



LEAGUE HANDBOOK

Rules/Policies/Procedures

Last Revision August 2023

Mission Statement: The Greater Nashville Area Scholastic Hockey (GNASH) League is committed to providing a positive hockey experience that develops the skills of the game as well as instills the values of discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership and respect. High school age participants can develop and learn the techniques of the game while respecting our coaches, officials, players, volunteers and the game.

Vision Statement: To be the premier high school hockey program for the mid-state area dedicated to maximizing growth of the sport and participant athletes' potential as players, teammates, and as individuals while learning valuable life and leadership skills



League Handbook

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Document Information and Revision History

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Current Revision Author(s)	Kevin Hagan/John Sullivan

Version	Date	Revision Author(s)	Revision Notes
1	08/23/02	Craig Kendall, Lorraine Vossler, Joe Barth	Original Version of Handbook
2	03/27/05 1. 5/24/04 2. 9/27/04 3. 11/19/04 4. 9/20/05 5. 10/18/05	Deborah Davis, Jean Sanders	Several updates to the handbook accumulated over the years without being updated. The date to the right corresponding to each item refers to the date the change was actual approved. This update included the following items: 1. Section 3.09 Play-offs (a) 2. Section 3.09 Play-offs (a) 3. Section 3.04 Team Roster (f) 4. Section 1.12 Co-operative Teams (b) 5. Section 1.09 Dues and Other Expenses (d)
3	Off-season 2006 and 2007	Deborah Davis, Jean Sanders, Jill Rathert, Barbara Holmes, Steve Smith	Complete review of all rules and revisions as approved by the Board
4	May 2008	Deborah Davis	Spelling corrections, republication in PDF format:
5	Off-season 2009	Deborah Davis John Allyn Dave O'Loughlin Steve Smith Cathy Askins Joe Griffin	Readability enhancements & corrections, Review of hardship section & tournament eligibility
6	April, 2010	Deborah Davis John Allyn Dave O'Loughlin Joe Griffin	Revision of transfer, hardship, playoff waivers

Version	Date	Revision Author(s)	Revision Notes
7	09/21/2010	John Allyn, Dave O'Loughlin, Sandi Chadwick	Division structure, non-GNASH players and coaches on GNASH ice, permitting travel coaches to coach GNASH teams, clarifying playoff rules, clarifying college attendance rules.
8	08/30/2011	John Allyn, Tom Miller, Tom Feeney, Sandi Chadwick	Allows home school students to play under certain conditions (Section 2.01), clarifies coaching certification requirements (Section 2.22), allows games to be rescheduled due to inclement weather under certain conditions (Section 3.05).
9	08/21/2012	John Allyn, Sue Falls, Mark Peacock, Norm Jenks, Ed Callaway, David Deutsch, Loretta Kimble, Tom Miller, Jeff Rydburg, Steve Schwartz	Changes division structure, amends co-op rules, creates a goalie pool, allows eighth grade participation
10	5/21/2013	Sue Falls, Norm Jenks, Ed Callaway, Steve Schwartz, Tom Feeney, Rob Biancheri, Ken Premo, Kelly Gettings; Laura Thomas	Clarifies requirements for playoff waiver (section 3.04); clarifies eligibility for senior and all-star game (section 1.16); conforms suspensions to USA Hockey rules (section 4.02); clarifies tiebreaker procedures (section 3.02); assigns goalie pool administration to a volunteer (section 3.13); requires payment of team dues on stated schedule to play games (section 1.09)
11	6/18/2013	Sue Falls, Norm Jenks, Ed Callaway, Steve Schwartz, Tom Feeney, Rob Biancheri, Ken Premo, Kelly Gettings; Laura Thomas	Clarifies forms and timing for Co-op teams and roster approval process (section 1.12); establishes Board authority to create supplemental teams (section 1.12(j)(12)); establishes special rule for shootout procedures to resolve tie games
12	7/23/2013	Sue Falls, Norm Jenks, Ed Callaway, Steve Schwartz, Tom Feeney, Rob Biancheri, Ken Premo, Kelly Gettings; Laura Thomas	Changes league structure and scheduling (section 3.02(b));
13	7/15/2014	Ken Premo, Mark Layne, Phil White, Sue Falls, John Holmes, Roger Rettke, Hugh Driver, Rob Biancheri, David Deutsch, Danny Corns Jill Rathert	Date Change 1.12(3), Grammar correction 2.01(b2i), Schedule adjustments 3.02(b, b2&3), Correction 3.02(b4), post-season eligibility 3.04(f), Date change 3:05(a), League playoffs 3:09(a1-2-3, c, d, g)

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22	March 2026		1.08, 1.12, 3.12, 3.14



Article I. Policies

Section 1.01 Purpose

GNASH shall support the growth and quality of varsity high school ice hockey in Middle Tennessee. Except as provided in Section 2.06, GNASH adopts the traditional definition of a varsity high school sports team - a high school ice hockey team is associated with one school and consists of players in attendance of that school. To this end, GNASH shall operate the GNASH League ("League") as its sole program.

Section 1.02 Objectives

- (a) To promote the welfare of high school student athletes.
- (b) To encourage, foster, and promote the growth and development of high school hockey in the greater middle Tennessee area.
- (c) To plan, review, supervise, conduct, control, and administer all high school ice hockey activities within the greater Middle Tennessee area.
- (d) To stimulate exchange of ideas between parents, players, educators, hockey organizations, and the general public to provide the best hockey experience and opportunities for the high school student.
- (e) To encourage and develop the mental knowledge, skills, ability, and sportsmanship of all participants with respect to the sport of high school ice hockey.
- (f) To promote closer ties between the administrations of middle Tennessee high schools, other youth hockey leagues, GNASH and parents.
- (g) To encourage the development of additional ice rink facilities in the middle Tennessee region.

Section 1.03 Guiding Policies

- (a) GNASH shall sponsor and operate the League as its sole program.
- (b) GNASH shall be non-profit, non-commercial, non-sectarian, and non-partisan. Neither the name GNASH nor the names of its officers in their official capacities shall be used in any connection with a commercial concern or with any partisan interest or for any purpose other than the regular work of GNASH. The primary use of funds, dues, and proceeds derived by GNASH shall be for the benefit and improvement of high school hockey.
- (c) Hockey is not a sport that is recognized or regulated by the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA). However, GNASH will consider TSSAA's rules as set forth in the TSSAA Handbook (as it may be amended from time to time) as general guidance as to matters on which these rules are silent. This notwithstanding, the Board shall have the power to reject or ignore any provision of the TSSAA Handbook that it deems contrary to the policies and purposes of GNASH

- (d) The GNASH Board of Directors (“Board”) shall govern the League.
- (e) GNASH shall cooperate with all area youth hockey associations to promote the growth and improve the quality of youth ice hockey, including but not limited to minimizing, where possible, schedule conflicts with travel and house league hockey programs.

Section 1.04 Board of Directors

(a) Board of Directors

(a) The Members of GNASH shall elect the Board of Directors. The Board shall meet with an agenda as determined by the President. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President will assume his/her GNASH duties. As noted in Section 1.08, each Team shall be represented by a Representative with voting privilege and an alternate who shall have voting privilege in the absence of the Team's Representative. Each Team shall have no more than one vote with the exception of the President who shall vote in case of a tie. All voting team representatives and team managers must register with USA Hockey and GNASH and complete all annual requirements for both entities. Any representative not adhering to the registration process, Safe Sport or Background Checks will NOT be allowed to vote. There are no proxy votes. With the exception of electronic vote called by the President, voters must be present at the league meeting to vote.

- (b) Officers shall be voting members of the Board except that: (i) an Officer without a school affiliation (other than the Commissioner) shall not be entitled to vote; (ii) as an ex-officio member, the Past President shall not have voting privileges; (iii) the President shall not vote except in the event of a tie vote on any matter before the Board; and (iv) no Team shall have more than one vote and shall determine which of the Officer or the Representative shall cast a vote on behalf of the Team, provided however, that the President shall cast a tie-breaking vote regardless of the one team – one vote rule. If a Team fails to be represented at three (3) consecutive Board meetings, the Secretary shall notify the Team's Head Coach and the Team's Manager by email.

Section 1.05 Representative Administration and Conflict of Interest

- (a) The League shall be administered and governed by the GNASH Board of Directors.

(1) The Board shall make all decisions related to the League, including but not limited to policies, membership, eligibility, season schedule, player and coach registration, fees, rules, regulations and discipline.

(2) The Board may assign these tasks to its Officers, Directors or committees. The Officers of GNASH shall constitute the elected Executive Committee and shall be the Officers of the League and shall include: President, Vice-President, Commissioner, Treasurer, Scheduler, Registrar, Secretary, and Coach Liaison/SafeSport Coordinator. The Coach Liaison/SafeSport Coordinator may not be a head coach in the league.

(3) The day-to-day business decisions of the League shall be delegated to the President.

(4) In the temporary absence of the President, the Vice President will assume his/her day-to-day League duties.

(5) Since occasions may arise whereby actions need to be taken before regularly scheduled Board meetings, or before an Executive Committee meeting can be convened in person, the President may use electronic methods to communicate with the Board or Executive Committee to conduct the urgent business.

- i. Matters requiring an electronic vote shall require a minimum of three business days from the presentation of the matter to the calling of the vote.
- ii. In a timely manner, the Secretary shall report to the President all pertinent

information regarding motions, seconds, and vote totals for recording and publishing in the organization's records.

- iii. Amendments affecting the GNASH By-laws and playing regulations are excluded from this circumstance.

(6) Whenever possible the President (or Vice-President) and Registrar should attend the annual SAHA meeting.

(7) The President shall appoint qualified persons for a renewable term of one-year to positions of defined responsibility for the following;

- i. Association Communications & Electronic Media Coordinator
- ii. Association School and Local Education Administration (LEA) Development Director

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision herein, no Team Representative (including alternate) or Officer shall vote on any matter directly affecting the school or team represented by or associated with the Representative or Officer. In the event of a tie-vote or a matter in which the President has a conflict of interest, the Past President shall cast the tie-breaking vote.

(c) From time to time, the board establishes committees. Any committee meeting convened in person, with the exception of Executive, Disciplinary and SafeSport committees, shall be open to all board members to have observation rights, including any discussion and voting by those committees.

The dates, times and locations of all committee meetings shall be published in advance

Section 1.06 Handbook Modifications

The Board of Directors shall establish an annual, out-of-season schedule of review and modification of the Handbook by a committee of the Board appointed by the President to include no less than five (5) committee members and no more than (7) committee members. The Handbook Committee will be chaired by the President and shall include the Vice-President, Commissioner and at least one (1) member from a scholastic team and one (1) member from a co-op team. Modifications of the Handbook during this scheduled process require an affirmative vote of the Board. During the League season, modifications to the Handbook will require written resolution with a second at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. The President shall refer the resolution to the Handbook committee for review and report at the next scheduled meeting of the Board. Affirmation by two-thirds of the Board is required for adoption of a resolution to modify the eligibility criteria or rules of league play during the League Season.

Section 1.07 League Commissioner

The Board shall nominate and elect a League Commissioner whose responsibilities shall include, among the duties provided for in the Bylaws and herein and such other GNASH duties as may be assigned from time to time, Chairman of the Discipline Committee and enforcement of the League Rules of Play. The League Commissioner shall not be a Representative or have a child on any League Team. The League Commissioner shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. The Commissioner shall represent the League in matters related to any hockey officials' association and league game play.

