



## ***MISSION STATEMENT***

- \* It is the goal of the Mountain State Girls Hockey League to:
- \* provide girls in the Rocky Mountain Region with a hockey league in which only girls may participate as players;
- \* promote and advance girls only hockey by providing the opportunity to play hockey principally at all novice and intermediate levels and evolving to, and sustaining at, an advanced level;
- \* bring to our players the reward, confidence, and satisfaction associated with the experience of playing on, and becoming a part of, an ice hockey team;
- \* promote positive personal characteristics in our players such as camaraderie, respect, dedication, sportsmanship, leadership, tenacity, generosity, and integrity on and off the ice;
- \* bring our player's parents, relatives, volunteers and fans a wholesome, positive experience watching the girls playing hockey;
- \* help promote respect, trust, courtesy and good sportsmanship among all of our participants, including players, coaches, volunteers, parents and fans;
- \* provide girl's teams and/or associations with the necessary tools and organizational structure to allow these teams to better provide girls with a safe, fun, and well-organized hockey league in which to participate;
- \* promote girl's hockey in the Rocky Mountain Region and to achieve overall continued growth and development of girl's hockey.



## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### ***ARTICLE I COMPETITION***

The teams of the Mountain States Girls Hockey League (the “League” or “MSGHL”) compete in the girls/women classification as defined by USA Hockey. Only girls’ recreational/house teams shall be permitted to play in the League.

### ***ARTICLE II TEAM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION***

#### **2.1 Registration.**

A. Provided there are at least four or more teams registered in each such category, the League will host teams in the following girls/women age categories: U-19, U-16, U-14, U-12, U-10 and U-8. A goal for the league is to develop an advanced (A) and novice (B) divisions in each age group.

B. The maximum number of players per team shall be 20 per USA Hockey rules; except that teams in the U16 and U19 age divisions may roster up to 25 players using a USA Hockey-approved High School team roster provided such rosters are limited solely to players properly classified as U16 and U19 players.

C. All teams shall be required to register with USA Hockey and CAHA and shall send a copy of the team’s Team Membership Application and USA Hockey Official Roster (1-T) to the League Secretary 4 days before the first scheduled game. All Supplemental Rosters (Changes) reflecting the addition or deletion of any player or coach shall be submitted no later than 48 hours prior to the game to the League Board. A response within 24 hours prior to the game start time by a Board member confirming the changes is required prior to the start of the next game. All Changes must be done by way of electronic mail to ensure time and date of request. Failure to submit either the Official Roster or any Supplemental Roster will result in a \$50 fine and the forfeiture of all games played while being improperly registered.

D. All rosters must additionally be submitted to the Director of Communications in correct Excel format to be put on the Electronic scoring platform, prior to the first league game.

#### **2.2 Double Rostering of Players.**

A. Double rosters of players on more than one MSGHL team will be permitted under the following structure:

**i.** No more than 4 players per team may be deemed “double rostered” DR per game; however, there is no limit to the number of double-rostered players that may participate on a team over the course of a season. All rosters for a game weekend are subject to the limitations in Article 2, Section 2.1.A. above.

**ii.** A player must play in a minimum of 50% of the games for the DR team in order to qualify for playoffs.

**iii.** Goalies will not be counted as one of the 4 DR players for any reason; i.e., if an association only has 1 goalie but enough players to make 2 teams the goalie may DR on each team.

**iv.** DR players will be noted on all official Electronic scoring platform team rosters by the association turning in the official roster.



B. Girls rostered on a registered Tier 1 team (girls or youth) may not roster on a MSGHL team.

C. Girls rostered on an MSGHL member team shall be permitted to double roster on a boy's/youth recreational or house team division.

D. Players may not be rostered on 2 different MSGHL teams that play in the same age division.

E. Goaltenders will be permitted to actively participate on two teams within the same age division with prior written request and approval from the board, and must be listed on both the properly submitted USA and the Electronic scoring platform rosters. (This is different than substitute goaltenders)

### **2.3 Roster Inquiries/Protests.**

A. All roster inquiries shall be made solely and directly through the respective teams' managers. All team managers shall have in their possession at each ice facility copies of all official USA Hockey rosters, Exception: all New Mexico and Utah teams traveling for out of state games may present verified IMR copies for each of its players. All team scoresheets/labels shall be properly identified, and shall list each player, the player's number, the name and certification number of each coach and the name of the team manager. If after review of the opposing team managers' book and/or scoresheet, a team manager requests further confirmation as to a players' physical or age status, such inquiries shall be made directly to the on-ice officials. In no event shall a players' physical and/or age status be questioned directly to, or in the presence of the player.

