

Georgia Student Hockey League

Operating Rules and Procedures



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RESTATED OPERATING RULES AND PROCEDURES

GEORGIA STUDENT HOCKEY LEAGUE

(A Non-Profit Organization)

Operating Rules and Procedures

1 GEORGIA STUDENT HOCKEY LEAGUE

1.1 About

The Georgia Student Hockey League is a non-profit organization promoting the sport of ice hockey at the high school level in Georgia. GSHL is not affiliated with any high school or state educational or athletic board. GSHL is the USA Hockey affiliate organization for high school ice hockey in the State of Georgia.

The Georgia Student Hockey League shall not be used by any individual, group, corporation, etc. as an instrument for any personal, political, financial gain or for any reason other than the promotion of ice hockey to high school students in the State of Georgia.

1.2 Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote the growth of ice hockey in the State of Georgia while promoting academic excellence, good sportsmanship, and a spirit of competition in the student athletes participating in GSHL programs. Further we intend to provide the best possible experience for all participants by encouraging, developing, advancing and administering the sport. In addition our goal is to continue our quest to become a sanctioned high school sport by the Georgia High School Association (GHSA).

1.3 By-laws

The Restated By-Laws of the Georgia Student Hockey League dated August 16, 2008 are the articles which the organization. These Operating Rules and Procedures, as set forth in Article 6.13 Section 13 as Exhibit A, may be amended from time to time by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

1.4 Prééminence - GSHL and USA HOCKEY

Pursuant to Article 14 Section 1 of the By-laws, GSHL shall abide by and act in accordance with the Articles of Organization, Bylaws and the GSHL Rules and Regulations, and decisions of the Board of Directors of USA HOCKEY unless they

conflict or contradict with GSHL's Articles of Organization, Bylaws, Rules and decisions of GSHL's Board of Directors and a majority of the Board of Directors determine not to comply with Articles of Organization, Bylaws and Regulations, Playing Rules and decisions of the Board of Directors of USA HOCKEY.

2 DEFINITIONS

- **“Championship Game”** shall mean that game which is played after the end of each League’s regular season, the winner of which shall be considered the League champion.
- **“Executive Committee”** shall mean such committee or group of people established pursuant to the League’s By-law’s, charged with overseeing the operations of the League. References to Executive Committee herein shall also refer to any committee or individual to which the Board of Directors or Executive Committee assigns or delegates certain duties and responsibilities as set forth herein.
- **“League Year”** shall mean September 1 through the following August 31, encompassing one complete League Season.
- **“League Game”** shall mean any Varsity or Junior Varsity Regular Season Game or Playoff Game.
- **“Member Team”** shall mean any team, which has been accepted as a Member of the League pursuant the procedures set forth herein or in the Bylaws.
- **“Playoff Game”** shall mean any one or more of the games played as part of the League playoff schedule, as such schedule is established from time to time.
- **“Regular Season Game”** shall mean any one or more of the games played as part of the League regular season schedule, as such schedule is established from time to time.
- **“Pre Season Game”** shall mean any one or more of the games played as part of the League pre season schedule, as such schedule is established from time to time.
-
- **“GSHL”** shall mean the Georgia Student Hockey League.
- **“MST”** Multiple School Team – A member team that is composed of players from two or more public school districts.
- **“Team Official”** shall mean any person serving as coach, manager, and Owner//Member Representative or other official capacity or assisting on the Players’ Bench during a League Game pursuant to Penalties/Misconducts §4.1 herein for a Member Team.

3 MEMBER TEAM PARAMETERS

3.1 Coach Selection

Each Member Team, through its Owner/Member Representative, shall be responsible for selecting all of its coaches and team officials. In the event a Member Team is having difficulty finding a head Coach, the Board of Directors may assist in the process by providing names of potential coaches to a representative of the member Team seeking a Head Coach.

Upon selection of a Head Coach by a Member Team, such member Team shall notify a member of the Board of Directors of its selections. All coaches and team officials are subject to final approval by the Board of Directors prior to each season.

3.1.1 Accreditation of Coaches

The head Coach for each Member Team must have coaching accreditation, at the associate level or above, from USA Hockey.

Proof of such accreditation must be presented to the Board of Directors prior to the first Regular Season game in which such coach is the Head Coach of a Member Team.

An exemption to this rule may be granted for cause by the Board of Directors upon petition by the Head Coach of a member Team. Such exemption shall be at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors.

3.2 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY PARAMETERS

3.2.1 General

Students must maintain an academic record satisfying the State of Georgia's sports eligibility criteria (Cumulative G.P.A. = 2.0 on an unweighted 4.0 scale). The individual school or member teams may further strengthen these criteria.

Students must be eligible to participate as a member of a team sanctioned by USA HOCKEY and the high school represented by the team, and must not be in a suspension status imposed by either the high school they attend or USA HOCKEY. If a student has been suspended from school or from participating in extramural activities, or if the player has been suspended from playing on any other USA HOCKEY sanctioned team under USA HOCKEY rules, the student is not eligible to play on a high school level League team.

Students must not have ever participated at professional status, and must have amateur status.

GSHL is a co-ed league and is open to all high school students who meet the eligibility requirements.

