

**Lake Shore Hockey League
By-Laws**



May 15, 2005

Table of Contents

ARTICLE I -	Name	3
ARTICLE II -	Objectives	3
ARTICLE III -	Membership	3
ARTICLE IV -	Government	5
ARTICLE V -	Organization and Committees	5
ARTICLE VI -	Meetings	6
ARTICLE VII -	Player Eligibility	7
ARTICLE VIII -	Disciplinary Proceedings	8
ARTICLE IX -	Disposition of Assets	9
ARTICLE X -	Fiscal Year	9
ARTICLE XI -	Amendments	10
	Approval Signatures	12

Lake Shore Hockey League By-Laws

ARTICLE I – Name

This organization shall be known as the Lake Shore Interscholastic Hockey League, hereafter referred to as the League.

ARTICLE II – Objectives

- A.** To instill in all persons who represent the League the ideas of good sportsmanship, honesty, courage and reverence.
- B.** To assist in organizing and maintaining hockey clubs on the high school level which are members of the League.
- C.** To promote and support high school hockey.
- D.** The objectives will be achieved by providing supervised competitive athletic games. The League shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary, and the molding of future men or women shall be of prime importance.

ARTICLE III – Membership

The membership of the League shall be constituted as follows:

Section I – Club Membership

Any Club which maintains a high school level team which is an approved institution under constitution and by-laws of the League and USA Hockey is eligible for membership in the League and will be admitted upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the Board.

Factors to be considered by the Board in admitting a high school club to League membership are the ability of the club to support the organization.

Membership continuation and renewal is granted to all Member Clubs providing that they fulfill their obligations to the League and that they remain in good standing.

Section II – Member Clubs

Member Clubs are:

1. Cathedral Prep Ramblers
2. Harborcreek Huskies Hockey
3. Jamestown
4. Meadville Bulldog Hockey
5. Fort Le Boeuf Bisons
6. Fairview Tigers
7. Mercyhurst Prep Lakers
8. Fredonia

Section III – Teams

A. Varsity Teams – Varsity Teams shall be classified as either AAA, AA, or A by school size in accordance with Tri-State Area Hockey Association (TAHA) and the Western Pennsylvania Playoff Committee guidelines. Teams may elect to play in a larger school size bracket; however, they may not elect to play in a smaller school size bracket.

B. Junior Varsity Teams – Member Clubs may also field teams to compete in junior varsity play. The Board will sanction combined teams representing more than one high school in appropriate circumstances.

Junior Varsity eligibility shall be limited to those players in the eleventh (11th) grade (limited to 3 per game) or lower, or players in the twelfth (12th) grade granted permission to play by the Board upon recommendation of the Special Eligibility Committee selected by the President.

C. Freshman Teams – Member Clubs may field teams to compete in freshman play. The Board will sanction combined teams representing one than one high school in appropriate circumstances.

Freshman eligibility shall be limited to those players in the sixth (6th) to ninth (9th) grades or players in the tenth (10th) grade (limit of 2 players) granted permission to play by the Board upon recommendation of the Special Eligibility Committee selected by the President.

D. All-Star Team – A varsity level all-star team consisting of players on Member Club teams selected from either AAA and/or AA and consistent with player eligibility requirements for participation in the TAHA all-star competition.

E. Western Pennsylvania State Playoffs – Teams must qualify under the guidelines set by the Western Pennsylvania Playoff Committee and also is able to field a team of ten (10) players and one goalie.

ARTICLE IV – GOVERNMENT

Section I – Executive Board

The League shall be composed of one governing body known as the Executive Board (hereafter referred to as “Board”). The Board shall consist of one designated representative from each Member Club. The affairs of the League shall be governed by the Board except as hereinafter delegated to individual officers and committees or where from time to time the Board, upon an appropriate vote, chooses to so delegate its duties.

Section II – Officers

A. The Board shall elect individuals to hold one – year terms in the following offices:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

B. No two offices shall be held by the same person.

C. Unless otherwise determined by the Board or hereinafter specifically stated, the role of each officer shall encompass the traditional duties of that office.

ARTICLE V – ORGANIZATION AND COMMITTEES

Section I – Member Club Representatives

A. For purposes of exercising voting privileges on votes which may from time to time be made, each Member Club must identify a team representative who is authorized by the Member Club to sit on the Board and exercise its voting privilege.

B. It is mandatory that each Member Club Representative attend each regular and special meeting. If a Member Club Representative is unable to attend a meeting he/she is required to arrange for a replacement representative to attend in their place and represent the team on any vote which may occur during the meeting.

C. Member Clubs shall identify a Member Club Representative (including address, phone number and email address) prior to the beginning of each season.

Section II – Disciplinary Committee

- A.** The Disciplinary Committee shall be comprised of one representative of each Member Club, other than a member of the Board.
- B.** The duties of the Committee shall be to attend disciplinary hearings which will be called from time to time by the President of the Executive Board pursuant to the existing League Rules and Regulations and to determine appropriate findings and sanctions pursuant to Article VIII herein.
- C.** Member Clubs shall identify a Disciplinary Committee representative (including address, phone number and email address) prior to the beginning of each season.
- D.** The League President shall appoint one Disciplinary Committee member as Secretary of the Committee.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

Section I – Regular Meetings

- A.** The Board shall have regular meetings scheduled each month from September through May, unless otherwise stipulated by the Board.
- B. NOTICE:** The Secretary shall give notice of all monthly meetings at least seven (7) days in advance thereof to all members of the Board and all Member Club Representatives. Any form of direct actual notice will be considered sufficient.
- C.** It is mandatory that all Officers of the Board and each Member Club representative attend each regular meeting.

Section II – Elections

Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall be held in the Month of May of each calendar year.

