

# **CONNECTICUT HOCKEY CONFERENCE**



## **RULES AND POLICIES 2014-15**

# CONNECTICUT HOCKEY CONFERENCE POLICIES AND RULES

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# CONNECTICUT HOCKEY CONFERENCE POLICIES AND RULES

## ARTICLE I            PLAYER ELIGIBILITY & MOVEMENT

### A.     **Players are eligible to register:**

1.     in the program in which they were registered in the immediate prior season;
2.     after a change of residence, in the program of the town of their new residence if the new program is municipally funded or subsidized and restricted to residents only;
2.     in an available open program. An open program is defined as one which can and will accept players from another town for full participation.
4.     No player may be registered or participate with more than one CHC member program at one time.

### B.     **Registration fees to USA Hockey**

Registration fees to USA Hockey for the current season will be announced to all programs by the State Registrar. All players, coaches and team managers/volunteers must register online with USA Hockey prior to participating in any CHC member program.

### C.     **Transfer & Release:**

A player may transfer from his/her prior CHC program to another CHC program by obtaining a CHC Release executed by the president, or his designee, of the prior program. Release form must be submitted to the CHC Eligibility Chair at the time of the player's registration with the new program.

For players moving to Connecticut, releases must also be obtained from prior out of state USA Hockey programs and filed with CHC Eligibility Chair at the time of the player's registration with CHC member program.

It is the responsibility of the receiving program to insure that release documents have been obtained from the player's prior program, and filed with the CHC. CHC will maintain an online list of all releases issued for the current season.

1.     A player may obtain only one (1) release per season.
2.     Any player who registers or participates in a second CHC program without a properly recorded release document from his/her prior program will be ineligible for State league or tournament play for the balance of that playing season. A player is free to try out with another team or attend a clinic without a release document, but may not be registered until a release document is obtained.
3.     Any team using a player still registered with and not released from another program in a game will forfeit that game and may be declared ineligible for State league or tournament play for the balance of the season.
4.     A player may not obtain a release to transfer from one CHC program to another after November 1 except as follows:
  - a.     If the player changes residence, moving a "substantial distance". The "substantial distance" will be determined by the Eligibility Committee.
  - b.     If the player's program becomes defunct or inoperable or his/her team is forced to seek Eligibility Committee approval to merge, or the program ceases to operate a team at the player's age level.These transfers described in (a.) & (b.) must be completed by the December roster amendment deadline.
5.     It is the responsibility of the receiving program to make sure that Release documents have been issued and properly filed for all players transferring to their program. No player transferring to a new program may be rostered with that program until Release documents from the player's previous program have been filed.

**D. Residency:**

Registration with CHC programs shall be limited to permanent residents of Connecticut with only the following exceptions:

**1. "Grandfathering" of Current Non-Resident Players**

Effective with the 2004-05 season, Boys/Youth and Girls non-residents players, properly rostered as of 2003-04 season, and Girls non-resident players properly rostered as of 2002-03 who were given 1 year "grandfathering" as a result of 2003-04 By-Law changes, are now permanently grandfathered for remainder of Youth Hockey eligibility. Siblings born before April 27, 2004 will also be permanently grandfathered. For the purpose of determining eligibility of these players and/or the teams they are rostered on in the future, all players so grandfathered will be considered Connecticut residents and not subject to additional non-resident quotas. This status does not apply to Team Connecticut tryouts or municipally supported/funded teams where residency is a requirement. Beginning with the 2004-05 season, if a "grandfathered" player leaves CHC to play on a team in his or her home state, or any state outside of Connecticut, their "grandfathered" privileges will be terminated.

**2. Non- Connecticut Residents – "Wildcard Rule"**

A member program may have a maximum of **five (5)** "wildcard" players on each of its teams (clinic, house, travel) with no maximum number per program. No "Wildcard" may be rostered as an alternate on a team, which already has five (5) "wildcard" players. "Wildcard" status does not apply to Team Connecticut tryouts or municipally supported/funded teams where residency is a requirement.

**A "Wildcard" is defined as:** Non-Connecticut resident, both Youth and Girls

**A "Wildcard" is not:** For the purpose of eligibility, the following players are considered Connecticut residents and not subject to the Wildcard limit of five (5) per team.

- a. Player grandfathered by the current "Grandfather" Rule as stated in Article I, Section D
  - b. Non-Connecticut resident player enrolled as full time boarding student in a Connecticut prep school. Such player must meet the eligibility requirements for secondary school players as stated in Article XIV, Section L.
- 3.** Qualified non-resident players must obtain release documents from their home state programs which must be forwarded to the CHC Eligibility Chair.
- 4.** If a program registers any team - tournament-declared, non-tournament declared or house team - whose roster includes more than five (5) "Wildcard" players, all travel teams of the program in the age group shall be prohibited from participation in the State Tournament for the current season.

**E. Non-US Citizens:**

All Non-US Citizens (registered aliens and foreign exchange students) must be eligible under USA Hockey Rules & Regulations, Section III, C. Such alien players must provide proof each season of legal U.S residency, and they must provide proof of release and transfer from their home country ice hockey federation. All such documentation, as well as a USA Hockey Written Transfer form must be submitted to the USA Hockey International Department for their approval at the time the player is registered with a CHC program.

**\*\* Effective with the 2013-14 season, USA Hockey has limited the number of non-citizens who do not live in the US with their parents, to 4 per youth team. All Girls teams have a limit of 2 non-citizen, non-resident players which has been in effect for several years.**

**F. Commitment letters**

In order to provide for financial and structural stability, all programs must obtain commitment letters from all team members prior to filing their USA Hockey team rosters. The commitment letters must include language expressly providing that players and their families who execute these letters agree to honor their financial and other team obligations, and they agree to remain with the program for the duration of the current season, and they agree to not move to any other

member or non-member program unless, by mutual consent, they are properly released as above. Such mutually agreed on transfers must occur prior to November 1.

Any player who refuses to participate with their current program but who cannot obtain a proper release must sit out the remainder of the season. Players who sit out remain obligated to satisfy any outstanding financial obligations and obtain a proper release as above prior to registering with any new program in any ensuing season. Players who sit out all or a portion of a season are not entitled to any partial or full refunds of program fees or expenses.

#### **G. Recruiting**

Any program which recruits or solicits any player registered with another CHC program will be subject to sanctions recommended by the Board of Directors. Solicitation is any contact with a player or player's parents by which a director, officer, coach, manager or any other adult connected with a program attempts to persuade a player to transfer to their program. Mailings to players last registered with CHC member programs, which attempt to persuade players to join a program or advertise tryouts or advertise open positions in a program are considered solicitations. Sanctions imposed may be the disqualification of one or more teams or suspension of a program from CHC membership.

#### **H. Competitive Level & Alternates - Player Movement**

Competitive divisions and tournaments will be based on age classifications as established by USA Hockey.

1. Players shall play at only one age classification. A player may compete in an age classification higher than his/her actual age with written proof of his/her parent's approval.
2. Once a player is included on a roster in a higher age classification, he/she may not go back down to play at the lower age classification for the rest of that season. Such player must be added to the roster of the higher age group team prior to playing on that team. The player must be deleted from the roster of the lower age group team.
3. Players may be included on Travel Team rosters and House Team rosters within the same program. This applies equally to boys and girls.
4. Players shall play on only one tournament-registered team in a season, except that up to five (5) reserves, designated as alternates on the roster of a team of higher competitive strength, may be regular players on another tournament-registered team of lesser competitive strength within the same program. Such alternates may play in up to nine (9) CHC declared games for the stronger team without losing their eligibility on the weaker team. The team roster, including alternates, must not exceed 20 per USA Hockey Rules and as defined in CHC Bylaws Article VI.

Once an alternate has played in ten (10) or more games on the stronger team, however, he/she may not compete on the weaker tournament-registered team for the remainder of that season. Such players moving up must be deleted from the roster of the weaker team.

Any player, on a youth or girls team, who is registered as a regular on a team of lesser competitive strength and as an alternate on the team of next higher competitive strength within the same program, may participate with only one team consistently in State, Regional and National tournaments. "For example, once a boys "B" team player competes in 10 state games as an alternate for his program's "A" team, he is ineligible for any further play on the "B" team for the balance of the season through the National tournaments. He may not play in the State tournament for one team and the Regional (and Nationals) for the other.

Similarly, once a girls Tier II team player competes in 10 USA Hockey games for her program's Tier I team, she is ineligible for any further play on the Tier II team for the balance of the season through the National tournaments. She may not play in the State tournament for one team and the Regional (and Nationals) for the other.

If the players in these examples do not compete in the 10 game minimums for the stronger team, they are limited to participating in State, Regional and National

tournaments for the weaker team only and are ineligible to participate in any post-season tournaments for the stronger team.

5. A player may move down from a team of higher competitive strength to a team of lesser competitive strength at any time prior to playing in his/her seventh (7th) game provided that such re-designation occurs before the December roster amendment deadline. Such re-designated player must be added as a regular player on the weaker team and must be re-designated as an alternate on the stronger team.
6. A player may play on only one team in State, Regional and National Tournaments. A player on a boys/youth team or a Girls team must have competed in ten (10) or more USA Hockey sanctioned games prior to the State tournament to be eligible for the State tournament.

