



## Statewide Florida Hockey League “A” Division League Rules

### SECTION 1

#### PLAYERS AND ROSTERS

**RULE 1:** Any player or parent who willfully gives materially false information in connection with a player’s registration for a team shall be suspended for play in the SFHL A for the current season.

**RULE 2:** Any Organization/Coach may remove a player on the team roster for any reason to the extent that the player will not rejoin the same team during the current season. USA Hockey rules apply as to additions, deletions of supplemental rosters. Official rosters are set as of December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**RULE 3:** Additional players can be added to the roster until December 31, provided the roster has less than twenty (20) players in total.

**RULE 4:** It shall be the responsibility of each Organization member to check the age eligibility of his team members and to submit an official USA Hockey roster to the SFHL A Commissioners one week before the SFHL A playing season begins. Failure to submit an official roster will cause forfeiture of any and all games played.

**RULE 5:** No player who is eligible to be double rostered will be permitted to be double rostered on two (2) teams within the same age bracket in the same league, even if the division is subdivided later in the season. Per SAHOF Rules, no Tournament/Rec teams that have players that are double rostered are permitted to participate in SAHOF State Playoffs.

### SECTION 2

#### GOVERNING RULES

**RULE 1:** All games shall be governed by the rules of USA Hockey unless otherwise stipulated in the SFHL A rules.

**a.** No team may dress players not on that team's official roster for any league game. Any team using a player(s) not on the team's official roster are subject to penalties up to and including the forfeiting of all the games played with ineligible players. Supplemental rosters (unsigned or signed) must be received by Thursday at 5 PM prior to the game weekend in order for additional players to dress and play.

**b.** It is requested that players be at the rink thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled start time for their games.

**RULE 2:** All games will use the 2 man referee system.

**RULE 3:** It is mandatory for any team making the playoffs, SFHL A, if any, or SAHOF, to participate. Failure to participate for lack of cause will result in potential probation for the following season.

**Rule 4:** Tiebreakers for league standings are as follows: (1) points, (2) wins, (3) head to head, (4) Goal differential between the tied teams, (5) Goal differential against each team played, and (5) least Goals against.

**RULE 5:** No member association may cancel or forfeit a league game without league approval. Refusal to play a league game will result in disciplinary action against the member association as follows:

**a.** If a team cancels or forfeits a game without league approval and these were to be away games, said team would be responsible for reimbursing the ice expenses, referee and scorekeeper costs. In addition, the forfeiting or canceling team will pay the league a penalty of \$500.00. Should any team (home or away) refuse to pay the fine or reimburse an association for lost ice time, the uncollected fines or fees will be added to the offending team's association league entry dues/fees for the following SFHL A season. In the case of lost ice time fees, that fee, if collected by the SFHL A (entry fees) will be giving back to the association which suffered the loss, once collected by the league. No team will be allowed to register for the following season until all fees or fines are satisfied. Also, the offending team and the association will be ineligible to represent the SFHL A at the SAHOF Championships.

**RULE 6:** SFHL A follows all SAHOF release rules regarding players.

**RULE 7:** Any team that uses a player that has changed teams without the appropriate release will forfeit all games played with the illegally rostered player.

**RULE 8:** Division standings will still be used to determine SAHOF playoff eligibility. The number of teams that get invited to participate in the SAHOF State Tournament is based on the SAHOF Tournament Committee at its sole discretion.

### **SECTION 3**

## **PENALTIES / INFRACTIONS**

**RULE 1:** Penalties shall be stop time. Minor penalties shall be of two- (2) minutes duration; major penalties shall be of five- (5) minutes duration. In the Squirt through Peewee divisions all penalties will be 1:30 for minor penalties. Misconduct penalties shall be of ten- (10) minutes duration. If the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) period is running time and a penalty is being served that penalty and subsequent ones are also running time. Five (5) penalties in any one game by a single player will result in the player being ejected for the remainder of the game, along with a game misconduct to be served in the next league game. Should a team have additional games prior to the next league game that were (a) previously scheduled and sanctioned under USA Hockey, (b) is an appropriate game to serve the sanction in the SFHL A Commissioners' sole discretion and (c) the team provides proof of serving that game prior to the next league game, the player will sit the first non-league game and the player will be eligible for the next league game.

**RULE 2:** The coach of any team that receives 15 penalties in any one game will receive a one game suspension. This suspension must be served in the next league game or otherwise satisfied as set forth in Rule 1 above the same manner as a Player's suspension. In addition, any coach, over the course of the current season, who receives three game suspensions within a particular age division, shall be required to attend a disciplinary hearing before the SFHL A discipline committee. This committee will determine if any additional game suspensions are warranted. If a coach, coaches in more than one age division, the three suspensions must be from a single age division. Any additional suspensions handed down by the discipline committee apply only to the age division they originated from.

