



INTERSCHOLASTIC HOCKEY LEAGUE

Rules & Procedures

2023-2024

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**INTERSCHOLASTIC HOCKEY LEAGUE
RULES AND PROCEDURES
2023-2024**

Unless specifically stated otherwise, all Rules and Procedures contained herein are applicable to all teams in the Interscholastic Hockey League (“ISHL” or “League”).

ISHL General Philosophy and Goals

The overall purpose of the ISHL is to promote high school hockey and create new teams throughout Houston and the surrounding area with the goal of obtaining 100% participation from the named school as quickly as possible. The ISHL is committed to providing and promoting a positive, well-rounded and effective ice hockey program in the Houston area. The ISHL accommodates school district regulations when possible, including the No Pass/No Play rule. The ISHL encourages and supports each team to strive to obtain and maintain official club status through their respective school administration as quickly as possible.

In all cases, the Executive committee reserves the right to interpret policies and rules in the best interest of the League members. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not explicitly addressed in the League rules, the Executive Committee has the discretion to rule on the issue and implement policy for the current and future seasons. All League decisions are final.

SECTION A: League Rules and Policies

1. Team Composition for Justice Varsity League

The ISHL Team Composition Committee is responsible for approving the final rosters for all teams to ensure they are in compliance with all team composition rules. The Varsity Team Composition Committee is comprised of the Vice-President, Varsity Commissioner, and Division Representatives. The following definitions and eligibility hierarchy will serve to aid the formation of each team:

1. Definitions:

(a) “Named School Team”

An ISHL “Named School” will be defined each year by the Team Composition Committee. Generally, the school’s name will be in the team’s name. In the case of “Consolidated Teams,” the schools considered as Named Schools will be defined by the Team Composition Committee. Players may try out only for their Named School if they attend a Named School.

A player is a member of a Named School if that player:

- lives in the attendance boundary of that Named School, **or**

- has been continuously enrolled in and regularly attending the Named School for at least the previous calendar year if his or her parents do not reside within the school district's attendance zone, **or**
- is attending a school outside the attendance zone where the parents reside because the school board or other appropriate authority changed district or attendance zone lines.

(Note: See also UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, Subchapter M, Section 442)

(b) "Consolidated Team"

All ISHL "Consolidated Teams" will be defined each year by the Team Composition Committee. Generally, this will occur when a smaller high school links up with one or more other smaller high schools, and the resulting name would be too unwieldy.

(c) "Grandfather Provision"

A player is considered "Grandfathered" if:

- he/she played for a particular team in that team's previous season and the player makes the cut during tryouts for that team in the new season, **and**
- the player does not attend or live in the boundaries of that particular Named School (or Schools), but originally played when that team did not have 100% of the players from their own named school or schools, **and**
- the Grandfathered player's own school does not now have a Named School team. If the player is a senior, he/she still retains the option of playing for the previous team.

(d) "Full Team"

A team is considered a "Full Team" per ISHL rules if that team has 18 or more skaters and 2 or more goalies from the Named School(s) and Grandfathered players.

(e) "Distressed Team"

A team is considered a "Distressed Team" per ISHL rules if that team has fewer than 12 skaters and 1 goalie.

(f) "Skater"

A forward or defenseman (e.g., a player without goaltending equipment and special goalie privileges, such as closing hand around the puck, during the course of play).

(g) "Goalie"

A player wearing specialized goaltending equipment for the purposes of stopping shots on goal with certain playmaking privileges as described above.

(h) "Drafted Player"

A player is considered drafted when selected by a coach in the Divisional tryouts.

2. Eligibility Hierarchy for Skaters: The following hierarchy must be followed to determine a player's eligibility to play for a specific ISHL team. Distressed teams do not circumvent the process so long as the ISD teams is part of the draft. If a same ISD team is distressed then they must draft same ISD players. Varsity Commissioner & Divisional Reps should rule on disputes, and appeals should go to the Executive Board. The following order for the draft is:

- (a) Named School
- (b) Grandfathering Provision
- (c) Sibling rule –which would count against receiving teams' draft allotment.
- (d) Within Same ISD
- (e) Within Same ISHL Division
- (f) Between ISHL Divisions

A brief explanation is shown below:

- (a) Named School: In most cases, players must try out for their Named School team if it has an ISHL team.
 - (i) If the player is judged "safe to play," and without the player the team has 18 or fewer skaters and 2 or fewer goalies, the player must play for that team.
 - (ii) If the team is full (18 and 2), and said player does not "make the cut," the player may be carried on the team's alternate roster (up to 30 total), or elect to use his/her grandfather privilege (if previously played for another team), or elect to go into the Division draft.
- (b) Grandfather Provision:
 - (i) If a player attends a school that is not an ISHL Named School, the player may exercise the Grandfather option and directly try out for the player's previous team.
 - (ii) If the Grandfathered player's own school subsequently forms a team, that player must try out with that school, unless the player is a senior. Such seniors may choose to try out for either team, assuming an available roster opening.
 - (iii) A Grandfathered player may also choose not to exercise the Grandfathering option and enter the Division draft. If the player exercises this option, the Grandfathering option is lost.

- (c) Sibling Rule: The ISHL may make special concessions or provisions to place siblings on the same team. The Competition Committee will oversee and finalize any draft pick forfeiture.
- (d) Within Same ISD:
 - (i) If a player's school is not an ISHL Named School team, but is in the same ISD as a Named School, then the player shall attend the Divisional tryouts but will play for the Named School, assuming "Safe to Play" and assuming the Named School has not reached the full (18 and 2) level on their roster and elects to attend the Draft.
 - (ii) Teams attending the draft that are not full must take players from their own ISD before taking players from other ISDs.
 - (iii) Grandfathering provisions take precedence over ISD status; specifically, if a player does not attend an ISHL Named School, but is in the same ISD as a Named School, but previously played for another ISHL team and is grandfathered on that team, the player has the option to play for the grandfathered team rather than the Named School in the player's same ISD.
- (e) Within Division: If a player does not attend a Named School, is not Grandfathered, and is not in an ISD having an ISHL Named School, then the player goes to the Divisional tryout and is draftable by any eligible team in that Division.
 - ** Given the long distances that ISHL divisions encompass, it may be impractical for players to get drafted onto teams who practice a long distance away (causing difficulties for the player to attend practices or other team functions). The Team Composition Committee has discretion to implement draft procedures in an effort to avoid such travel hardships.
- (f) Private School/Home Schooled: Students attending private schools or who are home-schooled are eligible to play in the ISHL.
 - (i) Players should attend tryouts for the Named School where they would attend public school if that school has a team.
 - (ii) or attend the Divisional tryouts if no name school.

Note: If a team has more than 18 skaters and/or 2 goalies, either from the Named School or the Named School plus Grandfathered players, home/private schooled players cannot be added to that team.

3. Developmental Players:

Developmental players are identified by their coach or during evaluations as players who require more skill development in order to safely play in the ISHL Varsity League.

Players identified as developmental will attend additional evaluations and determined to be capable or incapable of playing Varsity by the Varsity League Commissioner or an ISHL Board Representative.

Developmental players will be allowed to practice with their team, but will not be allowed to participate in Varsity games until reevaluated by the above committee.

Developmental players will also be able to attend any player development clinic provided by the ISHL.

Developmental players who choose to only practice with their Varsity team but do not participate in JV will be charged 50% of the normal ISHL fees. If the player is deemed eligible to play Varsity games by the evaluation group the player will pay a pro-rated sum of the normal ISHL fees.

Developmental players who are eligible and successfully evaluated that wish to be rostered as a Varsity player must do so before the December 15 deadline and will not be eligible for roster position after December 15.

4. Practice Players:

(a) Only rostered ISHL Varsity players will be allowed on the ice at any Varsity practice. Any coach missing players for practice can invite any currently rostered ISHL Varsity players to fill in.

(b) A practice player may be a "Developmental Player".

Teams that fail to comply may be subject to disciplinary action by the board including head coach suspension.

2. Teams for Justice Varsity League

1. Justice Varsity team tryouts will be held prior to the beginning of each season. All players wanting to participate in the ISHL Justice Varsity for the upcoming season are required to attend a scheduled tryout session for evaluation.

