



**CAROLINAS HOCKEY LEAGUE INC (CHL)  
CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, RULES & REGULATIONS  
AMENDED & APPROVED January 22, 2023**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**CHL CONSTITUTION**

- Article I – Organization
- Article II – Place
- Article III – Purpose
- Article IV – Government
- Article V – Annual Meeting
- Article VI – Membership
- Article VII – Dues
- Article VIII – Limitations
- Article IX – Dissolution
- Article X – Amendments

**CHL BYLAWS**

- Article I – General
- Article II – Membership
- Article II – Composition of Divisions
- Article III – Board of Directors
- Article III – President
- Article III – Vice President/Director of Discipline
- Article III – Secretary
- Article III – Treasurer
- Article III – Tournament Director
- Article III – Competition Director
- Article IV – League Officials
- Article V – Meetings

**CHL RULES & REGULATIONS**

- Section I - Rostering
- Section II – Procedural Rules
- Section III – Playing Rules
- Section IV – Disciplinary Rules



## CHL CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I. Organization

**Section 1:** The organization constituted herein shall be known as the Carolinas Hockey League, Inc. (CHL), (herein referred to as the League).

**Section 2:** The League shall be organized as a non-profit, tax exempt 501 c (3) corporation and shall be subject to such state and federal laws as may be applicable.

**Section 3:** The League shall issue no stock, nor shall it pay dividends of any sort. Any excess of income over expenses shall be returned to the League's general funds.

**Section 4:** Included for such purposes is the making of distributions to organizations under Section 501 © (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Codes or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

### ARTICLE II. Place

**Section 1:** The office of the League shall be the office of the USA Hockey Affiliate, Carolinas Amateur Hockey Association, (CAHA). The correspondence address shall be the correspondence address of CAHA. (The current correspondence address is P.O. Box 38216 Charlotte, NC 28216)

### ARTICLE III. Purpose

**Section 1:** The corporation is organized exclusively for civic and educational non-profit purposes under the laws of the State of North Carolina

**Section 2:** The League is organized to: provide a structured framework for the conduct of competitive amateur hockey among and between member associations; promote the development of amateur hockey as both a participation and spectator sport within the geographic area encompassed by the League; foster the development of hockey skills among member players; establish and maintain mutually beneficial athletic and social relationships between and among member associations; assist member associations in the character development of their players by promoting the ideals of sportsmanship, fair play, teamwork, and sacrifice through the medium of competitive hockey.

### ARTICLE IV. Government

**Section 1:** The government of this corporation shall be vested in a Board of Directors, which shall perform such duties and functions as is prescribed in the Bylaws and Operating Rules.

**Section 2:** Each member association in good standing shall be entitled to two seats and one vote on the Board of Directors.

**Section 3:** The Board shall be organized as follows:

A. The Board shall elect from among its members a President, Vice President/Director of Discipline, Secretary, Director of Competition and Tournament Director. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the CAHA Affiliate Board of Directors.

B. The offices of President, Secretary, shall be elected for a term of two (2) years and will be up for election during "even" years. The officer will commence his/her position beginning April 1 through March 31 for the elected term. The offices of Vice President/Director of Discipline, Director of Competition shall be elected for a term of two (2) years and will be up for election during "odd" years. The officer will commence his/her position beginning April 1 through July 31 for the elected term.



**Section 4: METHOD OF ELECTION OF CHL Officers (President, Vice President/Discipline Director, Secretary, Competition Director, and Tournament Director)**

- a) Voting Eligibility for CHL Officers: In any voting to elect a CHL Officer, the Authorized Representative of the Member Association in good standing shall exercise the vote for their Association. Each Association in good standing has 1 vote.
- b) Nominations for CHL Officers: Any member of a CHL Association may nominate themselves or any other person who is a member of a CHL Association in good standing. All nominations must be submitted to the Secretary by February 21. Nominations shall be in writing and must include the i) registered participant member's (nominating person) name and address, ii) the nominee's name, nominee's address, and nominee's acceptance statement, and (iii) a brief resume of the nominee's qualifications and hockey-related experience.
- c) Prior to ballot distribution, a candidate may withdraw from the election by presenting to the Secretary a written statement of their intention to withdraw. When only one (1) candidate remains after a candidate has withdrawn the election will be terminated and the remaining nominee will be declared elected by acclamation.
- d) Ballots shall be distributed by the Secretary by mail or email or by such other method as approved by the CHL Board of Directors in accordance with the following timetable: Nominations Open - February 1 Nominations Close - February 21 Ballots Distributed - March 1 Ballots Postmarked or Email dated by - March 15 Termination of Appeal Deadline – 10 days after the publication of election results. Date of Taking Office - April 1
- e) In the event a candidate withdraws from the election after ballot distribution by presenting to the Secretary a written statement of their intention to withdraw, all votes cast are counted and reported under the name of the candidate. Should the withdrawn candidate receive the highest number of votes, the candidate with the next highest vote count shall be declared the winner.
- f) Proxy voting is specifically prohibited.
- g) The candidate(s) with the highest number of votes shall be declared the winner.
- h) Appeals of the elections must be made by a candidate in writing to the Secretary within 10 days of the election results being made public. In the event of an appeal, the Board of Directors shall review the ballots to determine validity and confirm the vote count. No ballots will be destroyed until 90 days after the appeal has been settled.
- i) CHL Officers shall be seated by April 1.