Section 1.08 Membership

- (a) **Member.** High school hockey teams desiring membership in the League may make application to the Registrar who will present the team's request to the Board of Directors. Applications for membership shall be approved or rejected by the Board of Directors. Any Member Team that withdraws (or is suspended) from the League and is later readmitted shall not have a vote in matters considered by the Board of Directors for the first year after readmission. Schools and teams must reside in one of the 38 middle Tennessee counties as defined by the "Middle Region" found on the tn.gov website. Ft. Campbell High School (KY) students are also allowed to play in GNASH.
- (b) **Team.** The Team is composed of the players, coaches, parents, school officials, and required Team Officials that meet all eligibility requirements of the League. Team Officials shall include, as a minimum, the Team Manager, the Head Coach, and two (2) Team Representatives. Neither the Team Representative nor the Alternate may be the Head Coach listed on the official Team roster.
- (c) **Team Manager.** The Team Manager shall have the duty of fulfilling all Team responsibilities to the League. These responsibilities shall include, at a minimum, arranging for off-ice officials (including penalty box official, and scorekeeper when the away team, timekeeper when the home team), if those responsibilities are not provided by the league. In addition, the team manager is responsible for payment of dues and fees, player registration, stat reporting, communication and the provision of any other documentation as required by the League.
- (d) Membership in the League is conditioned upon compliance with the Bylaws of GNASH and the rules, policies, and procedures as adopted from time to time by GNASH. Failure to comply may result in immediate suspension or termination of membership, the right to participate in scheduled ice hockey competitions or activities, and/or the forfeiture of all fees, charges, and assessments paid, at the sole discretion of the Board.

Section 1.09 Dues and Other Expenses

- (a) **Team Dues.** The Board of Directors shall determine the amount of annual Team Dues that will be equal to the sum of the Season Team Fees and the Season Individual Fees. The Team Dues shall be paid in full according to the payment schedule established by the Executive Committee. Teams who have not paid Team Dues and any assessed penalty fees in full according to the payment schedule prior to any scheduled game will forfeit all said games until the balance is paid in full.
 - (1) Season Team Fees are the anticipated costs for practice and game ice time, game officials, and other expenses assessed by the League.
 - (2) Season Individual Fees will include any administrative costs assessed by the League.
- (b) **Pre-Season Team Deposit.** A \$1,000 deposit toward the Team's Dues will be due on or before June 1 and must be submitted together with the Season Application Form. This deposit shall be non-refundable with one exception. If a co-op team request is not approved by the Board, subject to the provisions of subparagraph (d), the deposit may be returned. (d). This annual Team deposit will renew Team membership in the League and allow the League to contract for ice. Membership expires at midnight on May 31 of each year. A Team failing to renew membership before June 1 shall be charged a non-refundable penalty of \$150.00. (Penalty fees will not be credited toward a Team's annual Dues). The Treasurer shall notify by registered letter the Team Manager that has not renewed membership by June 1 and advise that unless the membership fee and the penalty are paid in full by 5:00 PM on June 15th the Team shall be dropped from the League.

- (c) Payments of Team Dues. Payment of the Deposit or the balance of Team Dues and penalty fees will only be accepted in the form of single checks made out by the Team and made payable to GNASH. Individual player/parent checks and/or cash are not an acceptable form of payment to the League.
- (d) For any co-op that splits, the returning team credit (if any) will be divided based on the team's roster from the previous year. For example: If a team's prior year roster lists 15 players from school A and 5 players from school B and in the current year the team splits to each form their own scholastic teams **and** there is a returning team credit of \$1000.00 it would be divided as such – school A would get a \$750 credit and school B would get a \$250 credit.

Section 1.10 Financial Statement

- (a) The Fiscal Year of the GNASH shall be from June 1 to May 31.
- (b) The Treasurer shall prepare, provided and report a financial statement to the Board to include:
 - (1) A Statement of Financial Position prepared monthly to include:
 - (i) Current balance for each depository account in the GNASH's name
 - (ii) Current known funds due to the league
 - (iii) Current known obligations of the league listed by creditor
 - (2) A Statement of Activities prepared monthly to include:
 - (i) A list of all income and support received for the month
 - (ii) A list of all expenses and outflows sent for the month
 - (iii) A reconciliation of all activities to bank statements
 - (3) An annual budget presented to the Board on or before September 1 of each fiscal year to include a reconciliation to the prior year budget and projections for the upcoming season.

Section 1.11 Scholastic Teams

A Scholastic Team is a school-based team composed of students enrolled and in regular attendance at a single high school. A student may not be rostered on more than one team in the League. Prior to the beginning of each season, each Team must provide to the Registrar confirmation from either the School principal or athletic director of approval of the Team's participation in the GNASH League. Scholastic teams are subject to the USAH roster limit of 30 players for high school classification or 20 players for U18 classification (U18 classification allows 8th grade players).

Section 1.12 Cooperative (Co-Op) Teams and Roster Approval Process

Section 1.11 Scholastic Teams

A Scholastic Team is a school-based team composed of students enrolled and in regular attendance at a single high school. A student may not be rostered on more than one team in the League. Prior to the beginning of each season, each Team must provide to the Registrar confirmation from either the school principal or athletic director approval of the Scholastic team's participation in the GNASH League. Scholastic teams are subject to the USAH High School and U18 roster limits.

Section 1.12 Multi-School Team Structures and Governance

(a) A Multi-School team is composed of high school students that do not qualify for a Scholastic Team as defined in Section 1.11. These students will be partnered with other students to form one or two types of teams: 1) Cooperative Team ("Co-Op Team") 2) Supplemental Team. In accordance with Multi-School guidelines herein, all proposals to form either a Cooperative Team or Supplemental Team must be reviewed on an annual basis and approved by the Co-Op Committee and must be approved by the Executive Committee and the full GNASH Board.

(b) Multi-School Team Structures Defined

(1) Cooperative Team (Co-Op Team)

A Co-Op Team is composed of high school students enrolled and in regular attendance at either two or three separate high schools. Each separate high school that is petitioning as a partner of a co-op team must have at least 3 students from the school on the co-op team's roster. Co-Op roster sizes will ideally be between 15 – 22 players with the exceptions for roster expansion subject to review and approval by the full GNASH Board and subject to USAH High School and U18 roster limits.

The school having the most students rostered to play ice hockey on September 1 will be considered the lead school. The teams forming the co-op team will determine which team jerseys will be worn for each game in compliance with GNASH Home and Away uniform guidance (for both regular season and playoffs).

(I) Wear the colors and mascot logo of the lead school on both their home and away jersey; or

(II) Wear a combination of all schools' colors and mascot logos on both their home and away jersey; or

(III) Wear the colors and mascot of the lead school on their home jersey and the other school(s) colors and mascot on their away jersey(s); or

(IV) Wear the home or away jersey of each school on a rotating basis as determined by all schools participating in the co-op.

(2) Supplemental Team

The Co-Op Committee, final approval of the full GNASH Board, shall have the option of creating one or more supplemental teams with the sole purpose of supplementing the league for a one-year term. Supplemental teams shall be subject to the following restrictions and limitations.

(i) Supplemental Teams shall be deemed "Supplemental" and shall not be granted team status until all Scholastic and co-op teams have been formed and approved.

(ii) Boundaries from which players could be drawn to fill a Supplemental Team will be defined by the league board and could be, but not necessarily, limited to specific geographies (county/counties, etc.)

(iii) Each Supplemental Team roster shall confirm with USAH High school and U18 roster limits.

(iv) Players who played the previous season on an approved Supplemental team will be eligible to remain with the same Supplemental team under the grandfather rule that

- (2) Supplemental Team be approved the following season, provided the following criteria are met:
- a. The players school where enrolled remains within the approved boundaries of the Supplemental Team.
 - b. The players school where enrolled has not formed a Scholastic team.
 - c. The players school where enrolled has not joined another co-op team.
 - d. The players school where enrolled has not been included within defined “boundaries” of another Supplemental Team.
 - e. A player classified as home school is not zoned for a school that is part of a scholastic or co-op.

Proposals for Supplemental Teams must be submitted by May 1. (c) Co-Op Team Formation and Governance Guidelines

1. Criteria that must be demonstrated for approval of a co-op team include, but are not limited to:
 - I. Having fewer than 15 skaters (non-goalies) to support a Scholastic school-based ice hockey program.
 - II. Proven efforts to recruit within designated feeder schools
 - III. Minium of 3 players (including goalies)
2. Subject to any grandfather exclusions, any two-school co-op team with a roster of 15 or more players, excluding goalies, is prohibited from adding third school to the co-op until all two-school co-ops have been formed.
3. A co-op team granted full GNASH Board approval may not deny a roster spot to any eligible player from any partner school, subject to the USAH roster limits for High School and U18 classifications.
4. Co-Op teams from the previous season will be given priority to remain together prior to the formation of new co-op teams, subject that an unfair competitive advantage over league schedule opponents does not exist for the new upcoming season and meets all other co-op team criteria.
5. Co-Op team approval is for one year ONLY and is subject to annual review and approval by the full GNASH Board. The status of all players on a co-op team ends with the ending of the playing season, including the playoffs. However, Team Representatives/Directors from all schools comprising the co-op team may continue to serve as Board Members through the August Board Meeting following the end of the season.
6. When any school that is a partner of a co-op team the previous season independently has fifteen (15) or more eligible skaters, excluding goalies, the co-op status of the previous co-op team may be terminated, and such schools(s) may be required to form an independent Scholastic school-based hockey team. The Executive Committee shall have the final authority to determine when sufficient student players with hockey skills are available to form a Scholastic school-based team.
- 7.

(d) Co-Op Committee Formation and Governance Process

A Co-Op Committee shall be appointed by the Vice President in March to oversee the formation of co-op and supplemental teams. The committee will include no less than five (5) committee members and no more than seven (7) committee members. The Committee will be chaired by the Vice President and shall include the President, Commissioner and at least one (1) member from both a Scholastic Team and a Co-Op Team (from previous season).

The roles and responsibilities of the Co-Op Committee are as follows

- Oversee the formation of Co-Op and Supplemental Teams.
- Accept and review submission requests for the formation of Co-Op and Supplemental Teams.
- Review submission requests and requested partnerships to determine eligibility and ensure combined skill levels do not give any proposed team an unfair competitive advantage over League scheduled opponents. Competitive advantage factors include, but are not limited to the number of players being proposed to reach the ideal roster size limits as defined in Section 1.12 (b) (1)
- Recommend and assist schools with finding partner schools to form a co-op team.
- Present final recommendations for Co-Op and Supplemental teams to the Executive Committee and Full GNASH Board for review and approval

(e) Application Process and Timeline

The schools applying for Co-Op and Supplemental Team approval must submit an Intent to Co-Op Application to the Vice President in accordance with the deadlines described below in accordance with the provisions of Section 1.09. If a deposit is made by the June 1 deadline by a team that is requesting approval to play as a Co-Op or Supplemental team, then that team's application shall be considered according to the timeline below. If the schools wishing to co-op fail to meet the criteria, but believe there are exceptional reasons to consider, they may send the Co-Op committee a written request for a 1-year waiver with the completed application to be voted on by the Co-Op committee by May 7. If approved by the majority vote of the Co-Op Committee, all waivers are subject to review and approval by the Executive Committee who has final authority to approve or deny the waiver. Any waiver granted expires at the end of the season for which it is granted. The Co-Op committee cannot grant a waiver for greater than one-year.

Exceptional reasons shall be conditions unique to the makeup of the players on a particular team for a single season and not based on historical school relationships, any previous implied precedent for future implications to rosters in any season other than the one for which the waivers are being requested.

Valid exceptional reasons to grant a waiver may include but are not limited to:

- Exceptional number of players in with fewer than two seasons of hockey playing experience
- High concentration of players who are likely unable to play a substantial portion of the hockey season due to other TSSAA scholastic sports commitments such that the teams' roster would fall below 15 skaters for a substantial portion of the season.
- High concentration of goalies such that there are fewer than 15 skaters (non-goalies) available on the team.