(a) If a player is unable to attend a Justice Varsity tryout due to extenuating circumstances (i.e., injury, travel team commitment, etc.), an exception request must be made to the Justice Varsity League Commissioner before tryouts. This request must be in writing, stating the reason the player is unable to participate in the tryout. If the request is granted, the Justice Varsity League Commissioner will respond in writing. This request and acceptance must be on file at least 3 days prior to the scheduled tryout session. If extenuating circumstances prevent the request from being made within said time frame, the decision to grant the waiver will be made by the team composition committee.

(b) Exceptions to this rule will be allowed for players who attend a Named School if the team did not augment its roster through the draft.

- (c) No exceptions will be granted to this rule for any team augmenting its roster through the ISHL draft with players outside its designated Named School(s).
- (d) Transfer players that move into the district after the scheduled tryouts are exempt from this rule.
- (e) Teams with players from the previous season who move away from Houston to play higher level hockey in the current season are required to hold a roster spot for those players. A roster spot will be defined as: a player must be registered with the ISHL prior to team tryouts, player must attend team tryouts or obtain waiver prior to team tryouts, and be specifically named on pre-draft roster. If a team augments its roster through the draft, and does not hold a roster spot(s), those players returning to the ISHL prior to December 15 will go to the next team in the draft.

Note: The intent of this rule is twofold: 1) ensure all draftable players are known to all ISHL teams at the time of the ISHL draft to ensure fairness, and 2) ensure that teams do not hide Named School players, enter the draft to add talent to their rosters, then roster the "hidden" Named School players later.

- 2. The Coach and Team Representative will be responsible for each team roster.
- 3. Teams shall have a minimum of 12 skaters and 1 goaltender. The maximum roster a team shall be allowed to dress for a game is 18 skaters and 2 goaltenders.
 - (a) Teams will be allowed to roster more than 20 players (18 and 2) up to a maximum of 30 players only to accommodate players that actually attend that school (or Named Schools) and in accordance with paragraph 4 of this section. After the roster is formed, the coach will designate his top 18 skaters and top 2 goalies. The remaining players will be designated as "Alternates." After the coach designates the Alternate players, the parents of those players will be contacted and offered the following options:
 - (i) Remain on the team as a rostered player, paying full price and knowing that the player may not dress or play in any games; **or**
 - (ii) Enter the draft and possibly be drafted by a team that has fewer than 18 skaters and 2 goalies on the roster.

Each team's head coach will decide his game roster.

- 4. If a player lived within the boundaries of a high school's attendance zone and played on his own school's team, but the high school's attendance zone was realigned to form a new high school attendance zone and now the player is in the new high school attendance zone, the following shall apply:

- (a) If realignment causes the player to now be in a high school attendance zone which does not have an ISHL team, the player will continue to play for the previous team for up to three years or until the new school forms a team, whichever occurs earlier.
- (b) The player will play for the original team assuming the player makes the cut for that team and the original team has fewer than 30 players on the roster that actually attend that school.

5. Draft

- (a) The draft order in each division will be the reverse of the standings order from the previous regular season, i.e., the team with the lowest seeding will draft first, and the team with the highest seeding will draft last.
- (b) When two or more teams within the same ISD are distressed, then the most distressed team (i.e., least number of players) shall be allowed (at the beginning of the second round of the draft) to draft until the number of players equals the number of players on the next most distressed team within the same ISD. Once the distressed teams are at equal numbers, they will continue to select players alternatively until such time as they satisfy the team minimum or 12/1. The draft will then return to the regular selection process as described in Rule 5 (a).
- (c) Within a given division, teams that are less than the minimum 12/1 as stated above will be provided the opportunity to draft the minimum number of players to reach 12/1 over the course of the draft. The order of the draft will remain set as described in Rule 5 (a) for the first round of the draft or until there are 3 or less players left in the draft. If there are enough players for the first round to complete, the distressed teams will then choose from the remaining players at the beginning of the second round. Once the distressed teams have enough players to satisfy the 12/1 minimum, the regular draft will resume in the order describe in Rule 5 (a). If there are two teams in distress in the same division then they will pick at the beginning of the second round as described in Rule 5 (b).
- (d) Teams that are not full teams and attending the draft must take players from their own ISD before taking players from other ISDs in the draft.
- (e) There will be only one Varsity Skater Draft and one Varsity Goalie Draft conducted for each competitive season. Placement of all new players (transfer students) who join the league after the Drafts are conducted will be by the Team Composition Committee.
- (f) Any team electing to participate in the ISHL Draft to supplement its roster must participate in the entire Draft and draft up to a full roster or until all players have been drafted to a team. Teams participating in the draft will only be allowed to pick one player at a time regardless of the number of players on each roster. The following pick would be based on the previous season's regular season seeding. Teams would be allowed to pick more than one player at a time if they are the only distressed team participating in the draft and only up to 12 players.

- (g) Goalies and players are drafted in separate drafts subject to the above-mentioned rules. The goalie draft occurs first and continues until all goalies have been drafted and placed on teams. Following the goalie draft, the player draft proceeds as noted previously. Teams can elect to participate in one or both drafts.
 - (h) A roster spot will be defined as: a player must be registered with the ISHL prior to team tryouts, player must attend team tryouts or obtain waiver prior to team tryouts, and be specifically named on pre-draft roster. If a team augments its roster through the draft, and does not hold a roster spot(s), those players returning to the ISHL prior to December 15 will go to the next team in the draft. Pre-draft roster is to be signed by head coach or designated representative and submitted to ISHL Varsity Commissioner prior to the draft.
6. Captain of the Team
- (a) One Captain shall be appointed by each team, and the Captain alone shall have the privilege of discussing with the Referee any questions relating to interpretation of rules that may arise during the progress of a game. The Captain will wear the letter "C," approximately three inches in height and in contrasting color, on the left top front of the jersey. If the Captain is not available due to injury or an imposed penalty, another player may be designated to act as Captain.
 - (b) No goalkeepers shall be entitled to exercise the privileges of Captain or Alternate Captain.
 - (c) Each team may designate up to two Alternates to the Captain. These Alternates will wear the letter "A," approximately three inches in height and in contrasting color, on the left top front of the jersey.
 - (d) The Referee and Official Scorer shall be advised prior to the start of each game the name of the Captain of the team and the designated Alternate(s). This information will be added to the score sheet.
7. All teams must have a designated goaltender.
8. Any new or first year team in the League must have a minimum of 10 plus 1 (10 skaters plus 1 goalie) from that Named School or named combined schools.
9. All returning teams must also maintain a minimum of 50% of the named or named combined team.
10. Any returning team that cannot maintain a roster of at least 50% from the named team school(s) must either drop out of the League or petition the Board of Directors to become a named combined team.

NOTE: The percentage noted above is for single NAMED high schools and for schools that are recognized by the League as a combined entity. Combined teams are allowed to consider players from all principal schools in determining their percentage.

In addition, the League may designate teams as a consolidated or ISD team. In this case the League will define exactly which schools are considered the core schools. The consolidated or ISD teams are allowed to consider players from all core named schools in determining their percentage. Should a player graduate at mid-term, that player is no longer eligible to play in the ISHL following graduation. In the event this one player drops a team below their 50% rule, no adjustment will be required in its roster for the remainder of the season.

11. Private schools may combine with other private schools within each ISD to form one team as long as they comply with the numbers stated above.
12. Students from other ISDs and home-schooled students may play on an ISHL team if there are roster positions available.
13. Club Status: The purpose of the ISHL is to promote high school ice hockey, not all-star teams. Teams that have received official club status from their specific schools have to abide by all rules set forth by their schools concerning club status. Some schools' club status rules require that only players that attend that school may play on that team. A Club team must provide the ISHL with a copy of the Club by-laws and rules prior to the tryouts for review. A Club team will be required to follow ISHL rules.
14. While no augmenting of rosters after December 31 of the competitive year is allowed by TAHA High School section rules, the ISHL's deadline for additions to any team roster is December 15.

On a case-by-case basis, the ISHL reserves the right to accept roster augmentation after December 15, but this requires approval by the ISHL's executive committee, team composition committee, division representative, and league registrar and availability of all concerned. Thereby it is highly recommended that each team have their final rosters approved by December 15.