**Section 5:** a) Any CHL Officer Director who fails to attend two (2) or more consecutive meetings may be removed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board of Directors present at a duly held Board of Directors' meeting; provided, that the removal is placed on the meeting agenda prior to the meeting and the Officer to be removed is given written notice of the proposed action no less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting.

b) A Director may resign at any time by delivering written notice to the Board of Directors or to the President or Secretary. A resignation is effective when the notice is effective unless the notice specifies a later effective date. If a resignation is made effective at a later date, a special election will be held following a time frame consistent with Section 3 but the new Officer shall not take office until the vacancy occurs.

c) In the event a vacancy occurs due to resignation or death, a special election will be held following a time frame consistent with Section 3 to allow for the democratic election of a replacement Director. The replacement Director shall be seated at the next meeting of the Board of Directors and will remain in office for the unexpired term of the vacancy. "

**Section 6:** The President and Youth Committee Chairperson of CAHA shall be a member ex-officio of the Board, without vote.

**Section 7:** A simple majority of the members of the Board of Directors constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. Within the voting quorum, a simple majority shall decide all matters brought to a vote. In cases of a tie vote, the matter under consideration shall be deemed to have failed.

**Section 8:** Should a vacancy occur as a result of death, illness, resignation, recall from office, or for any other reason, the member association represented by the vacancy shall designate a successor to fill the remainder of the term of office.

**Section 9:** The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, appoint such other League Officials as it deems necessary to carry out specific functions as described in the Bylaws. Unless filled by a duly appointed Director, such officials shall not be considered members of the Board of Directors, and shall not vote.



**ARTICLE V.  
Annual Meeting**

**Section 1:** An Annual Meeting will be conducted in conjunction with the CAHA meeting.

**ARTICLE VI.  
Membership**

**Section 1:** The league shall be composed of such USAH amateur hockey associations which seek, qualify and are accepted for membership as provided for in the Bylaws.

**ARTICLE VII.  
Dues**

**Section 1:** League Membership Dues shall be payable annually by each member Association by the Annual Meeting of each year and in the amount specified by the Board as prescribed in the League Rules. Division Dues, if any, shall be

payable annually as set forth by the League Rules. All checks for any dues shall be made payable to the Carolinas Hockey League, Inc. (CHL)

**ARTICLE VIII.  
Limitations**

**Section 1:** No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its Board, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article III hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the Corporation shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

**Section 2:** Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, this Corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this Corporation.

**ARTICLE IX.  
Dissolution**

**Section 1:** Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 50 I © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Circuit Court of the place in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

**ARTICLE X.  
Amendments**

**Section 1:** Amendments to this Constitution shall be duly considered by the Association Board of Directors and will be enacted upon a favorable vote of at least three- fourths of the voting members. Voting on amendments may be conducted during any Board meeting, or by mail, providing that written notice describing

the proposed amendment is furnished to all voting members at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to such meeting or date on which ballots must be returned.



## CHL BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I: General

**Section 1:** The League Bylaws as set forth herein provide guidance and direction for the organization, administration and operation of the League. Although not formally a part of the Constitution, the policies and procedures established herein are considered to be of the same force and effect and are binding on all member associations.

**Section 2:** These Bylaws may be amended, changed or modified by majority vote of the Association Board of Directors. In the case of tie votes, the amendment or modification shall be deemed to have failed.

### ARTICLE II: Membership

**Section 1:** Membership in the League shall consist of such amateur hockey associations and organizations operating amateur hockey teams. Once approved by CAHA, an association may request to be in the league as per section 2.

**Section 2:** Any bona fide amateur hockey association organized, operating, and located within the area encompassed by the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, which is in good standing with USA Hockey and their USA Hockey Affiliate may apply for membership in the League. Applications will be due May 1st, the Executive Board of Directors will consider and act upon any such applications at the Annual Meeting. Acceptance is automatic once approved by CAHA and the request has been submitted. Such organizations will be included in the League game schedule of their respective Division for the season immediately following the acceptance of the association's application.

**Section 3:** Any member association shall be considered not in Good Standing if in any year that association fails to field at least one team in the league or fails to pay the CHL league dues. Member association's voting privileges shall be suspended as long as they are not in Good Standing. If a member association fails to remain in Good Standing for two consecutive years that association's league membership shall be revoked.

**Section 4:** The Treasurer is to notify any organization no less than 2 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting if they are in not in good standing. A list will be presented to the President at the beginning of the Annual Meeting if any organization remains not in good standing.

**Section 5:** Annual League membership dues shall be established by the Executive Board of Directors as a condition of continued membership and shall be due and payable no later than the Annual Meeting. Division dues and the respective due dates shall be established by the Commissioner of each Division subject to approval of the Board. If the Division dues are not paid by the agreed date, the association's game schedule may be canceled and the association may forfeit all games played to date, or other penalty may be imposed as determined by the Board of Directors.

**Section 6:** If due to circumstances beyond the control of a member association, such as lack of adequate playing facilities, its game commitments cannot be met, such association may elect to suspend operation, in which case its Division dues, if paid, will be refunded on a pro-rated basis. League Membership will not be refunded.

**Section 7:** Any association whose membership has been revoked and wishes to rejoin the league must reapply for membership in accordance with Section 2.

**Section 8:** All registered players, coaches, managers and other officials duly appointed or elected by member associations shall be individual members of the League.