#### **I. Secondary School Players**

Once secondary school players join their secondary school teams, their eligibility to continue with a CHC Youth or Girls team (dual participation) shall be determined by their secondary school's athletic governing body.

### **ARTICLE II Registration and Eligibility – Girls**

All Rules and Polices as set forth in Article I shall apply to equally to girls' member programs, teams and participants with only the exceptions as stated herein.

#### **1. Registration classifications**

Players may be rostered on a boys/youth team or on a girls team but not on both in the same season. This applies to tournament bound, non-tournament bound, travel, house/recreational and all other teams. This limitation applies to all players except girls who are 12 years old or younger as of December 31 of the current season. Such girls may appear on the rosters of a girls team and a boys/youth team simultaneously in the same program. Players may be included on Travel Team rosters and House Team rosters within the same program. Girls rostered on both a youth (Boys) and girls team must declare I writing to the CHC State Registrar by December 31 which team they will participate on for State, Regional or National tournaments. When no declaration is made, the State registrar shall have the final authority to certify the eligibility of such player solely on the basis of the date of the earliest team roster registration.

#### **2. Age classifications**

Players shall compete in only one age classification on tournament bound teams. They may also participate on mixed-age and/or mixed-ability non-tournament bound teams within their own programs. Mixed-age teams permit players to play in an older age classification but not in a classification that is younger than their USA Hockey age level. (The purpose of this exception is to provide a flexible structure for continuous play for girls who attend school locally when prep school teammates are not available.)

#### **3. Post season play qualifications**

In order to qualify for the State, District and National tournaments, all tournament bound teams must compete as a unit in at least 14 games and each player must compete in at least 10 games during the season prior to the State tournament.

#### **4. State tournament declarations**

CHC conducts Tier I and Tier II State tournaments to determine State champions in all active age classifications and to determine which teams will represent the State in the Tier I and Tier II District Regional tournaments. All girls teams aspiring to post season play must declare by August 1 whether they are competing for the Tier I or the Tier II tournament.

#### **4. Senior Women**

By-law provisions governing senior women's play will be drafted as deemed necessary by the Girls/Women's Director.

### **ARTICLE III Eligibility Committee - Requests for Exceptions**

Recognizing that CHC participants and/or programs may want to request exceptions to the Eligibility rules, the following procedure must be followed:

1. The receiving program shall submit their request in writing to the Eligibility Committee, appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors at the June meeting.
2. Such requests shall be submitted at least two (2) weeks prior to a regularly scheduled meeting.
3. It is that Committee's responsibility to review each case in question and apply CHC rules and guidelines fairly and uniformly for all member programs.
4. The Committee will present its decision(s) to the Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting.
5. The Committee will consist of the four District Commissioners, four other members (one from each district), and the Registrar or his delegate.
6. No Committee member may vote on a request concerning (giving up or receiving) his own program.
7. If a request for additional "wildcard" player(s) onto a team other than the team of weakest competitive strength is granted, all teams in the age group will be ineligible for State tournament play in that season.

#### **ARTICLE IV Coaches**

- A.** All ice hockey coaches and instructors of registered USA Hockey Youth 18 & Under and below, high school, girls'/women's 19 & under and below, and disabled programs must properly wear an approved ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages and all Coaching Education Program clinics and/or workshops.

Enforcement is made through the punishment for each offense:

1<sup>st</sup> infraction = Warning;

2<sup>nd</sup> infraction = 1-game suspension;

3<sup>rd</sup> infraction = Match penalty.

Sanctions may also be imposed upon the program for wanton disregard of this rule

- B.** It is recommended that each program establish a formal coach development program that takes fullest advantage of the available CHC and National sponsored program and teaching materials, and that they encourage all of their coaches to achieve the highest level of certification possible.

All coaches (Head and all Assistants) must be certified to the standards required by USA Hockey in the Annual Guide. A copy of current certification requirements is attached as "**Addendum 1.**"

All coaches (Head and all Assistants) of National tournament bound Midget teams, must obtain their required USA Hockey certification and completion of required Age Module prior to New England District Regional, or CHC State Tournament.

All Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee, Bantam, non-Nationally tournament bound Midget, and Girls U12, U14 coaches (Head and all Assistants) must obtain the USA Hockey required coaching certification and Age Module completion no later than December 31 of the current season.

Any coach who has not successfully completed the USA Hockey coaching certification and age module process by December 31, to the level required for the team he is coaching, shall be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the season. Any game played after December 31 with an ineligible coach shall not count for the CHC tournament standings for the offending team.

#### **ARTICLE V Competition**

- A.** All players must wear all protective hockey equipment as required by Rule 304 of "USA Hockey Official Rules. In addition, all CHC players in all age classifications, Mites through Midgets, are required to wear "BNQ Certified" neck guards. ***It is the responsibility of all programs to inform their members that neck guards do not protect from blunt trauma caused by pucks or sticks.*** The penalty for not wearing a neck guard will be a warning for a player's first offense

in a game; a misconduct penalty shall be assessed to the player for a subsequent offense during the same game.

- B. Prohibited equipment** – All coaches (Head and Assistant) and managers or team parents are prohibited from using video tape and other electronic devices on the bench or penalty bench during the conduct of any USA Hockey game including State tournament games.
- C.** All games will be played under USA Hockey Rules. A player or team official who strikes a game official shall be indefinitely suspended from further CHC activity, and that team itself may be declared ineligible for State tournament participation.
- D.** All teams aspiring to tournament play shall use USA Hockey registered officials.  
All CHC Member Programs must arrange referee coverage for all of their "home" games with properly certified officials who are members of referee associations or other groups that have been approved by the State Referee-in-chief.  
Games that are not refereed by members of such approved associations or groups will not be accepted by the tournament committee for rankings or team and player quota minimums.
- E.** No CHC member team will play another Connecticut based team that is not a member of CHC unless the opponent team is a USA Hockey registered team. No CHC team and/or member of a team, which is in a State tournament, may compete in a tournament other than the State tournament during the weekend on which their Connecticut State tournament is conducted.
- G.** State champions must represent Connecticut in the New England Regional tournament and the USA Hockey National tournament or they will forfeit their championship, in which case the championship will go to the runner-up team willing to go to the New England Regional and National tournaments.
- H.** The CHC Tournament Committee will provide appropriate awards to the State Champions as well as a participation patch to each player that plays in the State tournament.
- I.** Rules affecting competition adopted by the CHC Board of Directors after October 1, cannot take effect until after the State tournaments of that season are completed.

**ARTICLE VI            Playing Rules**

The current edition of the official USA Hockey Playing Rules shall be used for all games played by CHC member program teams. A USA Hockey sanctioned game is defined as:

*A game is a match played against another team which is registered with USA Hockey or a member organization of the IIHF of the same competitive level and officiated by registered officials. A game shall consist of at least three (3) periods (or the equivalent, see USA Hockey rules & Regulations XII. Q. Time of Periods), except where the game is interrupted, (by some unforeseen event) after two (2) periods have been completed*

**A. Length of Periods:**

- 1. For games between tournament teams, the length of periods will not be less than 10 minutes, stop time, for Mites and Squirts, with the recommended length of periods being 12 minutes, stop time.

For games between PeeWee, Bantam, and Midget tournament teams, the length of periods shall be as set forth by USA Hockey Rules & Regulations and listed herein; except as provided in rule 2 below.

***Time of Periods and Penalties (all stop time in minutes)***

***Youth & Girls***

<b><i>Class</i></b>	<b><i>1, 2, 3</i></b>			<b><i>PENALTIES</i></b>		
	<b><i>Period</i></b>	<b><i>Overtime</i></b>	<b><i>Minor</i></b>	<b><i>Major</i></b>	<b><i>Miscndt.</i></b>	
<b><i>12 &amp; Under</i></b>	<b><i>15</i></b>	<b><i>10</i></b>	<b><i>2</i></b>	<b><i>5</i></b>	<b><i>10</i></b>	<b><i>PeeWee's; Girls U12</i></b>
<b><i>14 &amp; Under</i></b>	<b><i>16</i></b>	<b><i>10</i></b>	<b><i>2</i></b>	<b><i>5</i></b>	<b><i>10</i></b>	<b><i>Bantams, Girls U14</i></b>
<b><i>16 &amp; Under</i></b>	<b><i>17</i></b>	<b><i>10</i></b>	<b><i>2</i></b>	<b><i>5</i></b>	<b><i>10</i></b>	<b><i>Midget Minor. Girls U16</i></b>
<b><i>18 &amp; Under</i></b>	<b><i>17</i></b>	<b><i>10</i></b>	<b><i>2</i></b>	<b><i>5</i></b>	<b><i>10</i></b>	<b><i>Midget Major; Girls U19</i></b>

In all games where periods are less than 15 minutes, the following times for penalties will apply in all games between CHC registered tournament teams:



	<u>Minor</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Misconduct</u>	
Mite	1	3	5	Minutes
Squirt	1	3	5	"
PeeWee	1 1/2	4	6	"
Bantam	1 1/2	4	6	"
Midget	1 1/2	4	9	"

2. It is strongly recommended that all programs so schedule ice time that all games be played stop time at the maximum period lengths. However, when that becomes impossible, the following procedure will apply:
  - a. Before the game starts, the referee will determine the time available for completion of the game, will set the length of periods, stop time, and will inform both benches as well as the timekeeper of the period length and the time when the game must be completed.
  - b. At the end of the second period, the referee will again determine the remaining time available for completion of the game. He will then adjust the length of the final period as need be and inform both benches and the timekeeper. If the full period is not played stop time, the final 2 minutes must be stop time.
  - c. If the game cannot be completed under these conditions with time expiring on the clock, the losing team may request the referee to declare the game void and without a winner; the referee will note his ruling on the official game report. The voided game will be replayed at a future date.
3. Running time periods will be permitted only if the referee finds the timing device is unable to accurately track stop time, with the period lengths of 15 minutes for Mites and Squirts, 22 minutes for PeeWees, 24 minutes for Bantams, and 26 minutes for Midgets.

