



# **LEAGUE HANDBOOK**

Rules/Policies/Procedures

Last Revision April 2010



## League Handbook

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### Document Information and Revision History

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## League Handbook

Article I Policies  
Article II Eligibility  
Article III Rules of Play

Article IV Discipline  
Article V Team Management  
Article VI Sponsors

## Article I. Policies

### ***Section 1.01 Purpose***

GNASH shall support the growth and quality of high school ice hockey in Middle Tennessee. In contrast to the team organization guidelines of USA Hockey's Midget classification of aged 17 and under, GNASH adopts the traditional definition of a high school sports team - a high school ice hockey team is associated with one school and consists of players in attendance of that school. To this end, GNASH shall operate the GNASH League ("League") as its sole program.

### ***Section 1.02 Objectives***

- (a) To promote the welfare of high school student athletes.
- (b) To encourage, foster and promote the growth and development of high school hockey in the greater middle Tennessee area.
- (c) To plan, review, supervise, conduct, control, and administer all high school ice hockey activities within the greater Middle Tennessee area.
- (d) To stimulate exchange of ideas between parents, players, educators, hockey organizations and the general public to provide the best hockey experience and opportunities for the high school student.
- (e) To encourage and develop the mental knowledge, skills, ability, and sportsmanship of all participants with respect to the sport of high school ice hockey.
- (f) To promote closer ties between the administrations of middle Tennessee high schools, other youth hockey leagues, GNASH and parents.
- (g) To encourage the development of additional ice rink facilities in the middle Tennessee region.

### ***Section 1.03 Guiding Policies***

- (a) GNASH shall sponsor and operate the League as its sole program.
- (b) GNASH shall be non-profit, non-commercial, non-sectarian, and non-partisan. Neither the name GNASH nor the names of its officers in their official capacities shall be used in any connection with a commercial concern or with any partisan interest or for any purpose other than the regular work of GNASH. The primary use of funds, dues, and proceeds derived by GNASH shall be for the benefit and improvement of high school hockey.

- (c) Hockey is not a sport that is recognized or regulated by the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA). However, GNASH will consider TSSAA's rules as set forth in the TSSAA Handbook (as it may be amended from time to time) as general guidance as to matters on which these rules are silent. This notwithstanding, the Board shall have the power to reject or ignore any provision of the TSSAA Handbook that it deems contrary to the policies and purposes of GNASH.
- (d) The GNASH Board of Directors shall govern the League.
- (e) GNASH shall cooperate with all area youth hockey associations to promote the growth and improve the quality of youth ice hockey, including but not limited to minimizing, where possible, schedule conflicts with travel and house league hockey programs.

### ***Section 1.04 Board of Directors***

- (a) The Members of GNASH shall elect the Board of Directors. The Board shall meet with an agenda as determined by the President. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President will assume his/her GNASH duties. As noted in Section 1.08, each Team shall be represented by a Director with voting privilege and an alternate who shall have voting privilege in the absence of the Team's Director. The term Representative may be used interchangeably with the Director in this document. Each Team shall have no more than one vote with the exception of the President who shall vote in case of a tie.
- (b) Officers shall be voting members of the Board except that: (i) an Officer without a school affiliation (other than the Commissioner) shall not be entitled to vote; (ii) as an ex-officio member, the Past President shall not have voting privileges; (iii) the President shall not vote except in the event of a tie vote on any matter before the Board; and (iv) no Team shall have more than one vote and shall determine which of the Officer or the Representative shall cast a vote on behalf of the Team, provided however, that the President shall cast a tie-breaking vote regardless of the one team – one vote rule. If a Team fails to be represented at three (3) consecutive Board meetings, the Secretary shall notify the Team's Head Coach and the Team's Manager by email.

### ***Section 1.05 Representative Administration and Conflict of Interest***

- (a) The League shall be administered and governed by the GNASH Board of Directors. The Board shall make all decisions related to the League, including but not limited to policies, membership, eligibility, season schedule, player and coach registration, fees, rules, regulations and discipline. The Board may assign these tasks to its Officers, Directors or committees. The Officers of GNASH shall constitute the Executive Committee and shall be the Officers of the League. The day-to-day business decisions of the League shall be delegated to the President. In the temporary absence of the President, the President-Elect will assume his/her day-to-day League duties. Since occasions may arise whereby actions need to be taken before regularly scheduled Board meetings, or before an Executive Committee meeting can be convened in person, the President may use electronic methods to communicate with the Board or Executive Committee to conduct the urgent business. In a timely manner, the President shall report to the Secretary all pertinent information regarding motions, seconds, and vote totals for recording and publishing in the organization's records. Amendments affecting the GNASH By-laws and playing regulations are excluded from this circumstance. Whenever possible the President (or Vice-President) and Registrar should attend the annual SAHA meeting. The President shall appoint qualified persons for a renewable term of one-year to positions of defined responsibility, such as the Association Coaching & Education (ACE) Coordinator and the Association Risk Manager, as may be deemed necessary from time to time by the Executive Committee.

- (b) Notwithstanding any other provision herein, no Team Representative (including alternate) or Officer shall vote on any matter directly affecting the school or team represented by or associated with the Representative or Officer. In the event of a tie-vote or a matter in which the President has a conflict of interest, the Past President shall cast the tie-breaking vote.

### ***Section 1.06 Handbook Modifications***

The Board of Directors shall establish an annual out-of-season schedule of review and modification of the Handbook by a committee of the Board appointed by the President. Modifications of the Handbook during this scheduled process require an affirmative vote of the Board. During the League season, modifications to the Handbook will require written resolution with a second at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. The President shall refer the resolution to the Handbook committee for review and report at the next scheduled meeting of the Board. Affirmation by two-thirds of the Board is required for adoption of a resolution to modify the eligibility criteria or rules of league play during the League Season.

### ***Section 1.07 League Commissioner***

The Board shall nominate and elect a League Commissioner whose responsibilities shall include, among the duties provided for in the Bylaws and herein and such other GNASH duties as may be assigned from time to time, Chairman of the Discipline Committee and enforcement of the League Rules of Play. The League Commissioner shall not be a Representative or have a child on any League Team. The League Commissioner shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. The Commissioner shall represent the League in matters related to any hockey Officials association and league game play.

### ***Section 1.08 Membership***

- (a) **Member.** High school hockey teams desiring membership in League may make application to the Registrar who will present the team's request to the Board of Directors. Applications for membership shall be approved or rejected by the Board of Directors. Any Member Team that withdraws from the League and is later readmitted shall not have a vote in matters considered by the Board of Directors for the first year after readmission. The terms Member, Member Team, and Team may be used interchangeably in this document.
- (b) **Team.** The Team is composed of the players, coaches, parents, school officials, and required Team Officials that meet all eligibility requirements of the League. Team Officials shall include, as a minimum, the Team Manager, the Head Coach, and two (2) Team Representatives. Neither the Team Representative nor the alternate may be the Head Coach listed on the official Team roster.
- (c) **Team Manager.** The Team Manager shall have the duty of fulfilling all Team responsibilities to the League. These responsibilities shall include, at a minimum, arranging for off-ice officials when the home team (including without limitation, scorekeeper, timekeeper, and penalty box official) payment of dues and fees, registration, stat reporting, communication and the provision of any other documentation as required by the League.
- (d) Membership in the League is conditioned upon compliance with the Bylaws of GNASH and the rules, policies, and procedures as adopted from time to time by GNASH. Failure to comply may result in immediate suspension or termination of membership. The right to participate in scheduled ice hockey competitions or activities, and/or the forfeiture of all fees, charges, and assessments paid, at the sole discretion of the Board.

### **Section 1.09 Dues and Other Expenses**

- (a) Team Dues. The Board of Directors shall determine the amount of annual Team Dues that will be equal to the sum of the Season Team Fees and the Season Individual Fees. The Team Dues shall be paid in full prior to the first game of any regular season. Teams who have not paid Team Dues and any assessed penalty fees in full prior to any scheduled game will forfeit all said games until the balance is paid in full.
- (1) Season Team Fees are the anticipated costs for practice and game ice time, game officials, and other expenses assessed by the League.
  - (2) Season Individual Fees will include any administrative costs assessed by the League.
- (b) Pre-Season Team Deposit. A \$1,000 deposit toward the Team's Dues will be due on or before June 1 and must be submitted together with the Season Application Form. This deposit shall be non-refundable except that such deposit may be returned in the event that a co-op team request is not approved by the Board, subject to the provisions of subparagraph (d). This annual Team deposit will renew Team membership in the League and allow the League to contract for ice. Membership expires at midnight on May 31 of each year. Teams that fail to renew membership before June 1 shall be charged a non-refundable penalty of \$150.00. (Penalty fees will not be credited toward a Team's annual Dues). The Treasurer shall notify by registered letter the Team Manager that has not renewed membership by June 1 and advise that unless the membership fee and the penalty are paid in full by 5:00 PM on June 15th the Team shall be dropped from the League.
- (c) Payments of Team Dues. Payment of the Deposit or the balance of Team Dues and penalty fees will only be accepted in the form of single checks made out by the Team and made payable to GNASH. Individual player/parent checks and/or cash are not an acceptable form of payment to the League.
- (d) For any co-op that splits, the returning team credit (if any) will be divided based on the team's roster from the previous year. For example: If a team's 2005 roster lists 15 players from school A and 5 players from school B **and** in 2006 the team splits to each form their own scholastic teams **and** there is a returning team credit of \$1000.00 it would be divided as such – school A would get a \$750 credit and school B would get a \$250 credit.

### **Section 1.10 Financial Statement**

The Fiscal Year of the GNASH shall be from June 1 to May 31. At the close of the fiscal year, the Treasurer shall publish a financial statement as approved by the Board of Directors.

### **Section 1.11 Scholastic Teams.**

A Scholastic Team is a school-based team composed of students enrolled and in regular attendance of a single high school. A student may not be rostered on more than one team in the League. Prior to the beginning of each season, each Team must provide to the Registrar confirmation from either the School principal or athletic director of approval of the Team's participation in the GNASH League.