All team rosters must be submitted for review and approval according to the following timeline:

1. **Beginning April 1st** – A separate intent to Co-op form must be submitted to the GNASH Vice President by each school wishing to Co-op with its partner school(s) using the Intent to Co-Op form. Each application form should contain the school's best guess as of April 1st regarding the number of players within each grade level of the school, noting skaters and goalies separately. Schools who have preferred partner(s) should include the name of the partner(s) on the Intent to Co-Op form. (There is no need to include the numbers for preferred partner(s) since they will submit their own Intent to Co-Op form). Note the total numbers of skaters (excluding goalies) between desired partner schools should comply with Roster limits in accordance with limits defined in Section 1.12.a.1. Teams should note on the Intent to Co-Op form if assistance is needed by the Committee in finding suitable partner(s).
2. **May 1st** – Final Revisions to Intent to Co-Op form submitted by the schools to the Vice President.
3. **May 7th** – The GNASH Vice President will distribute the submitted Intent to Co-Op forms to the Co-Op Committee.
4. **May 15th** - The Executive Committee to review and approve proposed number of teams for submission to the full GNASH Board at June Board meeting.
5. **May Board Meeting** - Based on the number of Scholastic schools seeking to play in the league in the coming season, the Board shall determine the maximum number of teams that the league can have in the coming season. (By subtracting the number of scholastic teams that have made a deposit, the number of possible Co-Op Teams and Supplemental Teams will be known).
6. **June 15th** - The Co-Op Committee shall have reviewed each application and made a written recommendation for approval or denial to the Board for each Co-Op Team application and recommend any Supplemental Teams for the upcoming season.
7. **June Board Meeting.**

The Board will vote to grant preliminary approval to all Co-Op and Supplemental Teams that have submitted the appropriate forms for approvals. Preliminary approval is subject to further review of any roster changes.

If a Co-Op Team or Supplemental team application is not approved, each school that was to be part of the Co-Op Team/Supplemental team has 15 days in which to file an amended application with the same teams or seek to submit a new application with a different team.

These applications shall be handled as described above with a recommendation by the CO-OP Committee, to approve or deny the amendment application, at least 7 days prior to the July Board meeting with consideration by the Board to occur at the July Board meeting.

8. **July Board Meeting**

Each Scholastic and approved Co-Op/Supplemental Team that seeks to play in the coming season must submit a preliminary roster to the League Registrar at least 10 days prior to the July meeting. The Registrar shall immediately circulate the rosters to the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall review each roster for potential eligibility issues.

Any such issue regarding the eligibility of a coach or player of a Co-Op/Scholastic Team shall be reported to the Executive Committee of the Board and resolved at the August Board meeting. The Commissioner or the Executive Committee of the Board or the Board may request additional information about a player or coach to assist in resolving the issue of eligibility.

9. **August 1st**– An updated preliminary roster from all teams (Scholastic, Co-Op, and Supplemental) that seeks to play in the league in the coming season must be submitted to the league Registrar. The Registrar shall immediately circulate the rosters to the Commissioner.

10. **August Board Meeting**

- I. If there are changes to the roster as previously submitted, the Commissioner shall submit the revised roster to the Executive Committee for review and final approval or denial of the revised roster. If the Executive Committee does not approve the final roster, it will state the reasons in writing. The Executive Committee may grant conditional approval, in which case it is the duty of the team to ensure that it fully complies with the conditions of approval.
- II. The affected coach or player may practice with the team but is not eligible to play in any league games unless and until he/she is found to be eligible. This decision may appeal to the Executive Committee in a writing of not more than 500 words with no attachments. The appeal shall be emailed to the GNASH Secretary within 7 days after the Executive Committee's decision and the Secretary shall immediately circulate the appeal to the Executive Committee. The appeal shall be decided within 10 days after it is submitted to the Executive Committee of the Board and the decision of the Executive Board shall be final without any further review or appeal. This process shall not apply to eligibility resulting from school transfers or to hardship waivers, both of which shall be determined according to the procedures separately provided for.
- III. If there are no changes in the preliminary roster, the preliminary approval shall be deemed to be final approval without further action.

Section 1.13 Practice to Game Ratio

The ratio of league games to practices shall attempt to be 2:1 but not less than 1:1 - such that the number of league scheduled preseason and regular season games shall not exceed the number of league-scheduled practices.

Section 1.14 Permitted Play

A Team is permitted to play or scrimmage:

- (a) Other Teams of this League, and
- (b) Any other non-League team in which all players are registered and in good standing with USA Hockey.

Section 1.15 League Banquet

At the discretion of the Board of Directors, the League may sponsor an annual League banquet.

Section 1.16 All Star Selection and Senior Game

- (a) From time to time, the League may sanction participation in an all-star game, a senior game, and tournament events.
- (b) The purpose of the All-Star game is to showcase the top players in the League, regardless of class. The All-Star game should be held at the end of the regular season, preferably before the start of play-offs. The All-Star teams shall be determined and selected as follows:
 - (1) Eligibility. To be eligible for the All-Star game, Senior game, or other non-regulation game, a player must have actually taken the ice in not less than 50% of the games played by his GNASH team at the time of such game. If a player who is not eligible for the All-Star game is selected to the All-Star team, the next eligible player shall replace him described below.
 - (i) Playing in the All-Star game and Senior game is a privilege for the players. If a player is subject to a game suspension at the time of the All-Star game, if selected for the All-Star team, the All-Star game shall not count as a game served towards that penalty, and the next eligible player shall replace the player. If a player is subject to a game suspension at the time of the Senior game, the Senior game shall not count as a game served towards that penalty.
 - (ii) If a player is injured, the next eligible player shall be selected to replace him. A player who elects not to participate in the All-Star game shall be replaced by the player with the next highest number of points, as described below.
 - (iii) No player with an unserved suspension may play in the All-Star game, Senior game or other non-regulation game.
 - (2) Timing of game and team selection. The Board will determine the date of the All-Star game not later than October 31. Coaches shall be requested to nominate players for the All-Star team 30 days prior to the date set for the All-Star game. The Vice President or designee shall send an e-mail to each head coach and the Board advising them that nominations are to be made.
 - (3) Team selection. Each head coach may nominate up to 3 forwards, 2 defensemen and 1 goalie for the All-Star ballot from his team. Nominations to the All-Star team close at midnight on the 10th day after they open. For example, if the All-Star game is on February 2, the nomination period opens on January 3 and closes at midnight on January 13. Nominations shall be forwarded by e-mail to the Vice President, who shall provide the Commissioner with a list of the nominations.

- (i) The Commissioner shall review the nominations and raise any questions, other than eligibility, with the Executive Committee of the Board by 6:00 p.m. on the 5th day after the close of nominations. Any questions about a nomination shall be resolved by the Executive Committee of the Board in a timely fashion prior to voting and the Executive Committee's decision is not subject to review or appeal. The Commissioner shall determine eligibility and such determination shall be final without any further review or appeal
 - (ii) Starting on the 14th day prior to the All-Star game, each head coach may vote for 9 forwards, 6 defensemen and 3 goalies only in his division, but he may not vote for any player on his own team, by allocating points to each player for whom he votes, based on the number of positions being voted on. The highest number of points shall be given to the most talented player.
 - (iii) By way of example, a head coach would give one forward 9 points, the next 8 points, and the next 7 points, to the 9th forward who would receive 1 point. A head coach would give a defenseman 6 points, the next defenseman 5 points, to the sixth defenseman, who would receive 1 point.
 - (iv) The Vice President or designee will compile the ballot and cause it to be e-mailed to each head coach on the 14th day prior to the All-Star game. Balloting shall close at midnight on the 8th day prior to the All-Star game. The Vice President and Commissioner shall compile the voting results and total the points voted for each player. The 9 forwards, 6 defensemen and 3 goalies with the highest number of points shall be provisionally named to the All-Star team for that division. The vote totals shall be altered only to create the result that each team has one player on the All-Star squad. If this becomes necessary, the players to be replaced will be those with the lowest vote totals at their position and the Commissioner shall select the most talented player from the team needing representation on the All-Star squad to add to the team. At this point, the Commissioner may replace a player who is not eligible for the All-Star game. The Commissioner's decisions shall be final.
 - (v) The Vice President or designee shall post the final rosters for the All-Star game on the 7th day prior to the All-Star game. The starters shall be the 3 forwards, 2 defensemen and goalie receiving the highest amount of points in each division.
- (4) Team coaches. The head coach for the All-Star team in each division shall be the head coach for the first-place team in the division. Two assistant coaches will be named, who will be the head coaches for the second and third place teams in each division. A coach who cannot participate in the All-Star game will be replaced by the next coach based on the team standings in that division.
 - (5) On-ice and off-ice officials. Each head coach for the All-Star game shall arrange for one off-ice official to man the penalty box. GNASH shall provide the scorer and timekeeper. Any coach or off-ice official may be the parent of player in the All-Star game.
 - (6) GNASH will supply a token of appreciation to each player selected to the All-Star roster. The designation of home team shall alternate annually between the divisions, with the players wear

- (7) GNASH shall arrange for USA certified officials to call the game according to normal GNASH rules, unless the Board adopts special rules for the All-Star at least 30 days prior to the All-Star game.
 - (8) Skills exhibition. The Board may have an All-Star skills exhibition after the All-Star team has been selected and prior to the All-Star game. Appropriate awards may be given to winners in the exhibition.
- (c) The senior game shall consist of players who are graduating seniors. Structure of teams and the game will be determined by the Board and coordinated by the Vice President.

Section 1.17 Communications

The League shall use electronic means, in the form of Web posting and electronic mail, for communicating all necessary information to its Teams. Once an item has been posted on a League Web site or sent by email to the Team Representative, the Team has been properly notified. It is the responsibility of the Team Representative to establish any desired alternative means of communicating League information to Team members.

Section 1.18 Penalties and Enforcement

By joining the League, a Team and all its members agree to abide by all rules of the League. The Board of Directors shall have power to suspend, to fine, or otherwise penalize any Team for the violation of any of the rules of the League or for other just cause. If a Team, or a Team member, files suit against GNASH and GNASH prevails, the Team or the Team member shall reimburse GNASH for all legal fees and expenses incurred by GNASH in connection with said suit.

Section 1.19 Suspension of a Team

- (a) Suspension of a Team. The Board of Directors shall have power to suspend, to fine, or otherwise penalize any Team for the violation of any of the rules of the League or for other just cause. The period of suspension or other penalty shall be left to the discretion of the Board of Directors where the penalty is not fixed.
- (b) Reinstatement. The Board of Directors upon application made in writing, 20 days in advance of the time it desires to be reinstated, may reinstate any Team under suspension. The President shall present the application of the suspended Member to the Board of Directors for its consideration. The Team Representatives shall agree in writing that the team will abide by all rules of the League in the future.

Section 1.20 Code of Conduct

- (a) GNASH has adopted a Code of Conduct to
 - (1) Promote the principles of sportsmanship, respect and mutual appreciation among players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators, and
 - (2) Provide disciplinary consequence to violations of the Code through a system of due process.
- (b) By joining the League, a Team and all its members shall agree to abide by the Code of Conduct. Any behavior that appears to be in violation of the Code of Conduct, as initially determined by the

Commissioner or Executive Committee, is subject to an investigation and hearing by the Discipline Committee (Section 4.01). The Discipline Committee has the authority to assess any penalties up to and including exclusion from participation and/or attendance of any GNASH event for behavior deemed by GNASH to be in violation of this Code of Conduct.

- (c) All League participants shall sign the Code of Conduct and Conduct Subject to Discipline prior to participation (players, coaches, parents, team and league personnel, and officials) during registration for each season.
- (d) GNASH will acknowledge its commitment to this zero tolerance of abusive behavior policy to the officials and all rinks where GNASH events are conducted and request reciprocal acknowledgement and commitment to this standard.