### **C. Fighting Penalties:**

Upon the first incidence of fisticuffs, as cited by the referee in a penalty assessment and a referee report filed, the offending player shall be penalized by the ejection from the game in which the incident occurred, the following game, as required by USA Hockey rules, and the second subsequent game, as an additional penalty assigned by CHC.

Upon the second incidence of fisticuffs, as cited by the referee in a penalty assessment and filed with the referee's report, the offending player shall be ejected from the game in which the incident occurred, and shall not return to the ice until a hearing has taken place. The Commissioners holding the hearing are given the guidance that the hearing should be limited so that the affected player may provide any evidence or other explanation to support a lesser penalty. If no mitigating circumstances are found to exist, then if the offending player is a split-season Midget it is expected that such player shall be suspended for the remainder of his or her midget season. For full-season Midget players and players at a lower age level, the expectation should be that a minimum of a one-month suspension will be imposed.

## **ARTICLE VII Tournament Committee**

- A. The Tournament Committee will consist of a Chairman, one Sub-Chairman for each USA Hockey Youth age classification, a Girls/Women's Chairman, and a Tier I Chairman, who will be the Tournament Directors, the Commissioner for each CHC district, the President of CHC, and the State Registrar (ex-officio).
- B. It is recommended that the Tournament Director not be a coach or manager of any of the contending teams; if possible he should not be a parent of one of the players.
- C. **Meetings** The Tournament Committee will hold the following meetings:
  1. **Pre-Season** meeting, prior to the start of the season, to review problems which may have occurred at the last tournament and set plans for the new season.

2. **Certification** meeting, by December 5, to certify the teams which have registered, to determine the classifications and divisions that will have tournaments, and to elect the Director for each tournament.
3. **Mid-Season** meetings, in January and February, to determine standings, review plans, rosters and game reports.
4. **Qualification** meeting, on or as soon as possible after the cut-off date for the regular season in early February to compute the final season standings and to notify the tournament-qualifying teams.
5. **Post-Tournament** meeting, within 30 days of the tournament to prepare the final report and financial accounting.

## **ARTICLE VIII      Tournament Rules**

CHC will operate a declared Tier I division at Squirt Major, PeeWee Major, Bantam Major, Midget Minor Midget Major, as well as Girls Tier I & Tier II.. For a synopsis of rules that apply to Tier I only, please see the attached Addendum 3

### **A.      State Tournaments**

1. State tournaments for member programs will be held for all USA Hockey age classifications in which enough teams are registered. Tournaments will be held at Tier II, Tier III, and Open divisions.
2. The Tournament Committee will propose Tier declaration process, regular season play and tournament structure on an annual basis. Said proposal will be voted on by the CHC Board of Directors, and upon approval will become a part of "Rules & Policies,"  
**Addendum 2.**

### **B.      Qualification for Tournaments**

1. All teams in all Tiers, all age divisions, must be sponsored by member programs of CHC and shall be registered as tournament teams with rosters submitted to the State Registrar prior to their first game being played. Roster amendments are due no later than the December meeting. Team rosters are frozen as of that date.
2. In order to qualify for the District Regional, Sectional and National tournaments, all tournament bound teams in Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III must compete as a unit in at least 20 (Boys)/14 (Girls) USA Hockey sanctioned games during the season prior to the State tournament.
3. A player may play on only one team in State, Regional and National tournaments. A player on a boys team must have competed in ten (10) or more USA Hockey sanctioned games prior to the close of the CHC season to be eligible for the State tournament. A player on a girls team must have competed in ten (10) or more USA Hockey games prior to the State tournament to be eligible for the State tournament.
4. All Squirt, Pee Wee and Bantam teams that comprise Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III, after the final rankings have been announced, must prepare a credentials book that includes the following items at least 10 days prior to the start of their State tournaments.  
All Midget teams that will represent Connecticut in the New England Regional Midget Minor and Midget Major Tier I tournaments in November, and CHC Midget State Tier II Tournaments must prepare a credentials book that includes the following items at least 10 days prior to the start of the Regional, or State CHC tournaments.

#### **Regional and National Tournament Credentials- Boys and Girls.**

- a. Team Roster (Form 1-T) and all Supplemental rosters in ascending date order signed by the CHC State Registrar.
- b. A blank Credential Verification form with all players and coaches listed

1. All players whose age has been properly verified by the State Registrar will show a “**V**” on the credential verification sheet. Any player without this symbol will need to submit a valid Birth Certificate or copy of passport.
- c. Copy of team specific Coaching Education Report from Cyber Sport showing all coaches’ compliance with all USA Hockey coaching certification and module completion.
- d. Signed USA Hockey Consent to Treat Form for each rostered player, coach and manager.
- e. Signed USA Hockey Code of Conduct forms for each rostered player, coach, and manager
- f. For all non-U. S. citizens, copy of approved USA Hockey Written Transfer plus one of the following as proof of legal residency:
  - a. copy of signed F-1 visa & related documents for boarding prep school students
  - b. copy of visa or green card for players residing in US with parents (proof of legal residency)
- g. Sanctioned game score sheets to verify compliance with the 20/10 (Boys) or 14/10 (Girls) minimum number of games for eligibility rule for the team and each rostered player.

**6. Cancelled Game Policy – Tier II, Tier III:**

- a. A cancelled game between 2 Tier II, or Tier III teams will not count as a State game if the canceling team notifies the opponent 14 days or more prior to the date the game was scheduled to be played
- b. Games cancelled 13 days or less prior to the game date will count as a State game and toward the maximum number of games with the same opponent only for the cancelled team, not for the canceling team. If the game is rescheduled, only the rescheduled game will count.
- c. For games cancelled less than 14 days prior to scheduled date (non-weather or State Tournament schedule related), penalties may include monetary reimbursement of Referee fees by the canceling team. Additionally, teams who repeatedly cancel games could be subject to additional sanctions, to be assessed by the Executive Committee based on the judgment of the Tournament Director and the appropriate Division Director, not the least of which is loss of 2 power points or loss of State Tournament eligibility.
 

<u>First Offense</u>	Reimbursement of Referee Fees
<u>Second Offense</u>	Reimbursement of Referee Fees and 1 game suspension of Head Coach of offending team
<u>Third Offense</u>	Reimbursement of Referee Fees, 1 game suspension of Head Coach, and loss of 2 power points
- d. Both teams involved in a cancelled game must notify that division's Tournament Director within 24 hours of the cancellation notification.

**7. Cancelled Game Policy – Tier I**

Cancelled games for all levels of Tier I declared teams will only be permitted due to weather or rink closings. For any other cancellations, 2 points will be awarded to the non canceling team.

- 8. Game reports (scoresheets)** of all tournament team games in all divisions of Tier I and Tier II must be signed by the coach or manager of each team and the referees; they must be filed promptly by the winning team with the Tournament Director and postmarked not later than the 5th day following the game. For games played in February in the final week of the regular season, scores must be phoned in and game reports mailed to confirm.

When a member program has two or more registered teams playing within the same age group or team classification in a playing season, each team is responsible for identifying itself specifically and consistently on all game score sheets or the games will not be credited for tournament positioning. For example a program with 3 teams in an age classification should designate them as "A", "B" and "C" (or other appropriate designations as directed by the Tournament Committee).

9. The Tournament Committee will not count for standings any game against a team not registered or not eligible for tournament play at the time of the game; or any game for which the game report is late or incomplete; or any game in which the winning team played a suspended player; or in which the winning home team used referees not registered with USA Hockey as required or otherwise conducted the contest not in accordance with USA Hockey or CHC Rules. This rule applies to all CHC tournament declared teams.

The Tournament Committee will not count for standings any game in which the winning home team used referees who were not members of referee associations or other groups that have been approved by the State Referee-in-chief. This applies to all CHC member program teams.

10. Standings of all tournament teams, based on outcomes of games, will be computed and posted on CHC website during the season.

11. Tier I, Tier II and Tier III CHC teams that qualify for the New England Regional Tournaments, and/or National Tournaments must represent Connecticut in those tournaments and beyond in the USA Hockey National Tournaments if applicable. Teams must abide by tournament rules prescribed by the directors of those tournaments and by USA Hockey while participating. The Tournament Committee will have complete authority to discipline non-compliant teams and programs, including disqualification from State tournament play for the following season.