**Section 1.12 Cooperative (Co-Op) Teams and Roster Approval Process.**

- (a) Requirements for Co-Op Team. Two schools may apply to the League for permission to form a cooperative program in ice hockey if one or both of the schools satisfies at least one of the following:
  - (1) Has not participated in the GNASH League in the twelve (12) months preceding the application or
  - (2) Was not the team-based school (as defined below) of a Co-Op team in the GNASH League within the twelve (12) months preceding the application.
- (b) A Co-Op team is composed of high school students enrolled and in regular attendance at one of two separate high schools. Schools may co-op with only one other school and the second school is expected to contribute at least four (4) players to the Co-Op team.
- (c) The school having the most students rostered to play ice hockey will be considered the team-based school. The two teams forming the Co-Op team will determine whether they will:
  - (1) Wear the colors and mascot logo of the team-based school on both their home and away jersey;
  - (2) Wear a combination of both school's colors and mascot logos on both their home and away jersey; or
  - (3) Wear the colors and mascot of the team-based school on their home jersey and the other school on their away jersey.
- (d) Criteria that must be demonstrated for approval of a Co-Op team include, but are not limited to:
  - (1) Lack of numbers of students to support a Scholastic school-based ice hockey program;
  - (2) Efforts to recruit within designated feeder schools; and
  - (3) Skill level of players from the school other than the team-based school do not have such skills as to give the Co-Op team an unfair advantage over League scheduled opponents.
- (e) A Co-Op team may not deny membership to any eligible player from either school, subject to the USAH roster limit of 30 players.
- (f) Players from a previously-approved Co-Op team may not be recruited by another Co-Op team unless the status of the first Co-Op team has been changed by the league to a Scholastic school-based team and the remaining students at the second school would not otherwise have an opportunity to join a team.
- (g) Co-Op team approval is for one year only and is subject to annual review and approval by the school principal/athletic director and the GNASH Board. The status of players on a Co-Op team ends with the ending of the playing season, including play-offs. However, Team Representatives/Directors from both schools comprising the Co-Op team may continue to serve through the August Board meeting following the end of the season.

- (h) All transfer rules and other eligibility rules apply with respect to both schools of a Co-Op team. A student that transfers from one school of a Co-Op team to the other school of the same Co-Op team shall be ineligible for a period of twelve months regardless of whether the school to which the student transferred school remains part of a Co-Op team or becomes a regular Scholastic team.
- (i) When either school of a Co-Op team individually has twelve (12) or more eligible players, the Co-Op status of the team may be terminated and such school(s) could be required to form a Scholastic school-based hockey team. The Commissioner shall be the final authority to determine when sufficient student players with hockey skills are available to form a Scholastic school-based team.
- (j) Application for Approval of a Co-Op Team. The schools applying for Co-Op team approval must submit a completed application to the Board in accordance with the deadlines described below and must submit a \$1,000 deposit by June 1 in accordance with the provisions of Section 1.09. If a deposit is made by the June 1 deadline by a team that is requesting approval to play as a Co-Op team, then the Co-Op team application shall be considered according to the timeline in subpart (c).
- (k) Approval of Team Rosters. All team rosters must be submitted for approval according to the following timeline.
  - (1) May Board Meeting. The Executive Committee of the Board appoints a committee, consisting of the Commissioner, the President Elect and three Team Representatives from schools with regular Scholastic teams to serve as the Co-Op Committee. A board member may only serve for two years as an at-large member of this committee.
  - (2) June 15. Intent to Co-op form submitted by the team-based school of the proposed Co-Op to the Commissioner, Registrar and President Elect.
  - (3) June 20. The Executive Committee shall approve the form to be completed by schools seeking to form a Co-Op team. The form, and a copy of the approval process, shall be forwarded to each Team representative and Team manager of record or, for teams to be newly formed, to the person requesting such information.
  - (4) June Board Meeting. Based on the number of scholastic schools seeking to play in the league in the coming season, the Board shall determine the maximum number of teams that the league can have in the coming season. By subtracting the number of scholastic teams that have made a deposit, the number of possible Co-Op teams will be known.
  - (5) July 5. Each team seeking to be approved as a Co-Op team shall send the completed application, a preliminary roster and any other required documents to the GNASH Registrar.
  - (6) July 7. The Registrar will distribute the submitted Co-Op packets to the Co-Op Committee.
  - (7) July 15. The Co-Op Committee shall review each application and make a written recommendation for approval or denial to the Board for each application, without regard to the number of teams that can play in the league that year.
  - (8) July Board Meeting.
    - (i) The Board votes to grant preliminary approval to a Co-Op team application or deny. Preliminary approval is subject to further review of any roster changes.

- (ii) If a Co-Op team application is not approved, each school that was to be part of the Co-Op team has 15 days in which to file an amended application with the same teams or seek to submit a new application with a different team. These applications shall be handled as described above and a recommendation given on approval or denial by the Co-Op Team Committee at least 7 days prior to the September Board meeting with consideration by the Board to occur at the September Board meeting.

(9) August Board Meeting.

- (i) Each Scholastic team that seeks to play in the coming season must submit a preliminary roster to the League Registrar at least 10 days prior to the August meeting. The Registrar shall immediately circulate the rosters to the Commissioner. Schools seeking approval as a Co-Op team do not need to submit another roster at this time. Each roster shall be reviewed by the Commissioner for potential eligibility issues.
- (ii) Any such issue regarding the eligibility of a coach or player of a Co-Op or Scholastic team shall be reported to the Executive Committee of the Board and resolved at the August Board meeting. The Commissioner or the Executive Committee of the Board or the Board may request additional information about a player or coach to assist in resolving an issue of eligibility.

(10) September 1. The final roster of each team, both Scholastic and Co-Op, that seeks to play in the league in the coming season must be submitted to the league Registrar at least 10 days prior to the September Board meeting. The Registrar shall immediately circulate the rosters to the Commissioner.

(11) September Board Meeting.

- (i) If there are changes to the preliminary roster as previously submitted, the Commissioner determines whether to grant final approval to the revised roster. If the Commissioner does not approve the final roster, he/she will state the reasons in writing. The Commissioner may grant a conditional approval, in which case it is the duty of the team to ensure that it fully complies with the conditions of approval.
  - (ii) The affected coach or player may practice with the team but is not eligible to play in any league games unless and until he/she is found to be eligible. The Commissioner's decision may be appealed to the Executive Committee in a writing of not more than 500 words with no attachments. The appeal shall be e-mailed to the GNASH Secretary within 7 days after the Commissioner's decision and the Secretary shall immediately circulate the appeal to the Executive Committee. The appeal shall be decided within 10 days after it is submitted by the Executive Committee of the Board and the decision of the Executive Board shall be final without any further review or appeal. This process shall not apply to eligibility resulting from school transfers or to hardship waivers, both of which shall be determined according to the procedures separately provided for.
  - (iii) If there are no changes in the preliminary roster, the preliminary approval shall be deemed to be final approval without further action.
- (l) Criteria that must be demonstrated for approval of a Co-Op team include, but are not limited to:
- (a) Lack of number of students to support a school-based ice hockey program;
  - (b) Efforts to recruit within designated feeder schools; and

- (c) Skill level of players from the school other than the team-based school do not have such skills as to give the Co-Op team an unfair advantage over League scheduled opponents.

### ***Section 1.13 Practice to Game Ratios***

The League shall make a reasonable effort to follow the recommendations of USA Hockey that state that all teams should have a practice to game ratio of 2 to 1.

### ***Section 1.14 Permitted Play***

A Team is permitted to play or scrimmage:

- (a) Other Teams of this League, and
- (b) Any other non-League team in which all players are registered and in good standing with USA Hockey and SAHA.

### ***Section 1.15 League Banquet***

At the discretion of the Board of Directors, the League may sponsor an annual League banquet.

### ***Section 1.16 All Star Selection and Senior Game***

- (a) From time to time, the League may sanction participation in an all-star game, a senior game, and tournament events.
- (b) The purpose of the All-Star game is to showcase the top players in the League, regardless of class. The All-Star game should be held at the end of the regular season, preferably before the start of play-offs. The All-Star teams shall be determined and selected as follows:
  - (1) Eligibility. To be eligible for the All-Star game, a player must have actually taken the ice in not less than 50% of the games played by his GNASH team at the time of the All-Star game. If a player who is not eligible for the All-Star game is selected to the All-Star team, he shall be replaced by the next eligible player as described below.
    - (i) Playing in the All-Star game is a privilege for the players. If a player is subject to a game suspension at the time of the All-Star game, if selected for the All-Star team, the All-Star game shall count as a game served towards that penalty, and the player shall be replaced by the next eligible player.
    - (ii) If a player is injured, the next eligible player shall be selected to replace him. A player who elects not to participate in the All-Star game shall be replaced by the player with the next highest number of points, as described below.
  - (2) Timing of game and team selection. The Board will determine the date of the All-Star game not later than October 31. Coaches shall be requested to nominate players for the All-Star team 30 days prior to the date set for the All-Star game. The President-elect or designee shall send an e-mail to each head coach and the Board advising them that nominations are to be made.
  - (3) Team selection. Each head coach may nominate up to 3 forwards, 2 defensemen and 1 goalie for the All-Star ballot from his team. Nominations to the All-Star team close at midnight on the 10th day after they open. For example, if the All-Star game is on

February 2, the nomination period opens on January 3 and closes at midnight on January 13. Nominations shall be forwarded by e-mail to the President-Elect, who shall provide the Commissioner with a list of the nominations.

