

## **WACH Rules and Regulations 2018-2019**

The Mission of the Women's Association of Colorado Hockey (WACH) is to promote the growth and development of women in the state of Colorado through the creation of a safe, fun, and well-organized women's ice hockey league.

### SECTION 1 –COMPETITION (formerly, ARTICLE VI)

The teams of the WACH compete in the Women's senior classification as defined by USA Hockey. WACH will adhere to the playing rules of USA HOCKEY INC., except where WACH rules and regulations specifically state that they supersede the playing rules of USA Hockey.

### SECTION 2 – MEMBER REGISTRATION (formerly, Article VII)

#### 1. INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION.

##### A. Division descriptions

- i. *Level A (formerly A1, adapted from: USA Hockey Women Gold)*  
Team is comprised primarily of high-intermediate and advanced level players. These players may have played NCAA Division I or III or any other higher level of women's hockey. Players at this level have extensive hockey experience and are accustomed to playing a fast game using well-refined hockey skills.
- ii. *Level B (formerly A2, adapted from: USA Hockey Women Silver)*  
Team is comprised primarily of high-intermediate level players. These players may have played varsity high school or non-varsity college (ACHA) levels or may have 10+ years of women's adult hockey playing experience. Players at this level may have played ice hockey as children. A few of the players at this level may be considered "advanced" and have played NCAA Division I or III or any other higher level of women's hockey, but the majority of the team is considered high-intermediate level. Players at this level are able to play a faster game safely and can execute integrated hockey plays that utilize strong hockey skills.
- iii. *Level C (formerly B1, adapted from: USA Hockey Women Bronze)*  
Team is comprised primarily of lower-intermediate level players. Some of these players may have played non-varsity college levels, but the team is predominantly players with 5-9 years of playing experience as an adult, some may have 10+ years of adult hockey experience. Players at this level have a strong hockey sense and have foundational skills firmly in place.
- iv. *Level D (formerly B2, adapted from: USA Hockey Women Beginner)* Team is entirely comprised of novice and low-intermediate level adult players. Although a small number of players may have 10+ years of beginner adult experience, a portion of the team often consists of adult players with 1-5 years of entry

level playing experience. The players at this level are learning about the flow of the game and solidifying hockey sense and foundational skills.

v. *Mountain C/D*

See above descriptions.

vi. *Level E (Developmental)* Team is entirely comprised entirely of novice level adult players. The team consists of adult players with 0-5 years of entry level playing experience.

- B. Any player not rostered to play in the current league season may roster as set forth below:
  - i. Any player who was a member of a NCAA Division III team, ACHA Div I team, or played at an advanced level, such as with a tier I girls' team, within the last 5 years may not roster on a D team.
  - ii. Any player that was a member of a NCAA Division I team within the last 5 years may not roster on any C or D level member team
  - iii. All other players may roster with any member team.
- C. If a player is required to play at or above a certain level and there is no WACH team competing at that level within a 50 miles radius, that player may petition the WACH Board for an exception.
- D. Players shall be prohibited from being rostered on more than one league team during the current season with the exception of players who wish to skate out in one division and goaltend in another division.
- E. Players may be required to produce identification if a question arises regarding proper rostering and/or eligibility to participate.

## 2. TEAM REGISTRATION

- A. All teams and individual players shall be properly registered by November 1st or the first game of that season, whichever comes first, with USA Hockey as defined by USA Hockey and WACH league registration guidelines. Failure to register in a timely manner may result in fines.
- B. Any team(s) that begin league play and who have not properly registered with USA Hockey shall forfeit all games prior to being properly registered.
- C. Annual WACH League fees per registered team will be \$85 for the 2009-2010 season and thereafter unless determined otherwise.
- D. Annual dues will be used to fund operating expenses including, the annual tournament and all administrative costs such as; non-profit taxes, meeting expenses, banking surcharges (bill pay, online invoicing, website, etc.).
- E. If a team resigns, or is suspended from the league, any new team or existing team that picks up 5 or more players from the folding team must pay any outstanding monies (dues, fines, etc.) owed by the resigning or suspended team to be eligible for league play.

## SECTION 3 – LEAGUE FEES (formerly, ARTICLE VIII)

- 1. USA Hockey/CAHA/WACH FEES.

