CLEVELAND SUBURBAN HOCKEY LEAGUE
STANDING RULES
2016/2017
(Approved May 2016)

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INTRODUCTION

THE CLEVELAND SUBURBAN HOCKEY LEAGUE (CSHL) is a member in good standing of USA HOCKEY. The CSHL subscribes to all USA HOCKEY rules and regulations as presented in the USA HOCKEY Rule Book and in the USA HOCKEY Annual Guide and particularly the following:

> The USA HOCKEY recommended guidelines for youth hockey encourage a non-competitive environment in which children and youth can learn the basic skills without the distractions that are often associated with an over-emphasis on winning. Mastery of the fundamental skills and the fun of playing are essential to the development of a lifelong interest in hockey. Programs must be conducted to accommodate the number of new players who wish to play hockey and to reduce the number who become disenchanted and drop out. These voluntary guidelines are directed at children's programs, but adults must implement them if they are to influence youth hockey programs. Coaches, parents, administrators and rink operators must all do their part to ensure that the USA HOCKEY philosophy and the CSHL Standing Rules are upheld.

In addition to the CLEVELAND SUBURBAN HOCKEY LEAGUE's commitment to uphold the philosophy of USA HOCKEY, All Member Programs shall abide by the State of Ohio's "Return-to-Play Law" (ORC 3707.511) for athletes participating in youth sport organizations as it relates to concussions and concussion management.

Violation of any of the Standing Rules contained herein may result in discipline to a team, an association, or any individual connected with them. Teams and individuals may be disciplined through the aforesaid system of discipline contained in the Standing Rules**.** Associations shall be disciplined by a majority of members of the board present at a meeting of said board.

All coaches, team managers, and program heads are required to read, learn and abide by these Standing Rules. These rules shall be enforced by the board of directors of the CSHL (the "Board"). The Board may adopt regulations to enforce these Rules.

ARTICLE I – Divisions and Levels of League Play

A. Divisions. The CSHL shall provide league play in the following divisions:

Division	Age	**2016/2017** Season Year of Birth
Bantam	(14 and Under)	**2002, 2003**
Pee Wee	(12 and Under)	**2004, 2005**
Squirt	(10 and Under)	**2006, 2007**
Mite ADM	(8 and Under)	**2008 and after**

See the Youth Age Classifications contained in the current USA Hockey Annual Guide for more information.

B. Levels. Definition of Levels within Divisions:

1. "AA" level is an advanced skill level of hockey
2. "A" level hockey is an intermediate skill level of hockey
3. "B" level hockey is an instructional level of hockey.

The Board may create sub-levels of the A and B level if the number of teams justifies it (e.g. A1, A2, and A3).

C. Team Placement. The Board reserves to itself or its delegate the right to decide any question of team placement. The Board shall place ALL teams pursuant to a ladder preseason schedule and relative power index (RPI) rating to rank the teams.

D. The Board shall publish the league calendar at the Annual Meeting in May proceeding the regular season. Generally the 5 week (6-8 games) preseason will be from mid-September to late October, the 14 week (14 +/- games) regular season from early November to mid-February with the playoffs in late February.

E. Girls playing in the CSHL must play in the same age divisions as boys.

ARTICLE II - CSHL Games and Procedures

A. Definitions:

1. League Games are CSHL regular season games scheduled at the CSHL regular season scheduling meeting against other CSHL Teams and all playoff games.
2. Non-League Games are all other games scheduled at the CSHL pre-season or regular season scheduling meetings against other CSHL Teams. Non-League Games do not count in the CSHL standings.
3. Independent Games are all other games (including tournament games) whether against CSHL Teams or non-CSHL teams. The Board encourages teams to schedule referees for independent games through the league assignor (contact information inside back cover).
4. Programs will be assessed a fee set by the Board for each League Game and Non-League Game.
5. Any reference within these Standing Rules to CSHL Games refers to League Games and Non-League Games (and not to Independent Games).
6. A CSHL League Game that ends prematurely due to non-curfew rink problems such as electrical failure or bad ice is considered complete if at least two full periods have been played; otherwise it shall be replayed in its entirety.
7. Referees in League and Non-League Games are paid by the CSHL. Referees in Independent Games are paid in cash at the game.

B. Ice Time and Curfew Games.

1. Minimum ice time for Squirt and Peewee games: 1 hour - all levels.
2. Minimum ice time for Bantam games: 1-1/4 hours - all levels.
3. There shall not be an admission fee to any CSHL Game. Any team playing in a rink with such a fee may not play in the CSHL.
4. Curfew Games. A curfew game is one in which a) the home association does not own the ice slot following the game or b) the home team declares it is a curfew game. In any CSHL Game that is a curfew game, the home team must verbally notify the referees and the other team before the game starts: a) that it is a curfew game, and b) when the game slot ends. A team that fails to make such notification in a game that ends prematurely and that is timely protested will have sanctions imposed against it, from the game being partially or entirely replayed to forfeiture, all at the home team's cost.
   Note: Per USA Hockey Playing Rule 637(e) no timeouts shall be permitted during a curfew game.

C. Off Ice Officials. The home team shall provide two off-ice officials for the scorer's table, a timekeeper and a scorer. Each team must provide an off-ice official for its penalty box. All off-ice officials must be 18 years of age or older.