GSHL plays full check hockey. It is imperative that all players and their parents and/or guardians understand this.

3.2.1.1 AA and AAA League

Students must be in the 9th - 12th grades and attend school full-time to be eligible for a Varsity team. Full-time attendance shall mean a student is taking four classes at his or her school.

Eight grade students will only be allowed to play at the AA and AAA level after being granted an exception by the Board of Directors. An exception request must be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing no less than 30 days before the start of the regular season. Only if the member team is unable to field a minimum of twelve (12) skaters and two (2) goalies for their Varsity roster should an exception be granted.

3.2.1.2 A League

Eighth through twelfth graders attending a school full time is eligible for A Level. However, the Board of Directors reserves the right to prohibit eighth graders from playing if they are clearly superior to the general level of play of A level. Such players will be required to wait until the following season to play in the League, or may be granted an exception to play on the AA and AAA level. Students are required to play A Level in the program representing the high school they will be attending, as determined by attendance zones.

3.2.1.3 Early Graduates

Players that graduate early during their senior year (12th grade) will be eligible to finish playing the current season. However they must continue to meet all other rules of eligibility.

3.2.1.4 Age Restrictions- Maximum Age

Any player turning 19 prior to January 1 of the current season is not eligible to participate for such season.

Example: 2009-10 Season: *Players born prior to January 1, 1990 Are NOT eligible.*

3.2.1.5 Age Restrictions- Minimum Age

Any player not turning 14 years old prior to December 31, of the year for which the current season begins is not eligible to participate for such season.

Example: *2009-10 Season: Players born after December 31, 1995 Are NOT eligible.*

3.2.1.6 Playoff Eligibility

Players must participate in a number of games greater than 50% of the total number of a team's games, on which they are primarily rostered, to be eligible for the playoffs. "Participate" shall mean the player's name appeared on the official score sheet for a game as one of the 20 players dressed for that game, and they were dressed out, available to play, and were on the bench for that game. The Board of Directors reserves the right to review Playoff eligibility, and may grant exceptions from time to time in their discretion.

3.2.1.7 Roster General

Roster size is determined by USA Hockey guidelines. The current maximum sizes are 30 players on the member team roster with up to 20 players on any individual game roster.

3.2.1.8 Roster Deadline

No player may be added to a team's roster after January 1st. No player may be added to a team, at any time, which already has 30 players on the roster. The Board of Directors, in its' discretion may allow students who were not previously in the GSHL, who are moving into a new school district to be eligible to be added to a team roster, provided such team has less than 30 players on the official roster at that time.

3.2.1.9 "Visiting" Players

Players shall not be eligible to play for a Member Team if such player is rostered on another ice hockey team outside the Atlanta metro area during the current season, unless such player relocates from such area to Atlanta. Player's relocation to the area must comply with the deadlines set forth in sections above. Players returning from an out of town ice hockey team to finish the current school year in Atlanta will not be eligible to participate in the league during such season.

3.2.1.10 Establishment of Team Parameters

The Board of Directors shall establish parameters for individual teams for the upcoming season no later than July 1 immediately preceding such season. Such parameters will be established pursuant to the guidelines set forth herein.

3.2.1.11 Exceptions

Any deviations from the standards set forth herein shall be at the determination of the Board of Directors. Persons or teams seeking such deviations shall submit, in writing, a request for an exemption to a member of the Board of Directors prior to the June 1 preceding the League Year for which the exemption is sought. The Board of Directors shall make a final determination of all such applications no later than September 1.

Matters must be communicated to the Board of Directors no later than June 1 to ensure that a decision with respect to such matter will be reached before the upcoming season. If application is not submitted prior to June 1, the Board of Directors cannot guarantee determination of eligibility for the upcoming season and the affected player(s) will most likely not be eligible until the following season.

3.2.1.12 Proof of Eligibility

Each team shall be required to complete the Team enrollment process announced by the Board of Directors prior to the beginning of each season, including but not limited to enrollment of each player in the USA HOCKEY enrollment process, no later than the date of a team's first scheduled League game. Any team, which has not completed such process at that time, will not be eligible to participate in any League games until the process has been completed to the satisfaction of the GSHL Registrar and the Board of Directors. Players added to the roster after enrollment process at the beginning of the season, must complete the enrollment of that player to the satisfaction of the GSHL Registrar and the Board of Directors, before such player will be allowed to participate in any League games.

If a player's eligibility is challenged, a photocopy of the STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARD must be submitted to the GSHL registrar prior to participation in any further GSHL sanctioned practice or game. A photocopy of a current transcript is acceptable, only if the school does not issue student identification cards.

If the player's place of residence is challenged, a photocopy of some document proving location of the player's parents/guardian place of residence must be provided to the GSHL registrar prior to participation in any further GSHL sanctioned practice

or game. Some items deemed acceptable as proof of residence: Utility bill, Tax bill, Rent receipt, and Georgia Drivers license.

