

2022 COLLEGE HOCKEY EAST ANNUAL MEETING

Governing Documents Proposals



OPERATING POLICIES: Administrative Section I – Policy Governance

PROPOSED (NEW)	EXISTING (OLD)
<p><u>Policy Change Procedures</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This document shall be addressed, corrected, and/or changed by the CHE Executive Committee by September 1st of each season, as approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. 2. Changes made in the months of October thru March shall require a 2/3rds vote of approval by the CHE Executive Committee and shall only be done so to address a change needed during the current playing season. 3. Any member may submit a recommendation/request for a policy change through their Team Representative, done in writing to the Commissioner’s Office. All recommendations/requests for a policy change must also have the endorsement of at least one other CHE member, via written confirmation from that Member’s Team Representative. 4. The Commissioner’s Office reserves the right to modify the content and/or wording of any policy without any formal approval process in so long as the meaning, spirit, and intent of the rule is not changed. The Commissioner’s Office is also granted the ability to rearrange the ordering or location of a policy(s) within the policy document to provide better application and clarity to the league policies. 	<p><u>Policy Change Procedures</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This document shall be addressed, corrected, and/or changed by the CHE Executive Committee by September 1st of each season, as approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. 2. Changes made in the months of September thru March shall require a 2/3rds vote of approval by the CHE Executive Committee and shall only be done so to address a change needed during the current playing season. 3. Any member may submit a recommendation/request for a policy change through their Team Representative, done in writing to the Commissioner’s Office. All recommendations/requests for a policy change must also have the endorsement of at least one other CHE member, via written confirmation from that Member’s Team Representative.

RATIONAL FOR PROPOSAL

Part 2 is modified to allow for policy/rules changes in September, which is often when our preseason meeting takes place and generally falls before any games are played. The span of October thru March are when nearly all games are played, so this change properly adjusts for the spirit of the rule: allow changes prior to the season but limit changes once games have started.

Part 4 is added and is primarily for the Game Manual. This does not grant anyone the ability to add, change, nor remove a rule without approval. The Commissioner’s Office updates the Game Manual every off-season and needs the ability to make its language and layout as effective as possible for the teams.

OPERATING POLICIES: Administrative Section III – Financial Policies

PROPOSED (NEW)	EXISTING (OLD)
<p><u>Team Withdrawals</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any member who plays at least one league game in the current season shall owe \$500 to the league. If the team withdraws from the league prior to October 31st, no additional monies are owed. If the team withdraws after October 31st, full league dues are still owed. If a Member drops/withdraws any team after October 1st, the Member shall remain responsible for any game costs that are not able to be liquidated by the league or any other Member team. The league and affected Members shall make reasonable effort to liquidate game costs but may be bound to some due to contractual agreements. Monies owed to the league due to team withdrawal carry into subsequent seasons with no expiration. 	<p><u>Team Deposits</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A non-refundable deposit of \$500 shall be applied to each member team as of August 1st of each fiscal year. Deposits shall be included in the League Dues, as outlined herein. However, any team that withdraws on or after August 1st shall owe the \$500 deposit to the league, The \$500 deposit shall be exclusive from any other monies owed by a team due to withdrawing. New members shall not owe a Team Deposit in lieu of the Initiation Fee. A Member shall be placed into Inactive Status, per CHE By-Laws, if no payment – or in the discretion of the Commissioner, no communication on payment – is received by the deposit deadline.

RATIONAL FOR PROPOSAL

The Team Deposits section on the right (existing) would be removed entirely since it is difficult to get payments processed by all teams/schools during the summer months. It will instead be replaced by the Team Withdrawals section on the left (new), which defines monetary obligations for teams that withdraw from the league. Overall, this lessens the burden on all teams while still having financial consequences for teams that pull out of the league once the season is underway.

GAME POLICIES: Section 4 – Personnel

PROPOSED (NEW)

On-Ice Officials

Officiating Systems: All games shall be assigned to meet the required on-ice officiating system based on the level of play. If an assigned official(s) does not appear for a game or is unable to resume his/her duties in a game, the On-Ice Officials withhold the right, at their sole discretion, to adjust the on-ice officiating system so as long as the minimum number of officials are present.

- 1) Men's Division 3: 2 referees and 1 linesman ("2-1 system")
- 2) Men's Division 4: 2 referees and 1 linesman ("2-1 system")
- 3) Women's Division 2: 2 referees ("2-man system")

EXISTING (OLD)

On-Ice Officials

Officiating Systems: All games shall be assigned to meet the required on-ice officiating system based on the level of play. If an assigned official(s) does not appear for a game or is unable to resume his/her duties in a game, the On-Ice Officials withhold the right, at their sole discretion, to adjust the on-ice officiating system so as long as the minimum number of officials are present.