15. A player must play a minimum of five (5) regular season games to be eligible for post-season play. A written request for a waiver may be made to the board in the event that the player had a medical documented injury that limited the number of games the player was able to participate in.
16. All Justice Varsity teams, with the exception of school sponsored teams or teams from other associations allowed to play in the ISHL, shall conduct a vote by May 15 of each year to confirm their Head Coach and Team Manager for the upcoming season. The voting process shall be conducted by the current season team manager with a secret ballot process.

- (a) If the head coach and team manager are returning, the vote is to confirm or not to confirm each of them. For head coaches, 60% of the vote is required for confirmation. For team managers, a simple majority is required.
- (b) If the team manager and/or head coach are not returning, the current team manager shall solicit candidates for the position(s) and prepare a ballot accordingly. If the team manager cannot find suitable candidates, they must inform the Varsity Commissioner for assistance, if possible, in identifying candidates.
- (c) For new team managers and head coaches, 75% of the vote is required, with a runoff system eliminating the lowest vote getter at each step used if the leading candidate does not achieve the required level of votes.
- (d) Assistant coaches are selected by the head coach. No voting process is required for assistant coaches.
- (e) The above votes shall include all parents of players on the team's primary roster, up to and including a full roster of 18 skaters and 2 goalies with one vote per returning player. As this voting may be conducted during the off-season due to the need to name coaches well in advance of tryouts and the start of the season, it may exclude parents of players, such as recently graduated seniors, players known not to be returning to the team, and new players not previously rostered on the team. If it is the team's first season, the agreement must be unanimous among parents of all known hockey players attending that school that intend on playing on the team.
- (f) The results of these votes must be documented and the results sent to the ISHL President by June 1 of each year.
- (g) All selections for team manager, head coach, and assistant coach are subject to the approval of the ISHL board.

3. Background Checks

All adults involved in the ISHL including, but not limited to, coaches (head and assistant), team representatives, team managers, trainers, locker room monitors and/or any other adults directly involved with the administration, organization, operation or coaching of the players of the team, must submit to and pass a basic background check that will be administered through USA Hockey. Anyone not agreeing to this provision will not be allowed to hold any type of administrative or coaching position related to any ISHL team.

4. Coaches

1. Each team shall appoint a Head Coach following the procedure outlined in Rule 2.16 above.
2. Head coaches may select as many assistants as appropriate to run the team. However, only three assistant coaches may be on the bench during a game.

3. All head coaches and assistant coaches of Justice Varsity teams must be USA Hockey Level 1 certified or above and have completed the age level appropriate training, or have a waiver issued by USA Hockey. Returning coaches must progress in certification levels year over year up to a minimum of USA Hockey Certification Level 4. Head Coaches may be partially reimbursed for registration fees through Level 4 (travel expenses are not reimbursable) up to \$50 maximum per year. However, coaches must request permission for this reimbursement from the ISHL Treasurer prior to attending coaching seminars. As directed by USA Hockey and TAHA, all head coaches and assistance coaches must complete and stay up to date with background checks and SafeSport training.
4. ISHL Coaches Meeting
 - (a) An annual coaches meeting will be conducted by the ISHL prior to the beginning of each competitive season. Attendance at this seminar by at least one coaching representative (either the head coach or an assistant coach) from each Justice Varsity team is mandatory. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the head coach of that team being suspended from the first regular season scheduled game, unless previously excused by the President. This seminar will cover the coaches' code of conduct, rule changes for the upcoming season, and any other pertinent information.
 - (b) A representative of the Houston Referee's Association will make a presentation at the coaches meeting. Zero tolerance on strict compliance with the coaches and players code of conduct will be emphasized. Pertinent rule changes will be discussed and referee-coach communication will be emphasized.
5. All coaches will emphasize sportsmanship and discourage bad language both on the ice and on the bench.

5. Non-Players on the Bench

1. USA Hockey rules allow only four (4) Non-Player Team Officials on the bench. These four (4) Non-Player Team Officials must be USA Hockey Certified coaches, must have completed the age level appropriate training, and must be listed on the original team roster sent to USA Hockey.
2. A player or goalie who is unable to play due to injury may be on the players' bench without being considered a Team Official if he or she is wearing the team jersey and all required head and face protective equipment. Therefore, according to the strict interpretation of this rule, all other non-players or otherwise ineligible players will not be allowed on the bench during the game. At no time shall more than 20 players (maximum 18 skaters), including those unable to play, be on the players' bench.

Note: No photographers, spectators or other team personnel are allowed on the bench.

6. Off-Ice Officials

The ISHL shall provide a scorekeeper/timekeeper for each League game. Each team is required to provide the following additional personnel to assist during the game. Failure of a team to provide the required personnel may result in that team forfeiting the game, regardless of the outcome of the game.

1. Both home and visiting team shall provide one (1) penalty box attendant.
2. These personnel are considered off-ice officials. As such they may advise the referee in charge of any poor sportsmanship and/or bad language displayed by a player in the penalty box.
3. Off-ice officials are expected to refrain from any overt or improper behavior while performing their duties.
4. Both home and visiting team must supply a Locker Room Monitor for each game.
5. In the event that a League provided scorekeeper/timekeeper is not available, then:
 - (a) Home Team will provide a scorekeeper and one (1) penalty box attendant.
 - (b) Visiting Team will provide a timekeeper and one (1) penalty box attendant. If the visiting team does not have a person familiar with the home team's clock, then these duties may be swapped during the game. However, the home team is still responsible for the final score sheet and statistics for that game.
 - (c) Points 2 and 3 above shall also apply to team provided scorekeepers and timekeepers.

7. Team Conduct and Locker Room Procedures

1. Keep the locker room locked. The team manager must make sure the locker room is unlocked immediately prior to the end of the game. There should be no delay for the players waiting to get into the locker room after the game.
2. Ensure locker room is left in the same condition that you received it. Each team is responsible for cleaning up its own trash. Each team is responsible for any damage to the locker room that is a direct result from a member or representative of the team.
3. No parents are allowed in the locker room before or after the game, except for team managers, coaches, or locker room attendant.
4. Per USA Hockey rules, an adult must be present in the locker room whenever players are in attendance. Each team will appoint a locker room monitor for the season. This person must be registered with USA Hockey, have completed SafeSport training, and have completed a background check.

5. The use of a mobile phone or other device with recording capabilities in the locker rooms is not permitted at any USA Hockey sanctioned event.
6. Teams, coaches and/or team administrators are responsible for compliance with the locker room supervision requirements.

8. Forms

1. All players must be registered with USA Hockey for the current season. This USA Hockey confirmation number is needed prior to ISHL on-line registration.
2. All rostered players will need to submit either a government issued birth certificate or passport, if requested. (Commemorative birth certificates issued by hospitals are not acceptable)
3. The following forms must be completed for each player: USA Hockey Consent to Treat form, Code of Conduct, and ISHL waiver. The player will not be allowed on the ice to practice or play a game until all documents are signed and accounted for. There are no exceptions.
4. The team manager must have readily available the USA Hockey Consent to Treat for every player at every practice and game. These forms must be kept in the team's first aid kit. This first aid kit is required to be purchased and maintained by the team and must be readily available at all practices and games.

9. Player Fees & Refund Policy

Player Fees will be set by the Board each season.

1. ISHL Refund Policy:
 - (a) Up to the first practice of the team - 100%
 - (b) Up to the first ISHL scheduled game for the League - 50%
 - (c) After the first ISHL scheduled game for the League - No Refund

A player who suffers a season ending injury after the first game of the season will receive a prorated refund based on the number of games remaining in the season.

The ISHL Board of Directors will thereafter determine what, if any, refund a player on that team is entitled to receive.

10. ISHL League Sponsorship for Justice Varsity League

1. The ISHL offers League sponsorships to individuals or companies wishing to support the ISHL.

2. The ISHL is a nonprofit 501c3 organization. Sponsors should make checks payable to the ISHL and the League will issue a written receipt.

11. Additional Games, Scrimmages, and Tournaments

Any ISHL team wishing to play in any additional non-league games, scrimmages, and/or tournaments must obtain approval of the Executive Board.

Teams that participate in additional games, scrimmages, or tournaments without prior approval may be subject to disciplinary action by the board including head coach suspension.

