



**CHL
OPERATING RULES**

**CAROLINAS HOCKEY LEAGUE
MEMBER:
SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT
U S A HOCKEY**

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RULES AND REGULATIONS

SECTION I: Registration

This is covered in great detail within the USA Hockey Annual Guide. Anyone needing more information can contact our Associate registrar, Jessica Westphal at Icemom@aol.com

Rule 101: Player and or Coach Transfers

- a. Prior to August 1st of each season, it will be the responsibility of each CHL Association Registrar to supply a listing of players or coaches “Not In Good Standing” with their home associations to the **CHL Commissioner (s)**. Any players appearing on this list MUST have a “Letter Of Good Standing” (Release) prior to any CHL Association registering that player or coach for the next season’s rosters.
- b. **After August 1st** player or coach transfers from one CHL Team to another must be accompanied by a “Letter Of Good Standing”.

Rule 102: Rosters

- a. No player may be dual rostered on two **District Bound Travel, REC Travel A, or REC House Select** CHL team rosters
- b. **Certified Team Rosters MUST be available at each game for examination by the opposing team (if so requested). Playing an ineligible player will result in the game being awarded to the opposing team and a \$50.00 Fine per occurrence will be assessed. (If the opposing team actually lost the game a 1-0 Win will be recorded)**
- c. **Although required by USA Hockey- (each coach on the bench MUST have the appropriate USA Hockey Coaching Certification Level), there is NO provision in the CHL for a game protest. If requested a coach MUST present their USA Hockey Coaching Card. In the event that the card cannot be produced or is NOT the appropriate level, the official game scorekeeper will make a note to that effect on the score sheet. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH HOME ASSOCIATION TO POLICE PROPER CERTIFICATION LEVELS FOR THEIR COACHING STAFF.**

SECTION II: Procedural Rules

Rule 201: Scheduled Games

- a. It is the responsibility of the home team to insure that **one hour and twenty minutes** on-ice time is allowed for ALL CHL League Games including warm-ups but **excluding** Zamboni time. The board of governors must approve any variation to this.
- b. Associations must schedule a minimum of a 1 hour and ten Minutes break between games in all divisions.
- c. A Zamboni cut is required before every CHL league game unless force majeure.
- d. If a scheduled game cannot be played due to circumstances clearly beyond the control of the home team, such as unplayable ice, non-availability of facilities or similar circumstances, the game will be rescheduled as mutually agreed by the opposing teams. The League Scheduling Director will be informed and the Master Schedule changed accordingly.
- e. If a visiting team is prevented from traveling to a scheduled game due to adverse weather or act of god, the game will be rescheduled as mutually agreed by the opposing teams. The League Scheduling Director will be informed and the Master Schedule changed accordingly.
- f. If a postponed game cannot be rescheduled due to lack of playing dates, ice time, or other irresolvable conflict, the game will be declared a tie, the score will be recorded, as 0-0, and each team will receive one point in the League standings. Disputes arising from this procedure will be referred to the Commissioner or Vice President, as applicable, for resolution.

(Note: In rescheduling games, member associations are bound by the scheduling principle that the primary scheduling obligation is to the League. Competition with non-League opponents is encouraged, but any scheduling conflicts must be resolved in favor of the CHL obligation. Disputes arising from this procedure will be referred to the Commissioner or Vice President, as applicable, for resolution.)

- g. Should either team fail to appear for a scheduled game, except as provided for in Rule 201d and 201e, USA Hockey Rule 632b applies and the game will be declared a WIN to the team that is prepared to play. In addition, the team that failed to appear is obligated to reimburse the opposing team for the game costs including ice time and officials. **The score of the game will be recorded as 1-0.**
- h. It is the responsibility of the home team (in cases involving playing dates, facilities and ice conditions) and the visiting team (in cases involving weather or traveling conditions) to notify the scheduled opponent reasonably in advance of circumstances that would delay the start of the game or force a postponement.
- i. Any changes to the final CHL schedule must be done at least 14 days prior to the current scheduled game date and be agreed to by both parties in writing on an official CHL Game Schedule Change Form. This information must be forwarded to the League Scheduler so that the Master Schedule can be changed accordingly.
- j. If a scheduled game cannot be played due to a scheduling conflict out side of the CHL, the canceling team must pay for the cost of the ice and officials if notice of the cancellation is not made prior to 14 days of the scheduled game date and in the event that the home team cancelled, they must travel for the makeup games.

(Note: Goaltenders will not be eligible for award of the USA Hockey Zero Club patch from shutouts resulting from cancellations of forfeits.)

(Note: there will be a **\$100.00 per game fine** for any team canceling or forfeiting games)

- k. A two Referee System will be used for ALL Squirt, Peewee, & Bantam Games. **A three Official System will be used for ALL Midget Games. (District Bound & REC "A" Divisions)** All refs must be at least 1 age bracket older than the age of the teams they are officiating.
- l. **ALL Officials MUST be USA Hockey Certified.** There must be at least one **(two for District Bound & REC "A" Midget Divisions)** USA Hockey Official present in order for a League Game to be played. In the event that a game cannot be played due to a lack of officials, **and cannot be made up on the same game weekend (prior to 3:00 PM Sunday)**, the game must be rescheduled at the home team's expense and they must travel for the makeup game (s).
- m. The CHL Schedule posted on the league website will serve as the "official" League Schedule. Any discrepancies MUST be reported immediately in writing to the League Scheduler.

