



HANDBOOK OF LEAGUE RULES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-------|
| Purpose | 5 |
| History of the League | |
| Men’s Hockey v. Women’s Hockey | |
| Definitions | 6 |
| Division Descriptions | |
| Division 1 and 2 | |
| Division 3 and 4 | |
| Division 5 and 6 | |
| M.A.H.A | |
| MSWHL | |
| Season | |
| Team Official | |
| League | 7-8 |
| Organizational Meeting | |
| Statistician | |
| Scheduler | |
| Fees | |
| Communication | |
| Communication with Board Directors | |
| Email | |
| Text | |
| Phone | |
| Rules | |
| Modification | |
| Interpretation | |
| Player Qualifications to Join League | 8-9 |
| Residency | |
| Citizenship | |
| Pregnancy | |
| Consumption/Use/Abuse of Mood Altering Substances | |
| Player Division Placement | 10 |
| College Division I, II, or III or Significant Youth | |
| Age and Experience Guidelines | |
| Player Movement | 11 |
| Off-Season Movement | |
| Current Season Movement/Releases | |
| Changing Divisions | |
| Player Recruitment | |
| Player Review | 11-12 |
| Appeal of Player Division Placement | 12 |
| Player Recruitment | 12 |
| Team Membership | 12-14 |
| USA Hockey Registration | |
| Application | |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Team Manager | |
| Roster | |
| Dual Rostering | |
| Team Movement | 14 |
| Schedule of Games | 14-15 |
| Scrimmages | |
| Game Reschedule Procedure | |
| Cancellations | |
| Forfeits | |
| Forfeit Penalties | |
| Standings | |
| League Game Procedures | 16-17 |
| Home Team Obligations | |
| Home Game Fees | |
| Uniforms | |
| Participants | |
| Time | |
| Conduct | |
| Spectators | |
| Curfew Arenas | |
| Scoresheet Procedures | 18-19 |
| Official Scoresheet | |
| Reminder | |
| Goalie Borrowing Policy | 19 |
| Uniforms and Equipment | 20 |
| Team Equipment Ownership | |
| Monies Owed to Team | |
| Referees | 20-21 |
| Games | |
| One Referee | |
| No Referees | |
| Objections to Referee(s) | |
| Referee/Player | |
| Disciplinary Action by Board | 21 |
| Complaint Procedure by Member | 21 |
| Game Protest | 22 |
| Appeals Procedure | 22-23 |
| Reasons for Appeal/Notice | |
| Suspension or Discipline Remains in Full Force and Effect | |
| Conduct of Appeal Hearing | |
| Appeal Decision Timing | |
| Bar of Further Appeals | |
| Penalties | 23-24 |
| On-Ice Infractions/Penalties | |
| Minor | |
| Major | |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Misconduct | |
| Game Misconduct | |
| Fighting | |
| “Third Man In” | |
| Off-Ice Infractions | |
| Reporting Period for Suspensions | |
| League Double of all Suspension Penalties | |
| Cumulative Penalties | |
| Player | |
| Team | |
| Match Penalties | |
| Suspensions | 25 |
| Ineligible/Illegal Players | 25 |
| Review | 25 |
| Ruicci Cup | 25 |
| Player and Coach Requirements | 26-28 |
| Team Registration | |
| Games | |
| Format-Seeding of Teams | |
| Preliminary Rounds: Game (Divisions) Format | |
| Divisions with 4, 6, or 8 Teams | |
| Divisions with 5 Teams | |
| Divisions with 7 Teams | |
| Reseeding of Teams | |
| Quarterfinal and Semifinal Game(s) Tiebreaker | |
| Final Game Tiebreaker | |
| Miscellaneous Rules | |
| Invitational Tournament Registration of MSWHL Teams | 28 |
| Explanation | |
| Examples | |
| Travel to Canada-Exhibition Play | |
| Travel to Canada-Tournaments | |

LIST OF CRITICAL DATES

July 31st: Team Application due

August: Mandatory meeting for new teams

September: Season begins September 1 for Practice and MANDATORY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

October: Games officially began

December 31st: Only players on teams approved roster by December 31st are eligible to play in the Ruicci Cup.

March Deadline for standings for Ruicci Cup seeding will be announced.

Mid-March or early April: Ruicci Cup Playoff

March 31st: Season Ends-All regular league games must be played before this date.

May: Annual Meeting

PURPOSE

This handbook contains the League rules and administrative procedures. It is a supplement to the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association By-Laws and USA Hockey Rulebook. If a player or team has questions regarding the League, please consult this handbook to find the answer first. An electronic copy of this handbook is posted on the league's official website: www.MSWHL.com. A team may request a hard copy by contacting a Board Director.

The League is organized with the IRS as a 501(c)(7) Social Club:

- To be exempt, a social club must meet the following requirements—
- The club must be organized for exempt purposes .
- Substantially all of its activities must further exempt purposes
 - If the club exceeds safe harbor guidelines for nonmember and investment income, the facts and circumstances must show that it is organized substantially for exempt purposes.
 - The club has *de minimis* income from nontraditional sources (*i.e.*, from investments or from activities that, if conducted with members, would further the club's tax-exempt purposes).
- The club must provide an opportunity for personal contact among members, and membership must be limited.
- The club must be supported by membership fees, dues, and assessments.
- The organization's net earnings may not inure to the benefit of any person having a personal and private interest in its activities.
- The club's governing instrument may not contain a provision that provides for discrimination against any person on the basis of sexual orientation, race, color, or religion.
- The club may not hold itself out as providing goods and services to the general public.
- The club can receive up to 35 percent of their gross receipts, including investment income, from sources outside their membership without losing their exempt status.

The League was incorporated in 2001 with the State of Michigan under ID #765567 as Metro Skaters Hockey League doing business as "Michigan Senior Women's Hockey League".

HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE

The Michigan Senior Women's Hockey League ("League") began with only 4 teams in the early 1990's. Currently, the League has 35+ teams in advanced, intermediate, and recreation divisions. This means over 600 women participate in the one of the largest senior women's leagues in the country. The purpose of the League is to encourage and improve the standard of ice hockey for women in the State of Michigan; to develop and encourage sportsmanship among all players for the betterment of their physical and social well-being; and to conduct an organized league wherein women may learn and enjoy recreational and competitive ice hockey. The League is a member of MAHA and USA Hockey. The season begins in September and runs through March, concluding with the annual "Ruicci Cup"-a weekend hockey playoff.

MEN'S HOCKEY vs. WOMEN'S HOCKEY

The fundamental difference between the male game and the female game is that body checking is not permitted in women's hockey. Make no mistake- women's hockey is very physical but blatant checks are penalized. The result of this no-checking rule is that the female game is played with an emphasis on overall skill development (*i.e.*, skating, passing, stick handling, and shooting). Women players wear full equipment, including a helmet and a full face mask.

DEFINITIONS:

DIVISION DESCRIPTIONS:

There are six (6) Divisions within the League according to skill level. The following is a brief description of the divisional structure. If needed, extra divisions may be created to accommodate an expanding number of teams.

DIVISION 1 AND 2 (Advanced): For elite and highly skilled players who may have played at the elite youth level or who may have played college hockey. Nationally, the Advanced teams are comparable to Senior “A”, “B”, or “C”, and the “30 and over” USAH classifications.

DIVISION 3 AND 4 (Intermediate): For skilled players who may have played hockey in their youth and who have continued to play as an adult. This may also include players who started as a young adult and have now progressed past the level of a beginner and would like to play against higher skilled level players than those in the Recreation divisions.

DIVISION 5 AND 6 (Recreational): For beginners and novice players ages 18 and above who would like to start learning to play hockey. In Division 5 is for players who are still relatively new to playing hockey, but have progressed past the beginner stage and would like to play at a slightly higher skill level.

M.A.H.A.: Michigan Amateur Hockey Association- Michigan’s affiliate of USA Hockey (MAHA).

MSWHL: Michigan Senior Women’s Hockey League

SEASON: The season runs from September 1st to March 31st.

