

Tech Valley Hockey League By-Laws

Article 1.

Games of the Tech Valley Hockey League (TVHL) shall be played under the rules of USA Hockey and New York State Hockey, North Section. Our Season Deadlines Document will accompany our By-Laws, prior to the start of each season.

Article 2.

On admission to the League, each TVHL non tournament bound team will pay an entrance fee of **\$190.00** to the League Treasurer. Annual assessment per team shall be set at the start of each season by the Board of Directors and shall be due by December 1st of that season to cover League operational expenses for the current year. Each organization shall write one check to TVHL to cover the entrance fee or the TVHL Rep for the organization may collect individual team checks and bring all of them directly to the TVHL Treasurer. The TVHL Treasurer will not be responsible for tracking down individual team checks. A team must be paid in full in order to participate in the TVHL Playoffs.

Article 3.

The payment of ice rental payments and referee fees shall be paid by the home team, except in Semi-Final and Championship Games- see our Playoff Rules Document for further clarification on playoff rules.

Article 4.

(a) The championship game for each division in the TVHL shall be concluded by the end of March-see Deadlines Document for more information

(b) The Regular Season of the TVHL from the 10U through the 18U divisions may begin on 8/15 and end no later than mid-February. The Regular Season of the TVHL from the 10U through the 18U divisions shall consist of a minimum of two (2) games per team up to four (4) games per team, dependent on the number of teams in each division. The maximum games to be played for the Tech Valley Hockey League shall not exceed thirty (30) games per team.

(c) The 8U component of TVHL is strictly jamborees. We do not play full-ice games, keep scores or charge for 8U teams in the league- all per USAH and ADM Rules and Regulations.

(d) TVHL games will take precedence over games of other leagues to which member teams belong except in the case of NYSAHA State Tournaments. A limit of 2 games occurring in the same day will be allowed during the season.

(e) Each team shall input their HOME game schedule to the league website prior to the determined deadline, per our game inputting instructions document. The Schedule Due Date will be determined each year by the Tech Valley Hockey League Board. Each HOME team is also responsible to input the score of the game within 48 hours- per our Score Inputting Document.

(f) Each League Game must be agreed upon by both teams and input into the TVHL website, prior to being played.

(g) Forfeit Rule: Every effort to complete all TVHL games MUST be made. No teams will agree to a forfeit unless no ice is available and every effort was made to re-schedule. All potential forfeits must be reported to the TVHL Board immediately for approval. TVHL will work with both teams to find a resolution so all games can be completed and points awarded accordingly. Cost of ice rental for weather related cancellations shall be shared by the teams. Cost of ice rental and referee fees for other cancellations (other ice issues) shall be borne by the cancelling team. If no resolution is found, the cancelling team will receive ZERO points and their opponent will receive 2 points. The score will be recorded as 1-0.

(h) Each association with 2 or more teams participating in the TVHL will be required to provide the cost of **\$40.00** (annually added to the 11/1 invoice) to cover the costs if a member of their organization forfeits a game, as determined by Article 4 (f). That money will be paid to the team that was forfeited upon as

determined by the TVHL Board. Monies not used for the purpose will be credited back to the donating association at the end of the season.

(i) Any team that drops out of the TVHL Playoffs after the opt out deadline will be required to pay the full cost of the semi-final ice and any applicable ref costs. A team that drops out to enter a tournament will be fined \$300.00 to cover the cost of ice, refs and administrative costs.

Article 5.

Substitutions for any teams for League Scheduled Games shall not be permitted. Teams scheduled must play their games. If a team fails to record league games prior to the season deadline, the standings will represent the number of games played. Games cannot be added to standings after they have been played, or after the scheduling deadline.

Article 6.

All teams shall submit a USA Hockey Roster of all eligible players to the TVHL Vice President by December 15. Failure to comply with this article may result in the offending team being dismissed from the league. Each association is required to post an updated roster on its website by December 1st. Use of any ineligible player(s) will result in a forfeit to the offending team.

Article 7.

Each Association shall submit an Association Registration Form listing all elected officers, ice coordinator and head coaches.

Article 8.

The TVHL Vice President shall be notified of any changes in the team's roster before that player may play in a League game. The TVHL Board reserves the right to approve roster changes after the frozen roster deadline.

Article 9.

Players may not be added to any team's roster or transferred to any other roster within the same Association after December 31st except with the approval of the TVHL Board of Directors.

Article 10.

A player shall not be listed on more than one team roster in the TVHL, unless the TVHL Board has approved. See Article 11 for exceptions.

Article 11.

