

# CAROLINAS HOCKEY LEAGUE, INC.

## BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I: General

**Section 1:** The League Bylaws as set forth herein provide guidance and direction for the organization, administration and operation of the League. Although not formally a part of the Constitution, the policies and procedures established herein are considered to be of the same force and effect and are binding on all member associations.

**Section 2:** These Bylaws may be amended, changed or modified by majority vote of the Board of Directors. In the case of tie votes, the amendment or modification shall be deemed to have failed.

### ARTICLE II: Membership

**Section 1:** Membership in the League shall consist of such amateur hockey associations and organizations operating amateur hockey teams, defined as three or more, may from time to time apply for and be accepted for membership by the Board of Directors.

**Section 2:** Any bona fide amateur hockey association organized, operating, and located within the area encompassed by the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, and are in good standing with USA Hockey and their USA Hockey Affiliate may apply for membership in the League. The Board of Directors will consider and act upon any such applications at the next scheduled Board meeting following the submission of the application. If accepted, such organizations will be included in the League game schedule of their respective Division for the season immediately following the acceptance of the association's application. A CAHA affiliate association may join the league without participating in the game schedule.

**Section 3:** Once accepted, any member association which fails to remain in Good Standing with their respective Affiliate, USA Hockey or the League will be suspended as defined in Section 7 below. If for the following year the member association remains not in Good Standing, the membership shall be revoked.

**Section 4:** By virtue of its membership in the League, member associations expressly agree to comply with and abide by the Constitution, Bylaws, Operating Rules, and playing rules of the Carolinas Hockey League, the Carolina Amateur Hockey Association, and USA Hockey.

**Section 5:** Annual League membership dues shall be established by the Board of Directors as a condition of continued membership and shall be due and payable no later than the Annual Meeting. Division dues and the respective due dates shall be established by the Commissioner of each Division subject to approval of the Board. If the Division dues are not paid by the agreed date, the association's game schedule may be canceled and the association may forfeit all games played to date, or other penalty may be imposed as determined by the Board of Directors.

**Section 6:** If, due to circumstances beyond the control of a member association, such as lack of adequate playing facilities, its game commitments cannot be met, such association may elect to suspend operation, in which case its Division dues, if paid, will be refunded on a pro-rated basis. League Membership will not be refunded.

**Section 7:** Associations whose membership is suspended may continue to participate in League meetings, as long as their membership dues are current. In cases where membership has been revoked or has lapsed by non payment of membership dues, the association must reapply for membership in accordance with Section 2.

**Section 8:** All registered players, coaches, managers and other officials duly appointed or elected by member associations shall be individual members of the League.

### Section 9: Composition of Divisions

- A. **District Bound Travel Division** shall be composed of those teams defined as teams registered with USA Hockey to compete towards USAH National Championships, (usually referred to as Tier I or Tier II A/AA).
  - 1. Players cannot be dual registered on participating team rosters, nor on any team participating in the Recreation Division. Division structure is to be reviewed by the Board annually.
  - 2. A Recreation Registered Team may apply to the District Bound Travel Commissioner to “play up” in the District Bound Division. A majority vote of the members of the District Bound Division would be required to allow the “play up”. The applying team must abide by the same rules as the Tier I or II teams, for example, the Frozen Roster rule.
  - 3. There will be no sub-division of teams in this Division
  - 4 Season Champion of District Bound Division is allotted the CAHA Tier II seat 2 position, as is allotted to CAHA for advancing to District Championships as long as the winner is a member of the CAHA affiliate. If the Season Champion is not eligible for the position, the seat shall be passed down to the next eligible position.
- B. **Recreation Division** shall be composed of teams defined as Recreational “B”, House Select Recreational teams and those recreational teams from regional small market areas with three or less teams, commonly referred to as House Recreational.
  - 1. The Recreation Division may consist of Northern & Southern Divisions, as well as varying sub-divisions of competitiveness.
  - 2. Players may not be registered on multiple participating team rosters and may NOT be registered with a District Bound Travel Team (with the exception of “dual” roster girl players). Division structure to be reviewed by the Board annually.
  - 3. Season Champion of the Recreational “B” Division is allotted the CAHA Recreational position for advancing to District Recreational Championship. If an age group does not have a Recreational “B” Division, the position is given to the Season Champion of the House Select Division.
- C. **High School Division** shall be composed of Regional, Recreational or High School teams. Players may not be registered on multiple participating team rosters.

**ARTICLE III: Board of Directors**

**Section 1:** Administrative authority within the League is vested in a Board of Directors established under the authority of Article IV of the Constitution. Each Director, other than the President shall carry one vote.

**Section 2:** The Board of Directors shall collectively discharge the following duties and responsibilities:

- a. Establish goals, objectives, programs and management practices consistent with the best interests of the League.
- b. Amend the Constitution and Bylaws as required.
- c. Impose and enforce appropriate penalties for violations of the Constitution, Bylaws or Operating Rules.
- d. Prepare an annual budget, establish and collect fees, and authorize the expenditure of funds. All expenditures of CHL funds in excess of \$200 require Board approval.
- e. Actively promote the USA Hockey Coaches and Officials Development Programs within the League. Establish the Commissioners for the Three Divisions of the League as set forth in Section 8 of Article IV of the Constitution.
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- g. Create and Approve a Master Schedule for all division’s game schedules.