**Section 9:** By virtue of its membership in the League, member associations expressly agree to comply with and abide by the Constitution, Bylaws, Operating Rules, and playing rules of the Carolinas Hockey League, the Carolina Amateur Hockey Association, and USA Hockey.

**Section 10:** A. Each member Association will be billed Jan 15th by the CHL Treasurer for payment of any applicable fines or penalties. Payment will be due to the CHL Treasurer within 30 days. Any Associations with outstanding balances as of May 1st will be placed on probation, forfeiting voting and league scheduling privileges for the following season.



**Section 11:** League Membership Dues shall be payable annually by each member Association by the Annual Meeting of each year, in advance, as part of the season game invoice for the current season, in the amount of \$100. The League fee paid in the current season, will apply to the upcoming season. Game fees will be charged at the rate established by GameSheet each year and shall be payable to The Carolinas Hockey League, Inc.

**Section 12:** Composition of Divisions **1.** There shall be three Divisions: Tier II Travel AA; Travel A; and Travel B. The structure of each division will be reviewed by the Board annually. **2.** A previously registered team may apply to the appropriate Director of Competition to “play up” or “play down” a division and will be subject to all CHL and USAH rules for the new division. In the event a Travel A team is required by the CHL to compete at the AA level, that team shall not be required to declare to be National Bound.

**Section 13:** Players cannot be registered on more than one participating CHL team’s roster (with the exception of girl players who may be rostered on both a girl’s only team and a coed team).

**ARTICLE III: Association  
Board of Directors**

**Section 1:** Administrative authority within the League is vested in an Association Board of Directors established under the authority of Article IV of the Constitution. Each Member Association will appoint two of their members to serve as CHL Association Directors. Each Member Association in good standing shall carry one vote. An Executive Board of Directors will be selected by the Association Board of directors according to the voting requirements as set forth in Section IV of the bylaws.

- A. Establish goals, objectives, programs and management practices consistent with the best interests of the League.
- B. Amend the Constitution and Bylaws as required. Any changes must be submitted and approved by majority vote by the Association Board of Directors.
- C. Impose and enforce appropriate penalties for violations of the Constitution, Bylaws or Operating Rules.
- D. Prepare an annual budget, establish and collect fees, and authorize the expenditure of funds. All expenditures of CHL funds in excess of \$500 require Association Board of Directors approval.
- E. Actively promote the USA Hockey Coaches and Officials Development Programs within the League
- F. Establish the Directors for the League as set forth in Section 8 of Article IV of the Constitution.
- G. Create and Approve a Master Schedule for all division’s game schedules.

**ARTICLE III: Executive  
Board of Directors -  
President**

**A. President:** 1. Duties include to call and preside at all meetings; sign all contracts, leases, and other legal documents as authorized by the Association Board of Directors; act as chief spokesperson for the League and generally guide and conduct the affairs of the League. The President shall be the principal Standing officer of the CHL and shall, in general, supervise and facilitate all the business and affairs of the CHL. The President shall have, but is not limited to, the following powers and duties:

- a) Presiding at all Board of Director meetings at which they are present.
- b) The power to call special meetings of the CHL, at their discretion.
- c) The power to determine questions arising from emergencies not provided for in the Bylaws or Rules and Regulations of the CHL until such time as they may be acted upon by the appropriate CHL Standing Committee or the CHL Association Board of Directors; attending and representing CHL in other hockey meetings, including the CAHA Annual Meeting.
- d) Shall be an ex-officio member of all Standing Committees unless they otherwise qualify to be a member of any such committee.
- e) Shall sign, with the Treasurer or other proper officer of CHL as authorized by the Board of Directors, any contracts or other instruments which the Board of Directors have authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors or by these Bylaws or by statute to some other officer or agent of CHL.
- f) Shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.
- g) The President of the League shall meet with the CAHA Youth Committee Chairperson who shall present League issues at the Affiliate Level.

2. The office of President shall be elected by a majority vote of the Association Board of Directors for a term of two (2) years, as outlined in the Constitution, Article IV, Section 3. The vote for President will take place in “even” years.



**ARTICLE III: Executive Board of Directors - Vice President/Director of Discipline**

**B. Vice President/Director of Discipline:**

1. Assume the duties of President in his absence or incapacitation.
2. The office of Vice President/Director of Discipline shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, as outlined in the Constitution, Article IV, Section 3. The election will take place in the “odd” years.
3. Oversee the League’s on ice and hockey related operations.
4. Serve as Discipline Committee Chairman for any required League Discipline Hearings
5. Ensure all member associations comply with all USA Hockey and CAHA rules and follow the Zero Tolerance USA Hockey program.

**ARTICLE III: Executive Board of Directors -**

**Secretary**

**C. Secretary:**

1. Assume the duties of President in the absence or incapacitation of the President and Vice President/Director of Discipline.
2. The office of Secretary shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, as outlined in the Constitution, Article IV, Section 3. The election will take place in the “even” years
3. Maintain appropriate records and reports.
4. Provide timely notice of annual, special and regular meetings.
5. Prepare minutes of each meeting, post on the CHL website, and transmit copies thereof to all members of the Association Board in a timely manner.
6. Oversees all Rules & Regulations and By-Laws. This includes updating, reviewing, and proposing changes to these documents.

