



## **RULES AND REGULATIONS STATEWIDE AMATEUR HOCKEY OF FLORIDA, INC.**

### **ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP, REGISTRATION AND ROSTERS**

#### **SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP**

**A. VOTING MEMBERSHIP** - The membership of SAHOF shall be comprised of all amateur hockey teams, headquartered in Florida, seeking membership in USA Hockey, who have complied with all of the By-Laws and Rules Regulations of USA Hockey and SAHOF for payments of any required fees and tender of required information. The organization, association, hockey club, rink or other entity to which each team is affiliated must register all of the teams in their programs with USA Hockey and SAHOF to be accepted as a member team. The said organization or otherwise will be the entity with whom SAHOF corresponds. Organizations are encouraged to submit a current directory to the SAHOF Registrar prior to August 1st of each year for timely receipt of information from USA HOCKEY and SAHOF.

**B. NON-VOTING MEMBERSHIP** - Associate members shall be comprised of entities such as Leagues, Ice Rinks, Manufacturers Representatives, and the Officials Association or otherwise as may be approved by the Board of Directors. Associate members shall not be entitled to vote in the Corporation. No players or teams may register as Associate Members. The Board of Directors may set a fee for Associate Members. Individuals of such entities may serve on the Board of Directors or as Officers or in any other capacity without regard to their affiliation or employment.

#### **SECTION 2. TEAM & LEAGUE DEFINITIONS**

Teams shall be defined and classified according to the following criteria. A team shall consist of a group of players that has complied with all the By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of USA Hockey and SAHOF. Said "Team Definition" criteria shall be utilized for the SAHOF State Tournament, league creation and may be utilized as guidelines for others desiring to operate tournaments within the State (for private tournament operation, see Article V).

**A. RECREATIONAL YOUTH TEAM** - Any team not registered and certified as Tier I or Tier II is designated as a Recreational Youth Team. Teams which otherwise qualify as a Recreational Youth Team but which are composed of players mixed from different age classifications as defined by USA Hockey (see Appendix B) must register to compete at the higher age classification.

**B. COMPETITIVE YOUTH TEAM** - Any team that registers with USA Hockey as a Tier I or Tier II team and plays in a league in which all the teams therein are registering as Tier I-II teams or primarily competes against other Tier I-II teams. A PeeWee through Midget Tier I-II team (designating itself as "AA" or in the case of a sanctioned "AAA" team) is deemed competing for a National Championship and is required to participate in the USA Hockey District Playoffs after the State Tournament if it becomes the SAHOF State Champion.

**C. TIER I TEAM** -. Refer to Article XII- Tier I

**D. HIGH SCHOOL TEAM** - A team made up solely of players attending the same High School ("Pure") or a team formed prior to the first game of the High School league or division season in which they participate made up of players attending a Florida High School as a full-time student and whose High School Association/Club does not have enough players to a form a team ("Composite"). A Composite team must be formed with the "approval of" and "comply with" all of the parameters of the High School Committee with such approval granted for one (1) year only. The criteria for membership on a Composite team must be objective (for example, players from any two adjacent high schools or players within certain

adjacent zip codes). Recruitment of players from a large geographic area to form a Composite team is strictly prohibited. A Composite team will be under the supervision of the High School Committee.

**E. JUNIOR TEAM** - See USA Hockey Annual Guide for current registration procedures and team definitions.

**F. ADULT TEAM** - See USA Hockey Annual Guide for team definitions.

**G. TOURNAMENT TEAM** - A team that is formed for the limited purpose of playing in a Tournament(s) and is composed of players currently and regularly playing games on another rostered team or teams. All applications for a Tournament Team must be approved by the SAHOF Youth Committee which will limit these teams in terms of scope and time. Any Tournament Team that is deemed to be playing the equivalent of a full fall calendar schedule will be deemed an independent Tier I or Tier II team and players rostered on said team are ineligible for any other team during the same season. ALL Players rostered on a non-approved Tournament teams are ineligible for any post-season tournaments. Any Tournament team found to have violated the conditions granted from the Youth Committee may render all of the players on that team ineligible for post season play.

General Guidelines: Tournament teams will be limited to no more that 3 tournaments.

**H. ALL OTHERS** - Teams playing a "Regular Season" as a Tier I or Tier II team created in the State are required to register as Tier I or Tier II (August 1st through March 31st).

## **I. LEAGUES**

1. There are 3 travel leagues that operate within the state of Florida and are therefore exclusively under SAHOF's jurisdiction. These leagues are the SFHL, CFHL and the FAHL. SAHOF reserves the right to address all league policies, including allowing teams to play up a division, so that the leagues are administered consistent with the American Development Model (ADM). All Florida teams that participate outside of the in-state leagues remain under the jurisdiction of "SAHOF".

2. Any team that does not participate in a league under the jurisdiction of SAHOF shall be considered an independent team and are otherwise ineligible to participate in the end of the season SAHOF Championships or State Games) or advance to Tier II districts as SAHOF representatives.

3. Any non-sanctioned Tier I team will not be eligible to advance to the USAH Nationals representing SAHOF.

## **SECTION 3.VOTING MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION:**

Each amateur ice hockey team in Florida, youth through Adult, shall register with USA Hockey and SAHOF as set forth below or as additionally required by the Registrar.

### **INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION**

**1. Registration (IMR):** All individuals intending to participate on a USA Hockey team, or USA Hockey programs must register with USA Hockey online. In the event online registration is not possible a complete Individual Membership Registration" ("IMR") must be provided to the SAHOF Registrar for each "USA Hockey Annual Registration Period".

**2. Team Membership Application:** All teams intending to register as a USA Hockey participating team, whether set forth in the team definitions here of or not, shall submit to the SAHOF Registrar any & all team fees due USA Hockey and SAHOF with said team's 1-T form for any team organized during the time period of August 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>, whether it is during the regular playing Season, Spring or Summer Seasons.