Cross Rostering is NOT allowed. Goalies may be registered on no more than 2 TVHL rosters. Playing DOWN is not allowed. The TVHL Board may allow exceptions to cross rostering. Any game deemed to have used cross rostered players without prior TVHL Board approval will result in a 1-0 forfeit. To continue to enhance the quality of our player's experience with the TVHL league and act in the best interest of youth hockey in the Capital District, The TVHL Board has approved the following:

A team can participate in both a NYSAHA North Section Tournament Bound Division **and** a TVHL Non-Tournament Bound Division provided that the following criterion is met:

- The request is brought to the attention of the TVHL Board from the association's TVHL Rep **prior** to the start of the season
- The TVHL Board approves this request **prior** to the start of the season
- The NYSAHA North Section Tournament Bound team **MUST** be placed in the highest level of TVHL Non Tournament Bound Division

Article 12.

Games will start at the times designated in the published schedule on the TVHL website. Games roster sheets shall be turned into the timekeeper prior to the start of play. Games for 12U-18U levels shall consist of three fifteen (15) minute stop-time periods. Games for all other divisions shall consist of three twelve (12) minute stop-time periods. One (1) 30 second time out per team is allowed in all TVHL regular season games. This will override any rink rules. The maximum goal differential to be recorded for the purpose of the standings will be no more than 6 (six). If agreed by both coaches, running time may be considered in the 3rd period. Change this to the clock will run for a six goal differential or more in the third period in order to avoid running up scores and to protect the safety of the players.

Article 13.

Division age classifications shall follow those approved by USA Hockey. Playing down is not allowed.

Article 14.

Any player receiving 5 penalties in a game, shall be removed from the remainder of that game- all USAH rules apply. Any team not removing a player for the remainder of the game shall be subject to protest.

Article 14A. Any head coach whose team receives 15 or more penalties during one game shall be suspended for the next scheduled TVHL game. This may be in addition to a non-TVHL game served in accordance with USA hockey rules.

Article 14B. The TVHL will not tolerate recurrent dangerous or non-sportsmanlike behavior. The following penalties shall apply in addition to those enforced by either USA hockey or NYSAHA. In addition to the penalties listed below, TVHL deserves the right to discipline coaches or players whose behavior is deemed to be dangerous or inconsistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.

Fighting and Abuse of Official Majors

First Major – 1 game suspension

Second Major – Minimum 3 game suspension. Additional discipline may be applied based on review of TVHL Disciplinary Committee.

Third Major – Suspension from remainder of TVHL regular season and playoff season.

Article 14C. Players and coaches receiving a match penalty or more than 3 game misconduct penalties shall be reviewed by the TVHL Disciplinary Committee to determine if additional discipline is warranted.

Article 15.

Referee calls are final and are not subject to protest.

Article 16.

A coach wishing to file a protest shall file his intention on the game sheet and notify the President, the Vice President, within 48 hours to be followed up with a written report within seven (7) days accompanied by a \$100.00 Protest Fee. The fee shall be payable to TVHL and shall be returned if the protest is upheld. If the protest is not upheld, the fee shall be applied to the league. All parties involved (coaches, referees, players) shall be notified of the meeting date, time and location. Any party not able to attend the hearing may send a letter stating their case. It would be beneficial for all parties to be present. All parties will be heard separately and a decision will be made by the committee.

Article 17.

A protest of a player shall be made before the start of the first period of the game: shall require him/her to sign the game sheet in the presence of the timekeeper under the supervision of the referee and will be compared to the teams online roster. If the protest is upheld, the offending team shall forfeit the game.

Article 18.

Teams shall shake hands after the game in a show of good sportsmanship. However, at the referee's discretion, shaking of hands may be omitted to avoid any further problems on the ice.

Article 19.

Amendments to these By Laws shall be made in writing to the League Secretary and submitted to the Board of Directors at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual Board Meeting at which such amendments shall be approved or defeated by a two thirds Vote of the Board of Directors. The TVHL Board reserves the right to make exceptions to these By-Laws, as required.

Article 20.

Any amendment to the By Laws previously defeated by the Board shall not be brought before the Board for reconsideration for a minimum of two (2) years, unless a two thirds vote of the Board of Directors authorizes reconsideration. Any motion previously defeated by the Board shall not be brought before the Board for reconsideration for one calendar year, unless a two thirds vote of the Board of Directors authorizes reconsideration.

Article 21.

All meetings shall be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order. Also, Roberts Rules of Order shall be the default document, when applicable, if our Constitution or Bylaws fail to address a particular situation.

Article 22.

A Discipline Committee will be formed and be headed by the 2nd Vice President, as stated in the TVHL Constitution, as needed to settle protests and disciplinary action. If there is not a seated 2nd VP, then the 1st VP will head the committee. If there is not a seated 1st or 2nd VP, the TVHL President will head the committee. He-She will appoint 2 other members in good standing with the TVHL to form the Discipline Committee. The 2 members will NOT be a part of either team-organization involved in the dispute. This committee will perform an investigation and hold meetings as needed with the parties involved. The committee will make a FINAL decision on the matter and will file a report to the TVHL Board and the involved organization's President.

Article 23.

All TVHL teams shall have uniquely numbered home (light) and away (dark) jerseys unless otherwise approved by the TVHL Board.