

# WARREN BLUE LINE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Rev: August 10, 2009

(WBLHA)

Rules Regulations and Procedures (RRP's)

## **A     Coaches**     (Section approved 8/10/2009)

### **A-1     Selection Committee**

The Board of Directors shall appoint a selection committee and establish a salary range for each paid coaching position. This committee shall be comprised of at least three voting members of the WBLHA, including the President/Operations Manager and at least one other Board Member.

### **A-2     Soliciting Candidates**

The selection committee shall arrange to have information distributed, in the form of news releases and/or other copy for paid advertising copy, to local newspapers (dailies and weeklies) and regional hockey publications or internet sites.

### **A-3     Interview and Selection Criteria/Process**

A-3a     Candidates for paid coaching positions shall be asked to submit credentials and reference contacts in writing and prior to being interviewed. The President/Operations Manager shall schedule interviews and insure that other members of the selection committee will also make use of any WBLHA by-laws and RRP's regarding coaching criteria and selection shall be made available to all coaching candidates, paid and unpaid

A-3b     Coaches shall be selected on the basis of knowledge of hockey, ability to instruct high school age players, communications skills, style of coaching, availability to meet the schedule of the program and compensation considerations. All coaches and assistant coaches will be selected without regard to age, race, sex, nationality or religion.

A-3c     The Selection Committee will make its recommendations regarding head coaches (Director of Hockey/Varsity, JV, and Girls, if it is fairly certain in advance that those teams will be formed), salaries and any non-standard items to the Board. If the recommendation from the committee is not unanimous, members of the committee will have an opportunity to address the Board.

A-3d     The Board shall hire coaches and set salaries to be offered by an affirmative vote of more than 50% of The Board members present at the meeting who are eligible to vote on each candidate. Coaches and assistant coaches shall be hired for one or two seasons, as defined by the terms of each contract.

A-3e     Once the head coach for each team has been selected, he/she will review candidates for assistant coaches, with input from the Selection Committee if the head coach so desires, the assistant coach candidate(s) recommended by the head coach will be interviewed by the Selection Committee. That committee will make its recommendations to the Board, which will hire assistant coaches in the same manner as a head coach.

If more than one assistant coach is hired for one team, the Selection Committee shall make a recommendation and the Board shall designate one candidate as an assistant head coach. The assistant head coach shall assume the responsibilities of head coach in the event of the absence or removal of the head coach, until such time as the Board hires a new head coach.

A-3f     Coaches are subject to removal for cause, at any time, following a review by the full Board and a majority vote of all Board members eligible to vote on the matter.

### **A-4     Coaching Responsibilities**

A-4a     All coaches hired by the WBLHA shall have achieved or shall be pursuing the recommended certification for high school coaches as set forth by USA Hockey. If a coach fails to achieve a USA Hockey coaching certification as called for in the terms of his/her contract, it shall be grounds for immediate dismissal.

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WBLHA shall pay the fees for each coaches USA certification classes, as well as for USA Hockey insurance and any screening required by USA Hockey and/or AHAI. Coaches will be required to pay their own expenses for USA Hockey certification classes and all costs for USA Hockey certification beyond the Advanced Level. A coach may request that the Board consider covering some or all of the fees and expenses associated with classes, clinics or camps designed to improve his/her coaching skills. The Board however is under no obligation to approve such requests.

A-4b Subject to such rules as may be promulgated by the Board from time to time, and subject to input from the Hockey Director, the head coach of each team shall have the sole discretion in the selection of players, assignment of players to game rosters and positions, and running of his or her team.

A-4c The head coach of each team shall coordinate the disciplining of players through the Board President/Operations Manager. The head coach shall also work with the President/Operations Manager to set the practice and game schedule and to make recommendations to the Board regarding tournaments, other than the year end league tournament, Metro and State tournaments.