TEAM OFFICIAL:

A Team Official is any person on the players’ bench who is not on the game scoresheet as an eligible player or goalkeeper. One such person must be designated as the Head Coach. A player or goalkeeper on the roster who is unable to play, other than through suspension, may be on the players’ bench without being considered a Team Official if she is wearing the team jersey and all required head and face protective equipment. Senior teams are not required to have a non-playing coach on the bench. If a team does not have a non-playing coach, a player acting as head coach and one acting as assistant coach must be clearly identified prior to the start of the game on the scoresheet as “Team Officials”. If there is no designation on the scoresheet then the captain will be considered the first team official and one or more of the assistant captains will be considered the second Team Official. These players will bear all the responsibilities and duties that are normally carried out by the non-playing coach(es). If a team receives any penalties for which the head coach would receive a game misconduct, the designated head coach will serve the misconduct and must leave the game. If the player designated as the head coach is given a game misconduct, then the player designated as assistant coach will take on the same responsibilities as a non-playing assistant coach. If no player has been identified as the assistant coach, or if the player designated as the assistant coach is also given a game misconduct, then the game will be forfeited by that team.

LEAGUE:

The USA Hockey and MAHA Rules and Regulations will govern the play of the League, except as supplemented herein. The League rules incorporate USA HOCKEY and MAHA rules and regulations and playing rules and exceptions may vary from USA HOCKEY and MAHA rules and regulations providing they are more stringent and without major change with the exception of age classifications

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: The League holds its Organizational Meeting in September. Each team is required to have at least one representative in attendance at this meeting. If a team representative is not in attendance without prior approval, that team's membership is automatically terminated.

STATISTICIAN: Each Division is required to have a Statistician who compiles the division's win/loss/tie/forfeit record standings, goals, assists, and penalty minutes per player/team. This task may be assigned to a Board Director.

SCHEDULER: Each Division is required to have a Scheduler who compiles and maintains updates of the division game times and locations. This task may be assigned to a Board Director.

FEES:

League fees are set each year by the Board. The current league fee is a non-refundable \$100.00 dollars. MAHA and USA Hockey fees are determined each year by the respective organizations. League fees are due on or before the date of the Organizational Meeting. League fees pay for administrative expenses such as website, legal fees, scoresheets, copying costs, mailings, meeting rooms and other various expenses. All Board Directors work on a volunteer basis and are not monetarily compensated in any way. The Treasurer accepts payments at the organizational meeting. If a team wishes to pay before the organizational meeting, please contact the Treasurer to make other arrangements. Please make all checks payable to the "MSWHL".

COMMUNICATION:

All League announcements will be distributed to each team by email to the first and second contact listed on each team's application. Any player within the League may ask to be placed on the League's email distribution list. Announcements may also be posted on the League's official website: www.MSWHL.com. If a team official does not have regular access to email or the Internet, it is that team official's responsibility to find another member of their team who will assume the responsibility for distributing communication within that team. It is the responsibility of the team official to share all communications with her team members. If an email address changes, it is the team official's responsibility to notify the entire Board. The League reserves the right to directly contact all team representatives. All Board Directors, Division Schedulers and Division Statisticians must be reachable through email and their email contact information posted on the League's official website.

COMMUNICATION WITH BOARD DIRECTORS:

All Board Directors will make every effort to be reasonably available for communication to its members. Official requests of the entire Board must be made in writing and sent by email. Communications sent to a Board Director that are unprofessional, harassing, or threatening will result in immediate review by the entire Board for discipline. A Board Director reserves the right not to respond

to a request by text or phone and require an official communication be sent by email to the Board for action.

EMAIL: All email communications to a Board Director will be responded to within fourteen (14) days.

TEXT: A Board Director or member may utilize SMS text for communication for informal communication between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. but official requests of the Board may not be sent to a Board Director by SMS text.

PHONE: A Board Director may be reached by phone for informal communication requests. Board Directors may be contacted between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Any matters that arise outside of these hours must be communicated by email.

RULES:

MODIFICATION:

The rules and regulations of the League may be amended at any time by an affirmative vote of the majority of the Board.

INTERPRETATION:

An electronic copy of the League Handbook will be available on the League website. If a team does not have access to the website, the League will provide a hard copy. Every player and team official will be responsible to review the Handbook. The Board will require team officials to sign an acknowledgement before any team can start to play League games. The rules of the League apply to every player and team regardless if an acknowledgment is required. Every team official is also expected to review the MAHA By-Laws and Rules & Regulations available at www.MAHA.org and a current USA Hockey rulebook. A team official should bring these rulebooks to every game.

1. If there is any question about any rule, first consult these rulebooks for clarification;
2. If a question occurs during a game, the referees are responsible for making the final decision.
3. If there is still a question concerning a rule, a team official may bring it to the attention of the Board by an official email communication and the matter will be looked into further.

HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGMENT: Every team official, including managers and coaches are required to submit an original signed acknowledgement that they have and read and understand the League Handbook. Failure of a team to submit an acknowledgement for each team official, even those added throughout the entire season, will subject the entire team to discipline.

PLAYER QUALIFICATIONS TO JOIN LEAGUE:

All women 18 and older are encouraged to participate. A team is only allowed to roster two (2) 18 year old players with prior Board approval. A team is also only allowed to roster two (2) 19 year olds (players must turn 19 as of December 31st). If a team wishes to roster more than two (2) 19 year olds, Board approval must be granted prior to rostering the player with the team

The following qualifications must be met to the satisfaction of the Board in order for any individual to become a Member (“Player”) of the League:

1. Each Player must be a woman over the age of 18 as of September 1 per MAHA/USA Hockey rules.
2. Each Player must be officially rostered on an approved MSWHL team as a player, coach, or other designation as established by the Board.
3. Each Player must pay the current membership fee to USA Hockey.
4. Each player must meet the residency and citizenship requirement.

RESIDENCY:

Players that are legal U.S. residents inside the United States but outside of the State of Michigan (limit 100 miles from any border) may be registered with the League if they meet the MAHA qualification rules. The majority of teams have home ice located in the 4-county area of Wayne, Oakland, Washtenaw, and Livingston. Teams play a home and away schedule between 20 and 25 games a season and usually travel at least twice to each city.

CITIZENSHIP:

Registration restricted to legal U.S. residents. Unrestricted to citizenship. Limited to amateurs. A person who is a citizen of another country shall be considered eligible if she is a full time resident of Michigan and holds an Alien Registration Receipt Card (#1-151 or #1-551) or is a foreign exchange student from outside of the United States and holding an I-94 Card. Foreign exchange students must be a full time student, included within a recognized foreign exchange program before she came to the United States and is enrolled as a full time student in a regular course of instruction for her age group, as determined by the educational institution that she attends, on condition that the player shall request a transfer to a USA Hockey member team. Foreign players, who are legal residents of the United States, according to the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, also are eligible. Proper I-94 cards and transfers must be provided.

RELEASE: A release from the player’s home country team/association authorizing the player to compete for the USA Hockey member team; and

IIHF/CANADIAN TRANSFER: A Canadian transfer form must be completed or all non-citizen female players age 18 and over and an electronic copy delivered to the President before playing in a league sponsored practice or game.

PREGNANCY:

Pregnant players may participate in League events, but assume all risks and responsibilities. By choosing to play/practice, the pregnant player releases the League, team managers, opposing players and the arena from any and all liability to themselves and/or her baby. It is recommended that the team manager or team official secure a written “waiver of liability” from any such pregnant player and keep it with their team records.

CONSUMPTION/USE/ABUSE OF MOOD ALTERING SUBSTANCES:

Consumption, use, or abuse of mood altering substances one hour before or during a game is strictly prohibited. The offending player reported to the Board will be subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

PLAYER DIVISION PLACEMENT:

COLLEGE DIVISION I, II, OR III OR SIGNIFICANT YOUTH

All Players registering with the League for the FIRST TIME who have played college hockey at the Division 1, 2, and 3, or with no college experience but who have significant youth hockey experience, must register in the Advanced Divisions (1, 2, or 3) and play in that division for at least one season unless player submits a player review form that is approved by the Board. Each player may be subjected to an on-ice or video evaluation by the Board prior to the final ruling on the request.