Rule 203: Time of Play and Clock Operation

- a. All CHL league games shall be comprised of three stop-time periods of 15 minutes each, subject to curfew based on the total time the ice facility has been reserved for the game. Prior to the start of the third period the home team looks at the curfew clock. The third period will be half of the remaining curfew time up to 15 minutes. There is no running clock.
- b. The official scorer prior to the start of the game shall make the curfew time known to both coaches and the referee and note it on the USA Hockey Score Sheet.
- c. For stop-time, the clock shall be stopped for all referee/linesman whistles.
- d. A game must have at least 22 minutes and thirty seconds of game time to be considered a completed league game. In the event that a game has to be rescheduled due to lack of time, a full game will be replayed at an agreed to time and location. (see rescheduling policy)
- e. Each team is allowed one, 1-minute time-out per game under normal stop-time play. There are no time-outs allowed in the third period once the curfew time has reached 2 Minutes or less. This is an exception to rule 637e in the USA Hockey Rule Book.

Rule 204: Penalty Times

In a standard 15-minute stop-time game, penalty times shall be 2 minutes for a minor, 5 minutes for a major, and 10 minutes for misconduct penalty.

Rule 205: Tied Games

If a League game is tied at the end of regulation play, the game will be declared a tie and each team will be awarded one point in the standings.

Rule 206: Standings and Statistics

- a. Results of League games will be recorded on an official USA Hockey Score Sheet. It is the responsibility of each member association to procure these sheets from USA Hockey.
- b. The League statistician will receive all game reports and will maintain official team standings within each age group. The *home team* is responsible for posting game scores to the CHL web-site by midnight on Tuesday following a game weekend. Associations that fail to submit their game reports by the Tuesday midnight deadline will be fined **\$10.00** for each occurrence.
- c. Team standings will be based on the total points method, with two points awarded for a win, one point for a tie. A trophy and/or banner will be awarded to the first place team in each classification at the end of the regular season.
- d. If two or more teams are tied in the standings at the end of the regular season, final position will be determined based on the following criteria:
 1. **Most "league" wins between tied teams.**
 2. Points awarded in regular season games between tied teams.
 3. Fewest goals against in games between the tied teams.
 4. Fewer goals scored against in all League competition.
 5. First goal scored between the two tied teams
- e. All Associations must use USA Hockey score sheets for League games

Rule 207: Unequal Playing Conditions

- a. Facility: In the event of unequal playing conditions, such as poor lighting at one end of the rink, sunlight, lack of goal crease at one end, poorly defined blue line at one end, etc. the referee may direct that the teams switch ends during a stoppage in play close to the midpoint of the third period.

Rule 208: Protests

- a. Member associations have the right to protest a game when, in their opinion, conditions existed or events transpired during the conduct of the game that constituted a gross violation of the rules and directly affected the outcome of the game. Recognizing the basic purpose of the League to promote sportsmanship and fair play, protest procedures are established expressly for the purpose of redressing obvious instances of wrongdoing, such as of an ineligible player. Trivial or "nuisance" protests will normally not be considered.
 - b. Only the member association may file a protest. However, the coach of the protesting team must indicate to the official scorer through the referee his intention to file a protest prior to the end of the game in which the incident or condition occurs. (PROTEST PENDING shall be noted on the game sheet) The lone exception is use of an ineligible player that was not detected until after completion of the game. The official scorer will annotate the game report with the words "Protest Pending" under the scoring summary portion of the game report.
 - c. The formal protest will be submitted in letter format by registered mail (returned receipt) directly to the Commissioner and the Vice President and must be signed by the association President of the association with primary responsibility for hockey operations. The protest letter will detail the facts and circumstances surrounding the protest and state the desired remedy. Protest letters must be postmarked within ten (10) days of the completion of the protested game and be submitted with a check for \$100.00.
 - d. The Commissioner (or Vice President) will investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the protest consult with coaches, League officials and minor officials as necessary, and adjudicate the protest as soon as possible, but not later than ten (10) calendar days from the time the protest letter is received.
 - e. Protest adjudicated by the Commissioner (or Vice President) are may be subject to appeal to the Board of Governors.
 - f. If an appointed commissioner is a member of an association that is party to the protest, he shall automatically pass the protest to the Vice President for adjudication; if the Vice President is also a member of an association that is party to the protest, he shall pass the protest to an at-large member of the Board of Governors, whose decision shall be final.
- (Note: The term "at-large" refers to a member of the board of Governors who is not an officer of the Board and who is not a member of an association that is party to the protest.)
- g. Judgmental decisions of a referee or linesman are final and are not subject to protest.
 - h. If a protest is denied, the protesting association shall loose their filing fee of \$100.00. If the protest is upheld, the filing fee will be returned to the protesting association.