The responsibilities of the head coach for each team shall include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Be familiar with the rules and regulations of USA Hockey, AHAI, Metro, Metro North, and WBLHA.
2. Ensure that a rostered coach with proper credentials is on the ice at all times with the team
3. Plan a structured practice to maximize player development and ice usage.
4. Conduct practices and monitor game action with the safety of each player as his/her #1 priority.
5. Ensure that a coach remains with a seriously injured player until medical assistance arrives and that a responsible adult remains with the injured player until his/her parent/legal guardian arrives.
6. Be present at and participate in a player-parent meeting at the beginning of each season, and during the season as needed.
7. Disseminate all pertinent information to players and coaches.
8. Submit a copy of all score sheets to the President/Operations Manager as soon as possible after each game.
9. Attend WBLHA membership or Board meetings, if specifically requested by the Board.
10. Promptly notify the President/Operations Manager of any Gross or Match penalties against a player or coach, and ensure that said player or coach not attend any team activities until the appropriate disciplinary hearing(s) is held.
11. Ensure that a game misconduct penalty against any member of the team, player, or coach is served accordingly at the next scheduled game.
12. Ensure that the teams players and coaches adhere to the WBLHA Code of Conduct at all times, and work with the WBLHA to ensure that fans follow appropriate sections of that code as well.
13. Report to the President/Operations Manager any damage caused by a member(s) to any facility used by the team, as soon as that damage is discovered.
14. Only rostered players and rostered and USA Hockey certified coaches are allowed on the ice or the bench at any time. Only coaches, managers, and players are allowed in the team locker room at any time, with the only exceptions being with the specific approval of the head coach, and then with one or more of the coaches present.
15. Ensure that the bench area and locker rooms are clean and in good order following each practice and game. A coach should ensure that the locker room is secure (locked) when the team is on the ice. Whenever possible, a coach should report to the management of the rink when they come into a locker room or bench area that is noticeably damaged.

## **B** **The Team(s)** (Section approved 8/10/2009)

### **B-1** **Composition**

B-1a In all respects, teams fielded by WBLHA shall meet all the requirements by USA Hockey, AHAI and any league in which they skate.

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B-1b Players must be students attending WTHS or other school as per B-1c. Any player who ceases to be a student at WTHS—through graduation, transfer, withdrawal, expulsion, or suspension-- will also be suspended from practicing and playing, or removed from the team's roster.

B-1c The objective of WBLHA is to field "pure" teams, drawing players only from WTHS. In the event that tryouts and subsequent actions draw less than the AHAI-required minimum number of players (currently 15) required for the formation of a pure team, it will be up to the board to determine if a team will "skate short," if the WBLHA will form a combined team with another area high school, and /or at what level such a team will skate.

B-1d Playing for two different organizations is not currently allowed for Boys JV and Varsity. In the event that tryouts draw less than the minimum number of players to fill the positions on the roster, double rostering may be considered. The parameters for double rostering are as follows. First a player must register and attend a WBLHA tryout. Positions will be offered, and subsequent openings determined. No players will be cut to make room for a double rostered player. Any boys player found to be rostered on or playing for another hockey organization will be immediately removed from the roster of all WBLHA teams, with no refund of any fees paid.

B-1e The number of teams that the WBLHA can field may from time to time be limited by various factors, including, but not limited to:

1. The number of eligible students trying out.
2. Safety concerns related to a minimum standard of playing ability required of players at the high school level.
3. Availability of ice time.
4. Availability of qualified coaches
5. League / tournaments in which to enter teams.

## **B-2 Level of Play**

The first team that the WBLHA fields in any fall-winter season shall skate at the varsity level (or comparative level) in any league of tournament in which it participates. It will be up to the WBLHA Board, with input from the head coach(es), to determine at which level any additional WBLHA teams(s) will skate.

## **B-3 Rostering**

The objective of the WBLHA is to provide students at WTHS with the opportunity to play high school hockey in a manner that:

1. Involves the team life of WTHS as much as possible
2. As closely as possible conforms to the manner in which other IHSA sanctioned school teams are conducted at WTHS.

B-3a The size of any roster of WBLHA team will be determined by the head coach after try-outs and prior to the required filing date for rosters. At this time the maximum roster size for a high school team, by Metro League rules, is 30 (skaters and goalies). The maximum number of players that can be on the roster for any given high school game in the Metro League currently stands at 20.

