

NCHL Rules and Regulations

Approved on May 10, 2014

Social Media Requirements

All teams, including the conference, shall maintain at least a website, and Twitter that are updated regularly during the season.

Rosters and Eligible Players

A player is considered eligible for NCHL games once the player has been added to the team's NCHL and ACHA roster. This means the player will have been added to the ACHA website, NCHL Website and the player has completed the e-mail based ACHA waiver and player agreement. Any player who does not meet these criteria will not be eligible to compete in any NCHL Games. Roster adds should be made no later than 1 hour prior to a Game.

Any team who uses a player who is considered to be ineligible must immediately report the issue to the NCHL and ACHA Commissioner. The NCHL game will be immediately forfeited. Any team who knowingly uses ineligible or illegal players will be subject to discipline including but not limited to a post season ban, probation and in some cases expulsion from the NCHL as seen appropriate by the NCHL Board of Directors.

Game Contracts

The NCHL recommends all teams take advantage of the ACHA game contract. It is the NCHL's belief that once games are confirmed by emails that constitutes the same effect as the ACHA game contract. In any case if a team can provide emails to the NCHL that show games were scheduled and confirmed the NCHL will enforce all protection and penalties in compliance with the ACHA game contract. NCHL membership may be terminated if a team fails to comply and meet the standard set forth by the NCHL.

Games not played

In the event games do not get completed due to an act of God, or another acceptable reason approved by the commissioner, no points shall be awarded in the NCHL standings. Teams will hold their final position based on points earned. No team or teams will be penalized other than having points for the games in question left un-awarded. In the event of a tie standard tie breaking procedures shall be followed.

Forfeits

Any NCHL team who forfeits any games, ACHA or NCHL, for any reason shall immediately become ineligible to compete in the NCHL post season. Additionally, up to a \$300 fine may be levied, at the discretion of the Commissioner, after an investigation. Teams will have the right to appeal the post season ban and fine in writing with the NCHL Board of Directors. The board will then notify the team in question of the Boards Decision. The team representative for the team in question will be allowed to participate and even provide addition details on the situation during this process. The team in question will not have a vote in the process.

Coaches

All teams shall have a Head Coach present for all NCHL games. This coach must be rostered with the NCHL and ACHA as a Coach. No player shall be able to serve as a coach during a NCHL game. We feel coaches are a very important piece of the team structure and of its dynamics. NCHL teams must have a coach to play a scheduled contest.

Game Times

- It is the recommendation of the league that series are played on Friday night and Saturday afternoon to reduce costs of the traveling team. Saturday-Sunday series are permissible with the written permission of the traveling team.
- No game shall have a scheduled start time after 10:00 PM local time unless agreed upon in writing by the traveling team.
- The second game of an NCHL series shall not start with less than 12 hours between the end of game 1 and the start time of game 2 unless agreed to in writing.
- The second game of a weekend NCHL series shall not start before 1PM local time (Saturday or Sunday) unless agreed upon in writing by both teams.

Game Play

NCHL Approved Game Formats

Option 1 –

10.Minute Warm-
up Ice Cut
1st Period
Ice Cut
2nd Period
Ice Cut
3rd Period
Overtime/Shoot-Out as needed

Option 2 –

Ice Cut
10.Minute Warm-
up 1st Period
Ice Cut
2nd Period
Ice Cut
3rd Period Overtime/Shoot-Out
as needed

**NCAA Game Protocol is also approved for use in the NCHL. We encourage all teams to use this or some form of it.

NCHL All Conference Selections

- Each team will nominate at most 1 goalie, 2 defensemen, and 3 forwards (from their roster) for all-conference consideration.
 - Nominations shall be sent to the commissioner no later than 7 days from the start of the conference tournament.
- Each team will vote for 3 goalies, 6 defensemen, and 9 forwards for the all-conference team, but may not vote for their own players. Rank the top player the highest (e.g., 3, 6, or 9) and move down the list.
 - Teams will receive a ballot no later than 7 days after the nomination deadline, and have up to 7 days to return the ballot to the commissioner.
- Rankings will be summed to create a total list of points per player.
- All conference teams will be as follows (ties will be broken by (in order): total number of people voting for a player then average ranking. A tie in both of these will result in sharing the honor):
 - 1st Team:
 - First ranked Goalie
 - 1st & 2nd ranked Defense
 - 1st – 3rd ranked Forwards
 - 2nd Team:
 - Second ranked Goalie
 - 3rd & 4th ranked Defense
 - 4th-6th ranked Forwards
 - Honorable Mention:
 - Any player receiving a ranking
- The Player of the Year will be voted on from the players selected to the 1st team all-conference.
- An All-Conference Rookie Team shall be selected in the same manner as the All-Conference Team. Only those players playing in their first year in the ACHA are eligible, given that they have no prior NCAA or Junior College playing experience. A Rookie-of-the-Year will be voted on from the players selected to the 1st team all-conference rookie. Any rookie making the All-Conference 1st-Team will receive a note on the All-Conference list and be removed from the All-Rookie list.
- The Coach of the Year will be selected by the coaches based on a nomination and voting process. No coach can nominate or vote for themselves.
- All accolades listed in this section will be announced no later than 4 weeks from the completion of the conference tournament.

NCHL All-Star Challenge

- The NCHL recognizes the importance of events like the ACHA All-Star Challenge. The league shall provide an application process that allows any NCHL player to apply to be selected for the team. It will also do its best to keep the cost for the event reasonable.
- Applications for players should be available no later than Oct 1st. The Applications will be due back to the NCHL Commissioner by Jan 1st. The team will be announced as part of the NCHL Tournament.
- Player selection will be based on the application process. The All-Star Challenge Coaching Staff will review applications and talk about the players with their Coaches. It will be the

goal of the NCHL to make sure each team shall have several representatives. This is however based on the selections availability to participate and the idea teams will have several qualified applicants. The Coaching Staff will communicate with player's coaches and the NCHL Commissioner to make sure the team represents the entire NCHL. It will be up to each coaching staff to decide how they want to go about putting a team together.

- Coaches will be selected at the NCHL Spring meeting prior to the NCHL All-Star Challenge year. Any Coach who wishes to participate shall have the opportunity to volunteer to take part. The current NCHL Commissioner will serve as the Team GM. The team will have 1 Head Coach and up to 2 Assistants.
- The players selected to the NCHL All-Star Challenge team will split the costs associated with participating in the tournament; this will include the cost of travel with the team and any hotel accommodations for the Staff. The Staff shall be limited to 4 members to keep costs down. The NCHL Commissioner shall have a budget and basic outline of the team needs by Jan 1st.
- The Staff will name several alternates to fill in shall players decline the invite to participate.

Updated February 16, 2020