12. Player Eligibility for Justice Varsity League

1. School Attendance

- (a) To be eligible for play, team members must attend the high school for which they play or reside in the school district or meet other requirements as specified in Rule 2 above and deemed to be a full-time student as set forth in the rules of that ISD.
- (b) The player must be in at least the ninth (9th) grade and not beyond the twelfth (12th) grade at the Justice Varsity level.
- (c) No player may participate if he has attended more than eight (8) semesters beyond the eighth (8th) grade.
- (d) For interpretation purposes, participation in one League game shall constitute play in that season.
- (e) The ISHL intends to avoid the inclusion of eligible players who are rostered at the beginning of the League Year, but with the knowledge and expectation that they will not play for their team for much of the ISHL season because they intend to leave the area to play hockey elsewhere. Therefore, players that have been away during the school year to facilitate playing on a Junior A/B/C, AAA/Tier I, or Preparatory/Boarding School team or any other hockey team or league and then return after December 31 of the current competitive season may not be added to the roster and are ineligible to play in any remaining regular season or post-season games, even if they were originally on the team's official roster.
- (f) Any player commuting or relocating to the area for the sole purpose of playing AAA/Tier I is not eligible for any high school team. The ISHL does reserve the right to determine eligibility. Following are two examples to this rule:
 - John Doe moves to the area from Minnesota to play AAA hockey. Anticipated League ruling: Ineligible.
 - John Doe lives in the area, has played in the area previously, and then makes an AAA team. Anticipated League ruling: Eligible.

2. Minimum Playing Ability: All players in the ISHL must possess basic playing ability to be deemed safe to play in the League. Minimum playing ability will be judged by ISHL representatives during evaluations with standards suitable for the level of play in Varsity.
3. Age of Player: Any player who is 19 years old prior to September 1 of the current season is ineligible for League competition. In addition, the player may not have initially enrolled in the ninth grade more than four calendar years ago.
4. Academic Eligibility for the ISHL Justice Varsity League
 - (a) The ISHL strictly enforces the TEA & UIL No Pass/No Play regulations for the Justice Varsity League. Each team manager is responsible for obtaining a copy of their school calendar(s) regarding the grading periods and the dates when students may lose/gain eligibility in reference to the No Pass/No Play rule. The team manager must provide a copy of this calendar to the ISHL no later than the first practice of the season.
 - (b) A player must be a “student in good standing” at his/her school according to the academic pass/play rules for the individual school districts.
 - (c) Any player academically ineligible to participate in school sanctioned activities shall not be eligible to compete in any League scheduled season or post-season contests.
 - (d) This suspension is in effect until the school authorities reinstate the player/student. Should a student elect to withdraw from public school and enroll in either a private school or be home schooled while the student is considered academically ineligible by the public school, that student will not be eligible to participate in the ISHL. The player must be a “student in good standing” at his/her public school according to the academic pass/play rules for the individual school districts prior to withdrawing from that school. Should the student physically change addresses and become part of a different public school district while the student was academically ineligible at the previous school, the student must become a “student in good standing” at his/her new public school according to the academic pass/play rules of the public school the student is attending.
 - (e) Each team’s head coach and team manager must review the report card of each player at the first practice/game following the end of each academic reporting period. It is the responsibility of the head coach and team manager to verify the academic eligibility of each player according to the school district’s rules governing academic eligibility. Academic ineligibility and re-eligibility dates shall be set by using the dates shown on the school’s ISD eligibility calendar.
 - (f) Any player determined to be academically ineligible shall not compete in any ISHL scheduled season or post-season game until that player has fulfilled the requirements of the individual school district and is deemed to be academically eligible.
 - (g) Each team’s head coach and team manager are required to complete, sign and submit the ISHL Academic Eligibility Form, ISHL Form AE 010, after each grading period. **Each**

team will have seven (7) days from the date of the distribution of report cards to submit the completed form to the designated League official. Teams will not be allowed to play until these forms are submitted.

- (h) Each team's head coach and team manager are required to complete, sign and submit the ISHL Pre-Game Roster report. This report will list all players on the team's roster and each player must be accounted for by placing an "X" in the appropriate column of the report. This report must be completed prior to each game and then stapled to the score sheet at the completion of the game.

5. School Suspension

- (a) Any player who is placed in the alternative education classes, suspended out of school, or placed in in-school suspension is not eligible to compete in any League scheduled season or post-season games until the player has been back in the regular classroom setting for one complete school day. Should a student elect to withdraw from public school and enroll in either a private school or be home schooled while the student is in or has been placed in alternative education classes, or is under any type of school-imposed suspension by the public school, that student will not be eligible to participate in the ISHL. The player must be a "student in good standing" at the player's public school and have completed any and all disciplinary requirements or other suspensions or required attendance in alternative education classes assigned by the public school prior to withdrawing from that school. Should the student physically change addresses and become part of a different public school district while the student was attending alternative education classes at the previous school, the student must become a "student in good standing" at his/her new public school according to the rules of the public school the student is attending.
- (b) This suspension is in effect until the player/student is reinstated by the school authorities.

6. Noncompliance of Eligibility Requirements

- (a) Any team dressing an ineligible player shall forfeit the game or games and the ineligible player(s) shall have points scored during the game(s) stricken from the official League records.
- (b) The head coach of any team dressing an ineligible player will be suspended for two (2) games.
- (c) Any ineligible player(s) participating in a game will be suspended for one (1) game, to be served after regaining eligibility.
- (d) The Executive Board shall review the actions of the team's officials for additional disciplinary action.

7. Player Financial Standing With Other Leagues. An ISHL player must be in good financial standing with any other TAHA hockey leagues before the player will be allowed to be

rostered to an ISHL team. The league will suspend a player once the regular season has started if contacted by another league and notified that the player has not fulfilled his/her financial obligation. The player will be allowed to return to play once released by the other league. The other league must notify the ISHL via mail/email that the player has been released and is in good standing.

13. Playing Time for Justice Varsity Teams

The ISHL Varsity League is not an equal playing time league. As with any high school sport, some players will receive significantly more playing time than others. Younger players and those who are less skilled may receive very little playing time. Parents need to be aware of this policy and accept the decisions of the head coach.

14. Substitute Goaltenders

Due to the limited number of available goaltenders, and the specialized nature of the position, if a team does not have a rostered goaltender available for a League game, they may use a substitute goaltender from another ISHL team. This substitute must be arranged through, and approved by the League prior to the game. A substitute goaltender that has not been approved by the League shall be considered an ineligible player as per Rule 12.6.

15. Discriminatory Behavior

Any type of sexual harassment or abuse, physical abuse, racial slurs or other types of discriminatory behavior or actions will not be tolerated by the ISHL.

The ISHL will follow and adhere to all SafeSport guidelines and policies

16. Use and Possession of Controlled Substances, Dangerous Drugs, Alcohol, Inhalants, Narcotics, and/or Marijuana

The use and possession of controlled substances, dangerous drugs, alcohol, inhalants, narcotics, and/or marijuana will not be tolerated by the ISHL. The ISHL also reserves the right to not confer ISHL awards, such as player of the month, league most valuable player, scholarships, or other awards to individuals participating in activities of this nature.

17. Complaint Process

1. Complaints regarding an individual coach or referee (or other suggestions) must be made in writing and submitted to the ISHL Executive Board. A response to the complaint or suggestion will be provided in a prompt and appropriate manner by the Executive Board. All letters received will remain on file for a period of two (2) years from the date of the letter.
2. The following procedures will be followed:
 - (a) First Incident during a 12-Month Period. The President shall contact the coach or referee to discuss the circumstances. If warranted, the code of conduct for coaches and

referees will be re-emphasized. The President may refer the situation to the Executive Board for review. The Executive Board may take further action as deemed appropriate.

- (b) Second Incident during the Same 12-Month Period. The coach or referee must appear before the Executive Board to discuss the circumstances. If the Executive Board determines the allegations surrounding the second incident are valid, the Executive Board will take action as it deems necessary. This action may range from counseling to suspension, up to and including termination from any and all duties involving the ISHL.
- (c) Third Incident during the Same 12-Month Period. The coach or referee must appear before the Executive Board to discuss the circumstances. If the Executive Board determines the allegations surrounding the third incident are valid, and provided the circumstances surrounding the first two incidents of the same year were also valid, the coach or referee will be immediately terminated from any and all duties involving the ISHL. If the circumstances of either of the first two incidents were unfounded, then the Executive Board will take action concerning this third incident as it deems necessary. In addition to the above:
- (d) Any written complaint of physical or verbal abuse by a coach or referee towards a player, another coach or referee, parent or spectator will be thoroughly investigated by the Executive Board. If the Executive Board determines the allegation of physical or verbal abuse is valid, the Executive Board will take action as it deems necessary up to and including the permanent termination from any and all duties involving the ISHL.
- (e) Complaints of profanity being used by a coach or referee will require the coach or referee to appear before the Executive Board. If the Executive Board determines the allegations are true, the coach or referee will be suspended from all duties for three (3) games. If the Executive Board receives a second written complaint within a 12-month period involving the use of profanity and concludes the allegations are valid, the Executive Board will take action as it deems necessary up to and including the permanent termination of all duties involving the ISHL.

