

Delaware High School Hockey League

League Rules

2019-2020

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ARTICLE I

ELIGIBILITY

SECTION A

Teams

1. Players shall be at least in the ninth (9th) grade, and shall have a maximum of four (4) years eligibility.
2. The Coach and the Team Representative will be responsible for the team roster.
3. At the October DSHSL meeting prior to the season, the Team Representative or his designee must present to the Board their USA Hockey Rosters.
4. Teams shall have a minimum of ten (10) skaters and one (1) goaltender on the roster. No team may have more than twenty (20) skaters, including goaltenders, dressed for games and listed on the score sheet. Exceptions will be considered by the executive board

SECTION B

Coaches

1. Each and every coach on the bench must have the appropriate coaching accreditation from USA Hockey.
2. Coaches must be at a level 1 moving forward every year to attain Level 4.
3. No more than four (4) coaches may be on the bench for any DSHSL game. This includes any coach assigned to open players' doors.
4. Proof of accreditation must be presented to the insurance committee prior to the start of the season.
5. No parent volunteers are allowed on the players' bench during DSHSL games.
6. **The coach of record shall sign the score sheet at the end of the game, after the referees sign it and record his CEP number on the score sheet.**

SECTION C

Player's School Attendance

1. To be eligible for Varsity play, team members must attend the high school for which they play. To be eligible for Commonwealth play, team members must be at the high school level. If a player goes to a high school that has a Varsity program they are ineligible for Commonwealth play.

- a. If a player is cut from their varsity school team that player may petition to play for a commonwealth team.
1. The player must be in at least the ninth (9th) grade and not beyond the twelfth (12th) grade.
2. No player may participate for more than 8 semesters beyond the eighth (8th) grade.
3. A player must have attended at least 1/2 day of school on the day of competition.
4. If a player changes schools before December 31st, and is added and registered on a revised USA Hockey roster for his current school, they will be eligible to play for their new team. They are not allowed to continue playing for their former team.

SECTION D

Age of Player

Any player who is 19 years old prior to July 1 of the current season is ineligible for DSHL competition.

SECTION E

Academic Eligibility

1. A player must be a "student in good standing" at his school. A player must meet academic requirements of the player's school or school district or have at least a 2.0 GPA on each report card from 10/30 to 3/1. If the player does not meet these criteria, the player is ineligible until the next marking period.
2. Waivers may be issued in individual cases, if proper documentation is presented to the Commissioner.
3. It is the member-team's responsibility to get copies of the players' grades to the Commissioner within a week of issuance.
4. If the grades are not provided, a player will not be allowed to play until this document is on file.
5. Any player academically ineligible shall not be eligible to compete in any DSHL scheduled season or post-season contests until receipt of the next report card with the required GPA.
6. This suspension is in effect until the Commissioner reinstates player/student.

SECTION F

School Suspension

1. Any player suspended by school authorities shall not be eligible to compete in any DSHSL scheduled season or post-season contests.
2. This suspension is in effect until school authorities reinstate player/student.

SECTION G

Certificate of Eligibility

1. Players eligible for DSHSL games must be among those listed on the DSHSL official roster.
2. To compete in the DSHSL, a team member must be registered and in good standing with both the USA Hockey and the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association.
3. Teams and coaches must be registered and in good standing with both USA Hockey and the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association. Teams and coaches must provide proof of insurance to the insurance committee prior to the first game of the season

SECTION H

Ineligible Players

1. Any team dressing or rostering an ineligible player shall forfeit the game or games and player(s) shall have points scored during the game or games stricken from the official DSHSL records.
2. The Commissioner shall review the actions of the teams' officials for possible disciplinary action.

SECTION I

Suspensions

1. Any player or coach who receives a Game Misconduct shall be immediately removed from the current game. An additional game suspension shall be assessed for the next scheduled league game. No appeal is available.
2. Any player or coach who receives a Match Penalty shall be immediately removed from the current game, and shall be suspended from all USA Hockey activities.
3. All suspensions incurred during a DSHSL game shall be served in scheduled DSHSL games only. The only exception is in the case of a Match Penalty, and then 2 above applies.