**ARTICLE III: Executive Board of Directors - Treasurer**

**D. Treasurer:** 1. Oversee the League’s administrative and financial affairs.

2. The office of Treasurer shall be appointed by the CAHA Affiliate Board of Directors for a term of one (1) year, as outlined in the Constitution, Article IV, Section 3.
3. Maintain and account for the League funds.
4. Establish and maintain appropriate bank accounts at approved financial institutions and pay all proper financial obligations.
5. Collect and deposit appropriate dues and other receivables.
6. Prepare a monthly report as well as an annual budget and an annual financial report. Also responsible for compliance and filing any tax forms and returns.
7. Supervise appointed bookkeepers and accountants.

**ARTICLE IV: Executive Board of Directors - Director of Competition**

**Section 1: Director of Competition.** The Association Board of Directors shall elect from its membership a Director of Competition of the League as outlined in Section 8, Article IV of the Constitution. The election will be for a two (2) year term and will take place in “odd” years. The duties will include the following:

1. The Director of Competition shall be elected by a majority vote of the Association Board of Directors for a term of two (2) years, as outlined in the Constitution, Article IV, Section 3. The vote for Director of Competition will take place in “odd” years.
2. Oversee assessment of team competitiveness for appropriate placement in the appropriate league divisions to ensure even competition in each division.



3. Oversee the league scheduling process to include all scheduling of games.
4. Oversee the Competition Committee including appointing at least two other members to serve on the committee. All three members must be from different organization. This Committee will oversee the CHL rules that are set forth in the CHL Rules and Regulations. This includes the approval of all waivers to the CHL Rules and Regulations and conducting an annual review of the rules to be completed by the end of January.
5. Resolve game protests subject to appeal to the Vice President/Director of Discipline and the Board of Directors.
6. Impose suspensions and other disciplinary measures resulting from infractions of the rules subject to appeal to the Vice President/Director of Discipline and Executive Board of Directors.
7. Performs other duties as assigned by the Executive Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE IV: Executive Board of Directors - Tournament Director**

**Section 2: Tournament Director.** The Association Board of Directors shall elect from its membership a Tournament Director as outlined in Section 8, Article IV of the Constitution. The election will be for a one (1) year term. The duties will include the following:

1. Scheduling and planning any and all pre-season play-in tournaments
2. Scheduling and planning all post-season tournaments.
3. Oversee the Tournament Committee including appointing at least two other members to serve on the committee. This Committee will oversee the planning of all play-in, in-season, and post-season tournaments.
4. Oversee the process for selecting locations for all play-in, in-season, and post-season tournaments. This includes the budgeting and bid process for any of these tournaments.

**ARTICLE IV: Board of Directors - League Officials**

The Executive Board of Directors may, at its discretion, appoint such League Officials as may be considered necessary in the best interests of League operations. Such officials serve at the pleasure of the Board. These appointees are expected to participate actively in Board matters, but those appointees who are not actively serving on the Association Board of Directors will have no vote on League issues. Such League officials and their suggested duties may or may not include but are not limited to the following:

- 1. WEBMASTER/STATISTICIAN:** Receive and maintain league statistics as directed by the Board, monitor major penalties, suspensions, and other disciplinary issues; informing and assisting the Vice President/Director of Discipline in these matters. Responsible for maintaining the League web site, including updating and posting factual information on the internet as directed by the Board of Directors.
- 2. PUBLICITY & SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR:** Responsible for coordinating social media, public information and media coverage of League activities.

**ARTICLE V: MEETINGS**

**Section 1:** The Executive Board of Directors will meet at least every other month, either in person or via conference call at the discretion of the President. *Meetings will be held on the same day of each month, (ie 3rd Sunday of the month at 6pm).*

**Section 2:** The Association Board of Directors will meet in person at least annually, as required by Article V of the Constitution. The Association Board of Directors will also have an opportunity to present issues to the Executive Board during the open session of the Executive Board Meetings.

**Section 3:** Any League Member that fails to send representation to three consecutive Association Board meetings may be placed on suspension, by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. A suspended League Member may be removed from League Membership upon a favorable vote of at least three-fourths (3/4) of the Association Board of Directors at a duly held Director's meeting provided that the removal is placed on the meeting agenda prior to the meeting and the League Member to be removed is given written notice of the proposed action no less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting.



All other references to Board of Directors shall be changed to reflect either Association Board of Directors or Executive Board of Directors where ever applicable.

## **CHL RULES & REGULATIONS**



**SECTION I: Rostering- Rule  
101: Player and or Coach  
Transfers**

- A.** Prior to August 1st of each season, it will be the responsibility of each CHL Association Registrar to supply a listing of players or coaches “Not In Good Standing” with their home associations to the CHL Commissioner (s). Any players appearing on this list MUST have a “Letter Of Good Standing” (Release) prior to any CHL Association registering that player or coach for the next season’s rosters.
- B.** After August 1st player or coach transfers from one CHL Team to another must be accompanied by a “Letter Of Good Standing”

**SECTION I: Rostering - Rule  
102: Rosters**

All teams must meet the criteria listed below:

- A.** No player can be rostered on more than one CHL team regardless of age or level except for a female player who can be rostered on a girls only team and a coed team
- B.** Players previously rostered on a Tier I team may only play for a CHL team under the following criteria:
1. Played Tier II or less for home association "A";
  2. Was rostered on a Tier I association outside CAHA;
  3. Can only play for home association "A" in CHL;
  4. Must be in good standing with Tier I association and have been granted release (release must be provided to the CHL Executive Board of Directors);
  5. If no release, must provide letter from Tier I association indicating good standing;
  6. Must be rostered prior to December 31 Tier II roster freeze
- C.** Only players properly placed on a team roster prior to December 31, are eligible for post season play.
- D.** All rosters must conform to regular and current USA Hockey and CHL standards

NOTE \*\* Exceptions to the above must be submitted to the Competition Committee in writing. Exceptions will be granted by the Executive BOD based on Competition Committee’s recommendation

**E.** Certified Team Rosters MUST be submitted to Director of Competition 14 days prior to the team’s 1st game and with any change prior to a player becoming eligible to play. (Failure to do so will result in a \$100.00 fine per occurrence). Playing an non-rostered player will result in the game being awarded to the opposing team and a \$100.00 fine per occurrence will be assessed. (If the opposing team actually lost the game a 1-0 Win will be recorded)

**F.** All rosters for CHL games are frozen effective 12/31 of the affected season. Any changes after this date must be approved by the CHL Board of Directors.

**G.** As required by USA Hockey, each coach on the bench MUST have the appropriate USA Hockey Coaching Certification Level. There is NO provision in the CHL for a game protest for ineligible coaches. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH ASSOCIATION TO POLICE PROPER CERTIFICATION LEVELS FOR THEIR COACHING STAFF. If requested a coach MUST provide proof of their USA Hockey certification which can be done by looking the coach up on the online USA Hockey Coaching Certification list.

**SECTION II: Procedural Rules  
- Rule 201: Scheduled Games**

**A.** Each member association declares teams for CHL play at the summer meeting prior to the season. Decisions on teams declared for league play are considered final at the conclusion of the scheduling portion of the summer meeting. Any ASSOCIATION that withdraws a team from League play after the scheduling meeting will be on automatic probation for the following season and not eligible for league play, subject to appeal to the Board of Directors.

**B.** The CHL strongly encourages scheduling games to minimize lost school days for players and to minimize the number of hotel overnights for each team during the season. To ensure that this happens, the CHL will have a standard start time for CHL games from 12 noon EST on Saturdays to 4pm EST on Sundays. Teams may agree

on another day and time in writing via email and copy to CHL Competition Director no less than 1 week prior to the scheduled game.



- C.** It is the responsibility of the home team to insure 75 minutes on-ice time for 10U, 12U, and 14U games, and 90 minutes on-ice for all 16U/18U games, including warm-ups but excluding Zamboni time. The board of directors must approve any variation to this.
- D.** Associations must schedule a minimum of a 75-minute break between games in all divisions.
- E.** A Zamboni cut is required before every CHL league game unless force majeure.
- F.** If a scheduled game cannot be played due to circumstances clearly beyond the control of the home team, such as unplayable ice, non-availability of facilities or similar circumstances, the game will be rescheduled as mutually agreed by the opposing teams. The Competition Director will be informed and the schedule changed accordingly.
- G.** If a visiting team is prevented from traveling to a scheduled game due to adverse weather or act of God, the game will be rescheduled as mutually agreed by the opposing teams. The Competition Director will be informed and the schedule changed accordingly.
- H.** If a postponed game cannot be rescheduled due to lack of playing dates, ice time, or other irresolvable conflict, the game will be declared a tie, the score will be recorded, as 0-0, and each team will receive one point in the League standings. Disputes arising from this procedure will be referred to the Competition Director, as applicable, for resolution.
- I. Note:** In rescheduling games, member associations are bound by the scheduling principle that the primary scheduling obligation is to the League. Competition with non-League opponents is encouraged, but any scheduling conflicts must be resolved in favor of the CHL obligation. Disputes arising from this procedure will be referred to the Competition Director, as applicable, for resolution.
- J.** Should either team fail to appear for a scheduled game, except as provided for in Rule 201d and 201e, USA Hockey Rule 632b applies and the game will be declared a WIN to the team that is prepared to play. In addition, the team that failed to appear is obligated to reimburse the opposing team for the game costs including ice time and officials. The score of the game will be recorded as 6-0.
- K.** It is the responsibility of the home team (in cases involving playing dates, facilities and ice conditions) and the visiting team (in cases involving weather or traveling conditions) to notify the scheduled opponent reasonably in advance of circumstances that would delay the start of the game or force a postponement.
- L.** Any time changes to the final CHL schedule must be done at least 14 days prior to the current scheduled game date and be agreed to by all parties in writing via email. This information must be forwarded to the Competition Director so that the schedule can be changed accordingly.  
There are NO schedule cancellations accepted, except for facility failure. There will be a \$100.00 per game fine for any team cancelling or forfeiting games.
- M.** If a scheduled game cannot be played due to a scheduling conflict outside of the CHL, the canceling team must pay for the cost of the ice and officials if notice of the cancellation is not made prior to 14 days of the scheduled game date and in the event that the home team cancelled, they must travel for the makeup games. Note: Goaltenders will not be eligible for award of the USA Hockey Zero Club patch from shutouts resulting from cancellations of forfeits.)
- N.** A two Referee System will be used for ALL 10U & 12U games. A minimum four Official System will be used for ALL 14U, 16U, and 18U games. All referees must be at least 1 age bracket older than the age of the teams they are officiating.
- O.** ALL Officials MUST be USA Hockey Certified. There must be a minimum number of USA Hockey Officials present in order for a League Game to be played. For 10U and 12U Divisions the minimum number of referees is one. For the 14U, 16U, and 18U Divisions the minimum is two. In the event that a game cannot be played due to a lack of officials, and it cannot be made up on the same game weekend, the game must be rescheduled at the home team's expense and they must travel for the makeup game (s).



