

# **By-Laws of Pioneer Valley Youth Hockey Association, Inc.**

08/25/2009

## **ARTICLE I NAME**

The name of the Organization shall be: Pioneer Valley Youth Hockey Association, Inc. and it shall be referred to in these Bylaws as the Association.

## **ARTICLE II PURPOSES**

The purposes for which the Association is formed are set forth in its Articles of Organization as from time to time amended. Articles of Organization are available upon request from the Board of Directors.

The Association shall abide by USA Hockey and Massachusetts Hockey By-Laws, Rules, Regulation and Policies and Procedures.

## **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP AND DUES**

1. Any person interested in the objectives of the Association, and willing to uphold its basic policies and subscribe to its Constitution and Bylaws may become a member upon proper registration and payment of dues with the Association.
  - a. All members will be required to properly fill out an application or registration form at the beginning of each season.
  - b. All new members will be required to

supply their child's birth certificate with the registration.

- c. Except in the case of suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary action imposed by operation of the USA Hockey playing rules, disciplinary actions shall only be taken after a hearing conducted in accordance with Article XIV of the Massachusetts Hockey Bylaws for the reasons set forth therein.
  - d. A family shall be assessed a registration fee for each youth participating. All members shall be required to participate in mandatory fundraising activities as determined by the Board of Directors.
  - e. A parent or guardian of each child and said child shall be required to abide by the code of conduct. See Exhibit B attached hereto and incorporated herein.
2. The Association may conduct an open enrollment of members.
  3. Only members in good standing of the Association shall be entitled to participate in meetings of the Association.
  4. The Board of Directors may designate certain persons or groups as associate members, sponsors, contributors, advisors, or friends of the Association or such other title as they deem appropriate. Such persons or groups shall have rights, privileges and responsibilities as the Directors may designate and except as the Directors shall otherwise determine, shall in such capacity have no right to notice of or to vote at any meeting, shall not be considered for purposes of establishing a quorum, and shall have no other

- rights or responsibilities.
5. The annual dues for membership and other fees shall be established by the Board of Directors and may be changed from time to time as they deem necessary.
  6. By-Laws and/or Rules and Regulations, including methods of becoming an Officer or Director, method of selecting coaches, definition of membership and voting rights and a list of current Officers and Directors will be made available to all parents, coaches, players and other members of the association.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION**

##### 1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a. The results of the March, 2009 election for the numbered positions on the Board of Directors , were as follows:

1. Autumn Delaney
2. VACANT
3. Jeff Brown
4. Jim Chouinard
5. Jake Delaney
6. VACANT
7. Roger Jablonski
8. Kelly Lewis
9. John McDonough
10. Karen Nazarenko
11. Justin Parzychowski
12. Mike Passerini
13. Calli Phillips
14. Dave Sanschagrin

- b. The Board of Directors shall consist of not less than five or more than fourteen (14) members of the Association. Each position on the Board of Directors shall be designated by a number, one through fourteen (14). Beginning with the election to be held in March, 2010, elections for the even numbered positions on the Board of Directors shall be held on even numbered years and the elections for the odd numbered positions on the Board of Directors shall be held on odd numbered years. Members of the Board of Directors shall serve for a two-year term. No less than 20% of the Board of Directors will be made up of individuals who have children actively skating in the association. The members of the Board of Directors shall serve until the election and qualification of their successors.

- c. The Board of Directors shall have responsibility and authority for the general management of the affairs of the Association and without limiting the generality of foregoing, shall (a) transact all business in the intervals between meetings of the Association and such other business as may be referred to it by the Association; (b) create standing committees; (c) approve the plans of work of the standing committees; and (d) present a report at the regular meetings of the Association.

##### 2. ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a. The first election of members of the Board of Directors shall be held at the Association's monthly meeting

during the month of March, 2009. Thereafter, an election for positions with terms expiring the following April and / or open positions on the Board of Directors shall be held at the Association's monthly meeting during the month of March. The Board of Directors shall be elected by those present and voting. The voting membership shall consist of each adult member of the Association and one parent or guardian of each player in good financial standing with the Association shall have one vote per player in good standing. A majority vote of those present and voting shall be required for election of each director. New directors will take office at the conclusion of the monthly meeting in April.