- a. This does not relieve a suspended player from serving his suspension in accordance with USA Hockey (i.e. non-league games scheduled prior to the next league game.)
 - b. A player may in fact sit out more games than the original suspension in order to fulfill his obligation.
4. Suspended players shall not be counted as players dressed for a game even though ineligible to participate in the game or be on the team bench. The suspended players must sign the score sheet as a suspended player before the game begins.(refer to Article II, Suspensions, 4.)
5. No suspended player may participate in any DSHSL scheduled regular season, playoff, or All Star game(s) until said suspension has expired.
6. A suspended player will not be eligible to play in the All Star Game. However, if a player is suspended during an All Star game, it will carry over to the regular season.
7. Any suspension not served during the current season will carry over into the player's next season of play.

SECTION J

Commissioner's Review

All suspensions other than a game misconduct shall be automatically reviewed by the Commissioner for possible further disciplinary action.

SECTION K

Foreign Exchange Students

1. A foreign exchange student is a student who is in the United States on a J-1 visa or on another classification of visa and who is a participant in a program similar to those whose participants would be eligible for a J-1 visa and who is in full-time attendance at a DSHSL member school.
2. A foreign exchange student must meet the eligibility requirements of the DSHSL Player Rules and becomes eligible for one season at the school which he attends; DSHSL will determine that he is a foreign exchange student that meets the eligibility requirements of the Association.
3. A member-team shall be limited to one (1) foreign exchange player on the roster in a given DSHSL season.

SECTION L

Rosters

1. Each team can register as many players as they wish; however, only twenty (20) players – Eighteen (18) skaters and two (2) goaltenders may be listed on the score sheet.
2. All USA Hockey registrations are frozen as of December 31. No players may be added to any team.

ARTICLE II RULES & PROCEDURES

SECTION A

Game Location

DHSHL scheduled games shall not be played at any rink that has not been approved by the Governing Board.

SECTION B

Divisional Play

1. As DHSHL grows, the need will arise to split the regular season and playoffs into separate divisions. The maximum number of teams permitted in a single division shall be eleven (11) teams.
2. The number of divisions shall be determined each year, depending on the number of teams participating, by the board.
3. Each division will have its own playoffs and championship.

SECTION C

Length of Periods and Intermissions

1. All DHSHL matches shall be limited to regular periods of not less than 15 minutes. Intermissions between periods shall be one minute. A misconduct penalty shall be 10 minutes, a major penalty shall be 5 minutes and a minor penalty shall be 2 minutes.
2. One and one-half hours (90 minutes) is allocated for each DHSHL game.
3. A five goal lead at the start of the third period brings a running clock. If the losing team scores and the differential is 4 or less, normal stoppages resume.
4. If, in the opinion of the Referee, based on the current USA Hockey rulebook rules, the physical playing conditions become unsatisfactory during the course of the game, he may call the game at any time. It shall be "no game" unless two periods have been completed.

SECTION D

Association Standings

1. Association standings shall be determined by awarding 2 points for a victory, 1 point for a tie, and no points for a loss.
2. Association Champions shall be the team completing the season with the greatest number of points.
3. In case of a tie, the following guidelines shall be followed:
 - a. Series winner by points between the two tied teams.
 - b. Total number of wins in the division.
 - c. Least goals against in the division for the season.
 - d. Points against common opponents.
 - e. Total number of wins against common opponents.
 - f. Least goals against vs. common opponents.
 - g. Least goals against in series.
 - h. Coin-Flip by Commissioner.
4. At the discretion of the Board, a post-season playoff format may be determined to select participants to represent the Association in post-season tournaments.

SECTION E

Jersey Colors

1. The designated home team wears the white or light-colored jersey.
2. If a team has only one jersey, it is the responsibility of that team to notify their opponent and make suitable arrangements so that contrasting colors will be worn.