AGE AND EXPERIENCE GUIDELINES:

All Players registering with MSWHL for the first time who do not meet the above experience must play in a division as outlined below for at least one season. After one season if a player desires to move down to a lower division, the player may petition the Board by submitting a completed Player Review Form. Each player may be subjected to an on-ice evaluation by the Board prior to the final ruling on the request.

18-20 YEARS OF AGE

- 10 +or more years of playing experience, MUST play Division 1or 2.
- 8-9 years of playing experience, MUST play Division 3 or higher.
- 5-7 years of playing experience, MUST play Division 4 or higher.
- 5 years or less of playing experience can play at any level based on individual player skill level.

25 YEARS OF AGE AND UNDER:

- 15 + or more years of playing experience, MUST play Division 1or 2.
- 10-14 years of playing experience, MUST play Division 3 or higher.
- 5-9 years of playing experience, MUST play Division 4 or higher.
- 5 years or less of playing experience can play at any level based on individual player skill level

26-30 YEARS OF AGE:

- 20 + or more years of playing experience, MUST play Division 1 or 2.
- 10-19 years of playing experience, MUST play Division 4 or higher.
- 10 years or less of playing experience can play at any level based on the individual player skill level

31-40 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER:

- 20 + or more years of playing experience MUST play at minimum Intermediate 3 or higher.
- 10-19 years of playing experience, MUST play Division 4 or higher.
- 9 years or less of playing experience can play at any level based on the individual player skill level.

40 + YEARS OF AGE:

- Players 40 and over may have these guidelines waived by Board by submitting a Player Review form.

Team managers and coaches need to take the above into consideration when organizing players for their teams. Players who are past members of the League are subject to review by the Board every year to assess whether the player is participating at the appropriate skill level. If it is determined by the Board that a significant elevated skill difference exists between a player and the rest of her team and/or

division even if she meets the above guidelines, that player will be moved up to a division appropriate to her skill level. Failure of a player to comply with a Board decision will force either the player to be suspended from the League or the player's entire team moved up one or more divisions depending on fault as determined by the Board.

PLAYER MOVEMENT:

OFF-SEASON MOVEMENT:

A player's obligation to her regular season League team begins when she signs the official roster and ends on March 31st of the current season unless her regular season team becomes inactive prior to that date. After March 31st, a player is free to change to another team for the next season as she desires as long as all her financial obligations are settled and all her team equipment is returned.

CURRENT SEASON MOVEMENT/RELEASES:

A player registered with a League team at the beginning of the season who wishes to move to another team within the League during the same season must obtain a release from her original team before registering with her new team that is approved by the Board. The Board must be notified and approve of the request to be released before the release is processed. A player must be given a release by her original team as long as the player has fulfilled her financial and equipment return obligations at the time of the release request. A player **must wait 72 hours** after the player registration form and release is received by the MAHA District Registrar and President to be eligible for League games. A Release form can be obtained from the league website or a team's MAHA District Registrar and copies of the completed Release form should be given to:

MAHA District Registrar;
MSWHL League President; and
Player's new team manager.

PLAYER MOVEMENT TO A HIGHER DIVISION:

A player may move upward in division level at her discretion and without limitation.

PLAYER MOVEMENT TO A LOWER DIVISION:

A player must obtain prior Board approval to move down to a lower division. To move down a division(s), a player **must** submit a **completed** Player Review Form to the Board. If the player's request is granted, the player will remain in the newly approved lower division for a minimum of **FIVE** seasons before she may petition the Board to move down another level. No team may pick up more than **TWO** players who have moved down from a higher division without prior Board approval for a whole season.

PLAYER REVIEW:

If a player sponsored by a team would like to play in a lower level division than the above guidelines dictate then that player must submit a Player Review Form with reasonable justification to the Board in conjunction with a Team's original or revised Application. Player Review forms received without an updated Application will not be reviewed. The form should include detailed information regarding a players' hockey history and the reasons why a particular player is requesting to play in a lower division. The Board will review the form within seven (7) days and make an initial decision if the player may conditionally play within the desired division. This decision cannot be appealed. A player cannot be rostered with a team until the Board informs the team that the player is conditionally eligible to join the team. A list of conditionally approved players will be posted on the League website.

If the Board conditionally approves a player to play in a division with the proposed team, that player will be allowed to play for sixty (60) days. After sixty (60) days, if a majority of teams in the division believe the player's skill level is inappropriate for that division, the objecting teams must submit a Division Player Review form to the Board.

Upon receipt of the Division Player Review form, the Board will then submit the Division Player Review to the remaining teams in the division for a vote. The Voting Teams must share and discuss the Division Player Review form with their entire team and respond with a vote within seven (7) days. A team official may email the Board to request further information about the player. All teams must vote either Yes or No. All votes must include an objective reason or reasons supporting the vote. A YES vote means the team agrees with the objection and the player should not be allowed to continue to play in that division. A NO vote means the team does not agree with the objection and believes the player should be allowed to continue to play within that division. A team's vote must be emailed to the President by the deadline. The President will then count the votes on each Division Player Review and announce the result along with the supporting reasons to all of the teams in the affected division. All ties will be broken by a majority vote of the Board. A team that fails to vote within the specified timeframe above will face disciplinary action by the Board.

A team official will be subject to Board discipline if evidence is presented to the Board that the team official did not share and discuss the Division Player Review form with their entire team. The player who is subject to a Division Player Review may still play with their team during the voting period. A player who receives a majority of YES votes will become immediately ineligible to play within that division for the remainder of the season. A player who becomes ineligible to play within a division may seek a release and transfer to a team within the League in a higher division.

APPEAL OF PLAYER DIVISION PLAYER REVIEW:

A player who is negatively affected by a Division Player Review may appeal one time to the Board in writing within fourteen (14) days of the vote announcement by the Board. The appeal must be submitted on the Player Review Form. The Board is not required to hold a hearing on the appeal request. A player must be able to show by a preponderance of the evidence that the Division Player Review was biased or that the process was defective. Appeals submitted which do not conform to this standard will be rejected. The Board will review the appeal within fourteen (14) days and vote to either affirm or reverse the original decision. Any Board Director(s) who participate in an affected division under review will abstain from voting during this process. The President will then count the votes on and announce the result to the affected division.

PLAYER RECRUITMENT:

During the regular season, no coach, manager, player or other team official connected with a registered League team may directly or indirectly entice, influence, contact or otherwise recruit a player rostered on another League team without the written approval player's team official. Those found in violation of this rule are subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP:

USA HOCKEY REGISTRATION:

Players may only sign a USA Hockey Team roster registration form after August 15th.

APPLICATION: All teams must complete and submit an Application electronically in excel format on the approved form to the President by email no later than July 31st of the upcoming season reflecting their intent to participate in the upcoming MSWHL season. PDF nor picture files are permitted. All player information must be included in the "Player History" portion of the application. This form may be downloaded from the League's website or forwarded by email. Entry of a team into the League must be approved by a majority vote of the Board. Divisional placement of the team will be at the sole discretion of the Board. " New teams are accepted on a probationary status for one (1) season and are subject to a confirming acceptance vote at the conclusion of one (1) season by the Board. Every question must be answered on the application. "N/A" as an answer will invalidate an application unless the Board approves the answer as acceptable. A team application will not be accepted with less than nine (9) skaters plus one (1) goalie.

TEAM MANAGER: Every team is required to have a minimum of two (2) manager contacts. Teams may have more representatives if they wish. The Board reserves the right to request email addresses for specific players. If a request is made of a team manager for a player's email address, the email must be provided within 3 days.