- b. There shall be a nominating committee, composed of three members, selected by the President at a regular meeting at least one month prior to the election.
- c. The nominating committee shall nominate all eligible persons for each Board of Directors position to be filled and report its nominees at the annual meeting at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- d. Only those persons who have signified their consent to serve if elected shall be nominated for or elected to the Board of Directors. All nominees must be in financial good standing with the Association and must be present or send a letter of verification to the meeting.

### 3. OFFICERS

- a. The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Player Registrar, and Treasurer.
- d. The officers of the Association shall be elected by and from the Board of Directors at its first meeting following the annual meeting. He/she shall assume official duties upon election by the Board of Directors and may be reelected to that office. The position of President shall be filled by a Board Member who has served on the board for a minimum of one year.

### 4. REMOVAL / VACANCIES

- a. In addition to any disciplinary action(s) authorized herein, any board member missing 3 meetings without prior notification to the President shall be called before the Board of Directors to discuss said member's commitment to the Association and may be removed from the Board of Directors by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors.
- b. A vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors shall be filled by majority vote of the Board of Directors. If no one is willing to fill said vacancy, the seat will not be filled.

## ARTICLE V

### MEETINGS OF THE CORPORATION

- 1. A general membership meeting of the Association shall be held on the 3rd Tuesday of March, or at another time designated by the Board of Directors, at a place to be announced by the

Board of Directors to coincide with the elections of members to the Board of Directors. Seven days notice shall be given of a change of date or location. A written financial report for the most recent year ending shall be presented to its members.

2. All meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors shall be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order. Also, Roberts Rules of Order shall be the default document, when applicable, if our Constitution or Bylaws fail to address a particular situation.
3. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors will be held at least monthly during the year and are open to all members of the Association. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or by any three members of the Board. The meeting times to be fixed by the Board. The location of each meeting shall be announced at each prior meeting and the date, time and location of each meeting shall be posted on the Association website.
4. A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of more than half of the members of the Board of Directors (excluding any vacancies). A simple majority vote of those members present and voting shall be required for all actions, unless otherwise stated.

## ARTICLE VI

### DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. **President** . The President shall:
  - a. Preside at all meetings of the Association and the Board of

Directors at which he or she maybe present;

- b. Coordinate the business of the Association for the benefit of the entire Association and not for the benefit of a single team or person;
- c. Determine whether a quorum exists at each meeting of the Board of Directors;
- d. Have no vote on the business coming before the Board of Directors except in the case of a tie vote of the other members of the Board of Directors;
- e. Execute policies set by the Board of Directors;
- f. Call no less than one meeting per month of the Board of Directors. In the absence of the Recording Secretary, it shall be the President's responsibility to make the time and place of each meeting known to all Directors;
- g. Serve ex-officio as a member of all standing committees, excluding the nominating committee, and coordinate and determine the jurisdiction of each standing committee;
- h. The President shall appoint a Chairperson for all committees from the Board of Directors. The exception shall be with the chair of the coaches committee who will be chosen by the coaches committee and not the president.

2. **Vice President** . The Vice President shall:
  - a. Preside at any and all meetings in the President's absence;
  - b. Serve as the District 6 Massachusetts

Hockey representative for the Association.

**3. Recording Secretary.** The Recording Secretary shall:

- a. Keep and maintain the records of the Association, including the minutes of all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors and present said minutes at the next meeting of the Board of Directors and/or the Association for approval;
- b. With the President, publicize all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors;
- c. Upon the request of any officer or director, handle any Association correspondence.
- d. In the absence of the Secretary, the President shall assign a Board member to record the minutes.

**4. Treasurer .** The Treasurer shall:

- a. Have custody of all of the general funds of the Association; keeping a full and accurate account of receipts and expenditures; deposit all monies of the Association in an approved bank or trust company and make disbursements in accordance with the approved budget, as authorized by the Association, the Board of Directors, or special committees.
- b. Be responsible for presenting the books to an accountant at the end of the season for preparation of tax forms and the yearly review.
- c. Receive all revenues; write checks for all disbursements. Except for payment of ice times and officials, disbursements above the sum of \$150.00 shall be approved by a

majority vote of the Board of Directors.

