

PRINCE WILLIAM HOCKEY CLUB -- INLINE LEAGUE (PWHC-IL) RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. General League Rules

All Prince William Hockey Club-Inline League (“PWHC-IL” or “the League”) games will be played in accordance with the rules of USA Hockey InLine except where deviations from those rules have been authorized by the PWHC-IL League Board (“the Board”). The Board may modify or supplement USA Hockey InLine rules with local rules applicable to PWHC-IL games as appropriate to carry out the policy and objectives of the PWHC-IL Charter.

The Board may review and approve the rules of the PWHC-IL prior to the start of each season and will not change them during that season. The League Director or House Program Director will notify the members of the Board of meetings for reviewing rules, and will ensure that complete and current copies of the rules are distributed to the members of the Board as soon as possible following their approval for the season.

II. League Policy and Objectives

The PWHC-IL Charter says that PWHC-IL exists to maximize the opportunity for youth of all talent levels to participate in amateur in-line hockey. PWHC-IL seeks to develop each individual player’s ability to play a competitive team sport through an emphasis on sportsmanship, camaraderie, and personal development developed through participation in a team sport.

The following provisions are the policy of PWHC-IL, and are intended to support the club philosophy. The PWHC-IL Rules and Regulations shall promote the objectives and policy of both PWHC and PWHC-IL. All league coaches, players, officials, and parents should follow the spirit of these policies.

A. The relationship between PWHC and PWHC-IL

PWHC-IL is an integral part of PWHC. PWHC-IL recognizes that the best interests of its members are served by promoting the growth and vitality of both ice and inline hockey. PWHC-IL and its members should support the PWHC philosophy of “Fun, Fundamentals, and Focus on the Individual.”

B. Player playing time

PWHC-IL house program is designed to teach all players the fundamentals of hockey and team play. It is the policy of PWHC-IL that “everybody pays, everybody plays.” To this end, coaches in house program games should make every effort to ensure that all players are afforded a fair opportunity to develop their skills in all game situations. All players should be rotated through the game on an equal basis. The use of “power lines” and specialty lines are not in the spirit of recreational house program play. The house program exists to develop the skills of all players, not just a selected few. All coaches should review and be familiar with the PWHC Player Utilization Policy.

C. Team Selection

PWHC-IL organizes teams in each division with several objectives in mind. No single objective is controlling. In fact, two of these objectives may suggest opposite results. Therefore, these objectives are intended solely as a guide to the Division Committees when selecting team rosters, and they must be balanced to achieve the appropriate team selection results:

Reshuffling teams before seasons – teams will normally be completely reshuffled prior to the fall season, to enable players to experience a variety of coaches and teammates. In cases where an imbalance develops within a division between teams of unequal competitive ability, some reshuffling may be necessary to attempt to balance the teams.

Equal playing ability – teams should be as balanced as possible, in terms of competitive playing ability.

Team size – PWHC-IL seeks to provide its members with an appropriate amount of playing time for their registration fee. For that reason, teams should not be selected that include more than two lines of skaters, unless the Division Committee believes that teams with that many players would routinely be unable to field the minimum number of players necessary to commence a game.

Consistency of coaching – for the winter and spring seasons, players should normally be left on the same teams, except where necessary to balance an imbalance that has developed in preceding seasons.

Convenience to members – while it is sometimes necessary to change players from one team to another, the practice should be discouraged except when necessary to achieve other objectives.

D. Use of Players as Goalkeepers and Skaters

PWHC-IL encourages all players in the 8 and Under and 10 and Under Divisions to participate in games during each season as both a goalkeeper and as a skater. Coaches

should make every effort to expose every player to a range of positions during both practices and games. Participating in this ongoing educational process, will assist (i) the players, who will gain increased awareness of the game from being exposed to a range of positions, (ii) the teams, who will have a broader range of players from which to choose in subsequent games, and (iii) PWHC-IL, which will have a larger number of players that have been exposed to the goalkeeper position as they move up through the age divisions.

III. House Program Divisions

House program divisions shall be based on USA Hockey InLine age rules, except as provided for elsewhere in these rules and regulations. These divisions may be further broken down into the following divisions within each age group as necessary:

Competitive Division -- entry fee is per team, as determined by the Board. The team composition is determined by the coach, subject to veto by a majority vote of the Board.

Recreational Division -- entry fee is per player, as determined by the Board. The Division Committees determine the composition of the teams. The House Program Director shall resolve any dispute among members of the age division committees regarding the composition of a team. Team composition shall be subject to veto by the House Program Director or a majority vote of the Board.