**3. Team Roster (FORM 1-T):** All teams intending to register as a USA Hockey participating team, whether set forth in the team definitions hereof or not, shall submit to the SAHOF Registrar a roster of Players, coaches and managers on the USA Hockey form "1-T" for each team organized.

**4. House Teams** - Teams which play in one rink, under the management of the rink or similar body, may be defined as a House (**Rec**) Team by the Associate Registrars. If deemed house teams, the governing body for the house program needs only provide one master list of all players. Each player must be USA Hockey registered and any team fees equal to each team playing in the house organization. Individual team rosters will not be required for house teams. Players may be transferred between house teams with no additional reporting requirements. Teams playing outside of one rink or a league with independent teams will not qualify as House. If players from one house program wish to form a team to play games outside their rink for exhibition purposes or to enter tournaments, the team must submit a team roster (1-T), designated as a "tournament team followed the tournament team request procedure and pay the appropriate USA Hockey and SAHOF registration fees.

## SECTION 4. YOUTH TEAM ROSTERS

**A. PLAYERS ROSTERED ON MULTIPLE TEAMS** - All youth players may be rostered on only one Tier I or Tier II team in the same age classification or above with the following exceptions:

1. Girls'/Women may be rostered on a Girls'/Women team plus a Tier I or Tier II team. However only one can be National Bound.
2. Girls or Boys may be rostered on a High School Team plus a Tier I or Tier II team.
3. Players may appear on two Rosters within the same organization if the organization can demonstrate a need and gains approval of the Youth Committee.
4. Organizations having players rostered on multiple teams must register one of the teams as a "Rec Select" thus forgoing that team's eligibility for post season play. In the case of Mite & Squirts teams the organization must identify which team is forgoing its postseason eligibility at the beginning of the season,
5. All players appearing on more than one roster may continue to play on both teams until the end of the regular season. However the player must declare in writing to the tournament Chair by December 31 which tournament bound team he/she wishes to be eligible for at the end of the season SAHOF State Championships or Mite /Squirt State Games.
6. Any Youth player (male or Female) rostered on a Tier I or Tier II youth or girls'/women's team and a Junior Program team as of December 31, can only play for one team after December 31. If the player plays in any Junior game after December 31, he/she loses all eligibility on his/her youth team for the remainder of the season, regardless of how many games are played at the Junior level.
7. Players may participate on a Tournament Team within the provisions of Article I. Section 2. G. Tournament Teams.

Any team found to have played with a player rostered on more than one team, including non-approved tournament teams, other than the provisions outlined here will be deemed to have played with an improper roster, and can be sanctioned from participating at the SAHOF State Championships and may be subject to further discipline outlined in Article II. Section 3.

## ARTICLE II TEAM AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

### SECTION 1. RECRUITING/TAMPERING

- A. RECRUITING** - SAHOF shall endeavor to take such action as to maintain the competitive balance throughout the playing season of all USA Hockey registered youth teams in Florida. As a means of maintaining this competitive balance, SAHOF shall encourage the stability of team rosters during said season. Pursuant to the attainment of stability, it shall be a violation of these rules, regulations and policies for any person or persons to actively encourage, entice, induce, or solicit any player that has signed a letter of intent or has committed to another organization by virtue of such signed commitment OR during the period of August 1<sup>st</sup> and the day after the championship game of the USA Hockey Nationals has been played, inclusive, of each year to leave a team on which that player is rostered, to join the roster of another team in Florida to play on said team during said season. Complaints for alleged violations of this rule should be directed to the Rules and Ethics Committee of SAHOF. Organizations may not post any information on the upcoming Fall season until the day after the last game of the USAH National Championships.
- B. Tryouts-** (a) Tier I *refer to the Tier I section*. Tier II teams' tryouts may begin no earlier than May 16.

### SECTION 2. PLAYER TRANSFERS

#### A. PLAYER TRANSFER STANDARDS

It is the policy of SAHOF to minimize transfers during a season to promote organization stability and to require financial releases to promote the fiscal solvency of Member Organizations. The following rules are applicable to transfers from any Tier I or Tier II organization to another Tier I or Tier II organization. These rule shall apply to Non-National bound or SAHOF bound Rec-Select teams or Tournament teams if said teams are rostered in this manner but otherwise play a full season schedule and meet all other definitions of a team created to play a full season and are not teams established to play selected tournaments regardless of how the teams are classified by roster.

1. Player Transfers During A Season:
  - a. A player who wishes to transfer to another organization after signing a player commitment and paying any required deposit must notify the current organization of the desire to transfer and request a financial release. The player can not participate in any games with any prospective transferee organization for a period of thirty days (30 day rule) once notice of intent to transfer and request for a release is made and

given to the organization the player originally committed to even if a release is received within the ten day period below.