In addition, teams that qualify for the Regional and National tournaments are also subject to the following team requirements while attending; these items are **MANDATORY**:

- 1... Hotel - All team members and staff that require hotel accommodations are required to stay in the HOST hotel(s). There will be financial penalties for teams that do not stay in the host hotel(s).
2. **Other events** - All teams are required to participate in and attend any other events, if applicable, as determined by the Regional and National Tournament Directors.

12. Any team that receives three (3) or more match penalties in one season will forfeit their tournament deposit and will not be permitted to take part in that season's State tournament.

## Article IX Tournament Rules – Girls

All Girls teams in Tier I and Tier II in all divisions must be sponsored by member programs of CHC and shall be registered as tournament teams with rosters submitted to the State Registrar prior to playing their first game. Roster amendments are due no later than the December meeting. Team rosters are frozen as of that date

### A. State tournaments

1. The Girls/Women's Chairman, in coordination with the Tournament Committee, conducts Tier I and Tier II State tournaments for 12 and under, 14 and under, 16 and under and 19 and under CHC member teams.
2. The format and scheduling of the State tournaments are determined based on the number of teams declaring for post-season play by the October CHC meeting.
  - a. If only **one team** declares for a given State tournament, that team automatically advances to Regional play.
  - b. **2 or 3 team divisions** - each team plays a home and home series against all other teams. Best overall record advances on the basis of 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss. In the event that two teams' won-lost-tied records are tied, a tie-breaking game will be scheduled.

- c. **4 or 5 team divisions** - round robin tournament with each team playing one game against all other teams. Best two overall records advance to a championship game.
- d. **6 or more team divisions** - bracketed tournament incorporating round robin play, semi-finals and finals.
- e. In the event of a tie in the tie-breaking or championship games, the game shall be continued in one or more sudden death overtime periods to determine a winner. In the event of tied records in the round robin or bracketed tournaments, USA Hockey's tie breaking procedures will be used to determine which of the tied teams will advance.
- f. The winners of the tournaments will be declared State Champions and they must represent Connecticut in the District Regional tournaments.
- g. Depending on the requirements of the New England District and/or USA Hockey, the second place finishers may also represent Connecticut in the District Regional tournaments.

**B. Officiating Assignments**

The Referee-in-chief will assign referees for all State tournament games including home and home series as in 2(b.) above.

**C. Length of game periods and penalties GIRLS**

1. **Tier I & Tier 2** tournament games shall be played to the following time standards in minutes:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>OT</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Misconduct</u>
12 & Under Tier I	15	10	2	5	10
14 & Under Tier I	16	10	2	5	10
16 & Under Tier I	17	10	2	5	10
19 & Under Tier I	17	10	2	5	10

**D. Team qualification credentials**

The CHC State Registrar must certify to the New England District that each team that advances to the District Regional tournaments is in compliance with USA Hockey's credentials requirements. Therefore, no later than 10 days prior to playing any State post-season games, each declared team must prepare credentials books that are required to advance. Credential books for teams advancing must be submitted to State Registrar for review and certification within 24 hours after state tournament championship. The items that are required to be included in the credentials books are listed in the Rules and Policies section - Tournament Rules - Qualification for Tournaments.

**E. Sanctions for refusing to play or advance**

All teams that declare for post-season play must participate in the State tournament. All teams that participate in the State tournament must be prepared to advance to the District Regional tournaments. All teams that participate in the District Regional tournaments must be prepared to advance to the National tournaments.

In addition, teams that qualify for the Regional and National tournaments are also subject to the following team requirements while attending; these items are **MANDATORY**:

- 1... **Hotel** - All team members and staff that require hotel accommodations are required to stay in the HOST hotel(s). There will be financial penalties for teams that do not stay in the host hotel(s).
- 2. **Other events** - All teams are required to participate in and attend any other events, if applicable, as determined by the Regional and National Tournament Directors.

Any programs, whose teams refuse to participate at any of these levels or refuse to abide by these team requirements, will be subject to sanctions to be determined by the Board of Directors. Sanctions imposed may be disqualification of one or more teams, suspension of a program from CHC membership, or suspension of coaches, managers or program officials from active participation in the program.

## **Article X                      General Policies**

### **A. SEXUAL ABUSE**

It is the policy of CHC that there shall be no sexual abuse of any minor participant involved in any of its sanctioned programs, its training camps, hockey clinics, coaches' clinics, referee clinics, regional and national tournaments or other CHC events by an employee, volunteer, or independent contractor. Sexual abuse of a minor participant occurs when an employee, volunteer or independent contractor touches a minor participant for the purpose of causing the sexual arousal or gratification of either the minor participant or the employee, volunteer or independent contractor. Sexual abuse of a minor participant also occurs when a minor player touches an employee, volunteer or independent contractor for the sexual arousal or sexual gratification of either the minor participant or the employee, volunteer or independent contractor, if the touching occurs at the request or with the consent of the employee, volunteer or independent contractor. Neither consent of the player to the sexual contact, mistake as to the participant's age, nor the fact that the sexual contact did not take place at a hockey function are defenses to a complaint of sexual abuse. Upon proof of violation of this policy, the violator will be permanently banned or suspended from CHC sanctioned programs and/or the programs of its affiliate associations.

### **B. PHYSICAL ABUSE**

It is the policy of CHC that there shall be no physical abuse of any participant involved in any of its sanctioned programs, its training camps, hockey clinics, coaches CHC events by any employee, volunteer or independent contractor. Physical abuse means physical contact with a participant that intentionally causes the participant to sustain bodily harm or personal injury. Physical abuse also includes physical contact with a participant that intentionally creates a threat of immediate bodily harm or personal injury. Physical abuse does not include physical contact that is reasonably designed to coach, teach or demonstrate a hockey skill. Permitted physical conduct may include, but is not necessarily limited to, shooting pucks at a goaltender, demonstrating checking and other hockey skills, and communicating with or directing participants, during the course of a game or practice, by touching them in a non-threatening, non-sexual manner.

### **C. SCREENING POLICY**

It is the policy of USA Hockey, and CHC that it will not authorize or sanction in its programs that it directly controls any volunteer or employee who has routine access to children (anyone under the age of majority) who refuses to consent to be screened by CHC before he/she is allowed to have routine access to children in CHC member programs.

A person may be disqualified and prohibited from serving as an employee or volunteer of CHC if the person has:

- 1) Been convicted (including crimes the record of which has been expunged and pleas of "no contest") of a crime of child abuse, sexual abuse of a minor, physical abuse, causing a child's death, neglect of a child, murder, manslaughter, felony assault, any assault against a minor, kidnapping, arson, criminal sexual conduct, prostitution related crimes or controlled substance crimes;
- 2) Been adjudged liable for civil penalties or damages involving sexual or physical abuse of children;
- 3) Been subject to any court order involving any sexual abuse or physical abuse of a minor, including but not limited to domestic order for protection;
- 4) Had their parental rights terminated;
- 5) A history with another organization (volunteer, employment, etc.) of complaints of sexual or physical abuse of minors;
- 6) Resigned, been terminated or been asked to resign from a position, whether paid or unpaid, due to complaint(s) of sexual or physical abuse of minors; or
- 7) Has a history of other behavior that indicates they may be a danger to children in USA Hockey.

ALL coaches, CHC program administrators, board members, team managers, locker room monitors, hired skating/hockey instructors, and any other members of your program that had routine access to your

players must be screened. CHC has adopted a policy of screening returning coaches, administrators, etc. every other year.

Coaches/volunteer personnel who refuse to be screened through this system will NOT be allowed to coach, or serve in any capacity within your organization that gives them routine access to players.

CHC has contracted with a national screening company, Protect Youth Sports, and ALL persons required to be screened will go directly to a secure website to enter their own information. Additionally, to avoid placing an extra financial burden on all programs, CHC will be paying for all required screening again this season. The process is very simple:

Direct your new administrators, coaches, team managers and other persons required to be screened or rescreened to <https://opportunities.averity.com/ConnecticutHC> This link will take them directly to a secure website that has been set up by Protect Youth Sports specifically for CHC. They will complete a quick one page form and then agree to the Disclosure and Waiver which gives us permission to screen. Hit submit and they're done! We would ask that you do not post this link on your program's website where everyone has access. This could result in parents, even curious kids, deciding to "give it a try." Emailing to all required persons may be the best option, or, if you have a secure, password required, page on your website for coaches or administrators then you could post there.

Processing take approximately 24-28 hours. A complete check of the National criminal database, 50 state sexual offender check, CT criminal records which includes all misdemeanors and felonies, prior state of residence criminal records check will be done. Additionally, Protect Youth Sports has a "reverification" process where any and all hits are verified by their in house personnel. Once complete, all reports will be reviewed by CHC Eligibility Chair through a secure website. To assure all of you, the reports we receive will only include the last 4 digits of Social Security numbers. Should any adverse "hits" come up, I will verify with the applicant and then advise the program president.

Once processed, all programs will receive a list of their personnel who have been screened. CHC will also maintain a master database, and the screening company will achieve all of the reports should it be necessary to recall them at any point in the future.

## **Article XI                      Amendments**

1. Proposed amendments to the Policies and Rules must be submitted in writing (by first class mail or email) by CHC member programs, CHC elected officers or CHC appointed officials or committee chairmen to the Secretary 10 days prior to any regularly scheduled CHC Board of Directors meeting. The Secretary shall submit all proposals to the Standing Rules Committee, composed of the Eligibility Chairman, State Registrar and Secretary for review.
2. The Standing Rules Committee shall present proposed amendments to the Board of Directors at their regularly scheduled meeting with recommendations or clarifications. The amendments will not be voted on until the next regular meeting.
3. In order to amend the CHC Policies and Rules, a proposal must receive a majority of the votes cast. Each Board Member and elected Board Officer shall be entitled to one (1) vote; the President shall cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie. In addition, Directors Chairmen (Tournament, Coaching, Women), District Commissioners, Registrar, Coaching Director, and Referee in Chief shall have voting privileges on Rules and Policies within CHC. A member program must have its representative present to be eligible to vote. (No proxies).

**#####**

## ADDENDUM 1

### USA Hockey Coaching Education Program Rules and Requirements

#### A. Coach Registration

All ice hockey coaches as well as instructors of USA Hockey programs shall be registered annually as individual Participants of USA Hockey for the current season (before the start of the season) in order to be eligible to coach/instruct in any regular-season activities (practices, clinics, games, tournaments, try-outs, etc.), state, district, regional playoff, national championships or in the USA Hockey Player Development Programs. There will be an annual fee to register the coaches (head and assistants) and instructors. Coaches who also play on a USA Hockey registered team are required to pay this registration fee only once per year. Coaches may register as participants online at usahockey.com or through a local association/member program (refer to Section I Participant Registration).

**Note 1:** All USA Hockey Coaching Education Program Instructors and National Player Development Camp coaches will be exempt from the annual participant registration fee, but must complete the participant registration process.

**Note 2:** The head coach and all assistant coaches of each disabled hockey team must complete the required CEP registration and online age-specific module(s) for each level of play. Those volunteers or employees who assist with helping disabled hockey teams (i.e. interpreters, pushers, on-ice mentors, etc.) must be properly registered with USA Hockey but are not required to attend a CEP clinic and otherwise comply with these rules and regulations.

All ice hockey coaches and instructors of registered USA Hockey Youth 18 & Under and below, high school, girls'/women's 19 & under and below, and disabled programs must properly wear an approved ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages and all Coaching Education Program clinics and/or workshops.

#### B. Coaching Education Program Requirements

(1) Required Coaching Education Program Levels for Ice Hockey

USA Hockey requires that all affiliates and/or districts shall establish the following requirements without modifications for all coaches (head and assistant).

All coaches must have the required certification level by January 1 of the current season. (\* must be completed by midnight December 31 to be in effect by January 1\*)

(a) All coaches must enter USA Hockey's Coaching Education Program at Level 1, and must continue their education with a coaching clinic each year until, at a minimum, they achieve Level 3. **EXCEPTION:** Coaches of 8U or younger players may remain at Level 1 or their current level. A coach may attend only one (1) certification clinic per year (not including age-specific requirements). Coaches who do not coach in continuous years must re-enter the program at the next level when they resume coaching responsibilities. Once Level 3 is achieved, periodic renewal [as outlined in Paragraph (c) below] is required for coaches who have not achieved Level 4. Coaches of national tournament bound teams (Tier I 14U, 16U and 18/19U and Tier II 16U and 18/19U) must complete Level 4 in their fourth season of coaching. Coaches who attain Level 4 certification are not required to attend any further certification clinics but must adhere to the age-specific requirement as outlined in Paragraph (b) below.

**(b) In addition to the training in paragraph (a) above, coaches must also complete online age-specific training modules specific to the level of play they are coaching, if they have not already taken that module. This requirement applies to all coaches at all levels, 1 through 5. Coaches may complete more than one age-specific module in any given season.**

(c) Coaching certification at Level 3 is valid for two (2) seasons, as indicated by the expiration date.

A coach whose Level 3 is due to expire must take the online Level 3 Recertification Track 1 curriculum or they may move up to Level 4. Level 3 Track 1 Recertification is valid for two (2) seasons.



A coach whose Track 1 Level 3 recertification is due to expire must take the online Level 3 Recertification Track 2 curriculum or move up to Level 4. Level 3 Track 2 Recertification is valid for two (2) seasons.

Coaches whose Track 2 Level 3 Recertification is due to expire must attend a Level 4 clinic prior to the expiration of their Level 3 Recertification.

Coaches must complete the online recertification program in order to recertify their Level 3 certifications. Attending a clinic or workshop is no longer valid for recertifying any certification level.

(d) Grandfather Clause

For coaches who enrolled in the Coaching Education Program prior to May 1, 2011, their entry into the above program will be at their current certification level. Level 1 and 2 coaches must adhere to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, effective May 1, 2011. Current Level 3 coaches must adhere to paragraph (b) and (c) above; effective with the season their Level 3 expires.

This chart outlines the progression for a new coach. Coaches with pre-existing certifications will enter the new program at their current certification level and must adhere to paragraphs 1. (a) and (b) above.

<b>YEARS OF COACHING</b>	<b>CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS</b>
Year 1 (ex: 2011-12)	Level 1 clinic + age-specific component
Year 2 (ex: 2012-13)	Level 2 clinic + age-specific component if not previously taken for current age level
Year 3 (ex: 2013-14)	Level 3 clinic (expires Dec. 31, 2015) + age-specific component if not previously taken for current age level
Year 4 (ex: 2014-15)	No Level certification required but can attend a Level 4 clinic + age-specific component if not previously taken for current age level
Year 5 (ex: 2015-16)	Complete the online Level 3 Recertification Track 1 (expires Dec. 31, 2017), or attend a Level 4 clinic + age-specific component if not previously taken for current age level
Year 6 (ex: 2016-17)	No Level certification required but can attend a Level 4 clinic + age-specific component if not previously taken for current age level
Year 7 (ex: 2017-18)	Complete the online Level 3 Recertification Track 2 (expires Dec. 31, 2019), or attend a Level 4 clinic + age-specific component if not previously taken for current age level
Year 8 (ex: 2018-19)	No Level certification required but can attend a Level 4 clinic

	+ age-specific component if not previously taken for current age level
Year 9 (ex: 2019-20)	Must attend a Level 4 clinic + age-specific component if not previously taken for current age level
Year 10 and beyond	No Level recertification required but must complete age specific component if not previously taken for current age level. Coaches are highly encouraged to attend a continuing education course every two years.

(2) Evidence of Level

All USA Hockey coaches will possess a USA Hockey Coaching Education Program card with valid certification stickers (if certification was received prior to September 1, 2011), or a printout from the USA Hockey online certification list (if certification was received after September 1, 2011).

It is the responsibility of the local association to identify those coaches who do not meet the certification requirements. All coaches have until December 31 of the current season to attend a USA Hockey coaching clinic and complete the online age-specific playing level module to become properly certified. Prior to the start of all games throughout the season all coaches are required to indicate their current certification status on the scoresheet, regardless of their certification level. All coaches (except for juniors) must legibly print their USA Hockey Coaching Education Program (CEP) card number, their CEP level (levels 1-5), their online age-specific playing level module and the year their CEP level was attained. Beginning January 1 of the current season, prior to the start of each game, all coaches present are required to sign the designated area of the score sheet in order to verify the accuracy of the playing roster, as it appears on the score sheet, for that game.

(3) Penalty and Enforcement

All coaches must have current certification and online component verification beginning January 1 of the current playing season. Any coach not in possession of these requirements will be ineligible to coach for the remainder of the season. Districts and/or affiliates are required to uphold this penalty. It will be the responsibility of the local association registering the team to enforce the national policy.

**C. Under-Age Coaches**

(1) Student Coach

A player age 13 through 17 who is currently properly registered with USA Hockey may serve as a Student Coach.

(2) Qualifications

- o Must attend a training session conducted by the local hockey association or audit a Level 1 clinic (not required to pay nor will they receive certification credit).
- o Must always be under the supervision of a carded, screened adult coach during all practices, clinics, try-outs and in the locker room.
- o May help out at practices, clinics, try-outs only. (May not participate as a player in scrimmages or games when acting as a STUDENT COACH).
- o May not act as a head coach or an assistant coach during practices or games.
- o May be on the bench during games with an adult. The STUDENT COACH will count as one of the maximum of four Team Officials allowed on the bench.
- o Must wear a helmet with full face shield, gloves and skates while on the ice. Must wear helmet during games while on the bench.
- o May only work with players at least one full playing age level below the STUDENT COACH (e.g., a Bantam age player may act as a STUDENT COACH at the Pee Wee, Squirt or Mite level).
- o The organization that is using the STUDENT COACH must provide a form indicating on the team on which he/she is participating as a STUDENT COACH, and, if applicable,

what team he/she is properly registered/rostered as a player. A model form is available on the [usahockey.com](http://usahockey.com) website.

- Upon reaching the age of 18, the STUDENT COACH must comply with the USA Hockey Screening Program and meet the USA Hockey Coaching Education Program requirements which will qualify him/her to act as an assistant or head coach.

#### **D. Screening Policy**

All USA Hockey coaches and instructors will comply with the USA Hockey Screening Policy. Failure to comply with the policy will result in the forfeiture of coaching privileges in programs, at sites, or events under USA Hockey's governance.