B. Any failure of a coach or parent to proceed through the team manager or acting manager will result in review by the League Suspension/Appeals Committee and may result in a \$200 fine and/or suspension of the coach, parent, or in some cases, the players of such parent for a time period to be determined by the Board through the Suspension Appeals Committee.

C. After review of an opposing team's managers' book as provided above, a team manager may elect to lodge a formal protest with the League regarding roster irregularities and player ineligibility upon the payment of a \$100.00 protest bond in accordance with Section 4.8 below.



## **2.4 Roster Changes.**

Players rostered on an MSGHL member team may only transfer one time per season unless otherwise approved by the League Suspension/Appeals Committee. All transfers must be submitted in writing to the Secretary and the President and be signed by both teams' coaches and the player.

## **2.5 Player Eligibility.**

A. All players must play, or in the case of goalies must be on the bench, dressed and available for play, a minimum of 50% of scheduled League games to be eligible for the League tournament. Any player serving a game misconduct cannot count that game towards the 50% minimum criteria. Players claiming a legitimate excuse (significant injury or illness preventing a girl from playing in many league games) must petition the MSGHL Tournament Committee 15 days prior to the tournament for an exemption from this rule. The Board will require documentation from the treating physician to be considered for a medical exemption. The Board may grant an exemption in rare cases where significant illness and injury were not the issue.

B. Any League team fielding an ineligible player(s) shall forfeit all League games in which such player(s) participated. An ineligible player shall include one who is not properly rostered on the official USA Hockey team roster on file with the League.

C. Any team using an ineligible player will be fined up to \$200 per player for the first incident. The second incident will result in a fine of up to \$500 per player. The third incident will result in a suspension of the team for the rest of the League season, including the League Tournament. This is a per season fine.

D. Forfeited games count towards play-off eligibility for the non-forfeiting team. The non-forfeiting team may use the game for player eligibility and the game counts as a game played. The forfeiting team may not count the game for player eligibility and the game counts as a game played.

## **2.6 Substitute Goaltender.**

A. It is recommended that all teams have two goaltenders on their Official Roster. The use of a "substitute" is authorized according to the following rules:

- i.** The substitute must be a female player properly registered with USA Hockey;
- ii.** The substitute goaltender should be of equal or less strength than the regular goaltender and she should not be registered at a higher level than the team she is substituting for;
- iii.** Use of the substitute in any game is limited to only those situations in which the team's regular or backup goaltender is unable to participate in that game.
- iv.** The Suspension/Appeals Committee shall have the authority to investigate the circumstances that require the use of a substitute in the event that the substitute was used in an effort to gain a competitive advantage. The Suspension/Appeals



Committee shall have the authority to invalidate a game in which the substitute was improperly used. The decision of the Suspension/Appeals Committee in any such matter shall be final and not subject to appeal.

B. To participate in a Tournament game, the member team coach or manager may request permission to use a substitute goaltender until either the regular or backup is able to participate. The criteria for a substitute goaltender for Tournament play is:

- i. The substitute goaltender must be a female player properly registered with USA Hockey.
- ii. The substitute goaltender should be of equal or less strength than the regular goaltender and she should not be registered at a higher level than the team she is substituting for.
- iii. It is preferred that the substitute goaltender be registered with another MSGHL member team.

These are general guidelines only and the Tournament Committee may find extenuating circumstances that change these guidelines. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final and not subject to appeal.

### ***ARTICLE III LEAGUE FEES, FINES and CONTINGENCY FUND***

Season Registration Fees. Each team participating in the League shall pay a season registration fee determined by the Board at the summer meeting. Failure to pay the fine by the first league game will result in a fine, outlined in 3.1.

#### **3.1 Fines.**

A \$25.00 per week fine shall be assessed on unpaid fines up to a maximum of \$200.00. All fines must be paid within 30 days or an additional \$50 per month late charge will be added, up to \$200. Additional CAHA fines may also be levied.