- A. These fees must be paid prior to the start of the WACH season or any WACH league games whichever comes first.
  - B. Fines for late payment of fees.
    - i. A \$25.00 per week fine shall be assessed on unpaid balances up to a maximum of \$200.00 if such fees are not paid by the above-defined deadline.
    - ii. Failure to pay league Team fees shall cause the Member Team loss of voting privileges at league meetings.
2. PAYMENT OF LEAGUE FINES.

All fines must be paid within 30 days or an additional \$50 per month fine will be added, up to \$200. No team may participate in the League Tournament if their fines are not paid to the league by the final payment date of the tournament, nor may be eligible to vote in league matter. No team may start the season until all fees are paid.

3. CONTINGENCY FUND.

The league shall set up a contingency fund, funded from fines etc. If the fund exceeds \$1000.00, the portion of the surplus in excess of 1000.00 will be divided equally between eligible WACH teams participating in their respective League Tournaments. The funds will be provided on the teams' behalf to the appropriate League Tournament organizers in order to help defrays the costs of the tournament. The total amount available shall not exceed \$1000.00.

#### SECTION 4 – MEMBER TEAM ROSTERS (formerly, ARTICLE IX)

1. PLAYER TRANSFERS

- A. No player shall be permitted to transfer from one team to another after they have rostered with another team for that season unless:
  - i. The player's full time residence has moved closer to the ice arena of the team to which the player wished to transfer; or,
  - ii. Both teams and the player agree; or,
  - iii. Approved by Appeals Committee; or,
  - iv. The member team on which they are rostered folds.
- B. Rostered players may only transfer one time per season unless approved by the appeals committee.
- C. All transfers must be submitted in writing to the Treasurer and the Executive Director and be signed by both teams and the player.
- D. Any player who owes a team money (\$200) may not transfer to any other team for the current and future seasons until they have paid all outstanding money. All teams must submit a list of delinquent players to the registrar and the Executive Director, and those players are ineligible to play. Players who feel they don't owe money may file an official protest.

2. PLAYER MOVEMENT/ROSTER ADDITION.

- A. No player movement, roster additions or deletions shall be permitted after February 15 of the current league season.
- B. Players new to the league may be rostered after February 15th, but will not be allowed to play in the league tournament.

3. INELIGIBLE PLAYER(S).

- A. Any league team using an ineligible player(s) shall forfeit all league games in which such player(s) participated. An ineligible player shall include one who is not properly rostered with USA Hockey, not properly rostered on a league team, and/or suspended from play at the time of participation.
- B. Any team using a player that is USA Hockey registered, but not properly registered with WACH will be fined \$50.00 per player for the incident. The second (separate) incident will be a \$100.00 fine per player for the incident. The third incident will result in the team being suspended from the league. This is a per-season fine. Subsequent incidents would be after the previous incident was acknowledged. Only the amount of the fine can be appealed to mitigate financial hardship.
- C. Any player who plays in a game without being USA Hockey registered for the correct season will be suspended for the rest of the season, and the team will be assessed a \$1000 fine, which must be paid before the next season.

4. INJURED PLAYER.

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

5. SUBSTITUTE GOALTENDER.

- A. It is recommended that all teams have two goaltenders on their official Player (Team) roster. The use of a “substitute” is authorized according to the following rules:
  - i. The substitute must be a female player properly registered with USA Hockey.
  - ii. Use of the substitute in any game is limited to only those situations in which the team’s regular or backup goaltender is unable to participate in that game.
- B. The Appeals Committee shall have the authority to investigate the circumstances that require the use of a substitute in the event that the substitute was used in an effort to gain a competitive advantage. The Appeals Committee shall have the authority to invalidate a game in which the substitute was used. The decision of the Appeals Committee in any such matter shall be final and not subject to appeal.
- C. In the event that a team’s regular and backup goaltender are unable to participate in a Tournament game, the member team coach or manager may request permission to use a substitute goaltender until either the regular or backup is able to participate. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final and not subject to appeals.
- D. The criteria for a substitute goaltender for the tournament is:
  - i. Goal tenders must be USA Hockey registered.

- ii. Each substitute goal tender should be registered with WACH; she should not be registered at a higher level than the team for which she is substituting.
- iii. Each substitute goal tender should be of equal or less strength than the regular goal tender.