Article II. Eligibility

Section 2.01 General Eligibility Rules

- (a) The Members of GNASH have adopted, through their duly authorized representatives, an essential inter-related group of minimum eligibility requirements that establish the threshold for team and player participation.
- (b) Minimum Player eligibility requirements.
 - 1) Each player must be fully registered and in good standing with the League and USA Hockey and fulfill all other eligibility requirements of the League. Player must also be enrolled/zoned at a school in one of the 38 middle Tennessee counties as defined by the "Middle Region" found on tn.gov website.
 - 2) Players will be eligible to play only for the school where they are enrolled in grades 9-12 and in regular attendance as a student. If at any time prior to or during the season, a player is no longer regularly attending classes at a secondary or high school, the player or the player's parent must provide to the Board confirmation of the player's eligibility to participate in athletics and the player shall not be eligible until such confirmation has been accepted and noted by the Board or the Executive Committee of the Board. This rule does not apply to:
 - i) Grandfather Rule: A player attending a school which was part of a co-op team during the preceding season that has been dissolved and who was rostered on the co-op team the previous season can be grandfathered in if the other school(s) in the co-op continue(s) to have a team, either co-op or scholastic. If the Grandfather Rule is applicable for a player, the rule will carry over to their future seasons of eligibility unless the school the player attends restores their co-op, either with the previous co-op partner or new partner.
 - ii) An eighth-grade player participating in accordance with Section 2.06.
 - 3) Home school students. Home school students may play for a GNASH team provided that the team the home school student rosters with is the GNASH team associated with the public school they are zoned to attend and if all of the following eligibility requirements below are met. If the Board establishes one or more Supplemental Teams, home school students zoned to attend a public school that is not associated with a GNASH team shall be eligible to play for the Supplemental Team
 - i) Definitions. (As defined by tn.gov and Dept. of Education / Home Schools):
 - (1) Student-Athletes who are considered to be home schooled may fall under one of the following three criteria to be considered as such:
 - (a) Independent Home School - Parents may home school their own children pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-3050 by registering with their local school district. The home school must be operating in compliance with state law.
 - (b) Church-related Umbrella School - By authority of the same statute, parents may also home school their own children by registering with a church-related "umbrella" school defined by Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-50-801. Parents who choose this option will be required to provide evidence to the local school district that their child is enrolled in a church-related school. An Intent to Home School form is not required for students who are enrolled in a church-related school. The church-related school will determine record keeping and test requirements for students enrolled in an umbrella program.
 - (c) Accredited Online School - Parents may also enroll their child in an accredited online school. Parents choosing this educational option must be sure to determine that the school has legitimate accreditation status and will be required to provide evidence to the local school district that their child is enrolled in an accredited online school.

- (d) All Home School student-athletes must be approved by the the eligibility committee (defined by the commissioner) on a case-by-case basis. All Home School student-athletes must also meet all other eligibility requirements as defined in the Handbook.
 - (e) "Director of Schools" shall mean the chief administrative official of a public school system or, in the case of a private school, the Head of School or chief administrative official in that school.
 - (ii) Minimum Eligibility Requirements.
 - (f) The student shall be meet home school or on-line school criteria.
- ii) Minimum Eligibility Requirements.
- 1) The student shall be enrolled in a home school conducted by his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
 - 2) The student must be taking a minimum of five (5) academic subjects or the equivalent administered by the parent(s) or guardian(s) which count toward graduation.
 - 3) The student must be registered with the Director of Schools by September 15 of the current school year.
 - 4) The participating student must have a legal residence within the school district where he/she is registered, if registering with a public school. If registering with a private school, the student must have a legal residence within 20 miles of the private school and meet all tuition and financial aid requirements.
 - 5) The home school athlete shall meet the same academic and conduct standards required of a member school student-athlete to participate in the athletic program.
 - 6) If a home school student's course of study does not include five (5) academic subjects or the equivalent, which are being administered by the parent/ guardian, then the Director of Schools (Head of School, for a private school) or their designee and the parent/guardian shall develop an alternative measure of academic progress and submit it to the GNASH for approval.
 - 7) In no event shall a home school student be eligible who is not receiving the minimum four (4) hours per day of instruction administered by their parent/guardian.
 - 8) In no event shall a home school student be eligible who has fallen three (3) of more months behind the student's appropriate grade level.
- iii) Application Requirements.
- (1) By the third Tuesday of August of the school year, the parent or guardian must make application for participation as a GNASH player to the head of the school in which the home school athlete wishes to try out and possibly participate.
 - (2) The GNASH Representative for the member school shall confer with the member school admissions office to determine that the home school student is academically eligible and in compliance with the requirements set forth at (ii) F, G, and H above.
 - (3) Verification of academic eligibility shall be provided by the GNASH Representative to the GNASH Registrar as a part of the team documentation.
 - (4) A home school student participating at a private school must pay full tuition and abide by all financial aid rules. For the purpose of this rule, "full tuition" is defined as the same amount paid by all other students enrolled and in regular attendance at the school.

- (5) The home school student must meet all other GNASH eligibility requirements.
- (6) Eligibility issues may be appealed in accordance with the GNASH Bylaws.
- (7) The home school athlete must adhere to the same standards of behavior, responsibility, performance, and code of conduct as other participants of the team.
- (8) Ultimate decisions on team rosters are left to the member schools.
- (9) A home school athlete may participate as a member of a co-op team, provided the residency requirements of Section 2.01(b)(3)(ii)(E) are met.

iv) Transfer.

- (1) Eligibility will be established at the first member school the home school athlete decides to participate. After participation at the first member school, any changes within member schools shall be governed by the transfer rule.
 - (2) Any student who withdraws from a regular school program, which for the purpose of this policy is defined as a school represented by a GNASH team, to enroll in a home school education program and who is ineligible at the time of withdrawal from the regular school program due to his/her failure to meet academic or behavioral eligibility standards shall be ineligible to compete in GNASH games as a home education athlete until such time as he/she has satisfied this home school bylaw as well as all other eligibility bylaws of GNASH.
- 4) Magnet Schools, no matter size or location are treated as "school" for a co-op. If the Magnet school has less than the players required for a co-op, those players are eligible for the supplemental team(s).
 - 5) Players must continue to meet all student/athlete/academic rules and requirements of their school and the disciplinary rules of the League.
 - 6) Any player commuting or relocating to the greater Middle Tennessee area for the sole purpose of playing Tier I or Elite ice hockey is not eligible for any high school team.

(c) Minimum Team eligibility requirements.

- 1) A Team from a school that includes at least grades 10-12 is eligible to compete in the League. Schools in transition to grade 12 may compete in the League after the 10th grade has been added.
 - 2) To be considered for League membership, a Team must be able to skate a minimum of 12 fully equipped players and one adult coach who are themselves eligible for League participation.
 - 3) The Head coach and the Team must be fully registered and in good standing with the League and USA Hockey and fulfill all other eligibility requirements of the League.
 - 4) The Team must identify by name a Team Manager, with a functional email address, who agrees to fulfill all duties and responsibilities of this role.
- (d) Information Basis for Eligibility Determinations. Subject only to the provisions of Section 2.24 on enforcement, decisions as to eligibility made by the Executive Committee and/or the Board are subject to alteration, change, revision, rescission, or modification at any time should additional information, facts or circumstances become known to the Executive Committee or the Board or should facts, information or circumstances upon which the decision was originally made change or vary from those originally presented or are found to have been misrepresented. The acceptance of payment by GNASH or a member Team from any individual shall not bar the Executive Committee or the Board from altering, changing, revising, rescinding, or modifying a previous determination as to eligibility.

Section 2.02 Academic Rules

As a minimum, the student must meet all the academic requirements of the school to participate. Academic eligibility of each player must be documented in writing to the Registrar by September 1st and on January 7th. This documentation shall be in the form of either a letter from a responsible school official stating that the student is academically qualified to participate in a winter sport or the final school spring player grade report, and Summer School grade report if needed. New teams entering the League can also submit grade reports for individual players from the first grading period of the fall semester.

Section 2.03 High School Graduate

No student shall be eligible to participate in the League after he or she has graduated from a secondary school. A secondary school student who takes college courses shall not lose his or her eligibility even though that student earns enough units to graduate provided he or she does not participate in a graduating exercise or accept a high school diploma and provided the student has not attended a secondary school for more than eight semesters after enrolling in the ninth grade.

Section 2.04 Eight-Semester Rule

A student, once enrolled in the ninth grade, has athletic eligibility for eight semesters of four and one-half months each. Attendance of 40 school days of any semester shall be regarded as a "semester" under this rule. If a student participates in athletics during a period of attendance of any number of days less than 40, he or she shall be charged with a semester of attendance. A student who registers for two or more ninth grade subjects after having completed one school year in the eighth grade shall be classified as a high school student for athletic purposes. The seventh and eighth semesters shall be consecutive.

Section 2.05 Years of Participation

A student whose name appears on a team roster for any GNASH-scheduled game shall be regarded as having played one year.

Section 2.06 Eighth Grade Participation

Teams may roster eighth-grade players:

- 1) Only after the team has exhausted all possibilities to roster 9th-12th grade players.
- 2) Team must not cut 9th-12th grade players to make roster spots for eighth grade players.
- 3) If it is determined that the guidelines in 1 and 2 above are not followed, games where an 8th grade player was rostered will be forfeited.

(a) An eighth-grade student is eligible to participate for a member school if he/she:

- 1) Is a public-school student enrolled at a feeder school for the public high school associated with the team; or
- 2) Is a private school student enrolled at the lower school or a junior high department of the private school associated with the team; or
- 3) Is a parochial school student enrolled at a parochial school within the same denomination as the parochial high school associated with the team?

Section 2.07 Age Limit

No student shall be eligible to participate in any athletic contest during any school year if he or she becomes 19 years of age on or before August 1.

Section 2.08 Independent Game Participation

Any player registered with the League may participate in non-League or independent games throughout the regular and playoff season. Any game, in which players not registered with League participate, is considered as an independent game. An independent team is a team that is organized to play a schedule.

Section 2.09 All-Star Games

From time to time, the League may sanction participation in all-star game and tournament events. No player shall participate in any unsanctioned high school all-star team or contest during the League regular season. An all-star team is a team composed of League players from different schools who are usually assembled as a team for playing one particular game or tournament.

Section 2.10 Transfer Rules

- (a) Residence. A student changing schools for any reason, to be eligible, must live at home with his/her parent or guardian, unless:
- (1) The student is moving to a boarding school and has no athletic record the previous twelve months in any sport.
 - (2) The student is moving as a direct result of the dissolution of the student's home due to death.
 - (3) The student is moving as a direct result of the divorce of the student's parents.
 - (4) The student is moving as a direct result of the separation of the student's parents, provided a complaint or petition for absolute divorce has been filed with a court having jurisdiction to grant the divorce.
 - (5) A parent is the birth mother or biological father of a student, the person(s) to whom a proper jurisdiction grants adoption of the student, or a step-parent with whom the student regularly resides.
 - (6) A guardian is an adult with whom the student has lived for twelve (12) or more months. Official appointment by a court is not required to establish guardianship; however, no person may be considered a guardian for purposes of these Bylaws unless the student has lived with that person for twelve (12) or more months, regardless of whether that person has been appointed as a guardian by a court.
- (b) "Transfer Student" Defined. A transfer student is any student changing schools for any reason other than having completed the highest, or terminal, grade at another school. Except as provided in Section 2.06 relating to eighth grade players, a student who must change schools because he/she has completed the highest grade at his/her previous school is not considered a transfer student and is eligible to participate in athletics at any school he/she attends, without further approval, provided he/she satisfies the residence requirement above.
- (c) Executive Committee Approval Required. A transfer student may not participate in GNASH ice hockey until his/her eligibility has been verified and approved by the Executive Committee. The transfer student is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information supplied to the Executive Committee for this purpose.
- (d) Eligible Transfer Students. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (e) below, the following transfer students are eligible:
- (1) The student did not play ice hockey with another GNASH team in the previous twelve months.