D. Clock Management Guidelines for CSHL Games shall be as follows:

1. Set clock for three-minute warm-up.

   a. Sound horn when ice is ready for warm-up.

   b. Except as directed by a referee, start clock to run down the 3 minutes when both teams enter the ice.

   c. Sound horn when 30 seconds of warm-up remain.

   d. Sound horn when warm-up is over.

   e. Referees should then start the game within 1 minute of end of warm-up.

2. Set clock for:

   a. Three 14 minute periods for the Bantam division. Three 12 minute periods for Peewee and Squirt divisions.

   b. The first two periods will be standard stop-time. If the game is a curfew game, with proper notification under B-4, the third period shall be stop-time UNTIL purchased time for the game and the game clock time remaining are equal. At that time, the time keeper shall inform both benches and the referees that the clock will go to running time to assure that the game is completed within the required purchased ice time. If proper notification under B-4 was not made, the home team may not change from stop-time to running time. The game shall remain in stop-time until the rink ends the game, at which time the scorer should note the time remaining in the game on the scoresheet. The home team should be prepared to forfeit the game if it is properly protested.

   c. Any time in the game that there is a **six (6)** goal differential, the remainder of the game will be played in running time, **unless the goal differential becomes less than six(6) goals. At that time the game shall return to stop-time**. If there is a ten (10) goal differential at the end of the second period or any time during the third period, the game will end at that point. The visiting team shall leave the ice and the home team may stay and use its ice time for practice.

   d. In running time, there will be no timeouts and no stoppage for goals, injuries, etc. The clock may be stopped only upon the instructions of a referee or if penalty times cannot be recorded without stopping the clock.

   e. Minor penalties in running time shall be **2** minutes, with no change in major or misconduct penalty time.

   f. **[REMOVED]**

E. Ice Cuts. An ice cut should be made before a CSHL Game at all levels of all divisions, except with approval of both coaches and referees.

F. Team Representative/Manager. It is strongly recommended that a Team Representative/Manager be appointed for each team. This representative/manager should attend all CSHL Games of their team and be prepared to report to his Head of Program on any incidents involving a coach, player, manager, official or fan.

G. Scores and Score sheets.

1. The home team is responsible for providing the official CSHL score sheet before each game and for providing scorekeepers to correctly fill out the score sheet. The scorekeepers must put the game number and name (with correct spelling) and number of each referee on the score sheet before the game and ensure that referees and coaches sign the score sheet. Scorekeepers must also verify that the name and USA Hockey Coaching Education Program number (CEP #) of every coach present (head and assistant) be written or printed legibly on all copies of the score sheet. Scorekeepers should ensure that only players present on the bench at the game are listed. If a player listed on a preprinted form is not at that game, his name shall be crossed out. Additionally, if

a player or coach is serving a game suspension, the name shall be crossed out and it must be noted on the score sheet that the individual is serving the suspension.

2. A scanned version of the original white score sheet and the Scores of CSHL Games (this includes preseason games) should be input into the League website immediately after the game by the HOME team This shall be done within 48 hours of the game by the HOME team. Exceptions to the above procedures are forfeited games (see rule III-B-3).
   The original copy of any score sheet should be kept by the HOME team representative/manager. Any score sheet not uploaded into the League website within 48 hours may cause the responsible program to be fined up to $100.

3. Score sheets may not be used to lodge any protests or complaints by coaches or managers; the only persons to use the back of the original white score sheet will be the referees in order to record any penalties or descriptions of their official duties during a game. Officials are to notify coaches if a player or coach is to miss a game or games due to a penalty assessment. An official's failure to make such notification shall not excuse a coach from enforcing all game suspensions.

4. Complaints regarding officiating shall be forwarded in writing to the CSHL Secretary and must be signed by the Head of Program making the complaint. Unsigned complaints will be discarded. The name(s) of the person(s) initiating the complaint must be included.

H. Referees All CSHL Games must be officiated by USA Hockey registered referees assigned by the League. There shall be two referees scheduled for each game. A CSHL Game will be considered official if officiated by only one referee. If no referee shows up at a CSHL Game, the game may not be played and must be rescheduled. Teams are not permitted to use the ice time to play a "controlled scrimmage" without referees.

I. Protective Gear, Jerseys and Socks.

1. In compliance with USAH Rule 304(f), all CSHL players at the **Pee Wee level (12 & under) through High School (18 & under)** must wear and have in place a colored (non-clear) internal mouthpiece, which covers all the remaining teeth of one jaw, customarily the upper, for all on-ice activities. For the first violation of this rule, the violating player shall be ruled off the ice and the coach shall be notified that for the next violation of this rule by ANY player on the team a 10-minute misconduct penalty shall be imposed. **It is strongly recommended that CSHL players at all age classifications wear a form fitted mouthpiece**

2. It is recommended that CSHL players wear a visible protective throat guard that is manufactured and sold as a throat protector (and cannot be altered from the original manufactured state). Goalkeepers may wear a plastic protective shield in place of a throat guard.

3. In accordance with USAH Rule 203(b), all players on each team shall be dressed uniformly. For game play, teams are required to wear distinguishing colors (See Rule IV-B-3) wearing the same primary color jersey and the same primary color socks on each leg. For a gross violation (multiple players violating the rule), an offending Team will be issued a warning with further reported gross violations subject to action by the league.