3.2.1.13 Member Team Roster Composition

It is the goal of the GSHL to provide all eligible students who wish to play hockey, a venue to play hockey. With the changing demographics, and the construction of new schools in the Atlanta Metro Area, it is difficult to have a firm set of rules as to the makeup and composition of Member Teams and their player rosters. The Board of Directors will use their best judgment while working with Member Teams and prospective Owner/Member Representatives who wish to petition the league to establish a new team.

As a guiding principle, the Board of Directors will not permit the disbanding of an existing Member Team by a prospective new Member Team, by allowing a new Member Team to take rostered members from the existing Member Team. Past history has shown that by working collaboratively, new Member Teams have been allowed to enter the League without disrupting the composition of existing Member Teams.

Member Teams may consist of rostered players from groupings of school districts, where individual schools do not have sufficient players to make up a Member Team by themselves. Such decisions are made by the Board of Directors in consultation with prospective Member Teams. Some Member Teams may have rostered players from up to 3 separate schools.

The GSHL Registrar has the final say in the rostering of any player not a current student of a Member Teams identified school. The GSHL Registrar may place students whose school does not have a Member Team, on another Member Team who needs players to fill out their roster. Such decisions are made in close consultation with all parties concerned, especially the player and his or her family.

3.2.1.14 Grandfather Clause

Players who were rostered on a Member Team other than the school they are districted in because their regular school does not have a team, may continue to play for that Member Team until their eligibility has expired (through graduation or age restrictions), unless such players have changed their residence. Should that Players school district subsequently become a new Member Team, it is that Players discretion whether he or she wishes to play out their eligibility on their original Member Team, or become a rostered member of their schools new Member Team.

If the player has changed schools his eligibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If a player has changed residence, his eligibility will also be determined on a case-by-case basis.

If a Member Team wishes to select other Players from adjoining school districts who do not have an existing team, it must petition the GSHL Register or the Board of Directors to do so by June 1 for the upcoming season. The GSHL Registrar and the Board of Directors shall determine if such other Players will be eligible to participate no later than September 1.

All roster composition issues and player eligibility questions will be determined by the GSHL Registrar and the Board of Directors.

3.3 Home Schooled Students

Home-schooled students residing in a school or district's attendance area are eligible to play for the team representing that school district. (Home-schooled children are not eligible for a team representing private schools) Home-schooled students will be considered as attending the represented public school district for purposes of roster composition.

Home-schooled students must turn 14 prior to December 31 of the year in which a season begins to be eligible for Varsity and 13 for Junior Varsity. Home-schooled students must also meet the maximum age limit set forth in section above.

3.4 Private school students

Private school students must play for their private school team, regardless of their place of residence. No private school students will be eligible for a public school team if their school has a Member Team (including district teams and single school team). If the player's private school does not have a member team, then the player will be eligible to play for the public school team that represents the public school district the player lives in.

3.5 New Private School Teams

- 3.5.1 Private schools may petition the GSHL to become Member Teams and play under the Private School's name. Once a private school becomes established as a Member Team, all players attending that private school, who have not previously been grandfathered at another Member Team, must play for the private school's Member Team, and does not have the choice to play for the public school district team. Players who were grandfathered on another Member Team will have the choice to finish out their eligibility on that Member Team, or join the new private school team.

3.6 Enforcement – Team Violations

Any team that uses a player, who does not satisfy the requirements set forth herein, shall forfeit any game(s) in which such player participates. The official score of such game shall be 3-0 and all individual statistics shall be recorded as if there had not been a forfeit.

4 LEAGUE SCHEDULE – GENERAL

4.1 Game Location

League Games and practices shall not be conducted at any rink that has not been approved by the Board of Directors. The list of rinks that have been so approved shall be distributed to Member Teams no later than September 1 preceding the League Year in which such approval shall be in effect. Any approved rink shall be eligible to conduct League practices and games until such time as the Board of Directors determines approval of such rink is no longer appropriate.

4.2 Tournaments and Scrimmages

Member teams may play in games other than League Games. However, League Games take precedence over other games. Any team not participating in a scheduled League Game shall forfeit such game and shall be subject to such disciplinary action as is deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

4.3 Organization of Teams by Conferences and/or Divisions

Organization of Member Teams into Conferences and/or Divisions shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors. The goal of such alignment shall be to provide a relatively balanced playing schedule, to promote geographical and traditional rivalries and to conform to State Championship divisional organization, if any.

4.4 Rescheduling of Games by Teams

The team requesting the scheduling change is responsible for rescheduling the game with the approval and availability of the opposing team and officials, and the GSHL Scheduler. The teams involved will incur the cost of ice time and officials. The team requesting the change will pay any additional costs incurred in rescheduling the game.. No game may be rescheduled after the final regularly scheduled League game. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit by the team requesting the scheduling change (Score 3-0).

5 LEAGUE GAMES

5.1 General

The rules and regulations set forth in this section shall be applicable to all League games, both AA, AA and A Levels, including Pre Season, Regular Season Games and Playoff Games.

5.2 Regular Season Games

Before the start of the season, GSHL shall determine the number of games in the upcoming regular season based on a number of factors. Such things that will be considered is; the total number of member teams in the league and the amount of ice time available, desires of the players, parents and coaches, and past history of the league.

The league will attempt to the best of its ability to set forth a schedule of games for the regular season that is reasonable, fair and unbiased to all member teams, before the start of the season. The schedule may be revised or amended as required during the season.

5.3 Seven Goal Rule

If at any time during a League Game, the score differential reaches seven (7) goals, the game clock shall be operated using a running time format until such time as the differential is reduced below seven. This includes playoff games.

5.4 Jerseys

All League Teams shall have two sets of jerseys – one white or light-colored and one dark. All teams must notify the League of their jersey colors prior to October 1 of each League Year.

The designated home team shall wear white or light-colored jerseys.

In the event of a color conflict for a particular game, it shall be the home team's responsibility to wear jerseys that do no conflict with the visiting team.

All players' jerseys shall be numbered with no duplicate numbers allowed. Temporary numbers may not be taped on to jerseys at any time.

Sponsors names and/or logos may be placed on the sleeves or along the lower rear of the jerseys. The right hand sleeve is reserved for the league wide sponsors and division sponsors. If neither of these exists, then an individual team's sponsor's identification may be placed on the right hand sleeve.

5.5 Protective Equipment

All protective equipment required by USA Hockey Rules must be worn by all players on Member Teams for all on-ice League practices and games.

Neck guards and ear guards must be worn by all players on Member Teams for all on-ice League practices and games. Goalies are required to wear neck guards, even if they have a protective neck shield attached to their helmet/mask.

A neck guard shall be defined as a piece of protective equipment that is specifically designed to protect the neck and throat area. Sweatbands, socks and similar items are not considered neck guards for the purposes of the Section.

6 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

6.1 General

The number of Member Teams, number of League Games each such team plays, times of games, length of season and other elements of the League Schedule shall be determined at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

No Regular Season Game shall be scheduled prior to September 1 or later than March 31 during any League Year.

Each Member Team shall play the same number of Regular Season Games in a Season.

6.2 Regular Season Game Format

All Regular Season Games shall be limited to three periods of not less than fourteen (14) minutes utilizing the stopped clock concept. Overtime shall not be played to determine the outcome of a Regular Season Game.

If a game is running last, such that a stop time clock would exceed the maximum time committed for the game, it shall be at the discretion of the referees as to when a run time clock shall be used to complete the game on time.

No time outs are allowed during a running time clock. This is due to the 1 hour and 30 minute game time curfew.

6.3 League Standings – Regular Season

League standings shall be determined by awarding two (2) points for a victory, one (1) point for a tie, and zero (0) points for a loss.

In the case of a tie for league champion determination, the following guidelines shall be followed:

- a) Tie between **two** teams:
 - 1) Team with greatest number of wins in all games
 - 2) Head-to-head record between the two teams
 - 3) Fewest goals allowed in head-to-head games
 - 4) Fewest penalty minutes in all games
 - 5) Coin toss

- b) Tie among **three or more** teams:
 - 1) Team with greatest number of wins in all games
 - 2) Points accumulated in games among tied teams
 - 3) Fewest goals allowed in games among tied teams
 - 4) Fewest penalty minutes in all games
 - 5) Coin toss

Only those games that count in the League standings will be used for tie breaking purposes.

7 LEAGUE PLAYOFFS –

7.1 Playoff format

The League playoff format is affected by numerous factors including the number of Member Teams. Therefore, the playoff format may change from time to time and shall be determined by the Board of Directors prior to each League Year.

7.2 Playoff game format

All Playoff Games shall consist of three periods of not less than fourteen (14) minutes utilizing the stopped clock concept.

Overtime shall be utilized to determine the outcome of Playoff Games in the following manner:

- (a) All Playoff Games tied at the end of regulation time shall play (1) five-minute stop-time overtime period. The playoff format will be 4 on 4. If the game remains tied at the end of such overtime, a shoot-out, as described below, will be utilized to determine the winner.

Shoot-Out Format

- (a) – If at the end of the five minute overtime period, the game is still tied, a shoot out format shall ensue:

At the end of the five-minute overtime period, the head official will instruct the timekeeper to put two minutes on the clock and immediately start the clock.

The other two officials will request a list of five shooters from each coach.

The head official will meet at center ice with the captains to explain the protocol during the two-minute period.

The goalkeepers remain in the same ends as the overtime period.

The home team has the option of shooting first or defending first. If

Team A's first three players score, while none of Team B's players score, the shootout is over and Team A advances.

If the shootout remains tied at the end of the first round, the same five players will shoot again in the same order, this time in a sudden death situation. Each team has an equal number of chances to shoot before a winner is declared.

Notes

Players serving penalty time shall not be eligible for the shootout.

If a player is injured in the shootout (goalkeeper or shooter), the player may be replaced in subsequent rounds by a player off the bench.

All players not participating in the shootout must be on the bench.

Players participating in the shootout shall stay in the neutral zone area during the shootout.

Goalkeepers may be substituted, but no warm-up time will be allowed.

8 PENALTIES/MISCONDUCTS

8.1.1 General

The rules and regulations set forth in this section shall be applicable to all League games, including regular season and playoff games.

Any player or Head Coach suspended pursuant to this section must serve the suspension at the same level of play (Varsity or Junior Varsity) at which such suspension was incurred. In addition, all suspensions incurred during a League Game, must be served during League play.

If a player is suspended pursuant to a Match Penalty or Gross Misconduct, the suspended player cannot participate in any USA Hockey activities during such suspension.

8.2 USA Hockey Rules

USA Hockey's Official Rules of Ice Hockey (USA Hockey Rules), as applicable to the Midget age division, in conjunction with League playing rules, as set forth herein, shall be used in all League games.

8.3 GSHL Specific Rules

8.3.1 Forfeitures

In the event of a team forfeiting the contest for any reason, the non-forfeiting team shall be awarded a win in the league standings by the score of three to zero

Any team failing to provide sufficient players to play the game or falling below this number at any point of or during the game shall forfeit the contest. The non-forfeiting team shall be awarded a win by the score of three to zero, regardless of the current score of the game. Minimum number of players is defined in USA Hockey rules for Ice Hockey under Rule 201 Composition of Teams.

If a game is partially played before being forfeited, any and all penalties assessed will count as if the game had been played in its entirety.

If a player or coach is serving a suspension during a game that is forfeited, the game will only count towards the suspension if the majority of the game is played. If less than 50% of the game was actually played, the game will not count towards the players or coaches suspension.

In the event of forfeiture, the winning goalie is not credited with a shutout.

8.3.2 Neck guards

Any player caught playing without a neck guard shall be assessed a 2 minute minor penalty for un-sportsman like conduct. In addition the player will not be allowed to return to the ice without a neck guard.

8.3.3 Fisticuffs

Any player who receives a major penalty for Fisticuffs (Fighting) (USA Hockey Rule 613) shall be assessed the following:

The first fisticuff fighting offense will be given an automatic three (3) game suspension.

The second fisticuff fighting offense in a season will result in an automatic five (5) game suspension.

A third occurrence of a fisticuff fighting offense will result in a suspension for the remainder of the current season, and may result in further disciplinary action at the discretion of the Board of Directors, which could include banishment from the League for the remainder of the Player's high school eligibility.

8.4 Non-Team Officials

No more than four (4) individuals, other than players, shall be in a Member Team Player's Bench area during League games.

At least two individuals aged 19 or older (including the Head Coach, but not including any player) shall be in each Member Team's Player's Bench area at all time during League Games. All Bench personnel must be certified by USA Hockey at a minimum as a level 1 coaching certificate.

No parents, friends, relatives, or other individuals who are not a Player or Team Official shall enter the Player's Bench area, or attempt to enter any of these areas or the ice surface during a League Game.

Any Member Team violating the rules set forth in this section shall be assessed the following:

First Offense: A two (2) minute minor penalty and the game shall be stopped until the offending individual is removed from the building.

Second Offense: (same League Game): The game shall be ended and declared a forfeit.

A violation of any rule set forth in this section shall be considered a first offense and any subsequent violation of any rule in this section shall be considered a second offense for the purposes hereof. (It is not necessary that the violation be of the same type to declare the game a forfeit).

8.5 Multiple Penalties in a League Game

Any player incurring five (5) penalties of any kind in the same League Game shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

A double-minor penalty shall be counted as two (2) penalties for the purposes of this section.

Any ten (10) minute misconduct or other misconduct penalty shall be counted as one (1) penalty for the purposes of this section.

Any misconduct incurred pursuant to this section shall be applicable for the next League Game scheduled at the time the penalties were incurred. Any games scheduled after the penalties are incurred shall not be relevant for the purposes of serving any suspensions related to such misconduct. However, in the event such game(s) is scheduled after the suspension is incurred, the suspended player must sit out the first such game, in addition to the next scheduled game as of the time of the suspension.

If a team receives more than fifteen (15) penalties in a single game, the Head Coach of the team shall serve a one (1) game suspension for multiple penalties.

8.6 Notification

All game misconducts and suspensions (other than Match Penalties and Gross Misconducts) less than five games or thirty days are automatic, non-appeal able and according to USA Hockey and League Rules. No written notification other than the score sheet shall be issued.

8.7 Serving Suspension

To serve a suspension, the player must report in to the official scorekeeper who will note that player's presence on the score sheet. A player suspended pursuant to this section (not including those players suspended for a specified number of days), shall be listed on the official score sheets as a Suspended Player for any game(s) for which such player is suspended. If a suspended player is not listed on the official score sheets for a League Game, such game shall not count toward the player's suspension, regardless of whether or not the player participated in such game.

8.8 MATCH PENALTIES AND GROSS MISCONDUCTS

8.8.1 Discipline Committee

Any player, coach or team official who receives a Fisticuffs (Fighting) Penalty, Match Penalty or Gross Misconduct shall be suspended from all USA Hockey activities (including all League activities, including practices), until the Disciplinary Committee holds a hearing.

The Discipline Committee shall hold hearings pursuant to a schedule established by the Discipline Committee. No hearings shall be held other than those held pursuant to such schedule, unless a hearing is not scheduled within thirty (30) days of the date on which the match penalty or gross misconduct was incurred.

Any suspension rendered by the Discipline Committee shall be retroactive to the date of the incident. Once a decision is rendered, the Chairman of the Discipline Committee shall, within three (3) business days of the hearing, notify the Head Coach of the appropriate Member team and Southern Youth Hockey Association of any suspension imposed.

Any player, coach or team official suspended pursuant to this section shall be suspended from all League activities, including practices, until such suspension has been served in full.

8.8.2 Appeals

If a suspension is for thirty (30) days or less, it cannot be appealed.

If a suspension is for more than thirty (30) days, the appeal process is as follows:

- a) Southern Youth Appeal Committee. Appeals to this body are only allowed as to the procedure utilized by the Disciplinary Committee. Lengths of suspensions are not reviewed by Southern Youth.
- b) Except for cases involved suspensions of more than one (1) year, there shall be no further appeals.
- c) Procedures for any appeals shall be in accordance with Southern Youth and USA Hockey By-Laws and Rules and Regulations, and will be discussed on an individual basis between the Governor and the appropriate Team Representative as necessary.

8.8.3 DISPUTED CALL

8.8.3.1 Penalties that do not include a game misconduct

Referee's Judgment

In the case of any penalty that does not include a game misconduct, the referee's call stands. This is true regardless of whether the penalty is considered by some as a bad call, unfair call or an improper call.

Penalty Assessed to Wrong Player

The Governor shall not review any penalties of this type, even if video tape of the incident exists, unless it is a player's fifth (5th) penalty in the same League Game. If video exists that clearly shows that the wrong player was assessed the penalty in this instance, the Governor will review the tape upon its submission by the appropriate Member Team. In all other instances, the referee's call shall stand.

If warranted, the Governor shall make the appropriate revisions to the records and rescind the player's suspension.

If, while reviewing videotape at the request of a Member Team, the Governor sees a clear violation of the rules that would have resulted in a suspension if it had been seen or called by a referee, the Governor may assess a suspension to the offending player.

The Governor shall not review videotape for the sole purpose of passing judgment on missed or improper calls.

8.8.4 Game Misconducts and Penalties Resulting in Suspensions

Referee's Judgment

In the case of a referee's judgment, the referee's call shall stand. *There shall be no subsequent appeals to referees to change calls and the Governor shall not review penalties of this type.*

Penalty Assessed to Wrong Player

If video exists that clearly shows that the wrong player was assessed the penalty, the Governor will review the tape upon its submission by the appropriate Member Team. In all other instances, the referee's call shall stand.

If warranted, the Governor shall make the appropriate revisions to the records and rescind the player's suspension.

If, while reviewing videotape at the request of a Member Team, the Governor sees a clear violation of the rules that would have resulted in a suspension if it had been seen or called by a referee, the Governor may assess a suspension to the offending player.

The Governor shall not review videotape for the sole purpose of passing judgment on missed or improper calls.

9 COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT AND REPSONSIBILITIES

The League is very appreciative of the time, effort and dedication its coaches contribute to the program. All coaches are representatives of their respective school or district as well as the League. To ensure that all League coaches perceive their position and responsibilities in the same manner, the following code of conduct and responsibilities have been developed:

9.1 Code of Conduct

All League coaches shall:

- i. Refrain from engaging in any activities or conduct which are, or may be viewed as being, detrimental to any player, team, school or district or the League:
- ii. Conduct themselves in a positive and sportsmanlike manner at all times; and
- iii. Strive to provide a safe and positive environment at all times and promote fair play and sportsmanship among all players, coaches, referees and parents.

The following behavior by League coaches shall not be tolerated:

- i. Any type of physical, verbal or sexual abuse of a player;
- ii. Verbal or physical confrontations with other coaches, players, referees, parents or spectators; and
- iii. Excessive use of profanity.

9.2 Responsibilities

- i. All League coaches shall adhere to certification requirements established by USA Hockey or the League;
- ii. Coaches shall make efforts to continually develop their coaching skills and to learn new drills and coaching methods;
- iii. Coaches shall conduct organized practice sessions for their team during the season;
- iv. Coaches shall ensure that their players wear any and all equipment required by USA Hockey and the League for all practices and games; and
- v. Coaches shall stay abreast of all rules, policies and procedures implemented by the League and shall maintain an open line of communication with team parents and officials to ensure that they are kept informed of any and all rules, policies and procedures so implemented that may affect them.

10 REFEREES CODE OF CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

10.1 Code of Conduct

All League referees shall:

- i. Refrain from engaging in any activities or conduct, which are, or may be viewed, as being, detrimental to any player, team, school or district or League.
- ii. Conduct themselves in a positive and sportsmanlike manner at all times; and

- iii. Strive to provide a safe and positive environment at all times and promote fair play and sportsmanship among all players, coaches, referees and parents.

The following behavior by League referees shall not be tolerated:

- i. Any type of physical, verbal or sexual abuse of a player;
- ii. Verbal or physical confrontations with other coaches, players, referees, parents or spectators; and
- iii. Excessive use of profanity.

10.2 Responsibilities

- i. All League referees shall maintain proper certification as required by USA Hockey;
- ii. Referees shall be responsible for attending all League Games which they are scheduled to officiate;
- iii. Referees officiating League Games shall conduct periodic equipment checks before and during games to ensure all players are wearing the appropriate and required protective equipment; and
- iv. Referees shall stay abreast of all rules, policies and procedures implemented by the League.