- (2) There has been a bona fide change of residence by the student's parents or guardian.
 - (i) A bona fide change of residence is a move from one community to another that justifies a change of schools. Where a family continues to maintain a previous residence for the residential purposes of that family or any of its members, the move is not one that justifies a change of schools for GNASH purposes.
 - (ii) If such a change of residence occurs between school years, the student must transfer at the beginning of the school year to be eligible. If the change of residence occurs during the school year, the student may transfer without loss of eligibility (1) at the time his/her parents change residence; (2) at the end of the next report card period; (3) at the close of the semester or term; or at the close of the school year.
 - (3) The student changes schools as a direct result of re-zoning or reassignment of students by the local school system.
 - (4) The student who has been determined by a Court to be dependent and neglected and consequently changes residences and schools as a result of a Court order.
 - (5) The first time the student changes residence from one parent to the other as a result of a court ordered custody change, so long as the principal of the former school attests in writing that the move was not for athletic or disciplinary reasons.
 - (6) The first time the student changes residence from a guardian to either or both parents as a result of a court ordered custody change, so long as the principal of the former school attests in writing that the move was not for athletic or disciplinary reasons;
 - (7) The student is attending school where the student's parent works as a full-time employee, that parent takes a full-time job at a different school, and the student transfers to the school where the parent takes the new job. The transfer must take place when the parent takes the job or, if the job change occurs during the school year, the transfer must be made at the beginning of the following school year.
 - (8) The student who transfers from school A to school B and then returns to school A without having participated in any sport at any level or without practicing in any sport at any level at school B. This must be verified in writing by the administration of school B.
- (e) Ineligible Transfer Students. The following transfer students are ineligible for a period of twelve months from the student's last participation date (being the date of the last interscholastic athletic contest in which the student participated; these provisions do not apply to students who have no athletic record for the previous or current school year):
- (1) A student who transfers without a bona fide change of residence by his/her parents.
 - (2) A student who transfers as a result of a change of residence is ineligible unless the old residence is outside the territory of the new school, and the new residence is both outside the territory of the old school and inside the territory of the new school. For a public school, the "territory" of the school is the geographic boundaries and bus routes of the area served by that school as established by the local board of education. For a system-wide public school, the "territory" of the school is the geographic boundaries of the school system. For a non-public school, the "territory" of the school is the area within a twenty (20) mile radius from the school.
 - (3) If a student has been ruled eligible as a result of a change of residence, and the parents or guardian return to the former residence before the student has been enrolled in the new school for one complete school year (or twelve months if the transfer occurred during the school year), the student will be ineligible for twelve months from his/her last participation date;

- (4) If a student has satisfied all other requirements for eligibility but was under discipline at his/her former school, the student shall be ineligible at the new school for twelve months or until the disciplinary charges have been removed, whichever is less.

Section 2.11 Foreign-Exchange Programs

Subject to Section 2.01(b)(5), to be eligible to participate in athletic contests a foreign-exchange student must be in a foreign-exchange program, which has been approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). If the student participates in athletics with a League school while living with one host parent then transfers to another school as a result of a change of host parents, the residence rule (Section 2.12) and transfer rule (Section 2.10) apply in the same manner as with all other students. If a foreign student moves to the greater Middle Tennessee area for the sole purpose of playing Tier I or Elite hockey, the provisions of Section 2.01(b)(6) shall supersede this section.

Section 2.12 Practice Rule

A student who engages in three or more days of practice after August 15 with a school in which the student is enrolled shall be ineligible in that sport for that season if the student enrolls in another school without a corresponding change in the residence of the student's parents.

Section 2.13 Date of Enrollment

A student shall not be eligible during any semester unless he or she is duly enrolled and in regular attendance on or before the 20th school day of the semester. This rule shall not apply to transfer students who have met the attendance requirements in the school last attended.

Section 2.14 Recruiting Rule

The use of undue influence on a student (with or without an athletic record), the parents or guardians of a student by any person connected, or not connected, with the school or team to secure or to retain a student for athletic purposes shall be a violation of the recruiting rule.

Section 2.15 Amateur Rule

- (a) A student who has never used and is not using his or her knowledge or skill in ice hockey for pay and who has always contested under his or her own name is an amateur. Accepting money for officiating athletic contests or for working as an employee in a city or county or private recreation program is not a violation of this regulation. A student who violates the amateur rule shall be ineligible for 12 months.
- (b) Such a student may be reinstated as an amateur after a period of one calendar year from the time he or she was declared ineligible has elapsed, provided he or she has not violated the amateur rule during this period.

Section 2.16 Award Rule

- (a) GNASH shall furnish awards, trophies, plaques, ribbons and medals as determined by the Board of Directors. A student may accept a medal, trophy, high school letter, sweater, jacket, shirt, blazer, or blanket but nothing else of commercial value. A sweater, jacket, shirt, blazer or blanket must carry the high school letter or other appropriate award emblem. None of the approved awards shall be accepted from an individual or a non-school organization unless the principal of the school the athlete attends has approved the giving of such award. Acceptance of forbidden awards will cause a student to become ineligible for 12 months in the sport in which the violation occurs. An exception would be in USA Hockey award rules.
- (b) A member school that has any connection with the presentation of a forbidden award — such as assisting in the selection of the person to receive the award, permitting the award to be given at a school function, or holding the award for a student until he or she has graduated — shall be subject to penalty.

Section 2.17 College Attendance

Except as provided in Section 2.03, no person is eligible who has ever been enrolled and in regular attendance in college or who has played on a junior college, senior college, or university team.

Section 2.18 No Setting Aside of Eligibility Rules

No part of these eligibility rules shall be set aside by mutual agreement of the teams for any contests whatsoever nor shall they be supplemented in any contest held under the jurisdiction of this League.

Section 2.19 Special Cases Involving Hardship

- (a) Except for the eligibility rules in regard to age, set forth in Section 2.07, to the number of semesters in school, set forth in Section 2.04, and attendance at the school sponsoring the team, as set forth in Section 2.01(b), the Board of Directors shall have authority to set aside the effect of any eligibility rule upon an individual student when in the sole discretion of the Board:
- (1) The conditions causing the student to fail to meet the eligibility requirements must have been beyond the control of the team, the student and/or his or her parents, and such that none of them could have reasonably been expected to comply with the rule.
 - (2) Application of the rule to the student works an undue hardship in light of these conditions;
 - (3) Application of the rule would not accomplish the purpose for which the rule was intended; and
 - (4) In the case of a change of schools, the change is for reasons unrelated to participation in athletics.
 - (5) The burden of establishing each of these elements to the Board's satisfaction is upon the student seeking eligibility.
- (b) A hardship waiver request must be made by submitting a completed, signed Hardship Application to the Vice President no less than 14 days prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee. If the hardship waiver is requested as a result of a school transfer, the student must also submit a completed and signed Transfer Form, if not already submitted. A Hardship Application submitted less than 14 days prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee shall be delayed for consideration at another subsequent meeting of the Board. The Vice President shall notify the party requesting a hardship waiver of the meeting date on which the Hardship Application will be considered.
- (c) The Executive Committee of the Board shall review each Hardship Application and determine whether the Hardship Application should be approved or disapproved. Each Team affected by the outcome of the Hardship Application may have a school administrator (principal, assistant principal or athletic director) or other team representative present at the Executive Committee's initial consideration of the Hardship Application. The President or other Officer presiding over the Executive Committee meeting may limit the time for presentation of the Hardship Application, including all remarks by the applicant, any school administrator, and any Team representative.
- (d) Executive Committee vote on the Hardship Application shall comply with the conflict of interest provisions of Section 1.05. The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting shall reflect the findings and conclusions upon which approval or disapproval of the Hardship Application is based. If the party requesting a hardship waiver is not present at the Executive Committee meeting, such party shall be notified in writing by the President or the Commissioner of the disposition of the Hardship Application, including the Executive Committee's findings and conclusions. The decision of the Executive Committee may be appealed to the Board of Directors.
- (e) An appeal of the Executive Committee's determination of a Hardship Application shall be made as follows:

- (1) Within 14 days after the date of the Executive Committee meeting at which the Hardship Application was decided, a party may submit a written request for reconsideration to the Vice President. If the party requesting the Hardship Application was not present at the Executive Committee meeting and was notified of the Board's determination in writing, the 14 days for requesting reconsideration shall commence from the date on which the party receives notification of the Executive Committee's decision.
 - (2) The written request for reconsideration must state all the grounds upon which the party is requesting reconsideration and all facts in support of the requested reconsideration. Failure to include all grounds and facts will be deemed to be a waiver.
 - (3) The appeal shall be considered at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.
 - (4) Each Team affected by the outcome of the Hardship Application may have a school administrator (principal, assistant principal or athletic director) or other team representative present at the Board's consideration of the appeal. The President or other Officer presiding over the Board meeting may limit the time for presentation of the Hardship Application, including all remarks by the applicant, any school administrator, and any Team representative.
 - (5) The appealing party shall pay for all expenses required to present document material to the Board.
- (f) No Team affected by the outcome of the Hardship Application may vote. The minutes of the Board meeting shall reflect the findings and conclusions upon which approval or disapproval of the appeal is based. If the appealing party is not present at the Board meeting, the President or the Commissioner shall notify such party, in writing, of the disposition of the appeal, including the Board's findings and conclusions. Any such decision by the Board shall be final and not subject to any further review or appeal.

Section 2.20 Parental Consent

No player shall be permitted to participate in League practice sessions or games until the Registrar has received and approved a parental consent certificate signed by a parent or legal guardian stating that the student has the consent of his or her parent(s) or legal guardian to participate in the League.

Section 2.21 Forfeitures

- (a) Ineligibility. All rulings on eligibility must be in writing, and the accidental, intentional or other use of ineligible players by a member team shall require that team victories in which the ineligible player participated are forfeited to opponents; and any one or more of these additional actions may be taken:
- (1) That individual or team records and performances achieved during participation by such ineligibles be vacated or stricken;
 - (2) That team or individual awards earned by such ineligibles be returned to the League; and
 - (3) That a fine for the playing of an ineligible player be assessed against the team, if deemed necessary.
 - (4) Digital imagery may be used to verify player participation in a game.
- (b) Removal from competition. If a team is removed from competition, the contest is forfeited to the opponent and the Team will face disciplinary action by League. In addition, the Team Officials of the removed team must appear before the League Commissioner to indicate why additional disciplinary action should not be taken.
- (c) Ejection of the Coaches. If the coach is ejected from the contest and an assistant coach or qualified individual team representative is not available to continue as coach, the event is terminated and forfeited

to the opponent.

- (d) Injunctive relief. If a student is ineligible according to League rules but is permitted to participate in interscholastic competition contrary to such League rules but in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order or injunction against his/her school, his/her Team and/or the League, and that injunction is subsequently voluntarily vacated, stayed, reversed or finally determined by the courts that injunctive relief is not or was not justified or expires without further judicial determination, those actions stipulated in this Section 2.23 shall be taken.

Section 2.22 Coaches

- (a) Certification. The head coach and all assistant coaches of each GNASH hockey team must complete the required USA Coaching Education Program requirements before the start of the season in order to be eligible to coach/instruct in any regular season or pre-season activities, to include practices, games, tournaments, and try-outs. At the first Board meeting after the season has begun, the Registrar will report the certification level of each Team coach to the Board of Directors.