J. Home Ice Sheets. At least 10 days prior to the preseason scheduling meeting, each program shall provide the Board with at least five (5) home sheets of ice for each team's preseason schedule. At the regular season scheduling meeting each team shall bring an adequate number of ice sheets to play its home games. Each program shall also provide the Board with a "best faith" estimate of projected level of play for team placement.

ARTICLE III – Protests, Forfeits, CSHL Game Changes and Cancellations

A. Protests.

1. Protests may be lodged only in connection with incidents/events that occur during the playing of a CSHL game. Only the violation of League rules as stated in these Standing Rules may be protested. Referee judgment calls shall not be subject to protest.

2. All protests shall be submitted ONLY by the protesting Head of Program and distributed via e-mail to the CSHL Secretary, and to the opposing team Head of Program. A protest submitted by someone other than the Head of Program will be disregarded. The protesting Head of Program shall submit the protest to the CSHL Secretary and the opposing team Head of Program within 72 hours of the incident/event. This deadline may not be waived. The formal protest shall include the teams involved, game number, date, and the specific rule(s) that is alleged to have been violated with specific information about the incident/event.

3. The CSHL Disciplinary/Review Committee will review the protest to determine if it meets the criteria of a League protest.

4. If a protest is upheld, a $100 protest fee will be charged to the program filing the protest..

5. If deemed an actionable protest, the CSHL Disciplinary/Review Committee will notify the involved parties of the time and place of the hearing. A hearing may be deferred until the end of the season. No more than 4 persons per program will be permitted at the hearing. One of those present must be the Head of Program of the protesting program.

B. Forfeits.

1. There shall be no forfeiting of a league (CSHL Regular season) Game (except as levied by the League for violation of CSHL Standing Rules). Teams may not voluntarily forfeit a league game for any reason. Any team that is advised by another team that it is not playing a league game as scheduled, or otherwise a “no-show”, must immediately report this to the CSHL Secretary and Referee Assigner.
2. In the event of a “no-show” of a league game, a fine of $100, league fees and referee costs for both teams shall be levied against the Program of the offending team. The non-offending team shall not be assessed league fees or referee costs.
3. In that it is a league game, it must be played. The game is to be rescheduled for play at a later date (see Rule III-C-5) by following the established CSHL game change protocol with the subject being “No-Show Game Re-schedule”
4. Failure to show up or not playing a scheduled league game will result in a hearing before the CSHL Disciplinary/Review Committee and the possible suspension of team management. If the CSHL determines, in its discretion, that the “no-show” was deliberate, the offending team will be ineligible for the playoffs.
5. Forfeits of non-league games as related to CSHL pre-season games is highly discouraged as these games are important in determining team placement. In the event of a forfeit or “no-show” of any scheduled non-league game (pre-season or otherwise), provisions of Rule III-B-2 shall apply. Failure to show up or not playing a scheduled non-league game may result in a hearing before the CSHL Disciplinary/Review Committee.
6. In the event that a league game is declared a forfeit by virtue of a violation of a CSHL Standing Rule, the score will be recorded as a 1-0 victory for the non-offending team.

C. Rescheduled Games.

1. 10 Day Grace Period (2 coaches must agree). Upon the agreement of both coaches, preseason CSHL Games may be rescheduled or cancelled without charge in the first 10 calendar days after the preseason scheduling meeting. Upon the agreement of both coaches, regular season CSHL Games may be rescheduled without charge in the first 10 calendar days after the regular season scheduling meeting.
2. Before December 1 (2 coaches and 2 heads of programs must agree). After the 10 day grace periods referred to in rule III-C-1, the League strongly discourages rescheduling CSHL Games. A team wishing to reschedule a CSHL Game after the 10 day grace period must obtain the permission of the opposing team, its own head of program and the opposing team's head of program. The program initiating the change will be assessed $100 plus all costs. The Head of Program of the team wishing to reschedule a CSHL Game is the only person authorized to submit a game reschedule form. The League will disregard any attempt to reschedule a CSHL Game by any other person.
3. On or After December 1 (2 coaches, 2 heads of programs and the CHSL Board must agree). No CSHL Game may be rescheduled on or after December 1st. Any request for a waiver of this rule may be submitted only by the Head of Program of the requesting team to the CSHL Secretary and will be approved only in the rarest circumstances. A request from any other party will be disregarded and will subject the team to disciplinary action by the Board. The request for waiver must be in writing on a form provided by the CSHL. The CSHL will only accept requests for waivers that include the agreement of the Heads of Programs of both teams. The program that initiates any reschedule will be assessed $100 plus all costs if its request is approved.
4. 5 Day Rule. The game reschedule form for any CSHL Game rescheduled under this rule must be submitted at least 5 days before the originally scheduled game date in order to give the League time to reschedule referees.
5. Any re-scheduled game must be played before/on the date determined as the end of regular season.

D. Game Cancellations.

1. League Games. No League Game may be cancelled. This rule will be waived only in the rarest circumstances.
2. Non-League Games. The CSHL will accept game cancellations of Non-League games from the head of program of the team canceling the game ONLY after both heads of program have agreed to cancel such game. An attempt at cancellation by any other party will be disregarded and will subject the team to disciplinary action. The cancellation must be submitted on the official CSHL form and emailed to the Referee Assigner. The program that initiates any cancellation will be assessed $100 plus all costs.

E. Weather Conditions/Clerical Error.

1. Any CSHL League Game that is subject to inclement weather, ice rink conditions, or clerical error by the League shall be grounds for a game postponement and must be scheduled within 10 days for play at a later date (see Rule III-C-5). There will be no fee levied for a CSHL Game postponed under this rule if it is rescheduled within 10 days.