#### **E. Coaching Ethics Code**

All USA Hockey ice hockey coaches (head and assistant) and instructors must abide by the USA Hockey Coaching Ethics Code, and understand that violations may result in full or partial forfeiture of coaching privileges in programs, at sites or events under USA Hockey's governance.

All coaches have an obligation to be familiar with USA Hockey's Coaching Ethics Code. Lack of awareness or misunderstanding of an ethical standard is not itself a defense to a charge of unethical conduct. The USA Hockey Coaching Ethics Code can be found online at [usahockey.com](http://usahockey.com) under Coaches.

## ADDENDUM 2

### CHC Tier Declaration, Regular Season and Tournament Process 2013-14

The purpose of this document is to establish, for the 2013-2014 CHC Hockey Season, Tier Declaration rules and procedures plus regular season and tournament commitments

**\*\* As Approved at the June 25, 2013 CHC Meeting \*\***

#### DECLARATION PROCESS

**\*\* Note: All procedures are subject to amendment to conform to New England District Declaration policies and procedures as approved subsequent to this document**

- 1) All teams at the Squirt through Bantam level wishing to participate in CHC Post Season State Tournaments must declare as either Tier 2, 3 or Open Division. All Mite A, A-1 or B full-ice teams wishing to participate in CHC Post Season State Tournaments may only declare Open Division. Mite cross-ice teams wishing to participate in the season-ending Jamborees should declare Jamboree eligible. The Initial Declaration Deadline is August 1, 2013.
- 2) All Non-Declared Midget teams must declare Major or Minor status as defined by USA Hockey. Any Midget team registered as a High School team, to allow up to 25 rostered players, must also declare Major or Minor status. All Non-Declared Midget teams with players born 1996 or earlier must be declared a Major team.
- 3) A listing of preliminary tier declarations will be prepared for publication on August 8, 2013.
- 4) Based on the preliminary declarations, the Tournament Committee will review each age division and tier to determine if preliminary conferences are required, per the described rules below. If a division's preliminary tier declarations require conferences, such preliminary conference determinations will be made by the Committee, and all preliminary declarations and conferences, if necessary, will be published not later than August 15, 2013.
- 5) Teams should begin scheduling and playing teams that are in their declared tier, in order to help them assess whether they are appropriately placed. It is this process that will ensure that the tiers end up with appropriately matched teams. Any of these games played after October 1, 2013 **MUST** be classified as League games.
- 6) The Final Declaration Deadline for Mites through Bantams is October 11, 2013.
- 7) Organizations are limited to a maximum of one (1) team per age level in Tiers 2 & 3, no exceptions. Only A teams may declare Tier 2. Only A or A1 teams may declare Tier 3. In the Open division, multiple teams in an age group must be in decreasing strength (B, B1, C, C1, etc.). Alternatively, if teams are the same strength then alternate designations (B Red, B White, B Blue, etc.) should be used. Numeric values should not be used for balanced teams and alternate designations should not be used for decreasing teams.
- 8) The Tournament Committee reserves the right to review all final tier declarations and, after discussion with program Presidents, make adjustments to those declarations.
- 9) All final declarations will be published on October 21, 2013. ***\*\*CHC League Games played before the final tier declaration deadline will count towards final standings if both teams playing declare in the same tier.\*\****

10) Once final declarations have been posted, it is the responsibility of each and every program to make reasonable accommodations for any scheduling changes required by team movement between preliminary and final declarations. Any disputes between programs regarding such scheduling changes should first be addressed between the programs involved. If no reasonable accommodation can be reached, either program can bring the dispute to the appropriate Division Director. The Division Director, in conference with the Tournament Committee, will mediate a suitable resolution to the issue, including declaring previously played games as League games to fulfill the requirements.

11) Any team that does not make the necessary accommodations to their schedule to play all required games against any Tier opponent, after completing the process described above, will have failed to meet the requirements to be eligible for State Tournament play, and will therefore be excluded from consideration for the State Tournament. There will be no exceptions to this obligation.

### **TIER AND CONFERENCE DETERMINATION PROCESS**

12) The CHC Regular Season will begin October 4, 2013. All USA Hockey sanctioned games will begin counting toward tournament eligibility on September 1, 2013. The CHC Tier 2 Midget season will begin, and games will begin counting towards tournament eligibility, on Friday, August 16, 2013.

13) The CHC Regular Season will end on February 16, 2014. All Make-Up games must be played by February 16, 2014 unless there are weather related issues the final weekend of the regular season. There will be no exceptions. The CHC Regular Tier 2 Midget season will end on Sunday, November 3, 2014.

**14) Any Program that has declared teams at the Tier 2 or Tier 3 level MUST BE in Good Standing with CHC at the end of the CHC Season in order for those declarations to be valid. Tier 2 and/or Tier 3 Teams from programs not in Good Standing at the end of the CHC Season shall be excluded from tournament play in the 2013-2014 Tournament Season.**

**15) In order to be eligible for Tournament play, each CHC Programs must have paid, at a minimum, the required Tournament Deposit of \$500 per declared team to CHC prior to the start of the Tournament season. If a Program has not paid their deposit, NO team from that Program will be allowed to compete in any tournaments.**

16) Tier and Conference formats – Tier 2 a) If 14 or fewer teams declare Tier 2, the Tier 2 Tournament will be strictly limited to an 8-team maximum. If more than 8 teams declare Tier 2, the teams finishing below eighth (8) in the standings will be eliminated based upon regular season record and will not have a CHC post season tournament in which to participate.

b) If 15 or more teams declare Tier 2, the Tournament Committee shall divide the division into regional conferences. The composition of the conferences will be determined by the committee and will be based both on regional and competitive factors. Each division subject to regionalization shall be looked at on an individual basis (i.e. a Squirt Tier 2 Conference may consist of different teams than a Pee wee Tier 3 Conference). If the conference format is used, each Conference Semi-Final Winner will advance to the Division Semi-Final in crossover format. There will be no conference final game played. A total of 12 teams, or the top 6 in each Conference, shall advance to the Tier 2 Tournament.

Teams that finish below 6th in their conference will be eliminated based upon regular season record and will not have a CHC post season tournament in which to participate.

17) Required Tier Games

a) All Tier 2 teams will be mandated to play all other Tier 2 teams twice during the regular season and the tournament will be seeded based upon regular season records. Ties will be broken using the USA Hockey tournament tie-breaking rules as published in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

b) If the conference format is employed, teams will be required to play each team within their conference in a home and home series. Teams will also be required to play each team of the opposite conference

once, with the home team determined by the committee. If the resulting conferences consist of more than 8 teams, only the two home-and-home games against teams within their conference will be required.

18) A: The Tier 2 Squirt Winner and Runner-Up will be required to represent CT @ the Tier 2 Regional Tournament.

B: The Tier 2 Peewee Winner and Runner-Up will be required to represent CT @ the Tier 2 Regional Tournament.

C: The Tier 2 Bantam Winner will be required to represent CT at the Tier 2 National Tournament. Tier 2 Bantam Runner-Up will be required to represent CT at the Northeast Sectional Tournament.

D: All of the above subject to change.

#### 19) Tier and Conference Formats – Tier 3

a) If 12 or fewer teams declare Tier 3, the Tier 3 Tournament will be strictly limited to an 8-team maximum. If more than 8 teams declare Tier 3, the teams finishing below eighth (8) in the standings will be eliminated based upon regular season record and will not have a CHC post season tournament in which to participate.

b) If 13 to 14 teams declare Tier 3, the Tier 3 Tournament will still be limited to an 8-team maximum.

Teams in positions 7 through 10 will participate in a play-in series to determine the final two spots in the tournament as follows:

i) The team in 7th position will play the team in 10th position in a home-and-home series. If a third game is required to determine the winner, it will take place on neutral ice, to be provided by CHC.

ii) The team in 8th position will play the team in 9th position in a home-and-home series. If a third game is required to determine the winner, it will take place on neutral ice, to be provided by CHC.

iii) The winners of the two play-in series will be seeded into the Tier 3 tournament based on their initial seeding going into the play-ins.

c) If 15 to 18 teams declare Tier 3, the Tournament Committee shall divide the division into regional conferences. The composition of the conferences will be determined by the committee and will be based both on regional and competitive factors. Each division subject to regionalization shall be looked at on an individual basis (i.e. a Squirt Tier 2 Conference may consist of different teams than a Peewee Tier 3 Conference). If the conference format is used, each Conference Semi-Final Winners will advance to the Division Semi-Final in crossover format. There will be no conference final game played. A total of 12 teams, or the top 6 in each Conference, shall advance to the Tier 3 Tournament.

Teams that finish below 6th in their conference will be eliminated based upon regular season record and will not have a CHC post season tournament in which to participate.

d) If more than 18 teams declare Tier 3, the regional conference format will be used, with the addition of the play-in series, as follows:

i) The top 4 teams in each Conference advance automatically to the 12 team tournament.

ii) The teams in position 5-8 in each conference will play in as follows: (1) The team in 5th position in a conference will play the team in 8th position in a home-and-home series. If a third game is required to determine the winner, it will take place on neutral ice, to be provided by CHC.

(2) The team in 6th position will play the team in 7th position in a home-and-home series. If a third game is required to determine the winner, it will take place on neutral ice, to be provided by CHC.