Section 2.23 Enforcement

- (a) Each member Team has a responsibility to monitor its ice hockey program and to self-report any violations of GNASH Bylaws or rules, policies, or procedures as found in the Handbook to the Commissioner as soon as the Team is aware of possible violations. The responsibility extends to the coaches, the /Representative, the alternate representative, and any Officer associated with a member Team. Each member Team is responsible for the conduct of its coaches and representatives and for any knowledge possessed by its coaches and/or representatives.
- (b) The Board of Directors shall have power to suspend, to fine, or otherwise penalize any member Team for the violation of any of the provisions of the GNASH Bylaws or Handbook or for other just cause. The penalty shall be left to the discretion of the Board where the penalty is not fixed.
- (c) The Commissioner shall, in his or her discretion, determine whether information about any possible violation of the GNASH Bylaws or Handbook is sufficiently reliable to justify further investigation. The Commissioner shall also, in his or her discretion, determine whether to conduct any investigation of possible violations of the GNASH Bylaws or Handbook as well as the nature and extent of any investigation that may be conducted and the procedures to be used in any such investigation. Factors to be considered by the Commissioner in making these determinations may include but are not limited to: the seriousness of the alleged violation, the availability of verifiable information, the time needed to conduct the investigation, and any other factor the Commissioner may deem relevant in making these decisions.
- (d) A violation of the GNASH Bylaws or Handbook will not result in any investigation or penalty if it is inadvertent and the Team first learns of the violation after the conclusion of the ice hockey season in which the inadvertent violation occurred.
- (e) If it is determined that the Team (or any of the Team's coaches or representatives) had knowledge of a violation or possible violation of the GNASH Bylaws or Handbook and failed to promptly self-report it as required in this section, or that a delay in self-reporting occurred as a result of a failure by the Team to properly monitor its ice hockey program as required in this section, the provisions of Section 2.25(d) shall not apply. In any such case, a violation may be investigated, and penalties may be implemented regardless of when the violation occurred.



Article III. Rules of League Play

Section 3.01 General Rules of Play

- (a) League play will be governed by the current USA Hockey rules and regulations and the League rules and regulations
- (b) League rules not specified in Article III of the Handbook are to be memorialized and published in the GNASH Special Rules Summary (see Exhibit 1)
- (c) The GNASH Special Rules Summary may be amended from time to time and approved by majority vote of the Executive Committee
- (d) The League Commissioner shall administer the GNASH Special Rules Summary and the Commissioner is responsible to ensure that no conflict exists between the GNASH Special Rules
- (e) Summary and any rules of play required by USA Hockey or its affiliates or the Handbook.

Section 3.02 League Structure

- (a) Each year, the Executive Committee, in consultation with head coaches, shall determine the options of the League's season structure to present to the Board of Directors for a vote. This structure shall include the number of League games to be played, the length of the season, the number and structure of the playoff season games/tournaments, and the starting date for practices and league games and announce such decisions by the July board meeting. The vote must be approved by a simple majority vote by the Board of Directors.

Section 3.03 Team Registration

- (a) Registration. All registration questions, documents and other related information should be addressed directly to the League Registrar. The Teams, by way of the Team Manager, are responsible for all duties related to submitting complete registration packets to the Registrar. The Registrar will not take receipt of individual player or coach registrations. A complete registration packet consists of the following completed items:
 - (1) For Players: Parent Clearance-Code of Conduct, Player's Code of Conduct, Consent to Treat, USA Hockey Registration confirmation page.
 - (2) For Team: GNASH Academic Eligibility submitted for fall semester (by September 1) and again at the beginning of spring semester (by January 7), and Team Roster.
 - (3) For Coaches: Coach's Code of Conduct, Background Check - submitted directly to SAHA as noted on the form, USA Hockey Registration confirmation, Valid Level 3 CEP certification, USA Hockey Form 1-T.
 - (4) Any other information deemed necessary by the League Registrar.

- (b) Incomplete Team Registration. Teams are not registered for League play until the following items have been fulfilled:
- (1) The League Registration packet has been received and ruled complete by the League Registrar;
 - (2) Copies of the USA Hockey Form 1-T for all players and coaches has been received and ruled complete by the Registrar;
 - (3) All League team dues have been paid;
 - (4) All outstanding fees owed to GNASH have been paid.
- (c) Registration enforcement. Registering teams and players with the League is a straightforward process. Questions concerning Team Registration should be addressed to the Registrar. It is the Teams' responsibility to pay all fees and dues in a timely manner without waiting for League invoice or enforcement. The Treasurer shall notify the Board of Directors of any outstanding monetary obligation of any Team.
- (d) If a Team that is not properly registered with the League plays a League game, the offending team will forfeit the game. The Team will also be subject to immediate suspension.
- (e) A Player is not eligible until fully and completely registered with USA Hockey and the League. Players must not practice or play with a League team until fully registered with USA Hockey and the League. No Team shall accept a player who has an outstanding monetary obligation to another GNASH Team.

Section 3.04 Team Roster

- (a) USA Hockey form 1-T is the official team roster. USA Hockey form 1-T is used to register the team with USA Hockey and is required by the League. The team roster containing the name of each player, team manager, GNASH Rep, Volunteer, and coach(es) who is to participate during the season, the GNASH form "Team Roster", shall be filed by the Team Manager, along with all required league documents with the Registrar by the third Tuesday in August prior to the first regular season practice. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be a fine of \$25.00. Any school failing to file such reports promptly along with payments for penalty shall be subject to suspension. Registrar will provide team manager a list of approved members two days prior to first scheduled practice. No player may be rostered on more than one League team.
- (b) Roster Changes. If a student whose name does not appear on the original eligibility list wishes to become a member of the squad, a supplementary form listing the student's name must be filed before the student is allowed to participate in a game or practice. No player may be added to any team roster after December 15th of each season. All League Team roster changes must be reported promptly to the USA Hockey Registrar and the League Registrar. Any new player added to a team's roster must be registered with the League Registrar prior to participating in a League game. A team playing a new player not registered with the League in a League scheduled game shall be deemed to have forfeited that game. If the player was also not registered with USA Hockey, the Coach will be immediately suspended from further games, both League and Non-League, until the Disciplinary Committee has determined disciplinary action.
- (c) Minimum Number of Players. No team shall be entered into the League membership without a minimum of 12 players and one adult coach. No team shall begin or continue playing a League game without a minimum of 6 players and an adult coach. The maximum number of players, which may be rostered for a team, is 30. However, USA Hockey prohibits more than 20 players on the bench during a game (No more than 18 non-goaltenders). Players may be added to a game score sheet (see USA Hockey rule 203.a) after a game begins provided that the game score sheet would not exceed 20 players. Players' names may not be removed from a game score sheet after a game begins to make room for other players.
- (d) Multi-Team Players. Except as provided in Section 3.13 relating to the goalie pool, no player shall be

rostered or play for more than one Scholastic team in the League.

- (e) Ineligible Player. Play of an ineligible player will result in game forfeiture. If both coaches agree, play may continue without the ineligible player, but only penalties will be counted and served. Goals, shots, assists, etc. will not be recorded or reported by the League Statistician. The Discipline Committee will determine if further action is warranted against the ineligible player and/or the team coach. Play may be halted at the referee's discretion or by one of the coaches if either feels that the game is posing a risk of serious injury for any of the players involved. Digital imagery may be used to verify player participation in a game.
- (f) Each player must have played in at least 5 regular season games for GNASH high school varsity division hockey to be eligible for tournament play. Any player who is on the roster, not scratched, in good standing dressed and, on the bench, is considered having played in that game. It is each team's responsibility to verify the correctness of their statistics.
 - (1) Requests for medical waivers are to be provided by each team requesting consideration for each player who fails to qualify under this requirement.
 - (2) Medical waivers are to be submitted to the Vice President a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the Board meeting immediately preceding the opening round of the playoffs.
 - (3) Players who have been rostered during the season and who have not been able to play the requisite number of games due to medical reasons may seek Executive Committee approval provided they have demonstrated intent to participate in GNASH regular season play.
 - (4) With respect to non-GNASH competitions conducted by USA Hockey, this rule shall be superseded by any USA Hockey rule to the contrary.
- (g) On-ice participation by persons not on a League roster.
 - (1) Ice time allocated by the League to teams during the season is for the sole purpose of improving the skill levels and team systems of member teams. Except as provided in Section 3.13 relating to the goalie pool, participation of non-rostered players is strictly limited to players trying out for the member team during the team's designated practice time, provided:
 - (i) The player must be currently registered with USA Hockey.
 - (ii) The player must be eligible to play for the team conducting the player tryout.
 - (iii) The player must be fully equipped per the equipment guidelines found in the USA Hockey Rule Book.
 - (2) Non-rostered on-ice adult participants are allowed only on the condition that one or more of the team's rostered coaches are on the ice at the same time.
 - (i) Participation is limited to assisting the coaching staff during practices.
 - (ii) Participants must wear proper equipment.
 - (iii) Participants may not participate as players during the practice session.
 - (iv) Participants must be currently registered with USA Hockey.
 - (v) Participants are prohibited from bench level participation during League games.

Section 3.05 League Schedule

- (a) League Scheduler. The League Scheduler shall create the official League schedule ("the Schedule") based on the approved season's structure. The Schedule, and any subsequent changes, shall be communicated to each team via posting on the League's Website or via email. The Schedule will consider, to the extent possible, each school's restrictions on school sport activities due to examination periods and holidays. Each team is responsible for advising the Scheduler of the dates/times of any such school sport restrictions by the third Tuesday of June.
- (b) Schedule Changes. Independent rescheduling of a League game is prohibited. Teams will work with the League Scheduler when a condition outlined under Exceptions exists. Changes in the Schedule are not official until such changes are approved by the Commissioner, the League Scheduler is informed of the changes, and the changes are posted on the League website or distributed to the Team Manager(s) via email.
- (c) Exceptions. Schedule changes are not permitted after the Schedule has been posted on the League website or distributed to the Team Managers via email, except under the following conditions (NOTE: School closings do not constitute an exception to schedule change policy.):
 - (1) Severe Weather. If the ice rink facility is open, then the regularly scheduled game will be played. If the ice rink facility is closed due to severe weather conditions, then the Scheduler will attempt to reschedule the game at a later date. School closings due to severe weather conditions do not constitute an exception to schedule change policy unless the following conditions are met.
 - (i) League games will be played on the days of school closures as scheduled if the rink is open and safely accessible and both teams are permitted by school administration.
 - (ii) On the day of an inclement weather school closure, any team barred from play by school policy or which considers the rink not safely accessible has the option of cancelling that night's game by 3 p. m. the day of the school closure without incurring a forfeit.
 - (iii) The League Scheduler will reschedule games as ice time availability allows. However, the primary responsibility for all efforts required to reschedule a game lies with the originally cancelling team. If the game is rescheduled, the team responsible for initial cancellation will be billed for the rescheduled ice time. If the initial cancellation was called before 3 p. m. on the day of inclement weather, the team will not be billed additional security or referee fees.
 - (iv) The league may cancel games based on late day severe weather without costs to the teams. The league will make every effort made reschedule all missed games.
 - (v) In the event that late day severe weather does not lead to a league directed cancellation, any team can opt out of that game without forfeit but with the understanding that they will be billed for the ice time, security fees, and referee fees for that game.
 - (vi) If any game cancelled by a team because of severe weather is not rescheduled, the cancelling team will forfeit the game.