2. Deliberate refusal to reschedule will result in disciplinary action by the Board, including the assessment of all costs involved to the refusing team.

Note: Please call the League Office and the Referee Assigner (phone numbers inside back cover) as soon as it is determined to postpone a game due to one of the conditions listed above..

F. Substitution of Games.

Once a CSHL Game is scheduled, no team may substitute for the originally scheduled teams without the permission of the Referee Assignor.

ARTICLE IV – Rules Governing Rosters, Teams, Players and Coaches

A. Rosters and Exclusivity

1. Before the 1st day of the regular season, and until such time when the CSHL website has the capability to allow the uploading of team rosters, all CSHL Teams must submit to the League Secretary a copy of its Team Roster Registration Form (1-T) approved by the USA Hockey District Registrar ("Official CSHL Team Roster"). Any proposed amendment to this roster must be submitted with reasons for the change to the League Secretary for CSHL approval before any players added may play in a League Game. Upon approval, a copy of the amended roster must be transmitted to the League Secretary.

2. Only players listed on the Official CSHL Team Roster may play in League Games. If a team violates this Rule by playing a player not listed on the team's Official CSHL Team Roster in a League Game, it shall forfeit that game and shall be ineligible for the playoffs. The coach may be penalized further by the Board.

3. A player on an Official CSHL Team Roster may not play for any other team registered with another program during the regular season without the written permission of the League Secretary. A CSHL player who wishes to play for another USA Hockey registered team or during the regular season must send an email request to the League Secretary detailing the name of the other team, its head coach's contact information, how many games he expects to play for the other team and the reason for the dual rostering. The League Secretary shall promptly respond with a decision. If a CSHL player plays for a non-CSHL team during the regular season without obtaining such permission from the League Secretary, then any subsequent CSHL games in which he plays may be forfeited by his team.

Note: The intent of this rule is to keep "ringers" off CSHL Teams, not to keep CSHL players from playing on tournament teams.

B. Team Rules.

A CSHL Team is one that participates in the CSHL regular season. All CSHL Teams must have a minimum of six (6) players in uniform for all League Games. A maximum of twenty (20) players may be on one team.

1. Prior to a CSHL Team playing any CSHL Game it must have in its possession an Official CSHL Team Roster (1-T). Before any CSHL Game, a coach may review his opponent's Official CSHL Team Roster.

2. An official birth certificate must be secured from all CSHL players by the Team representative/manager before playing any CSHL Game.

3. Teams are required to wear distinguishing colors. The home team will wear its lighter colored jerseys. Where colors conflict, it is the responsibility of the home team to make the necessary changes.

4. All CSHL Teams must participate in pre-season play in order to be eligible for the playoffs.

C. Obligations When a Player Changes Programs.

1. Before a player may move from one CSHL Member or Associate Program ("Program") to another, he shall submit a written request to be released from the member program that he is currently registered. He must complete his financial obligations and return program equipment or program records to his former Program. He must present evidence of this to the new Program in the form

of a written "Release" issued by the Head of the former Program. A "Move" occurs upon the earlier occurrence of:

a. the player being added to a team roster or
b. the player playing in any game with the new Program.

If all obligations have been met, a release shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

2. The new Program shall be fined $100 per player per game played, if a player:

a. Moves, and
b. Owes money to the former Program, and
c. Does NOT present a Release to the new Program, and
d. Plays any games with the new Program,

In addition, if the game is a CSHL regular season game, it may be forfeited.

3. The CSHL Review Committee will hear and resolve all disputes and will monitor compliance with this Rule. The only sanctions allowed to be imposed is a prohibition on a player playing for a Program until all obligations are satisfied and the fine to the new Program as stipulated in Rule IV-C-2 above. A decision of the CSHL Review Committee is not a decision on the legal obligations of the parties or the merits of their case.

4. All member programs have sole responsibility for collecting any agreed upon fees/dues from their member players and are encouraged to obtain signed and dated contracts to clearly show the obligations incurred by a player. Absence of a signed contract is not fatal, but will be taken into account in making a decision.

D. Head Coaches/Assistant Coaches.

1. Head coaches and Assistant coaches of CSHL Teams must be registered with USAH before the CSHL regular season begins and must complete the appropriate level of coach's training as required by USA Hockey and Mid-Am District.

2. The CSHL will check on coaching certification and if it is found that a Head Coach of a team is not in possession of the stated requirements by December 1st, that individual will be ineligible to coach for the remainder of the season.

3. In respect to the State of Ohio "Return-to-Play Law" (ORC 3707.511) ALL coaches:
   a. Must successfully complete an online training program in recognizing the signs and symptoms of concussions and head injuries ("Certificate of Completion" to be on record with the Coach and the Member Program). The certification is good for three years.
   b. Must remove a player from play if the player exhibits signs and symptoms of a concussion.
   c. Assure that the player will not return to play on the same day that he or she has been removed.
   d. Must not permit a player to return to play until they have been assessed and receive written clearance by a physician or any other licensed and approved health care provider.

E. Player Movement within the Same Member Program.

1. No player may play any CSHL Game for a CSHL Team unless he is on that team's Official CSHL Team Roster at the time of the game.