#### **3.2 Failure to Pay.**

Failure to timely pay any League registration fees for any team shall cause the member organization the loss of voting privileges at League meetings until such registration fee, together with any late fees, are paid in full. No team may participate in the League Tournament if its fee, fines or late charges are not paid to the League by the final payment date of the tournament. No team will be permitted to start a season until all fees, fines and late charges for the preceding season have been paid in full.

#### **3.3 Contingency Fund.**

All fines, assessments and late charges shall be credited to a League contingency fund. If after the last regular season League game, the fund exceeds \$4000.00, a portion of the contingency



fund (not to exceed \$200 per age division) shall be used for offsetting member organizations' costs for the League Tournament.

## ***ARTICLE IV*** ***MSGHL LEAGUE GUIDELINES***

### **4.1 League Schedule.**

The official League Game Schedule, when published, is considered to be a commitment by the member teams to make every effort to play the entire schedule.

### **4.2 Cancellations Due to Weather.**

The guidelines for weather cancellations are as follows: (For purposes Article IV, the Home team shall be the team responsible for ice fees and officials costs.

A. If there are winter storm watches or warnings and/or snow tires or chains required on any logical affected mountain passes or any logically affected roads have been closed due to weather, one or both of the teams may cancel the regularly scheduled League (the "canceling team") by notifying the other team (the "non-canceling team") no later than two hours prior to the scheduled start time of the game. The home team will be responsible for calling off all on-ice officials, and the away team will be responsible for notifying the League Secretary and/or Scheduler of the cancellation within 48 hours of the cancellation, and rescheduling the game for a later date and time.

B. In the event of a weather-related cancellation, the teams will split the cost of the referees and ice costs, if necessary.

C. If the two teams do not agree to a weather cancellation, the Executive Board will make a determination as to the appropriateness of the cancellation. Such a dispute shall be lodged by either team within 5 days of the cancellation to the League President, Scheduler and/or Secretary in writing. If the home team doesn't have ice time available, the home team may have to travel and pay for the ice time.

### **4.3 Cancellations Not Due To Weather.**

A. If any team fails to appear at a scheduled league game or tournament game, (and such cancellation is not due to any weather problems) and the teams have not mutually agreed to reschedule such game, the game shall be considered a forfeit by the canceling team and recorded as a 1-0 victory for the opposing team, and the canceling team shall be subject to a fine of \$100 plus ice and ice official fees.

B. Any team not able to participate in a regularly scheduled League game, whether it is due to weather, ice arena difficulties, sickness or lack of players, must contact the opposing team manager as soon as it is determined that the game must be cancelled. If the team manager is unreachable in person, messages must be left at both their work and home



numbers (provided they are made available to all the team managers) and emails sent and attempts must be made to contact the coach or coaches and the assistant manager, if any.

C. As soon as it is determined that a game is to be canceled, both teams' representatives will be responsible for notifying the Secretary and/or Scheduler of the cancelled game, and the home team will be responsible for calling off all on-ice officials.

D. In the event a member team cancels an away game or fails to appear for an away game with less than 48 hours' notice, and such failure is not due to weather, such member team shall be liable to reimburse the home team for the entire cost of the game ice and referee costs; provided however, that if the home team can sell or otherwise utilize the ice time for a replacement scrimmage or game, or is able to call off the referees in time, no reimbursement will be required.

#### **4.4 Fines for Cancellations Not Due to Weather.**

If either the home or away team cancels a game for any reason and such team fails to properly notify the other team and the Secretary and/or Scheduler, such team shall pay a fine to the League contingency fund of \$100. Payment shall be required regardless of whether the game is later rescheduled and shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the occurrence.

#### **4.5 Failure to Contact League Officers.**

In addition to the above criteria, all cancellations and changes in game times, arenas, etc. must be communicated in writing by both teams to the Scheduler and/or the Secretary as soon as they occur. If it is a last minute cancellation (not due to weather), both teams need to notify the President and the scheduler within 48 hours in writing as to the reason for cancellation. Failure to notify Scheduler and/or the president in writing of such cancellation may result in a double forfeit. It is recommended that both teams immediately e-mail directly to both the president and/or Scheduler of the League.