- (2) **Unplayable Ice Conditions.** A game may be postponed by the referees (or Home team in the absence of referees) if unplayable ice conditions, due to weather and/or mechanical deficiencies, exist at the ice facility. The Home team will notify the League Scheduler of games postponed by the referees prior to postponing the game. (Note: If a game is postponed by the home team for this reason and the opposing team can prove that the facility could have been used to play the scheduled game or was used to play another game at the time of the scheduled game, the opposing team should file a protest, which could lead to a forfeiture charged to the home team.
- (3) **Extraordinary Circumstances.** In the event of extraordinary circumstances, not reasonably foreseeable at the time of scheduling, a team may request that a game be rescheduled. Such request must first be approved by the Commissioner and the Scheduler and is subject to the agreement of the other team and game officials. Following approval from the Commissioner and the Scheduler, the team seeking the game change is responsible for all administrative tasks associated with changing the game, including, but not limited to, obtaining a new date from the Scheduler that is acceptable to the other team, all notifications of the game change, arranging for officials for the rescheduled game, and ensuring that the game change is properly posted on the GNASH website. The team requesting the game change must pay for any extra ice purchased for the rescheduled game.
 - (i) Should one team be in need of a game change due to extraordinary circumstances but is unable to obtain the consent of the other team, either team shall have the right to appeal to the Commissioner for a final determination. Should the Commissioner grant the requested game change, both teams are required to play on the appointed date and time. Failure to play will result in forfeit. The requesting team is responsible for all administrative tasks associated with changing the game as described above and shall also be responsible for the cost of any extra ice purchased for the rescheduled game. In any case, a League game shall not be considered rescheduled without and until the express approval of the Scheduler.
 - (ii) Should the requesting team fail to ensure that all administrative tasks associated with changing the game are properly and fully completed, the team shall be subject to such penalties as the Commissioner may determine in the Commissioner's sole discretion, including monetary fines or forfeiture of the game.
- (d) **Failure to Appear.** When a team fails to appear for a game where the time and place appear in the official League Season Schedule as posted on the GNASH Web site or distributed to each team via email, the game will automatically be a forfeit win for the non-offending team. If the non-offending team and the offending teams prefer to play the game, it may be rescheduled at the convenience of the non-offending team and at the expense (ice costs and referees) of the offending team. Only penalties will be counted and served. Goals, shots, assists, etc. will not be recorded or reported by the League Statistician.
- (e) **Scheduling Errors.** If the League schedules (as appears on the Official League Schedule) two games for the same ice slot:
 - (1) The Team Representatives/Coaches of the four teams involved in the 2 games should try to resolve the scheduling conflict amongst them. The League shall penalize no team when one game has to be rescheduled. Where appropriate, the rink management will be consulted to see if additional ice is reasonably available. The Team Representative of the Home Team of the game that was not played in the scheduled slot will call the Commissioner upon resolution of the conflict.
 - (2) If the four teams cannot resolve the conflict, the game that will be played will be the one that

involves the team that has traveled the furthest from their school to the ice rink where the game was scheduled. (Note: If the Teams cannot determine which Team has traveled the furthest, the Commissioner's decision will be final.) The Home Team of the game that was not played in the scheduled time slot will call the Commissioner upon resolution of the conflict.

- (3) In the event that the teams cannot resolve the conflict using the above guidance and the Commissioner cannot be reached for a resolution within 5 minutes after the scheduled start of the ice slot, the Game Referee or other disinterested person will be asked to resolve the conflict by a flip of the coin. (Note: This presumes that all teams are ready to commence play upon the resolution of the conflict. In the event that one team of the game is not ready to play, the other game will be played.) The Team Representative of the Home Team of the game that was not played in the scheduled slot will call the Commissioner upon resolution of the conflict.
- (f) For disputes that a League game has been scheduled for ice time belonging to another entity, the Rink's Management will be consulted to determine who has contractual rights to the disputed ice slot. Unless the group having contractual rights to the disputed ice slot allows a League scheduled game to be played, the scheduled teams will confer with Rink Management to determine the availability of another reasonable ice slot during which the game could be played. If so, the League will arrange for compensation for the ice slot to be used. If no reasonable ice slot is available, the game will be cancelled, and the League will schedule a replacement game. The Team Representatives/Coaches should consult with each other to determine if they can reschedule the game using ice available to them. If so, the League will arrange for compensation for the ice slot to be used. The Team representatives of the Home Team of the game that was not played in the scheduled slot will call the Commissioner to report the conflict, the cancellation of the game, and the need to reschedule the game.
- (g) Teams Misread the Official League Schedule. Teams that have misread the Official League Schedule – as published on the League's website or distributed to member teams via email – will retire from the rink without interruption of a scheduled game or other use of the ice.
- (h) Costs of Postponed or Rescheduled League Season Scheduled Games.
 - (1) The League will bear the costs of rescheduled games when the games had to be rescheduled because of a League scheduling error. (Note: A League scheduling error occurs when a League game is scheduled by the League Scheduler contrary to a team and/or game ice availability information provided and available to the League at the time the game was scheduled and the team that provided the information made the conflict known by September 1.)
 - (2) Any expenses incurred by the League (such as officials and game ice fees) as a result of a rescheduled game for any other reason will be the financial responsibility of the team requesting the schedule change.
- (i) Lack of Certified Officials. The League will arrange for referees for League games. In the event that referees do not show up for a scheduled game, the procedure in the USA Hockey Official Rules of Hockey, Rule 502, will be followed. An alternate method of selecting referees may be used provided the coaches of both teams agree. If only one referee is available for the League game, both coaches must agree to play the game and will sign the Official score sheet noting their agreement to use one referee. Games will not be cancelled because of the lack of a referee. If the coaches do not agree to use one referee, the provisions of USA Hockey Official Rules of Ice Hockey, Rule 502(i), will be followed.

Section 3.06 Score Sheets

- (a) Game Results. Game results are not official until the game score sheet has been received and reviewed by the League Statistician, Secretary, or other designated individuals. League standings are based solely on score sheets received, reviewed, and posted. Both head coaches who coached during the game must sign all score sheets and all officials (on-ice officials and off-ice scorekeeper) involved for the results to be official.

- (b) **League Game Score Sheet Submissions.** The official scorekeeper is responsible for sending the original (white copy) League Game score sheet to the League Statistician, Secretary, or other designated individuals. A score sheet of a League game must be received by midnight of the scheduled game. In the event the scorekeeper does not submit the original score sheet to the League Statistician, the home or visiting team may submit a copy. If the Home team is the official scorekeeper, then the home team is responsible for submitting the score sheet to the League Statistician by midnight of the scheduled game.
- (c) **Non-League Game Score Sheet Submission.** Any League team participating in any non-League games, such as exhibition games or tournament games is required to send a copy of all game score sheets to the Commissioner within 24 hours of the games that were played. All non-League game suspensions will be enforced by the League in upcoming League games.
- (d) **Game Forfeits.** A game forfeit shall have a score sheet filled out and sent in showing a 1-0 score.
- (e) **Falsified Score Sheet.** Any coach or Team member who knowingly and deliberately causes or allows falsification of a score sheet (such as deliberately not listing an ineligible player) shall be suspended from further participation in League games until the Disciplinary Committee has determined the appropriate action. The suspended coach shall not participate in any League or Non-League games or practices until said disciplinary action is served in full.

Section 3.07 Games

- (a) **Game Time.** The Scorekeeper and the Referee shall monitor the time available in the designated ice time slot. Both teams must be ready to play 15 minutes prior to the designated start time. The Referee may signal starting of the game time clock
- (b) **Game Periods.** Periods shall be 14 minutes stop-time. Ice time allotted for each game will be at least 1 hour and 20 minutes followed by 10-minute ice resurfacing. The rink should provide backup stopwatches for use in the event of a malfunctioning scoreboard clock.
- (c) **Pre-Game Warm Up.** Warm up time preceding a League game will be 3 minutes and will begin immediately after the Zamboni has left the ice and the Zamboni doors have been shut.
- (d) **Goalies not present.** If a team is without a goalie, the game is considered a forfeit by that team. However, upon agreement by the opposing coaches and the officials, the reserve goalie of the opposing team may play for that team that is without a goalie to utilize ice time. Referees will be required to be on the ice if any type of game is played and the League's Disciplinary Committee will handle all penalties and necessary disciplinary action appropriately.
- (e) **Referee Notification.** Teams canceling a League game are responsible for notifying Referee schedulers of the cancellation. Notification must be made within 1 hour of the team's decision to cancel activities.
- (f) **7-Goal Differential.** If the goal differential in a game becomes 7, the game timekeeper shall be instructed to use running time for the remainder of the game. If at any point during the remainder of the game the differential becomes less than 7, the game Timekeeper will revert back to stop-time. There will be no exception to this rule. The remaining time may be used for practice by both teams – each team uses half of the ice.
- (g) **All games will be played through regulation time.** The maximum goal differential of 10 will be recorded for a game. For any goals scored above the goal differential, the players will receive credit for any goal or assist but will not be considered in the tie breaker considerations and will not be reflected in the team score.

- (h) Inability to Play Three Stop-Time Periods. In the event of extraordinary circumstances that prevent having three full stop-time periods, the referee has the authority at any time during the game to direct that the game be played on run time, with the clock only being stopped for the purpose of posting penalties on the scoreboard.
- (i) Time Outs. One (1) 30 second time per team is allowed in League game at any time, provided that the third period has not been shortened due to the time constraints with the scheduled ice slots.
- (j) Goal Pegs. Goal pegs (which are required under USA Hockey rules) are favored, but not required where unavailable.
- (k) Minimum Playing Time. A game is not an official game until two (2) full periods have been completed. If two full periods are not played, no recognition of the game being played will occur for determining League standings, except in cases of implementation of the 10 Goal Differential rule or serious misbehavior, such as match penalties or gross misconduct (which may have been the cause of the game incompleteness). The Commissioner per rules of USA Hockey and the League will decide game results and disciplinary action for serious misbehavior.
- (l) Tie Games. For all non-playoff games, after the end of regulation play (maximum 45 minutes playing time), games having the score tied shall be considered complete and the game will be recorded as a tie. No additional overtime periods or shoot-outs, or other means of trying to determine a winner of the game shall be used.
- (m) Only one team will be allowed to enter/leave the ice surface at a time to avoid potential altercations. The home team shall enter/leave the ice-surface first.

Section 3.08 Game Management

- (a) The home Team Manager or designee shall be the game night coordinator of activities to include scorekeepers, penalty boxes, score sheets, programs, announcer, music and more. The home team is responsible for providing a Scorekeeper, if not provided by the league. The visiting team shall be responsible for providing a Timekeeper, if not provided by the league. Each team is responsible for providing an attendant in the penalty box. All off-ice officials shall be adults. All games shall be properly supervised to ensure that games are sportsmanlike contests. It is recommended that the principal or someone designated by the principal be in attendance. Member Teams shall strongly encourage sportsmanship and adherence to the Code of Conduct by their own fans and students at every athletic contest, regardless of where it may be held. If the League has reason to believe that a particular game will pose security problems, that the League will advise the teams in advance of its concerns, that the League will retain such additional security personnel as it deems appropriate, and that the additional charges will be assessed to the two teams.
- (b) The Team Managers shall file an incident report immediately with the League Commissioner if there is any unusual incident involving poor sportsmanship, during or following the game, on the part of players, parents, coaches, school administrators, game officials or spectators.

Section 3.09 League Season & Play-offs

The regular season practice schedule will begin as specified on the Schedule. The League hockey season for a school shall end when the team has been eliminated from the post-season playoffs, or upon completion of USA Hockey High School Nationals if the team qualifies.

Section 3.10 Participation in a State Playoff

The league shall make best efforts to work with other USA Hockey sanctioned organizations that exist within the State of Tennessee for the purposes of planning and holding a State Championship. Each season the League Executive shall make a recommendation to the full board as to the viability of holding a State Championship that may include a proposal to participate in a State Championship as part of the League Structure as per section 3.02 of the Handbook.