- d. The Treasurer shall serve as Chairperson of a budget committee that will consist of two other members, one of which may be a Board member. The Treasurer shall also give the year end report at the Annual Meeting in March.

**5. Player Registrar.** The Player Registrar shall:

- a. Be responsible for the annual membership registration and all records necessary to maintain up-to-date files pertaining to membership;
- b. Keep official rosters of all teams and the membership list of the Tri-City Youth Hockey Association; supply rosters and necessary forms for USA Hockey, Massachusetts Hockey, and the Greater Springfield League as mandated by said organizations.
- c. Be responsible for registering skaters, coaches, managers, and Board members with USA Hockey, Mass Hockey, and the Greater Springfield Hockey League (GSHL). Once teams are created, rosters must be sent to the GSHL secretary.
- d. Be responsible for submitting team rosters and all other required paperwork to the Mass Hockey District 6 Registrar.

## ARTICLE VII

### OTHER POSITIONS

The Board of Directors shall appoint one of its members, or any other member of the Association, to serve in the following

key positions:

1. Ice Coordinator. The Ice Coordinator shall be responsible for scheduling all of the Association's ice time. The Ice Coordinator shall work with the President and Treasurer to determine what shall be required for ice time for an up-coming hockey season based on numbers of skaters and financial considerations. The Ice Coordinator shall to the best of his/her ability, ensure that ice is distributed equally and fairly. The Ice Coordinator shall also be responsible for working with the GSHL for the scheduling of league games. The Ice Coordinator will work with Head Coaches to schedule scrimmage games as requested.
2. Equipment Manager. The Equipment Manager shall be responsible for storage, inventory and control of all Association equipment. The Equipment Manager shall be responsible for distributing all necessary Association equipment to the teams. The teams will be responsible for all assigned equipment until it is returned to the Equipment Manager. The Equipment Manager shall maintain a record of each piece of equipment with the dates and names of who the equipment is assigned to and when it is to be returned. The Equipment Manager shall upon approval of the Board of Directors purchase equipment as needed or as necessary. The Equipment Manager shall be responsible for the storage of shirts, and to ensure that a sampling of different size shirts is available for registrations for the purpose of fitting the participants.
2. ACE Coordinator . The ACE Coordinator shall be responsible for: ensuring that the association is promoting age specific skill development in all of their programs; encouraging coaches of the association to implement the USA Hockey Skill Development and Cross-Ice programs; communicate certification requirements to association coaches and ensure compliance with USA Hockey & Affiliate certification levels; deliver Parent Education programs to the association; plan, organize and execute periodic skills workshops for coaches, players and parents; communicate with the District ACE Administrator and USA Hockey on all issues related to coaching at the local association level; communicate USA Hockey's Player Development opportunities to players, parents and coaches; establish and maintain a resource center for coaches, players and parents that would include all available USA Hockey materials; evaluate practice sessions and provide feedback to coaches to improve the coaching capability of local association coaches; and assist the Player Registrar in ensuring that all coaches complete and return to the Player Registrar any and all required forms.
3. Team Rep Coordinator . The Team Rep Coordinator shall be the liaison between the Board of Directors and the Team Reps. The Team Rep Coordinator will ensure that the Team Reps are filtering information back to the parents and are in fact consulting the parents as to their views on issues and matters of the Association. In the event a Team Rep is not performing

their duties and responsibilities, then the Team Rep Coordinator will bring a recommendation back to the Board of Directors for discussion and disposition.

4. Public Relations Director. The Public Relations Director shall be responsible for disseminating all Association news and announcements to the public, through publication in local newspapers, websites and/or community access channels.
5. Webmaster. The Webmaster shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the Association website.
6. District 6 Rep. The District 6 Rep shall attend all monthly meetings scheduled by Mass Hockey District 6 and act on behalf of the Association.
7. GSHL Rep. The GSHL Rep required to attend monthly meetings scheduled by the GSHL and act on behalf of the Association.

### **ARTICLE VIII STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

1. There shall be a standing Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee will be responsible for reporting to the Board of Directors at the July meeting their detailed written evaluation policy for conducting evaluations for the up-coming hockey season. The Board of Directors shall approve or amend the evaluation policy. The Board of Directors will also review the results of the evaluation and subsequently assign skaters to their respective teams based

on the criteria set in the written evaluation policy.