- b. The current organization must respond within ten (10) days of the request for a release. The current organization may assess up to a \$350 administrative fee after the player signs a written commitment to the organization **in addition to** the following amounts: (i) if the request for transfer is made prior to June 30 of the current season, all fees paid towards uniforms and equipment; (ii) if the request is made between July 1<sup>st</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup> of the current playing season, the amounts set forth in 1. b. (i) above plus the player's "pro rata share" of any team fees as defined in section 5 below; and (iii) if a request is made after December 14<sup>th</sup> of the current playing season, a player may only transfer to another organization after full payment of the amounts set forth in 1. b. (i) and (ii) plus all obligations for the entire season under the written player commitment.
  - c. A player may appeal to the Youth Committee if the current organization fails to provide a release or if the player wishes to request a waiver of the 30 day rule and the administrative fee upon a showing of "just cause"; however, under no circumstances will the player be absolved of the financial commitment to the organization for those fees incurred up to the date of the notice of intent to transfer.
2. Player Transfers Following A Season:
    - a. A player who wishes to transfer to another organization following the completion of a season shall notify the organization of the desire to transfer and request a financial release.
    - b. The organization must respond within 10 days of the request for a release. The organization may require the payment of any outstanding fees for the just completed season as a condition to providing the financial release if the organization previously filed a Notice to the SAHOF President of an unpaid organization fee (which includes a breakdown of the amounts owed) within 30 days of the end of the season including the amount of the unpaid fees and verification that the player(s) were suspended for the final regular season game plus any postseason games or tournaments as a result of the failure to pay season fees. A copy of the Notice must be provided to the player.
    - c. A player may appeal to the Youth Committee if the current organization fails to provide a release but may not be added to any roster until the Youth Council has heard the appeal.
  3. Organizations Intending To Refuse To Provide Releases Following A Season:
    - a. An organization which intends to refuse the request of any player for a financial release following the end of a season must provide a list of such player(s) to the SAHOF President within 30 days of the end of the season including the amount of the unpaid fees and verification that the player(s) were provided a copy of the Notice and that attempts to collect the amounts owed were made during the season.
    - b. An organization which fails to provide the required notice to the SAHOF President shall not refuse to grant a financial release due to unpaid fees for transfers following a season.
    - c. Any player failing to meet the obligations of their organization under this section is ineligible for any Player Development opportunities conducted by the Affiliate or the District as a representative of the Affiliate.
  4. Teams Accepting Transfer Players:
    - a. An organization accepting a transfer player from another organization shall require the player to provide a financial release signed by the prior organization or a notice from the Youth Committee authorizing the transfer.
    - b. Teams which list a player on their roster whose prior organization validly refused to provide a financial release and who did not obtain authorization of transfer from the Youth Committee are subject to sanctions under Article II Section 3.
    - c. Teams which allow a player to participate in tryouts, practices or games whose prior organization validly refused to provide a financial release and who did not obtain authorization of transfer from the Youth Committee are subject to sanctions under Article II Section 1 or Article II Section 3.
  5. Pro- Rata Share of Team Fees:
    - a. This may include a prorated amount of league fees, a prorated amount of any playing dues, comprised of any practice or games the player has participated in, and any monies needed for any tournaments that was agreed to by the player. The total amount is not to exceed the total amount of the stated dues for that organization in the written player commitment. Proration formulas must be presented to the youth committee to substantiate the amount requested by the organization to refusing to grant the financial release.

### **SECTION 3. PLAYER AND TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES**

**A. TEAM MANAGEMENT, PLAYER ELIGIBILITY** - Each team rostered with SAHOF, through its Team Manager, who is designated on the USA Hockey team registration form and USA Hockey certified player roster, shall maintain the information set forth in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, under the section entitled, "Registration-Team Membership and Registration-Team Management". Such records shall travel with the team at all times. Failure to maintain such records shall be referred to the Rules and Ethics Committee for review and appropriate action based on the circumstances.

**B. IMPROPER ROSTER** - Any team which has registered as a USA Hockey participating team, whether set forth in the team definitions hereof or not, whose roster is found to be improper for failure to comply with the requirements of the USA Hockey and SAHOF By-Laws, Rules and Regulation, or Operating Procedures, shall be declared to be an "Improper Team" and referred to the Rules and Ethics Committee for appropriate action. The Rules and Ethics Committee is empowered, in its discretion, to sanction such teams by requiring a forfeiture of some or all previous games played against other teams in league or tournament play or other standings and to prohibit the Team to play in the SAHOF State Tournament for that playing season as well as other USA Hockey events. Each organization/team and player bears the responsibility to submit a correct roster which complies with the USA Hockey and SAHOF By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and Operating Procedures. It is mandatory to clarify, clear up and obtain a ruling on any roster question or fact that may cause someone to question a roster prior to submitting a roster to USA Hockey and SAHOF or any league or prior to participation in any game, even if it is believed the question or otherwise is resolved. If there is any question about a roster, or there is any information that may cause anyone to doubt or to question a roster, the organization/team and player have an affirmative obligation to bring the matter to the attention of the USA Hockey District Registrar or SAHOF USA Hockey Associate Registrar, as may be appropriate, and obtain a ruling in writing, prior to submitting a roster but in no event later than immediately after the question or fact is known to the organization/team or player. **USA Hockey or SAHOF do not bear the responsibility to initiate the review of, nor initially review rosters, but rather it is the responsibility of the organization/team and player to submit a true and correct roster.**

The USA Hockey District Registrar or the SAHOF USA Hockey Associate Registrar, as may be appropriate or both, will review any roster question brought to their attention in accordance with all respective By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and Operating Procedures. Each organization/team and player is responsible to be familiar with and comply with all USA Hockey and SAHOF By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and Operating Procedures.

### **C. ORGANIZATION, TEAM AND PLAYER PROHIBITIONS –**

No organization, team or player shall:

1. Practice or play any game unless it is properly registered with USA Hockey and SAHOF.
2. Play any Florida team that is not a member of USA Hockey and SAHOF.
3. Participate in any game, practice, event or other activity with which a person or entity suspended by USA Hockey or SAHOF is participating or otherwise involved
4. Use any player not properly rostered to its team, and may not play any team using a player not properly rostered to the team it plays.
5. Failure of an organization or team to abide by the above rules may result in forfeiture of its league games played during which said rules are violated or other disciplinary action by the Rules and Ethics Committee as they see appropriate under the circumstances or both.

## **ARTICLE III REGISTRAR ACTIVITIES**

**SECTION 1. TEAM MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:** All teams joining SAHOF are required to submit to the SAHOF Registrar a USA Hockey Team Roster (form 1-T) before the first game played as a team, however, membership is not considered official until the required fees (if any) are received by the SAHOF Registrar and form 1-T is signed by the SAHOF Registrar.