P. The CHL Schedule posted on the league website will serve as the “official” League Schedule. Any discrepancies MUST be reported immediately in writing to the Director of Competition and league scheduler.

**SECTION II: Procedural Rules  
-Rule 202: Time of Play and  
Clock Operation**

A. All CHL league games shall be comprised of a three-minute warm up, one-minute break between periods, three stop- time periods, subject to curfew based on 75 minutes on ice for 10U, 12U and 14U games, and 90 minutes on ice for 16U/18U.

B. 1st & 2nd Period – 15 Minute Stop Time- 3rd Period ½ of the balance of curfew time (remaining time available divided by 2) – set as a Stop Time Period. The time set at the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> period will serve as the curfew time. Should events during the period, such as stoppages for fighting or injury cause the potential to go beyond curfew, the referees, upon consulting with the scorekeeper and at their discretion, may go to run time to stay within the curfew. Run time will be used when the score differential reaches five (5) or more goals beginning in the third period. Run time will continue regardless of any additional goals by either team.

\*\*\*\* Curfew Exception\*\*\*\* If a penalty shot is called during a running clock in the 3<sup>rd</sup> period, but the clock runs out prior to the penalty shot being taken, the penalty shot will be allowed to take place and the game will end following the completion of the penalty shot.

C. The official clock operator (supplied by the HOST site) prior to the start of the game shall make the curfew time known to both coaches and the referee and note it on the USA Hockey Score Sheet. (score keeper supplied by “home” team for that game).

D. For stop-time, the clock shall be stopped for all referee/linesman whistles.

E. A game must have at least 22 minutes and thirty seconds of game time to be considered a completed league game. In the event that a game has to be rescheduled due to lack of time, a full game will be replayed at an agreed to time and location. (see rescheduling policy).

F. Each team is allowed one, 1-minute time-out per game under normal stop-time play. There are no time-outs allowed in the third period once the curfew time has reached 2 Minutes or less. (This is an exception to rule 637e in the USA Hockey Rule Book).

**SECTION II: Procedural Rules  
-Rule 203: Penalty Times**

A. Penalties for all Squirt and PW level games will be 90 seconds regardless of period length. Penalties for all Bantam and Midget games will be 2 minutes regardless of period length.

B. All major penalties will remain at 5 minutes at all levels, and all misconducts will remain at 10 minutes at all levels

**SECTION II: Procedural Rules  
-Rule 204: Tied Games**

A. If a League game is tied at the end of regulation play, the game will be declared a tie and each team will be awarded one point in the standings.

**SECTION II: Procedural Rules  
-Rule 205: Standings and  
Statistics**

A. Results of League games will be recorded on an official USA Hockey Score Sheet (may be manual or electronic). It is the responsibility of each member association to procure these sheets from USA Hockey or have access to the Gamesheet app. All Associations MUST use GameSheet or USA Hockey score sheets for league games.

B. Teams will qualify for the season ending tournament as per the rules defined in the CHL Participation document. For tie breaking purposes, the maximum goal differential for any regular season game shall be six (6) goals. The winning team’s recorded goal total will be equal to the losing team’s actual goal total plus 6.

C. The Competition Director will receive all game reports and will maintain official team standings within each age group. The HOST team is responsible for providing the Competition Director with all weekend game scoresheets by midnight on Tuesday following a game weekend. *Associations that fail to submit their game reports by the Tuesday midnight deadline will be fined \$100.00 for each occurrence.*



D.. Team standings will be based on the total points method, with two points awarded for a win, one point for a tie.

**SECTION II: Procedural Rules**  
**-Rule 206: End of Season**  
**Tournament**

A. An End of Season (EOS) tournament will be held for divisions which contain a minimum of four (4) teams unless otherwise approved by membership vote at the CHL Summer meeting.

B. The number of teams qualifying for the EOS tournament is determined by the number of teams in each division. The guidelines/rules for this can be found in the CHL Tournament Participation Guide found on the Tournament section of the CHL website.

C. Teams who qualify for the EOS tournament are required to attend and participate. Any ASSOCIATION which has a team not participate in an EOS tournament for which that team has qualified must pay the appropriate tournament entry fee to remain in good standing with the CHL. Additionally, said ASSOCIATION will be automatically placed on probation for the following season and not eligible for League play, subject to appeal to the Board of Directors.

**SECTION II: Procedural Rules**  
**-Rule 207: Unequal Playing**  
**Conditions**

A. Facility: In the event of unequal playing conditions, such as poor lighting at one end of the rink, sunlight, lack of goal crease at one end, poorly defined blue line at one end, etc. the referee may direct that the teams switch ends during a stoppage in play close to the midpoint of the third period.