11 PARENTS AND SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

All parents and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a proper, respectful and sportsmanlike manner while attending League Games. Obnoxious behavior, verbal abuse of players, coaches, referees and other spectators or the use of profanity will not be tolerated. Any parent or spectator engaging in inappropriate behavior may be asked to leave the arena. If they do not, the game will be forfeited and the proper law enforcement agency will be summoned. In the case of consistent or particularly egregious behavior, the Board of Directors may ban a parent or spectator from all League activities. Any parent or spectator so banished shall have the rights of appeal set forth hereinabove.

11.1 COMPLAINT PROCESS

- 11.1.1 Complaints regarding a player, coach, referee, parent, spectator or other individual must be made in writing to the Board of Directors. A response to such a complaint shall be provided in a prompt and appropriate manner by the Board of Directors. All written complaints shall remain on file with the League for a period of one year from the date of such complaint.

11.1.2 The following steps will be followed with respect to complaints registered with the Board of Directors pursuant here to:

First Incident During a Twelve (12) Month Period. The Board of Directors shall contact the individual involved to discuss the circumstances of the complaint. If warranted, the appropriate Code of Conduct and Responsibilities shall be re-emphasized. The Board of Directors may take other actions it deems appropriate.

Second Incident During a Twelve (12) Month Period. The appropriate individual(s) must appear before the Board of Directors to discuss the circumstances surrounding the complaint. If it is determined the allegations surrounding the second incident are valid, the Board of Directors shall take action, as it deems necessary. Such action may include termination from any and all duties involving the League and/or banishment from League events.

Third Incident During a Twelve (12) Month Period. The appropriate individual(s) must appear before the Board of Directors, or another committee designated by the Board of Directors, to discuss the circumstances surrounding the complaint. If it is determined the allegations surrounding the third incident are valid, provided the actions alleged in the first two incidents in the same twelve month period were also valid, the individual involved shall immediately be terminated from any and all duties involving the League and shall be banned from all League events. If the circumstances in either of the first two incidents were unfounded, the Board of Directors shall take action concerning the third incident, as it deems appropriate.

11.1.3 In addition to the above:

Any written complaint of physical abuse by any individual toward a coach, referee or player shall be thoroughly investigated by the Board of Directors. If the Board of Directors determines the allegation of physical abuse is valid, such individual shall be permanently terminated from any and all League duties and banned from all League events.

Written complaints of the use of excessive profanity by a coach or other team official will require the individual to appear before the Board of Directors. If the Board of Directors determines the allegations are true, such individual shall be suspended for three (3) League Games (including Playoffs, if any). If the Board of Directors receives a second written complaint regarding the use of excessive profanity within a twelve (12) month period and concludes such allegations are valid, such individual shall be terminated from all League duties.

Written complaints of the use of excessive profanity by a referee will require the referee to appear before the Board of Directors. If the Board of Directors determines the allegations are true, such referee will be ban from Officiating League games for a period of three (3) weeks. A second written complaint regarding the use of excessive

profanity within a twelve (12) month period and concludes such allegations are valid; such referee will not be permitted to officiate League Games for one (1) year.

12 PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

All players are expected to conduct themselves in a proper, respectful and sportsmanlike manner while participating in Practices, Games and other league functions. Each player and their parent or guardian is required to read and sign the USA Hockey code of conduct and GSHL Addendum.

12.1 USA Hockey Player Code of Conduct

I will not swear or use abusive language on the bench, in the rink, or at any team function.

I will not lash out at any official no matter what the call is. The coaching staff will handle all matters pertaining to officiating.

If I receive a penalty, I will skate directly to the penalty box.

I will not fight, because fighting will not be tolerated. Fighting will result in an appearance before the USA Hockey Discipline Committee.

I will not drink, smoke, chew tobacco or use any illegal substances at any team function.

I will conduct myself in a befitting manner at all facilities (ice rink, hotel, restaurant, etc) during all team functions.

I understand that any player or team official who cannot abide by these rules or violates them will be subject to further disciplinary action.

12.2 Georgia Student Hockey League Addendum:

Fighting is not tolerated in GSHL on the ice, at the rink, or at any team function. I understand the penalty for fighting is suspension for three (3) games for a first offense, five (5) games for a second offense, and suspension for the remainder of the season for a third offense, and that fighting or intentionally trying to injure another player may result in criminal charges. I will not be entitled to any refund or compensation as the result of any suspension.

13 Team Behavior

All players and coaches should consider themselves representatives of their respective high schools and GSHL. Therefore, they are expected to demonstrate honorable behavior before, during, and after all GSHL sanctioned events.

Each team is responsible for damages they may cause to any ice facility, on or off the ice. That team will be responsible for any costs incurred PLUS a fine, payable to the League, equal to the costs incurred

14 FINANCE

14.1 Non Profit Status

GSHL is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization in accordance with IRS regulations. It is funded by corporate, private, and individual sponsorship and its individual member teams.

