RHL RULES,

GUIDELINES

AND

POLICIES

**13th Edition**

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**RHL adheres to all USA Hockey Rules and Regulations**

**RHL Specific Rules and Guidelines are contained within**

# Guidelines

## Mission Statement

The Rainier Hockey League, or RHL, is dedicated to providing a safe, competitive and fun environment for adult, amateur players to skate and play hockey. The League welcomes players of all skill levels, whether new to the game or returning to it, and strives to ensure that players compete with others of similar skill. To that end the RHL structured league play and other events to encourage and develop players and the love of hockey. The RHL is sanctioned by USA Hockey and follows, as a minimum, the rules set forth by USA Hockey. These rules can be found at the USA Hockey website at usahockey.com. The RHL also has additional rules that enhance or supplement the USA Hockey rules. The RHL also has guidelines for how the league will be administered. The RHL reserves the right to change the following guidelines and rules at any time and is the final arbiter on how these will be interpreted and applied.

# Article II. Joining the RHL

## Contacting the RHL

Anyone interested in joining the RHL should contact the League directly. Contact information is posted on the RHL website, PSAHA.com. Interested players may get assistance in finding and being placed on teams in the RHL or if there are enough interested individuals of the same skill level the RHL may form a new team. While the RHL normally does not interfere with a team's recruitment efforts, the RHL reserves the right to remove any player from any team for any reason, including without limitation differences in skill level.

## RHL Right to Deny

The RHL reserves the right to deny or disallow teams any player whose skill level is significantly higher or lower than the collective skill level of the Team's existing players. This determination is solely within the RHL's discretion.

## Age Requirements

All players must be 18 years of age or older to register and participate in the RHL.

## Registration Requirements

All RHL players must register with the RHL prior to participating in any games.

## Registration Consists of

Registration includes completing a membership contract / payment agreement and the appropriate waiver and registration forms along with the following fees;

# Season Dues

## List of all fees

1. Rostered Player fee: $1080.00
2. Alternate Player fee: $720.00
3. Non Refundable Registration fee: $175.00
4. Monthly Payment Option Fee: $50.00

## Rostered Player

1. Rostered Player paying fees in full
   1. Membership fee: $1080.00 + non refundable registration fee:$175.00 = $1255.00
   2. Fee to USA Hockey for membership: $40.00
   3. Fee to PNAHA for membership: $1.00
2. Rostered Player paying by monthly installment plan
   1. Membership fee: $1080.00 + non refundable registration fee:$175.00 + Monthly installment fee: $50.00 = $1305.00
      1. First payment : non refundable registration fee: $175.00 + first month payment: $94.16; Total due at signing: $269.16
         1. 11 monthly payments of: $94.16
            1. Payments will be automatically deducted from a debit or credit card on the 1st of each month.
   2. Fee to USA Hockey for membership: $40.00
   3. Fee to PNAHA for membership: $1.00
   4. Rostered Players who chose monthly payment plans and whose account declines payment five (5) times in a season shall be suspended from play and required to pay their account off in full to be eligible to continue participation in the RHL.

## Alternate Player

1. Alternate Player paying fees in full
   1. Membership fee: $720.00 + non refundable registration fee:$175.00 = $895.00
   2. Fee to USA Hockey for membership: $40.00
   3. Fee to PNAHA for membership: $1.00
2. Alternate Player paying by monthly installment plan
   1. Membership fee: $720.00 + non refundable registration fee:$175.00 + Monthly installment fee: $50.00 = $945.00
      1. First payment : non refundable registration fee: $175.00 + first month payment: $62.09; Total due at signing: $237.09
         1. 11 monthly payments of: $62.09
            1. Payments will be automatically deducted from a debit or credit card on the 1st of each month.
   2. Fee to USA Hockey for membership: $40.00
   3. Fee to PNAHA for membership: $1.00
   4. Alternate Players who chose monthly payment plans and whose account declines payment five (5) times in a season shall be suspended from play and required to pay their account off in full to be eligible to continue participation in the RHL.

## Rostered Player Membership Includes

1. This membership includes 46 games scheduled for the team plus playoffs, if eligible See section 5.03, and 1 RHL designated summer drop in per week.
   1. Individuals are not guaranteed any specific number of games. Rostered players are eligible to participate in any and all of the games scheduled for the team they are participating on with the exception of players not meeting the requirements of section 5.03.
   2. Any person who is delinquent on their payments is NOT eligible for the RHL designated summer drop in.