2. Except as permitted below, no player may be on the Official CSHL Team Roster of more than one CSHL Team at one time.

3. A player who is moved from one team's Official CSHL Team Roster to another team's Official Team Roster (for the same Member Program) for a League Game must be permanently moved (i.e. such player may not play again for his original team in League Games) subject to the following exception. A team may play a substitute player from within its own Program in a League Game if, and only if, the team has LESS THAN 10 SKATERS PRESENT (excluding goalkeepers). Such substitute player must come from a lower level team within the division or from any team in a younger age division except a AA team. Rule E.1 still applies and requires the player to be added to the Official CSHL Team Roster of the new team. He does not have to be removed from his original team's Official CSHL Team Roster unless he is being permanently moved. Such substitute player may play in a maximum of 3 League Games for any one team before he must be permanently moved. For each occurrence, the player's name shall be listed on all copies of the score sheet and an asterisk (*) denoting that he is a substitute player

   Example: This rule allows a peewee A-1 team with 9 or less skaters to pull up a substitute player from a peewee A-2, A-3, B-1 or B-2 team, or any squirt team except squirt AA.

4. In the event of a player requesting a move to a lower level team within the Program after the start of the regular season, the move must be submitted by the Head of Program to the CSHL Board for review and approval. The review is not to stop free movement of the player, but to determine if such a move will impact the competitive balance as established by the RPI and/or the impact on the standings. The CSHL may deny or impose conditions upon movement. Until a decision is rendered, the player is ineligible from competing with his new team. Upon approval, the CSHL will notify the teams within the affected playing Level of the movement.

5. Any team violating these rules in a League Game will forfeit such game. If the Board determines that the violation was deliberate, the forfeiting team will be ineligible for the playoffs.

F. Dual Rostering of Goalkeepers within a Member Program.

1. Goalkeepers may be dual rostered within a Member Program for a team as an emergency backup only. Any such goalkeeper must be designated on the Official CSHL Team Roster (and all score sheets for that team) as the backup goalkeeper with an asterisk (*) next to his name and may play for that team only in emergency situations as a goalkeeper. The backup goalie for a AA level team may come from any other team in its age division or a younger age division. The backup goalie for a non-AA level team must come from an equal or lesser level team within its age division or from any team in a younger age division except a AA level team. A goalie can be an emergency backup goalie on more than one team within his program.

   Note: For competitive reasons, a goalie on a AA-level team can only be a backup goalie on another AA-level team in an older age division.

2. Any team violating this rule in a League Game will forfeit such game. If the Board determines that the violation was deliberate, the forfeiting team will be ineligible for the playoffs.

   Note: A player, including a goalkeeper, should not be on the rosters of two tier II USA Hockey Tournament Bound teams. See the USA Hockey Annual Guide for more information

G. Limits on Player Movement Between Member Programs.

1. After the first day of the preseason, a player that has signed an Official CSHL Team Roster may not play for another CSHL Program without a written release from the head of program of his original team (see Rule IV-C-1). A denial of a release may be appealed to the Board only on the grounds that the head of program failed to follow these Standing Rules.

Note: this rule is intended to prevent the disruption caused by players moving between programs once they have signed a roster and to encourage Member programs to get team rosters signed in a timely fashion.

2. After the first day of the regular season any movement of a player from one CSHL program to another not only must receive a written release from the head of program of his original team, but the move must be submitted by the head of program of the team receiving the player to the CSHL Board for review and approval. The review is not to stop free movement of the player, but to determine if such a move will impact the competitive balance as established by the RPI and/or the impact on the standings. The CSHL may deny or impose conditions upon movement. Until a decision is rendered, the player ineligible from competing with his new team. Upon approval, the CSHL will notify the teams, within the affected playing Level of the movement.

3. In order to manage the transfer of players from one CSHL Member Program to another, a CSHL Team may roster a maximum of three(3) players who appeared on the roster of a particular CSHL Team registered with a different CSHL Member Program in the previous year. This rule does not apply to siblings.

a) A team may have "imported" players from several teams, but may only have three(3) players from one particular team.

Note: This is designed to discourage an unhappy family who is leaving one CSHL Member Program from recruiting multiple families to join them on the same team at a different CSHL Member Program.

b) Per VIII-B this Standing rule may be waived by the CSHL Board for good cause, but the reasons must be overwhelming.

c) The Barons and Jacks are not Member Programs, they are Associate Members. Therefore, this rule does not apply to players coming from Associate Members (see Rule IV-H-1)

d) A player returning to his home CSHL Member Program, defined as the CSHL Member Program that he played for in the year before playing for the team that he is transferring from, shall be excluded from this rule with supporting documentation proving such.

e) A waiver of this rule would be granted if the Head of Program from the CSHL Member Program affected by this movement submits written authorization to the CSHL Board allowing more than three(3) players from a team in his program to transfer to another single CSHL Member Program team.

H. Conditions on Incoming Player from Non-Member Program.

1. After the first day of the regular season any player from a non-Member program (i.e. player moving into the jurisdiction of CSHL teams) or from an Associate Member (Barons, Jr. Jacks, etc.) joining a team of a Member program requires the head of program of the team receiving the player to notify the CSHL Board for a review. The review will take into consideration the team playing level that the player was with previously and notify the teams, within the affected playing Division, of this occurrence.

