

NORTHERN COLLEGIATE HOCKEY LEAGUE (NCHL) BY-LAWS

Unanimously Approved on December 6, 2013

Amended on February 16, 2020

1. MISSION STATEMENT

The NCHL is an organization comprised of American Collegiate Hockey Association Division 2 programs. The mission of the NCHL is to promote the growth of structured competitive regional collegiate ice hockey through a league managed and directed by representatives of its members.

2. TEAM REQUIREMENTS

2.1. Membership Requirements

- 2.1.1. Annual payment of season membership dues by October 31st prior to the beginning of each season.
- 2.1.2. Adherence to all American Collegiate Hockey Association Division 2 standards, policies and procedures.
- 2.1.3. Participate in mandatory organizational meetings, provide timely response to requests for information and feedback, and communicate in a timely manner with the NCHL. Scores and statistics are to be e-mailed no later than Sunday evening.
- 2.1.4. Adherence to additional minimum recommended guidelines as set forth by the Board of Directors.

2.2. Membership Benefits

- 2.2.1. Members shall benefit in the following: Participation in a league managed and directed by its members; a website containing information pertinent to the operation of the league and its members; a playoff tournament involving the top performing teams in the NCHL; players recognized for exceptional performance both athletically and academically; participation in a conference team at the ACHA All-Star Classic.

2.3. Suspension of Membership Benefits

- 2.3.1. Membership affiliation and benefits may be suspended or withdrawn for non-compliance with NCHL or ACHA rules or regulations. Suspension of benefits may include, but are not limited to, the removal of team participation from the league post-season tournament, forfeiture of games, or removal from the NCHL.
- 2.3.2. Suspension of benefits shall be decided by the Board of Directors. Each team shall have one vote on the Board.
- 2.3.3. Suspension of benefits may be appealed in writing within 10 days to the NCHL. The Commissioner shall accept and communicate any new information to member teams and a decision shall be rendered within 7 days. All appeal decisions will be final.

2.4. Membership Restrictions

- 2.4.1. Membership is limited to ACHA Division 2 teams.

2.4.2. Any team submitting a proposal to join the NCHL must do so in writing to the office of the commissioner prior to December 1, with a decision provided in writing by December 31. The application will be considered for the full season of play that starts during the next calendar year.

3. OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

- 3.1. All players must meet ACHA requirements. Any rule changes by the ACHA shall be automatically adopted by the NCHL.
- 3.2. All players must be academically eligible under standards determined by the ACHA. Any rule changes by the ACHA shall be automatically adopted by the NCHL.
- 3.3. The NCHL shall utilize the rules of play specified by the current NCAA Rule Book as adopted by the ACHA, unless specified differently in the ACHA Division 2 Policies and Procedures.
- 3.4. All NCHL games shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of ACHA Division 2 with regard to matters including, but not limited to, the number of dressed players, the length of periods, resurfacings, referee systems (although the 2 referee system is to be employed whenever possible), and disqualifications of players and coaches.

4. REGULAR SEASON

- 4.1. The NCHL membership will be divided into two (2) divisions - the Black Division and Orange Division - when membership exceeds 10 teams. If there are 10 or fewer teams, there will be a single division. When two divisions exist, the following will apply:
 - 4.1.1. Divisions will be based on the final ACHA rankings of the current season. Any member may call for the use of a combination of final ACHA ranking and coaches' poll; ratio would be 3:2 in favor of the coaches poll.
 - 4.1.2. Number of members in each division need not be equal and will be decided yearly at the league meeting.
 - 4.1.3. Any team inside the top 20 when final ACHA Rankings are released will automatically be in the Hap Cup Division the following season.
- 4.2. Each NCHL team will play the other members of their division twice each season.
 - 4.2.1. If 2 divisions exist, interdivisional games are allowed; however, they will not accrue points towards either team's divisional standing.
- 4.3. It is the responsibility of the members to schedule league games. The members will give priority in scheduling games with other league members.
 - 4.3.1. Member teams are obligated to play home/home series in consecutive years, or as agreed by the teams involved.
- 4.4. In the event that two NCHL teams will play more than one weekend series during the season, the teams may mutually agree upon which weekend series will count toward league play. Such agreement must be made in writing in advance of the first series, and timely written notification must be provided to the NCHL Commissioner. In the absence of written mutual agreement and proper NCHL notification, the first two games between NCHL teams will count toward league play. Any additional games played between the two NCHL teams will not count toward league play.
- 4.5. A point system will be followed when determining division standings and in determining seeding for the NCHL Championship Tournament.
 - 4.5.1. Regulation wins are worth two (2) points.
 - 4.5.2. Overtime wins are worth two (2) points
 - 4.5.3. Overtime losses are worth one (1) point.
 - 4.5.4. Regulation losses are worth zero (0) points.

- 4.6. In the case of a tie at the end of the regular season, and in determining qualification and/or seeding for the NCHL Championship Tournament, the tie breakers are:
- 4.6.1. Most overall division wins.
 - 4.6.2. Head to head win/loss record based on points.
 - 4.6.3. Head to head goals for/goals against differential.
 - 4.6.4. Overall league goals for/goals against differential
 - 4.6.5. Coin flip.