These are general guidelines only, which the committee may change because of extenuating circumstances. The most important criteria is that each team has a goaltender available play for them during the tournament.

#### 6. SUBSTITUTE PLAYER(S).

- A. The criteria for a substitute player for regular season games is: the player(s) must be USA Hockey registered, the player(s) must be registered with WACH, the player(s) must be officially rostered on a team at least one division lower than the team the substitute would play for, the player(s) can only substitute a maximum of 5 league games per team during the regular season.
- B. If a player plays more than 5 games for another team, those games become a forfeit.  
Teams shall be allowed a maximum of three play-up subs per game.
- C. Said players would have to be announced to the opposing team's captain and indicated on the score sheet with the level at which they are currently rostered.
- D. During a season, if a player officially changes rosters to a new team at least one division higher than their previous team, prior to the final roster cut off date, then any games that player has subbed with the upper division team, prior to changing rosters, will be included towards their eligibility with that new team in the league tournament.
- E. If there is not a lower division *with at least 4 teams*, then a sub can come from a team in the same division.
- F. In inter-divisional play, subs can come from any division.

### SECTION 5 – WACH LEAGUE GUIDELINES (formerly, ARTICLE X)

#### 1. LEAGUE SCHEDULE.

The official League Game Schedule, when published, is binding by the member teams, who agree to make every effort to play the entire schedule.

#### 2. FAILURE TO APPEAR/CANCELLATION OF GAME.

##### A. Cancellations.

- 1. If any team does not appear at a scheduled league game with an eligible roster and/or gives less than fourteen (14) days notice of cancellation of a game, and there is not a weather problem, such a game shall be recorded as a 1-0 victory for the opposing team.
- 2. The member team with an eligible roster that is not able not to participate in the game whether it is due to weather, ice arena difficulties, sickness or lack of players, must contact the opposing team representative not less than seven (7) days before the scheduled game. If a team representative is unreachable in person, messages must

be left at both their work and home numbers and attempts must be made to contact the other team representative. If neither team representative is reachable in person, a message must be left at the appropriate ice arena.

3. The canceling team representative must also notify the Assistant Director and Executive Director at the same time it notifies the opposing team or not less than seven (7) days before the scheduled game. If the canceling team representative is unable to reach either Director in person, the team representative must notify the referee scheduler.
  4. Failure to follow these procedures will result in the offending team having to pay for the entire ice time, the referees, and any travel expenses incurred by the opposing team.
- B. Cancellation due to weather.
1. The guidelines for weather cancellations are as follows:
    - a. All weather related issues will be based upon current information provided by the National Weather Service – [weather.gov](http://weather.gov). There are three main directives issued by the service during severe weather. A “watch” is generally issued three days before a storm when conditions lean favorable to a storm. It means there is a 50/50 chance of the storm actually happening. During this time, teams should be checking the NWS and monitoring whether or not adverse weather is likely to affect their travel to games and plan accordingly. WACH teams play through watches.
    - b. A winter weather “advisory” is issued when the public should be warned that travel will be affected by weather. There is generally a 80% chance of a storm developing at this point, but for the most part, this means that the weather is a nuisance, and caution should be taken with travel. Living in a state where it snows, Colorado is used to these kind of winters. WACH teams play through advisories.
    - c. A storm “warning” of any kind means there is imminent danger when traveling. If the NWS has issued a warning within three hours of a scheduled game time (take a screenshot of the NWS map showing the warning in effect), then this is when a WACH Weather Cancellation can go into effect. A weather cancellation is different than a failure to appear, if all the communications between board and member teams have been made.
  2. If the two teams do not agree to a weather cancellation the Executive Committee will have the final say. Failure to pay the determined fines in a timely manner will result in the offending team being ineligible to play in league games.

3. If the cancellation is weather related and the home team cannot cancel ice or refs, the teams will split these costs 50/50 if necessary, these occurrences are a part of playing winter sports and the teams will bear the burden of this equally.