- (i) The Commissioner shall review the nominations and raise any questions, other than eligibility, with the Executive Committee of the Board by 6:00 p.m. on the 5th day after the close of nominations. Any questions about a nomination shall be resolved by the Executive Committee of the Board in a timely fashion prior to voting and the Executive Committee's decision is not subject to review or appeal. The Commissioner shall determine eligibility and such determination shall be final without any further review or appeal
  - (ii) Starting on the 14th day prior to the All-Star game, each head coach may vote for 9 forwards, 6 defensemen and 3 goalies only in his division, but he may not vote for any player on his own team, by allocating points to each player for whom he votes, based on the number of positions being voted on. The highest number of points shall be given to the most talented player.
  - (iii) By way of example, a head coach would give one forward 9 points, the next 8 points, and the next 7 points, to the 9th forward who would receive 1 point. A head coach would give a defenseman 6 points, the next defenseman 5 points, to the sixth defenseman, who would receive 1 point.
  - (iv) The President-Elect or designee will compile the ballot and cause it to be e-mailed to each head coach on the 14th day prior to the All-Star game. Balloting shall close at midnight on the 8th day prior to the All-Star game. The President-Elect and Commissioner shall compile the voting results and total the points voted for each player. The 9 forwards, 6 defenseman and 3 goalies with the highest number of points shall be provisionally named to the All-Star team for that division. The vote totals shall be altered only to create the result that each team has one player on the All-Star squad. If this becomes necessary, the players to be replaced will be those with the lowest vote totals at their position and the Commissioner shall select the most talented player from the team needing representation on the All-Star squad to add to the team. At this point, the Commissioner may replace a player who is not eligible for the All-Star game. The Commissioner's decisions shall be final.
  - (v) The President-elect or designee shall post the final rosters for the All-Star game on the 7th day prior to the All-Star game. The starters shall be the 3 forwards, 2 defensemen and goalie receiving the highest amount of points in each division.
- (4) Team coaches. The head coach for the All-Star team in each division shall be the head coach for the first place team in the division. Two assistant coaches will be named, who will be the head coaches for the second and third place teams in each division. A coach who cannot participate in the All-Star game will be replaced by the next coach based on the team standings in that division.
  - (5) On-ice and off-ice officials. Each head coach for the All-Star game shall arrange for one off-ice official to man the penalty box. GNASH shall provide the scorer and timekeeper. Any coach or off-ice official may be the parent of player in the All-Star game.
  - (6) GNASH will supply a jersey to each player selected to the All-Star roster. The designation of home team shall alternate annually between the divisions, with the players wearing the home or away socks of their GNASH team.

- (7) GNASH shall arrange for USA certified officials to call the game according to normal GNASH rules, unless the Board adopts special rules for the All-Star at least 30 days prior to the All-Star game.
- (8) Skills exhibition. The Board may have an All-Star skills exhibition after the All-Star team has been selected and prior to the All-Star game. Appropriate awards may be given to winners in the exhibition.
- (c) The senior game shall consist of players who are graduating seniors. Structure of teams and the game will be determined by the Board and coordinated by the President-Elect.
- (d) No player with an unserved suspension may play in the All-Star game or the senior game but any such game may count toward an unserved suspension. The League Commissioner shall determine eligibility under this provision.

### ***Section 1.17 Communications***

The League shall use electronic means, in the form of Web posting and electronic mail, for communicating all necessary information to its Teams. Once an item has been posted on a League Web site or sent by email to the Team Manager, the Team has been properly notified. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to establish any desired alternative means of communicating League information to Team members.

### ***Section 1.18 Penalties and Enforcement***

By joining the League, a Team and all its members agree to abide by all rules of the League. The Board of Directors shall have power to suspend, to fine, or otherwise penalize any Team for the violation of any of the rules of the League or for other just cause. If a Team, or a Team member, files suit against GNASH and GNASH prevails, the Team or the Team member shall reimburse GNASH for all legal fees and expenses incurred by GNASH in connection with said suit.

### ***Section 1.19 Suspension of a Team***

- (a) Suspension of a Team. The Board of Directors shall have power to suspend, to fine, or otherwise penalize any Team for the violation of any of the rules of the League or for other just cause. The period of suspension or other penalty shall be left to the discretion of the Board of Directors where the penalty is not fixed.
- (b) Reinstatement. The Board of Directors upon application made in writing, 20 days in advance of the time it desires to be reinstated, may reinstate any Team under suspension. The President shall present the application of the suspended Member to the Board of Directors for its consideration. The Team Representatives shall agree in writing that the team will abide by all rules of the League in the future.

### ***Section 1.20 Code of Conduct***

- (a) GNASH has adopted a Code of Conduct to
  - (1) Promote the principles of sportsmanship, respect and mutual appreciation among players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators, and
  - (2) Provide disciplinary consequence to violations of the Code through a system of due process.

- (b) By joining the League, a Team and all its members shall agree to abide by the Code of Conduct. Any behavior that appears to be in violation of the Code of Conduct, as initially determined by the Commissioner or Executive Committee, is subject to an investigation and hearing by the Discipline Committee (Section 4.01).The Discipline Committee has the authority to assess any penalties up to and including exclusion from participation and/or attendance of any GNASH event for behavior deemed by GNASH to be in violation of this Code of Conduct.
  
- (c) All League participants shall sign the Code of Conduct and Conduct Subject to Discipline prior to participation (players, coaches, parents, team and league personnel, and officials) during registration for each season.
  
- (d) GNASH will acknowledge its commitment to this zero tolerance of abusive behavior policy to the officials and all rinks where GNASH events are conducted and request reciprocal acknowledgement and commitment to this standard.



## **Article II. Eligibility**

### **Section 2.01 General Eligibility Rules**

- (a) The Members of GNASH have adopted, through their duly authorized representatives, an essential inter-related group of minimum eligibility requirements that establish the threshold for team and player participation.
- (b) Minimum Player eligibility requirements.
  - (1) Each player must be fully registered and in good standing with the League and USA Hockey and fulfill all other eligibility requirements of the League.
  - (2) Players will be eligible to play only for the school where they are enrolled in grades 9-12 and in regular attendance as a student. If at any time prior to or during the season, a player is no longer regularly attending classes at a secondary or high school, the player or the player's parent must provide to the Board confirmation of the player's eligibility to participate in athletics and the player shall not be eligible until such confirmation has been accepted and noted by the Board or the Executive Committee of the Board. This rule does not apply to an junior or senior player attending a school which was part of a co-op during the preceding season where the co-op has been dissolved, the school that the player attends no longer has a team, and the other school that was part of the co-op continues to have a team, either co-op or scholastic.
  - (3) Players must continue to meet all student/athlete/academic rules and requirements of their school and the disciplinary rules of the League.
  - (4) Any player commuting or relocating to the greater Middle Tennessee area for the sole purpose of playing Tier I or Elite ice hockey is not eligible for any high school team.
- (c) Minimum Team eligibility requirements.
  - (1) A Team from a school that includes at least grades 10-12 is eligible to compete in the League. Schools in transition to grade 12 may compete in the League after the 10th grade has been added.
  - (2) To be considered for League membership, a Team must be able to skate a minimum of 12 fully equipped players and one adult coach who are themselves eligible for League participation.
  - (3) The Head coach and the Team must be fully registered and in good standing with the League and USA Hockey and fulfill all other eligibility requirements of the League.
  - (4) The Team must identify by name a Team Manager, with a functional email address, who agrees to fulfill all duties and responsibilities of this role.

- (d) Information Basis for Eligibility Determinations. Subject only to the provisions of Section 2.24 on enforcement, decisions as to eligibility made by the Executive Committee and/or the Board are subject to alteration, change, revision, rescission, or modification at any time should additional information, facts or circumstances become known to the Executive Committee or the Board or should facts, information or circumstances upon which the decision was originally made change or vary from those originally presented or are found to have been misrepresented. The acceptance of payment by GNASH or a member Team from any individual shall not bar the Executive Committee or the Board from altering, changing, revising, rescinding, or modifying a previous determination as to eligibility.

### ***Section 2.02 Academic Rules***

As a minimum, the student must meet all the academic requirements of the school to participate in a winter sport. During Team registration, academic eligibility of each player, each school year, must be documented in writing to the Registrar. This documentation shall be in the form of either a letter from a responsible school official stating that the student is academically qualified to participate in a winter sport or the final school spring player grade report, and Summer School grade report if needed. New teams entering the League can also submit grade reports for individual players from the first grading period of the fall semester.

### ***Section 2.03 High School Graduate***

No student shall be eligible to participate in the League after he or she has graduated from a secondary school. (A student who takes an accelerated course shall not lose his or her eligibility even though that student earns enough units to graduate provided he or she does not participate in a graduating exercise or accept a high school diploma, and provided the student has not attended a secondary school for eight semesters after enrolling in the ninth grade.)

### ***Section 2.04 Eight-Semester Rule***

A student shall be ineligible to compete in the League if he or she attended a secondary school, or schools, for eight semesters of four and one-half months each. Attendance of 40 school days of any semester shall be regarded as a "semester" under this rule. If a student participates in athletics during a period of attendance of any number of days less than 40, he or she shall be charged with a semester of attendance. Attendance in junior high school shall be taken into consideration in determining the number of semesters a student has been in school. A student who registers for two or more ninth grade subjects after having completed one school year in the eighth grade shall be classified as a high school student for athletic purposes. The seventh and eighth semesters shall be consecutive.

### ***Section 2.05 Years of Participation***

A student whose name appears on a team roster for any GNASH-scheduled game shall be regarded as having played one year. A student shall not play high school ice hockey for more than four years while he or she is enrolled in high school.

### ***Section 2.06 Grade and Season Participation***

For school-based teams, player participation is initially based upon enrollment in grades 9-12. Eighth grade students are not eligible to participate. Any student repeating the eighth grade shall not be eligible for League participation during the year that the student is repeating the eighth grade.

### **Section 2.07 Age Limit**

No student shall be eligible to participate in any athletic contest during any school year if he or she becomes 19 years of age on or before August 1.

### **Section 2.08 Independent-Game Participation**

Any player registered with the League may participate in non-League or independent games throughout the regular and playoff season. Any game, in which players not registered with League participate, is considered as an independent game. An independent team is a team that is organized to play a schedule.

### **Section 2.09 All-Star Games**

From time to time, the League may sanction participation in all-star game and tournament events. No player shall participate in any unsanctioned high school all-star team or contest during the League regular season. An all-star team is a team composed of League players from different schools who are usually assembled as a team for playing one particular game or tournament.