2. The Board of Directors may create such standing committees as it deems necessary to promote the purposes and carry out the work of the Corporation. Said committees shall be appointed by the President. All committees shall have no less than 3 or no more than 5 members serving on each committee.
3. The Chairman of each standing committee shall present a plan of work to the Board of Directors for approval. No committee work shall be undertaken without the prior consent of the Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE IX**

#### **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

1. Fiscal Year. Except as from time to time otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, the fiscal year of the Association shall be the twelve months ending the last day of May.
2. Seal. The seal of the Association shall, subject to alteration by the Directors, bear its name, the word "Massachusetts" and the year of its incorporation.
3. Execution of Instruments. All deeds, leases, transfers, contracts, bonds, notes and other obligations authorized to be executed by an officer of the Association in its behalf shall be signed by the President and the Treasurer or the Vice president and the Treasurer except as the Board of Directors may generally or in particular cases otherwise determine.
4. Indemnification of Officers, Directors, and Agents. The Association shall

indemnify any Directors, Officers, or Agents (including any former Director, Officer, or Agent) of the Association against all expenses actually incurred by him in connection with any claim asserted against him or in connection with any action, suit or proceeding, civil or criminal, in which he may be involved as a party by reason of his having been such Director, Officer or Agent or by reason of any action alleged to have taken or omitted by him in such capacity, except that no indemnification shall be provided for any such person with respect to any matter as to which he shall have been adjudicated in any proceedings not to have acted in good faith in the reasonable belief that his action was in the best interests of the Association, and provided that, with respect to any claim, action, suit, or proceeding which is settled without such adjudication, the Corporation shall have found that such person has acted in good faith as afore said and that such indemnification is permissible under the law, and provided further that such indemnification may include payment by the Corporation of such expenses incurred in advance of final disposition of such action, suit, or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by the person indemnified to repay such payment if he shall be adjudicated to be not entitled to indemnification there under.

#### **ARTICLE X**

### **RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The Board of Directors shall establish a set of rules and regulations. These rules and

regulations shall be enforced by the Board of Directors and may be amended, repealed, or added to by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors at a regular or special board meeting, or by a 2/3 vote of members at the Annual Meeting provided a quo-rum exists. Such changes shall become effective the following season. Exceptions to the rules and regulations may be made by a 2/3 majority vote of the Board of Directors at a regular scheduled or special meeting. All families of the Association shall receive a current copy of the rules and regulations at the time of registration.

#### **ARTICLE XI**

### **AMENDMENTS**

Except as otherwise required by law, the Constitution and/or By-Laws of the Association may be amended or altered in whole or in part by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors, if such amendment(s) or alteration(s) have been submitted in writing to each of the member of the Board of Directors, at least 14 days prior to the Board meeting at which such amendments are to be considered.

#### **ARTICLE XII**

### **FINANCIAL AUTHORIZATION AND LIABILITY**

1. The President, Treasurer and/or Player Registrar shall be authorized to sign checks for the Association. All receivables and/or other income shall be paid to the Treasurer.
2. The financial books of the Association shall be reviewed by a qualified person

within 90 days of the close of the fiscal year.

3. The Association shall not be responsible or held liable for any injuries or loss sustained by individuals participating in its programs. Each parent or legal guardian will be required to sign waivers for such, at the time of registration, or the child will not be allowed to take the ice until so done.
4. Failure of a parent or legal guardian to maintain the financial responsibility requires as a participant of the Association shall result in the removal of the participant from further activity with the Association, including removal from the ice, until the financial obligation has been met and/or rectified.

# Rules & Regulations

## I. NAME

The name of the Association shall be Pioneer Valley Youth Hockey Association, Inc. ("Association" hereafter) and shall be known as the Pioneer Valley Lightning.

a. All uniforms must include the Association emblem.

1. The Association shall provide shirts for all teams.
2. The Association shall provide goalies with at least leg pads and gloves up to and including the squirt division.
3. The Association shall not be responsible to provide such items as: goalie sticks, shoulder pads, gloves, shin pads, skates, elbow pads, socks, etc. Exception - Squirt levels and below the association shall provide chest protector, leg pads, glove, blocker and stick.