Section III – Special Meetings

Special meetings shall be called by the Board or may be requested by a Member Club through its representative. Where possible, notice of special meetings shall be given at least one (1) week in advance.

ARTICLE VII – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Section I – Determination

Player eligibility shall be determined by the Board in accordance with the eligibility provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the League and USA Hockey which are in effect from time to time, except that:

- A. Seventh (7th) and Eighth (8th) grade eligibility rules may be waived with the prior approval of the Board. Seventh (7th) and Eighth (8th) grade players are eligible to play in junior varsity and shall retain eligibility for four (4) additional years as a varsity player.
- B. Eighth (8th) grade players are eligible to play varsity and shall retain eligibility to play four (4) more years as a varsity player provided that they do not participate in the Western Pennsylvania State Playoffs until ninth (9th) grade.
- C. Transfer from one School District to another will not prevent a player from participating on the hockey team of the high school which he/she is then attending. (See D)
- D. No player will be obligated to play on the team of the school he is attending. Players are not permitted to change teams once the season has started.
- E. Recruitment of another team's player(s) is strictly forbidden.
- F. Monetary incentives are not permitted as a means of acquiring players.

Section II – Violations

The Board shall require a team to forfeit any game in which an ineligible player has participated.

Section III – Seniors

League Protection Rule: Each senior player will be responsible for paying a \$250.00 deposit to be paid to the League themselves or through their team as a security deposit for end of the year suspensions. If the senior player incurs a suspension at the end of the year, they will forfeit their deposit, otherwise deposits will be returned after all games are completed.

ARTICLE VIII – DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

Section I – Appeal Process

- A.** Any gross misconduct or match penalty shall be reviewed automatically. The Statistician shall notify the League President of any such penalty within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the game sheet.
- B.** Additional appeals or disciplinary actions may be taken upon written request to the President at his/her discretion. Appeal requests must be made within forty eight (48) hours of the precipitating incident.
- C.** The President shall confer with the Disciplinary Committee, and at the Committee's discretion a hearing will be held in order to determine the facts surrounding the incident.
- D.** The hearing before the Disciplinary Committee shall be held within seven (7) calendar days of the review/request. At the hearing all interested persons shall have an opportunity to fully present any evidence, testimony or argument on their behalf. In addition, each interested party shall be entitled to present their suggested findings of fact and suggested sanctions for the Committee's consideration.
- E.** The hearing shall be presided over by the League President; however, he/she shall not be a voting member of the Committee unless there is a tie vote.
- F.** At the conclusion of the presentation of all evidence and argument, the Committee shall confer privately.
- G.** Subject to a majority vote, the Committee shall adopt written findings of fact as to the incident in question and determine appropriate sanctions which shall also be memorialized in writing.
- H.** Although the Committee may determine the factual findings as to a particular incident applicable to more than one person or more than one appeal, each player, coach or other individual who is subject to sanctions shall be entitled to an independent vote considering sanctions applicable only to that individual.
- I.** The hearing will not be concluded until the Committee has determined appropriate findings of fact and sanctions.
- J.** A quorum at any Disciplinary Hearing shall consist of three (3) members of the Committee.

Section II – Notice

A. The Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee shall give notice of the Disciplinary Hearing to every individual subject to possible disciplinary action, their parent(s) or guardian if applicable, the team affiliated with the individual involved c/o the team's official representative, and all on - ice officials who were working the game.

B. Notice shall be given by verbal communication or by phone conversation and shall be memorialized by a written letter mailed to the individual notified.

C. Copies of the Committee's findings and sanctions shall be mailed to every individual subject to disciplinary action, their parent(s) or guardian if applicable, the team affiliated with the individual involved c/o the team's official representative, and all on – ice officials who were working the game.

Section III – Internal Review

A. By written notice within forty-eight (48) hours of the Disciplinary Committee's determination, any individual subject to sanctions may appeal the Committee's determination to the Executive Board for review.

B. The Board may only alter the Disciplinary Committee's findings of the fact and/or its determination of the sanctions upon a finding that the Committee grossly abused its discretion.

C. The Board's review shall be subject to a majority vote.

D. A fifty (\$50.00) dollar appeal fee will be assessed to the person or team appealing. This fee will be refunded if the Board reverses or modifies the Disciplinary Committee findings or sanctions.

ARTICLE IX – DISPOSITION OF ASSETS

In the event of dissolution, any assets shall be distributed to an organization which has established appropriate exempt status as an organization which is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, contributions to which are deductible, or to a state or local government for exclusively public purposes.

ARTICLE X – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the League shall commence on May 1 and end on April 30 of the following year.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

Section I

These By-Laws or any section thereof, may be amended by the League at any regular meeting or at any special meeting called for that purpose, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board, provided that such amendment has been proposed at a Board meeting held at least fourteen (14) days prior to the vote.

Section II

Any amendment to the By-Laws shall be typed out and physically attached to the end of the existing By-Laws. The amendment will only become effective upon the dated signatures of approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the Board. Signed copies of each amendment shall be distributed to each Member Club at the time of adoption or soon thereafter.

Section III

At each annual meeting a new copy of the By-Laws will be distributed to each Member Club. The new copies will incorporate the year's previous amendments into the body of the text. An official original copy of the By-Laws and any amendments thereto shall be kept in the possession of the President.

APPROVED:

1. Cathedral Prep By: _____ (date)
2. Harborcreek By: _____ (date)
3. Jamestown By: _____ (date)
4. Meadville By: _____ (date)
5. Fort Le Boeuf By: _____ (date)
6. Fairview By: _____ (date)
7. Mercyhurst Prep By: _____ (date)
8. Fredonia By: _____ (date)