### **Section 2.10 Transfer Rules**

- (a) Residence. A student changing schools for any reason, to be eligible, must live at home with his/her parent or guardian, unless:
- (1) The student is moving to a boarding school and has no athletic record the previous twelve months in any sport.
  - (2) The student is moving as a direct result of the dissolution of the student's home due to death.
  - (3) The student is moving as a direct result of the divorce of the student's parents.
  - (4) The student is moving as a direct result of the separation of the student's parents, provided a complaint or petition for absolute divorce has been filed with a court having jurisdiction to grant the divorce.
  - (5) A parent is the birth mother or biological father of a student, the person(s) to whom a proper jurisdiction grants adoption of the student, or a step-parent with whom the student regularly resides.
  - (6) A guardian is an adult with whom the student has lived for twelve (12) or more months. Official appointment by a court is not required to establish guardianship; however, no person may be considered a guardian for purposes of these Bylaws unless the student has lived with that person for twelve (12) or more months, regardless of whether that person has been appointed as a guardian by a court.
- (b) "Transfer Student" Defined. A transfer student is any student changing schools for any reason other than having completed the highest, or terminal, grade at another school. A student who must change schools because he/she has completed the highest grade at his/her previous school is not considered a transfer student and is eligible to participate in athletics at any school he/she attends, without further approval, provided he/she satisfies the residence requirement above.

- (c) Executive Committee Approval Required. A transfer student may not participate in GNASH ice hockey until his/her eligibility has been verified and approved by the Executive Committee. The transfer student is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information supplied to the Executive Committee for this purpose.
- (d) Eligible Transfer Students. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (e) below, the following transfer students are eligible:
  - (1) The student did not play ice hockey with another GNASH team in the previous twelve months.
  - (2) There has been a bona fide change of residence by the student's parents or guardian.
    - (i) A bona fide change of residence is a move from one community to another that justifies a change of schools. Where a family continues to maintain a previous residence for the residential purposes of that family or any of its members, the move is not one that justifies a change of schools for GNASH purposes.
    - (ii) If such a change of residence occurs between school years, the student must transfer at the beginning of the school year to be eligible. If the change of residence occurs during the school year, the student may transfer without loss of eligibility (1) at the time his/her parents change residence; (2) at the end of the next report card period; (3) at the close of the semester or term; or (4) at the close of the school year.
  - (3) The student changes schools as a direct result of re-zoning or reassignment of students by the local school system.
  - (4) The student who has been determined by a Court to be dependent and neglected and consequently changes residences and schools as a result of a Court order.
  - (5) The first time the student changes residence from one parent to the other as a result of a court ordered custody change, so long as the principal of the former school attests in writing that the move was not for athletic or disciplinary reasons.
  - (6) The first time the student changes residence from a guardian to either or both parents as a result of a court ordered custody change, so long as the principal of the former school attests in writing that the move was not for athletic or disciplinary reasons;
  - (7) The student is attending school where the student's parent works as a full-time employee, that parent takes a full-time job at a different school, and the student transfers to the school where the parent takes the new job. The transfer must take place when the parent takes the job or, if the job change occurs during the school year, the transfer must be made at the beginning of the following school year.
  - (8) The student who transfers from school A to school B and then returns to school A without having participated in any sport at any level or without practicing in any sport at any level at school B. This must be verified in writing by the administration of school B.
- (e) Ineligible Transfer Students. The following transfer students are ineligible for a period of twelve months from the student's last participation date (being the date of the last interscholastic athletic contest in which the student participated; these provisions do not apply to students who have no athletic record for the previous or current school year):
  - (1) A student who transfers without a bona fide change of residence by his/her parents.

- (2) A student who transfers as a result of a change of residence is ineligible unless the old residence is outside the territory of the new school, and the new residence is both outside the territory of the old school and inside the territory of the new school. For a public school, the “territory” of the school is the geographic boundaries and bus routes of the area served by that school as established by the local board of education. For a system-wide public school, the “territory” of the school is the geographic boundaries of the school system. For a non-public school, the “territory” of the school is the area within a twenty (20) mile radius from the school.
- (3) If a student has been ruled eligible as a result of a change of residence, and the parents or guardian return to the former residence before the student has been enrolled in the new school for one complete school year (or twelve months if the transfer occurred during the school year), the student will be ineligible for twelve months from his/her last participation date;
- (4) If a student has satisfied all other requirements for eligibility but was under discipline at his/her former school, the student shall be ineligible at the new school for twelve months or until the disciplinary charges have been removed, whichever is less.

### ***Section 2.11 Foreign-Exchange Programs***

Subject to Section 2.01(b)(4), to be eligible to participate in athletic contests a foreign-exchange student must be in a foreign-exchange program, which has been approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). If the student participates in athletics with a League school while living with one host parent then transfers to another school as a result of a change of host parents, the residence rule (Section 2.12) and transfer rule (Section 2.10) apply in the same manner as with all other students. If a foreign student moves to the greater Middle Tennessee area for the sole purpose of playing Tier I or Elite hockey, the provisions of Section 2.01(b)(4) shall supersede this section.

### ***Section 2.12 Practice Rule***

A student who engages in three or more days of practice after August 15 with a school in which the student is enrolled shall be ineligible in that sport for that season if the student enrolls in another school without a corresponding change in the residence of the student’s parents.

### ***Section 2.13 Date of Enrollment***

A student shall not be eligible during any semester unless he or she is duly enrolled and in regular attendance on or before the 20th school day of the semester. This rule shall not apply to transfer students who have met the attendance requirements in the school last attended.

### ***Section 2.14 Recruiting Rule***

The use of undue influence on a student (with or without an athletic record), the parents or guardians of a student by any person connected, or not connected, with the school or team to secure or to retain a student for athletic purposes shall be a violation of the recruiting rule.

### ***Section 2.15 Amateur Rule***

- (a) A student who has never used and is not using his or her knowledge or skill in ice hockey for pay and who has always contested under his or her own name is an amateur. Accepting money for officiating athletic contests or for working as an employee in a city or county or

private recreation program is not a violation of this regulation. A student who violates the amateur rule shall be ineligible for 12 months.

- (b) Such a student may be reinstated as an amateur after a period of one calendar year from the time he or she was declared ineligible has elapsed, provided he or she has not violated the amateur rule during this period.

### ***Section 2.16 Award Rule***

- (a) GNASH shall furnish awards, trophies, plaques, ribbons and medals as determined by the Board of Directors. A student may accept a medal, trophy, high school letter, sweater, jacket, shirt, blazer, or blanket but nothing else of commercial value. A sweater, jacket, shirt, blazer or blanket must carry the high school letter or other appropriate award emblem. None of the approved awards shall be accepted from an individual or a non-school organization unless the giving of such award has been approved by the principal of the school the athlete attends. Acceptance of forbidden awards will cause a student to become ineligible for 12 months in the sport in which the violation occurs. An exception would be in USA Hockey award rules.
- (b) A member school that has any connection with the presentation of a forbidden award — such as assisting in the selection of the person to receive the award, permitting the award to be given at a school function, or holding the award for a student until he or she has graduated — shall be subject to penalty.

### ***Section 2.17 College Attendance***

No person is eligible who has ever been enrolled and in regular attendance in college or who has played on a junior college, senior college, or university team.

### ***Section 2.18 No Setting Aside of Eligibility Rules***

No part of these eligibility rules shall be set aside by mutual agreement of the teams for any contests whatsoever nor shall they be supplemented in any contest held under the jurisdiction of this League.

### ***Section 2.19 Special Cases Involving Hardship***

- (a) Except for the eligibility rules in regard to age, set forth in Section 2.07, to the number of semesters in school, set forth in Section 2.04, and attendance at the school sponsoring the team, as set forth in Section 2.01(b)(2), the Board of Directors shall have authority to set aside the effect of any eligibility rule upon an individual student when in the sole discretion of the Board:
  - (1) The conditions causing the student to fail to meet the eligibility requirements must have been beyond the control of the team, the student and/or his or her parents, and such that none of them could have reasonably been expected to comply with the rule.
  - (2) Application of the rule to the student works an undue hardship in light of these conditions;
  - (3) Application of the rule would not accomplish the purpose for which the rule was intended; and
  - (4) In the case of a change of schools, the change is for reasons unrelated to participation in athletics.

- (5) The burden of establishing each of these elements to the Board's satisfaction is upon the student seeking eligibility.
- (b) A hardship waiver request must be made by submitting a completed, signed Hardship Application to the President-Elect no less than 14 days prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee. If the hardship waiver is requested as a result of a school transfer, the student must also submit a completed and signed Transfer Form, if not already submitted. A Hardship Application submitted less than 14 days prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee shall be delayed for consideration at another subsequent meeting of the Board. The President-Elect shall notify the party requesting a hardship waiver of the meeting date on which the Hardship Application will be considered.
- (c) The Executive Committee of the Board shall review each Hardship Application and determine whether the Hardship Application should be approved or disapproved. Each Team affected by the outcome of the Hardship Application may have a school administrator (principal, assistant principal or athletic director) or other team representative present at the Executive Committee's initial consideration of the Hardship Application. The President or other Officer presiding over the Executive Committee meeting may limit the time for presentation of the Hardship Application, including all remarks by the applicant, any school administrator, and any Team representative.
- (d) Executive Committee vote on the Hardship Application shall comply with the conflict of interest provisions of Section 1.05. The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting shall reflect the findings and conclusions upon which approval or disapproval of the Hardship Application is based. If the party requesting a hardship waiver is not present at the Executive Committee meeting, such party shall be notified in writing by the President or the Commissioner of the disposition of the Hardship Application, including the Executive Committee's findings and conclusions. The decision of the Executive Committee may be appealed to the Board of Directors.
- (e) An appeal of the Executive Committee's determination of a Hardship Application shall be made as follows:
  - (1) Within 14 days after the date of the Executive Committee meeting at which the Hardship Application was decided, a party may submit a written request for reconsideration to the President-Elect. If the party requesting the Hardship Application was not present at the Executive Committee meeting and was notified of the Board's determination in writing, the 14 days for requesting reconsideration shall commence from the date on which the party receives notification of the Executive Committee's decision.
  - (2) The written request for reconsideration must state all the grounds upon which the party is requesting reconsideration and all facts in support of the requested reconsideration. Failure to include all grounds and facts will be deemed to be a waiver.
  - (3) The appeal shall be considered at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.
  - (4) Each Team affected by the outcome of the Hardship Application may have a school administrator (principal, assistant principal or athletic director) or other team representative present at the Board's consideration of the appeal. The President or other Officer presiding over the Board meeting may limit the time for presentation of the Hardship Application, including all remarks by the applicant, any school administrator, and any Team representative.
  - (5) The appealing party shall pay for all expenses required to present document material to the Board.

- (f) No Team affected by the outcome of the Hardship Application may vote. The minutes of the Board meeting shall reflect the findings and conclusions upon which approval or disapproval of the appeal is based. If the appealing party is not present at the Board meeting, such party shall be notified in writing by the President or the Commissioner of the disposition of the appeal, including the Board's findings and conclusions. Any such decision by the Board shall be final and not subject to any further review or appeal.

### **Section 2.20 Parental Consent**

No player shall be permitted to participate in League practice sessions or games until the Registrar has received and approved a parental consent certificate signed by a parent or legal guardian stating that the student has the consent of his or her parent(s) or legal guardian to participate in the League.

### **Section 2.21 Forfeitures**

- (a) Ineligibility. All rulings on eligibility must be in writing, and the accidental, intentional or other use of ineligible players by a member team shall require that team victories in which the ineligible player participated are forfeited to opponents; and any one or more of these additional actions may be taken:
  - (1) That individual or team records and performances achieved during participation by such ineligibles be vacated or stricken;
  - (2) That team or individual awards earned by such ineligibles be returned to the League; and
  - (3) That a fine for the playing of an ineligible player be assessed against the team, if deemed necessary.
- (b) Removal from competition. If a team is removed from competition, the contest is forfeited to the opponent and the Team will face disciplinary action by League. In addition, the Team Officials of the removed team must appear before the League Commissioner to indicate why additional disciplinary action should not be taken.
- (c) Ejection of the Coaches. If the coach is ejected from the contest and an assistant coach or qualified individual team representative is not available to continue as coach, the event is terminated and forfeited to the opponent.
- (d) Injunctive relief. If a student is ineligible according to League rules but is permitted to participate in interscholastic competition contrary to such League rules but in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order or injunction against his/her school, his/her Team and/or the League, and that injunction is subsequently voluntarily vacated, stayed, reversed or finally determined by the courts that injunctive relief is not or was not justified or expires without further judicial determination, those actions stipulated in this Section 2.23 shall be taken.

### **Section 2.22 Coaches**

- (a) Certification. It is preferred that at least one member of the coaching staff of each team be certified at the USA Hockey Advanced Level. It is recommended that all coaches (head coach and assistants) be certified at the USA Hockey Intermediate Level. All head coaches who have not received the USA Hockey Intermediate certification shall progress at least one level in certification per year until they have attained the USA Hockey Intermediate level. At

the first Board meeting after the season has begun, the Registrar will report the certification level of each Team coach to the Board of Directors.

- (b) Annual background check. Each coach will be required to give written permission to the League to perform an annual background check before assuming their coaching responsibilities. Failure to provide such consent is cause for immediate loss of eligibility. Failure of a Team to enforce dismissal of the coach is cause for immediate suspension of the Team from the League.
- (c) A head or assistant coach of a Tier I or Elite team may not coach a high school team during the same season.

### **Section 2.23 Enforcement**

- (a) Each member Team has a responsibility to monitor its ice hockey program and to self-report any violations of GNASH Bylaws or rules, policies, or procedures as found in the Handbook to the Commissioner as soon as the Team is aware of possible violations. The responsibility extends to the coaches, the Team Director/Representative, the alternate representative, and any Officer associated with a member Team. Each member Team is responsible for the conduct of its coaches and representatives and for any knowledge possessed by its coaches and/or representatives.
- (b) The Board of Directors shall have power to suspend, to fine, or otherwise penalize any member Team for the violation of any of the provisions of the GNASH Bylaws or Handbook or for other just cause. The penalty shall be left to the discretion of the Board where the penalty is not fixed.
- (c) The Commissioner shall, in his or her discretion, determine whether information about any possible violation of the GNASH Bylaws or Handbook is sufficiently reliable to justify further investigation. The Commissioner shall also, in his or her discretion, determine whether to conduct any investigation of possible violations of the GNASH Bylaws or Handbook as well as the nature and extent of any investigation that may be conducted and the procedures to be used in any such investigation. Factors to be considered by the Commissioner in making these determinations may include, but are not limited to: the seriousness of the alleged violation, the availability of verifiable information, the time needed to conduct the investigation, and any other factor the Commissioner may deem relevant in making these decisions.
- (d) A violation of the GNASH Bylaws or Handbook will not result in any investigation or penalty if it is inadvertent and the Team first learns of the violation after the conclusion of the ice hockey season in which the inadvertent violation occurred.
- (e) If it is determined that the Team (or any of the Team's coaches or representatives) had knowledge of a violation or possible violation of the GNASH Bylaws or Handbook and failed to promptly self-report it as required in this section, or that a delay in self-reporting occurred as a result of a failure by the Team to properly monitor its ice hockey program as required in this section, the provisions of Section 2.25(d) shall not apply. In any such case, a violation may be investigated and penalties may be implemented regardless of when the violation occurred.



## **Article III. Rules of League Play**

### ***Section 3.01 General Rules of Play***

League play will be governed by the current USA Hockey rules and regulations and the League rules and regulations, as may be amended from time to time, and as administered by the League Commissioner.

### ***Section 3.02 League Structure***

- (a) Season. The Board of Directors shall determine the structure of the League, the number of League games to be played, the length of the season, the number and structure of the playoff season games, and the starting date for practices and league games.
- (b) Structure. There shall be one League — the Scholastic High School League participation in which shall be limited to high school students — that may include one or more Divisions. Only teams that are members of the League are eligible to participate in the League regular and playoff seasons. The results of regular season League games shall determine team standings within a Division and a Division Champion. The League shall recognize two types of Scholastic teams: Scholastic Teams and Co-op Teams. The League maintains team standings, recognizes game scores, monitors assessed penalties, and imposes disciplinary actions associated with those penalties.
- (c) Standings. The League regular season Division standings will be determined in the following order:
  - (1) Overall league point standings after playing the entire regular season schedule (2 points for a win; 1 point for a tie; and zero points for a loss).
  - (2) If two or more teams have an equal number of points at the conclusion of the regular season, their final position will be determined by the results of the games played between the teams considered in the following order:
    - (i) The greater number of games won.
    - (ii) Points awarded in head to head competition. If all teams tied at this level have not played each other the same number of times do not use this level for any of the teams and go to the next level.
    - (iii) The greater differential (subtraction) between goals for and goals against for head to head games. (Max seven (7) goal differential per game).
    - (iv) Least penalty minutes in head to head games.
    - (v) Least penalty minutes per game for entire season

- (vi) If these tie-breaking techniques do not resolve the tie, the Commissioner shall resolve the matter. (Note: This provision, which does not permit consideration of the total goals scored against all other teams, is specifically intended to give no benefit to a stronger team's running up the score on a weaker team).

### **Section 3.03 Team Registration**

- (a) Registration. All registration questions, documents and other related information should be addressed directly to the League Registrar. The Teams, by way of the Team Manager, are responsible for all duties related to submitting complete registration packets to the Registrar. The Registrar will not take receipt of individual player or coach registrations. A complete registration packet consists of the following completed items:
  - (1) For Players: Parent Clearance-Code of Conduct, Player's Code of Conduct, Consent to Treat, USA Hockey Registration confirmation page.
  - (2) For Team: GNASH Academic Eligibility, Team Roster.
  - (3) For Coaches: Coach's Code of Conduct, Background Check - submitted directly to SAHA as noted on the form, USA Hockey Registration confirmation, Valid Level 3 CEP certification, USA Hockey Form 1-T.
  - (4) Any other information deemed necessary by the League Registrar.
- (b) Incomplete Team Registration. Teams are not registered for League play until the following items have been fulfilled:
  - (1) The League Registration packet has been received and ruled complete by the League Registrar;
  - (2) Copies of the USA Hockey Form 1-T for all players and coaches has been received and ruled complete by the Registrar;
  - (3) All League team dues have been paid;
  - (4) All outstanding fees owed to GNASH have been paid.
- (c) Registration enforcement. Registering teams and players with the League is a straightforward process. Questions concerning Team Registration should be addressed to the Registrar. It is the Teams' responsibility to pay all fees and dues in a timely manner without waiting for League invoice or enforcement. The Treasurer shall notify the Board of Directors of any outstanding monetary obligation of any Team.
- (d) If a Team that is not properly registered with the League plays a League game, the game will be forfeited by the offending Team. The Team will also be subject to immediate suspension.
- (e) A Player is not eligible until fully and completely registered with USA Hockey and the League. Players must not practice or play with a League team until fully registered with USA Hockey and the League. No Team shall accept a player who has an outstanding monetary obligation to another GNASH Team.

### **Section 3.04 Team Roster**

- (a) USA Hockey form 1-T is the official team roster. USA Hockey form 1-T is used to register the team with USA Hockey and is required by the League. The team roster containing the

name of each player and coach who is to participate during the season, the USA Hockey form 1-T, shall be filed by the Team Manager with the Registrar at least one week prior to the first regular season game. The penalty for violation of this rule shall be a fine of \$25.00. Any school failing to file such reports promptly along with payments for penalty shall be subject to suspension. Rosters must be submitted to the League prior to the first League game. If a roster for any team is not submitted by the first League scheduled game, in the absence of extraordinary cause, all League games played prior to submission of the team's roster shall be deemed a forfeit. No player may be rostered on more than one League team.