ROSTER: Each team must gather each player's USA Hockey registration confirmation. This is also the USA Hockey Waiver. The team will then follow the steps to have a roster prepared by their MAHA District Registrar in their area of the state (see listing at www.MAHA.org). The Board is not responsible for a team's failure to properly register their team. The Board will not approve a player to play in the league without proper registration and requests of this type should not be made. The Roster must be compiled by the Registrar, signed by all players, returned to the Registrar, and a sealed/stamped received by the team. This is a team's OFFICIAL USA Hockey Roster. The Registrar should be given a sufficient time to complete this process. Delays of a Registrar are not the responsibility of the Board. Registrars are volunteers with USA Hockey and should be treated with respect. See New Team Checklist on website for further explanation with examples of this process.

A copy of the official USA Hockey Roster must be sent by email in Adobe pdf electronic format to the Board prior to a team's first league game that is legible. A copy of any subsequent roster add-ons (addendums) accompanied by an updated application throughout the season must also be forwarded to the Board prior to the add-on player participating in any team activities (league games and scrimmages). Teams cannot make changes to their team after December 31 except for extreme circumstances. Failure to adhere to this policy will result suspension of league play until the Original or Addendum Official USA Hockey Roster is received and also the forfeiture of any games that the illegal player/team participated in on the schedule of the offending team. It is solely each team's responsibility to ensure that their paperwork is properly completed and approved by the Board. The League, MAHA, nor USA Hockey representatives are not responsible for ensuring that an individual team has properly completed their team's paperwork and been approved to play before playing in any league sanctioned games.

DUAL ROSTERING:

A player may only register with one USA Hockey team at a time except as noted below:

Female players are allowed to play for more than one team in DIFFERENT LEAGUES including playing in adult men's leagues. (i.e. No MSWHL player may play on another MSWHL

team regardless of Division). A player cannot be registered with more than one (1) team that participates in games leading towards a State and/or National Championship.

Any player added to a registered team after the League game schedule has begun cannot participate in any team activities (league games and scrimmages) until a signed/sealed copy of the roster add-on (addendum) and updated Application have been forwarded and approved by the President.

TEAM MOVEMENT:

The Board shall exercise exclusive authority and discretion to place each team in the appropriate division. The season is divided into two rounds. The first round is from October 1st to December 15th. The second round is from December 16 to March 31st. Teams will be placed and moved based on the overall best interests of the league. The Board will review each division's standings at the end of the First Round to determine if movement is necessary. A division change by a team may be requested in writing with supporting evidence either once within 7 days after the divisions have been announced by the Board or between December 1st-15th. A division change request must be approved by a majority vote of the Board. A team may be moved for reasons including but not limited to: new to the league, substantial player changes, or significant improvement over time, or placement at an inappropriate level.

SCHEDULE OF GAMES:

The League game season runs from October 1st through March 31st. All League games must be scheduled within this period. All teams must purchase enough ice to complete their scheduled home games and required rescheduled games. Only games cancelled by the Board are not required to be rescheduled. Teams should seek Board approval before cancelling a game because of an exception listed below.

The master schedule of each division compiled after the Organizational meeting is final. The master schedule of each division as posted on the league website will be considered a commitment by teams to make every effort to play the entire schedule. Team officials are responsible for reviewing the master schedule for accuracy and inform the Division Scheduler of any errors, discrepancies, or changes to the master schedule, within seven (7) days after notification by the Scheduler that the schedule is final or revised.

SCRIMMAGES: All scrimmage games in Michigan will be governed by USA/MAHA rules.

GAME RESCHEDULE PROCEDURE:

A team who wishes to reschedule a game should contact both of the opposing team officials as soon as possible but must contact them no later than 72 hours before a game. Contact must be made by email to stating the date and time of game requesting to be rescheduled along with a reason for the reschedule request. One of the opposing team officials must respond to a request to reschedule within two (2) days of the date and time of the email with either a yes or no. If no response is received, the Division Director should be notified to assist with contacting the opposing team. The opposing team has the right to deny a request to reschedule a game without good cause. It is solely the opposing team's choice to agree to reschedule. Teams will be allowed two (2) reschedule requests a season. Further reschedule requests must be approved by the Board before being communicated to the opposing team.

Any schedule change must be submitted to the affected teams and Division Director within three (3) days by email with confirmation email was received.

Any misunderstandings as to a game time, location, or date will result in a forfeit by the team at fault and the forfeiting team will be responsible for the costs of the officials and scorekeeper of the forfeited game. The Board will determine which team is at fault.

If the opposing team agrees to reschedule a game, the agreement must be in writing and communicated to the other team official and Division Director. The team that cancelled the game is required to propose at least two (2) reasonable dates to reschedule the original game. If the other team is unable to play on either date for good cause, it must offer two (2) reasonable dates to reschedule. If a team fails to cooperate during this reschedule process, the Board will decide who should forfeit the game.

The Home team is always responsible for payment of two (2) referees and one scorekeeper. If a rescheduled game is scheduled to be played on the VISITING team's home ice, then the originally scheduled HOME Team assumes the costs for the referees and scorekeeper. The visiting Home team may schedule the referees for the game unless it is agreed upon otherwise with their opponent. If the visiting Home team uses the Home team's referees and scorekeeper, the fee amount must be discussed and agreed to before game day.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE 72 HOUR RULE:

EXTREME WEATHER: A Traveler's Advisory broadcast for severe weather and hazardous driving conditions by the National Weather Bureau for either the home or visiting team's area adopted by the Board;

ARENA CLOSURE: Mechanical breakdown or loss of power; or

PERSONAL TRAGEDY: Injury accident en route to the rink or death of a team member within 72 hours.

If an exception occurs, the team not able to participate in the game must contact the opposing team officials as soon as it is determined that the team is unable to make the game. If a team official is unreachable by phone, a voicemail message must be left to the opposing team official. If there is an alternate team official, then efforts to reach the alternate must be made in the same manner. If no team official is reachable by phone, a Division Director must be notified or an alternate Board Director. Notice of contact attempts by the cancelling team must be given to the Division Director as well by email or telephone call as soon as possible.

CANCELLATIONS:

When a Team decides to cancel a game and not attempt to reschedule, they must give at least seventy-two (72) hour notice to the other team's official and Division Director. The opposing team is not required to reschedule a cancelled game and it will be a forfeit for statistical purposes.

INSUFFICIENT REASONS TO CANCEL A GAME:

Lack of Players:

If a team can ice six (6) players, with or without a goalie, it must play the game.

Tournament:

If a team decides to play in a tournament after the master schedule has been announced.

Goalie is unavailable:

Goalie substitution list is to be used or game played with no goalie

FORFEITS:

A game will be considered a forfeit if:

- A team cancels a game.
- A team cannot ice six (6) players at game time.
- A team plays an ineligible, suspended, or non-registered player.
- A team plays with an ineligible, suspended or non-registered coach or assistant coach performing in his/her capacity at the player's bench;
- Notification of cancellation occurs less than seventy-two (72) hours before the originally scheduled game time (see exceptions above);
- A team cancels a game in the last two (2) weeks of the season.
- A team cancels a game after Ruicci Cup.
- A team turns in an improper scoresheet.

FORFEIT PENALTIES:

The forfeiting team is liable to the non-canceling team for actual expenses incurred for ice, referees and scorekeepers. Monies owed to a team for a forfeit must be paid within 10 days. Players on the forfeiting team serving suspensions may not count the game towards fulfilling a suspension, nor toward a game count for the Ruicci Cup (or States if applicable). The forfeiting team will receive a loss in the League standings. The non-forfeiting team will receive a 1-0 win in the League standings. Players on the non-forfeiting team may count the game towards fulfilling a suspension.

After three (3) forfeits, a team will be immediately suspended from the League. The Team's remaining games will be cancelled and prior games will be omitted from the League statistics and standings. Exception to this rule will only be made if the Team can present evidence that extenuating circumstances occurred and the Board approves the exception.

STANDINGS:

All stats will be posted throughout the season on the league's official website.