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SECTION B: Playing Rules, Suspensions, and Supplementary Discipline

Unless otherwise noted in this document, the applicable rules of USA Hockey shall apply to all ISHL games.

18. Penalties

1. Penalties shall be of the following durations:
 - Minor Penalty – Two minutes (2:00)
 - Major Penalty – Five minutes (5:00)
 - Misconduct Penalty – Ten minutes (10:00)
2. Four Penalty Rule: Any player who incurs four penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty as per USA Hockey Rule 401(b).
3. Twelve Penalty Rule: Any Head Coach whose team receives twelve or more penalties during one game shall be suspended for the next scheduled League game for that team as per USA Hockey Rule 401(b).
4. Senior Final Game Penalties
 - (a) If a senior in the last game of his team's current competitive year/season receives a major penalty for fighting, then the head coach of that team will receive a minimum of a 1- game suspension to be served in the first league game of the next competitive season.
 - (b) If a senior in the last game of his team's current competitive year/season receives a match penalty, then the head coach of that team will receive a minimum of a 2-game suspension to be served in the first league games of the next competitive season.
 - (c) In both cases (a) and (b) above, should the head coach of that team be different for the upcoming competitive season, then the penalty will follow the team, not the coach, and the new head coach of that team will serve the penalty.
 - (d) In both cases the ISHL Board maintains the right to review and adjust the penalty as the case dictates.

19. Protective Equipment

All protective equipment as required by the USA Hockey rule book must be worn at all times by all players and coaches during games and practices.

20. Suspensions

1. Any player, coach or team member who receives a Game Misconduct penalty shall be immediately expelled from the current game, and shall be assessed a suspension for the next scheduled League game. No appeal is available.
2. Any player, coach or team member who receives a Match Penalty shall be immediately expelled from the current game, and shall be suspended from the team pending review by TAHA. The ISHL will seek to notify the other Houston USA Hockey Leagues of any and all match penalties issued to players within the ISHL so that the other leagues are aware of the player's suspension and may impose the required discipline within their respective leagues. The ISHL will request a reciprocal agreement from the other Houston leagues to do likewise.
3. [Rescinded 10/06/2022]
4. No suspended player may participate in any League scheduled regular season or playoff game(s) until said suspension has expired.
5. Any suspension not served during the current season will carry over into the player's/coach's next season of play.
6. The ISHL Board or the League Commissioner has the authority to review and/or suspend coaches for any conduct by the coach(es) and/or team that is deemed detrimental to the league.
7. Should a suspension be issued in accordance with item 6 above, the coach and/or team has the right to request a hearing with the League Commissioner.
8. ISHL Executive Board Review: All suspensions shall be subject to review by the ISHL Executive Board for possible further disciplinary action at the Board's discretion.
9. Official written notification of suspensions will only be issued for Rule 601 match penalty suspensions, Rule 615.F third fighting major suspensions, and Rule 410 supplementary discipline actions. These notifications will go to the team representative and to the TAHA district. All game misconduct and other suspensions are automatic, and cannot be appealed according to USA Hockey and ISHL League rules. As such, no written notification other than the score sheet will be issued.
10. All suspensions incurred in League games must be served in scheduled League games. If a team's next game is a scrimmage or tournament game, the player must miss that game to satisfy USA Hockey Rule 404, and must also miss the team's next scheduled League game.

21. Match Penalty Suspension

1. Any player receiving a match penalty is automatically and immediately suspended from all games and practices for any USA Hockey sanctioned team until the player appears before TAHA. ISHL follows the sanctions set forth by TAHA.
2. The Referee must complete the Referee's Game Report for any match penalty. This report must be completed and electronically submitted to the League office within 24 hours of the infraction.
3. Appeals
 - (a) Procedures for Match Penalty appeals will be in accordance with TAHA and USA Hockey Bylaws and Rules and Regulations, and will be discussed on an individual basis between the ISHL Executive Board and the Team Representative as necessary.
 - (b) Disciplinary Appeals Process
 - (i) The aggrieved member-club shall have the right to present any evidence or arguments on behalf of the suspended individual at a hearing which shall be convened by the Executive Board as soon as practicable upon written request by the aggrieved member-club, together with payment of a non-refundable \$100 hearing fee.
 - (ii) The Executive Board shall render its decision as soon as practicable after the hearing date, and shall thereafter present a copy thereof to the aggrieved member-club.
 - (iii) The decision of the Executive Board to mitigate any penalty shall be final and binding upon all concerned.
 - (iv) The Executive Board shall have no authority to decrease any penalty to less than fifteen (15) days or to increase any penalties already imposed.
 - (v) The right of appeal to the Executive Board shall be in addition to all other rights of members of this League.
 - (vi) Members of the Executive Board are elected according to the League Bylaws and shall hear appeals only on penalties imposed after the inaugural date of their term.

22. Cumulative Misconducts/Game Misconducts

Any player who receives multiple misconduct (10-minute misconduct and/or game misconduct) penalties pursuant to Section Six of the USA Hockey rule book throughout the season shall be assessed additional suspensions as follows:

- 3rd Misconduct – One (1) game suspension plus any USA Hockey suspension
- 4th Misconduct – Two (2) game suspension plus any USA Hockey suspension
- 5th and subsequent Misconducts – Three (3) game suspension plus any USA Hockey suspension

23. Cumulative Team Penalty Minutes

The Head Coach of any team that accumulates excessive penalty minutes throughout the season shall be suspended as follows:

- 300 team penalty minutes – One (1) game suspension
- 400 team penalty minutes – Two (2) game suspension
- 500 team penalty minutes – Suspended pending hearing with League

24. Leaving the Players' Bench or Penalty Bench

Any player who receives a penalty for Leaving the Players' Bench or Penalty Bench under USA Hockey Rule 629 shall be assessed a two (2) game suspension in addition to any suspensions required by USA Hockey.

The Head Coach of a team that has a player who receives a penalty for Leaving the Players' Bench or Penalty Bench shall be assessed a one (1) game suspension in addition to any suspensions required by USA Hockey.

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SECTION C: Game Procedures

25. Game Location

ISHL scheduled games shall not be played at any rink that has not been approved by the Executive Committee.

26. Game Length

1. All ISHL regular season Varsity games will be scheduled for 1 hour and 30 minutes. The players will have a five-minute warm-up period, optionally followed by the U.S. National Anthem and starting lineups. All ISHL regular season games shall be limited to three (3) regular periods. All three (3) periods will be fifteen (15) minutes in length utilizing a stop-clock format. There will be one (1) minute between periods. Each team will be allowed one (1) timeout per game that will be one (1) minute in duration. No timeouts will be allowed during the third period if, because of time restraints, the period time has been reduced. The only exception to this rule is if one team has been awarded a timeout previously in the game, then the other team will be entitled to their timeout in the third period, regardless of whether the third period time was reduced or not.
2. Should the time remaining in the 90-minute ice time slot at the start of the third period be less than 24 minutes, the timekeeper will divide the time remaining in the time slot by two (2) and reset the third period clock accordingly, rounding down to the nearest whole minute. For example, at the start of the third period, if only 21 minutes remain in the original 75-minute time slot, 21 minutes divided by 2 equals 10.5 minutes. Rounding down to the nearest whole minute would result in ten (10) minutes being placed on the clock for the third period. The timekeeper shall immediately notify the referee when this occurs. During a regular season game, if at the end of regulation time the score is tied, the game will be recorded as a tie and each team will receive one (1) point.
3. If, in the opinion of the Referee, the playing conditions become unsatisfactory during the course of the game, he may call the game at any time and the score of the game shall be what it was when the game was called. It shall be "no game" unless two (2) periods have been completed.
4. The officials will monitor closely the post-game handshaking ritual. All players will leave all equipment on, including helmets, for this process. The only exception will be the removal of a glove to shake hands. The referee will have the final decision on whether to allow the handshaking line to proceed. If in the opinion of the referee the situation is too volatile, the referee may dispense with the procedure and order the visiting team to the locker room. The home team will remain on the ice until the visiting team has entered the locker room. There will be a zero-tolerance policy on any unsportsmanlike behavior in the handshake line. The League will assess a two (2) game suspension to any player causing a fight during this process. This suspension will be in addition to any USA Hockey incurred suspensions.