Instructional Division-- entry fee is per player, as determined by the Board.

The High School Division may include both Varsity and Junior Varsity teams.

IV. House Program Team Rosters

Division Committees shall determine team rosters. Once each season begins, the Registrar/Secretary may continue to accept player registrations, but should not guarantee to players or parents that players will be placed on a team. The Registrar/Secretary should check with the Division Committees who will determine whether players will continue to be added to the division rosters. The Division Committees will make every effort to find a team for a player that registers after a season commences. A decision by a Division Committees not to accept further players into the division is subject to veto by the House Program Director.

V. Playoff Seeding and Division Standings

Playoff seeding will be based on division standings at the completion of all regular season games.

Division standings will be determined on the basis of the total points earned by each team during the regular season. Two points shall be awarded for each win and one point shall be awarded for each tie.

If two or more teams have an equal number of points, the points awarded in head-to-head competition between the tied teams will determine their final standings.

If two or more teams are still tied following review of the points awarded in head-to-head competition between the tied teams, the total goals scored against each team in head-to-head games among the tied teams will determine their final standings.

If two or more teams are still tied following review of the points awarded in head-to-head competition between the tied teams and comparison of the goals scored against each team in head-to-head games among the tied teams, the total goals scored for each team in head-to-head games among the tied teams will determine their final standings.

If two or more teams are still tied following the review of the head-to-head games, the goals scored for and goals scored against each team in head-to-head games among the tied teams, a flip of a coin will determine their final standings.

In the case of a dispute, the House Program Director will determine the final standings.

VI. Ten Goal Rule

At all house program games, a ten-goal rule is in effect. If one team attains a lead of ten goals, the official game terminates, and the score and game statistics become final. The teams may continue to play in a scrimmage if permitted by the referees, if both coaches agree, and if time permits.

VII. Inclement Weather Policy

PWHC complies with the schedule of the host facility. If the host facility is open, all scheduled PWHC house events will proceed as scheduled. Since weather conditions may vary even within the local area, PWHC expects that coaches and parents will make an independent decision regarding whether travel to the host facility is prudent. Travel coaches may need to make an independent decision regarding their team's participation in away games, keeping in mind the paramount goal of safety of PWHC members.

VIII. Protest Policy

Recognizing that a vital objective of league play is the development of concepts of sportsmanship, protests are not favored and normally may be expected to be denied except in instances of gross violations of the rules, such as the use of an ineligible player. Protests shall be handled by the House Program Director. The decision of the House Program Director may be appealed to the Board, whose decision will be final.

IX. Use of Goalkeepers That Are Not Rostered on Team

For teams in the 12 and Under, 14 and Under, or 17 and Under Division -- During games in both the regular season and the playoffs, teams may use as a goalkeeper any player that is rostered for any team in that division during the current season so long as the coaches of both teams competing in that game agree to the use of that player.

For teams in the 8 and Under or 10 and Under Division -- During both the regular season and the playoffs, teams may use as a goalkeeper only a player that is listed on that team's current season roster.

For teams in the Girls Division -- During the regular season, teams may use as a goalkeeper any player that is rostered for any team in that division during the current season so long as the coaches of both teams competing in that game agree to the use of that player. During the playoffs, teams may use as a goalkeeper any player that is on that team's current season roster or any player that has played as goalkeeper for that team in at least two games during the regular season.

X. Deviations from USA Hockey InLine Rules

The following deviations from the USA Hockey InLine *Official Rules of Inline Hockey* shall apply in PWHC-IL house program games.

A. Age Limits

Eligibility to play in house program games shall be determined by the player's birthday as of the June 30th preceding the start of the season, except in the case of the summer season, in which case, the eligibility shall be determined by the player's birthday as of the June 30th of that year.

Players who have attained the age of the next higher division as of the starting date of any season may request to play up one age division. The Division Committees of both the player's normal and the higher age division must approve the player's request before the player may be placed on a team in the higher age division. In the case of players requesting to move up from the 8U Division to the 10U Division, the Division Committees may approve the request of a player to move up regardless of the player's age so long as the player has the experience and maturity to play in the 10U Division and so long as the 10U Division Committee sees no safety issues and the player's parents agree.

All decisions regarding player's eligibility to play up shall be subject to veto by the House Program Director and the Board.