B-3b AHAI and various leagues in Illinois allow a high school program to roster a specified number of their own players on both a varsity and JV-level team within their own organization (but not on two varsity or JV teams).

B-3c The final decision on which roster(s) a player is on, if a player is frozen on a particular roster for the season and if an eligible player moves up and down during the season is left to the sole discretion of the head varsity coach.

## **B-4 Playing Time**

As with any other high school sport, game playing time for any player on a WBLHA team is not guaranteed. The Board will strive to hire coaches that they feel will work to develop a competitive program at all levels -- one that balances the

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need for participation, a desire to reward dedication and hard work, and any factors surrounding winning or losing. In all instances, however, it will be the sole discretion of the head coach in each game to determine how much ice time each player gets. Factors to be considered will include a player's ability, "work ethic" and conduct during practices and games, and ability to take direction and work for the good of the team.

### **C     Tryouts**     (Section approved 8/10/2009)

#### **C-1     Notification**

The WBLHA will employ various ways to inform WTHS students of the date, time, location, cost, and other requirements of tryouts.

#### **C-2     Eligibility**

C-2a     All Students attending WTHS at the time tryouts are conducted are eligible to tryout for WBLHA sponsored teams. In the event that the board decides to form a combined team per Section B-1c, the board will petition other area schools for permission and students from any accepted schools will be eligible to try out for the WBLHA sponsored combined teams.

C-2b     Keeping with WBLHA's desire to provide players with a balanced high school playing experience, eligibility to tryout and play will be determined by school policy regarding academic achievement, as adapted for WBLHA and outlined in section D-2.

#### **C-3     Tryout Fees**

C-3a     A fee, primarily to cover the cost of warm up and tryout ice times will be charged to those trying out. The amount of this fee will be included in information distributed regarding tryouts.

C-3b     If required by USA Hockey or the WBLHA Board, players must complete the USA Hockey IMR (individual Membership Registration) form and pay any fee required for mandatory USA Hockey insurance. The need to pay for any insurance and complete the IMR form will be included in the information distributed prior to tryouts.

#### **C-4     Player and Parent Consent and Contract**

C-4a     Prior to skating at any WBLHA-sponsored activity, a player and parent/guardian (if the player is under 18 years old) must sign a WBLHA consent form/waiver and/or a USA Hockey Waiver of Liability Form.

C-4b     Prior to trying out for any WBLHA fall-winter team, a player and parent/guardian must have met all the requirements set forth by WTHS for athletic competition, including participation/consent form and physical exam.

C-4c     Prior to the second tryout session for any WBLHA-sponsored team, each player and parent/guardian must have signed and returned a copy of the "Player/Parent/WBLHA Contract"

#### **C-5     Length of Tryouts**

C-5a     The length and number of tryout sessions shall be included in information distributed prior to tryouts. Players should make every attempt to be at all tryout sessions, to ensure that the coaching staff has the best possible opportunity to evaluate their ability.

C-5b     While a specific number of tryout sessions will be designated prior to tryouts, the coaching staff may decide that they need more sessions to make a complete and fair evaluation of all those who tried out. Players and parents will be informed as soon as possible if this is the case.

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C-5c It will be at the sole discretion of the head varsity coach to determine if and when any "cuts" are made during tryouts.

C-5d For a number of reasons--illness, recovery from injury, family emergency, late arrival in the school district, lack of physical/WTHS permission slip -- a student attending WTHS may miss tryouts and subsequently be asked to be evaluated for consideration for being placed on a roster. Such a request must be made to the President/Operations Manager, who will confer with the head varsity coach and make his recommendation to the Board. It will be up to the Board, by a majority vote, to determine, on a case -by-case basis, if a student will be granted a post tryout evaluation. If such an evaluation is granted, it will be at the sole discretion of the head coach to determine the form, length, and final outcome of that evaluation. Players will only be added to a team roster as allowed by USA Hockey, AHAI, and Metro rules.

