHL, or any of its Teams,

who may have interaction with players, including coaches, team representatives, team managers, trainers, officers or Board members, shall pass a background check consistent with USA Hockey. Anyone not passing or not agreeing to this provision shall not be allowed to hold any type of administrative or coaching position within the CFHSHL, unless such person is approved by the CFHSHL with prior checks in place.

g. SafeSport – Coaches, Managers, and any required players (e.g. Student Coaches) shall comply with any current requirements of USA Hockey to complete required SafeSport Training.

10.5 Financial Reporting & Budget – The CFHSHL designee shall prepare a monthly financial report to include an actual versus budget comparison of income and expenses and a statement of financial condition while the CFHSHL has teams competing. Financial reports shall be prepared every 90 days when teams are idle/in the off-season.

10.6 Violation of CFHSHL Rules or Bylaws

Violation of CFHSHL Rules or CFHSHL Bylaws may result in disciplinary action by the CFHSHL. The CFHSHL may impose sanctions on an individual or Team after conducting an investigation of the matter, which shall include allowing the individual or Team a reasonable opportunity to respond to the violation and any evidence establishing the violation.

- a. The CFHSHL may establish procedures and or utilize the Disciplinary Committee when investigating or reviewing any possible or potential violations asserted.
- b. In establishing a finding of fact, the burden of proof utilized by the Disciplinary Committee shall be a preponderance of the evidence to establish if the violation more likely than not occurred or did not occur.
- c. Sanctions the CFHSHL may impose and can include any combination of the following devices to cure:
  - 1) The issuance of a written warning.
  - 2) Placing an individual on probation.
  - 3) Suspension of an individual from all CFHSHL activities for a period of time.
  - 4) Expulsion of an individual from all CFHSHL games or functions.
  - 5) Reducing points when determining a Team's standings.
  - 6) Imposing a game forfeit on a Team.
  - 7) Prohibition from participation in CFHSHL and/or State playoffs.
  - 8) Revocation of a Team's status in the CFHSHL.

10.7 Payments to Referees/Linesmen – The CFHSHL will ensure that each Rink pays each referee for each game worked using a standard fee schedule to be established by the CFHSHL. If there are fewer than two (2) referees at a game, the pay of any referee who works such a game shall be increased to one and one-half the established amount.

10.8 Donations to the CFHSHL – The CFHSHL may accept donations, whether monetary or in-kind gestures. The CFHSHL shall issue a written receipt for said donation for tax purposes to that entity or individual donating.

10.9 CFHSHL/CFHSHL Website(s) – The CFHSHL may utilize its website as a means to communicate game schedules and changes thereto and maintain the official CFHSHL

game results and standings via Pointstreak. The website may also facilitate player registration and other information the CFHSHL determines is in the best interests of the CFHSHL. The CFHSHL will only use personal information received from its website for the purpose stated on the page where the information was specifically collected.

10.10 Official CFHSHL Rule Amendments – These “Official CFHSHL Rules” have been crafted and developed to serve the CFHSHL’s best practices and interests in mind for the purposes of operating a locally affiliated High School Youth Hockey Program. As such, this doctrine is intended to serve as a “living document” and therefore may be altered, amended, repealed, or modified at any time to promote better CFHSHL standards by a concurring and ratifying vote of the CFHSHL’s Board of Directors.