## Rostered Member Not Current

Any individual member who is not current in payments or who is serving a suspension will not be eligible to participate until their payments are brought current or their suspension is served.

## Alternate Player Membership Includes

1. This membership would permit an alternate player to participate in no more than 23 games. Additional games are $35.00 each, sold in a minimum of a 5 game package for $175.00. The RHL does not guarantee any specific number of games.
   1. This membership does not include any playoff games unless the member has not used their total of 23 games.
      1. Members who have not used their 23 games and wish to participate in playoffs are eligible if they have met the requirement of section 5.03.
2. In the event of forfeited games an alternate member who is listed on the playing roster, as turned in by the team manager prior to the game shall have that game count towards the 23 game maximum allowed for the membership.
3. RHL designated summer drop in is available for this membership at $10.00 per time drop in fee.
   1. Any person who is delinquent on their payments is NOT eligible for the RHL designated summer drop in.

## Alternate Player Management of Alternates

Alternate players are managed by the team captain and will be notified by that captain as to what games they will participate in.

## USA Hockey Membership Required

All RHL players must be current members of USA Hockey.

## Member Responsibility

Each individual member is responsible for signing up with USA Hockey and paying the appropriate fee.

## How to Register

You may sign up online at the USA hockey website.

## Providing Proof

Each individual player is also responsible for providing proof of USA Hockey membership to the RHL upon registration and at any time any official requests evidence of registration.

## 12 Hour Requirement

No person will be permitted to participate in any RHL game without having provided evidence of USA Hockey membership and completing the registration process with the RHL 12 hours prior to the game they are participating in.

1. This includes players who have been placed on financial suspension, alternate players who are buying extension packages and players seeking medical or military waivers to be eligible to participate in any game they were previously listed as ineligible to participate in.

## Members Responsibility to Pay

Each individual player is also responsible for paying the season's membership fees by the applicable due date.

## Member Not Current with Payments

Any player that does not keep their payments current and up to date will be suspended and will not be allowed to participate in any RHL functions, including games, playoffs and / or summer RHL Drop In until they are caught up on their payments.

## Outstanding Balance

Any individual who has an outstanding balance owed for prior seasons to the RHL, PSAHA, Puget Sound Hockey Center or any of its affiliate organizations will not be permitted to register with the RHL until these debts are paid in full.

## Member Not In Good Standing, USA Hockey

Any individual who is determined to be in not good standing with USA Hockey will not be permitted to register with the RHL until clearing up their status with USA Hockey.

## Player Barred From another League

Any individual who has been barred from play in any other ice hockey league will be considered not in good standing with USA Hockey and will be subject to a review by the RHL prior to being permitted to register for and participate in any RHL seasons, games, tournaments and/or on or off-ice functions. This determination is solely within the RHL’s decision.

# Article IV. Levels of play

## RHL Levels

The RHL has set the following levels of play

1. Division 1
2. Division 2
3. Division 3A
4. Division 3B
5. Division 4 (if needed)

# Article V. Roster

## Maximum Number

The maximum number of players that may be on any team is;

1. 20 skaters including goalies.

## Minimum Number

The minimum number of players that may be on a team is;

1. 13 Rostered players including goalies achieved in the following manner.
   1. Prior to Sept. 1st
      1. 11 Rostered Members and 4 Alternate Members
      2. 12 Rostered Members and 2 Alternate Members
      3. 13 Rostered Members
   2. After Sept. 1st
      1. 13 Rostered Members

## Playoff Eligibility

For players to be eligible to participate in playoffs they must complete the registration process 60 days prior to the start of playoffs. The exact date shall be determined by the RHL once the seasons schedule is published.

1. Exceptions to this shall be a medical or military deployment waiver.
   1. For players to be eligible for either of these waivers they must present proof of such in writing to the RHL no less than 12 hours prior to the game they wish to participate in.
   2. Applications for these waivers are not guarantees of receiving a waiver. The RHL shall review the paperwork and shall then approve or disapprove the waiver.

## Changes to Final Roster

No changes will be allowed to a team's official roster during the season without prior RHL approval, to be submitted in writing a minimum of 12 hours in advance of the day of the game the new members will be participating in.