**D** Players (Section approved 8/10/2009)

## **D-1 Program Philosophy**

It is the objective of WBLHA to provide WTHS students with the best possible high school hockey experience. We want to develop "First Class" teams and a "First Class" program. To that end, WBLHA will strive to run its programs in a manner so as to adhere to, as closely as possible, the philosophies, rules and regulations that govern other WTHS sports team, taking into consideration the nature of high school hockey as it is currently being played in Illinois. WBLHA will strive to create a program that allows for the maximum interaction between its program/players and all students of WTHS. WBLHA believes that the best high school sports programs take into consideration first: academics, second citizenship/sportsmanship and third: participation/competition.

## **D-2 Academics**

D-2a WBLHA will comply with WTHS's current Academic Eligibility Policy. This policy is detailed in each students "Student Handbook". The policy is in two parts, covering performance for the prior semester as well as the current semester. WBLHA will receive weekly academic reports from the WTHS that indicate if a player is failing to meet academic eligibility that week as well as at the end of the semester. A player that is dropped from the team for this reason will not receive a refund of any fees and will be obligated to pay any remaining balances.

## **D-3 Citizenship/Sportsmanship**

D-3a Players on WBLHA teams are expected to demonstrate "First Class" attitudes and behavior both on and off the ice. A player who is suspended from school (in-school or out -of-school suspension), for any reason, will not be allowed to practice or play until they are back in regular classes.

D-3b The head varsity coach will establish and the WBLHA Board will approve a "dress code" for the players on all teams. Violations of that code can result in loss of playing time in the same way as not having the necessary equipment or uniform.

D-3c In addition to team rules established and distributed by the head coach, all players are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will bring credit to the organization. The following expectations are essential to the success of the organization, its team(s) and each player:

- Be in control -- WBLHA has a zero tolerance policy regarding the use of abusive language or obscene gestures -- directed at anyone -- and fighting before, during, and after WBLHA activities and games. Any penalties imposed can be in addition to any penalties that may or may not be imposed by the league and/or the school for the same conduct.

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- Be respectful -- A player's attitude has a lot to do with the attitude of the team. During practices, games, and any other WBLHA activity, the opponents, the referees, the coaches and other officials of WBLHA are to be treated with respect and their requests/rules followed.
- Be positive -- A team represents a partnership among all its members -- both players and coaches. Be supportive of and offer only constructive criticism to teammates.
- Be a good guest -- Players are expected to be on their best behavior at all rinks and any facilities where the team may be staying. Complaints from other associations or facilities about a WBLHA player or players will be dealt with accordingly, and could result in suspension or dismissal from the team, without a refund. Any damages, and the cost of repair or replace same, will be the responsibility of the parents of the players involved.

D-3d All parents/fans are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will bring credit to the organization. Any parent/fan asked to leave the facility or kicked out of the stands by the referee will be subject to additional penalties.

### D-4 Discipline

D-4a Disciplinary Committee, consisting of three members of the WBLHA Board, but not the President/Operations Manager, will be appointed, from time to time, to review all incidents involving conduct by players, coaches, parents and spectators that are brought to the Board's attention. No member of this committee can be a party to or related to a party involved in a matter being reviewed.

A player/parents code will be established prior to tryouts each season and shall be incorporated into the WBLHA RRP's. Players and their parents will be required to follow this code and will affirm this by their signature on a Player/Parent/WBLHA Contract that must be signed prior to the beginning of the second tryout session.

D-4b The President/Operations Manager will work with the coaches, players and other parties to gather information on the matter in question. The President/Operations Manager, or the head coach if the President/Operations Manager is a party or related to a party in the manner, shall present this information to the Disciplinary Committee no later than one week from the time the incident was brought to his /her or the Boards attention. Players, their parents and other parties directly involved in the matter being reviewed will have the right to address the committee. Such meetings will be conducted with decorum as befits a "First Class" organization. The Disciplinary Committee can elect to bar any party from further participation and/or to go into closed session for their deliberation or if the decorum of the proceeding is, in their opinion, lacking.

The Disciplinary Committee will decide based on a simple majority. If the committee's opinion no violation occurred or no additional penalty is required, their decision will stand. In cases where it finds that conduct detrimental to the reputation and well being of the organization has taken place, the committee will make a report, with its recommendation for action, to the full Board. The Committee has one week from the time they meet to hear information to report to the full Board.