Standings in each division will be determined by a point system as follows:

Win = 2 points

Tie = 1 point

Loss/forfeit = 0 points

In the event of a tie in points, standings will be determined in the following order:

Win/loss record between teams involved.

Total goals for in games between the teams involved.

Total goals against in games between the teams involved.

Whichever team has the fewest penalty minutes shall prevail.

LEAGUE GAME PROCEDURES:

HOME TEAM OBLIGATIONS:

The Home team will furnish game pucks, a scorekeeper, and at least 50 minutes of ice time, with adequate dressing room facilities for each team and an official League Scoresheet which lists all registered players of the competing teams and indicate the player's status as present, absent, or suspended. Games must start no later than 5 minutes into the curfew clock unless there are extenuating

circumstances. Teams that are chronically late onto the ice to start a game will be reviewed by the Board for disciplinary action.

HOME GAME FEES:

The Home team is responsible for all costs of a home game, which include the ice rental fee, payment of two (2) USA Hockey Level 3 referees, and payment of a scorekeeper who has been trained to operate the time clock at the home rink.

UNIFORMS:

In the event of uniform color similarities, the Visiting team will defer to the Home team. Players must always have both their Home and Away jerseys with them at every game in case a conflict arises.

PARTICIPANTS:

Per USA Hockey rules, only players in uniform and Coaches are permitted to occupy the bench during games. Any person on the players' bench during a League sanctioned game **must be registered with USA Hockey**. This includes coaches, managers or any other team official.

Minimum number of players on a team is nine (9), including a goalie.

Maximum number of players to be rostered on a team is 25.

Maximum number of players who may be dressed during a game is 20 (including two (2) goaltenders).

Maximum of four (4) **registered** team officials on the bench during a game.

Maximum per team of one (1) captain and two (2) alternate captains. Captains and alternates must be marked with a "C" or an "A" on their left front shoulder.

TIME:

All League games will consist of three (3) ten (10) minute, stop-time periods. There will be running time in the last five (5) minutes of a league game if the score differential is four (4) or more. Where there is not sufficient time to finish a stop-time period due to curfew, the referees may decide to run the clock for the remainder of the game.

CONDUCT:

The team officials as well as the player will be responsible for the conduct of their team before, during and after league games. Team officials can be held responsible for any misconduct of their team regardless if they had knowledge of the misconduct.

SPECTATORS:

Each team official will take action to insure that spectators are not abusive to officials, players, other team coaches or team officials or other spectators. Failure to do so may result in team suspension or game forfeiture.

CURFEW ARENAS:

The Scorekeeper must:

- Note in writing on the front of the scoresheet if the arena is a curfew arena.
- List the allotted number of minutes that are in the curfew (i.e. 50 minutes, 60 minutes, etc.)
- Denote start and stop time of the game by the time on the curfew clock, or if no curfew clock is visible, by the time of day.

- Obtain the signature of the team officials on the scoresheet prior to the start of the game, acknowledging the game is being played under curfew.

Teams protesting violations of the policy contained in this Section must following the Protest procedures detailed below. If the Board finds that the above curfew procedure was violated, the offending team will forfeit the game.

SCORESHEET PROCEDURES:

The Home team is responsible for providing at least one (1) person to work as a scorekeeper. The scorekeeper is considered to be a minor official. The scorekeeper at a minimum must be 16 years or older. Complaints brought to the Board's attention against a scorekeeper are considered complaints against the Home team and will be addressed in that manner. A team official is responsible before and after a game to make sure the scorekeeper is competent and knows how to properly keep time and fill out a scoresheet, to verify and sign the scoresheet before the game, to make sure that the game sheet is accurate and legible at the conclusion of the game and that the referees sign it, to retrieve a copy of the scoresheet at the end of the game, to understand the scoresheet process and take an active role in making sure that everyone else understands what the responsibilities are with regard to scoresheets and scorekeeping procedures.

Team names, date, location, and division must be noted before the game starts. If the game is a reschedule, the original date of the game and that it is a "reschedule" with the new date of the game must be noted. Only players who are participating in that game can be listed on the scoresheet. The team official of each team should review the list of players and make the necessary changes before signing the game sheet. Players names who are absent for that particular game must be crossed out on each triplicate copy. If using a label, a player's name that is not on the label must be written in on each triplicate copy. If there is a change in the jersey number for any player, that detail must be noted. The team captain and alternate captains must be noted by placing a "C" or an "A" next to the respective names. If a team does not have a non-playing coach present, a player must be identified as a team official(s) by placing the words "coach" or "asst. coach" next to their respective names. The coach(s)/team official(s) should then sign the completed scoresheet **PRIOR** to the beginning of the game. The referees must sign the scoresheet at the conclusion of the game. Only scoresheets provided by the league should be used unless reasonable extenuating circumstances exist. Extenuating circumstance must be noted on the scoresheet.

A scoresheet that is not legible will not be counted as an official scoresheet and will result in a forfeiture of the game by the HOME team. It is the home team's responsibility to provide a competent scorekeeper. A scoresheet missing required information will be reviewed by the Board and a team notified of the error. Teams that continually have incomplete scoresheets will face disciplinary action. The Board reserves the right to decide when enforcement of this rule is appropriate.

When a goal is scored, the scorekeeper must make sure that the jersey number given by the referee of the goal scorer, and assister(s), if any, is on the scoresheet, along with the period and the time in which the goal was scored. If a penalty is assessed, the scorekeeper must make sure the jersey number, along with penalty code, given by the referee, period and time at which the penalty was incurred, along with penalty duration (i.e. 2:00; 4:00, 10:00, etc.), are all marked clearly on the scoresheet. If the scorekeeper cannot hear the referee or does not understand what was said, the scorekeeper should ask for clarification. If any game misconduct penalties are assessed, the scorekeeper must make sure the referee indicates the number of games on the scoresheet. The League "doubles" all suspensions, and will add the appropriate number of games to the player's suspension.

The winning team's official is responsible for emailing a scanned pdf file of the scoresheet to her division statistician within a reasonable period after the conclusion of a game but no later than seven (7) days after the game. If a team is unable to scan a scoresheet into a pdf file, the scoresheet can be mailed to the Division Statistician. Scoresheets are encouraged to be scanned and sent by email. Failure to submit the scoresheet within 7 days will result in a forfeit by the team responsible for delivering the scoresheet. If a suspension occurs, it must be reported to the League President, Division Director, and Division Statistician within 24 hours after the game.

OFFICIAL SCORESHEET:

The top white copy of the scoresheet of each game will become a permanent League record and must be signed by the referees and scorekeeper immediately following the game. Nothing may be added or deleted from the record copy (white copy) of the scoresheet unless witnessed and initialed by the attending referee(s). The white scoresheet should match the triplicate copies. Discrepancies on the triplicate copies will be reviewed by the Board for possible tampering and discipline action.

REMINDER: The official scoresheet is used to determine whether players have participated in the appropriate number of games for purposes of Ruicci Cup (if applicable), State and National qualification, for league statistics, and for Ruicci Cup seedings. Whether or not a player gets credit for playing in a game is determined by the proper authority's ability to read the game sheet. Illegible game sheets may result in players being denied participation in a Ruicci Cup, State or National tournament, even though the player may have in fact played the required number of games. If a team intends to play in the Ruicci Cup or a State Tournament, the team official will need a copy of the scoresheets as proof that both the team and players have the required number of game.