5. NCHL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

- 5.1. The NCHL Championship Tournament shall be hosted by bids. Bids must be submitted by February 1 of the year prior to hosting, and will be voted on at the current year's championship tournament. The Tournament shall, if possible, be played at alternating sites from season to season.
- 5.2. The NCHL Championship Tournament shall be conducted by the host member based upon a budget intended to compensate the host member for the actual cost of the tournament. Bids to host the Tournament shall follow the format provided and include an estimated budget including the projected cost per team. The cost of the Tournament will be paid prorata without regard to the number of games played by the members participating in the Tournament.
- 5.3. The top four (4) teams in each division at the end of the regular season will qualify for the Tournament, when 2 divisions exist. If there is a single division, the top six (6) teams qualify for the tournament with the top 2 teams receiving a bye.
- 5.3.1. Each division will play for separate titles; Black Division the Hap Cup, Orange Division the Bruno Goblet.
 - 5.3.1.1. The Hap Cup will be played for if only 1 division exists.
 - 5.3.2. Games will only be contested between qualifying division members if 2 divisions exist.
- 5.4. Tournament games shall be played using the NCHL Tournament Format. This will follow option 1 of the game protocol outlined in the conference rules, except if the game is tied after the end of regulation. In such cases 5-on-5 continuous overtimes shall decide the winner. Overtime will consist of 20-minute stop time periods. The ice shall be cut before the start of overtime and after each subsequent 20-minute overtime period.
- 5.5. The NCHL Championship Tournament will be played on a weekend that leaves at least 1 week off before the regional tournament.
- 5.6. The format for each divisional tournament will be:
- 5.6.1. Game #1 Day 1: Seed #1 v. Seed #4.
 - 5.6.2. Game #2 Day 1: Seed #2 v. Seed #3.
 - 5.6.3. Game #3 Day 2 Championship Game: Winner Game #1 v. Winner Game #2.
 - 5.6.4. If there is a single 6-team tournament, the format is:
 - 5.6.4.1. Game #1 Day 1: Seed #4 v. Seed #5
 - 5.6.4.2. Game #2 Day 1: Seed #3 v. Seed #6
 - 5.6.4.3. Game #3 Day 2: Seed #1 v. Worst Remaining Seed
 - 3. Game #4 Day 2: Seed #2 v. 2nd Worst Remaining Seed
 - 4. Game #5 Day 3: Winner Game #3 v. Winner Game #4
 - 5.6.5. The NCHL Commissioner will determine the "All-Tournament Team".
 - 5.6.6. The NCHL Board of Directors will determine the "All-Conference Team".

ADMINISTRATION

1. The Board of Directors shall manage all business and affairs involving the NCHL. The Board has the authority to establish policies and procedures for the operation and organization of the league. The Board will consist of one voting member from each team. Any coach or staff member associated with the team can be appointed by the team to sit on the Board of Directors.
2. Members of the Board of Directors shall be appointed annually by the respective member teams in advance of the spring meeting of the Board. There is no limit on the tenure of Board members.
3. Each Director may designate an alternate within his organization to represent a team at any given meeting.
4. The Commissioner shall manage the activities of the Board of Directors. The Commissioner has only organizational and administrative duties. All proposals will be voted on by each team collectively as the Board of Directors. The Commissioner will be selected every two years at the spring meeting by majority vote of the Board. Removal of the Director during the season requires a 75% supermajority vote of the Board.
5. Decisions to add or remove member teams shall be made by a 75% supermajority vote of the Board. All other decisions shall be by majority vote. Each member of the Board of Directors in attendance shall have one vote. Ties may be, but are not required to be, resolved by the NCHL Commissioner.

7. MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 7.1. Members of the Board of Directors shall meet no less than twice annually. There shall at a minimum be a spring meeting and a fall meeting. At least a seven day notice is required for any meeting, unless waived by a unanimous vote of all Board Members.
- 7.2. Meetings shall be scheduled and called by the Commissioner in consultation with the Board Members. The Commissioner shall be required to call and schedule a supplemental meeting when requested by at least 3 members of the Board.
- 7.3. The procedures of all meetings shall be managed by the acting Commissioner and be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.
- 7.4. Meeting attendance is mandatory by all teams. The Commissioner may, in consultation with other Board Members, and in the presence of extenuating circumstances, arrange for participation of Board Members through teleconference or videoconference.
- 7.5. Where stated that a 75% supermajority of league members must vote in favor of a decision, a supermajority of league teams must vote in favor of the decision regardless of the number of teams in attendance at a meeting. In all other cases, a majority vote shall consist of a majority vote of the teams in attendance.

8. SUPPLEMENTAL DISCIPLINE

- 8.1. It is the intention that all members of the NCHL will act in a manner consistent with good sportsmanship that will enhance the quality of the league and further accomplishment of the leagues mission statement. All members are expected to comply with the rules of the ACHA.
- 8.2. The NCHL, and its Board of Directors, does not anticipate that it will be required to consistently act to discipline its members. Repeated conduct by a member team which is inconsistent with the rules of the ACHA, the policies and rules of the NCHL, and principles of fair play and good sportsmanship, suggests that the member team should not continue as a member of the NCHL.

- 8.3. The NCHL has the right, through the vote of the Board of Directors, to impose supplemental discipline to preserve the integrity of the league, including, but not limited to, the removal of the offending team from the league.
- 8.4. Disputes among member teams should be resolved between the member teams in a manner consistent with the purposes of the league. In the event that the member teams are unable to resolve their differences, the Commissioner may assist them in seeking a negotiated agreement, or the matter may be brought to the next meeting of the Board of Directors.