## II. PLAYING RULES

a. Games of the Association will be played under amateur rules, specifically those of the USA Hockey Association, Massachusetts Hockey Association. In league play, i.e., the Greater Springfield Junior Amateur Hockey League ("GSL"), their specific rules will apply.

## III. OFFICIALS

a. Officials will be USA Hockey qualified personnel.

b. A coach will not be allowed on the ice during a game except to attend to an injured player or as allowed by league rules.

c. Any willful discrepancies in team rosters, falsification of records or use of an ineligible player will result in disciplinary action against the offending coach.

## IV. TEAMS

a. At registration time, a birth certificate is required if newly registered. The birth certificate must be on file to skate.

b. Players must play for the association representing their own community unless they have previously played with another association, in which case they may stay with the Association even though they no longer live in that community. Also excepted are those from another community who are released by their hockey association and are eligible to play for the Association.

c. Age Eligibility is determined by USA Hockey. Players must play in the lowest age category for which they qualify except as provided for in the current evaluation policy.

d. Any player may not be rostered for more than one team in the Association, except with the approval of coaches, players, parents, and Board of Directors.

e. Any player registering with the Association after final team selection goes to the lowest team in his/her age

group. Requests for registration after final rosters have been approved must be brought to the Board of Directors for approval.

- f. After final team selections, players may be transferred within the same age group only in the case of an extended injury, illness or discipline problem, if such a replacement is needed in order to maintain the team roster minimum. The approval of the Board of Directors must be obtained before any transfer is made.
- g. All ice fees will be paid by each player not attending a practice or game, except in the case of extended illness or injury, accompanied by a doctor's certificate and with Board approval or an absence that is the result of a conflict with a high school sporting game that the player is playing in. The Board interprets "extended illness or injury" to be a period of time in which a player is out for 30 days or more due to illness or injury. During this period of time that the board interprets as "extended illness or injury", ice payments will be forgiven for the skating sessions missed due to the injury.
- h. Players suspended must pay all ice fees during suspension and must be on the bench if the game is within the Greater Springfield League area.
- i. Only uniformed players, three coaches and a team manager will be allowed on the team bench during games. Each team will designate a captain who will be the spokesperson with the officials. Players serving suspensions will be on the bench wearing helmets and jerseys.
- j. Any team which has been formed within the Association cannot

participate in individual fund raising without Board approval.

- k. All players will receive his/her share of ice time during a game to the best ability, except for the last two minutes of the game, which will be left to the discretion of the coach.

## V. EQUIPMENT

- a. Coaches will be responsible for holding and maintaining all equipment. Jerseys damaged due to negligence by the player will be paid for by the player.
- b. Minimum required equipment shall be a HECCA helmet, mouth guard (Pee Wee and above), chin strap, and face protector, or as mandated by Massachusetts Hockey. Additional required equipment for team play are the following: Shoulder pads, elbow pads, athletic protector, shin and thigh pads and hockey gloves. All equipment must be of USA Hockey approved design.
- c. All Learn to Skate players will be required to have a HECCA helmet with a faceguard and some type of gloves are required. Parents will assume full responsibility for injury incurred during this period.
- d. All coaches shall wear helmets while on the ice during practices.

## VI. ICE FEES

- a. Ice fees will be determined by the Board of Directors at the beginning of each season. All members shall be required to participate in mandatory fundraising activities as determined by the Board of Directors.

- b. Payment for ice will be made whether the player is there or not, unless excused by the Board or Directors.
- c. Anyone owing money to the Association for a previous year will not be allowed to register for the new season until payment or arrangements approved by the Board of Directors are made.
- d. Any person registering after the start of the season will be responsible for all ice fees from the date of registration.
- e. Any team entering state or independent tournaments will be responsible for the entire cost of that tournament, unless approved by the Board of Directors for a specific program.