C. Fines.

1. The member team that failed to appear, forfeits, or cancels an appearance shall be liable to pay a fine equal to 100% of the cost of the ice time if less than 48 hours notice of cancellation is given. If less than one week, but more than five (5) days notice of cancellation is given, the fine is equal to 50% of the cost of the ice time. If less than 5 days, but more than 2 days notice is given, the fine shall be 75% of the ice time. If the home team can sell the ice time, no fine will be assessed.
  2. If either the home or away team cancel a game for any reason or fail to notify the other team and the assistant director, and the director in person, a fine payable to the league contingency fund shall be levied, in addition to any fines payable to the home team. The amount of the fines are:  
7 days or less-\$75.00 if the game is not rescheduled. \$50.00 if the game is rescheduled.  
14 days or less-\$50.00 if the game is not rescheduled. \$25.00 if the game is rescheduled.
  3. Over 15 days-\$25.00 if the game is not rescheduled. There is no fine if the game is rescheduled.
  4. Payment shall be required regardless of whether the game is later rescheduled and shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the occurrence.

D. Failure to contact Executive or Assistant Director.

1. In addition to the above criteria, all cancellations and changes in game time, arenas, etc. must be put in writing by both teams to the Executive Director and the Assistant Director as soon as they occur. If it is a last minute cancellation, both teams need to notify the Executive Director and the Assistant Director within 48 hours in writing as to the reason for cancellation. Failure to notify the Executive Director and the Assistant Director in writing will result in a double forfeit. It is recommended that the canceling team have the opposing team e-mail them with their OK and then forward the e-mail with your approval to the Executive Director and the Assistant Director.

3. LENGTH OF GAMES.

- A. All regular season league games shall consist of three 15-minute stop time periods. In the event of a tie at the end of regulation time, if time allows, a five-minute "sudden death" period shall be played. If the game remains tied after a single overtime period, the game is over.
- B. The host team shall notify the officials and the visiting team at the beginning of the game if the game is subject to curfew.

- C. The host team shall try to obtain one and one half-hours of ice time to allow completion of the regulation time. In the event the host team has to deviate from the guidelines, they must inform the visiting team when scheduling the game.
- D. If after two periods of regulation play, there is a six goal differential or greater, the team that is behind can ask that third period become running time. If at any point during the third period, a six goal differential occurs, running time can be initiated. If at any point during running time the goal differential is reduced to 5 or less, the game will proceed with stoppage play.

#### 4. PLAYING RULES.

- A. The current edition of the USA HOCKEY OFFICIAL RULES will be used.
- B. Each player rostered on a team must have like-styled jerseys with different visible numbers, both home and away. First and second year teams, and Independent teams, are exempt from the required two sets.
- C. If a team only has one set of jerseys, they need to notify the other team of the color scheme to avoid similar colors for a game.
- D. The Home Team shall provide warm-up pucks for both teams.

#### 5. ELECTRONIC SCORING SYSTEM

- A. If a game is not entered in the rink during the game, before leaving the rink, the Home team must take a picture of the score sheet and text or email it to the away team or make the score sheet available to the Away team, so they can take a picture.
- B. Games not entered at the time of the game must be uploaded but not finalized via the Internet by the following Wednesday at 5 pm.
  - 1. Failure to timely upload the game will result in a forfeit by the Home team. If there are technical difficulties, the representative must contact the Assistant Director by the Wednesday 5 pm deadline for an extension.
  - 2. If the Home team does not timely enter the game on Electronic Scoring System, the visiting team has one week to get the game roster and/or stats to the Assistant Director for eligibility purposes.
  - 3. A team may petition once for a late upload. Any subsequent late uploads will incur fines as follows: second - \$10, any more - \$25 each.
- C. The Away team must submit its roster to the scorekeeper before every game. It is recommended that teams download the Electronic Scoring System roster and cross off players who are not playing.
- D. If entered in the rink, Home and Away team representative approve the Electronic Scoring System on the terminal before the game is submitted.
- E. The Away team has until the following Sunday (weekend after the game) to find any problems with their roster. If there are problems the Away team should correct the roster and email the Home team and the Board listing the changes. After reviewing the game, the Away team will finalize the game. Extensions may be requested if the Home team was late in inputting the data. Any problems/issues reported after this time may not be fixed (which may lead to player eligibility



issues for tournament).