(3) The winners of the two play-in series will be seeded into the Tier 3 tournament based on their initial seeding going into the play-ins.

#### 20) Required Tier Games

a) All Tier 3 teams will be mandated to play all other Tier 3 teams twice during the regular season and the tournament will be seeded based upon regular season records. Ties will be broken using the USA Hockey tournament tie-breaking rules as published in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

b) If the conference format is employed, teams will be required to play each team within their conference in a home and home series. Teams will also be required to play each team of the opposite conference once, with the home team determined by the committee. If the resulting conferences consist of more than 8 teams, only the two home-and-home games against teams within their conference will be required

21) Tier 3 State Tournament winners in Squirt, Pee wee and Bantam divisions will be required to represent CT in the Northeast Tier 3 Sectional Tournament. This is subject to change.

22) Teams which declare in Open Divisions will be broken up into four regions by the Tournament Committee. Regions may vary from age group to age group, based on the number of teams in each age division. All teams who wish to participate in the Open Division tournaments must play a minimum of 10 games vs. Open Division declared opponents to be eligible for tournament play. As part of those 10 games, each team must play at least two teams from each of the regions, in order to help the Committee establish competitive balance in the end of season tournaments.

23) As in past years, all Open Divisions will be broken into 8-team tournaments based upon regular season records vs. other Open Division teams, with secondary consideration given to geography. All Open Division declared teams will have a tournament slot guaranteed to them. All Open Division declared teams MUST participate in their scheduled state tournament. There will be NO FORFEITS ALLOWED in the Open Division state tournaments. Member organizations whose teams do not play all scheduled tournament games will be penalized. The penalty will be the forfeiture of Tournament fees and the ban of ALL teams, in the offending organization(s), from tournament play the following season.

24) Organizations will be given the opportunity to opt-out of a tournament declaration prior to November 30, 2012. Opt-outs will be limited to one per organization every other year and will carry a financial penalty of forfeiture of the entire tournament fee for the team dropping out. If, prior to December 7, 2013, an Open Division Bantam team withdraws from competition solely due to its being disbanded as a result of excessive player movement to High School, then no fine shall be levied against a member Program for said Bantam team's withdrawal from the Open Division.

25) CHC Tier 2 & 3 post season tournaments will begin on Wednesday February 26, 2014 and will continue through Sunday March 16, 2014. CHC Open Division post season tournaments will begin Wednesday, February 19, 2014 and will continue through Sunday March 16, 2014. The Mite Jamboree(s) will be held on the weekend of March 22 & 23, 2014. Teams can expect to play their tournament games anytime between those dates. As in 2013, all open division teams from one age group will play on the same weekend(s), to be announced in October. CHC Tier 2 Midget teams can expect their tournament to be played the weekend of November 8, 2013.

### **Connecticut Hockey Conference - Mite Structure 2013-2014**

#### **\*\* As approved at the June 25, 2013 CHC Meeting \*\***

The following structure of mite play in Connecticut for the 2013-2014 season is designed to further implement the concepts contained in USA Hockey's American Development and is based on the revised rules and requirements as implemented by USA Hockey. The USA Hockey exemption allowing limited full-ice games was granted specifically to State Affiliates and their membership. Only CHC member programs are provided this exemption under USA Hockey.

The structure shall be as follows:

Mite A and Mite B – Declare Mite/Mite Full-Ice, then A or B – CHC Mite Open Division

- No Mite A or B team can roster a player with a birth year 2007 or later after 12/31/2013, with NO EXCEPTIONS. Any 2007 player must be deleted from the full-ice team roster, but may be added to a cross-ice roster at that time.

- Full ice games are not allowed prior to January 1, 2014, with NO EXCEPTIONS. Any team playing full-ice games prior to that date will be subject to sanctions against the team, coaches and program, and the team will be disqualified from State Tournament play.

- Full ice games are allowed after January 1, 2014, only for USA Hockey registered teams that have played significant cross ice games prior to December 31, 2013. Teams may play up to a maximum of 10 (excluding all tournament games). No CHC team may play a non-USA Hockey member program in any game. Doing so will void the USA Hockey insurance for the game for all participants, and will subject the team, team officials and the program to sanctions from CHC's Board Officers.

- Teams may also participate in one tournament allowing for up to 5 additional full ice games, thus reaching the USA Hockey maximum of 15 full-ice games. Teams may elect to participate in CHC's end of season Open Division tournament or another tournament of the team's choosing. Teams will be asked to declare their Open Division eligibility in January.

- Practices shall be focused on cross ice concepts for the development of skills

Mite Developmental – Declare Mite Cross-Ice – CHC Mite Jamboree Division

- All mite hockey for birth years 2007 and later shall be developmental in nature. All mite developmental hockey shall target having the recommended two (2) practices to one (1) game ratio throughout the season.

- ADM principles will be adopted and cross ice will be used for both practices and games.

- Programs will be encouraged to establish cross ice games with other neighboring programs.

- Teams may participate in the CHC Mite Jamboree Division, with jamboree(s) scheduled at the end of the season as necessary to accommodate all interested teams.

- No full-ice games or practices are allowed for this age level, with NO EXCEPTIONS.

Enforcement: The penalty for teams violating the cap on full ice games will be suspension of that team's coaches from coaching in CHC for one year, disqualification of that team from CHC tournament play for that year, and further sanctions as determined by the Board of Directors after a hearing before the Executive Committee.

## **CONNECTICUT HOCKEY CONFERENCE GIRLS' GUIDELINES AND STATE TOURNAMENT RULES 2013-14**

### **1. Applicability:**

Except as provided herein, the applicable rules of USA Hockey, its affiliates and the Connecticut Hockey Conference shall apply to all games played and other hockey activities conducted by teams compete in the CHC Girls' Divisions, State Tournaments and Post Season Play.

### **2. Eligibility:**

All Girls teams in Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III, in all age divisions, must be sponsored by member programs of CHC and shall be registered as tournament teams with rosters submitted to the State Registrar prior to playing their first game. Roster amendments are due at the time of the addition/deletion of a player/coach, and the deadline for any roster amendments is December 31<sup>st</sup> for all teams. In any age division where NE District Regionals are held prior to December 31<sup>st</sup>, the deadline for any roster amendment is deemed to be one week prior to the date that the NE District Regional Tournament begins. Team rosters are frozen as of the date of the deadline. The requirement for 14 games for a team/10 games for a player must be completed prior to the commencement of the state tournament if one is held, or if a state tournament is not held then one week prior to the commencement of the District Regional Tournament.

### **3. Declaration Process:**

All girls' teams at the 12U through 19U levels wishing to participate in CHC State Tournaments and Post Season Play must declare as Tier I, II or III. The deadline for preliminary declarations is August 1, 2013, though amendments may be made through September 15, 2013. Organizations are limited to a maximum of one (1) team per Tier at each age division.

### **4. Required Tier Games:**

All Tier I, II and III declared teams are mandated to play all other teams within their Tier, in the same age group division twice during the regular season. The regular season may begin August 16, 2013 for 16U and 19U divisions, September 1, 2013 for all other divisions, and will close February 9, 2014, or one week prior to the commencement of the state tournament, whichever is earlier. It is the responsibility of each and every team and their program to make reasonable accommodations for any required games. If no agreement can be reached in the event of a dispute, either program involved may bring the dispute to the appropriate CHC Division Tournament Director who will arrange a suitable resolution to the issue,



including declaring previously played games or a single game as having fulfilled the two game requirement. Any team that is determined by the applicable CHC Division Tournament Director to have failed to make reasonable accommodations to play required games will be excluded from state tournament and /or post season play. Where teams play more than the required games against each other the first two games played shall be designated as CHC regular season games unless the teams agree otherwise in advance. Score sheets for all regular season games must be submitted to the appropriate State Tournament Director within 5 days of the date the game was played.

#### **5. State Tournament Format:**

The Connecticut Hockey Conference, in coordination with its Tournament Committee, conducts Tier I, Tier II and Tier III State Tournaments for 12 and under, 14 and under, 16 and under and 19, as applicable, and under CHC member teams. The format and scheduling of the State Tournaments are determined based on the number of teams declaring for post-season play. The following rules shall apply:

**a.** If only 1 **team** declares for a given State tournament, that team automatically advances to Regional play, if applicable.

**b. 2 team divisions** - Each team plays two games against the other team. These games are scheduled by CHC. Best overall record determines advancement to Regional play, if applicable, on the basis of 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss. In the event that two teams' records are tied, a Tie Breaking Game will be played.

**c. 3 team divisions** - Each team plays two games against each other team. These games are scheduled by CHC. Best overall record determines advancement to Regional play, if applicable, on the basis of 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss. In the event that teams are tied, the most current USA Hockey Tie Breaking Procedures shall be used to determine the standings, placement and advancement.

**d. 4 or 5 team divisions** – The top 4 teams based upon the regular season advance to the state tournament. The state tournament will be a round robin tournament with each team playing one game against all other teams. Based upon round robin play, the teams with the best two overall records advance to a championship game on the basis of 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss. In the event that teams are tied after round robin play, the most current USA Hockey Tie Breaking Procedures shall be used to determine the standings, and advancement.