Section 3.11 Team Conduct

- (a) Team Representation. All players, parents and coaches are representatives of their respective high schools and GNASH. Therefore, they are expected to demonstrate sportsmanlike behavior before, during, and after all League sanctioned events.
- (b) Abusive Language. A player or coach who uses insulting or profane language or who is guilty of foul tactics, in addition to being penalized by the referee shall be subject to such additional penalties as the League Commissioner may deem appropriate.
- (c) Regarding Property Damage. Each team is responsible for damages they may cause to any facility, on or off the ice. That team will be responsible for any costs incurred PLUS a fine, payable to the League, equal to the costs incurred.
- (d) Post-Game Handshake. Immediately following the end of the game, the two opposing teams will line up on their respective blue lines and on the referees, command will engage in a handshake. Post- game handshakes are permitted following a playoff game.
- (e) Team Captains. Prior to the start of the game, the Captains of both teams will meet at the penalty bench area and engage in a handshake with the opposing team's Captain as well as all referees for that game.

Section 3.12 Miscellaneous

- (a) Protests. Recognizing that a vital objective of League play is the development of concepts of sportsmanship, protests are not favored and normally will be denied except in instance of a gross violation of the rules, such as use of an ineligible player. Protests which are submitted shall be handled in the following manner:
 - (1) Only a losing or tying team may submit a protest (the "Protest"). A winning team may not submit a Protest.
 - (2) The protesting team's Coach or Team Manager must send an email to the Commissioner with a CC to the Board President, Board Secretary and Coach Liaison. The email must be received within 48 hours of the protested game. Protests filed after 48 hours may be considered on other merits, depending upon the reason for the late filing. The protesting team will be notified promptly by the Commissioner or his designee and shall have 72 hours to respond (unless more prompt action is required)
 - (3) An on-ice official's judgmental decisions are final and are not subject to Protest. GNASH does not have a video review process. Video of on-ice incidents will not be reviewed for the purpose of imposing player suspensions based on a play on the ice unless clear irrefutable video evidence exists of a Match Penalty that was not documented by the referee, in which case the video(s) will be

reviewed by the commissioner. ONE video may be submitted to the commissioner (and viewed by the disciplinary committee) by each team rep or manager requesting video review (two maximum videos).

- (4) In the event of the denial of a Protest, the protesting team shall pay a fee of \$25.00 to the Treasurer of the League.
 - (5) The Commissioner will appoint an ad hoc Protest Committee of three members, not associated with the teams involved in the protest, to consider the Protest. The League Commissioner shall be the Chair of each Protest Committee. The Protest Committee will rule on the Protest, normally within 48 hours. The Commissioner will inform the team involved of the protest ruling as soon as possible. The protest ruling will be final and recorded with the League Secretary; there shall be no appeal to the Board of Directors.
- (b) Complaints. A situation may occur which is not appropriate for a protest, but with respect to which a team wishes to complain (the "Complaint"). In such a case, the same basic procedures as for a protest shall be followed except that a winning team may file a Complaint with the League. The result of a Complaint will have no effect on a game result, but may serve to clarify League disciplinary actions and policies. No fee will be assessed in conjunction with the processing of a Complaint.
- (c) Unequal Rink Conditions. In the event of rink conditions that result in a potential inequality for one team (for example, sun conditions that cause a glare for the goalies, the presence of a goalie crease at only one end etc.) the teams shall switch ends at the middle of the third period. This is intended to assure that playing conditions shall be as even as possible for both teams.
- (d) Rules and Officiating. Representative officials along with the Commissioner of the League shall meet with each school's coaches and players prior to the commencement of League Season games to discuss rules and officiating.
- (e) Off-Ice Officials. The League shall provide training for Off-Ice Officials.
- (f) (f) As stated in USA Hockey Rule 203(b) (Players in Uniform) "Each player and goalkeeper on the game roster shall wear a visible individually identifying number (only whole numbers 0-99 inclusive) that is proportionate to the size of the participants."
- (g)
- (h) In addition, GNASH requires jersey numbers to be a different color shade than the jersey color and must not be a different shade of the jersey color (i.e. black jerseys may not have dark grey numbers, navy blue jerseys must not have royal blue numbers). All jerseys must comply with USA Hockey rules and guidelines. This rule applies to new jerseys for the 2024-25 season and beyond. Existing jerseys previously worn in league play will be grandfathered.

Section 3.13 Goalie Pool

The goalie pool allows goalies from member teams with excess goalies to play for member teams which lack goalies. The goalie pool is subject to the following rules:

- (a) Goalie Pool will be a list of goalies chosen to play (for teams lacking goalies) on a rotating basis. Goalie Pool will not allow a team's "number one" or "number two" goalie to participate.
- (b) Participation in the pool is voluntary. The pool goalie, his or her parents, and the coach of team where the goalie is originally rostered must agree that the goalie can participate. Coach will email the Goalie Administrator the name(s) of any goalie who wishes to participate.
- (c) Teams having at least two rostered goalies may not utilize the goalie pool other than extraordinary circumstances such as injury, illness, etc. during the season when they find themselves with no goalie for a game.
- (d) A team may utilize the goalie pool for a "back-up" goalie when they have a healthy starter. If a goalie agrees to dress and be rostered as a "back-up" for a game and plays minutes that are equivalent to a an official league game period, he or she will lose their rotation spot and go to the bottom of the list as if he or she was utilized as the "starter" in a normal rotation.
- (e) Any goalie in the pool may practice with a team they are not rostered for without losing their spot on the goalie pool rotation. Coaches may utilize the goalie pool or contact the goalie's parent(s) (Using SafeSport Guidelines) for a "practice goalie" when needed.

Section 3.14 Goalie Lottery Pool (Draft)

Section 3.14 Goalie Lottery Pool (Draft)

- (a) The GLP will be made up of league registered goalies from teams in excess of two goalies.
- (b) Only teams with zero or one rostered goalie will be eligible to choose.
- (c) Teams are not allowed to "cut" a goalie (9-12 grade) from tryouts in order to draft a lottery goalie.

Goalies will be selected via a "Goalie Lottery Draft" at a time TBD. Goalies will be evaluated by teams prior to the draft and MUST attend the evaluation. Draft will occur immediately following the evaluation. (Teams in the goalie lottery who do not come to the evaluation and draft will be assigned a goalie by the Commissioner.)

Teams with zero goalies draft first (coin flip(s) to determine order); teams with one goalie will draft once teams with zero goalies have chosen one (original coin flip(s)) results will stand and their will be coin flips for the teams who already have one goalie to determine their lottery position). Goalies entering the GLP agree to play for the team who drafted them. The goalies) drafted for a team become a player on assignment for that team for the season adhering to that teams' rules, etc. for that season. The goalie on assignment may return to their original team should the original team no longer be in a situation of excess goalies. GOALIE PAYS DUES TO HIS/HER NEW TEAM, BUT DUES WILL BE THE LOWER DOLLAR AMOUNT (BETWEEN THE THE ORIGINAL TEAM AND NEW TEAM).

1. If a goalie in the lottery pool is not assigned a team, they are part of the rotating "goalie pool" (Sec. 3.13) to be drawn for emergencies.
2. If at any time during the season, a team's roster becomes fewer than 2 goalies, they may request a

"lottery goalie" to the Goalie Administrator.

(d) Coaches choosing to utilize the Goalie Lottery Pool should (in good faith) do so with the intention of playing the goalie in some games. The GLP should not be utilized for "practice goalies".



Article IV. Discipline

Section 4.01 Discipline Committee

The Commissioner shall appoint a Disciplinary Committee as necessary to resolve disciplinary matters. The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of the Commissioner and two Board members not associated with the team or teams involved in the disciplinary matter. The Disciplinary Committee shall enforce the Code of Conduct and has the authority to assess any penalties up to and including exclusion from participation and/or attendance of any GNASH event for behavior deemed by GNASH to be in violation of this Code of Conduct (see Exhibit 5). Conduct subject to discipline and the process of reporting an incident or such conduct are more fully explained in Exhibit 5. In addition, the Discipline Committee shall serve as the proper authority in enforcing USA Hockey rules of play for players, coaches and officials.

Section 4.02 Suspensions.

These rules apply to all League, Non-League and Tournament games played by GNASH teams.

All Suspensions will adhere to the current USA Hockey Official Rules of Ice Hockey and Standardized Discipline Policy

These rules apply to all League, Non-League and Tournament games played by GNASH teams.

(a) Responsibilities.

- 1) Coach. Enforcement of game suspensions shall be the responsibility of the offending player's coach. A failure to comply shall result in the automatic forfeiture of the game(s) in which the suspended player has been permitted to participate. Violation of this responsibility shall be reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee and appropriate action taken – which may result in a season (one year) suspension for the coach who knowingly plays a suspended player. The suspensions not posted on the website does not mean the suspension does not need to be served.
- 2) Notification. When a suspension is administered, the League Commissioner (or other party who administers the suspension) shall officially communicate (via email and/or written notification) the player name and term of the suspension to the player receiving the suspension and request the League Statistician to post the suspension on the League website. This will be updated with the date of the suspension served, once the signed scoresheet is submitted.
- 3) Suspensions Carried Forward. If a suspension is not fully served in the course of a season, or if a suspension is incurred as a result of misconduct in a game after the regular season, the balance of the suspension must be served in League games at the beginning of the following season. If the player is not on the roster of any GNASH team the following season, the suspension remains in the books until the player graduates and is no longer eligible to play in the League. If the player(s) involved are graduating seniors, the suspensions will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and the team will pay a monetary fine of \$100.00 per game that the player(s) receive in suspensions.

- (b) League Play-Off Games. For disciplinary action, League sanctioned Play-Off games are considered to be regularly scheduled games.
- (c) Other-than-GNASH Suspensions. Suspensions imposed by other leagues may also be imposed in the GNASH League as determined through consultation with those leagues and USA Hockey, as appropriate.

Section 4.03 Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, or Illicit Drugs

The use of tobacco in any form, alcohol, or illicit drugs by coaches, officials, and athletes is prohibited at League sanctioned events.

Section 4.04 Officials

- (a) Officials, referees and linesmen shall be duly qualified to officiate a USA Hockey sanctioned high school game. The selection of on-ice officials is at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors. The participating teams shall provide off-ice officials. The decisions of game officials are accepted as final and binding.
- (b) It shall be the duty of a game official to file immediately a report involving unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the players (including, but not limited to, a game misconduct penalty), parents, coaches, or fans.
- (c) The Disciplinary Committee shall have authority to request the suspension of officials who are guilty of unsportsmanlike or unethical conduct or who fail to file immediately required reports with the League Commissioner.
- (d) Any paid official, on-ice or off-ice, shall be prohibited from working in an athletic contest in which a member of his or her immediate family - son, daughter, brother, sister, mother, father, husband or wife - is playing or is serving as a coach for either team. If an official is a teacher, the official is prohibited from working an ice hockey game, unless otherwise approved by the President, if one of the teams represents the school in which the official is employed as a teacher.

Article V. Team Management

Section 5.01 Team Management Responsibility

Each Team is responsible for the team finances and all other matters involved in the management of the team. The Board of Directors will look to the Team Manager to fulfill these responsibilities of team finance, registration, communication and attendance.

Article VI. Sponsors

Section 6.01 Sponsor's Advertisements

- (a) Tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and bar advertisements and/or other regulated commercial endeavors aimed at adults and prohibited for high school youth are neither appropriate or acceptable.
- (b) The most prominent feature on the front of the players' jerseys should be the team name/school/logo.
- (c) The most prominent feature on the back of the players' jerseys should be the players' number. If lettering appears above the number it will either be the player's name, team's name or "Stop" sign.
- (d) The most prominent feature on the sleeve of the jersey should be the player's number. A Sponsor's logo (in the form of a patch with no dimension larger than 4 inches) may appear on the player's sleeve with the lower edge of the patch located 3 inches above the cuff or on one shoulder.
- (e) A Sponsor's name may appear in block letters on the back bottom of the jersey in a band no more than 2" high.