## VII. COACHES & ASSISTANT COACHES

### General Guidelines:

- a. All members of the coaching staff will come under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and/or the coaches committee.
- b. It is required that all members of the Association coaching staff will conduct themselves in such a manner on and off the ice, that will gain and maintain the respect of the players and the adults that they come in contact with.
- c. Any coaches' treatment of Association members, league or game officials should be conducted in a manner which will be a good example to his players. If criticism cannot be avoided, it will be done in private.
- d. The paramount objective of our program shall always be the basis for

all coaching endeavors. These objectives shall be to teach basic hockey skills, to stress team achievements rather than individual achievements and to emphasize sportsmanship and physical fitness. It is important that the winning and losing of games NOT become foremost!

### Specific Duties:

- a. Coaches shall familiarize themselves with the rules of: the Association; the Greater Springfield Hockey League; Massachusetts Hockey; and USA Hockey, including playing rules. It shall be his or her duty to follow and direct his or her players to follow these rules and regulations at all times.
- b. To be a teacher and leader with respect for the techniques of hockey and the principles of good sportsmanship.
- c. To provide each player with an equitable opportunity and share of ice. It shall NEVER be the coaches' practice to play those with stronger capabilities to the detriment of those who may not be as talented. "Equal ice time" is recognized as hard to define and harder to administer; however, it must be a target to achieve and must not be purposely disregarded. The last two minutes of a game will be handled at the discretion of the coach.
- d. Each coach shall have latitude as to his or her particular mechanics of coaching. It shall be his or her duty, however to instruct within the general objectives and guidelines provided by the Association.
- e. Each coach shall be responsible for maintaining Association uniforms and

equipment properly and see that players not deface the property of the various rinks they play in.

- f. Each coach shall attend all scheduled games and practices or provide qualified coverage and supervision in the event of his or her absence. He or She shall be present in the locker room one-half hour before a game or practice and remain until the last player leaves the locker room.
- g. Each coach shall be responsible for maintaining game sheets which are strictly within the eligibility rules of the Greater Springfield Hockey League, Massachusetts Hockey, and USA Hockey.
- h. The coach shall recommend to the Equipment Manager any purchases of needed equipment.
- i. No parent shall be allowed to work with the team unless asked to do so by the coach.
- j. A coach should do his or her best to inspire all team members to participate in all team functions.
- k. It will be the coaches' responsibility to maintain order in the locker room.

#### Rights of Coaches

- a. Coaches shall have the right to discipline his or her players. This discipline can take the form of benching or one-game suspensions. Any rule infractions, disrespect, degrading of other players, indifferent play or attitude will be subject to the coaches' disciplinary action. Any coach may strongly recommend extended suspension of a player to the Board of Directors if he or she feels such action is warranted.

- b. Each coach shall have the right to be heard by the Board of Directors either through the Team Representative or directly at a meeting of the Board of Directors.
- c. He or She shall have the right to expect minimal parental interference in the conduct of his or her endeavors.

#### VIII. TEAM COLLECTOR

The Team Collector shall:

- a. Collect all monies in a prompt manner from each team member as designated by the Treasurer;
- b. Pay rinks for ice, referees and timekeepers; and
- c. Keep accurate records of what each player pays and what he/she owes; inform the Treasurer if a player is behind in payments for more than two (2) consecutive ice times; payments will be accepted on a bi-weekly basis. Disciplinary action will be taken by Board only, upon the direction of the Treasurer. The Responsibility of the Team Collector ends after the Treasurer has been notified. Any parent may have the right to look at the Team Collector's records pertaining to their own child.

#### IX. TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

The Team Representative shall:

- a. Handout schedules, notify the team members of any modifications to the schedule.
- b. In general, work as a liaison between the Board of Directors, the coach, parents, and players.

#### X. EVALUATIONS

Evaluations shall be conducted in conformity with the Evaluation Policy established prior to the start of each season by the Board of Directors.

## **Code of Conduct**

It is the policy of the Pioneer Valley Youth Hockey Association to enforce and compliment the GSL & Mass Hockey rules and the USA Hockey Association's published ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY regarding players, coaches, officials, and spectators/parents. The provisions of this "Code of Conduct" are intended to be in addition to and/or in the absence of any action taken by USA Hockey officials at any Pioneer Valley Youth Hockey function including but not limited to practices, games, parties, tournaments. It includes the events themselves and a reasonable period of time before and after the event to prepare. It is the intention of this Code of Conduct to cover any times when players, spectators/parents, and/or coaches would gather for a Pioneer Valley Hockey event of any kind.