## Deviation from Final Roster

Teams that deviate from their official roster without prior RHL approval will be penalized in accordance with Article XXX of the RHL Rules.

## Player Not Current

Any player who is not current on their payments will be suspended from play until they are caught up and current on their payments. This is to include summer RHL drop in.

## Player Not on EFT

Any player who is not on the automatic withdrawal payment system must have their bill paid off in full by the roster freeze date or they will be suspended from play for the remainder of the season to include any and all playoff games.

## Roster Deviation Exemption (Goaltenders)

With the exception of goalie substitutions; only registered players listed on official team rosters will be allowed to play at RHL games. Persons listed as RHL registered and officially approved substitute goalies will be allowed to participate as needed in accordance with Section 5.09 Goalie Substitute List.

## Goalie Substitute List

The RHL will maintain and provide a list of designated goalie substitutes. Teams who are missing their goalie(s) will have to select the replacement from this list.

1. Substitute goalies are permitted under the following guidelines and procedures.
   1. The team’s regular/normal goaltender is not available to participate in the game.
      1. Teams may substitute a player rostered on their own or another RHL team and have their regular/normal goaltender skate out as a player, forward or defense, if:
   2. The regular/normal goaltender does not play in a higher division of play in the RHL or any other adult hockey league as a player, or raise the overall skill level of the team by having the skills to participate in a higher division of play in the RHL or other adult hockey league as a player.
      1. Exception: the regular/normal goaltender skating out as a player does participate in a higher level of play in the RHL or another adult hockey league, but whose accessed level of play by the RHL is below that of the level they participate in as a player and not above that of the division they are playing out in as the regular/normal goalie.
   3. The rostered player from the team acting as a substitute goaltender does not play in a higher division of play in the RHL or any other adult hockey league as a goalie, or raise the overall skill level of the team by having the skills to participate in a higher division of play in the RHL or other adult hockey league as a goalie.
      1. The rostered player from the team acting as a substitute goaltender is not listed on the RHL Sub Goalie List as restricted from play in the Division of play in which they would be participating as a substitute goalie.
2. Teams needing a substitute goalie must attempt to acquire a goaltender from the level in which they compete in or below.
   1. If no goaltender is available in the equivalent or lesser level of play the team needing a substitute goaltender may acquire a goaltender from the level of play directly above the teams’ level of play.
   2. If no goaltender is available in the level directly above the teams level of play a team may then seek to acquire a goaltender from the remainder of the levels in the league. In this circumstance the team must submit in writing a request to use a goaltender that is more than 1 level of play above that of the team to the RHL in writing 48 hours prior to the game in which the goaltender is to be used.
   3. In the written request for permission to use a goaltender more than 1 level of play above that of the team the following must be included.
      1. Team seeking the use of the goaltender.
      2. Division of play of the team seeking the use of the goaltender.
      3. Manager of the team seeking the goaltender.
      4. Goaltender to be used.
      5. Team and division the goaltender to be used plays on.
   4. Teams using a substitute goaltender shall write the name of the substitute goaltender on the official roster form to be turned into the scorekeeper next to “substitute goaltender” and inform the opposing teams’ manager of such prior to the start of the game.
      1. The manager of the opposing team shall sign off on their opponent’s roster next to the name of the substitute goaltender. This signature shall constitute acknowledgement and acceptance of the use of the listed substitute goaltender and waives all right to protest the game for use of the listed substitute goaltender.
      2. Team managers of the opposing team who do not approve of and accept the use of the listed substitute goaltender shall:
         1. Not sign the opposing teams roster
         2. Play the game under protest in accordance with Article XXXII of the RHL rules.
3. Teams violating this procedure will be considered as using an ineligible player and be penalized according to Article XXX, Section 30.05 through Section 30.07

## Non-RHL Member Goaltender

No person who is not registered in the RHL will be permitted to play as a goalie.

## Use of Non-RHL Member Goaltender

Teams who use or attempt to use a goalie who is not a registered member of the RHL will be penalized in accordance with Article XXX of the RHL Rules.

## Managers Reporting to Scorekeeper

All team managers are to report to the scorekeeper prior to the start of the game and are to inform the scorekeeper of the players who are participating in the game and the player number for each individual player participating along with designating who the Captain and Assistant Captains are for the game.

1. If any team manager is not able to be at the arena and perform these duties they shall appoint a team member to perform these duties in their absence.
2. Failure for a team manager/representative to perform these duties shall result in the manager/representative being sent to the penalty box to complete these duties prior to the game starting.
3. These rosters will be entered into the official score sheet and shall constitute the official record of any and all players who have participated in games for each team.
   1. This will include games played for individuals to be eligible for playoffs in accordance with section 5.03 as well as games played towards the 23 game maximum for alternate players.
4. The official; scorekeeper shall present a printed copy of the official score sheet after the completion of the game to each team for the manager/representatives signature. Any discrepancies of players attendance should be noted by the manager/representative at the time of signing the official score sheet.

## Does Not Have 6 Players to Start a Game

In the event that a team does not have the minimum number of players needed to play in a game, 5 skaters and 1 goalie, or 6 skaters, at the scheduled time of the game to start the game will be considered a forfeit win for the opposing team. However if such Team has the final player coming from the locker room that team may use their 60 second timeout to allow that player to attempt to be on the ice to start the game.

1. In the event that a team does not have enough to start the game on time and they use their 1 team timeout to allow said player to be on time. If said player is still not ready the game is forfeited. The opposing team cannot use their time out to allow extra time.
2. Any team that forfeits 5 games in one season will have their playing roster distributed amongst the other teams of their division by manner of a player draft and the offending team will be removed from the schedule for the remainder of the season and playoffs.
3. The player draft will start with the first draft pick going to the team that is in last place in the standings at the time of the draft and work its way to the team in first place having the last pick of the draft.
   1. Any team that is already at the maximum number of players (20) on a roster at the time of the draft will not be eligible for the draft and there pick will be passed on the next team in the draft order.

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# Jersey Requirements

## Team Responsibility

Each team is responsible for obtaining jerseys for each player.

## Matching Jersey Requirements

All jerseys, with the exception of the logo, must be of similar color.

1. It is not required that the shirt be an exact match in all details.

## Player Number Requirement

Each player's jersey must have the player's number permanently affixed to the back.

1. Jerseys with no numbers are not acceptable.
2. Taped on numbers are not acceptable

## Teams Are Encouraged

Teams are encouraged to obtain exact matching jerseys complete with matching logos and names on the back.

## Compliance Deadline

Teams must be in compliance with these jersey requirements by the 6th week of the season.

1. Players without matching jerseys after the 6th week will not be permitted on the ice.
2. Players who join the league after the start of the season will be granted a 6 week period to obtain a matching jersey.

# Time Outs

## Number Of

Each Team is permitted one time out per game.

## Duration

Each individual time out will be one minute in duration

## Stoppage of Clock for Injury or Equipment

There will be not stoppage of clock for an injury and/or equipment repair for any player or goaltender.

## Use of Timeout

Teams may use their time out for injuries and/or equipment repair for players or goaltender.

## If Already Used

If a team has already used their time out, or does not choose to use their time out for an injury or equipment repair, the clock will continue to run.

## Time Put Back On Clock

Time will not be put back on the clock in a running time game for any reason other than.

## Exceptions

1. The clock was not stopped or did not stop when it was supposed to for a time out called by the referee on behalf of the team calling for the time out.
2. The clock was not stopped or did not stop when it was supposed to in the last two minutes of the third period when the referee blew his/her whistle for a stoppage of play, if the score differential is 2 goals or less.

# Referees

## Number of Referees

The RHL will strive to have 2 referees present for each and every game.

1. However, the RHL cannot and does not promise nor guarantee in any way that 2 referees will be present for any game.

## Concerns and Complaints about Referees

Any concerns, complaints, or issues with regards to referees must be presented to the RHL in writing by completing a referee evaluation form at the conclusion of every game.

1. The RHL will endeavor to reconcile, to the best of its abilities, any issues properly brought to its attention in regards to referees.
   1. However the RHL does not operate or control any individual referee or the referee organization and cannot promise or guarantee in any way any outcome.

# Scheduling

## Published Schedule

The RHL will publish a schedule for all league sanctioned games, consisting of;

1. Times
2. Days
3. Dates
4. Two teams participating

## Request for Special Schedule

Any requests by teams for special consideration in scheduling must be presented to the RHL in writing prior to the publication of the schedule containing the days, dates and or times in which the special consideration is sought.