## 6. OFFICIALS.

- A. Only certified USA Hockey officials are to be used for all league games.
- B. Scheduling. The home team is responsible for notifying the appropriate scheduler as well as the Executive Director of games and changes to the schedule.
- C. Absence of Officials. If for any reason the scheduled official(s) do not show up for a scheduled game, the coaches or team representatives shall attempt to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement. Such agreement shall be noted on the original copy of the score sheet and no protest shall be lodged because there were no certified officials. In the event no arrangement is agreed upon, the home team must reschedule the game. The home team shall notify the referee scheduler and the Executive Assistant Director within 72 hours.
- D. Kinship of the Officials. Officials shall not consent to officiate league games in which blood relatives or members of their households are participating as players, coaches, or managers. Should a situation arise whereby an official must officiate due to extremely unusual circumstances, and said official is a blood relative or household member of a game participant, the official must complete the following requirements before the start of the game:
  - 1. Report the kinship to the other game official and coaches of each team.
  - 2. Secure approval of both coaches in writing on the game score sheet that they both agree to utilize said official for the game.
  - 3. If no approval is obtained, the game must be rescheduled.
- E. Officiating own team's divisions games. Officials shall not consent to officiate league games in the division in which they play. Officials who officiate games within the division are subject to a \$50 fine and will be ineligible to play for their team until the fine is paid, unless in an emergency situation.

## SECTION 6 – CONDUCT

### 1. SAFETY

The Home team is responsible for the safety of the Officials and the Visiting team. It is the responsibility of each member team at its home rink to make certain that the Officials are not subjected to verbal or physical abuse. It is the responsibility of the Home team to insure that spectators are not allowed in the vicinity of the players' benches or penalty boxes.

### 2. SPORTSMANSHIP

- A. The nature of sports in and of itself is competitive. Rules, which dictate how a game is to be played and how points shall be accumulated, exist in all sports. Simply by following these rules, more often than not each game will have a winning team and a losing team. However, there is more to sports than winning and losing. Participating in sports is an experience.

The benefits of fair play, exercise, teamwork, and camaraderie that exist in our sports league far outweigh any win or loss that may appear on a Schedule and Standings page. There is neither time, nor place in WACH, for any individual(s) to behave in an unsportsmanlike manner. No matter what the outcome of a play or a game is, good sportsmanship WILL be observed at all times. Any participant who 1) verbally or physically abuses; 2) attempts to intimidate; 3) is deliberately rude, and/or 4) cannot control his/her language or action toward an Official, WACH Board of Director, and/or another player(s) will be considered in violation of this policy and subject to disciplinary action as set forth by these Rules and/or as determined and imposed by the WACH Executive Board.

- B. Players and coaches are expected to act in a sportsmanlike manner. Verbal abuse of Officials will not be tolerated, and any player or coach receiving a Game Misconduct for verbal abuse will be suspended for one (1) additional league game. Any second offense for this issue at any time in a player's or coach's WACH career may result in as much as a full suspension, which shall be determined by the WACH Board of Directors.
- C. All officers and individuals associated with WACH or one of its Member teams shall respect the integrity and role of all other Members, and shall not perform any activity that would demean or be injurious to any player or Member team.
- D. Coaches are expected to refrain from conduct that initiates or condones violent retaliatory actions during game play. Any coach who is observed to be encouraging violent actions on the part of their players will be suspended from the league. The length of the suspension will be a minimum of thirty days and up to one year. The suspension will be determined and imposed by the WACH Executive Board.

3. MAJOR PENALTY SUSPENSIONS. (Formerly, SECTION 10.5.)

- A. For any player who receives a Game Misconduct, Gross Misconduct, or Match Penalty, USA Hockey Rules shall apply.
- B. For any player who receives any combination of a second Game Misconduct, Gross Misconduct or Match Penalty in the same season, double USA Hockey rules shall apply.
- C. Any player who receives any combination of three Game Misconduct, Gross Misconduct, or Match penalty in the same season shall be suspended until a hearing is held by the Suspensions/Appeals Committee or the expiration of 30 days whichever comes first.
- D. Any team official who receives a second Game Misconduct, Gross Misconduct, or Match Penalty shall automatically be suspended for two games.
- E. Any player or team official suspended under these rules shall be required to petition the Executive Board for reinstatement.
- F. The Suspensions/Appeals Committee shall review all Major Penalties and 10-minute misconduct penalties. The first major or misconduct penalty will result in a warning letter being written. Any second combination of a

misconduct and/or major shall result in a one game suspension. Any third combination of a major and/or misconduct penalty shall result in a two game suspension. Any fourth combination of major and/or misconduct penalties shall result in suspension from the league. If a player receives a Game Misconduct, Gross Misconduct, or Match Penalty, she will be subject to the rules stated in Section 6.3.A and B in addition to the rules stated in 6.3.F. These suspensions are in addition to those imposed by USA Hockey rules. Multiple misconducts in a single game will result in a suspension, regardless of a clean record before that game.