Eligibility to represent PWHC-IL on travel and tournament teams shall be determined by the age rules governing the sanctioning of that particular event. During the spring travel

season, players will be allowed to play up one division only when the Travel Program Director determines that it is in the best interest of the PWHC-IL travel program to do so.

An example would be when an additional player is needed to form a team in the higher age division, and placement of a player on the team above his or her normal age division will not cause significant harm to the player's normal age division. The decision of the Travel Program Director is subject to veto by the Board.

B. High School Division Age Limit

The High School Division may include players that are expected to be enrolled in high school within one year.

C. Girl's Division Age Limit

The Girl's Division may include girls up to 19 years of age. Coaches shall select their lines so that older girls generally play against older girls, and younger girls play against younger girls.

D. Time of Match and Running of the Clock

Notwithstanding rules 635 and 637 of the *Official Rules*, regular season games will use three 15-minute periods. During the regular season, stop time will not be used. During playoffs, the planned length of each period may be shortened to as little as 12-minutes. During playoffs, stop time will be used during the last two minutes of the final period if the teams are tied or within two goals of each other. During both the regular season and the playoffs, each teams shall begin the game defending the goals closest to its bench. During both the regular season and the playoffs, the referee should shorten the length of the final period to as little as 10 minutes if the allotted rink time is not available. In this case, the referee should notify the respective coaches before the final period begins.

E. Eight and Under Division Play

Notwithstanding Rule 201 of the *Official Rules*, and at the discretion of the House Program Director, each team in the 8 and Under Division play may be composed of five players on the playing surface, plus a goalkeeper.

Notwithstanding Section Four of the *Official Rules*, players in the eight and under division will not serve penalties in the penalty box. Instead, the offending player(s) must leave the playing surface and that player's team may substitute another player on the playing surface. The subsequent faceoff will take place in an end-zone faceoff spot of the offending team. The offending player may be returned to the game any time after the coach has explained the infraction to the player and the play has started.

F. Puck/Ball Out of Bounds

Notwithstanding Rule 629(a) of the *Official Rules*, the referee shall not stop play when the puck/ball hits any of the netting above the boards or glass unless the referee determines that the puck/ball would not return to the playing surface of its own accord.

G. High Sticking

Notwithstanding Rule 617(a) of the *Official Rules*, on rinks less than 150 feet in length, any player that carries his or her stick above the height of the shoulders shall be assessed a minor penalty or a major plus a game misconduct unless the player is in the process of passing, shooting, or clearing the puck.

H. Termination of Penalties

At the termination of penalties at rinks that have only one penalty box and that box is not located on the centerline, the offending player leaving the penalty bench shall touch the center red line with his or her skates before that player may participate in any play. Failure to follow this rule results in the stoppage of play.

I. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Participation in the traditional handshake between players and coaches of opposing teams at the conclusion of each game is mandatory in PWHC-IL. Any person refusing to participate after being reminded by one of the referees, a coach, or a member of the Board or the PWHC Executive Committee shall be subject to a game misconduct.

J. Carrying of USA Hockey InLine Member Cards

Notwithstanding Rule 502, participants in the house program are not required to have their USA Hockey InLine member cards in their possession to be eligible to play so long as their membership in PWHC-IL is current.

K. Requesting Protective Equipment Checks

Notwithstanding Rule 308(f), coaches may request a protective or dangerous equipment check in the interest of safety.

L. Coaches on Surface During Warm-Ups

Notwithstanding Rule 109(c), all house program coaches are allowed on the surface during warm-ups.

M. Failure to Field Team at Scheduled Time

In addition to Rule 635(e), if a team does not have the minimum number of skaters, registered on that team, available to start a game at 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time, the coach of the opposing team may request that a forfeit be declared. The decision on whether to declare a forfeit will be made by the House Program Director, subject to veto by the Board, and will take into account whether the team without the minimum number of players was at fault in the matter. If the team was without fault, the game should be rescheduled at a time convenient to both teams. If a forfeit is declared, the final score will be recorded as 1-0.

In deciding whether to seek a forfeit, coaches should keep in mind that PWHC-IL exists solely to facilitate the playing of inline hockey games and that, in most cases, it will be contrary to the League's purpose to declare a forfeit.

If the teams and the referees elect to commence the game, the game will count and no forfeit will be declared, even if the game begins later than 15-minutes after the scheduled starting time. This rule does not preclude the ability of the players from both teams to conduct a sanctioned scrimmage or practice, assuming that the coaches are in agreement that the time is being used as a scrimmage or practice.