**Section 3:** Officers of the Board of Directors are also officers of the League and have the following duties and responsibilities:

a. **President:**

1. Duties include to call and preside at all meetings; sign all contracts, leases, and other legal documents as authorized by the Board of Directors; act as chief spokesman for the League and generally guide and conduct the affairs of the League.
2. The office of President shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors for a term of two (2) years, as outlined in the Constitution, Article IV, section 3.
3. The President carries no vote.
4. The President of the League shall meet with the CAHA Youth Committee Chairperson who shall present League issues at the Affiliate Level.

b. **Vice President:**

1. Assume the duties of President in his absence or incapacitation.
2. The office of Vice President shall be elected for a term of one (1) year, as outlined in the Constitution, Article IV, section 3.
3. Oversee the League's on ice and hockey related operations.
4. Assist elected Division Commissioners.
5. Resolve any protest presented to the League from the respective Division that is appealed above the respective Commissioner, subject to final review and approval by the full Board of Directors.
6. Serve as Discipline Committee Chairman for any required League Discipline Hearings
7. Ensure all member associations comply with all USA Hockey rules and follow the Zero Tolerance USA Hockey program.

c. **Secretary:**

1. Assume the duties of President in the absence or incapacitation of the President and Vice President.
2. The office of Secretary shall be elected for a term of one (1) year, as outlined in the Constitution, Article IV, section 3.
3. Maintain appropriate records and reports.
4. Provide timely notice of annual, special and regular meetings.
5. Prepare minutes of each meeting and transmit copies thereof to all members of the Board in a timely manner.

d. **Treasurer:**

1. Oversee the League's administrative and financial affairs.
2. The office of Treasurer shall be appointed by the CAHA Affiliate Board of Directors for a term of one (1) years, as outlined in the Constitution, Article IV, section 3.
3. Maintain and account for the League funds.
4. Establish and maintain appropriate bank accounts at approved financial institutions and pay all proper financial obligations.
5. Collect and deposit appropriate dues and other receivables.
6. Prepare an annual budget and an annual financial report.
7. Supervise appointed bookkeepers and accountants.

#### **ARTICLE IV: League Officials**

**Section 1:** The Board of Governors shall elect from its membership Commissioners for the Three (3) Divisions as outlined in Section 8, Article IV of the Constitution.

**A. COMMISSIONER:** Responsible for the establishing of operations of the respective Division within the scope of authority granted by the Board of Directors. Oversees regular season and tournament scheduling and the planning of any Annual Championship Tournament; resolves games protests subject to appeal to the Vice President and the Board of Directors; imposes suspensions and other disciplinary measures resulting from infractions of the rules subject to appeal to the Vice President and Board of Directors; performs other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors  
Each Commissioner may establish committees within their respective Division composed on volunteers not serving on the Board of Directors, without vote on League issues.

**Section 2:** The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, appoint such League Officials as may be considered necessary in the best interests of League operations. Such officials serve at the pleasure of the Board. These appointees may actively participate in Board meetings and offer appropriate advice and assistance, but may not vote. Such League officials may consist of the following, but not necessarily be limited to:

- A. **LIAISON TO OFFICIALS:** Responsible for building open communication between the League and the local Officials to better achieve compliance with the USA Hockey playing rules. Responsible to help Division Commissioners understand the playing rules.
- B. **SCHEDULING DIRECTOR:** Plans and conducts the annual scheduling meeting; prepares and maintains a League Master Schedule; coordinates with Division Commissioners for all game schedules.
- C. **STATISTICIAN:** Receives and maintains all game reports; maintains League standings in all Divisions; certifies regular season champions in all Divisions; maintains player statistics where appropriate; monitors game reports for player suspensions imposed because of the rules violations and coordinates with affected Divisions, the Supervisor of Officials, the Commissioner, the Vice President, and the Board of Directors as required; notifies the Commissioner or Vice President of all incidents involving Gross Misconduct Penalties, or a third Game Misconduct penalty assessed against the same player in the same season; assist Vice President in coordinating any other disciplinary matter requiring Board attention; Alerts affected Division Commissioner and the Vice President to perceived deviations from eligibility or roster requirements.
- D. **PUBLICITY DIRECTOR:** Responsible for coordinating media coverage of League activities; represents the League in dealings with the media; prepares press releases as appropriate; prepares other appropriate information material; coordinates all other aspects of League activities relating to public information.
- E. **WEBMASTER:** Responsible for updating information and maintaining the Web site and all actual information posted on the Internet.

## **ARTICLE V: MEETINGS**

**Section 1:** The Board of Directors will meet at least annually, as required by Article V of the Constitution. The Board will endeavor to meet formally at least on a quarterly basis.

**Section 2:** Any League Member whose Director is absent at three consecutive Board meetings may be placed on suspension, by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. A suspended League Member may be removed from League Membership upon a favorable vote of at least three-fourths (3/4) of the Board of Directors at a duly held Director's meeting provided that the removal is placed on the meeting agenda prior to the meeting and the League Member to be removed is given written notice of the proposed action no less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting.