

Wyoming Valley Ice Hockey League (WVIHL)

Rules & By-Laws

Established 2015

I. Philosophy -

The WVIHL provides its participants with the opportunity to play ice hockey in a competitive but recreational environment. This program promotes the ideals of sportsmanship and physical fitness to all participants regardless of sex, race, creed or color. More important than any game are the participants and their needs. The Adult Ice Hockey program strives to bring area residents closer together through their common interest in sportsmanship, cooperation and an appreciation of the game of Hockey.

II. Sportsmanship -

A. It is expected that participants in the WVIHL exhibit good sportsmanship, which includes but is not limited to respect for the officials, teammates, opponents and facilities. The desire to win often produces a style of play contrary to the principles of sportsmanship and fair play. While winning is certainly a consideration, it is not the only consideration, nor is it the most important consideration. The WVIHL will not tolerate such a style of play that ignores sportsmanship and fair play.

Remember: It's only a game. Players must accept and realize that opponents in this recreational League are not enemies – they are competitors. The WVIHL have the authority to disqualify, suspend or remove any team member or spectator which behaves in an unsportsmanlike manner before, during or after a game.

III. Program Administration -

A. **Name** – The program will be known as the Wyoming Valley Ice Hockey League

B. **Divisions** - There will be five divisions based on the overall skill level of each team.

1. The Divisions will be designated as:

a) A division (elite caliber)

b) B division (advanced caliber)

c) C division (intermediate caliber)

d) D division (beginner caliber)

e) OTHC division (mixed skill, 35+ year old required)*

C. **Team establishments** – The WVIHL does not form teams. Team Captains and Alternate Captains are responsible to manage their respective rosters of players.

1. D division is the exception to this. Teams are determined via a draft where all teams are made to be as equal in skill level as possible.

D. **Facilities** – the Revolution Ice Centre will be used to facilitate these leagues/games.

E. **Schedule** – The WVIHL will establish the season schedule. Teams must play at the time, place, and rink specified. Every effort will be made to evenly rotate time and rinks for the teams to play.

F. **Scorekeepers/Off-Ice Officials** – The WVIHL will contract the score keepers who will be responsible for the training and scheduling of the Off-Ice Officials. They will be an extension of the League Office and have decision making powers to ensure the games run smoothly in accordance with USA Hockey rules and regulations of play.

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G. On-Ice Officials – The WVIHL will contract the services of Tom Armstrong who is responsible for the scheduling of Officials in the Wyoming Valley (Scranton/Wilkes-Barre) area.

H. Protests – no player/team is allowed to protest an on ice official's call before, during and after the game with the on ice officials. Any player/team wishing to formally protest a call can do so by submitting a letter to the league Commissioner. A hearing may be granted to a player who has been suspended for an infraction of the rules as allowed under USA Hockey guidelines. The hearing will include a disciplinary committee, which shall consist of the Rink Director, the League Commissioner, Your Team Captain and at least two impartial individuals with an on-ice official(s) if appropriate.

I. Team Captain(s) Meeting - there will be a team captain(s) meeting 2 weeks before the start of every season. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the policy and procedures of the WVIHL, make amendments where applicable, establish methods for improving the League, and determining the following seasons Captain, Alternate Captains, and Commissioners.

IV. Fees -

A. Fees are assessed by the WVIHL Board of Directors and will be established and communicated to the teams prior to the season start, at the Captains Meeting.

B. Per WVIHL, a players seasons fee must be paid or an arrangement must be in place by 1st game otherwise a player will be deemed ineligible and will be suspended until the offending player account is made current.

C. Payment options -

1. The preferred payment method is through the electronic payment link on the League Lobster registration page. This allows for maximum tracking of rostered players and payment status.

2. Credit Card payments can be made to the WVIHL via PayPal. A credit card fee may be assessed.

3. Cash/Check payments can be made to a WVIHL Board member (NOT A RINK STAFF MEMBER). All checks are to be made payable to "WVIHL".

D. Player Suspension for non-payment of fees -

1. Players who are not paid in full by the 3rd game of the season will be placed on suspension and will not be eligible for any further games, in any league, including playoffs, until payment in full is received. Playing a game after being informed of a suspension will result in a forfeit for the team being played for, with no make-up game to be scheduled. It will be the responsibility of the WVIHL to notify the respective team captain or alternate captain of a player's ineligibility due to non-payment.

V. Uniforms -

A. As a team, it will be mandatory for all players to have matching jerseys. This consists of the jerseys being of the similar color and design with at least an 8 inch contrasting number on the back. The games referee will decide whether or not a player is in compliance with this rule. Any player in violation of this rule will be given a double minor penalty for delay of game and will have to serve the penalty for the first 4 minutes of a game, placing his team on the penalty kill to start a game. Once the offending player has served the penalty they will be eligible to play for the remainder of the game. This penalty will be assessed to each member of the team who is in violation of the uniform policy.

B. There are to be no two jerseys that have the same number (#).

C. Matching hockey socks are highly recommended but are not mandatory.

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- D. The deadline for having uniforms is the end of the fourth week of a scheduled season.
- E. It is suggested that team captains carry extra jerseys for team members who may have forgotten or lost their jersey.

VI. Division of Teams -

- A. (A - League) – This division is designed to be the top caliber division of play. It is typically comprised of former professional (paid to play at any level), College Division I, junior A, etc.
- B. (B - League) – Typically comprised of former College Division III/Club, junior B, youth travel through Midget/High School, etc.
- C. (C - League) – conceptually this level is for the intermediate skill level player. Typically consists of abbreviated youth travel, in-house or youth rec league, or 5+ years adult rec league experience.
- D. (D - League) - conceptually for the more beginning skill level player (5 years or less playing experience) or over 40 years old players who have not played travel team, college, junior or professional hockey in the past. Also available to players who are rehabbing major injuries as long as the spirit of sportsmanship and fun are not compromised.

VII. Player Eligibility -

A. Rosters

1. The minimum amount of players per team is 14 (13 skaters + 1 goalie).
2. All players must be registered on-line at www.usahockey.com to obtain their individual membership registration (IMR).
3. No player will be allowed on the ice without first being registered through the WVIHL Registration link. A link will be provided prior to the start of every season.
4. Captains/Alternates are responsible for the adding/deleting of players on a given team. The League Commissioner must be notified at least 24 hours in advance before a team's next scheduled game if a player is being added.
5. Rosters will be frozen by the 3rd week of the season.
6. Prior to the start of each game, the Team Captain or Alternate will advise the Scorekeeper as to which of the rostered players are in attendance for that particular game. Captains will be required to check score sheet accuracy and sign off as such.
7. The Scorekeeper has the right to request identification of players from any team to ensure eligibility.
PENALTY: If a player is found to be ineligible, the game will be declared a forfeit with the team with the ineligible player incurring the loss. No make-up game will occur. **The forfeiting team will be fined \$375 + the cost of referees and scorekeepers, \$125, for the wasted game.** This fine will be levied to any team that forfeits a game due to not enough players or use of ineligible players, unless the situation was known and communicated to the WVIHL at least 24 hours prior to that games start.
8. Un-rostered players may not play under the name of a rostered player.
PENALTY: The Captain and the illegal player both will become ineligible for the remainder of the season.
9. All players must be at least 18+ years old in order to be rostered and eligible to play on a team. **This is a USA Hockey regulation.**
10. Players can be rostered only on one team in the division in which he/she plays.
11. In order for a player who is playing for just one team to compete in the playoffs that player must be eligible, on the team roster, and have played in at least 30% of that team's regular season games. (3 games in a 10 week regular season)

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12. It is the responsibility of the Team Captain or Alternate to keep his/her roster current. Any changes must be transacted in writing between the team Captain or Alternate and the League Commissioner. An email to the league commissioner will be sufficient.

13. Goaltenders – may be freely substituted from team to team only in the event the team's regular goalie cannot play in a regular season game. For the playoffs, Team Captains or Alternates must gain permission and acceptance from the League Commissioner and the opposing team captain in the event that their starter cannot play.

14. Substitute players (subs) are not permitted to play for any team unless the WVIHL is notified at least 24 hours before the start of game, the team that requests the use of a sub has LESS THAN 10 rostered players available for that game, AND the opposing captain is informed and agrees to allow the sub to play. A \$20 sub fee will then be assessed to the substitute player. The substitute player may not be an individual who appears on the unapproved sub list as managed by the WVIHL (A or B level players).

15. If a team is found to be in violation of any of the above guidelines a confidential, formal request is to be made to the league by the referee or the opposing team via email to info@wvihl.com. The game is still to be played and a forfeit will only be assessed by the league after the formal request is made and an investigation is done by the league. All USA Hockey rules and league disciplinary authorities will be adhered to regardless of the investigations findings.

B. Player Divisional Skill Level Adherence

1. Teams and players are to play in divisions best suited to their skill level and level of experience as described in Section VI.

2. If an opposing team finds that a particular team or player(s) is(are) in violation of this rule they are to register a formal, confidential complaint with the WVIHL via email to info@wvihl.com. The WVIHL will investigate this complaint by reviewing statistics on the games score sheet, and by attending the player/teams next scheduled game, unannounced, to determine if the complaint has merit. If the investigation concludes that the complaint is warranted a captains meeting will be called in order to review the findings of the investigation. An official warning will be issued to the offending player/team and their play for the remainder of the season will be monitored. If the offending player/team refuses to adapt their play to adhere to the skill level of the division in which they are registered, they will be asked to move to a team in a higher division (pending an available roster spot/the schedule allows it). If the offending player/team still refuses, they will be suspended without refund and will only be eligible to register in the next highest division for the following season.

3. The player/team in which the complaint has been made against will have the right to request an appeal to the WVIHL's investigation findings and will be able to meet with the division captains to discuss relieving the suspension from that division.

VIII. Rules, Regulations, and Expectations -

A. The most current USA Hockey rule book will be used and followed. A copy of the rule book can be found at USAHOCKEY.com. The following modifications shall be followed in the WVIHL.

1. OTHC and D division icing shall not take place if puck is shot into opposing end from inside any portion of the neutral zone (Blue Line Icing).

B. Fighting

1. The WVIHL will have a zero tolerance policy in regards to fighting. Any player involved in an altercation will be subject to a MINIMUM of a \$100 fine and will be suspended indefinitely until the league captains and the WVIHL board of directors come to an

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agreement as to when the offending players can return to league play. No player will be eligible to return until after the offending players participate in an in person hearing and all fines have been paid (if levied by league).

C. Zero Tolerance Policy of USA Hockey, Inc

1. (Adopted by the WVIHL)

a) *"In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, the USA Hockey Youth, Junior and Senior Councils have instructed the Officiating Program to adhere to certain points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship. This campaign is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, team officials and administrators and parents/spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey sanctioned games. Thus the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all On-Ice Referees and Linesmen"*

D. Players:

1. A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be assessed whenever a player:
 - a) Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official by using loud or abusive language.
 - b) Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including any swearing even if not directed at a particular person.
 - c) Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision.Any time a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.
2. Suspended players
 - a) When an infraction occurs that warrants a suspension to a player, the team captain will be notified either verbally with witnesses, or via email. Both are deemed acceptable forms of formal communication.
 - b) Any player who plays a game in which they are to have been suspended for will cause their team to forfeit that game. The forfeit the team incurs will be deemed the replacement for the actual suspension. No further action/additional discipline will be levied on the player for which the original offense resulted in a suspension.
 - c) If a captain knowingly plays a player that is to be serving a suspension, that captain will receive a 1 game suspension on top of their team forfeit.
3. Probation
 - a) When a player receives a suspension they will be subject to a minimum 6 month probationary period.
 - b) The probationary period will be determined by the WVIHL Board of Directors, taking into consideration the severity of the offense.
 - c) If the offending player receives another match penalty or suspension while on Probation, they will be suspended from the WVIHL for one calendar year, beginning on the date that the suspension is levied. Upon return to the WVIHL, the player will be placed on permanent probation.
 - d) Any player who receives three or more probationary violations will be evicted from the WVIHL permanently.