#### **4.6 Length of Games.**

A. All regular season League games shall consist of three 12-minute stop time periods for U-10 and U-12, three 14 minute stop time periods for U-14 age classifications and three 15-minute stop periods for the U-16 and U-19 age classifications. There shall be no overtime with the exception of the League Tournament Championship games.

B. Each member association must follow the minimum time slots given above, and endeavor not to create the requirement for Curfew games. In the event of an unplanned event, such as an injury delay, or facility breakdown, a curfew game may become necessary.

i. Games required to be played under a curfew due to an unplanned incident will require that the Off-ice Officials must inform both Head Coaches and Game Referee before the start of the game that there is a curfew time for the game. Notification will be noted on Electronic scoring platform comments section.

ii. At the end of the second period, the Off-ice Officials shall determine the time remaining in the allotted game slot. If the actual time remaining is 25 minutes or more



then the third period shall proceed under its regularly prescribed stop time as outlined in Section A above. In the event that after the second period fewer than 25 minutes remain in a game's allocated time slot, a curfew may be needed. If the actual time remaining in the allotted game time slot at the conclusion of the second period is less than two times the period length, the Off-ice Officials will determine how much time is left in the allotted game slot. One half of this remaining time will be placed on the game clock and the third period will be completed using this time in a stop clock fashion. Example: At the end of the second period there is 18 minutes remaining in the allotted game slot. 9 minutes will be placed on the game clock for the third period and for completion of the game. At no time in the third period will running time be used for purposes of a curfew. The Off-ice Officials shall inform the Referee after the second period of how the clock will be run during the third period.

C. The host team shall notify the officials and visiting team at the beginning of the game if the game is subject to curfew.

D. Host team shall obtain a minimum of 60 minutes of ice time for U12 games, and 75 minutes of ice time for U14, U16 and U19 games. In the event the host team cannot secure this amount of ice time, they must notify the Scheduling Director and the visiting team(s) as soon as possible.

E. For all games, in the event of a 6 goal differential, the game will become a run clock. If the losing team reduces the goal differential to less than 6 goals regular clock stop procedures will be reinstated.

F. In the event of weather related circumstances (i.e. snow/extreme cold) it is the decision of the on ice official to determine whether or not the game can or should continue. A game can be considered complete only after 50% of the game has been completed. In the event that the beginning of the game cannot be started it will be at the board's discretion to rule on the outcome based on the written report submitted by the on ice officials. The on ice officials will make the decision after any of the criteria below have been met and any and all efforts have been made to rectify the situation by the host team and the host facility. It is the responsibility of the home team to follow up with the league.

*Under what circumstances may a Referee terminate a game prematurely?*

*The only acceptable reason for an official to suspend a game (other than a lack of available players) is if playing conditions that are outside of the control of the participants have become unsatisfactory.*

*Rule Reference 636(e).*

*Examples of conditions beyond the control of all game participants would include:*

- \* a portion of the ice melts*
- \* significant lighting failure (dark or long shadows)*
- \* glass falls out or shatters and can't be replaced*
- \* a gate falls off or cannot be locked in place*





\* time clock failure and no alternative timing means

\* weather conditions (outdoor facility only)

*The improper behavior of players, coaches and/or spectators is not a viable reason to suspend a game and the on-ice officials do not have the authority to do so. In every instance when a game is suspended, a written report should be submitted to the Proper Authorities (CAHA).*

#### **4.7 Playing Rules.**

The current edition of the USA HOCKEY OFFICIAL RULES will be used for all League play, including all game penalties as described below.

#### **4.8 Off Ice Behavior:**

The suspension and appeals committee has the right to suspend any player, coach, parent, or spectator for behavior that does not uphold the ideals and mission of USA hockey, CAHA or MSGHL, both on and off the ice. Any profanity, threatening, or derogatory behavior, either in person, in writing, by phone or in a digital context will be subject to suspension. It is up to each team to control their players, coaches, fans, and parents on and off the ice.

#### **4.9 Protests.**

A. Any protest regarding by-law enforcement or player eligibility rules must be lodged with the President by submission of a detailed written account of the incident within forty-eight (48) hours after the completion of a League game. The protesting team shall also submit a protest fee in the amount of \$100.00, which must be received by the Treasurer no later than four days following the League game. The protest fee is refundable if the protest is decided in favor of the protesting team. If the protest is not decided in favor of the protesting party, the \$100 shall be paid to the League contingency fund.