14.2 Budget

Each year the GSHL financial officer will present all Member Teams a proposed operating budget for the upcoming season no less than 40 days before the start of the regular season.

At this point time the member teams will be notified of the budget and portion of operating income assessed to the individual teams.

The GSHL budget shall contain such items as the cost of all pre season, regular season game and playoff ice times, cost of referees, scholarships, Senior Showcase, special programs and the other fees and costs of operating and promoting GSHL as a non-profit organization.

14.3 League Fees assessed to Member Teams

The member teams have up to 15 days before the start of the season to make payment to the league their portion of the operating budget. At this time the member teams that have not paid will be placed on financial suspension. Member teams that have still not paid by the first game of the season will be placed on total suspension and not be allowed to participate in any league games until such time that they have paid. Games not played due to the team being suspended shall be forfeited and awarded to the other team.

In the event of a shortfall of funds, GSHL may make additional assessments to its member teams to cover this shortfall.

14.4 Reporting of Finances

It is the responsibility of the Director of Finance to provide a cash flow report to the Board of Directors. The Director of Finance shall provide the same report to a Member team's official representative upon request. Such reporting will be provided during the months of September through April.

A year-end cash flow report shall be distributed to the Board of Directors and member team representatives at the year-end meeting. If such a meeting is not convened this report shall be sent via e-mail before July 1 of each year.

14.5 Team Finances and Team Financial Responsibility

Each member team shall be independently responsible for their own cost of operation in addition to fees assessed by the league. Such things as individual team practice ice, individual team uniforms, player, coach and team registration fees and any other individual team expenses are the responsibility of the member team and not GSHL. It is the goal of GSHL to maintain a 'favored customer' status with all of our vendors. We must, therefore, insist that teams that have dealings with vendors that are also used by the league pay their invoices in a timely manner. If the Board of Directors is asked by a vendor to intervene in collecting past due payments, the Board of Directors reserves the right to place a team on financial suspension until such time that the invoice is paid in full.

Each member team will be responsible for accurate financial records of the team's income and expenditures. As GSHL is made up of individual teams, and these teams are a part of the GSHL non-profit umbrella, it is the right of the Board of Directors to review and audit individual member teams financial records. If so requested by the Board of Directors, member teams must provide such records within 7 days of the request. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action taken by the Board of Directors including suspension from GSHL Activities.

15 SPONSORSHIP

15.1 Member Team Sponsorships

GSHL encourages its member teams, players, parents and staff to seek sponsorship to offset their costs of operation.

Sponsorship should not be acquired from manufactures, vendors, distributors, suppliers and retailers of products or services not conducive to portraying a positive image to the high school players and students that this program is being directed at. (Examples of unacceptable sponsors: Alcohol products, Liquor stores, tobacco products, and Bail bond agents). The Sponsorship committee or the Director of Finance will have the right to review and accept all potential sponsorships.

15.2 League Sponsorships

GSHL, through the Director of Finance and the sponsorship committee, may seek sponsorships to offset the costs of operating the league. Such sponsorships will be used for the good of the league as a whole and will not be distributed to individual member teams. These funds may be used to reduce the initial team fees, but will not result in a refund or rebate of the fees paid by member teams to the league.

15.3 Reporting of Sponsorships

As GSHL is a non-profit organization, any donations made to GSHL, its member teams, or divisions must be reported to the Director of Finance for purposes of reporting such donations to the IRS. The Director of Finance will be responsible for providing donors with receipts for donations.

15.4 Individual player fees

Payments paid to member teams by players (or their parents) are not considered donations by IRS regulations, as the amount of the payment is less than the value of the goods/services provided. The Director of Finance will, on a yearly basis, determine what the monetary value of the services. Any amount over that threshold may be considered a donation. The threshold may differ for each member team.

16 GEORGIA STUDENT HOCKEY LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP

16.1 Purpose

As GSHL has in its mission the furthering of the Student/Athletes educational excellence, GSHL has established the GSHL Scholarship Trust. This trust will provide monetary scholarships to deserving student/athletes to attend accredited Colleges or Universities in the US and Canada.

16.2 Funding

The GSHL Scholarship will be funded by an assessment per rostered player per regular season game.

16.3 Eligibility

The GSHL Scholarship is open to any GSHL Player in 9th-12th grades. The Player must carry a weighted 3.00 (out of 4.00) grade point average, have been on the game roster for at least 50%+1 of their teams scheduled games, and have not been assessed a game misconduct penalty in the current season. Each application will be blind judged by a committee selected by the Board of Directors to be as unbiased as possible. The chairman will modify each application to remove names, team information, school names, or anything that may identify the applicant to the committee. This will assure that each applicant will get a fair assessment. Only complete applications will be accepted, applications with missing information will be eliminated and not returned to the applicant.

16.4 Scholarship Awards

The GSHL Scholarship consists of 4 awards per year. A \$2000.00 award to a graduating senior, a \$1000.00 award to a Junior, a \$500.00 award to a Sophomore and a \$250.00 award for a Freshman. The awards are payable to an accredited College or University in the United States or Canada.

16.5 Trustee

The Director of Finance shall act as the Trustee of the Georgia Student Hockey League Scholarship trust.