D-4c In cases where an automatic penalty or suspension is required at the time the incident occurs, such a penalty/suspension shall remain in force until the Disciplinary Committee meets and until the full Board votes in matters that are referred to them.

Except in instances where violations require automatic disciplinary action as defined in other sections of the WBLHA's RRP's, the full Board will decide what action, if any, will be taken. The board may impose additional disciplinary action regardless of any action taken previously for the same offense by WTHS, Metro North, AHAI, or any other relevant governing body. The decision of the Board is final. No Board member who is a party to or related to a party in an incident being reviewed can vote as a member of the full Board.

D-4d WBLHA hereby adopts and will comply with WTHS's current Athletic Code of Conduct with regard to player discipline on and off the ice. The Board of Directors of WBLHA has the authority to impose the penalties specified in the Athletic Code of Conduct regardless of any action taken or not taken by WTHS Administration.

### D-5 Injury

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D-5a Players are to wear all protective equipment as required by USA Hockey, AHAI, leagues and tournaments in which a team competes and any WBLHA coach-- at all games and practices. Failure to comply will result in removal from the ice until such equipment can be acquired. Repetitive disregard of this policy will result in suspension for a game or more.

D-5b Players should immediately report all injuries, no matter how slight, to a coach. No player shall be required to play in a game or participate in portions of practice if he/she feels that such activity will prolong or aggravate an existing injury.

### **D-6 Uniforms**

D-6a Players are responsible for having enough practice equipment so that wearing game uniforms is not necessary to participate in practice.

D-6b Players are expected to keep all parts of their game uniforms clean and in good repair for games and when turned in at the end of the season. The player and his/her parent(s) are responsible for repairing or replacing, at WBLHA's discretion, any damaged or missing pieces of a game uniform.

D-6c As part of a team, players are expected to have all parts of their uniform for games. A player who loses or forgets the appropriate game jersey, socks, or other issued uniform pieces will not be eligible to play until they find or replace that part of his/her uniform.

D-6d Players who play on a WBLHA team their senior year will be able to keep both of their game jerseys. The WBLHA will give such jerseys only to seniors who end their playing career in good standing with both the team and school and are on track to graduate with their class.

### **D-7 Attendance**

D-7a Philosophy: An important part of playing high school sports is learning how to work as a team and about the benefits that can be derived by both the individual and the team when work is done in a positive and productive manner. WBLHA will try, whenever possible, to schedule games and practices so as to allow students and members of the WTHS community to attend hockey games as well as to avoid conflicts with academic, social and other extracurricular activities at WTHS. There will, however be such conflicts. It is the expectation of the WBLHA and its coaches that any player selected to a team will make every effort to attend as many practices and games as possible. Playing on a WBLHA team is a privilege that is earned and must be maintained, not a right.

Part of the high school extracurricular activity experience is learning how to balance priorities and budget time so that the requirements of homework, other school and family activities, jobs and the hockey team can be met. In the classroom, when a student is not present, an opportunity to learn is missed and that student suffers. When a player misses a practice or a game, both they and their teammates miss an opportunity to learn and improve. In all but a few instances, players will know well in advance the dates and times of practices and games. As with other high school teams, there will be penalties associated with missing mandatory team activities.

D-7b Excused Absences: Hockey at WTHS is a club sport. WTHS academic programs, IHSA-sanctioned sports and the physical well being of players come first. The following is a list of excused absences, which means that there will be no mandatory penalty in terms of missing practice or game time. Players should recognize, however, that missing a practice for any reason may limit the progress they are making in terms of individual and team skills and that coaches must take this into consideration when setting game rosters and line-ups. Frequent or a prolonged period of absences may severely limit a player's game time or his/her full time participation in practice until the head coach feels that the player has regained the necessary stamina and skill level to compete without undue concern for injury.