**SECTION II: Procedural Rules**  
**-Rule 208: Protests**

A. Member associations have the right to protest a game when, in their opinion, conditions existed or events transpired during the conduct of the game that constituted a gross violation of the rules and directly affected the outcome of the game. Recognizing the basic purpose of the League to promote sportsmanship and fair play, protest procedures are established expressly for the purpose of redressing obvious instances of wrongdoing, such as of an ineligible player. Trivial or "nuisance" protests will normally not be considered.

B. Only the member association may file a protest. However, the coach of the protesting team must indicate to the official scorer through the referee his intention to file a protest prior to the end of the game in which the incident or condition occurs. (PROTEST PENDING shall be noted on the game sheet) The lone exception is use of an ineligible player that was not detected until after completion of the game. The official scorer will annotate the game report with the words "Protest Pending" under the scoring summary portion of the game report.

C. The formal protest will be submitted in letter format by registered mail (returned receipt) directly to the VP/Discipline Director and must be signed by the association President of the association submitting the protest. The protest letter will detail the facts and circumstances surrounding the protest and state the desired remedy. *Protest letters must be postmarked within ten (10) days of the completion of the protested game and be submitted with a check for \$100.00.*

D. The VP/Discipline Director will investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the protest consult with coaches, League officials and minor officials as necessary, and adjudicate the protest as soon as possible, but not later than ten (10) calendar days from the time the protest letter is received.

E. Protest adjudicated by the VP/Discipline Director may be subject to appeal to the Board of Directors.

F. If an appointed VP/Discipline Director is a member of an association that is party to the protest, he/she shall automatically pass the protest to the Competition Director for adjudication; if the Competition Director is also a member of an association that is party to the protest, he/she shall pass the protest to an at-large member of the Board of Directors, whose decision shall be final. (Note: The term "at-large" refers to a member of the board of Directors who is not an officer of the Board and who is not a member of an association that is party to the protest.)

G. Judgmental decisions of a referee or linesman are final and are not subject to protest.

H. If a protest is denied, the protesting association shall lose their filing fee of \$100.00. If the protest is upheld, the filing fee will be returned to the protesting association.



**SECTION II: Procedural Rules  
-Rule 209: Complaints**

A. Member associations have the right to file formal written complaints to redress perceived conditions or events that are not appropriate for protest. Complaint procedures are identical to the protest procedures in Rule 208 except that results will not affect the outcome of a game and no fee will be assessed.

**SECTION III: Playing Rules -  
Rule 301: Authority**

A. Playing rules for all League games in all classifications shall be those of USA Hockey and CAHA.

**SECTION IV: Disciplinary  
Rules - Rule 401: General**

A. It is the implied duty and responsibility of all members of the League to conduct themselves and their affairs in a manner that reflects credit on themselves, their teams, their respective associations, the League, and the game of hockey. For violation of the spirit of intent of this rule, the Board of Directors may impose censure, suspension or expulsion as considered appropriate. As a League the CHL will strictly enforce the conduct guidelines set forth in USA Hockey's "Zero Tolerance" policies and "Codes of Conduct".

**Penalties, Rule 401 (b)** - whereas a team is assessed twelve (12) or more penalties during one game:

- First Offence - Head Coach will serve the one (1) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey.
- Second Offence - Head Coach will serve the one (1) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus and additional one (1) game suspension being mandated by CAHA.
- Third Offence - Head Coach will serve the one (1) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus and additional two (2) game suspension being mandated by CAHA.
- Subsequent Offences will add an additional game suspension for each occurrence of this rule infraction in addition the prior offence.

\*Fines indicated above will not be assessed during the 2022 - 2023 playing season.

\*\*Fines indicated above will be assessed beginning August 1, 2023 for the 2023 - 2024 playing season and subsequent playing seasons.

\*\*\*Fines levied against associations will be utilized to fund Coach, Parent, and Player Education in support of USAH's "Zero-Tolerance Initiative" within the CAHA Affiliate.

**SECTION IV: Disciplinary  
Rules - Rule 402: Responsibility**

A. Primary responsibility for enforcing and maintaining appropriate standard of player discipline rests with the parent associations of the affected player(s), including notifying its teams, players, coaches, referees of CHL Rules. Member associations have full power and authority to impose such additional punishments over and above those specified in USA Hockey and CHL rules as may be considered necessary, but not reduce such penalties.

**SECTION IV: Disciplinary  
Rules - Rule 403: Infractions of  
the Playing Rules**

A. Infractions of the playing a rule for which a minor, major, or misconduct penalty is assessed shall be penalized as specified in current USA Hockey rules and CHL Rule 204.

**SECTION IV: Disciplinary  
Rules - Rule 404: Fighting**

**Fighting A.** The League Fighting Suspension Policy applies to infractions incurred in CHL games only. Any Fighting infractions incurred in non-league play will be served in accordance with USA Hockey Playing Rules; enforcement is the responsibility of the individual team's association. CHL suspensions must be turned into the league by the penalized team no later than the Wednesday following the infraction.

**First offense: Two Game Suspension**

1. The player must sit the next currently scheduled game regardless of whether or not the game is CHL or non league to satisfy the USA Hockey next game requirement.
2. If the games following 1. above are non league, the player may play in those games until the next scheduled CHL game which the player must sit.
3. If the next game following 1. above is also CHL, the player sits that game and has fulfilled his/her two game requirement

**B.** Any additional fighting penalties during CHL games will be enforced according the USA Hockey Fighting rule as per USA Hockey bylaw 615:

(f) Any player who receives a second major penalty for fighting with the same team during the same season shall receive a three-game suspension. For a third fighting major with the same team in the same season,



the player shall be suspended until a hearing is conducted by the proper authorities under Rule 410 Supplementary Discipline.