**SECTION 2. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION:** All players and coaches participating on USA Hockey registered teams or USA Hockey programs are required to register with USA Hockey. Registration is required once each year refer to the USAH definition of the current season regardless of the number of teams or programs the member participates on.

**SECTION 3. TRAVEL PERMITS:** The SAHOF Registrar shall receive, approve and collect the fee for all requests for "Travel Permits" for International travel only. The failure to obtain the "Travel Permit" shall be referred to the Rules & Ethics Committee for a hearing and possible sanctions and fines.

**SECTION 4. TOURNAMENT APPROVAL:** The SAHOF USA Hockey Associate Registrar shall receive, approve (in conjunction with the USA Hockey District Registrar as necessary) and collect the fee for all requests for "Tournament Permits". The failure to obtain a "Tournament Permit" shall be referred to the Rules & Ethics Committee for a hearing and possible sanctions and fines.

**SECTION 5. REGISTRAR COMMUNICATIONS:** The Registrar is responsible for distributing the information and literature of USA Hockey and SAHOF (i.e. USA Hockey Annual Guide, USA Hockey Rule Book.) It is also the Registrar's responsibility to help members comply with and explain the proper Registration procedures. In this regard, the Registrar shall develop, prepare and update operating procedures pertaining to such registrations, travel permits and tournaments, subject to approval of the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**SAHOF STATE TOURNAMENTS**

**SECTION 1. GOVERNING COMMITTEES:** All SAHOF Florida State tournament competitions shall be under the control and supervision of:

**A. SAHOF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE** - Responsible for all tournaments; Mites through Midgets and High School.

**B. SAHOF HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE** – Will assist the SAHOF Tournament committee with all High School related tournaments.

**C. DEFINITION OF "STATE TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL"** - "State Tournament Official" as used hereafter means a member of the Tournament Committee, a person appointed by the Chairman of the appropriate Tournament Committee or any other Officer or Director of SAHOF.

**SECTION 2. TOURNAMENT INFORMATION:** Complete state tournament bulletins containing fee schedules, playoff structures, and methods of pairings, qualifications, rules and deadlines shall be prepared by the appropriate tournament committee, approved by the Board of Directors and distributed to all member teams as early as possible.

**SECTION 3. GENERAL TOURNAMENT RULES**

SAHOF tournament rules will be in accordance with USA Hockey rules as published in the Annual Guide.

**A. GAME RULES** - USA Hockey rules shall prevail at all SAHOF State Tournament games with any exceptions to be detailed by the State Tournament Committee or as may be set forth herein or elsewhere for "Modifications to Game Rules". The length of periods, both stop time and running time, shall be determined by the State Tournament Committee for each team level and age classification. All other game or tournament rules shall be determined by the Tournament Committee in its discretion and published before the SAHOF State Tournament.

**B. PARTICIPATION** - Any team that enters the SAHOF State Tournament shall fully participate and complete all SAHOF State Tournament games or otherwise as anticipated by the Tournament Committee. Any team not fully participating or completing a game shall forfeit all games of the tournament and shall be subject to sanction by the Tournament Committee. Such sanction may include disqualification of that organization's teams from the subsequent year's SAHOF State Tournament.

**C. ELIGIBILITY**-Any team wishing to be considered for a berth in the SAHOF Championships must:

1. Be playing in one of the recognized leagues within the state.
2. Must be playing in their appropriate age division.
3. Registered as Tier I or II, and classified as AAA, AA or A team.
4. Mite and Squirrels will be recognized registered as "Rec/Select per USAH standards.
5. Tier I teams must be sanctioned by SAHOF, and must have declared intent to participate by 10/31.
6. The tournament committee reserves the right to "invite" any team not meeting the eligibility requirements in the event such team is needed to field a division in the State Championships/State Games.
7. A player rostered on a Tier I team may not play for a Tier II team at said tournament. (exceptions to an approved tournament team roster will be considered by the tournament committee chairperson.)
8. All Teams and Players must adhere to the 10/20 rule before the commencement of the SAHOF Play-downs.

**D. INELIGIBLE PLAYER** - The playing of an ineligible player, whether questionable or not, automatically forfeits the game the player participated in. In the event that a team forfeits a game because of playing an ineligible player, such team shall automatically be disqualified from participating in the "medal round" of tournament play. Such team must continue to abide by Section 3 (C) entitled "Participation" up to the medal round. The team finishing next in line to the team which has been so disqualified shall participate in the medal round of tournament play. Each such player, team, coach, manager, and sponsoring organization (any or all) so disqualified may be subject to additional sanction or suspension by the SAHOF Tournament Committee, as it shall determine in its best judgment. Any team found to have played with a player rostered on more than one team, (including non-approved tournament teams) will be deemed to have played with an improper roster and can be sanctioned from participating at the SAHOF State Championships and State games and may be subject to further discipline outlined Section 3.

**E. PROTESTS** - Protests during the SAHOF State Tournaments must be made immediately and as soon as practical. Hearings and appeals must be conducted as soon as practical. Protests of player eligibility must be filed in writing to the Tournament Committee Chairman immediately upon knowledge of the protesting party.

Protests on an event occurring during a game must be made in writing by noting the protest on the scoresheet of that game prior to signing the scoresheet at the end of the game, with the protesting party providing the Tournament Committee Chairman or Representative with a copy immediately. No protests of judgments, rulings by referees or linesmen shall be permitted.

Protests on other matters must be filed in writing with the Tournament Committee Chairman immediately but no later than twenty-four (24) hours after completion of the game or incident under dispute. All protests will be decided by the Tournament Protest Committee appointed by the Tournament Committee Chairman and the decision of the Tournament Protest Committee shall be final unless notice of appeal is filed as set out below. Due to time constraints and the need to have an efficient tournament, decisions of the Tournament Protest Committee are final except appeals may be filed to the Tournament Chairman for final and non-appealable resolution only if the grounds are:

- (1) There is new evidence not known to the appealing party or the Tournament Protest committee prior to the original hearing with the Tournament Protest Committee or
- (2) there is no rational basis for the decision of the Tournament Protest Committee and there is sufficient time to hear a protest prior to completion of the tournament without postponement or undue disruption of the tournament.