- (b) Roster Changes. If a student whose name does not appear on the original eligibility list wishes to become a member of the squad, a supplementary form listing the student's name must be filed before the student is allowed to participate in a game or practice. No player may be added to any team roster after January 15th of each season. All League Team roster changes must be reported promptly to the USA Hockey Registrar and the League Registrar. Any new player added to a team's roster must be registered with the League Registrar prior to participating in a League game. A team playing a new player not registered with the League in a League scheduled game shall be deemed to have forfeited that game. If the player was also not registered with USA Hockey, the Coach will be immediately suspended from further games, both League and Non-League, until the Disciplinary Committee has determined disciplinary action.
- (c) Minimum Number of Players. No team shall be entered into the League membership without a minimum of 12 players and one adult coach. No team shall begin or continue playing a League game without a minimum of 6 players and an adult coach. The maximum number of players, which may be rostered for a team, is 30. However, USA Hockey prohibits more than 20 players on the bench during a game (No more than 18 non-goaltenders). Players may be added to a game score sheet (see USA Hockey rule 203.a) after a game begins provided that the game score sheet would not exceed 20 players. Players' names may not be removed from a game score sheet after a game begins to make room for other players.
- (d) Multi-Team Players. No Player shall be rostered or play for more than one Scholastic team in the League.
- (e) Ineligible Player. Play of an ineligible player will result in game forfeiture. If both coaches agree, play may continue without the ineligible player, but only penalties will be counted and served. Goals, shots, assists, etc. will not be recorded or reported by the League Statistician. The Discipline Committee will determine if further action is warranted against the ineligible player and/or the team coach. Play may be halted at the referee's discretion or by one of the coaches if either feels that the game is posing a risk of serious injury for any of the players involved.
- (f) Any player who has not played in half of the scheduled GNASH games is not eligible for post-season play without board approval.
  - (1) Requests for playoff waivers are to be provided by each team requesting consideration for each player who fails to qualify under this requirement.
  - (2) Waivers are to be submitted to the President-Elect a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the Board meeting immediately preceding the opening round of the playoffs.
  - (3) Players who have been rostered during the season and who have not been able to play the requisite number of games because of injury, coach's scratch, or participation in a sport other than ice hockey may seek Board approval provided they have demonstrated an intent to participate in GNASH regular season play.

- (4) With respect to non-GNASH competitions conducted by USA Hockey, this rule shall be superseded by any USA Hockey rule to the contrary.

### **Section 3.05 League Schedule**

(a) League Scheduler. The League Scheduler shall create the official League schedule ("the Schedule") that is subject to approval by the Board of Directors. The Schedule, and any subsequent changes, shall be communicated to each team via posting on the League's Website or via email. The Schedule will consider, to the extent possible, each school's restrictions on school sport activities due to examination periods and holidays. Each team is responsible for advising the Scheduler of the dates/times of any such school sport restrictions by September 1.

(b) Schedule Changes. Independent rescheduling of a League game is prohibited. Teams will work with the League Scheduler when a condition outlined under Exceptions exists. Changes in the Schedule are not official until such changes are approved by the Commissioner, the League Scheduler is informed of the changes, and the changes are posted on the League website or distributed to the Team Manager(s) via email.

(c) Exceptions. Schedule changes are not permitted after the Schedule has been posted on the League website or distributed to the Team Managers via email, except under the following conditions (NOTE: School closings do not constitute an exception to schedule change policy.):

(1) Severe Weather. : School closings due to severe weather conditions do not constitute an exception to schedule change policy. If the ice rink facility is open then the regularly scheduled game will be played. If the ice rink facility is closed due to severe weather conditions, then the Scheduler will attempt to reschedule the game at a later date.

(2) Unplayable Ice Conditions. A game may be postponed by the referees (or Home team in the absence of referees) if unplayable ice conditions, due to weather and/or mechanical deficiencies, exist at the ice facility. The Home team will notify the League Scheduler of games postponed by the referees prior to postponing the game. (Note: If a game is postponed by the home team for this reason and the opposing team can prove that the facility could have been used to play the scheduled game or was used to play another game at the time of the scheduled game, the opposing team should file a protest, which could lead to a forfeiture charged to the home team.

(3) Extraordinary Circumstances. In the event of extraordinary circumstances, not reasonably foreseeable at the time of scheduling, a team may request that a game be rescheduled. Such request must first be approved by the Commissioner and the Scheduler and is subject to the agreement of the other team and game officials. Following approval from the Commissioner and the Scheduler, the team seeking the game change is responsible for all administrative tasks associated with changing the game, including, but not limited to, obtaining a new date from the Scheduler that is acceptable to the other team, all notifications of the game change, arranging for officials for the rescheduled game, and ensuring that the game change is properly posted on the GNASH website. Any extra ice purchased for the rescheduled game must be paid for by the team requesting the game change.

(i) Should one team be in need of a game change due to extraordinary circumstances, but is unable to obtain the consent of the other team, either team shall have the right to appeal to the Commissioner for a final determination. Should the Commissioner grant the requested game change, the requesting team is responsible for all administrative tasks associated with changing the game as described above, and shall also be responsible for the cost of any extra ice purchased for the rescheduled game.

In any case, a League game shall not be considered rescheduled without and until the express approval of the Scheduler.

- (ii) Should the requesting team fail to ensure that all administrative tasks associated with changing the game are properly and fully completed, the team shall be subject to such penalties as the Commissioner may determine in the Commissioner's sole discretion, including monetary fines or forfeiture of the game.
- (d) Failure to Appear. When a team fails to appear for a game where the time and place appear in the official League Season Schedule as posted on the GNASH Web site or distributed to each team via email, the game will automatically be a forfeit win for the non-offending team. If the non-offending team and the offending teams prefer to play the game, it may be rescheduled at the convenience of the non-offending team and at the expense (ice costs and referees) of the offending team. Only penalties will be counted and served. Goals, shots, assists, etc. will not be recorded or reported by the League Statistician.
- (e) Scheduling Errors. If the League schedules (as appears on the Official League Schedule) two games for the same ice slot:
  - (1) The Team Representatives/Coaches of the four teams involved in the 2 games should try to resolve the scheduling conflict amongst them. The League shall penalize no team when one game has to be rescheduled. Where appropriate, the rink management will be consulted to see if additional ice is reasonably available. The Team Representative of the Home Team of the game that was not played in the scheduled slot will call the Commissioner upon resolution of the conflict.
  - (2) If the four teams cannot resolve the conflict, the game that will be played will be the one that involves the team that has traveled the furthest from their school to the ice rink where the game was scheduled. (Note: If the Teams cannot determine which Team has traveled the furthest, the Commissioner's decision will be final.) The Home Team of the game that was not played in the scheduled time slot will call the Commissioner upon resolution of the conflict.
  - (3) In the event that the teams cannot resolve the conflict using the above guidance and the Commissioner cannot be reached for a resolution within 5 minutes after the scheduled start of the ice slot, the Game Referee or other disinterested person will be asked to resolve the conflict by a flip of the coin. (Note: This presumes that all teams are ready to commence play upon the resolution of the conflict. In the event that one team of the game is not ready to play, the other game will be played.) The Team Representative of the Home Team of the game that was not played in the scheduled slot will call the Commissioner upon resolution of the conflict.
- (f) For disputes that a League game has been scheduled for ice time belonging to another entity, the Rink's Management will be consulted to determine who has contractual rights to the disputed ice slot. Unless the group having contractual rights to the disputed ice slot allows a League scheduled game to be played, the scheduled teams will confer with Rink Management to determine the availability of another reasonable ice slot during which the game could be played. If so, the League will arrange for compensation for the ice slot to be used. If no reasonable ice slot is available, the game will be cancelled and the League will schedule a replacement game. The Team Representatives/Coaches should consult with each other to determine if they can reschedule the game using ice available to them. If so, the League will arrange for compensation for the ice slot to be used. The Team representatives of the Home Team of the game that was not played in the scheduled slot will call the Commissioner to report the conflict, the cancellation of the game, and the need to reschedule the game.

- (g) Teams Misread the Official League Schedule. Teams that have misread the Official League Schedule – as published on the League’s website or distributed to member teams via email – will retire from the rink without interruption of a scheduled game or other use of the ice.
- (h) Costs of Postponed or Rescheduled League Season Scheduled Games.
  - (1) The League will bear the costs of rescheduled games when the games had to be rescheduled because of a League scheduling error. (Note: A League scheduling error occurs when a League game is scheduled by the League Scheduler contrary to a team and/or game ice availability information provided and available to the League at the time the game was scheduled and the team that provided the information made the conflict known by September 1.)
  - (2) Any expenses incurred by the League (such as officials and game ice fees) as a result of a rescheduled game for any other reason will be the financial responsibility of the team requesting the schedule change.
- (I) Lack of Certified Officials. The League will arrange for referees for League games. In the event that referees do not show up for a scheduled game, the procedure in the USA Hockey Official Rules of Hockey, Rule 502, will be followed. An alternate method of selecting referees may be used provided the coaches of both teams agree. If only one referee is available for the League game, both coaches must agree to play the game and will sign the Official score sheet noting their agreement to use one referee. Games will not be cancelled because of the lack of a referee. If the coaches do not agree to use one referee, the provisions of USA Hockey Official Rules of Ice Hockey, Rule 502(i), will be followed.

### **Section 3.06 Score Sheets**

- (a) Game Results. Game results are not official until the game score sheet has been received and reviewed by the League Statistician, Secretary, or other designated individuals. League standings are based solely on score sheets received, reviewed, and posted. All score sheets must be signed by both head coaches who coached during the game and all officials (on-ice officials and off-ice scorekeeper) involved for the results to be official.
- (b) League Game Score Sheet Submissions. The home team is responsible for sending the original (white copy) League Game score sheet to the League Statistician, Secretary, or other designated individuals. A score sheet of a League game must be faxed within 24 hours of the scheduled game. In the event the Home team does not submit the original score sheet to the League Statistician, the visiting team may submit a copy.
- (c) Non-League Game Score Sheet Submission. Any League team participating in any non-League games, such as exhibition games or tournament games is required to send a copy of all game score sheets to the Commissioner within 24 hours of the games that were played. All non-League game suspensions will be enforced by the League in upcoming League games.
- (d) Game Forfeits. A game forfeit shall have a score sheet filled out and sent in showing a 1-0 score.
- (e) Falsified Score Sheet. Any coach or Team member who knowingly and deliberately causes or allows falsification of a score sheet (such as deliberately not listing an ineligible player) shall be suspended from further participation in League games until the Disciplinary Committee has determined the appropriate action. The suspended coach shall not participate in any League or Non-League games or practices until said disciplinary action is served in full.