27. League Standings and Playoff Rules

1. League division standings shall be determined by awarding two (2) points for a victory, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss or a forfeit for all division and non-division ISHL games played during the regular season.
2. The winner of each division will be the team within the division that has accumulated the most points during the regular season.
3. Tie-Breaking Rules to Determine Standings Position: If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their position in the standings shall be determined by the following tie-breaking format. If one tie-breaker establishes a position for one or more teams, each team is placed in the applicable position. Once a team is placed, the remaining tied teams shall start the tie-breaking process over again at step 3(a). The tie-breaker formulas are as follows:
 - (a) The results of the games played between the teams tied in the following order: (all steps, 3(a)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), or (vi) to be applied only to games played between the tied teams.)
 - (i) Standings – Most points, head-to-head.
 - (ii) Most wins (head-to-head) during the season between the tied teams.
 - (iii) Differential – Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus.
 - (iv) Quotient – Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. A quotient obtained from dividing by zero (0) has higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any number other than zero. Where two or more teams have no goals against and the quotient tie- breaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of “goals for.”
 - (v) Most periods won – In the games played by each tied team, points will be awarded for each regulation period won (2 points) and for each regulation period tied (1 point). Positions shall be in the order of highest point total.
 - (vi) Quickest first goal – The team that scored the quickest goal in the games played between the tied teams shall be ranked highest.
 - (b) If after applying the formulas of 3(a)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), or (vi) the tie still exists, the results of all the games played during the regular season by the teams tied in the following order:
 - (i) Most wins during the regular season.

- (ii) Differential.
 - (iii) Quotient.
 - (iv) Most periods won.
 - (v) Quickest first goal.
 - (vi) Coin flip by the ISHL President, League Commissioner, City Tournament Director or another League designee.
4. The City Championship playoff seeding shall be assigned according to each team's standing.
 5. The Playoff format will be set by the League and communicated to the teams prior to the start of the season.
 6. Game Format for all playoff games: A two-hour time slot shall be scheduled for Varsity playoff games when possible. For Varsity games, there will be a five-minute warm-up period, followed by the U.S. National Anthem and starting lineups. If at the end of regulation time, a playoff game score is tied, the following procedures will be followed to determine a winner:
 - (a) A 5-minute stop clock, 5-on-5, sudden-death overtime period will be played.
 - (b) If no winner is determined during the overtime, a five (5) round shoot-out will be conducted.
 - (c) If after the five round shoot-out no winner is determined, a sudden death shoot-out will be conducted until a winner is determined. The five players selected for the five round shoot-out will not be eligible for the sudden-death shoot-out until all other eligible players on the team have had a shot. At such time, the rotation will start over.
 7. ISHL Justice Varsity City Cup Trophy
 - (a) The ISHL Justice Varsity City Cup Trophy are the property of the ISHL.
 - (b) Each year the ISHL Justice Varsity City Cup Trophy will be awarded to the winners of the ISHL Justice Varsity City Tournament.
 - (c) The City Champion teams will take possession of the respective trophy for one calendar year or until the next ISHL Justice Varsity City Champions are crowned, whichever occurs first.
 - (d) The ISHL Justice Varsity City Cup Trophy may be displayed at the champion team's school until the end of the current school year if permission to do so is obtained from the school.

- (e) In the event the champion team's school will not allow the trophy to be displayed, the trophy will be placed on public display at the champion team's "home" rink.
- (f) It is the sole responsibility of the City Champion Team to return the respective ISHL Justice Varsity City Cup Trophy in undamaged condition to an ISHL Board Member prior to the start of the next competitive season's city tournaments, or one calendar year after taking possession, whichever occurs first.
- (g) Should any damage occur to the trophy while in the team's possession, the team is financially responsible for the complete repair or replacement of the trophy.
- (h) Should the trophy be lost, stolen, damaged beyond the capability to repair, or for any other reason not be returned, the team last in possession will be 100% financially responsible for the replacement cost of the trophy.
- (i) In the event of item (h) above, the replacement cost of the trophy must be paid in full by the responsible team no later than the beginning of the next regular scheduled season.
- (j) Failure of the team to pay the replacement cost of the ISHL Justice Varsity City Cup Trophy in full will place that team in financially bad standing and it will not be allowed to participate in the next ISHL season until such payment is made in full.
- (k) A form stating the above conditions and responsibilities must be signed by the team representative, club president, or manager prior to taking possession of the ISHL Justice Varsity City Cup Trophy.

28. Mercy Rule

If at any time during a game the goal differential between teams reaches six (6), the game clock will immediately go to running time and will not stop for any reason, other than at the direction of the on-ice officials, until the game ends or the goal differential becomes less than 6. This means the clock will not stop for goals scored, penalties, injuries or for any other reason while the mercy rule is in effect unless ordered to be stopped by the on-ice officials. Teams will not be permitted to call a time out while the mercy rule is in effect. If the goal differential becomes less than 6, the stop time rule as described above will be applied.

29. Uniforms and Jersey Colors for Justice Varsity Teams

1. All teams are responsible for obtaining their own jerseys and socks.
2. All players, including the Goalie, on a specific team will wear matching jerseys and socks. The colors will be:
 - Named School – school colors
 - Consolidated Team – prior approved colors by the ISHL
3. Each player will have two jerseys:

- Home jersey will be predominately dark
 - Visiting jersey will be predominately white/light
4. Jerseys and socks will be in accordance with a normally accepted ice hockey style and material.
 5. Each jersey will have numbers on the back, minimum of ten (10) inches high.
 6. All players will be assigned a number, single- and double-digit numbers are allowed. No three-digit numbers are acceptable. Number 00 is not allowed by USA Hockey.
 7. The player's name on the back of the jersey is optional. If the team elects to put the player's name on the back of the jerseys, the maximum height of the letters will be four (4) inches.
 8. All players must wear their assigned jerseys for all games. No jersey; no play. No switching of jerseys among players will be allowed. Teams are encouraged to have players bring both their home and away jerseys to all games. The ISHL understands there are circumstances beyond the control of the player where the player's jersey may not be available for an upcoming game or during a game. Such circumstances might be the jersey was stolen or torn beyond repair in a previous game. Because of these circumstances, teams are encouraged to purchase and maintain official substitute jerseys that are exactly the same as their team's home or visitor jersey in terms of size, color, and design for both the jersey and numbering of the jersey. The substitute jerseys must not have a jersey number that is assigned to a player for that season on that team. Only an official substitute home jersey may be used if the team is the home team, and only an official substitute visitor jersey may be used if the team is the visiting team. It is the responsibility of the team providing the substitute jersey to make a clear indication of the change in jersey number on the score sheet and pre-game roster so that the appropriate individual is credited for points or penalties. Players will be allowed to play with a temporary white or dark jersey until they receive their official team jersey. The temporary jersey must have a number. No player will be allowed to play without an official team jersey after December 1st of each season. After the December 1st deadline if a name is present on the back of jersey it must belong to that player.

30. Organization of Teams by Division

1. In an effort to provide a relatively balanced playing schedule and to conform to the city and State Championship division organization, the ISHL has adopted the division system.
2. Each season, the ISHL scheduling committee will divide the League into divisions. The number and makeup of each division will be determined when the exact number of teams for the upcoming season is determined.
3. During the regular season, intra-division teams will play each other at least twice. Inter-division team games will be assigned by the scheduling committee.

31. Termination of Game

1. It shall be “no game” unless two (2) periods have been completed.
2. Statistics for a “no game” situation will not be recorded.
3. A game terminated under conditions of this paragraph prior to two (2) full periods will not be rescheduled.