GOALIE BORROWING POLICY:

The Board allows a team to borrow a goalie from another team under certain circumstances. A team's goaltender will not be allowed to skate out so a team can use a borrowed goalie to improve the number of skaters for the game or to increase a team's chance of winning. This policy is to be used if a team only has one goaltender and that team's only goaltender is unable to play because of illness, injury, family emergency or any other unforeseen emergency that prevents her participation. **A TEAM CANNOT NOT USE A BORROWED GOALIE IN MORE THAN 25% OF ITS LEAGUE GAMES.** If extenuating circumstances exist, (i.e. prolonged injury to a team's only goaltender), a team may petition the Board and ask that the 25% provision be increased. A borrowed goalie must be rostered on a current League team and may only sub within their division or in a higher division. Recreational goaltenders who regularly skate out on a League team but who have an interest in goaltending and wish to learn how to play the position but lack the skill to play in her own division or higher must notify the Board of their intent to be placed on this list. After evaluation by the Board, the recreational goaltender will be placed on the list specifying the division or divisions she is be eligible to substitute in. The following table will apply:

| DIVISION | MAY SUB FOR | MAY NOT SUB FOR |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 |
| 2 | 1 and 2 | 3, 4, 5, or 6 |
| 3 | 1, 2, or 3 | 4, 5 or 6 |
| 4 | 1, 2, 3, or 4 | 5 or 6 |
| 5 | 1, 2, 3, or 4 | 6 |
| 6 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 | N/A |

The opposing team must be verbally notified of the borrowed goalie's name and the team she normally plays for prior to the start of the game and noted on the scoresheet that a sub is being used. Failure to enter the name and team of the borrowed goalie on the game sheet prior to the start of the game will result in a forfeit of that game. The Board reserves the right to review this policy on a game to game basis and take disciplinary action against any team deemed to be abusing this policy.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT:

USA Hockey Rules 301 to 308 and MAHA rules apply.

TEAM EQUIPMENT OWNERSHIP:

Teams are responsible for internally managing the ownership of their jerseys and socks. If team jerseys are to remain the property of the team, the team official is responsible for communicating this before the season begins and may collect a deposit to ensure that the individual player jersey is returned. Failure to return the jersey to the team official in timely manner will entitle the team official to the deposit. All other equipment including team pucks, coaching aids, team records, and any other materials considered to be the property of the team, must be returned to the team official or at such time when a player, manager, or coach leaves her current League team. Failure to do so will result in suspension of that player or individual from all league activities until such property and/or equipment has been returned.

MONIES OWED TO A TEAM:

All monies reasonably owed by any League player to her current League team must be paid in full at the end of each season (i.e. by April of the current year), or at such time as any MSWHL player leaves her current MSWHL team, before she can register with another League team. Failure to do so will result in said player's suspension from all league activities until such financial issues have been resolved. Team equipment or dues issues must be brought to the Board's attention by May 31 or the team forfeits the right of the League to enforce this rule.

REFEREES:

GAMES:

All League games must be officiated by two (2) level 3 USA Hockey certified officials or officials approved by the Board. The HOME team is responsible for scheduling in advance of the game the referees. The HOME team has discretion to use the referees of their choice. The League does not control which referees a team chooses to use as long as they meet the minimum requirements stated above. If a team agrees to play a home game on another team's ice, the HOME team is still responsible to schedule the referees and is not required to use the VISITING team's referees. Officials are required to be the first and last persons on the ice at all games. It will be the responsibility of the HOME Team to remind the officials of this requirement. Only the playing captain or any alternate may talk or confer with the referees. It is up to each team to take an active role in the communication process with the referees they choose to use through a referee scheduler. Each team should discuss the League's purpose and rules, difference between men's and women's hockey and any other conflicts or questions that may arise. MAHA provides a Referee-in-Chief for every district. This person should be a team's first point of contact if a team is having problems with any referee(s).

ONE REFEREE:

When only one (1) referee appears for a game, through no fault of the HOME team, the game must be played. The HOME team is responsible for knowing in advance of the game what the fee is for a one (1) referee game. Once the game begins it will be completed under the agreed conditions. A team which refuses to complete a game under these circumstances will forfeit that game.

NO REFEREES:

If no referees' show up for a scheduled game, the HOME team must make reasonable attempts to reschedule. If the rescheduled game can only held at the VISITING team's home ice then the HOME team assumes the scheduling and costs for the ice, referees, and scorekeeper.

OBJECTIONS TO REFEREE(S):

If there are serious objections to an individual referee or referees used by a HOME team, the VISITING team must first communicate their objection to the HOME team and try to resolve the objection. If the HOME team refuses to cooperate with resolving the objection, the VISITING TEAM may complain in writing to the Board. The Board will review the complaint for merit and take action as necessary.

REFEREE/PLAYER:

A referee cannot participate as a referee in a division league game when rostered as a coach, player, or team manager in that division. A referee may not officiate a game in another division in which a relative, spouse or dating partner is a coach, manager, team official or player of one of the participating teams without advance consent. The referee has the burden to notify both teams of a relationship noted above in advance and obtain consent to play the game from both teams. Consent must be written onto the scoresheet prior to the start the game.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY BOARD:**USA Hockey/MAHA rules will preside, with the following additions and interpretations.**

The Board can impose immediate disciplinary action regarding the conduct of any team, player, coach, manager, team official or other participant of the League with or without a formal complaint. Probation, game suspensions, and league suspensions can be imposed. Discretionary action may be adjusted according to the nature and severity of the offense. Any player or team may be subject to dismissal from the League for non-payment of fees or for gross violations of the rules as determined by the Board.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE BY MEMBER:

Any player, team, or team official may file a complaint regarding any player, team, team official or incident arising from participation in League events. Complaints are to be reported to the Board by email within one (1) week of the offense. A complaint must be made by the individual or team official filing the complaint and not by a third party for that person. The person submitting a complaint must complete the Complaint form found on the League website and email it by group email to the entire Board. The complaint form must be filled out completely. Specific information (i.e. player names or jersey numbers, referee names, actual acts on/off the ice), regarding each incident should be included on the complaint form. All complaints will be reviewed by the Board within 10 days after receipt, at the next League meeting, or a special meeting may be called by the Board. Any person under investigation may be suspended from the league during the investigation period if the Board deems it in the best interest of the league. The Board may request certain people appear for a hearing prior to making a decision. Failure of a person to appear for a hearing without Board approval will preclude that person

from presenting information outside of the hearing. The Board will gather information and conduct an investigation by contacting the involved people.

Written notification of the Board's decision will be sent to all concerned people. Other discretionary action may be imposed according to the nature and severity of the offense. A decision regarding a complaint made by the Board may be appealed once for good cause. If a person is asked to appear at a meeting and fails to attend the meeting, no appeal is permitted for that person.

GAME PROTEST:

A protest requesting a game be considered illegal may be lodged prior to a game, during a game, or within fifteen (15) minutes after the completion of a game. Notice of protest must be reported to the President and Division Director within 24 hours of the game.

A protested game must be noted immediately by at least one (1) opposing team official, one (1) scorekeeper, and (1) referee. If a protest arises, the original scoresheet must show the following:

1. The words "Game Protested" on back of original scoresheet;
2. Proper signatures by the coaches and referees involved.

Within forty-eight (48) hours after the completion of a protested game, the protesting team must mail the official scoresheet and a formal written account of the protest, along with a \$50 protest fee, to the President. The Board will rule on the protest within ten (10) days after receipt of the scoresheet and \$50 fee. The \$50 is refundable if the protest is upheld.

APPEALS PROCEDURE:

A person or team disciplined who desires to appeal a Board ruling can appeal the decision. The appealing person or team must notify the Board by group email to every Board Director of the intent to appeal within ten (10) days from receipt of the decision. If the appeal notice is not received by the Board within the ten (10) day period, the suspension, discipline or administrative action is final and must be served.

REASONS FOR APPEAL/NOTICE:

The Appealing Party must submit, at a minimum, a written statement of why the suspension, discipline or administrative action should be reversed or modified ("Statement of Appeal"). This Statement of Appeal must be delivered to the Board within thirty (30) days of the date of the decision appealed from. The Statement of Appeal can only include newly discovered information that was not been presented during the initial ruling process. If the new evidence could have been reasonably obtained prior to the hearing, it will not be considered new evidence and the Appeal will be dismissed.

SUSPENSION OR DISCIPLINE REMAINS IN FORCE AND EFFECT:

Any suspension, discipline or administrative action will be in force and effect until it expires or the Board modifies it.