**RULE 3:** Any grievances or protests involving officiating, procedures, interpretation of rules and regulations at SFHL A games shall be handled according to these guidelines:

- a. Grievances or protests are to be written and submitted to the Referee-in-Chief with a copy to the Commissioners of the SFHL A.
- b. A \$250 fee is to be paid to the SFHL A for review and disposition of any and all protests
- c. Fee is returned in the event that the protest is found to be valid and the RIC or Chairman on the Rules Committee rules in favor of the protesting organization.
- d. The Disciplinary Committee appointed by the Board will act upon his recommendation.

**RULE 4:** Supplementary discipline and suspension rules are as follows:

- a. In any situation whereby USA Hockey/League rules provide for a participant to be given a game misconduct (404 D), and that participant receives the suspension during a League game, the suspension shall apply to the next League game or games; unless the player is entered into a USA Hockey Sanctioned Tournament, if so entered, the player can serve his or her suspension in that game or games so long as the League office is provided a score sheet from the Tournament noting that the player or players in

question sat out the game or games required. Final determination as to applicable Tournaments rests with the Commissioner.

**b.** The Referee-in-Chief and the Commissioners shall be responsible for investigating and reporting on incidents which may call for the assessment of supplementary discipline under USA Hockey Rules, and shall make recommendations on supplementary discipline actions to be presented to the Board of Directors as described below. Video evidence of an infraction either missed by the referees or not sufficiently sanctioned may be the subject of a supplementary discipline review per the SAHOF Rule regarding Video Reviews.

**c.** The Commissioners shall appoint a Disciplinary Committee to assist the Referee-in-Chief with investigations and in preparing his recommendations. Each member of the Committee shall have 48 hours to review the recommendations of the Referee-in-Chief and vote in favor or against such recommendations or to make an alternate recommendation. Supplementary discipline shall only be assessed upon a majority vote of the Disciplinary Committee. In the case of a tie vote, the Referee-in-Chief shall cast the deciding vote. In cases involving Match Penalties, the Referee in Chief will investigate the penalty, including interviewing witnesses. The Referee in Chief will deliver his findings to the Disciplinary Chairman of SAHOF who will either hold a hearing within the 30 day period and or dispense additional penalties as are deemed appropriate. As outlined in (d) below.

**d.** Match Penalties: Match Penalties will be handled by SAHOF.

**RULE 5:** In keeping with the stated policy of promoting sportsmanship and fair play by USA Hockey, the SFHL A prohibits all fighting in any form in any League game. As such, the Referee-in-Chief is instructed to advise his counterparts in each member association that henceforth they will strictly enforce USA Hockey "Rule # 613 - Fisticuffs". In addition, the penalties for fighting will be issued in an escalating fashion. A player's first incident will result in a 5-minute penalty, ejection from the game and a game misconduct for the following game. A player's second fighting penalty will result in a 5-minute penalty, ejection from the game and a 2 game misconduct. A player's third fighting penalty of the season will lead to a 5 minute penalty, ejection from the game, a 3 game misconduct and a hearing for potential supplemental discipline.

**RULE 6:** Swearing from players or coaches will result in a two-minute minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.

**RULE 7:** Per USA Hockey Rules, any intent to strike or have physical contact with intent to injure on a Referee (official) will result in an immediate suspension from play in the SFHL A. In addition to any disciplinary reviews held by SAHOF/USA Hockey, the SFHL A will conduct its own separate hearing within 72 hours, using USA Hockey hearing procedures. If the penalty assessed by the official is upheld by the SFHL A Discipline Committee, the player, coach or team official will be suspended from the SFHL A for one calendar year starting on the date the infraction occurred. This discipline will be in addition to any discipline handed down by SAHOF/USA Hockey.

## SECTION 4

### GENERAL

**RULE 1:** The rink shall provide a suitable First Aid Kit to be kept at the arena for the use of the SFHL A teams, and shall keep an emergency call list available. Each rink is responsible to determine whether EMS services onsite are appropriate given their relative location to emergency care.

**RULE 2:** When the ice is being resurfaced, no player shall step onto the ice until after the resurfacing machine has left the ice surface and doors have been closed.

**RULE 3:** It is mandatory for each association to supply all of their teams with a set of home and away jerseys, with both numbers and nameplates. Each association shall be responsible for supplying their teams with a set of home and away numbered jerseys. The home team as designated by the official schedule shall wear the light color jersey, the visiting team the dark color jersey. Should both the home and visiting team have the same or similar color jerseys in the discretion of the referee, the visiting team must change their jerseys.

**RULE 4:** Games shall not start after 9:00 PM or before 7:30 AM. Exceptions to these time frames may be approved by the Commissioners.