- G. It is the responsibility of all teams to report all Misconducts, Major Penalties, Game Misconducts, Gross Misconducts, or Match penalties to the Executive Director and the Chairman of the Suspension and Appeals Committee (Secretary) within forty-eight (48) hours. Failure to do so will result in a \$50 fine in addition to any other penalties imposed. Any player who continues to play in a game or games while under suspension will result in a fine of \$100 per game played. Any player who plays after a league imposed suspension has been mandated shall be suspended for an additional game and the team shall be fined \$300 and all games she has played in shall be declared a forfeit.
- H. The first Game Misconduct of a season will result in no fine, the second a \$50 fine, the third a \$100 fine. This is an individual fine and the player must pay within 2 weeks or she will be ineligible to play until she pays. All fines must be paid before each fined individual may participate in a WACH-sanctioned game after the initial 2-week grace period following the receipt of the Game Misconduct.
- I. Any player who receives 3 Game Misconducts in any 2 consecutive seasons will be suspended an additional 2 games. If a player receives a total of 4 Game Misconducts in 2 consecutive seasons, she will be suspended from playing in the league for one full calendar year from the date of the last penalty. Player may be registered and rostered with a team during her suspension in order to be eligible to play once the suspension ends.
- J. Any penalties incurred at the end of the season may have suspensions that carry over into the next season. Any fines assessed at the end of the season must be paid before an individual is eligible to participate in the league for the new season. Any player who is suspended per the above by-laws in the previous season shall begin the season with the criteria of a warning letter being sent, and any new incidents shall be considered second offenses.
- K. Any player given a five minute penalty for fighting will be suspended for the following game according to USA Hockey rules.

## SECTION 7 – PROTESTS. (Formerly, SECTION 10.6 w/ addition.)

### 1. GAME-RELATED PROTESTS

- A. Any protest must be lodged within twenty-four (24) hours after the completion of a game. Notice of protest must be reported to the Executive Director.
  - B. Within forty-eight (48) hours after the completion of a game a written account of the protest with a \$50.00 fee must be mailed to the Treasurer. The fee is refundable if the protest is upheld.
  - C. The Executive Board shall rule on the protest within ten (10) days after receipt of the written account of the protest.
2. PROTESTS ARISING FROM ACTIONS OF THE WACH BOARD
- A. Any protest must be lodged within seventy-two (72) hours after the action or determination of the WACH Executive Board. Notice of protest must be reported to the Executive Director.
  - B. Within 5 days of the action or determination of the WACH Executive Board, a written account of the protest with a \$50.00 fee must be mailed to the WACH Treasurer. The fee is refundable if the protest of the Member team is upheld.
  - C. The protesting Member team and the Executive Board may each select one individual from a WACH member team, those two individuals will then select a third individual from a WACH member team. These three individuals will review the protest and make an independent determination on the protest within ten (10) days after receipt of the written account of the protest. THIS DETERMINATION WILL BE FINAL.

## SECTION 8 – LEAGUE TOURNAMENT (formerly, ARTICLE XI)

### 1. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

A Team must have fulfilled its commitment to playing a minimum of 2 games with each other Team in their division to be eligible to participate in the league tournament. A win by forfeit in a canceled game will count as the team having fulfilled their obligation. A loss by forfeit in a canceled game will not count as having fulfilled the obligation. If a team forfeits a game that was played, because of a roster violation, it will still count as having fulfilled their obligation.

Exceptions:

- A. Teams did not have available ice/open date on schedule on which they could reschedule a game canceled for severe weather. Teams must demonstrate to the board that a good faith effort to reschedule the game was made.
- B. A team in the division intentionally schedules less than a full division schedule. Teams do not need to play that team twice in order to qualify for the tournament. That team will not be eligible for the tournament.