E. Officials:

1. Expectations for Referees

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- i. All officials must pass a minimum USA Hockey Level Two exam to be allowed to officiate in the WVIHL. It is expected that each and every official know the rule book and all that is listed therein. It is expected that a referee can keep up with the pace of play; consult your scheduler so that you are assigned to games at a level you can keep up with.
- ii. Wear a clean referee jersey with appropriate USA Hockey patches. Uniform should be clean, no tears, with black helmet, black pants.
- iii. Referees are expected to be unbiased. Fraternizing with players is frowned upon; be professional. Keep your cool and have no confrontations with anyone on the ice or in the stands. The issuance of penalties or a game ejection usually keeps things in order. When players ask a referee about a specific call or non-call, it is expected that you give the player a fair explanation. We expect our officials to maintain a sense of calm at all times & respond in a professional manner to our customers.
- iv. Manage the game and call penalties appropriately, particularly those that could result in injury. Don't let a chippy game get out of hand; stop it before it gets too rough. Use common sense if there is a fight - break it up before it happens, but not while the players are actively fighting. Wait for an opening and use your good judgment. If there is an injury, it is expected that the clock will stop until the person is removed from the ice.
- v. All penalties, suspensions and ejections need to be conveyed to the scorekeeper, who in turn will contact the head of officials or league director if it seems necessary. All USA Hockey guidelines for reporting major infractions via the "USA Hockey Officials Portal" online are to be followed. Call the off sides, positioned by the net for scoring opportunities and call the obvious penalties. Give the scores & penalties clearly to the scorer. Using Pointstreak, they have to be very precise with game reports. Remember to give the assists along with goals.
- vi. It is expected that all officials arrive at their assignments early enough to get onto the ice when it is ready and they are expected to remain on the ice until all players have left the ice.
- vii. Referees may not make any disparaging remarks, comments or other entries about the WVIHL, its owners, directors, workers, and customers (players) on any social media site, such as Facebook, Twitter etc. Such statements could be harmful to the reputation of these parties & could directly/indirectly interfere with the business of the WVIHL.

F. Spectators:

1. The game will be stopped by on-ice officials when the parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The on-ice officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:
 - a) Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
 - b) Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.

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- c) Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, player's bench, penalty box or on the ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

G. Locker Rooms & Benches:

1. Locker rooms and benches are assigned to a team by the rink staff. It is the responsibility of all team members to make sure the locker room is left the way it was when they arrived. Teams will be held responsible for any damages to the facility. Remember, these are public facilities and are used by children.
2. Any team that leaves beer cans or other garbage on their bench will receive a warning from the WVIHL board. A second offense will result in forfeiture of the preceding game, regardless of outcome. Three violations in a season will result in a suspension for the duration of the season for the entire team.

H. D Division "ICE HOG" Policy:

1. D division players are required to adhere to a shift length that will allow for all member of a team to play the same amount of ice time.
2. If a player is asked by their team captain to shorten their shift length due to them taking unfair shift lengths, that player is expected to comply. If the player does not comply, that captain will report the player to the WVIHL and the league officials.
3. The player will be asked to attend a meeting with league officials in order to address the violation of this policy.
4. Possible punishment for the violation of this policy will consist of indefinite suspension without refund, or banishment from the D level of play.

IX. Regular Season

A. Regular season generally will consist of, but is not limited to, 10 games. (this is subject to change)

1. Regular season regulation games will be played as 3, 15 minute, stop time periods
2. If tied after regulation time expires a single 5 minute running time, sudden death, 4 on 4, over time period will be played.
3. If tied after over time period expires, there will be a 3 on 3 shoot-out. If there is still no winner after the first three shooters, we will go 1 for 1 sudden-death until the game is decided. No one may shoot twice until all skaters have taken one shot.

B. Standings for each division will be determined as follows:

1. 2 points will be awarded to a game winner
2. 0 points to a loser in regulation
3. 1 point to a loser in overtime

C. Regular season standings tie breakers

1. Head-to-head win vs loss
2. Fewest Goals Against
3. Goal Differential closest to ZERO

X. Playoffs

A. Teams will be seeded in the playoffs by place they finish in the regular season divisional point standings.

B. Playoff games will follow the same format in regards to points in standings as regular season.

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1. After playoff preliminary rounds (Round Robin) are finished, teams will be re-seeded based upon playoff standings. Regular season standings will be the only tie-breaker for the playoff re-seeding of teams.
2. In all divisions if a playoff game is tied after the regulation time period, over time periods will take place.
3. Preliminary Round over time period will be a 5 minute, 5 on 5, sudden death period. If teams are still tied after this period then the game will end as a tie and each team will receive 1 point in the playoff standings.
4. Championship overtime periods will also be sudden death and will be played as;
 - a. 5 minutes, 5 on 5
 - b. then 5 minutes, 4 on 4,
 - c. then 3 on 3 until a winner is determined with no stoppages except for off sides and in the event of a penalty, at which time the non-penalized team will be awarded an immediate penalty shot to be taken by anyone on the ice at the time the penalty occurred.

2023 Board of Directors

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Anyone interested in becoming part of the board will need to submit their campaign interest via email (info@wvihl.com) to the current league commissioner no later than October 31st of the current calendar year.