B. The Executive Board shall rule on the protest within ten (10) days after the Treasurer's receipt of the protest fee.

#### **4.10 Scoresheets.**

A. All MSGHL member associations will comply with CAHA and the "Electronic scoring platform" rules and procedures. The Home team (as defined by the League schedule) is responsible for entering "Electronic scoring platform" data and providing game pucks.

B. No "Electronic-scoring platform" changes are allowed after a game is entered. The only exception is where a major or match penalty is entered incorrectly. The change can only be made by the Electronic scoring platform administrator, with executive board approval.

C. Each team representative is responsible for ensuring team rosters are correct in the Electronic scoring platform. Failure to do so will result in the following: the first offense will result in a warning; any further offenses by a specific team will result in a one game suspension to the head coach.



D. All team and player statistics from the League game scoresheets shall be posted on the CAHA website provided by the Electronic scoring platform.

#### **4.11 Officials.**

A. Only certified USA Hockey on-ice officials are to be used for all League games.

B. The home team is responsible for notifying the appropriate referee scheduler as well as the Secretary of games and changes to the schedule.

C. If for any reason the scheduled official(s) do not show up for a scheduled game, the coaches or team representatives shall attempt to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement which may include the use of mutually acceptable coaches for referees, or the cancellation and rescheduling of the League game. In this event the teams shall share the cost of the replacement ice for the rescheduled game. Such agreement shall be noted on the original copy of the score sheet and no protest shall be lodged because there were no certified officials. In the event no arrangement is agreed upon, the home team must reschedule the game. The home team shall notify the referee scheduler and the President within 72 hours.

D. Officials shall not consent to officiate League games in which blood relatives or members of their households are participating as players, coaches, or managers. Should a situation arise whereby an official must officiate due to extremely unusual circumstances, and said official is a blood relative or household member of a game participant, the official must complete the following requirements before the start of the game:

i. Report the kinship to the other game official and coaches of each team; and

ii. Secure approval of both coaches in writing on the game score sheet to utilize said official for the game.

E. If no approval is obtained, the game must be rescheduled and the home team will be responsible for providing the replacement ice.

#### **4.12 Injured Players.**

In the event that a player is injured during a League game or other League - sanctioned event and such injury results in the player being transported from the site of injury by emergency medical personnel, a team member representative shall immediately report the details of the incident to the President.

#### **4.13 Player Jerseys.**

Each player rostered on a team must have like-styled jerseys with different visible numbers, both home and away, with similar socks.

#### **4.14 Issues With Rules and Regulations**



All issues that need attention by the league must be brought to the MSGHL board president by an association representative rather than a coach, manager or parent. It is preferred this be done in writing via e-mail. A response will be sent via e-mail in a timely manner.

## ***ARTICLE V*** ***COMMUNICATION***

### **5.1 Method of league communication**

League communication to the membership will be disseminated in the following manner:

- A. At Spring (May) and Fall (September) league meetings.
- B. Via the league website (msghl.net), email (**only registered users of MSGHL.net website will receive e-mail communication**), and other forms of available social media outlets (i.e. Facebook, Twitter).
- C. Monthly informative conference calls, typically scheduled on the second Wednesday of each month.

## ***ARTICLE VI*** ***LEAGUE TOURNAMENT***

### **6.1 Format of league tournament**

At the end of season play within the MSGHL, the top 5 or 6 teams within each age division will qualify for the League Tournament held at a location determined by the Tournament Committee, preferably scheduled for the last weekend of February. If there are 7 or less teams in the age division, 5 teams will qualify to play in the tournament. If there are 8 or more teams in the age division, 6 teams will qualify to play in the tournament.

There will be round robin play of 4 games within the age division, followed by the top two teams playing for the championship in one game.

### **6.2 Regular season tie breakers for qualification for league tournament**

Teams are ranked on the Electronic scoring platform with the following criteria:

- Number of points earned in league play
- Number of wins in regular season play
- Head to head against tied teams
- Goal differential in head to head games between tied teams
- Goal differential of tied teams for the season

### **6.3 Tournament Rules**

Tournament rules can be found in a separate document on the league website (msghl.net)