These penalties under Fighting Rule 615 (f) will served in succession regardless of league or non league games.

C. All CHL game suspensions, including coach's suspensions, are to be posted onto the official CHL Website no later than the Wednesday following the infraction. Suspensions will be tracked for compliance by the CHL VP/Discipline Director. Playing a suspended player will result in the game being awarded to the opposing team. Players must serve CHL suspensions with their CHL rostered teams and not through adult hockey, high school hockey, scrimmages, etc. Suspensions shall be served in the next game(s) present on the team's schedule before the incident occurred. Late season suspensions not able to be served in a given season will carry over, and will be served in the player's first CHL game(s) of the following season.

**SECTION IV: Disciplinary Rules - Rule 405: Match Penalties**

A. The individual organizations will handle all discipline regarding Match Penalties with the exception of B. below. (Note: USA Hockey Rule 405 (Match Penalty) requires suspension of the affected individual for 30 days, during which time a hearing must be held to either reinstate the individual or impose appropriate penalties. If a hearing is not held or if no action is taken, the individual is automatically reinstated at the end of 30 days. Responsibility for conducting the required Summary Suspension Hearing is that of the member association with which the player is registered, as well as submitting the meeting summary and decision to CAHA immediately following the hearing.

B. Match Penalties as a result of a 601 (g1) or 601 (j1) (Physical assault on an official), or Hateful speech under rule Rule 601(e.3) will be conducted by the CAHA affiliate Disciplinary Committee.

**SECTION IV: Disciplinary Rules - Abuse of Officials, Rule 601 (d)** - whereas a coach/team official is assessed a game misconduct by the official:

➤ **First Offence** - Coach/Team Official will serve the one (1) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus an additional two (2) game suspension being mandated by CAHA.

➤ **Second Offence** - Coach/Team Official will be suspended for a thirty (30) day period and must attend a hearing with the CAHA Discipline Committee. The Coach/Team Official's Association shall be fined in the amount of \$250.

\*Fines indicated above will not be assessed during the 2022 - 2023 playing season.

\*\*Fines indicated above will be assessed beginning August 1, 2023 for the 2023 - 2024 playing season and subsequent playing seasons.

\*\*\*Fines levied against associations will be utilized to fund Coach, Parent, and Player Education in support of USAH's "Zero-Tolerance Initiative" within the CAHA Affiliate.

**SECTION IV: Disciplinary Rules -Leaving the Players' Bench, Rule 629 (a)** - whereas any player leaves the players' bench during an altercation or for the purpose of starting an altercation:

➤ **First Offence** - Head Coach will serve a three (3) game suspension being mandated by CAHA.

➤ **Second Offence** - Head Coach will be suspended for a thirty (30) day period and must attend a hearing with the CAHA Discipline Committee. The Head Coach's Association shall be fined in the amount of \$250.

\*Fines indicated above will not be assessed during the 2022 - 2023 playing season.

\*\*Fines indicated above will be assessed beginning August 1, 2023 for the 2023 - 2024 playing season and subsequent playing seasons.

\*\*\*Fines levied against associations will be utilized to fund Coach, Parent, and Player Education in support of USAH's "Zero-Tolerance Initiative" within the CAHA Affiliate.



**SECTION IV: Disciplinary  
Rules - Rule 406: Carryovers**

A. CHL Fighting Suspensions imposed, which cannot be completed during the regular season, carry over to the CHL Annual Tournament. CHL Fighting Suspensions imposed during the CHL Annual Tournament carry over to the next regular season CHL League Game (s).

**SECTION IV: Disciplinary  
Rules - Rule 407: Enforcement  
of Suspensions**

A. Primary responsibility for enforcing mandatory suspensions imposed under USA Hockey or CHL rules rests with the member association of the affected players, coaches, managers or organization officials.

B. Notwithstanding action taken by the member associations, the League Statistician shall provide to the Supervisor of Officials copies of all game reports in which a Game Misconduct or Match Penalty was assessed and shall provide the names of any player(s), coach (es), or others suspended as a result of such penalties to the scheduled opponents of the individual's team during the period when such suspensions shall be in effect.

C. Use of an ineligible (non-rostered or suspended) player or coach in a League Game will result in a mandatory forfeiture of the game in which the ineligible player or coach participated. The Coach shall receive a 2-game suspension for each occurrence.

**SECTION IV: Disciplinary  
Rules - Rule 408: Enforcement  
of Fines**

A. Each member Association will be billed Jan 15th by the CHL Treasurer for payment of any applicable fines or penalties. Payment will be due to the CHL Treasurer within 30 days. Any Associations with outstanding balances as of May 1st will be placed on probation, forfeiting voting and league scheduling privileges for the following season.

**SECTION IV: Disciplinary  
Rules - Rule 409: League  
Membership Dues**

A. League Membership Dues shall be payable annually by each member Association by the Annual Meeting of each year, in advance, as part of the season game invoice for the current season, in the amount of \$100. The League fee paid in the current season, will apply to the upcoming season. Game fees will be charged at \$6/game/team and shall be payable to The Carolinas Hockey League, Inc. Game Fees will be adjusted based on Gamesheet's per game fee.