32. Game Forfeit

1. If a team elects to forfeit a game for any reason prior to the start of the game (e.g., insufficient players), no stats will be entered for that game, even if the forfeiting team chooses to hold a scrimmage against the team, they were originally scheduled to play in order to utilize the scheduled ice time. The game will go down as a 1 to 0 victory for the non- forfeiting team. The forfeiting team manager must notify the division representative and commissioner as soon as possible.
2. Games may be played with a minimum of six (6) players (6 skaters or 5 skaters and 1 goalie).
3. If a forfeit is imposed, after the completion of a game the scoring statistics of the player(s) causing the forfeit will not be recorded (any penalties incurred by the player(s) would be counted), but those of all other players would count. The game score would still be recorded as a 1–0 loss.

33. Disputed Calls

1. The ISHL Executive Board cannot reverse any penalties.
2. Scoring and penalty errors must be brought to the attention of the referee by the captain of the team during the game. Penalties and scoring cannot be changed after the scoresheet has been signed by the officials.
3. The ISHL will deal with scorekeeping clerical errors as needed.

34. Game Day Procedures for Team Representatives

1. The home team and visiting team representative or their designee, the scorekeeper, the timekeeper, and both penalty box officials will assist as required to ensure the safe conduct of all games. Such team representatives will help settle any complaints ensure no parents carry complaints directly to the referee or coach, and that a parent or other individual desiring to make a complaint is made aware of the complaint process outlined in this manual. Both team representatives will ensure that only players, coaches, team managers, and approved locker room monitors are allowed in the locker room area.

2. The home team representative will ensure the scorekeeper, timekeeper, and both penalty box helpers are in place at least five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game.
3. For Justice Varsity games, if no security officer(s) are present at least ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game, the home team representative will notify the League President as soon as possible, and also notify the rink manager.
4. Home team representative should make sure the officers are positioned throughout the rink before, during, and after the game.
5. In the event of an injury to a player, the home team representative will ensure the proper rink authorities are notified and, if required, the proper emergency medical personnel are alerted.
6. It is the duty of the home team representative to enter the game score into the ISHL statistical database after the completion of the game. A fine will be assessed on the home team that does not enter the game score into the ISHL database by Noon CST of the next day following the game. The additional game data must be entered into the ISHL's statistical database within 24 hours after the completion of a game. A fine of \$25 will be invoiced per offense to the home team failing to comply with this rule. The collected fines will go towards the ISHL scholarship fund. Also, any team that is delinquent in paying its fines will not be allowed to participate in the ISHL Division and City Playoffs. This would apply to Justice Varsity teams during the regular and post seasons.

Note: Even if the duties are switched (score keeping and running the time clock), the home team representative will still retain the responsibility of entering the game score and additional game statistics.

35. Additional Security for Justice Varsity Games

If, in the opinion of the ISHL Security Representative, the hired security officer(s) on duty at each game, or the ISHL Executive Officers, an extra guard or guards are required to ensure a secure and safe environment for a particular game (generally due to a history of fighting or other unsportsmanlike behavior between two teams or increased friction among the spectators representing a team or teams), the team or teams responsible for the increased security will be assessed the extra cost for the League to provide the additional security. This assessed fee must be paid to the League prior to the next scheduled game of the team or teams at which such increased security is deemed necessary. Failure to pay the assessed fee by the team or teams in question will result in a game forfeit for the offending team.

36. Game Protest

A game protest may only be made by the head coach (or in his/her absence the assistant coach). Immediately at the conclusion of the game the head coach will notify the referee assigned to the game that the game is under protest and state the reason(s) for the protest. The referee will make a notation that the game is under protest on the score sheet. The head coach will then file a

written protest statement and forward this statement to the President of the ISHL. The referee will also file a written statement concerning the protest. The ISHL President will assign a committee to research the protest and make a resolution recommendation to the ISHL Executive Board. The ISHL Executive Board will issue a ruling on the protest within 30 days of receipt of the written protest.

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SECTION D: Codes of Conduct

37. Coaches Code of Conduct and Responsibilities

The ISHL is very appreciative of the coaches' dedication. All coaches are representatives of their individual school district as well as the ISHL. In order to ensure that all coaches perceive their position and responsibilities in the same way, the following code of conduct and responsibilities have been developed.

1. Code of Conduct

- (a) Always conduct themselves in a manner that does not reflect badly on them as individuals, their school district, or the ISHL.
- (b) Do not engage in any activities, which are, or may be viewed as being, detrimental to any player, team, school district, or to the ISHL.
- (c) Conduct themselves in a positive and sportsmanlike manner at all times.
- (d) Strive to provide a safe and positive environment at all times and promote fair play and sportsmanlike behavior among all players, coaches, referees, and parents.
- (e) Abusive verbal confrontations with other coaches, referees, or parents will not be tolerated.
- (f) The use of profanity by a coach or referee in front of players will not be tolerated.
- (g) Any type of physical abuse towards a player, other coach, referee, parent, or spectator will not be tolerated.
- (h) Any coach found to be in violation of this code of conduct is subject to review by the Executive Board for disciplinary action. The Executive Board may issue game suspensions or termination of coaching privileges in the ISHL as the Board deems necessary.

2. Responsibilities

- (a) All coaches must be registered by the USA Hockey Association in order to coach in the ISHL, and obtain and maintain the proper USA Hockey Coaching Certification required for the high school level and pass a basic background check.
- (b) Be familiar with all rules, guidelines and procedures contained in this rulebook, as well as all USA Hockey rules and guidelines pertaining to high school hockey.
- (c) Attendance at the annual ISHL coaches meeting conducted prior to the start of the season is mandatory for at least one coaching representative (either the head coach or an assistant coach) from each team. Failure to comply with this requirement will result

in the head coach of that team being suspended from the first regular season scheduled game, unless previously excused by the President.

- (d) Head coaches of Justice Varsity teams are required to complete the ISHL pre-game roster form accounting for the status of every player on their roster. This form must be completed and signed by the head coach and delivered to the game's scorekeeper at least ten (10) minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the game.
- (e) As provided, coaches should make every effort to attend all coaching clinics.
- (f) Conduct organized practice sessions for their team during the season.
- (g) All teams must hold practices at a designated practice facility. The current designated practice facilities are Willowbrook Aerodrome, Sugar Land Ice & Sports Center, Bellerive Ice, Ice Skate Memorial City, and Spirit Ice Center.
- (h) For Justice Varsity teams only: Review the report card of each player at the first practice/game following the end of each academic reporting period. It shall be the coach and team's representative's responsibility to verify the academic eligibility of each player according to the school district's rules governing academic eligibility and to submit ISHL form AE010 as described in Rule 12.4 above.
- (i) Ensure all players wear the proper and required equipment for all practices and games.
- (j) Stay abreast of any and all rule or policy changes that are implemented throughout the season.
- (k) Maintain an open line of communication with the players and parents of their team and ensure they are kept informed of any and all procedures, circumstances, and rule or policy changes that may affect them.
- (l) Coaches must make sure they fulfill their commitment to the team. This means attending all games and practices. On the rare occasion a coach must miss an occasional game or practice, provisions for the assistant coach or other qualified adult coach must be made. That person must meet all current USA Hockey and ISHL coaching requirements.

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38. Players Code of Conduct and Responsibilities

1. Play for fun.
2. Work hard to improve your skills.
3. Be a team player – get along with your teammates.
4. Be a disciplined player and always exercise good sportsmanship.
5. Be on time for games and practices.
6. Learn the rules and play by them.
7. Respect your coach, your teammates, your parents, opponents, and officials.
8. Never argue with an official's decision.
9. Maintain academic eligibility at your school.
10. Be respectful of the ice rink facility, locker rooms and all other common areas of the facility at all times.
11. Do not use foul language or obscene gestures.
12. Never do anything that may be construed as “taunting” or otherwise unsportsmanlike to other players, coaches, referees, or spectators.

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39. Referees Code of Conduct and Responsibilities

1. Code of Conduct

Referees will be held to the same code of conduct as coaches. See Rule 37 above.