### 2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY.

- A. A player must be rostered with their team by February 15 of the current season to be eligible to play in the league tournament.

- B. A player must have participated in a minimum of six (6) regular season league games in the current season or eight (8) regular season games over the current season and previous season, combined, with their current team to be eligible to play. If combining seasons, the player must have played in at least one regular season game in the current season.
3. TOURNAMENT DEPOSIT. All teams must submit a \$200 non-refundable deposit to the Treasurer by February 1<sup>st</sup> to be eligible for the tournament. The WACH Treasurer will forward all collected money to the tournament host.
- A. If a team decides to withdraw from the tournament within thirty days of the first day of the tournament, their deposit and all other payments will **not** be refunded. i.e. The deadline to withdraw from a tournament starting on April 1 is March 1.
4. HOSTING GUIDELINES. (<http://www.wachockey.com/about/tournament.asp>)
- A. Host Team. The host team for the tournament shall be determined on a bid basis with teams submitting the following information:
    - i. Ice Arena(s) to be used
    - ii. Available Ice time
    - iii. Number of game times available
    - iv. Approximate fee to be charged \*\*\* All tournament fees shall be based on ice time, referees, and scorekeepers divided by the number of teams. No other costs may be included\*\*\*
    - v. Names of the tournament directors and their experience
    - vi. Proposed dates
    - vii. Available housing/costThe host team will be chosen considering the above criteria and when that team last hosted the tournament.
  - B. Tournament Format. The tournament format shall be proposed by the membership and/or the Board.
  - C. Minimum Number of Teams. A minimum of eight teams shall be invited to the tournament; however, the goal of the tournament should be to include as many teams as possible.
  - D. Changing Host Teams. It is the job of the Executive Director to follow the progress of the tournament organization. If, in the opinion of the Executive Director, terms of the original bid are not being followed, or the organization is not satisfactory, the Executive Committee may appoint a new host.
  - E. Seeding. The tournament committee will do the tournament seeding. (See Section 8.4)
  - F. Scheduling.
    - 1. All league games used for seeding for the WACH State Tournament must be completed prior to 12 days before the start of the State Tournament. If rescheduled games are played, they will not count toward seeding, but still count toward player eligibility for Tournament. This will give the tournament organizers two weeks to work with all teams

and all rinks to ensure a fair finalized schedule.

Non-qualifying games can be played within 12 days of the start of the tournament. i.e. The Tournament begins on March 30. The last qualifying game must be played by March 18.

2. The finalized schedule will be sent out to all teams no later than the Monday of the week of the tournament so that all teams can plan accordingly. i.e. The Tournament begins on March 30. The schedule will be sent to all teams on March 26.
  3. No special requests from any team will be guaranteed. The hosting teams will do their absolute best to recognize teams travelling the furthest distances for Friday night games.
  4. The host team will be required to notify all teams of the earliest possible game team a minimum of two months in advance of the first day of the tournament so that all WACH members can plan accordingly.
- G. Protests. The tournament committee shall act as the protest committee. Existing protest rules shall be in effect. The committee will rule as quickly as possible.
- H. Eligibility. All participating players must be eligible through league rules. Each team must submit their tournament roster to the tournament committee for verification 15 days before the tournament.
1. Prior to the player's first game of the state tournament, she will show proper ID to a tournament official, or she will not be allowed on the ice. If she does play, the game will be a forfeit.
- I. Tournament Rules. The tournament committee shall approve any changes to tournament rules. USA Hockey governs with respect to penalties.
1. All pool games will have two 15 minute stop periods followed by one 12 minute stop period. If after two periods of regulation play, there is a six goal differential or greater, the team that is behind can ask that third period become running time. If at any point during the third period, a six goal differential occurs, running time can be initiated. If at any point during running time the goal differential is reduced to 5 or less, the game will proceed with stoppage play.
  2. All games will be limited to a five minute warm up. The pre-game warm up will begin at the scheduled time, or when the Zamboni doors close. All teams should be ready to take the ice up to 10 minutes earlier than the scheduled time, in the event that the prior game ends early.
  3. In pool play, each team will earn two points for a win, and one point for a tie.
  4. If two or more teams have an equal number of points, the standings shall be determined by: \*(Note: For tie-breaker purposes in

determining standings in preliminary round play, a maximum six goal differential will be used regardless of a greater goal differential; ex. 15-2 becomes an 8-2 score). The formulas shall be applied in order 1 through 8 until one formula breaks the tie for a position between all of the teams at the same time. Any remaining tied teams then start the tie-breaker process over from step 1.