Players, parents and coaching staff are expected to adhere to sportsmanlike conduct and to a code of behavior which will not bring the Pioneer Valley Youth Hockey Association into disrepute. Offensive language or gestures, malicious use of stick, fighting, excessive protest of referees' calls, denigration of teammates or coaches and insubordination have no place in the Pioneer Valley Youth Hockey Program.

As you can see, this is a very general set of standards which all players are expected to follow. In writing this Code of Conduct, it is virtually impossible to cover every situation that might arise and it is also very hard to spell out the penalty for each act of

misbehavior; no two cases are exactly the same. Nevertheless, the following document is an attempt to make the hockey Association's rules as clear, precise, and uniform as possible.

### **A. PLAYER MISCONDUCT:**

Player misconduct includes but is not limited to; offensive language, malicious use of a stick, arguing with officials, fighting, denigration of coaches or teammates, or insubordination on or off the ice.

Pioneer Valley Youth Hockey Association coaches shall have the right to dismiss a player from any game or practice in which he feels an abuse has occurred. In addition, coaches shall have the right to discipline his or her players for misconduct. This discipline can take the form of benching or one game suspension. In the event that the coach recommends a longer suspension, or anytime that a player is suspended by GSL officials for more than one game, it shall be the coach's responsibility to report the incident to a Board member immediately. The Pioneer Valley Youth Hockey Association Board of Directors shall convene and conduct a hearing pursuant to Article XIV of the Massachusetts Hockey Bylaws. Discipline action may include one or more game suspension, suspension for remainder of the season or in some extreme cases, removal from the program. Suspended players are responsible for payment of missed ice.

### **B. PARENTS/SPECTATOR MISCONDUCT:**

Parent/Spectator misconduct includes, but is not limited to: Use of obscene or vulgar language; taunting of players, coaches, officials, or other spectators; physical violence or threats of physical violence;

throwing of any object in the spectator's area, players bench, or ice; arguing with coaches or officials.

It is the right and the responsibility of coaches or other parents to report any parent/spectator misconduct to the board of directors. Upon a report of misconduct the board shall convene a hearing within 4 days of the incident/report. Actions against violators shall include, but not be limited to, restricting access to Pioneer Valley Youth Hockey Association games, practices or functions. Anyone found to disobey these sanctions may be subject to the family's dismissal from Pioneer Valley Youth Hockey Association.

### C. COACHES MISCONDUCT:

Coach's misconduct includes, but is not limited to: openly disputing or arguing a decision by an official, use of offensive or obscene language; openly criticizing players, intentionally disregarding the policies and rules of Pioneer Valley Youth Hockey Association, GSL, Mass Hockey, and/or USA Hockey.

The placement of coaches shall be at the recommendation of the Coaches Committee and subject to Board approval. Disciplinary action against any coach shall be conducted pursuant to Article XIV of the Massachusetts Hockey Bylaws.

### WHAT DO THE WORDS MEAN?

a. Offensive language or gestures: Swearing, cursing in any way, shape or form directed against officials, teammates, board members, coaches, or spectators.

b. Malicious use of stick: Intentionally using the hockey stick to injure.

c. Excessive protest of referees' calls: Use of offensive language or gestures and/or, questioning the ability or qualifications of

officials and carrying such conduct to extremes.

d. Denigration of teammates or coaches: Excessive and continuing criticism of fellow players, casting reflections on a player's ability, making fun of players, excessive and continuing criticism of the coaches relative to strategy, line changing, amount of time spent on a particular shift, etc.

e. Insubordination: Intentionally disobeying the coach's instructions; intentionally disobeying a member of the Association's Board of Directors; disobeying game officials.

f. Fighting: Any physical conflict between two or more players in which the player is ejected from a game or practice.

g. Season: The period between registration and the end of the season.

### WHAT MAY A PLAYER DO IF HE/SHE THINKS SHE/SHE HAS BEEN UNFAIRLY TREATED?

All players who wish to contest any disciplinary action have the right of appeal pursuant to Article XIV of the Massachusetts Hockey Bylaws.

This Code of Conduct should be enforced by any member of the coaching staff and may be enforced by any member of the Board of Directors.