CONDUCT OF APPEAL HEARING:

The Board may hold a hearing or consider the appeal on the written submissions of the parties to the appeal and establish other hearing rules so long as each party is treated as equal as possible. Notice of a hearing, if any, will be given to all parties.

APPEAL DECISION TIMING:

The Board will decide the appeal within twenty-one (21) days from the receipt date of the Statement of Appeal. The Board's decision will be in writing and state findings of facts and conclusions for its decision and emailed to the appealing party. The Board may affirm, reverse or modify (including increase or decrease the term of suspension) any decision as it deems proper under the circumstances before it.

BAR OF FURTHER APPEALS:

Except for suspensions of Affiliate Associations (MAHA) and expulsions of any person or organization from USA Hockey, no further appeals are allowed and all administrative remedies will be deemed exhausted.

PENALTIES:

ON-ICE INFRACTIONS: Generally speaking, on-ice infractions, such as minor penalties, accumulation of penalties, game misconduct, and any other issues not covered directly by the League rules will be governed by MAHA and USA Hockey rules.

Minor penalty: Two minutes (2:00).

Major penalty: Five minutes (5:00). Second major penalty in same game carries a suspension for the balance of game, plus the next scheduled league game, plus one extra game per the League "Double" rule.

Misconduct: Ten minutes (10:00).

Game Misconduct: Suspension for balance of game, plus the next scheduled league game, plus one extra game per the League "Double" rule. Any player, coach, manager or team official who receives three (3) game misconducts in one season is immediately suspended from further participation in the league and must come before the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting for a discipline hearing for possible further action.

Fighting: Any player receiving a major penalty for fighting automatically receives a game misconduct penalty and is suspended for her next two (2) League games per the MSWHL "Double" rule. Any player who receives three (3) fighting majors in one season is immediately suspended from further play and must come before the Board for a discipline hearing for possible further action.

"Third Man In": A game misconduct penalty must be imposed on any player or goalkeeper who is the first to intervene in an altercation already in progress. The League "Double" rule will apply.

OFF-ICE INFRACTIONS: Off-ice infractions refer to conduct exhibited by players, managers, coaches, team officials and teams. Players, coaches, managers, team officials and teams may be cited at league and non-league functions. "Good Sportsmanship" is expected from anyone representing the League and members will conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. The Board will use its discretion in the case of multiple infractions. Any disciplinary circumstances not elsewhere covered in these Rules and Regulations will be assigned to the Board for a hearing to be conducted by the President.

REPORTING PERIOD FOR SUSPENSIONS:

All penalties incurred in League games which carry any suspension for future games must be reported by the team incurring such penalty to the President and Division Director within 24 hours of that game. If a team incurring such penalty is schedule to play another game within said 24 hour period, the penalty

must be reported prior to that team's next scheduled game. Any team not complying with this rule will incur an additional one game suspension added to the player's original suspension and suspension of that Team's coach or Team Official for that team's next League game.

LEAGUE DOUBLE OF ALL SUSPENSION PENALTIES:

All penalties incurred in a League game which carry any suspension for future games will be "Doubled" by the League. If a player receives a one game suspension during a league game, the MSWHL will assess an additional league game suspension to that player, for a total suspension of two league games unless noted that this rule does not apply.

CUMULATIVE PENALTIES:

PLAYER: Any player receiving a cumulative total of three (3) penalties within one (1) game will be immediately ejected for the remainder of that game. The League "Double" rule does not apply.

TEAM: A team accumulating twelve (12) or more penalties during the same game must notify the Board within 48 hours of the game. The team officials are required to attend the next regular scheduled Board meeting for review and the Board reserves the right to suspend the team from playing further League games pending review by the Board for further disciplinary action. The Board reserves the right to designate which team players or officials will serve any further suspensions. The League "Double" rule does not apply.

MATCH PENALTIES:

All "Match" penalties must be reported by the offending team's official to the entire Board within 24 hours. A referee must report the penalty within 24 hours by phone following the incident to the District Supervisor of officials where the affected player or team official is registered. A referee must complete the "Official Game Report" form and send this report and a copy of the original game scoresheet within 48 hours of the incident as follows: **1**-Copy to the Supervisor of District Officials of the affected District; **2**-Copy to the reporting referee.

The team official must report the penalty within 24 hours of the incident to the District Council Chairperson where the player or team official is registered. The team official will also notify the MAHA Girls/Women's Director of all matters of suspension which involve female players or the team officials of female teams. The Girls/Women's Director shall be given the opportunity by the District Council to attend the hearing. If the District Council Chairperson is unavailable, it must be reported to another District Council Director in the proper District; See listings in MAHA Annual Guide or at www.MAHA.org.

A mandatory hearing by the proper authorities will be held and a decision made relative to any further disciplinary action with thirty (30) days of the incident. If extenuating circumstances prevent the proper authorities from conducting the mandatory hearing the player or team official will be automatically reinstated.

The reporting referee will personally attend or be represented at any hearing held concerning the penalty. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action. A player or team official receiving a match penalty is automatically suspended from all amateur hockey activities until a hearing is held by the

proper authorities. The Board may further penalize a player cited for a “match penalty” up to and including suspension for the remainder of the season.

SUSPENSIONS:

Any player receiving a suspension for which there are not enough regular season league games left will miss the necessary Ruicci Cup games or following season League games to complete their suspension. Any suspended player must leave the ice surface or bench immediately and go directly to the locker room.

A suspended player is not permitted on her team’s bench and is not permitted to be a minor official (i.e. penalty box worker, or scorekeeper) for any league game. The suspended player’s name must be listed on the next game(s) scoresheet with “game # of # game suspension” written beside it. The suspended player does not have to attend the game to get credit for serving a game suspension.

Any suspended team official is not permitted on her team’s bench, in the locker room, and is not permitted to be a minor official for any league games. If a player or coach is removed from a USA Team Roster for disciplinary reasons, the President and Division Director must be notified within 24 hours of removal.

INELIGIBLE/ILLEGAL PLAYERS:

A team official who allows the participation of an ineligible player or coach in any game will be subject to a suspension recommendation of not less than one (1) year per MAHA. A player, coach, manager and/or team official who knowingly participated in game as an ineligible player or coach, manager and/or team official, will be suspended for not fewer than thirty (30) days per MAHA.

REVIEW:

The Board will periodically review the number and type of penalties accumulated by a player or team and may, in the interest of sportsmanship and safety, take whatever action it deems necessary to eliminate such problems in the future.

RUICCI CUP RULES AND REGULATIONS:

Ruicci Cup will be held on a date determined by the Board each year by November and announced to the League. USA Hockey and MAHA rules govern Ruicci Cup, except where noted below. Volunteer team(s) or Board designees will manage the registration table throughout the tournament. If there are not enough volunteers, the Board reserves the right to assign duties to participating teams.

PLAYER AND COACH REQUIREMENTS:

Players must meet all of the regular season requirements as previously outlined in this handbook. A registered player and coach must be rostered with her team no later than December 31st of the current year to be eligible to participate in the Ruicci Cup. Any team with a player or coach not found on the team’s official USA roster will be disqualified from the Ruicci Cup. Special requests for a player or coach waiver of the December 31st cutoff date must be made in writing to the Board. Requests must only be made for good cause. Only players and coaches on a team’s official roster are allowed in the team’s bench area during a game.

TEAM REGISTRATION:

A team must register at the host arena thirty minutes prior to their first scheduled game and must be prepared to present their official roster for all players.

Players and coaches must sign in prior to each game and will be asked to show picture ID before their first game.

Prior to all playoff (quarterfinal and semifinal), and final games, coaches must identify three (3) shoot-out players by placing a star in front of the players name on the official scoresheet and the # 1, 2, and 3 to identify the order in which the players will shoot. The Home team has the right to make their selections after the Visiting team. Each team is responsible for turning in locker room keys and for cleaning up the locker rooms after each game.