In all cases, whether excused or unexcused, a player must tell the head coach or his designate (who will give out a number for a 24 hour telephone answering/voicemail) as soon as he/she knows he/she will miss or be late for a practice

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or game. Calling after or just prior to a game or practice, or assuming a teammate or someone else will report the absence for you will not suffice. WTHS will not be telling WBLHA when a student is absent from school. Excused absences include but are not limited to the following:

- participation in music programs that are required as part of a for-credit class at WTHS -- such as band, marching band choir.
- participation in an out-of-class assignment for a WTHS class, such as a field trip, where the student/player has no opportunity to schedule participation at a time that doesn't conflict with the team. Players may be required to provide a signed note from the teacher to document this.
- participation in any organized and supervised meetings, practices or games for a school sanctioned IHSA sports team. Activities, such as weight lifting, that can be done at various times should be scheduled so as not to conflict with hockey practices and games.
- taking examinations required to meet entry requirements for college (ACT, SAT, AP exams, etc.)
- illness or injury that results in absence from school on the day of a game or practice. This means that a player will not play hockey that day. If a player is recovering from an illness or injury, but has attended school the day of practice or game, they are encouraged to attend games and practices as a spectator whenever possible.

The head coach of each team, in his/her sole discretion, may deem other player absences as excused based on his/her judgment. Failure to notify a coach in a timely manner, even for an excused absence, may result in that absence being considered unexcused.

D-8 Grievance Procedure

- D-8a The procedures to follow if a parent or player has concerns about a coaching policy or action are, in this order:
- The player should contact the head coach via phone or e-mail to schedule a meeting regarding the concerns. This meeting should be scheduled in advance, and the reason for the meeting should be expressly conveyed to the head coach in the request for the meeting. **If the matter remains unresolved:**
  - The parent should wait out the 24 hour "cooling off" period and then contact the team manager to arrange a meeting with the head coach.
    - It is never appropriate to approach a coach before, during, or after a practice or a game
    - If a parent approaches a coach before, during, or after a game without a scheduled meeting time, the coach is to refuse to discuss any controversial matter, refer the parent to the WBLHA Board, and to walk away from the parent.
    - The coach will not engage in discussions about other players, the actions of any other coach or about coaching strategy.
    - Meetings are to be scheduled in advance with the recommendation that the meeting be either before or immediately after a scheduled practice time. The reason for the meeting should be expressly conveyed to the head coach by the manager in the request for the meeting. **If the matter is still unresolved:**
  - The parent should speak to the team manager, the team liaison, or the President/Operations Manager and request a meeting with the head coach and the President/Operations Manager.
    - In certain situations, the board may ask the player to attend the meeting as well.
    - Meeting must be previously arranged. Meetings will not be scheduled immediately before, during or after a game.
    - The head coach and/or the President/Operations Manager will not engage in discussion about other players, the actions of any other coach, or coaching strategy.

D-8b WBLHA will not tolerate hostile, aggressive confrontations between a parent and any official, coach, player, or other parent, whether the player or parent is a member of the team or not. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action for the parent(s) involved and may result in the player being dismissed from the team with the family not being entitled to the refund of any fees paid while being obligated to pay any remaining balances.

D-8c It is inappropriate for a player or a parent to approach anyone other than WBLHA board members or the head coach about a problem the player or parent is having with a coach, about objections to coaching decisions, or about disagreements with an administrative decision.

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## **E      Fees**      (Section approved 8/10/2009)

E-1      Philosophy: WBLHA establishes fees and requires payments with the realization that players and their families come to hockey from both a wide range of economic circumstances and prior participation in the sport. The entire program is put together in a manner so as to balance practice and play, giving players the best possible high school hockey experience. Program elements can always be reduced or eliminated to reduce cost, or added that would increase cost.

The WBLHA board is always willing to listen to suggestions from any party regarding how the program can be improved. Such decisions must be made however, with cost, among many factors in mind. The goal of WBLHA is to provide a positive hockey experience for all hockey players on all teams. We strive to make financial considerations, in terms of player fees, as small determining factor as possible when it comes time for a WTHS student to decide if she/ he wants to tryout for hockey.