All protests based on the interpretation of any game rules shall be construed by the Tournament Protest Committee consistent with the rules for the USAH National Tournament which SAHOF tournament rules are based upon. The Tournament Protest Committee's decision is final and non-appealable to the SAHOF Board. Any further appeals must be consistent with the procedures in the USAH Annual Guide.

**F. FORFEITS.** In the event that a team forfeits a game for any reason, such team shall automatically be disqualified from participating in the "medal round" of tournament play. Such team must continue to abide by Section 3 (C) entitled "Participation" up to the medal round. The team finishing next in line to the team which has been so disqualified shall participate in the medal round of tournament play.

#### **SECTION 4. SAHOF TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS**

**A. YOUTH DIVISION** - A youth team may participate in only one of the following club division tournaments and must declare which division it will participate in at the time the team files its tournament registration.

1. Competitive Youth Division- USA Hockey Tier I/II, Regional/National qualifying division, Tier I (AAA) and Tier II (AA). Champions of this bracket must represent Florida in the USA Hockey Regional and National tournaments.

- a. Any association or club whose team registers for the Tier I or Tier II Division tournament and fails to fully participate therein or which qualifies for the subsequent USA Hockey Regional and/or National tournaments and fails to fully participate therein may not be permitted to enter ANY team in the State Tournament at any age level in the succeeding Playing Season and shall be referred to the Tournament Committee for other appropriate sanction.
- b. In the event there is no Tier I Tournament, there will be no representative from Florida in the USA Hockey Regional and National Tournaments (Tier I) unless otherwise approved by the SAHOF Board of Directors.

2. Competitive Youth Division-Tier II (A)-(Non-National Bound) This division shall be for all competitive youth teams that are registered as Tier II and classified "A", PeeWee through Midget, provided there are at least 4 Teams in that classification. All Applicable Tier II rules still apply to PeeWee through Midget. There will be no advancement to a Regional/National tournament.

3. Recreational Youth Division - This division shall be for all Recreational Youth Teams, including any Mite & Squirt travel teams or combined house teams, if allowed by the Tournament Committee.

4. Girls/Women Division - This division shall be for all girls/women teams.

**B. HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION** - The High School Committee shall determine the State Playoff divisions for High School teams and the method for qualifying those teams for the State Championships and shall notify the Tournament Committee of such divisions for final approval.

**C. ADULT DIVISION** - The Adult Committee shall determine the State Playoff divisions for Adults and shall notify the Tournament Committee of such divisions.

### **ARTICLE V**

#### **PRIVATE TOURNAMENTS & TRAVEL PERMITS**

**SECTION 1. TOURNAMENT PERMIT:** No tournament may be held within the jurisdiction of SAHOF, without the procurement of a Tournament Permit from the Registrar (see Article III, Section 4). All tournaments must be approved by the SAHOF Registrar (and USA Hockey District Registrar, if required). Upon receipt of the Tournament Permit, the tournament personnel may promote the tournament as a USA Hockey sanctioned event.

#### **SECTION 2. PRIVATE TOURNAMENT DEFINITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

**A. DEFINITION** - A tournament is designated as any number of games with teams outside of the normal league competition and/or teams from outside of Florida; an entry fee is required; there is a playdown of games to determine a final winner in any division. All invitational tournaments qualify as a tournament.

**B. REQUIREMENTS** - Each tournament must comply with the following:

1. All players participating in such tournaments must be properly registered with USA Hockey or possess the appropriate documentation and approvals from their Hockey Federation.
2. Tournament personnel must mail a written request for a Tournament Permit along with the appropriate Tournament Permit Fee to the SAHOF State Registrar including the following: a listing of the age levels and team classifications of the anticipated participating teams, where the games are to be played and a copy of all rules and procedures of the tournament. In order to receive USA Hockey tournament sanctioning, the SAHOF Registrar may request any other documentation required by USA Hockey or SAHOF from time to time.

**ARTICLE VI  
DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

**SECTION 1. VIOLATIONS:** Violations of the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, Operating Procedures of SAHOF and/or USA Hockey constitutes conduct detrimental to hockey and makes the Player, Parent, Coach, Manager, Team, Minor Official, Referee and/or Linesman and/or sponsoring organization subject to a disciplinary action with possible suspension(s) by the SAHOF Board of Directors and/or its Committees so empowered.

**SECTION 2. NOTICE, HEARING & PROCEDURE**

**A. NOTICE & HEARING** - Normally, sanctions (other than playing rule sanctions) may be imposed only upon notice and a hearing, which is interpreted to be a reasonable opportunity to be heard. However, under certain circumstances, sanctions may be imposed without a hearing.

**B. GENERAL PROCEDURE** - The general procedure for imposition of sanctions is: Notice; a reasonable opportunity to be heard which may be formal or informal, including discussions in person, by telephone or in writing; they may also include the statements or attendance of factual witnesses and the production of documents; and a decision which normally will be in writing, setting forth the sanctions and time periods as appropriate.

**C. SANCTIONS & NO HEARING** - Sanctions may, however, be imposed without hearing:

1. Where there is no factual dispute and the sanctioned party does not request a hearing, setting out the facts supporting a factual dispute, in writing within seven (7) days of receipt of written or verbal notice of the sanctions.
2. Where the Committee determines that the conduct is such that immediate sanctions are necessary in the best interests of amateur hockey. The sanctioned party may request a hearing by motion in writing, setting out the facts and reasons supporting the need for a hearing and why immediate sanctions are not appropriate, within seven (7) days of receipt of notice of the sanctions or the sanctions shall remain in effect. If the sanctioned party provides this notice, a reasonable opportunity for a hearing shall be provided within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice or the sanctions shall be suspended until a reasonable opportunity to be heard can be provided. Where a reasonable opportunity to be heard is provided, the sanctions shall remain in effect until the hearing is conducted.
3. For Playing Rule sanctions.

**D. NOTICE TO SANCTIONING BODY** - Notice requesting a hearing shall be sent to the Chairman of the Committee imposing the sanctions.

**E. RECEIPT OF SANCTIONS GIVEN** - Receipt of written notice of sanctions will be presumed three (3) days after deposit of the written notice, preaddressed and correctly stamped in the United States mail.

**SECTION 3. MATCH AND GROSS MISCONDUCT PENALTIES** - All Match and Gross Misconduct Penalties must be reported to the appropriate Supervisor of Officials and the Disciplinary Committee Chair of SAHOF as set forth in the Match Penalty Protocol posted on the SAHOF website. SAHOF reserves the right to review all Match and Gross Hearings and apply modified or supplemental discipline if deemed appropriate. The following minimum discipline that must be applied by the Disciplinary Hearing Boards for Match and Gross Misconduct penalties:

1. First offense in one season- six (6) scheduled, league games and any intervening tournament or exhibition games.
2. Second offense in one season - ten (10) scheduled, league games and any intervening tournament or exhibition games.
3. Third offense - six month suspension from all USA Hockey activities.

**SECTION 4. JURISDICTION FOR MATCH AND GROSS MISCONDUCT PENALTIES –**

Discipline resulting from Match or Gross Misconduct penalties will apply to all jurisdictions within the State of Florida and may be extended outside Florida to all USA Hockey affiliates. The effected player, coach or official may appeal to SAHOF within 7 days of the hearing that the disciplines apply only to the jurisdiction of the hearing committee.

**ARTICLE VII  
APPEALS**



**SECTION 1. APPEALS:** Appeals of any SAHOF committee decision, except the Tournament Protest Committee which is addressed herein elsewhere, may be made to the Board of Directors by the following procedure:

**A. WRITING** - Appeals for consideration by the SAHOF Board of Directors must be submitted in writing to the President of SAHOF by the affected individual, member teams' organization officers and/or directors. The appeal must state the reason and basis for the appeal.

**B. FEE** - Must be accompanied by a \$50.00 Filing Fee which shall be nonrefundable. The Filing Fee, if paid by check, must be a "cashier's check". Any stop payment will be considered conduct detrimental to hockey or a fee not paid for purposes of suspension.

**C. DEADLINE** - Must be received by the President of SAHOF within ten (10) calendar days of the Committee decision.

**D. WRITTEN SUBMISSION** - Must complete and submit to the President of SAHOF an "Appeal Form" within ten (10) days of submitting the appeal.

**E. APPEAL PRESENTATION** - Individuals, member team officers, and/or directors and persons with knowledge, must appear before the SAHOF Board of Directors at the time and place specified by the Board and present the appeal. Nonappearance is sufficient reason for denial of the appeal.

**F. DECISIONS** - Decisions of the Board of Directors will generally be given to the individual, member team officer and/or directors within 7 calendar days after the appeal presentation. All decisions of the Board of Directors are final.

## **ARTICLE VIII OFFICIALS**

**SECTION 1. REGISTRATION:** All Officials within the State must be duly registered and fall under the jurisdiction of the SAHOF Supervisor of Officials.

## **ARTICLE IX NON-RESIDENT LEAGUE PLAY WITHIN SAHOF JURISDICTION**

**SECTION 1. NON-RESIDENT LEAGUE PLAY:** All non-resident teams participating regularly in league play, which occurs within the jurisdiction of SAHOF, must become a member of SAHOF.

**A.** All Florida teams that participate outside of the in-state leagues remain under the jurisdiction of "SAHOF".

## **ARTICLE X SPRING OR SUMMER HOCKEY**

**SECTION 1. DEFINITION:** The period from the end of the SAHOF State Championships through August 31st of the same calendar year is considered the Spring or Summer hockey season. All applicable SAHOF By-Laws, Rules and Regulations are in effect with the following exceptions:

**A. SPRING/SUMMER TEAMS** – No organization or association may advertise or solicit players for these teams prior to January 1 of the Spring/Summer Season. No organization or association may conduct team tryouts, clinics, skates, or other team related activities and no deposits for placement on any team may be collected until after the last game played at the SAHOF State Championships. Any players that are on existing Regular Playing Season teams that are still District and/or National Bound after the SAHOF State Championships must get permission from their coach to participate.

**B. RECRUITING/SANCTIONS.** – SAHOF endeavors to maintain the stability of all Regular Playing Season teams and considers Spring / Summer Teams a potential distraction to that end. Any organization or association that violates the rules regarding the formation of Spring / Summer Teams will be referred to the SAHOF Rules and Ethics Committee for appropriate sanctions. (See Article II, Section 1. A. above)

## **ARTICLE XI YOUTH HOCKEY COACHES**

**SECTION 1. COACHING CERTIFICATION:**

**A. MINIMAL CERTIFICATION REQUIRED** - All youth age classification coaches in the State of Florida must be minimally certified in accordance with the guidelines established by USA Hockey. All coaches must meet USA Hockey guidelines for coaching level by 12/31, failure to meet these guidelines can result in that coaches being prohibited from being on the bench for any games until those guidelines have been met.

1. **Lack of Certification or Waiver** - Any coach who fails to request a waiver of minimal coaching certification may be automatically excluded from all USA Hockey activities or teams by the SAHOF USA Hockey Associate Coach-In-Chief or the SAHOF Board upon written or verbal, formal or informal notice, to said Coach, until such time as the coach submits a written request for a waiver as stated above. Any coach who fails to abide by such notice to refrain from coaching shall be referred to the Rules & Ethics Committee for additional sanction. Any coach who has been refused a waiver shall not be permitted to coach youth hockey in the State of Florida. Organizations allowing coaches without

certification or a waiver to coach shall be referred to the Rules and Ethics Committee for sanction. Participants possessing knowledge of coaches who are not certified or who have not obtained a waiver are advised to notify the Coach-in- Chief.

**SECTION 2. COACHING ETHICS CODE AGREEMENT:** Each youth, High School, or Junior coach in the State of Florida is required to read USA Hockey's Coaching Ethics Code by obtaining a copy from USA Hockey, is advised of their obligation to be familiar with this Ethics Code, as it may be amended, and that lack of awareness or misunderstanding of an ethical standard is not itself a defense to a charge of unethical conduct.

**SECTION 3. SANCTION AVOIDANCE BY COACH:** A coach who allows a Player who has been suspended by virtue of a gross or match misconduct penalty, to dress or play or participate in practice or games shall be automatically suspended from any further games until a hearing has been scheduled by the Suspension Committee. A coach who allows a Player who has been suspended by virtue of a game misconduct pursuant to Article XIII hereof to play in a game in which the suspension was to be served or fabricates a "scheduled game" to avoid serving the suspension shall be automatically suspended from any further games until a hearing has been scheduled by the Suspension Committee. A reasonable opportunity to be heard shall be provided within thirty (30) days after the incident by the Suspension Committee or failing the scheduling of a hearing after said thirty (30) days, the Coach shall be automatically reinstated.

**SECTION 4. COACHING SCREENING:** All Coaches must be screened according to USA Hockey standards by 12/31 of the current season.

**SECTION 5. FIRST AID/CPR TRAINING:** It is strongly recommended that at least one official from each team receive appropriate training in first aid and CPR.

## **ARTICLE XII TIER I**

Tier I is the highest form of competitive youth hockey as recognized by USA Hockey. Any team desiring Tier I or AAA status must obtain sanctioning from SAHOF, and provide to SAHOF a Notice of Intent to form a Tier I team prior to conducting any tryouts. Any team or association that actively solicits players, advertises for players, or promotes a program for a prospective Tier I team must abide by all Rules and Regulations set forth herein regarding recruiting. Any team or association that actively solicits players, advertises for players, or promotes a program for a prospective Tier I team must register that team after tryouts as a Tier I team or must apply to SAHOF to request a change in the teams USA Hockey Classification before the registration of that team with USA Hockey. In considering a request to change a team's classification, SAHOF will take into account the team's player and coaching roster, the team's practice schedule, the traveling distance of rostered players to the team's home rink, the team's league schedule and competition, and team's prospective tournament schedule before permitting the change in classification. Any team or organization that fails to abide by these rules will be deemed ineligible for advancement to District playoffs at any level.

### **SECTION 1. Definition:**

- Tier I teams are any teams that advertise themselves as such for tryouts, to recruit, entice or in any way to give the appearance of being a Tier I.
  - Tier I teams have open tryouts with no geographic boundaries with the intent on playing at the highest level possible.
  - Any team who's roster has more than 3 skaters that do not permanently reside within 60 miles of the home rink.
- Permanent residence will be defined as players school address. Home rink will be defined as the one rink where the team practices and plays games at.

### **SECTION 2. TIER I COMMITTEE:**

The SAHOF President will establish a Tier I Committee and Chairperson (pursuant to SAHOF Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1) that will be responsible to oversee and direct all matters pertaining to Tier I Hockey within the affiliate subject to the SAHOF Board of Directors. A representative from each approved Organization/Teams shall have the opportunity to sit on the Tier I Committee as a non-voting member.

### **SECTION 3. SAHOF:**

It is the intent of the Statewide Amateur Hockey Association of Florida that Tier I teams will be competitive and restricted by the affiliate to promote the highest level of play and player development. SAHOF, an Affiliate of USA Hockey, shall be the sole governing body to grant Tier I status to Member Associations within the geographical boundaries of the Statewide Amateur Hockey Association of Florida.

### **SECTION 4. AGE CLASSIFICATIONS:**

Tier I status will not be granted or allowed within SAHOF in the Mite and Squirt age classifications. The Tier I classification shall be restricted to those age groups which can be National Tournament bound. Each age classification

can have two levels (ex. Major and Minor). There will be a goalie exception for minor team's rostering a second year player. The 7 age classifications levels are:

- (a) Peewee Minor (11 and under) & (b) Peewee Major (11 and 12 under)
- (c) Bantam Minor (13 and under) & (d) Bantam Major (13 and 14 under)
- (e) U16 Minor (15 and under) & (f) U16 Major (15 and 16 under)
- (g) U18 (17 and 18 under)

#### **SECTION 5. GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING NUMBER OF TEAMS:**

To safeguard the integrity of Tier I and maintain the competitive level of play with the most competitive players in the Affiliate, SAHOF will limit the number of Tier I teams

formed at each age classification. The guidelines shall include:

- (a) A maximum of 3 Tier I teams at any particular age classification level can be granted within the affiliate, but not required.
- (b) No Tier 1 team will be permitted to represent SAHOF at Districts or Nationals without approval of the Tier I Committee.
- (c) Teams must submit request for Tier I status the day after completion of USAH Nationals.
- (d) Teams will be notified of the final decision ten days after completion of USAH Nationals
- (e) Independent teams will not be granted Tier I status.
- (f) Organizations/Teams requesting Tier I status must be able to field a minimum of 3 teams at any of the 7 Tier I age group classification levels.
- (g) Strength of youth hockey programs with in home rink of applicant.
- (h) Home rink and applicant must be in good standing with SAHOF.

#### **SECTION 6. APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Existing and New Tier I applicants must submit the following to the Tier I Committee Chairperson no later than the day after the day after completion of USAH Nationals:

- A proposed not binding schedule for the upcoming season and if affiliated with a league, provide the league identity and the participating associations within the league.
- A list of Officers and or Directors of the Organization.
- The number of Tier I Teams planned at each age level.
- Names of Coaches for each planned team and proof that each coach has obtained or has the ability and will obtain the appropriate Coaching Certification level by September 1st.
- Structure and format of the try-out and player selection process.
- Parent informational sheet that includes cost of playing for the Organization/Team, fund raising requirements, approximate number of games and practices, amount of travel in and out of State, and rules of the Organization/Team.

#### **SECTION 7. STATUS:**

Tier I status is subject to annual review and approval by the SAHOF Tier I Committee. After acceptance, every Tier I Organization/Teams approved by the Committee shall have the opportunity for a representative to sit on the Tier I Committee as a non-voting member for the playing season and their term will expire at the end of the playing season the day after the completion of USAH Nationals. Once an approval for a Tier I Team, that Team will not be permitted to change its USAH registration to Tier II. Organizations/Teams will be notified of application status no later than ten days after the completion of USAH Nationals.

#### **SECTION 8. TRYOUTS:**

- (a) Tier I tryouts can not be conducted until Tier I status is approved and must be completed by May 16th. Tier I tryouts can not be conducted after May 16th.
- (b) Tier II tryouts can not be conducted before May 12th.
- (c) Tier I teams are subject to the same recruiting restrictions that apply to all youth teams. See SAHOF Rules Article 2, Section 1.
- (d) Organizations/Teams can not advertise Tier I tryout dates until Tier I status has been granted by Tier I Committee.
- (e) Tryouts must be open to all players.
- (f) Teams can select a roster up to twenty (20) players (no more than 18 skaters).
- (g) All Tier I coaches and players will sign commitment letters.

#### **SECTION 9. PLAYER:**

(a) Once a Player is selected and signs a commitment letter to play for a Tier I Team that commitment is made for the entire season by the Player. If the Player chooses to leave the Tier I Team, the Player retains his or her Tier I status unless said player returns to his or her Tier II community based program/home rink and approval by SAHOF Youth Council.

(b) Any Player who participates in more than 10 league games or 3 tournaments with a Tier I officially certified Team that

Player will be ineligible for Tier II SAHOF State playoffs, SE Districts, and USA Nationals unless approved by Youth Council. Player can skate in a practice/scrimmage game with a Tier I Team within their Organization or Home Rink. The Tier I Team the player purposes to skate/play with must receive written permission from said player's current team. The player must inform its current Organization of its reason for wanting to skate with the Tier I Team. If it is for an unofficial "tryout" that must be disclosed to the player's current team when asking for permission to skate with the Tier I Team. If permission is denied the player is not to skate or the Tier I Team could be sanctioned with recruiting violations.

(c) No Player shall be solicited about the possibility of playing Tier I Hockey before the end of USAH Youth Nationals except by the players current Tier I Organization/Team.

(d) No Tier I Player is to initiate contact with another Tier I Organization during the current season before the end of USAH Youth Nationals. The contacted Tier I Organization/Team is limited to inform the player of the date when contact is permitted. No other communication may take place. Once Player receives Release the said Player may contact Tier I Teams.

#### **SECTION 10. COACHES:**

(a) Tier I Coaches shall not solicit any player about the possibility of playing Tier I Hockey before the end of USAH Youth Nationals except their current Tier I Players.

(b) If a Player contacts a Tier I Coach during the current season before the end of USAH Youth Nationals, the Coach is limited to advise that player of the date when contact is permitted. No other communication may take place. Once a Player shows proof of Release a Tier I Coach may then contact Player.

#### **SECTION 11. SEASON:**

The Tier I season will start on August 1st and end on the day after the completion of USAH Nationals.

### **ARTICLE XIII PLAYING RULES**

**SECTION 1. USA HOCKEY RULES:** SAHOF shall follow the Official Playing Rules of USA Hockey. Any exceptions or additions to these Playing Rules must be approved by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 2. MODIFICATIONS:** USA Hockey Playing Rules are modified as follows:

**A. FISTICUFFS/RULE 613** - The SAHOF Supervisor of Officials shall advise State of Florida Officials to strictly enforce USA Hockey Rule 613.

**B. GAME SUSPENSIONS** – If a player has received game suspension(s), they may only be served in games played (forfeits or scheduled games not played does not constitute a game played) by the team on which the penalty was incurred. For Tier II teams, the games must meet the SAHOF definition of a game.

**C. DEFINITION OF A GAME** – (to count towards the Tier I or II, 10/20 rule qualification for District/National Championship competition and game suspensions). A game is a scheduled match play against another team which is registered with SAHOF of the same team definitional level and officiated by USA Hockey Officials which includes a dated and signed scoresheet, by the Officials, Scorekeeper and Coaches of the respective teams. A non-league game is determined scheduled if it has been planned by both teams on their records, ice allocated and referees confirmed before the assessment of the game misconduct suspension. Whether a non-league game is deemed scheduled before the next league game shall be determined by appropriate league personnel. League Personnel decisions shall be final." The actual playing time must be at least 50 minutes in duration, must be officiated by USA Hockey Certified officials, must be played between teams of the same age (For example, Pee Wee vs. Pee Wee –except Girls/Women/s teams under the age of 19 ( and the game needed to be previously scheduled."

The foregoing Rules and Regulations of the Statewide Amateur Hockey of Florida, Inc., were adopted and approved by the Board of Directors thereof, on Sept 7, 2002, and modified as of May 2010, notice being given and a quorum present.

The President and Secretary of SAHOF hereby certify the foregoing as of the dates below written.

Statewide Amateur Hockey of Florida, Inc.

By: Bobby Burg

Print Name & Title Below:

Bobby Burg, President

By: Linda Walsh

Print Name & Title Below:

Linda Walsh, Secretary

Date: May 22, 2010