**e. 6 or more team divisions** – Either the top 4 or 6 teams based upon the regular season will advance, and will participate in a bracketed state tournament incorporating round robin play, semi-finals (6 team) and finals. The number of teams and format which will be applied will be determined at the beginning of the season.

**f. Tied games** - In the event of a tie game after regulation play in a Tie-Breaking (for example, in a third game played in a 2 team division), semi-final, or championship game, the game shall be continued in one or more sudden death overtime periods to determine a winner. If sufficient time does not allow for the continuation of overtime, with Connecticut Hockey Conference approval only, a shoot-out procedure may be utilized to determine a winner.

**g. State Champion** - The top team in any state tournament, as determined in paragraphs a – d above, shall be declared State Champions, and must represent Connecticut in the District Regional tournaments, if applicable. Depending on the requirements of the New England District and/or USA Hockey, additional teams may also be placed, consistent with the results of the state tournament, to represent Connecticut in the District Regional tournaments.

#### **6. Officiating Assignments:**

The Referee-in-chief will assign referees for all State Tournament games.

#### **7. Credential Requirements/Tournament Binder:**

All teams must submit to tournament officials at or before the state tournament copies of their main roster and all supplemental rosters in descending order, which must have been signed by the CHC State USAH Registrar, as well as a copy of the Coaching Education Report created through Cyber Sports indicating that all coaches have obtained proper certification and module completion.

All teams advancing to Regional/National post season play will be required to submit a credentials binder to the CHC State USAH Registrar within 24 hours of qualifying. Team must prepare a credentials binder that contains the following:

- a. Official Rosters – main roster plus all supplemental rosters in ascending date order. All rosters must be signed by the CHC USAH Registrar.
  - b. Credential Verification Form – a blank Credential Verification form with all players listed.
  - c. Players – USAH Consent to Treat forms for all players and USAH Code of Conduct forms for all players.
  - d. Coaches – a copy of team specific CEP Report from Cyber Sport; coaches who received a temporary coaching card must also be included; and copies of USAH Consent to Treat and USAH Code of Conduct forms for all coaches.
  - e. Team Manager – USAH Consent to Treat and USAH Code of Conduct forms.
  - f. Non-USA Citizens – a copy of an approved USAH written transfer plus one of the following as proof of legal residency: a copy of a signed F-1 visa and related documents for boarding prep school students, or a copy of a visa or green card for players residing in the US with parents (proof of legal residency).
  - g. Score sheets – in ascending date order, but do not include any score sheets for games that were played prior to the date the official roster was signed by the CHC USAH Registrar.
- Should the Tournament Committee become aware of, and subsequently determine a player(s) to be ineligible before, during or after the tournament, said player(s) shall be ruled ineligible to participate in any remaining games and the team using the ineligible player(s) shall be required to forfeit any games in which the player(s) participated. Also, if it is proven that the coach or manager was aware of the situation, they shall be subject to suspension.

**8. Score sheets & Clock:**

In all state tournament games, the Home team is responsible for providing a timekeeper, and the Visitor team is responsible for providing a scorekeeper. In the event that an individual from the visiting team is more familiar with the operation of the game clock, he/she may assume responsibility for running the clock and a representative from the home team may manage the score sheet. Teams are responsible for supplying roster stickers for each game played. The original copy (white) score sheet is to be submitted to the tournament director/official; yellow and pink copies may be retained by participating teams.

**9. Uniform Colors:**

Unless otherwise agreed before the game, the team designated as “Home” team shall wear light colored jerseys and “Visitor” team shall wear dark colored jerseys. If a team’s light and dark jerseys are not, in the judgment of the on-ice officials, sufficiently distinguishable from each other, the on-ice officials may direct either team to change jerseys or secure pullovers. If a team has only one color of jersey, it shall be the responsibility of that team to meet with its opponent's coach(es) at least one (1) hour prior to game time, to determine jersey colors for the pending game.

**10. Length of game periods and penalties:**

State tournament games shall be played to the following time standards in minutes:

Class	Period	OT*	Minor	Major	Misconduct
12 & Under	15	10	2	5	10
14 & Under	16	10	2	5	10
16 & Under	17	10	2	5	10
19 & Under	17	10	2	5	10

\*See paragraph 11. No overtime in games other than tie breaking, semi-final or championship games.

Note: running time is not allowed in State Tournament Play.

**11. Timeouts:**

For games utilizing a round robin format leading to either semi-final and/or championship games, no timeouts will be allowed in the round robin games; however, each team will be allowed one minute timeout in semi-final and final games, which may be used at any point in a game.

**12. Tie Breaking Rules to Determine Standings Position:**

The procedure to be utilized in that two or more teams have an equal number of points shall be the most current USA Hockey Tie Breaking Procedures to Determine Standings (published in the USA Hockey Annual Guide).

**13. Shoot Out Procedure:**

Whenever a shoot out is utilized under these rules, the following procedure shall apply. Each team shall select five (5) players who will alternate taking penalty shots. A coin toss will determine which team has the option of shooting first or second. If after five (5) players from both teams have completed the

procedure the tie still has not been broken, the procedure will be repeated with five (5) different players until the standings are determined. This procedure of selecting five (5) shooters shall be repeated until the tie is broken. No player may shoot twice for any team until such time as all available players on that team have shot.

**14. Overtime Procedure:**

The following rules apply to overtime games:

**a.** Overtime will not be played other than in a Tie-Breaking, semi-final or final game. See Paragraph 5f above.

**b.** Where overtime is played under these rules, the game shall be continued to determine a winner.

**c.** At the completion of the third period, there shall be a five minute rest period before the start of first overtime session.

**d.** All overtimes shall be ten minutes in length and sudden death. Teams shall not switch ends throughout overtime periods, therefore teams will play in the same end from which they played during the third period until a winner is determined. This process (b. and c. stated above) of a ten minute overtime will continue until such time a winner is determined by the competition.

**e.** The ice should be made if overtime periods continue beyond a second overtime.

**f.** If sufficient time does not allow for the continuation of overtime, with Connecticut Hockey Conference Tournament Director's approval only, a shoot-out procedure may be utilized to determine a winner.

### **ADDENDUM 3 - TIER I RULES:**

1. There shall be two Tier I designated programs within the Connecticut Hockey Conference. Currently the two programs are CT Wolf Pack in the north, and Mid Fairfield Youth Hockey in the south.
2. Tier I shall be comprised of the Squirt Major through Bantam Major USA Hockey age levels. Each designated program shall operate one, and only one team at each of the following age levels:
  - Bantam Major U14
  - Bantam Minor U13
  - PeeWee Major U12
  - PeeWee Minor U11
  - Squirt Major U10
3. The CHC designated Tier 1 teams at the Bantam Major, PeeWee Major and Squirt Major level shall represent CHC in New England District Tier I Regional tournaments, and in USA Hockey National Tier I Tournament at the Bantam level should they advance from Regionals. Based upon New England District Tier I annual tournament allocation for CHC, the CHC Tournament Committee will determine if one or both of the CHC designated Tier I teams move on to NE District Regionals, and if only one team, the method of determining which CHC designated Tier I team will advance to Regionals.
4. No minor or major Tier I team (Squirt Major through Bantam Major) may participate in any CHC Division II or below state tournaments.
5. The two CHC designated Tier I programs may have a Squirt Minor team, one or more Mite teams, and a beginner/development player program. These teams are not designated as Tier I teams, and are eligible to participate in the appropriate CHC Tier and State Tournaments, i.e. Tier 2 or Tier 3 Squirts, Open Division Mites.
6. CHC designated Tier I programs must abide by all CHC Bylaws, and Rules and Policies, including but not limited to player eligibility, out of state resident quotas, USA Hockey and CHC specific playing rules.
7. **RELEASES TO CHC DESIGNATED TIER I PROGRAMS:** As long as they were in financial good standing at the end of the prior season, players requesting releases to CHC designated Tier I programs, CT Wolf Pack and Mid Fairfield Youth Hockey, at the Squirt Major through Bantam Major youth levels, must be released regardless of any prior commitment to a team/program for the current season. Such releases must be requested and filed on or before May 1. After this date, CHC programs are not required to release a player to a Tier I designated program, and any such release is at the discretion of the issuing program.

### **CHC MIDGET MAJOR and MIDGET MINOR TIER I TEAMS**

1. Any CHC member program in good standing can elect to declare a Tier I OR Tier 2 Midget Major and Midget Minor team. There is no limit on the number of teams that may declare.
2. A program cannot declare a team at both Tier I and Tier 2 at the same age level. In other words, a program cannot have a Tier I Midget Major team, and a Tier 2 Midget Major team.
3. The CHC Tournament committee will determine the format to determine how Midget Major and Midget Minor Tier I teams advance to the New England District Regional Tournament.
4. The CHC Tournament committee will determine the format for Midget Major and Midget Minor Tier 2 State Tournament. The winner of the Midget Tier 2 tournaments will advance to the USA Hockey Tier 2 National Tournaments.

5. CHC Tier I and Tier 2 declared Midget teams must abide by all CHC Bylaws, and Rules and Policies, including but not limited to player eligibility, out of state resident quotas, USA Hockey and CHC specific playing rules.
6. Players who make Tier I Midget Major or Midget Minor teams are not entitled to releases if they have committed to a non-Tier I team for the current season. Such releases are at the discretion of the program the player first committed to.