### **E-2      Participation Fees**

E-2a      Player participation fees will be set and publicized prior to tryouts based on the WBLHA's best estimate as to costs, other sources of income, (fundraising and admission fees) and an anticipated number of participants. In any given year and on any particular team, the final amount in terms of player's fees may be less or more than the figure estimated prior to tryouts. WBLHA requires that all players pay the greater of \$400 or 50 percent of the estimated player participation fee after her / his selection to a team and prior to going on the ice for the team's first practice following tryouts. The President/Operations Manager shall inform all player in writing what the balance of the players fee shall be and when that portion is due.

E-2b      Players are expected to pay fees in a timely manner. Fees not paid by the specified due date will result in suspension of the player from all activities until payment is made.

### **E-3      Refunds**

E-3a      There will be no automatic refund of any player participation fee. Players are selected to teams based on a good faith agreement on the part of both the player and the WBLHA that each party will honor their part of the player/parent/WBLHA contract. In most cases, players who do not make a WBLHA team had both the desire to play and ability to pay. Final participation fee amounts are established based on a set number of participants. Once AHAI and league roster deadlines pass, it will not be possible to add players to the team roster.

E-3b      A player who is suspended from the team for any reason, and for any length of time will not be entitled to or granted a refund or participation fees.

E-3c      A player who leaves the team for any reason except those detailed in E-3d, will not be entitled to or granted a refund or participation fees. This includes players who leave for academic reasons.

E-3d      In cases where a player leaves the team due to her/ his family moving out of the WTHS' school district, or a season ending illness or injury, the WBLHA board will review the circumstances and may grant a pro-rated refund of player participation fees There can be no guarantee of a refund, even under these circumstances after rosters are frozen by AHAI and the league.

E-3e      At the end of the WBLHA fiscal year, June 30, the board will review the finances of the organization to determine if, in their opinion, costs for the year were lower and/ or income from other sources (designated for the current fiscal year) was higher than anticipated, creating a situation where a partial refund of player is at the sole discretion of the WBLHA Board elected for the year the fees in question were paid.

## **F      Tournaments/ Non- League Games**      (Section approved 8/10/2009)

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## Rules Regulations and Procedures (RRP's)

### F-1 Program philosophy

The objective of the WBLHA programs is to provide player with the best possible high school hockey experience - one that approximates other sports programs at WTHS, hockey programs at other area high schools and opportunities available through club teams, as much as possible. The highest priority in terms, of practice time, coaching and available game slots will be given to preparing for league games league tournaments, and the state tournament, all of which are covered by player participation fees. There will always be opportunities to play additional tournaments and non-league games. These will be scheduled in a manner that supports player development, building a strong program over time and a desire to be competitive in league and state tournament play.

### F-2 Tournaments

F-2a Suggestions for additional tournaments can come from any source and should be directed to the President/Operations Manager, who will review the information based on the team's schedule and conversations with the head coach. Based on that review the President/Operations Manager will present tournament options to the board which will select which tournaments will be presented to team members for their input.

F-2b Tournaments will be recommended to a team base on the anticipated level of competition, location/logistics, cost and fit within both the team and school schedule. Players and their parents will vote among various opportunities if such exist, and also will indicate prior to voting if a player will be available to participate in the and/ or other tournaments. If, in the opinion of the head coach a competitive team can be fielded for an additional tournament(s), he/she and the President/Operations Manager will communicate the teams' decision(s) to the board.

F-2c The designated member(s) of the WBLHA board will facilitate entry into the payment of fees for selected tournaments. In the case of tournaments beyond those covered by player participation fees, they will also determine the pro-rated share of both the entry fee and any coaching expenses that will be charged to players rostered for the tournament. While the tournament roster may already be on file, a player will not be eligible to play until she/ he has paid their full pro-rated share of the fees and expenses.

F-2e For tournaments or games played beyond the Chicago Milwaukee metropolitan areas, the board may decide that the expense (reasonable travel and lodging) of the head coach and one assistant coach will be included in the fees/ expenses to be pro-rated among participating players. In all cases such expenses will be for the coaches alone, and must be reviewed in advance and approved afterward prior to reimbursement.