### **Section 3.07 Games**

- (a) **Game Time.** The Scorekeeper and the Referee shall monitor the time available in the designated ice time slot. Both teams must be ready to play 15 minutes prior to the designated start time. The Referee may signal starting of the game time clock
- (b) **Game Periods.** Periods shall be 14 minutes stop-time. Ice time allotted for each game will be 1 hour and 20 minutes followed by 10-minute ice resurfacing. The rink should provide backup stopwatches for use in the event of a malfunctioning scoreboard clock.
- (c) **Pre-Game Warm Up.** Warm up time preceding a League game will be 3 minutes and will begin immediately after the Zamboni has left the ice and the Zamboni doors have been shut.
- (d) **Goalies not present.** If a team is without a goalie, the game is considered a forfeit by that team. However, upon agreement by the opposing coaches and the officials, the reserve goalie of the opposing team may play for that team that is without a goalie to utilize ice time. Referees will be required to be on the ice if any type of game is played and the League's Disciplinary Committee will handle all penalties and necessary disciplinary action appropriately.
- (e) **Referee Notification.** Teams canceling a League game are responsible for notifying Referee schedulers of the cancellation. Notification must be made within 1 hour of the team's decision to cancel activities.
- (f) **7-Goal Differential.** If the goal differential in a game becomes 7, the game timekeeper shall be instructed to use running time for the remainder of the game. If at any point during the remainder of the game the differential becomes less than 7, the game Timekeeper will revert back to stop-time. There will be no exception to this rule. The remaining time may be used for practice by both teams – each team uses half of the ice.
- (g) **10-Goal Differential.** In all regular season games between League teams, a ten goal rule is in effect. Thus, games are complete upon the first occurrence of a 10 goal differential in the score: that is, the score and all statistics are final. The coaches may use the remaining ice time allocated for the game in any way they wish. If both coaches agree, play (either mixing players from both teams or continuing informal play between the regular teams) – with referees in attendance – may continue until the expiration of the contracted ice time or the game's clock time.
  - (1) If play continues:
    - (i) To keep the remaining informal portion of the game under control, all penalties, which are called, must be served, and any game misconduct, gross misconduct, or match penalty shall be dealt with as though incurred during the official portion of the game. Penalties assessed by the referees during continued play count as penalties for the game as though the 10 goal differential had not been reached and will be recorded on the official score sheet in such a manner.
    - (ii) Goals will not be added to the scoreboard and will not count towards goals or assists in the League statistics.
  - (2) If the coaches do not agree to play, the referees will retire from the ice and the remaining time may be used for practice by both teams – each team uses half of the ice.
- (h) **Inability to Play Three Stop-Time Periods.** In the event of extraordinary circumstances that prevent having three full stop-time periods, the referee has the authority at any time during the

game to direct that the game be played on run time, with the clock only being stopped for the purpose of posting penalties on the scoreboard.

- (i) Time Outs. One (1) 30 second time per team is allowed in League game at any time, provided that the third period has not been shortened due to the time constraints with the scheduled ice slots.
- (j) Goal Pegs. Goal pegs (which are required under USA Hockey rules) are favored, but not required where unavailable.
- (k) Minimum Playing Time. A game is not an official game until two (2) full periods have been completed. If two full periods are not played, no recognition of the game being played will occur for determining League standings, except in cases of implementation of the 10 Goal Differential rule or serious misbehavior, such as match penalties or gross misconduct (which may have been the cause of the game incompleteness). The Commissioner per rules of USA Hockey and the League will decide game results and disciplinary action for serious misbehavior.
- (l) Tie Games. For all non-playoff games, after the end of regulation play (maximum 45 minutes playing time), games having the score tied shall be considered complete and the game will be recorded as a tie. No additional overtime periods or shoot-outs, or other means of trying to determine a winner of the game shall be used.
- (m) Only one team will be allowed to enter/leave the ice surface at a time to avoid potential altercations. The home team shall enter/leave the ice-surface first.

### ***Section 3.08 Game Management***

- (a) The home Team Manager or designee shall be the game night coordinator of activities to include scorekeepers, penalty boxes, score sheets, programs, announcer, music and more. The home team is responsible for providing a Score Keeper. The visiting team shall be responsible for providing a Time Keeper. Each team is responsible for providing an attendant in the penalty box. All off-ice officials shall be adults. All games shall be properly supervised to insure that games are sportsmanlike contests. It is recommended that the principal or someone designated by the principal be in attendance. Member Teams shall strongly encourage sportsmanship and adherence to the Code of Conduct by their own fans and students at every athletic contest, regardless of where it may be held. If the League has reason to believe that a particular game will pose security problems, that the League will advise the teams in advance of its concerns, that the League will retain such additional security personnel as it deems appropriate, and that the additional charges will be assessed to the two teams.
- (b) The Team Managers shall file an incident report immediately with the League Commissioner if there is any unusual incident involving poor sportsmanship, during or following the game, on the part of players, parents, coaches, school administrators, game officials or spectators.

### ***Section 3.09 Play-offs***

- (a) League Play Offs. The League will determine annually the extent and degree to which Play-Offs will be held and how teams will be selected for Play-Off competition. The winner of the play offs will be the winner of the Nashville Cup. The winner of the Nashville Cup will qualify to advance to the State championship as the GNASH League champion.

- (b) Unpaid penalty fees or fines. Any Team that has not paid all outstanding League dues, fines and /or penalty fees within 24 hours of the first scheduled League playoff game shall be ruled ineligible for playoff season participation.
- (c) Predators Cup. The Predators cup is awarded to the winner of the State High School Championship at the end of the season. The winner of the Nashville Cup will qualify as the League champion to compete for the Predators Cup. To compete for the Predators Cup, the League champion team and players must have maintained all eligibility requirements. In the event that two teams from GNASH qualify for a state playoff tournament leading to the Predators Cup, the winner of the Nashville Cup shall be the number one seed from GNASH and the winner of the regular season standings shall be the number two seed. If the League Champion is also winner of the regular season standings, then the runner-up in the Nashville Cup championship game will be the number two seed.
- (d) Declining to Participate in the Play-Offs. Any Team that qualifies for the Nashville Cup Play-Offs and decides not to participate, in absence of extraordinary cause, will be ineligible for the Play-Offs the next season.
- (e) 10-goal Differential. In the event that a 10-goal differential occurs during a Play-Off game, the game will be terminated and the higher scoring team will be declared the winner, regardless of whether two periods have been played. The teams will leave the ice, regardless of how much time remains on the game clock or ice slot. The game will not continue and the ice will not be used for practice as is allowed during the regular season.
- (f) Play-Off Tiebreakers. In the event of a tie at the end of regulation play, the following procedures will be used to determine a winner:
  - (1) 1st: OVERTIME: - A 5 minute stop clock “sudden victory” overtime.
  - (2) 2nd: SHOOT-OUT 5 on 5: - If the game is not decided in a 5 minute overtime period, a shoot-out with 5 players from each team will be conducted. Winner is the team with the highest score out of 5 shooters. Visiting team shoots first.
  - (3) 3rd: SHOOT-OUT 1 on 1: - If the game is not decided in the five on five shootout, teams will alternate using different players. Home team gets the last shot. If in any round of 1 on 1, both team scores and the other team does not, the team that scored is declared the winner.
  - (4) Nashville Cup Championship Game. In the final Championship Game the teams will play 15-minute “sudden victory” overtime(s) until a winner is declared.

### ***Section 3.10 League Season***

The regular season practice schedule will begin as specified on the Schedule. The League hockey season for a school shall end when the team has been eliminated from the post-season playoffs or won the State championship.

### ***Section 3.11 Team Conduct***

- (a) Team Representation. All players, parents and coaches are representatives of their respective high schools and GNASH. Therefore, they are expected to demonstrate sportsmanlike behavior before, during, and after all League sanctioned events.

- (b) **Abusive Language.** A player or coach who uses insulting or profane language or who is guilty of foul tactics, in addition to being penalized by the referee shall be subject to such additional penalties as the League Commissioner may deem appropriate.
- (c) **Regarding Property Damage.** Each team is responsible for damages they may cause to any facility, on or off the ice. That team will be responsible for any costs incurred PLUS a fine, payable to the League, equal to the costs incurred.
- (d) **Post-Game Handshake.** Immediately following the end of the game, the two opposing teams will line up on their respective blue lines and on the referees command will engage in a handshake. Post-game handshakes are permitted following a playoff game.
- (e) **Team Captains.** Prior to the start of the game, the Captains of both teams will meet at the penalty bench area and engage in a handshake with the opposing team's Captain as well as all referees for that game.

### ***Section 3.12 Miscellaneous***

- (a) **Protests.** Recognizing that a vital objective of League play is the development of concepts of sportsmanship, protests are not favored and normally will be denied except in instance of a gross violation of the rules, such as use of an ineligible player. Protests which are submitted shall be handled in the following manner:
  - (1) Only a losing or tying team may submit a protest (the "Protest"). (A winning team may not submit a Protest.)
  - (2) The protesting team's Coach or Team Manager must sign the Protest. (A Protest which is not signed shall be returned without consideration of its merits.) The Protest must be mailed or faxed to the League Commissioner and if mailed, ordinarily, must be postmarked within 48 hours of the protested game. Protests filed after 48 hours may be considered on their merits, depending upon the reason for the late filing. The protested team will be notified promptly by the Commissioner or his designee and shall have 72 hours to respond (unless more prompt action is required).
  - (3) An on-ice official's judgmental decisions are final and are not subject to Protest.
  - (4) In the event of the denial of a Protest, the protesting team shall pay a fee of \$25.00 to the Treasurer of the League.
  - (5) The Commissioner will appoint an ad hoc Protest Committee of three members, not associated with the teams involved in the protest, to consider the Protest. The League Commissioner shall be the Chair of each Protest Committee. The Protest Committee will rule on the Protest, normally within 48 hours. The Commissioner will inform the team involved of the protest ruling as soon as possible. The protest ruling will be final and recorded with the League Secretary; there shall be no appeal to the Board of Directors.
- (b) **Complaints.** A situation may occur which is not appropriate for a protest, but with respect to which a team wishes to complain (the "Complaint"). In such a case, the same basic procedures as for a protest shall be followed (except that a winning team may file a Complaint with the League). The result of a Complaint will have no effect on a game result, but may serve to clarify League disciplinary actions and policies. No fee will be assessed in conjunction with the processing of a Complaint.
- (c) **Unequal Rink Conditions.** In the event of rink conditions that result in a potential inequality for one team (for example, sun conditions that cause a glare for the goalies, the presence of a

goalie crease at only one end etc.) the teams shall switch ends at the middle of the third period. This is intended to assure that playing conditions shall be as even as possible for both teams.