- 1) Men's Division 3: 2 referees and 1 linesman ("2-1 system")
- 2) Men's Division 4: 2 referees ("2-man system")
- 3) Women's Division 2: 2 referees ("2-man system")

RATIONAL FOR PROPOSAL

The league opted to reduce the number of officials on M4 games from 3 to 2 for 2021-22, but that did not go well. The purpose was to reduce costs and necessary manpower, and the sentiment going into it was that those games had little need for the linesman in a 2-1 system. However, DQs were up significantly this year in M4, and the teams took advantage of the lack of a linesman/additional ref. The league also lost the ability to place a new official into a game in a low-pressure, low-responsibility role at our bottom tier, so developing officials into the college level was not as easy. There would be a concern that returning the linesman into M4 could result in a struggle to have enough officials each weekend, especially if the number of M4 teams increases. But the hope would be that we gain better control over discipline and are able to bring up more officials to fill that role. Another concern is that the makeup of M4 may change this year with new/rebuilding teams joining, but that is not a direct correlation to discipline and intensity.

GAME POLICIES: Section 6 – Protocols

PROPOSED (NEW)	EXISTING (OLD)
<p>Resurfacing Protocol: The following procedure shall be implemented, in order, during all intermissions with an ice resurfacing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Both teams shall immediately depart the ice surface unless instructed otherwise by an On-Ice Official to allow one team to exit first. 2) The clock shall be set to the designated length of the rest period and started as the players depart the ice surface. 3) The ice shall be fully resurfaced. 4) No player shall return to the ice surface until the intermission countdown clock has expired. <p><snip></p> <p>M3 Intermissions: The intermissions of M3 games shall be controlled by the On-Ice Officials and conducted under the following protocol:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) First Intermission: the Ice Resurfacing protocol shall be applied during a 12-minute rest period 2) Second Intermission: the Ice Resurfacing protocol shall be applied during a 12-minute rest period <p>M4 Intermissions: The intermissions of M4 games shall be controlled by the On-Ice Officials and conducted under the following protocol:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) First Intermission: Ice Resurfacing protocol shall be applied during a 12-minute rest period 2) Second Intermission: on-ice rest period of 2 minutes shall take place <p>W2 Intermissions: The intermissions of W2 games shall be controlled by the On-Ice Officials and conducted under the following protocol:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) First Intermission: Ice Resurfacing protocol shall be applied during a 12-minute rest period 2) Second Intermission: on-ice rest period of 2 minutes shall take place 	<p>Resurfacing Protocol: The following procedure shall be implemented, in order, during all intermissions with an ice resurfacing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Both teams shall immediately depart the ice surface unless instructed otherwise by an On-Ice Official to allow one team to exit first. 2) The clock shall be set to the designated length of the rest period and started once all players have departed the ice surface. 3) The ice shall be fully resurfaced. 4) No player shall return to the ice surface until the intermission countdown clock has expired. <p><snip></p> <p>M3 Intermissions: The intermissions of M3 games shall be controlled by the On-Ice Officials and conducted under the following protocol:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) First Intermission: the Ice Resurfacing protocol shall be applied during a 12-minute rest period 2) Second Intermission: the Ice Resurfacing protocol shall be applied during a 12-minute rest period <p>M4 Intermissions: The intermissions of M4 games shall be controlled by the On-Ice Officials and conducted under the following protocol:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) First Intermission: Ice Resurfacing protocol shall be applied during a 12-minute rest period 2) Second Intermission: on-ice rest period of 3 minutes shall take place <p>W2 Intermissions: The intermissions of W2 games shall be controlled by the On-Ice Officials and conducted under the following protocol:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) First Intermission: Ice Resurfacing protocol shall be applied during a 12-minute rest period 2) Second Intermission: on-ice rest period of 3 minutes shall take place

RATIONAL FOR PROPOSAL

We have many teams doing different things at intermissions, namely not following a standard at all. The ice resurfacing period was approved for a standard of 12 minutes in 2018. The proposed (new) rule reduces the rest period without ice cuts to 2 minutes because teams are generally anxious to get restarted after 90+ seconds. The proposed rule also allows for the intermission countdown clock to be started as the players exit the ice instead of waiting for a specific point of all players being off the ice. The important aspect of this rule, though, is that all teams know it and apply it at all games.

GAME POLICIES: Section 6 – Overtime Protocol

PROPOSED (NEW)

Overtime Manpower: The on-ice manpower for the overtime period shall be based on **3-on-3 play** (plus goaltenders) for the overtime period of all divisions.