GAMES:

HOME teams will wear light color jerseys. If a team only has one jersey color, the team official must notify the Ruicci Cup Coordinator(s) or a Board Director to decide jersey color for that game. Games must start on time. All players are asked to be in their locker rooms thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled game and dressed and ready to play fifteen (15) minutes before scheduled game time. If a team is not ready to play at the start of their game, they will forfeit the game. All preliminary games will consist of three (3) ten-minute stop time periods. There will be no overtime or shoot-outs in preliminary games.

The number of games played by any player or team on one day will not be more than two (2) with a minimum of four (4) hours between the finish of the first game and the start of the second and twelve hours between games played on consecutive days. The Board reserve the right to modify this rule in order to accommodate the scheduling of all games with respect to time constraints and ice availability for the Ruicci Cup.

FORMAT-SEEDING OF TEAMS:

Teams are seeded based on the total number of points earned during the regular season as compiled by the Division Statistician using the official scoresheets received by **March 1st** as follows: Two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss. In the event of a tie in the standings, the following procedure will be applied:

1. Head to head points earned;
2. Goals for minus goals against;
3. Most goals for;
4. Fewest goals against;
5. Fewest penalty minutes.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS: GAME (DIVISIONS) FORMAT:

Divisions with 4, 6, or 8 Teams: Teams are seeded based on league standings. Teams will play a round robin format of 3 games. In the 4 and 6 team divisions, the two teams with most points earned overall after three-game round robin will advance to the final game. In the 8 team division, the 2 teams (1 team from each group of 4) with the most points will advance to the final game.

Divisions with 5 Teams: Teams are seeded based on league standings (1st – 5th). Teams play two-game preliminary round. Then teams are ranked 1st – 5th based on points (use tie-breaker rules if

necessary). Quarterfinal: Fourth seed plays fifth seed. Semifinal: Second seed plays third seed. Semifinals: First seed plays winner of fourth vs. fifth seed. Winners of semifinal games advance to final game.

Divisions with 7 Teams: Teams are seeded based on the league standings (1st- 7th). Teams play a two-game preliminary round. Then the teams are ranked 1st – 7th based on points (use tie-breaker rules if necessary). Quarterfinals: 6th plays 7th, 2nd plays 5th, and 3rd plays 4th. Semifinals: 1st plays winner of 6th vs. 7th, winner of 2nd vs. 5th plays winner of 3rd vs. 4th. Winners of semifinal games advance to final game.

RESEEDING OF TEAMS:

After the preliminary and round robin games within each division, teams will be seeded based on total number of points earned: Two (2) points for a win, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss. In the event of a tie in the standings at the end of the preliminary rounds, the following procedure will be applied:

Head to head points earned (use only if two teams involved in tie breaker);

Use games played between the teams tied until one rule breaks the tie between **all** teams involved in the tie breaker (i.e. team a and b are tied, use stats from game between team a and b, OR team a, b, and c are tied, use stats from games between team a, b and c):

- Goals for minus goals against
- Most goals for
- Fewest goals against

Use all the games played by the teams tied until one rule breaks the tie between **all** teams involved in tie breaker:

- Goals for minus goals against
- Most goals for
- Fewest goals against
- Fewest penalty minutes
- Earliest goal scored from any round robin game

QUARTERFINAL AND SEMIFINAL GAME(S) TIEBREAKERS: At the end of regulation time, if there are ice-time limitations, there will be **no** overtime, and there will be a three (3) player shoot-out. See rules for shoot-out listed in next paragraph for Final game tiebreaker. If there is extra ice-time allowed for these games, then tiebreakers will follow the same procedure as in Final game tiebreaker (below).

FINAL GAME TIEBREAKER:

At the end of regulation time, there will be a (5) five-minute sudden-victory period. If the game remains tied at the end of the five (5) minutes, there will be a (3) three-player shoot-out. Players' must be selected before the game and go in the order indicated on the score sheet. The Home team has the right to make their selections after the Visiting team. If the game is still tied, a sudden-victory shoot-out will occur which is when each team gets an additional shooter until the tie is broken. The same players cannot shoot twice until all players on the roster have shot once. If a player has a penalty at the end of the overtime period, she will not be permitted to participate in the shoot-out. If that player is part of the

selected three players, then the coach will need to select another player, placing that player in the 3rd position of the three-player shoot out.

MISCELLANEOUS RULES:

Teams will be allowed one (1) one-minute time-out in the Championship game only. No time-outs are available in preliminary rounds. All divisions are non-checking. Penalties will be strictly enforced according to regular season rules. For example, any suspension penalties will be subject to the League's Double rule.

Any player or team official receiving a match penalty or a fighting major will be immediately suspended for the remainder of the Ruicci Cup. Complaints: On-ice judgment calls will not be subject to protest. The only basis for a complaint will be a question concerning player eligibility or unsportsmanlike conduct. All complaints must be made within fifteen (15) minutes following the conclusion of the game.

The Board has the authority to waive any of the rules or provisions of the Ruicci Cup in the event of an emergency situation that may warrant such action. The Board reserves the right to make all decisions regarding rules, protests and/or player eligibility. All complaints must go through the Ruicci Cup Coordinator(s) or a Board Director, not the rink personnel or the team representatives working the registration tables.

INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION OF MSWHL TEAMS:

REGISTRATION: TEAMS AND PLAYERS:

A player may be registered with only one MAHA/USA HOCKEY team at a time during the regular (winter) season and two MAHA/USA Hockey teams during the postseason except as noted below.

1. Adult Division (Men's/Women's) Classifications: are allowed to play for more than one team in different leagues.
 - a. All Adult Men's MAHA rules are applicable to Women's registered teams. Women's players are allowed to play for more than one team in different leagues including playing in Adult Men's leagues.
 - b. No player can be registered with more than one Men's Adult US team at any one time, regardless of league classification.
 - c. A player cannot be registered with more than one (1) team that participates in games leading towards Ruicci Cup, or a State or National Championship
2. Men or Women are allowed to be rostered on more than one team within the same league if they are participating with the additional team(s) for the purposes of **tournament play only**. Players must designate to the league which team they will participate with for regular season play.

EXPLANATION:

- In past seasons (per the above MAHA rule), men and women have been allowed to play on more than one senior team, as long as those teams do not play in the same league.
- The purpose of this rule change (addition of item 2 above) is to allow players in a specific league to roster on additional team(s) in the same league for the purpose of playing in an invitational tournament only. Players are still **NOT ALLOWED** to play on two teams in the same league for league games. Players must indicate to the league, which team they are participating on for regular season play. This eliminates the need for releasing and re-

rostering a player from one team to play on another team for the purpose of playing in a tournament.

- An individual or team may create an entirely new team (USA hockey roster) to enter a tournament. Senior teams are limited to 25 players on the USA hockey roster.

EXAMPLES:

1. If a MSWHL team wants to attend a tournament and they would like to pick up any additional players from another MSWHL team, the team must add the additional players to their Tournament USA hockey roster as supplemental players. The team must turn in both its original and supplemental USA hockey rosters to the tournament.
2. If a certain individual wishes to put together a “tournament team” made up of 3-4 players that are on 5 different MSWHL teams –should create a new team (USA hockey roster). The players would all have their IMR’s or USA Hockey Waiver Form from their original teams, so a tournament team would not need to pay the individual IMR fee twice.

TRAVEL TO CANADA –EXHIBITION PLAY:

Any U.S. based team that want to play exhibition games in Canada must contact the MAHA district registrar for approval. The MAHA District Registrar will then send the team a travel permit for the exhibition game(s).

TRAVEL TO CANADA – TOURNAMENTS:

USA Hockey teams traveling to Canada to participate in Tournaments against Canadian Hockey Association (CHA/OCHA) teams must obtain a **Canadian/USA Hockey Travel Permit for each** Canadian Tournament a team participates in during the season. This permit is available on-line at www.MAHA.org. The fee for this permit is \$10.00 Dollars and can be paid by credit card on-line. A team will then be emailed the Travel Permit to take with them to the Canadian Tournament.