- (d) Rules and Officiating. Representative officials along with the Commissioner of the League shall meet with each school's coaches and players prior to the commencement of League Season games to discuss rules and officiating.
- (e) Off-Ice Officials. The League shall provide training for Off-Ice Officials.



## Article IV. Discipline

### ***Section 4.01 Discipline Committee***

The Commissioner shall appoint a Disciplinary Committee as necessary to resolve disciplinary matters. The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of the Commissioner and two Board members not associated with the team or teams involved in the disciplinary matter. The Disciplinary Committee shall enforce the Code of Conduct and has the authority to assess any penalties up to and including exclusion from participation and/or attendance of any GNASH event for behavior deemed by GNASH to be in violation of this Code of Conduct (see Exhibit 5). Conduct subject to discipline and the process of reporting an incident or such conduct are more fully explained in Exhibit 5. In addition the Discipline Committee shall serve as the proper authority in enforcing USA Hockey rules of play for players, coaches and officials.

***Section 4.02 Suspensions.*** Applicable to all League, Non-League and Tournament games played by GNASH teams.

- (a) Fighting.
  - (1) A player who receives a major penalty for fighting for the first time in a season shall be suspended for at least the next 3 (three) League games of the GNASH team on which the player was rostered and regularly plays when such a penalty was incurred. USA Hockey Rule 404 applies. The player involved **MUST** appear before the Discipline Committee prior to the expiration of the third game suspension, for determination of additional disciplinary action and to formally request reinstatement.
  - (2) A player who receives a major penalty for fighting in a second game in a season shall be suspended for the remainder of the season, (no less than 5 games with a season carry-over) including post-season playoff games and championships. The suspension may be appealed to the Discipline Committee.
  - (3) Any player who receives multiple fighting majors in a single stoppage of play shall be suspended from further League and Non-League games until the Discipline Committee has determined disciplinary action.
- (b) Persistent Misconduct. Any player receiving a combination of 5 minor, major and/or misconduct penalties in one game, 2 major penalties, or 3 penalties that have the potential risk of injury (e. g., slashing, cross-checking, high-sticking, boarding, elbowing, charging), shall be assessed a game misconduct and suspended for the balance of the game in which the said penalties were imposed and shall not play in any League or Non-League games until the said suspension has been served completely. USA Hockey Rule 404 applies.
- (c) Game Misconduct. USA Hockey Rule 404 applies to all League and Non- League games involving GNASH teams pertaining to game misconducts. Rule 404 notes that, "... a player or Team Official incurring a game misconduct penalty shall be suspended for the next one game of that team, except that when such a penalty is imposed under rule 613(d) (Third Man

In) there shall be no additional game suspension, and under Rule 403(b) (Second Major in a Game) there shall be a two-game suspension. (Note) In all cases where a game misconduct penalty is assessed, the incident shall be reported to the proper authorities who shall have full power to impose further suspensions.” Thus, under Rule 404, a player suspended from the next previously scheduled game “of that team” would also be suspended from an intervening game scheduled for “that team” after the penalty was assessed.

- (1) A major plus a game misconduct penalty shall be imposed on any player who leaves the players’ bench or penalty bench during an altercation. The Disciplinary Committee would review such an infraction and additional suspensions may be added at that time.
  - (2) A player who receives two majors in a game will be assessed a two game suspension.
  - (3) Suspension for a player incurring any game misconduct penalty before the game begins or after the end of the third period, shall be assessed as it would have been had the penalty been incurred while the game was in progress.
  - (4) Game suspensions assessed during League games must be served in subsequent League games. USA Hockey Rule 404 applies. None of the Board, the Commissioner, or the Disciplinary Committee have discretion to modify this requirement.
  - (5) League Rules apply to all penalties received in Non-League games played by League teams. Game suspensions assessed during Non-League games must be served in subsequent and sequential games that were previously scheduled at the time of the penalty. USA Hockey Rule 404 applies.
- (b) Tournaments. For USA Hockey sanctioned Tournaments, which have their own Disciplinary Committee or equivalent, League teams, will be subject to the Tournament’s rules regarding suspensions during the Tournament. Suspensions resulting from penalties received in Tournament Games, but not served in Tournament Games, will be served in subsequent games (League and Non-League, as applicable) that had been scheduled at the time of the assessed penalty.
- (c) Proper Authorities. In considering USA Hockey rules 404(c) and (e) and 405(c), the term “proper authorities” who may impose further suspensions for a game misconduct or match penalty incurred in a League game shall be the League Disciplinary Committee, not the coach’s or player’s own team authorities.
- (d) Excessive Penalties. If a team receives 15 penalties or more or 8 or more injury potential penalties in a game, the coach of the offending team will be assessed a game suspension for the next properly scheduled League game. If the situation arises a second time the suspension will be brought to the Disciplinary Committee for further investigation. The Disciplinary Committee will review all subsequent excessive-penalty games by the offending team and appropriate action will be taken.
- (e) Responsibilities.
- (1) Coach. Enforcement of game suspensions shall be the responsibility of the offending player’s coach. A failure to comply shall result in the automatic forfeiture of the game(s) in which the suspended player has been permitted to participate. Violation of this responsibility shall be reviewed by the Disciplinary Committee and appropriate action taken – which may result in a season (one year) suspension for the coach who knowingly plays a suspended player.
  - (2) Player. In order for a game in which a suspended player does not play to count toward the expiration of his/her suspension, the player must appear at the game(s) in which

he/she does not play (dressed other than in uniform) and must personally sign the score sheet for each such game.

- (3) Notification. When a suspension is administered, the League Commissioner (or other party who administers the suspension) shall officially communicate (via email and/or written notification) the player name and term of the suspension to the player receiving the suspension, all GNASH Board of Director officers and representatives, all GNASH coaches, and the league's MTHOA contact within one (1) day of administering the suspension.
- (f) Suspensions Carried Forward. If a suspension is not fully served in the course of a season, or if a suspension is incurred as a result of misconduct in a game after the regular season, the balance of the suspension must be served in League games at the beginning of the following season. USA Hockey Rule 404 applies. If the player is not on the roster of any GNASH team the following season, the suspension remains in the books until the player graduates and is no longer eligible to play in the League. If the player(s) involved are graduating seniors, the suspensions will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and the team will pay a monetary fine of \$50.00 per game that the player(s) receive in suspensions.
- (g) League Play-Off Games. For disciplinary action, League sanctioned Play-Off games are considered to be regularly scheduled games.
- (h) Sequential Game Misconduct Suspensions. For each Game Misconduct penalty assessed during the same season, the formal suspension imposed is increased by one game for each subsequent game misconduct penalty incurred. Upon request of the player's Coach, the Discipline Committee may review the accumulated suspensions for appropriateness and modify the number of game suspensions to be served – either more or less – provided that the number of suspensions served will not be less than that prescribed by USA Hockey Rules.
- (i) Match Suspensions. A player or Team Official incurring a Match (or gross misconduct) penalty shall be suspended from participating in any practice or game until the proper authorities have imposed discipline. The proper authorities will hold a hearing and a decision relative to disciplinary action will be made within 14 days of the incident. If extenuating circumstances prevent the proper authorities from conducting a hearing, the player shall be automatically reinstated after 30 days. Unless terminated for the preceding reason, the suspension continues until the proper authorities have determined appropriate disciplinary action, if any, and the disciplinary action, if any, has been implemented. If the disciplinary action is appealed, the suspension from practices and games remains in force until the appeal process has been completed.
- (j) Other-than-GNASH Suspensions. Suspensions imposed by other leagues may also be imposed in the GNASH League as determined through consultation with those leagues and USA Hockey, as appropriate.

### ***Section 4.03 Use of Tobacco, Alcohol, or Illicit Drugs***

The use of tobacco in any form, alcohol, or illicit drugs by coaches, officials, and athletes is prohibited at League sanctioned events.

### ***Section 4.04 Officials***

- (a) Officials, referees and linesmen shall be duly qualified to officiate a USA Hockey sanctioned high school game. The selection of on-ice officials is at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors. The participating teams shall provide off-ice officials. The decisions of game officials are accepted as final and binding.

- (b) It shall be the duty of a game official to file immediately a report involving unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the players (including, but not limited to, a game misconduct penalty), parents, coaches, or fans.
- (c) The Disciplinary Committee shall have authority to request the suspension of officials who are guilty of unsportsmanlike or unethical conduct or who fail to file immediately required reports with the League Commissioner.
- (d) An on-ice official shall be prohibited from working in an athletic contest in which a member of his or her immediate family — son, daughter, brother, sister, mother, father, husband or wife — is playing or is serving as a coach for either team. If an official is a teacher, the official is prohibited from working an ice hockey game, unless otherwise approved by the President, if one of the teams represents the school in which the official is employed as a teacher.



## **Article V. Team Management**

### ***Section 5.01 Team Management Responsibility***

Each Team is responsible for the team finances and all other matters involved in the management of the team. The Board of Directors will look to the Team Manager to fulfill these responsibilities of team finance, registration, communication and attendance.



## **Article VI. Sponsors**

### ***Section 6.01 Sponsor's Advertisements***

- (a) Tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and bar advertisements and/or other regulated commercial endeavors aimed at adults and prohibited for high school youth are neither appropriate or acceptable.
- (b) The most prominent feature on the front of the players' jerseys should be the team name/school/logo.
- (c) The most prominent feature on the back of the players' jerseys should be the players' number. If lettering appears above the number it will either be the player's name, team's name or "Stop" sign.
- (d) The most prominent feature on the sleeve of the jersey should be the player's number. A Sponsor's logo (in the form of a patch with no dimension larger than 4 inches) may appear on the player's sleeve with the lower edge of the patch located 3 inches above the cuff or on one shoulder.
- (e) A Sponsor's Name may appear in block letters on the back bottom of the jersey in a band no more than 2" high.