SECTION F

All Star Format

1. DHSHL will split teams evenly; based on number of teams and team standings. Each member-team will field a minimum of one player to an All Star roster.
2. Each All Star team will total twenty (20) players plus three (3) goaltenders and (3) alternates to be selected by the All Star Committee.
3. All Star Committee will be formed by the Governing Board for each division with a meeting in mid-January. Each member team will bring a list of recommended all

stars from their teams and a list of all stars they feel their division opponents have.

SECTION G

Play Off Format

Because the playoff format is affected by the number of teams involved, and the number of teams in the League may change from year to year, the play-off format will be discussed and approved by the Board prior to the beginning of each season.

SECTION H

Ten-Minute Misconducts

1. Ten (10) minute misconducts received in the last ten (10) minutes of the game **will be carried over to the next scheduled league game of that team.**
2. The 'carry over' will be the **unserved balance** of the misconduct.
3. It is the **responsibility of the coach to advise the scorekeeper** that the player will be starting the game in the penalty box, and how much time is to be served.
4. It is **the responsibility of the coach to ask the scorekeeper to make a notation on the score sheet** and notify the player when he may leave the penalty box.
5. **Coaches not sitting players for the ten (10) minute misconduct carry over will be playing an ineligible player, and therefore will forfeit the game** and be subject to other sanctions in accordance with Section H rule on playing ineligible players.

SECTION I

Suspensions

1. Five Penalty Rule

Any player who incurs five penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct and a one (1) game suspension which shall be served in the next officially scheduled DSHSL game.

2. Fifteen Penalty Rule

Any Head Coach whose team receives fifteen or more penalties during one game shall be suspended for the next one DSHSL game of that team.

3. Fighting

- a. Any player who receives a major penalty for Fisticuffs (Fighting) shall be assessed a five (5) minute major penalty, a game misconduct from USA Hockey and an additional two (2) game suspension from the league for the first offense. The second offense for the same player shall result in a game misconduct and suspension from any other DSHL activity. The suspended player will not be allowed to participate in any DSHL activities for the remainder of the season.
- b. In the case of a fight, skaters must go to their respective benches and take their seats. Leaving the bench to join in a fight shall result in a game misconduct and a one (1) game suspension.
- c. The third man (or other skaters) in on a fight shall receive a game misconduct.
- d. A player who is identified by the officials as being the instigator or the aggressor can, after the game receive a game misconduct and a one (1) game suspension, in addition to any other penalties at the discretion of the Commissioner.
- e. A player who receives a fighting major during a playoff game is suspended for the **remainder of the playoffs**. Any remaining part of the three (3) game suspension shall be served at the beginning of the following season.
- f. If the player who receives a fighting major in the playoffs is a senior or is not returning to serve his suspension, the member-club shall be fined \$500 payable to the league which will carry forward as a credit to the next season for the other clubs benefit and not to benefit the club from where this fine was generated.

4. Notification

- a. Official written notification of suspensions will only be issued for match penalty suspensions. This notification will go to the player and to the Atlantic District.
- b. All game misconduct and other suspensions excluding match penalties are automatic, non-appealable and according to USA Hockey and DSHL rules; as such, no written notification other than the score sheet will be issued.
- c. A suspended player is obligated to appear at the next scheduled game(s) (the actual number of games is equal to the suspension). Prior to the game, he is required to sign the score sheet in the area allocated for suspended players. He must also print his name, number and team. If the team has a scheduled game, and the player is supposed to sign, and he does not, the

game does not count toward his suspension. (Signing the score sheet is required for `game' suspensions, not a 'day' suspension such as match penalty)

SECTION J

Disputed Calls

In the event of a disputed penalty call, the call stands and no appeals regardless of video will apply.