2. Responsibilities

- (a) Referees will be responsible for making all scheduled games or providing for a qualified replacement. Referees will be assigned games at all the rinks where the ISHL has games. This is to prevent the “Home Ref” perception.
- (b) All referees must maintain the proper certification as required by the USA Hockey Association.
- (c) Read this ISHL rules manual and know all the ISHL and TAHA rules in addition to the USA Hockey rules and regulations.
- (d) Referees will conduct a safety inspection of the rink to include the condition of the ice, dasher boards, gates, glass, and goals to determine whether the venue is safe to play prior to the commencement of the game. The referee will continue to monitor the conditions of the rink throughout the game. If at any time during the game the referee determines the condition of the ice and/or dasher board system becomes unsafe, the game will be immediately stopped.
- (e) Conduct a pre-game check and spot checks during the game to ensure all players are wearing the appropriate and required protective equipment.
- (f) As provided, referees should make every effort to attend all referee clinics.
- (g) Stay abreast of any and all rule or policy changes that are implemented throughout the season.
- (h) The ISHL’s policy is to schedule three or four officials for all games. On occasion due to the limited number of qualified officials, two officials will be scheduled. In such a case, both officials will be level three certified or above. The game will not be played if only one referee is available. If one or less officials show up, the coaches may agree to use any qualified referees/officials that may be in attendance at the game.
- (i) Intentional contact after the whistle must be called by the referee, especially in or near the crease with players trying to “protect” their goalie.
- (j) Officials should establish a basic rapport with the coaches before each game; i.e., cordial greeting, handshake, and basic philosophy of having a good clean game.

- (k) If there has been a game misconduct, match, or gross misconduct penalty, the referee must complete the "Referee's Game Report". This report must be e-mailed to the League office within 24 hours of the infraction.

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40. Parents and Spectators Code of Conduct

All parents and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a proper, respectful, and sportsmanlike manner while attending games. Obnoxious behavior, verbal abuse of players, coaches, referees, or the use of profanity will not be tolerated. The referee has the authority to request the offending parent or spectator remove themselves from the facility. If the person refuses to comply, the proper law enforcement agency will be summoned. Re-admittance of that individual to any future ISHL game(s) is subject to the approval of the ISHL League Commissioner.

1. Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials.
2. Act appropriately; do not taunt or disturb other fans; enjoy the game together.
3. Noise makers, bells, air horns or other loud and obtrusive noise making devises are not allowed at ISHL games and will be confiscated by security if used by any parent, fan, or other spectator.
4. Cheer good plays of all participants; avoid booing opponents, coaches or referees.
5. Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive and will be cause for removal from the game and facility.
6. Help provide a safe and fun environment; throwing any items on the ice surface can cause injury to players and officials.
7. Do not lean over or pound on the glass; the glass surrounding the ice surface is part of the playing area.
8. Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
9. Be responsible for your own safety – be alert to prevent accidents from flying pucks and other avoidable situations.
10. Respect locker rooms as private areas for players, coaches and officials. Parents and other spectators are not allowed in these areas before, during, or after a game.
11. Be supportive after the game – win or lose. Recognize good effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

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Waiver of Liability, Release, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement

For and in consideration of the undersigned participant's registration with Interscholastic Hockey Association and Interscholastic Hockey League, its affiliates, local associations and member teams (all referred to together as "ISHL") and being allowed to participate in ISHL events and activities, participant (and the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of participant, if applicable) waive, release and relinquish any and all claims for liability and causes of action, including for personal injury, property damage or wrongful death occurring to participant, arising out of participation in various activities (the "Activities"), specifically including, without limitation, ISHL events and activities, the sport of ice hockey, and/or activities incidental thereto, whenever or however they occur and for such period said Activities may continue, and by this agreement any such claims, rights, and causes of action that participant (and participant's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), if applicable) may have are hereby waived, released and relinquished, and participant (and parent(s)/guardian(s), if applicable) does(do) so on behalf of my/our and participant's heirs, executors, administrators and assigns.

Participant (and participant's parent(s)/guardian(s), if applicable) acknowledge, understand and assume all risks relating to the Activities, and understand that the Activities involve risks to participant's person including bodily injury, partial or total disability, paralysis and death, and damages which may arise therefrom and that I/we have full knowledge of said risks. These risks and dangers may be caused by the negligence of the participant or the negligence of others, including the "Indemnified Parties" identified below. These risks and dangers include, but are not limited to, those arising from participating with bigger, faster and stronger participants, and these risks and dangers will increase if participant participates in Activities in an age group above that in which participant would normally participate. I/We further acknowledge that there may be risks and dangers not known to us or not reasonably foreseeable at this time. **PARTICIPANT (AND PARTICIPANT'S PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S), IF APPLICABLE) ACKNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT ALL OF THE RISKS AND DANGERS DESCRIBED THROUGHOUT THIS AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THOSE CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE INDEMNIFIED PARTIES AND/OR OTHERS, ARE INCLUDED WITHIN THE WAIVER, RELEASE AND RELINQUISHMENT OF CLAIMS CONTAINED HEREIN.**

Participant (and participant's parent(s)/guardian(s), if applicable) acknowledge, understand and assume the risks, if any, arising from the conditions and use of ice hockey rinks and related premises and acknowledge and understand that included within the scope of this waiver and release is any cause of action (including any cause of action based on negligence) arising from the performance, or failure to perform, maintenance, inspection, supervision or control of said areas and for the failure to warn of dangerous conditions existing at said rinks, for negligent selection of facilities or equipment, or negligent supervision or instruction.

PARTICIPANT (AND PARTICIPANT'S PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S), IF APPLICABLE) HEREBY AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD THE INDEMNIFIED PARTIES HARMLESS FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL LOSSES, EXPENSES, DEMANDS, CLAIMS, DAMAGES, PROCEEDINGS, OR CAUSES OF ACTION, WHETHER AT LAW OR IN EQUITY, RELATING TO OR ARISING OUT OF THE ACTIVITIES, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING,

WITHOUT LIMITATION, CLAIMS RELATING TO BODILY INJURY (INCLUDING DEATH), PROPERTY DAMAGE, OR ECONOMIC DAMAGE. IT IS EXPRESSLY AGREED THAT THE FOREGOING INDEMNITY SHALL INCLUDE, WITHOUT LIMITATION, AN INDEMNITY OF THE INDEMNIFIED PARTIES AGAINST ANY CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO ACTUAL OR ALLEGED NEGLIGENCE OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE OF THE INDEMNIFIED PARTIES, EITHER SOLELY OR IN COMBINATION WITH THE NEGLIGENCE OR OTHER LIABILITY OF THE PARTICIPANT AND/OR OTHERS. PARTICIPANT (AND PARTICIPANT'S PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S), IF APPLICABLE) AGREE TO DEFEND ANY SUIT OR ACTION BROUGHT AGAINST THE INDEMNIFIED PARTIES BASED ON ANY SUCH CLAIM AND TO PAY ALL COSTS AND EXPENSES IN CONNECTION THEREWITH OR RESULTING THEREFROM, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ATTORNEY'S FEES, PREJUDGMENT AND POST-JUDGMENT INTEREST, APPEAL BONDS, AND SUPERSEDEAS BONDS.

It is the purpose of this agreement to exempt, waive and relieve all of the Indemnified Parties from liability for personal injury, property damage, and wrongful death, including if caused by negligence, including the negligence, if any, of any Indemnified Parties. "Indemnified Parties" include Interscholastic Hockey Association, Interscholastic Hockey League, its affiliate associations, national, regional, and local associations, member teams, event hosts, other participants, coaches, officials, sponsors, advertisers, owners and operators of the premises used to conduct any Activity, and each of the owners, shareholders, members, partners, directors, officers, managers, employees, representatives, and agents of each of the foregoing. Participant (and participant's parent(s)/guardian(s), if applicable) further agree to release and waive all claims against the ISHL and its authorized representatives for decisions and/or actions made by the ISHL and/or its authorized representatives in their good faith efforts to interpret and enforce the ISHL's Rules and Procedures, and/or to carry out the ISHL's purposes and goals, as they may so decide in their discretion.

Participant (and participant's parent(s)/guardian(s), if applicable) acknowledge that they have been provided and have read the above paragraphs and have not relied upon any representations of any of the Indemnified Parties, that they are fully advised of the potential dangers of the Activities and understand these waivers and releases are necessary and appropriate, and that they have received good, valuable, and adequate consideration for the execution of this document and the performance of the agreements and obligations set forth herein.

This Waiver of Liability, Release, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement has been agreed to, adopted, ratified, and executed by those persons whose signatures are set forth on separate signature pages which shall be considered incorporated herein for all purposes.