ARTICLE V – Game Rules, Suspension and Conduct

A. The CSHL adheres strictly to the playing rules of USA Hockey, which also allow the CSHL to impose further penalties or suspensions. It is the responsibility of the coaches to make sure that these rules are fully understood. All members must also comply with USA Hockey requirements with respect to game misconduct penalties.

CSHL will adhere to USA Hockey Rules pertaining to Misconducts and Progressive Suspensions as noted in Rules 404 and 411 of the USA Hockey Official Playing Rules

1. Limit on Game Misconducts. Any player, manager or trainer who receives three (for coaches the number is two) game misconduct penalties in the course of one season (in ANY USA Hockey sanctioned game) shall be suspended from CSHL Games until he appears before the CSHL Disciplinary/Review Committee for a hearing, at which the Committee shall determine the appropriate discipline (further suspension, probation, censure, or other disciplinary action). For purposes of this rule, a season starts April 1st and ends March 30th. Programs and coaches have an affirmative duty to keep track of all of its player's game misconducts and inform the Board immediately when this rule applies.

2. Any game misconduct penalty called after the conclusion of play of a CSHL League game will incur a two (2) game suspension. This suspension shall be served in the next two (2) scheduled USA Hockey Games.

3. If a referee determines that a coach contributed in any fashion to a player receiving a game misconduct penalty during or after the handshake that coach may also be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

   Note: Because of the definition of a season, any game misconduct penalty received in any spring league game, any tournament game or any other USA Hockey sanctioned game while playing for any team or teams on or after April 1st will count towards the total number of game misconduct penalties for the following winter season.

4. Only Program Heads may contact the CSHL Secretary to request a hearing regarding a suspension. Only one contact for this purpose will be permitted. NO coach, player, or parent may initiate contact for this purpose. Non-compliance with this rule will result in the hearing being denied and the suspension will stand.

5. Rule 410 (Supplementary Discipline) of the USA Hockey Official Playing Rules empowers the Board to impose disciplinary action whether or not the referee has penalized such offense.

B. Fan Abuse.

1. If an official determines during a CSHL Game that any fan is continually abusive to a player, an official, or to other fans, that fan may be ejected. The officials are responsible for the enforcement of this rule when informed by minor officials. If that particular fan refuses to leave, the team with which he is affiliated will forfeit the game.

2. If an official determines during a CSHL Game that fan abuse is excessive, he has the authority to remove both teams from the ice (excepting minor officials) until all of the spectators clear the arena. If the fans refuse to leave, the game is terminated and the matter will be referred to the Board.

3. It is the responsibility of the home team coach to protect all officials from irate and/or abusive fans, and to assure their safety out of the rink. Neglect to do so will result in censure or suspension by the Board.

C. Use of Noisemakers at games:

1. Those that are permitted: Bells, popcorn kernels, etc. in plastic bottles - where permitted by rink management.

2. Those that are not permitted: Whistles (interfere with officials' whistles), air horns, or any other extremely disruptive noisemakers as determined by the game officials.

D. Handshake:

1. The customary handshake between teams will take place after the game in all Divisions. The handshake will be with the right hand with the glove off. The visiting team will leave the ice surface first.

2. At the conclusion of the game, both teams will return to their respective benches and wait for the referees' signal to return to the ice for the handshake. At the discretion of the referee, where he senses a potential problem following a game, he may not signal for the handshake. The Board will deal with any team starting trouble or fighting during the handshake immediately upon notification.

E. Game Ejection.

A referee may eject any player, coach or manager from any game for any reason. This game ejection IS NOT a game misconduct and does not carry a game suspension. The score sheet must indicate this by using the phrase "game ejection" in the penalty area of the score sheet. Upon ejection, the individual shall leave the rink (i.e. playing surface, bench, spectator area, etc.). Failure to abide to this may result in a harsher penalty

F. Referee Rating System.

The Board may from year to year adopt a referee rating system to reward good referees with recognition.

G. The League may publish the names of players who have received game misconducts and match penalties.

ARTICLE VI - Playoffs

A. Banners and individual awards will be presented to all division level winners and all playoff champions. If teams are tied in points for first place, the tiebreaking procedures described in Rule VI-D below will be used to determine the champion. Team and individual awards will be presented to all playoff runner-ups.

B. Number of Teams and Eligibility for CSHL Playoffs and Regular Season Champion Banner.

1. For every level, there shall be a single elimination playoff with the following number of teams.

a. In levels with 9 or fewer teams, the top 4 eligible teams.

b. In levels with 10 or more teams, the top 6 eligible teams, with the top two teams receiving a bye in the first round of the playoffs.

2 The following teams will not be eligible for the CSHL playoffs or the Regular Season Champion Banner:

a. A team guilty of deliberately forfeiting a league Game, as determined by the Board.

b. A team that did not participate in preseason play.

c. A team that played a non-rostered player in violation of Rule IV-A.

d. A team from a program who's League Fees has not been paid.

C Player Eligibility for CSHL Playoffs.

1. A player is ineligible to participate in his team's playoff games unless he was present on the bench for at least 50% of his team's League Games. **Players who were approved to join a team after the start of regular season, must be present for at least 50% of the games left to play once they were approved to join the team.** Within 3 days of the end of the regular season each playoff team shall submit to the CSHL Secretary a "CSHL Player Playoff Eligibility Certification" form completed by the coach indicating which players on that team's Official CSHL Team Roster meet this 50% rule and which do not. Such form will include a statement by the coach that he will not dress in any playoff game any player that does not meet this 50% rule. A player who does not meet this rule because of injury may request a waiver from the Board. An emergency back up goalkeeper from the same program on a Roster under Rule IV-F-1 is not subject to this Rule.

2. A playoff eligible team that does not transmit playoff eligibility certification to the CSHL Secretary within the 3 day time period may cause the responsible member program to be fined $100.00.

D. Tiebreakers. Teams earn 2 points for a win and 1 point for a tie in League Games (regular season games). If two or more teams have an equal number of points (and have played an equal number of League Games), their positions in the standings shall be determined by the following tie-breaking formula. In order to break the tie, if one tie-breaker establishes a position for one or more teams, each team is placed in the applicable position. Once a team/teams is/are placed, the remaining tied teams shall start the tie-breaking process over again at step 1.a. The tie-breaking formulas are as follows:

1. The results of the games played between the teams tied in the following order (this formula D-1 can be applied when three or more teams are tied only if the teams have played each other an equal number of times, otherwise see D-3):
   a. The points acquired in these games.
   b. Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus.
   c. Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. If goals scored against are 0, the denominator shall be 0.5.
2. If after applying the formulas of 1 a, b, and c, the tie still exists, 1b and c shall be applied using all of the League Games played by the teams tied. Note: The formulas shall be applied in order 1a, b, c and 2.

Example: A beats B 5-2, B beats C 4-0, C beats A 4-2

Team	GF	GA	G Differential	G Quotient
A	7	6	+1	1.17
B	6	5	+1	1.20
C	4	6	-2	0.67

Under D-1-a, each team has 2 points in the games among the tied teams; under D-1-b, goal differential is +1, +1 and -2, so C is placed 3rd and teams A and B go back to rule D-1-a. Under D-1-a, in the games between the tied teams A and B, A has 2 points and B has 0 (A beat B 5-2). Therefore A gets 1st place and B gets 2nd place. C is 3rd.

3. In a level in which all teams have NOT played an equal number of League Games, then the standings shall be determined by percentage, with ties counting as ½ win and ½ loss (e.g. a record of 6-3-1 would have a percentage of 0.650, while a record of 6-2-2 would have a percentage of 0.700).

4. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in rule D-1 and D-2, if tiebreakers D-1-a (points obtained in head to head games) and D-1-b (goal differential in head to head games) do not break a tie for first place, both teams will be declared co-champions and be awarded Division Champion banners. The first seed in the playoffs will be determined by a coin toss as conducted by the CSHL Board.

E. Playoff Games.

1. The Board shall determine the time and place of all playoff games.

2. The higher seeded team shall be the home team, and shall wear its light colored jerseys.

3. All playoff games shall be played within a 60 mile radius of downtown Cleveland. No playoff game may start before 8:00am.

4. **A 4-team playoff structure** shall use traditional seeding (i.e. winner of 1v4 plays winner of 2v3). **In a 6-team bracket, the first and second place teams will receive byes in the first round, while 3rd Place plays 6th Place and 4th place plays 5th Place. After the completion of the first round, the first place team will play the lowest seeded team remaining and the second place team will play the other remaining team.**

5. OVERTIME Any playoff game tied at the end of three(3) periods shall be continued until a winner is determined by scoring a goal (sudden victory).
   a. Overtime periods shall be 14 minutes for Bantam games and 12 minutes for Pee Wee and Squirt games with a 1 minute rest period between periods.
   b. There shall be no additional timeouts in overtime.
   c. Teams shall change ends in the first overtime, and alternate after that. The referees shall decide whether ice cuts are necessary for safety in overtime.
   d. **In any semifinal (and any quarterfinal)** the first overtime shall be played with 5 on 5 skaters. The second and subsequent overtime periods shall be played with 4 on 4 skaters and shall follow the principles of NHL Rule 84.3 regarding penalties.

      Note: NHL Rule 84.3 governs penalties in 4 on 4 overtime periods using the principle that neither team can go below 3 skaters

   e. For Championship Games, all overtime periods will be played with 5 on 5 skaters

Article VII – Jurisdiction, Best Interest of the League and Conduct Unbecoming a Member.

A. Jurisdiction.

By participating in the CSHL, member Programs, teams, players, coaches and parents submit to the jurisdiction of the Board over all matters pertaining to the League, games and disciplinary matters regardless of actions taken or determinations made by any other body (e.g. Mid-Am Hockey, USA Hockey, etc).

B. Best Interest of the League.

Notwithstanding any other provision contained in these Standing Rules, the Board may take any action or make any determination it deems necessary in the best interest of the League, provided that if the Board takes any action or makes any determination based on this Article, it shall set forth its reasons therefore in writing and promptly distribute such to the heads of programs.

C. Conduct Unbecoming a Member.

Any member Program, team, player, coach or parent who engages in conduct unbecoming a member of the CSHL or detrimental to the League as determined by the Board, in its sole discretion, shall be punished as the Board may direct.

D. Responsibility.

1. Each program head is responsible for compliance with these Rules and decisions of the Board by all teams, coaches, parents and players in his program.

2. The CSHL conducts four(4) mandatory meetings for the Head of Programs throughout the season. A $100.00 penalty shall be imposed for each missed meeting to programs that are not represented at these meetings unless of an excused absence as approved by the CSHL Board Proxy representation shall be accepted upon prior notice to the CSHL Secretary.