- 1) Applicable penalties shall adjust the on-ice manpower by increasing the number of skaters, when appropriate, for the non-penalized team and shall never reduce a team to less than 3 skaters on the ice.**
- 2) The on-ice manpower shall revert to the standard 3-on-3 condition at the first stoppage after all penalties have expired (i.e., the adjustment is made once all penalty times have cleared and are not while penalty times are still in-progress).**

EXISTING (OLD)

Overtime Manpower: The on-ice manpower for the overtime period shall be based on 4-on-4 play (plus goaltenders) for the overtime period. Applicable penalties shall adjust the on-ice manpower and shall never reduce a team to less than 3 skaters on the ice.

- 1) If multiple penalties adjust the on-ice manpower in a manner that grants a team 5 skaters on the ice, the on-ice manpower shall revert to 4-on-4 at the first stoppage after all penalties have expired (e.g., manpower is only re-adjusted once all penalty times have cleared).**

RATIONAL FOR PROPOSAL

The NCAA and ACHA have essentially standardized overtime to be 3-on-3 at all levels/divisions, and the CHE needs to match that approach. The hope is that fewer games will end in a tie in the CHE by reducing the on-ice manpower in overtime to 3 aside. The two bullet points in the new proposals were required to further clarify how penalties affect the on-ice manpower with the new base of 3.

OPERATING POLICIES: Competition Section 1 – Eligibility Policies

PROPOSED (NEW)

Part 4: ELIGIBILITY EXCLUSIONS

First-Year Cooperative Programs

1. For the purposes of this rule, a “first-year team” shall be defined as and limited to:
 - The team was not previously recognized, for a period of the past 3 seasons, by College Hockey East or any other league or governing body of college hockey teams.
 - The host university does not already field another team of the same gender under any of the applicable governing bodies.
 - The team has not played more than 5 games against College Hockey East opponents in any of the past 3 seasons.
2. First-year teams may use students from other colleges/universities, so as long as over 50% of the playing roster consists of students from the host institution.
3. No eligible player from the host school may be cut or in any way withheld from the team roster.
4. The maximum number of spots available on the game roster for co-op players shall equal 21 minus the number of registered and eligible players from the host school, regardless of any player from the host school.
 - There shall be no provision for actual playing time; it is simply required that all registered and eligible players from the host school have a spot reserved in the game line-up, even if that player is not actually using the spot in any particular game.
5. No players may be used from another institution that hosts a collegiate club hockey program of the same gender (men's/women's).
6. A written agreement must be obtained from school officials of any institution that provides players to the host school.
 - This agreement shall provide authorization for the use of student-athletes and shall require the affiliated institution to provide academic eligibility information to the host institution.
7. All players from all institutions must meet all CHE academic eligibility requirements.
 - The host institution shall be responsible for obtaining and submitting all academic eligibility paperwork for student-athletes from all affiliated institutions.
8. Under no circumstance shall the "first-year team" provision extend beyond one season to any program.
 - This provision also applies to all players involved, and all co-op players must be told by the host institution that they will not be able to play with the host institution for more than one season.
9. First-year teams shall be placed only in an "Affiliate" division of College Hockey East.

RATIONAL FOR PROPOSAL

This rule was approved by the CHE membership in 2017 but was not placed into the new by-laws in 2018. It was used by Mercyhurst to start its W2 team in 2017-18 and worked very well for that team and for our league. The rule allows new programs to initiate the first steps towards fielding a full team of players from only one school while still providing clearly-defined limitations to ensure success, fairness, and a path towards the end goal. The limited use of co-op schools may also create interest from those schools to field teams in the CHE in the future.

- In order to maintain this as "college hockey," the rule does not stretch out so far as to allow high school students, U18/U19 players, alumni, or any other type of "free agent" to be used.
- The 50% provision covers players who are playing in games so as to prevent a school from simply adding names from their own school in order to be able to add more players from other schools. The use of student-athletes from the host institution must take priority over the use of any other player.
- There is no limit on the number of other institutions involved in the co-op, so as long as the 50+% number is maintained by the host school. This provides the host the flexibility of getting the players it needs to get started while maintaining the goal of building a single-school team for Year 2.
- The proposal requires each institution to provide an Academic Eligibility Form from their registrar to the CHE each semester so that all players are operating under the same eligibility guidelines as all other players participating in College Hockey East.
- The cited eligibility restrictions also further prevent "free agency," where a player could essentially circumvent eligibility requirements that are applied to all other players in the league.
- The Affiliate status in College Hockey East maintains the team's status as a CHE member but restricts the hockey team from being included in divisional standings and league playoffs.