**RULE 5:** League games shall be scheduled according to the following guidelines:

**a.** All games shall last a minimum of one hour and fifteen minutes. All games will last one hour and fifteen minutes. Period times may vary by division and be set by SAHOF League Committee. Should the rink curfew time approach prior to the end of the game, the Referee may declare running time for the remainder of the third period if the goal differential is five (5) goals. It is within the Referee's discretion to declare the end of the game. The Referee may declare running time at any time during the third period, and he must notify both coaches.

**b.** There shall be no overtime periods in any game, except during League playoffs, if any.

**c.** The first, second and third periods shall be played as stop time, except as noted above as to running time for 3<sup>rd</sup> period.

**d.** Members hosting games shall plan for a 10-minute period between games for the flooding of ice.

**RULE 6:** The rink is required to furnish the scorekeeper for every game and pay for said scorekeeper out of ice rental payments as per the schedule of team fees adopted by the Board.

**RULE 7:** If the Local State Highway Patrol states that travel on State and Federal roads are to be curtailed due to inclement weather or approaching hurricane, the game shall be rescheduled by the two- (2) teams involved before the end of the regular season. In rescheduling games, the home team shall attempt to reschedule the games before the end of the SFHL A season. If the home team cannot reschedule the games before the end of the SFHL A season, the visiting team may reschedule the games on its ice. If neither team can reschedule the games, all affected games shall be counted as tied games.

**RULE 8:** Only Pointstreak score sheets are acceptable for League games. Only players and coaches listed on the score sheet are eligible for that game and no Write Ins are allowed for any reason. New players to the roster must be submitted to the Commissioners by Thursday at 5pm prior to the game weekend via email. The new roster does not have to be signed by the USA Hockey registrar for purposes on being put on the Pointstreak roster, but a signed copy must be sent to the League office within 10 days after the roster addition is made.

**RULE 9:** The winning team (or home team in case of a tie) is responsible for submitting the original game sheets to the League office by 5 pm on the Tuesday following the game weekend. The winning team is responsible for entering the score and all statistics appropriate for the division as set forth by the Board. If after one warning the responsible association fails to report the game scores and suspensions, in the time frame specified for either of the above instances, it will result in a .5 point deduction from their standings. In the case of a tie score, the HOME team as listed on the score sheet (whether the team is playing on its home ice or not) is responsible for the above.

**RULE 10:** A maximum of five (5) minutes delay in a game shall be allowed if a goalie is to be replaced because of injury.

**RULE 11:** One (1) timeout is allowed per team if the clock is in stop time and not running time.

**RULE 12:** Neck Guards will be required for all players in the Squirt and Pee wee Divisions. Mouth Guards are required for all Divisions.

**RULE 14:** “Mercy Rule” If a team is up more than 5 goals in the 3<sup>rd</sup> period the clock will automatically go to running time. If the gap in score is below 5 the clock will return to stop time in accordance with 5a above.

## SECTION 5

### RESCHEDULED LEAGUE GAMES

**RULE 1:** Team manager of the requesting team must get approval directly from the Commissioners for this change. If the Commissioners give approval, it shall be the responsibility of the requesting team/organization to notify both team managers and Coaches of the desire to change the game date and time. If approval is not given, then the game must be played as scheduled. If by mutual consent, a game is not played according to the final schedule provided by the Commissioners, the teams involved shall be responsible for rescheduling the game prior to January 31<sup>st</sup>, of the year in question. If mutual consent cannot be reached, the team wanting the change shall forfeit the game.

Please note the rules and procedure for rescheduling games:

- a. Request must be made at least 14 days in advance of the affected game or games, ***including the rescheduled game***. Date, time and location of rescheduled game must be confirmed at time of request. No TBD will be acceptable.
- b. Rink is provided the opportunity to retain the ice and if the rink does take back the ice for the cancelled game or games; there are no additional costs for the rescheduled game to be covered by the team requesting the reschedule. The League will pay for the rescheduled game.
- c. If the rink does not take back the ice slot, then the ice slot can be utilized by the team who is being affected by the change for any purpose they see fit. The team requesting the rescheduled game will cover all costs associated with the rescheduled game to include ice, officials and scorekeeper.
- d. Rescheduled games must be mutually agreed upon by both teams and the location of the rescheduled game does NOT have to be played at the rink it was originally schedule.
- e. Rescheduled games must be completed by January 31<sup>st</sup>, of the year in question, or the game will be entered as a forfeit by the team who requested the reschedule. Every effort must be made to mutually agree on a time to play the game. If for any reason the League office feels that the game is not being played solely to be awarded the forfeit, the League office will enforce a makeup date and time for the game to be played.