SECTION K

Off-Ice Officials (Scorers/Time Keepers, Penalty Box Monitors)

1. All Scorer/Time Keepers must be certified for DSHSL competitions by attending the class provided.
2. Home teams must provide a Scorer/Time Keeper for the games. If the off-ice official cannot be provided by the home team, the home team is responsible for informing the Commissioner twenty-four (24) hours prior to the game. If a substitute off-ice official needs to be paid, the home team shall pay substitute officials \$25 each.

ARTICLE III – Suspended Article

COMMONWEALTH DIVISION TEAMS

SECTION A

Purpose

1. The purpose of the Commonwealth program is to provide a viable alternative non pure Varsity league and develop a feeder program to build and retain Varsity teams; and
2. To develop and encourage sportsmanship between all players, and to provide a positive atmosphere of growth in learning skills and the development of those skills through high school level competition.

SECTION B

Teams

1. Players shall be in at least the ninth (9th) grade, and shall have a maximum of four (4) years playing eligibility. Any waiver of this rule must be approved by the Board.
2. The Coach and the Team Representative will be responsible for their team roster.

3. Commonwealth teams must represent a geographic area for where high school players attend high schools that can't field a pure varsity division team.
4. Teams shall have a minimum of ten (10) skaters and one (1) goaltender. Regardless of the number of players a team registers, no team shall have more than twenty (20) skaters, including goaltenders, dressed for any game.
5. All teams must have a designated goaltender.
6. Commonwealth teams must offer at least one practice per scheduled league game and provide their practice schedule to the Commissioner before the start of the season.
7. To ensure fairness in player eligibility and geographic considerations, Varsity Division Governing Board members will assist in the preparation and review of player rosters for division teams that meet the player counts needed to field a team, goaltender considerations, and school development considerations. All player decisions are final. Returning players on existing teams will be fairly evaluated to offer minimum disruption to teams based on graduation and incoming player counts.
8. New teams that develop from player growth can solicit support from existing teams to help manage team budgetary needs as needed unless they can develop their own capabilities.
9. Each team will need to develop their own pricing models based on coach expectations, jerseys, number of players, location and number of practices and various other financial considerations.
10. Commonwealth teams that, with incoming freshmen, have 11 players that go to the same school, must field a Varsity pure team. The team must inform the Governing Board of this by September 1 to allow for sufficient time to work with a school's Athletic Director in getting the team sanctioned.

SECTION C

Players

1. An inventory of incoming players to the high school league will need to be performed each spring by surveying area hockey programs in identifying 8th graders moving up to high school.
2. New players without an existing Varsity pure program will be evaluated for school choice first and where they live second (using the example of home schooling). They will be placed on the appropriate team once identified.
3. The goal is to retain all players interested and to have no cuts if possible. Placement of players may therefore be a subjective measure by Varsity Division Governing Board Members that takes player counts in a geographic region into

consideration to ensure a relatively even spread of players on each non pure Commonwealth Team developed.

4. Commonwealth Players represent the entire State of Delaware, along with local Maryland, PA and NJ students looking to play competitive high school ice hockey with their classmates. Regional ice considerations for practices and games will be utilized here.

Article IV – Suspended Article

VARSITY DIVISION TEAMS

SECTION A

Purpose

1. The purpose of the Varsity program is to provide a pure Varsity high school league of same school players; and
2. To develop and encourage sportsmanship between all players, and to provide a positive atmosphere of growth in learning skills and the development of those skills through high school level competition.

SECTION B

Teams

1. Players shall be in at least the ninth (9th) grade, and shall have a maximum of four (4) years playing eligibility. A waiver of this rule must be approved by the Board.
2. The Coach and the Team Representative will be responsible for their team roster.

SECTION C

Players

1. An inventory of incoming players to the high school league will need to be performed each spring by surveying area hockey programs in identifying 8th graders moving up to high school.
1. Varsity teams returning will need to calculate their player counts after each season and inform the Governing Board if they have enough returning players to remain in the Varsity division, including identified and confirmed incoming freshmen.