Rule 209: Complaints

Member associations have the right to file formal written complaints to redress perceived conditions or events that are not appropriate for protest. Complaint procedures are identical to the protest procedures in Rule 208 except that results will not affect the outcome of a game and no fee will be assessed.

SECTION III: Playing Rules

Rule 301: Authority

Playing rules for all League games in all classifications shall be those of USA Hockey.

SECTION IV: Disciplinary Rules

Rule 401: General

It is the implied duty and responsibility of all members of the League to conduct themselves and their affairs in a manner that reflects credit on themselves, their teams, their respective associations, the League, and the game of hockey. For violation of the spirit of intent of this rule, the Board of Governors may impose censure, suspension or expulsion as considered appropriate.

As a League the CHL will strictly enforce the conduct guidelines set forth in USA Hockey's "Zero Tolerance" policies and "Codes of Conduct".

Rule 402: Responsibility

Primary responsibility for enforcing and maintaining appropriate standard of player discipline rests with the parent associations of the affected player(s), including notifying its teams, players, coaches, referees of CHL Rules. Member associations have full power and authority to impose such additional punishments over and above those specified in USA Hockey and CHL rules as may be considered necessary, but not reduce such penalties.

Rule 403: Infractions of the Playing Rules

Infractions of the playing a rule for which a minor, major, or misconduct penalty is assessed shall be penalized as specified in current USA Hockey rules and CHL Rule 204.

Rule 404: Fighting

The associations within the CHL have agreed to apply our League Fighting Suspensions to **ALL CHL TEAMS** including League, Tournament, or Exhibition Play. (Prior to and after the CHL Season has ended!)

Suspension Policy-

First offense: Two game suspension (next game & at least the next 1 CHL League Game)

Second offense: Four game suspension (next game & at least the next 3 CHL League Games)

Third offense: Six Game suspension (next game & at least the next 5 CHL League Games)

Players must serve the suspensions with their rostered teams and not through adult hockey, high school hockey, scrimmages, etc. Suspensions shall be served in the next game (s) that were already on the schedule before the incident occurred.

All CHL travel team game suspensions, including coach's suspensions, are to be posted onto the official CHL Website on or before the Wednesday following the infraction and suspensions will be tracked for compliance by the CHL Vice President. Playing a suspended player will result in **the game being awarded to the opposing team and a \$50.00 Fine per occurrence will be assessed (If the opposing team actually lost the game a 1-0 win will be recorded)**. Suspensions must be turned into the league by the penalized team no later than Wednesday following a game weekend or the association will be fined **\$10.00.**

Rule 405: Match Penalties

Players, coaches, and teams and association officials who incur a Match Penalty shall, in addition to those punishments imposed by the playing rules and the member association, be subject to an automatic review by the Board of Governors which shall have full power to impose further suspensions or expulsion from League play. The Commissioner (if appointed) or Vice President shall investigate the facts and circumstances and present appropriate recommendations.

(Note: USA Hockey Rule 405 (Match Penalty) require suspension of the affected individual for 30 days, during which time a hearing must be held to either reinstate the individual or impose appropriate penalties. If a hearing is not held or if no action is taken, the individual is automatically reinstated at the end of 30 days. Responsibility for conducting the required hearing is that of the member association with which the player is registered, unless the Match Penalty is a result of a 601 (g1) or 601 (j1) (physical assault on an official), then jurisdiction for shall reside with the Affiliate)

Rule 406: Carryovers

CHL Fighting Suspensions imposed, which cannot be completed during the regular season, carry over to the CHL Annual Tournament. CHL Fighting Suspensions imposed during the CHL Annual Tournament carry over to the next regular season CHL League Game (s).

Rule 407: Enforcement of Suspensions

- a. Primary responsibility for enforcing mandatory suspensions imposed under USA Hockey or CHL rules rests with the member association of the affected players, coaches, managers or organization officials. However, should a player or coach receive their third game misconduct (USA Hockey Rule 404d) “player- five penalties in a game”/ “coach- fifteen penalties in a game”, the League Commissioner shall evaluate the need for supplemental disciplinary action, including probation.
- b. Notwithstanding action taken by the member associations, the League Statistician shall provide to the Supervisor of Officials copies of all game reports in which a Game Misconduct or Match Penalty was assessed and shall provide the names of any player(s), coach (es), or others suspended as a result of such penalties to the scheduled opponents of the individual's team during the period when such suspensions shall be in effect.
- c. Deliberate use of a suspended player in a League game will result in a mandatory forfeiture of the game in which the suspended player (or Coach) participated.

Rule 408: Enforcement of Fines

- a. Each member Association will be billed Jan. 1st & Mar. 1st by the CHL Commissioner (s) for payment of any applicable fines or penalties. Payment will be due to the CHL Treasurer within 15 days. Any Associations with outstanding balances as of April 1st will be placed on probation, forfeiting voting and league scheduling privileges for the following season.