

# ADULT RULES AND REGULATIONS

Revised June 2006

- A. Team and Player Registration. All teams must be properly registered with USA Hockey and MH (Team Membership Applications and Rosters) on or before February 15<sup>th</sup> of the current season to be eligible to participate in MH State Age-Based or Skill-Based Tournaments in the various classifications as set out herein. A team may roster up to twenty-five (25) players, including two (2) goalies.
- B. Age Classifications. All Adult teams shall be classified as Adult Elite, Adult U.S. and Adult Non-Checking. The teams participating in the non-checking classification may be further classified as Adult Non-Checking, Adult Non-Checking 30 and Over and Adult Non-Checking 35 and Over, etc. Refer to the USA Hockey Annual Guide, Rules and Regulations, Section III Classifications, (A) Adults.
- C. National Tournament Classifications. For those teams wishing to participate in USA Hockey National Adult Tournaments please refer to the USA Hockey Adult Council's Adult Regulations for National Championships.
- D. Skill Classifications. For the Adult Hockey Association (AHA) and other Novice Adult Non-Check Leagues, teams shall be classified based on skill. This is necessary in order to create parity within levels of play and to help create a standard of competitiveness across non-check adult hockey associations. Skill based levels of play shall include:
- D2. Beginner players having recently been introduced to the sport of ice hockey, typically 1-3 years of experience. Individual and team skills in early development.
  - D1. Advanced Beginners with approximately 1-5 years of ice hockey experience. Individual and team skills progressing.
  - C2. Intermediate with approximately 3-7 years of ice hockey experience. Basic understanding of all aspects of the game.
  - C1. Bronze. Advanced intermediate with approximately 5-10 years of experience. Teams may consist of some players with high school level of experience as a youth but are more comfortable in a more relaxed level of competition.
  - B. Silver. Teams consist of players with advanced skills and experience. This may consist of some players with college level experience.
  - A. Gold. Open to players of any experience level.
- The AHA and other Novice Adult non-check leagues shall organize playoffs and championships at their direction. Minnesota Hockey supports the creation of a state wide Novice Non-Check Championship tournament separate but not exclusive to Age based tournaments.
- E. State Tournaments. All registered Adult teams are eligible to participate in MH State Tournaments either Age based or Skill based. Depending on the number of teams and/or leagues involved each season in Adult classifications, all teams desiring to participate in a state tournament may face the possibility of having a playoff with another team in order to gain a berth in the state tournament.
- 1. Adult tournaments are under the direct supervision of the MH Adult Committee. MH directors in the area of the tournaments may assist whenever possible. The USA Hockey playing rules shall guide all State Tournaments.
  - 2. The Adult Committee, in its discretion, may appoint a local tournament director with such powers and duties as are established by the committee. The Adult Committee has the authority to adjust matters pertaining to state tournament play at any time in the best interest of hockey. The Adult Committee shall be responsible for adopting detailed tournament rules consistent with the provisions of these regulations.
- F. Authority, Appeals, Suspensions and Court Actions
- 1. Authority: The affiliate, local governing body or league has the authority to make decisions in the management of their local program in the event of a dispute. The vested authority shall promptly and equitably attempt to resolve the grievance, allowing affected parties to have input which may require conducting a hearing.
  - 2. Grievable Decision: If a decision is viewed to be a violation of existing rules, that decision may be appealed. In all appeals, the appealing party is required to establish the merits of the appeal.
  - 3. Appeals: Any person, team or league may appeal a grievable decision, in writing, to the Adult Grievance Committee, the members of which shall be designated by the Adult Director, for a period of ten (10) calendar days, after a decision was rendered or a hearing being refused within its own league. Such appeal must state that it is an appeal, state the rule that is claimed to be violated, and why the grieved action is a violation. The Adult Grievance Committee shall make a written determination within twelve (12) calendar days of receipt of a valid appeal. The written decision of the Adult Grievance Committee may be appealed, in writing, for a period of ten (10) calendar days to the MN Hockey Grievance Committee which must make a written determination within twelve (12) calendar days of receipt of a written appeal. The decision of the MN Hockey Grievance Committee shall be final except as noted in MN Hockey Hand Book under Article 6, paragraph G.
    - a. The Adult Grievance Committee shall have the same options as the MN Hockey Grievance Committee in making its determination. See MN Hockey Hand Book, Article 6, Paragraph C, 1.

4. Hearing Representation: The person, team or league making an appeal shall be permitted to be represented at a hearing conducted by the league, Adult Grievance Committee or MN Hockey Grievance Committee. Such representation may consist of the appealing individual plus one representative, or two representatives, for the individual, team or league. Said representative(s) may, without a personal appearance, present their position through written statements and letters not to exceed 5 letter sized pages of single spaced text.
5. Suspension: Players, Teams or League officials and Others. The power to suspend any person shall be with the local governing body in accordance with their rules and regulations. Whoever is vested with the authority at the local level may conduct a hearing in situations where the facts of the case are in dispute. All parties involved in the incident and witnesses shall be given the opportunity to give their version of the facts. Automatic suspensions involving violations of US Hockey or MN Hockey playing rules do not require a hearing.
6. Court Actions: Any recourse to the courts of any jurisdiction by any member or individual before all the rights and remedies available under the Articles and By-Laws of MN Hockey have been exhausted, shall be deemed conduct detrimental to the best interests of hockey and a violation of the Articles and By-Laws of MN Hockey and USA Hockey and therefore grounds for suspension and or expulsion.

**End of Adult Rules**

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### **WHAM MISSION STATEMENT**

The Women's Hockey Association of Minnesota ("WHAM") is a non-profit, recreational hockey association open to all women players ages eighteen (18) years and older.

WHAM recognizes and encourages participation among members with a broad range of commitment and ability, from the true beginner to the elite, Olympic-caliber athlete.

WHAM strives to provide organized, recreational ice hockey competition at all levels that is challenging, instructional, fun and affordable.

WHAM's hockey experience offers opportunities for women to socialize and improve fitness, while promoting the values of teamwork, good sportsmanship and mutual respect.

### **WHAM HANDBOOK AND INFORMATION**

WHAM creates an annual League Handbook, which includes WHAM's operating rules, procedures, and bylaws, that is distributed to each member of WHAM at the fall meeting of its members. Non-members interested in accessing WHAM's League Handbook, and persons interested in learning more about WHAM, should visit our website:

**[www.whamhockey.org](http://www.whamhockey.org)**