3. CSHL Programs are obligated to abide to the State of Ohio “Return-to-Play Law” (ORC 3707.511) in terms of informing and educating coaches, athletes, and the parents, of the signs and symptoms of concussion or head injury and the risks of continuing to practice for or compete in athletic events or activity after sustaining a concussion or head injury.

Article VIII - Miscellaneous.

A. Amendment.

All proposed amendments to these Standing Rules must be submitted in writing to the Board for review, and shall then be placed before the membership for discussion and balloting. All proposed amendments shall be distributed to the membership at least 30 days before the meeting at which such amendments are to be voted on. Amendments may be passed by a majority vote of the voting members present at the Annual Meeting or by a 2/3rds vote of the voting members present at any other meeting of the membership.

B. Waiver.

The Board may, upon receipt of a written request, waive any Standing Rule for good cause. The Board must issue its waiver in writing setting forth its reasons therefore. If the request is granted in whole or in part, the Board shall promptly distribute the request for waiver and the Board’s decision regarding the request to the heads of programs

C. Self-Reporting of Violations.

Each member Program (including all individual members thereof) is required to promptly inform the CSHL Secretary whenever it discovers that a player, coach, manager or team belonging to that Program violated any of these Standing Rules. If the Board discovers in the course of an

investigation of a potential rules violation that a member Program knew about a violation but did not report it, the disciplinary consequences will be higher.

D. Referee Conflict of Interest.

No referee shall officiate in a game in which his father, mother, sister, brother, son, daughter, husband or wife is a coach, manager or player on one of the participating teams. If a scheduling mistake is made and this occurs, the referee must notify the coach of the opposing team of this relationship and obtain his agreement in writing on the score sheet to play the game prior to the start of the game. Failure to obtain such agreement will cause such game to be forfeited.

E. Use of Gender.

Within these Standing Rules, the words "he," "him" and "his" are used to include both male and female participants.

F. Disciplinary Review Committee

The Board shall annually create a CSHL Disciplinary/Review Committee. The Committee, through its Chair, is directly responsible to the Board in performing its functions

1. Organization of the Committee – The Committee shall consist of an appointed member of the Board as the Chair of the Committee and at least two(2) other members of the Board.
2. Committee Meeting Dates – This standing Committee convenes as necessary to review and act upon rules violation or other incidents brought to the attention of the Board.
   Committee actions will be initiated by:
   a. Notice to the CSHL by a Mid-Am District representative informing them of a referee report of a match penalty infraction of USA Hockey rules
   b. A request from the CSHL Board for violations of the Standing Rules.

   The Committee will respond/act on any such notification, as soon as all pertinent materials and persons involved in the issue at hand can be assembled, but no later than 30 days after such notification.

3. Committee Actions/Decisions - Committee actions will be based on the current issue of USA Hockey Official Rules, Mid-Am District hockey rules and regulations, CSHL Standing Rules, and generally accepted policies for implementation of all such rules and regulations. The Committee shall conduct any proceeding in accordance with USAH Bylaw 10 *Dispute Resolution, Discipline, Arbitration* and this Bylaw shall constitute the sole and exclusive remedy for dispute resolution.

   Committee decisions are to be based on a simple majority vote. In situations where a tie vote is possible, a vote by the chair will be reserved and occur only as a tiebreaker. The chair may note conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest and excuse him/herself or request another member of the committee to excuse him/herself from the proceedings in which the conflict or appearance of conflict is thought to occur. The Chair as necessary to compensate for abstaining or absent members and conflict of interest exclusions pro tempore will appoint members. The Co-Chair will serve as Chair should the appointed chair be absent, or in a conflict situation.
4. Hearing Notice - A hearing notice shall be issued on matters involving disciplinary or other similar action. This notice is to provide the Disciplinary/Review Committee and the involved parties full information on the nature of the hearing. This hearing notice shall be distributed no less than seven(7) days prior to the hearing. In order to ensure a fair procedure, the notice is to include:
   a. The date, time and place of the hearing.
   b. Summary of violation(s) with sufficient detail to enable the individual against whom the action is

being considered to answer to the charges.

c. The right of the individual to be accompanied at the hearing by their representatives (parents, head coach, Head of Program, etc).

5. Hearing Procedures - Any hearing involving a disciplinary or other similar action of a confidential or quasi-confidential or personal nature shall be conducted in closed session with those present being members of the Committee and:
   a. The person against whom an action is being considered.
   b. If the person against whom an action is being considered is a minor, his/her parent(s) or designated guardian shall accompany them.
   c. Head of Program of the individual against whom an action is directed.
   d. Head Coach of the team if the individual against whom an action is being considered is a player.
   e. Any aggrieved person, including parents or designated guardians and/or coach for players, team or program involved.

   Individuals providing testimony in such proceeding shall appear in the proceeding singly, and be excused after providing testimony.

The deliberations of the Committee in session will be duly recorded. The decision of the Committee is to be 48 hours upon the conclusion of the hearing and at which time the parties to the action shall be apprised of the committee's decisions.

Penalties imposed by the Committee may affirm or overturn the original penalty imposed by a game official. It shall be understood that the CSHL has the right to impose supplemental discipline under Article VII-C of the CSHL Standing Rules and Rule 410 of the current issue of USA Hockey Official Rules.

Any Party that is suspended, otherwise disciplined, or subject to an Administrative Action resulting in discipline, and after a hearing, has the right to appeal such action per USAH Bylaw 10.E