1. **Head to Head Game Results:** The results of the games played between the tied teams in the following order: (Note: To use the “Head to Head” tiebreakers 1a, 1b, and 1c, all of the tied teams must have played each other. However, if one team has defeated the other team(s) with which they are tied, they shall be ranked ahead of the other team(s).)
  - a. The standings points acquired in the “Head to Head” Games
  - b. Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in the “Head to Head” games. Their positions shall be in order of the greatest surplus.
2. **Using All Games Played:** If, after applying the formulas of 1a, b or c, the tie still exists, 1b and c shall be applied using all of the games played by the teams tied. The formulas shall be applied in order 1a, b, c and 2 until one formula breaks the tie for a position between all of the teams at the same time. If teams remain tied, continue to formulas 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.
3. In the games played between the tied teams, points will be awarded for each period won (2 pts.), for each period tied (1 pt.) and for a shutout in a period (1 pt.). Positions shall be in the order of the highest point total, etc.
4. If after applying the above formulas, the tie still exists, #3 shall be applied using all of the games played by each tied team.
5. The team with the fewest minor penalties will be ranked the highest, etc.
6. The team with the fewest total penalty minutes will be ranked the highest, etc.
7. The team that scored the earliest goal in the games played between the tied teams shall be ranked the highest, etc.
8. If after applying the above formulas, the tie still exists, #7 shall be applied using all of the games played by each tied team.

5. All playoff games will be three 15 minute stopped time periods. All tied playoff games will have a five minute sudden death period. If the game is still tied after overtime, each team will select 5 players who will alternate taking penalty shots. A coin toss will determine which team will take the first shot. If, after the shootout, a tie still exists, teams will select one new shooter in a sudden death shootout until a winner is determined.
  6. All WACH and USA Hockey rules will be enforced.
- J. Pools. All tournaments will be conducted as a two pool round robin. If an even number of teams exists in the division, the pools will be divided as follows:
- The number one seed is in one pool, 2 and 3 in the other, 4 and 5 in the first, etc.
  - If an odd number of teams are in the division, the same process is followed, and the number one seed is in the smaller pool.

5. SEEDING CRITERIA. (<http://www.wachockey.com/about/seed.asp>)

- A. The seeding for the league tournament will be based on the following criteria in order of importance:
  - i. Head to head results
  - ii. Wins up
  - iii. Longest, strongest record
  - iv. Losses down
- B. Head to head will be the most important factor. Ideally all teams should have a winning record against the teams seeded below them. If a team has not played all teams, their record will be based on the teams it has played, i.e.: team A has not played team B, team B beats team C, team C beats team A, then team A will be seeded below team B.
- C. Reasons to consider overriding head to head records in order of importance:
  - i. A team has at least 2-3 significant wins up compared to the team they have lost to.
  - ii. The team that has the head to head edge has 2-3 more losses down. (Losses down should not be a big factor especially if a team has exposed themselves and played significantly more games.)
  - iii. A combination of significant wins up, no losses down, and a longer and stronger record.
- D. To override head to head records, you must look at the big picture and factor in all of the above. If a team has only a one game head to head advantage or the teams have played only once, the above factors would be more important. If a team has a two game head to head advantage,



it would take many significant wins up, losses down, etc. to change the seedings.

E. If a triangle of wins exists, i.e.: A beats B, B beats C, and C beats A.

In this situation, the following criteria will be used to break the tie:

- i. Wins up
- ii. Record within the group

These factors will be factored in equally to determine the ranking order. If the records still seem to be equal, losses down can be factored in.

#### SECTION 9 – DECLARATION FOR NATIONALS (formerly, ARTICLE XII)

Any team wishing to go to Nationals shall:

1. Declare interest by August 15,
2. Declare intent by September 15.
3. Playoff within WACH division, if necessary, and
4. Playoff within CAHA if necessary.
5. Steps 3 and 4 shall be completed at least 2-3 weeks before Districts.
6. Proceed to Districts.