## Guarantee of Special Schedule

The RHL does not promise or guarantee in any way that any written request for special scheduling consideration can and will be awarded.

## After Publishing Schedule

Once the RHL has published the schedule the RHL will not make any changes to the schedule for individual, team and/or tier requests.

## How to Change a Scheduled Game

Any team needing to change a game day, date or time after the schedule has been published must arrange with their team and their opponent team to do so.

* + - 1. The team initiating the schedule change must;
         1. Find a time slot on the schedule to change with
         2. Arrange with the two teams schedule in that time slot to swap
         3. Notify the RHL of the agreed upon schedule change no later than 4 days prior to the 1st of the two games changed to be played.
      2. All four teams involved in the schedule change must be in agreement and approve the schedule change for it to occur.
      3. The RHL reserves the right to change any individual game day, date, time or opponent, or the published schedule in its entirety at the sole discretion of the RHL.

## Time Subject To Change

Due to events and occurrences throughout the process of any given day the scheduled start times of any and all games are subject to change without prior notification

1. Scheduled start times of games can and will be delayed due to unforeseeable occurrences throughout any given day.
2. Scheduled start times of games will not be delayed due to lack of any individual player, goalie and or team to be prepared for the start of the game.

## Games Starting Early

Scheduled start times of games can and will occur up to and including 10 minutes prior to the published schedule start time.

1. If both teams are ready to play and agree to start
2. If either team is not ready to begin 10 minutes early then the warm up clock will start at the scheduled start time of the game.
   1. Neither team nor any individuals may take the ice for warm-ups until the game clock starts.
3. All teams and individuals are advised to arrive at the rink early in the event the games are ahead of schedule.

# Game Warm up Period

## Time

Each team will be given a 5 minute warm up period, to run concurrently, immediately prior to the start of their scheduled game.

## Ice Resurfacing

No Individual and/or team may take the ice surface during the resurfacing process.

* + - 1. If any player or team takes to the ice prior to the completion of the resurfacing process;
         1. The Zamboni will leave the ice
         2. And the game will be played on the ice as is

## Starting of Warm up Clock

The warm up clock will be started after the resurfacing process is complete and the Zamboni doors are closed as follows:

1. Scheduled start time of the game or up to and including 10 minutes prior to the start time of the scheduled game in accordance with Article IV, Section 9.07.

# Locker Rooms

## Assigned Locker Rooms

Each team will be assigned a locker room to be available to them for ½ hour prior to ½ hour after their scheduled game. Teams are required to use the locker room assigned to them.

* + - 1. Teams must vacate their assigned locker room ½ hour after the conclusion of their game to allow for cleaning for the next game and team scheduled for the locker room.
         1. Teams that refuse to vacate the locker room as described above will be penalized as follows;

1st offense: Team Manager will be called to a meeting with the RHL Board of Directors and asked to assist in preventing this type of action from reoccurring.

2nd offense: individual players committing offense will be called to a disciplinary hearing to discuss their actions and determination of any discipline will be made by the board.

# Game Configuration

## Period Length

All RHL league games will consist of 3, 20 minute run time periods.

## 2 Point Differential

Any RHL league game with a 2 or less point differential with 2 minutes or less remaining in the 3rd period of play will operate with a stop clock for the remainder of the game.

# Tie Game Breakers

## Regular Season

All regular season games that end in a tied score at the conclusion of the third period of regular play will be determined as a tie and both teams will receive one point in the standings.

## Playoff Games

All playoff games that end in a tied score at the conclusion of the third period of regular play will play an overtime period.

* + - 1. The overtime period will be a five minute run time sudden death period.
         1. There will be no time outs permitted during the overtime period.
      2. All playoff games that end in a tied score at the end of the overtime period will precede to a 5 on 5 shoot out.
      3. All playoff games that end in a tied score at the end of the 5 on 5 shoot out will proceed to a 1 on 1 shoot out through the remainder of the roster until there is a winner.

## Playoff Seeding

In order to determine team placement and seeding in playoffs for teams with tied records for the regular season the RHL will use the guidelines set forth by USA Hockey

1. Seeding for the playoffs divisional split shall occur 4 games prior to the end of the regular season.

# Team Rankings

## Beginning of Season

In the beginning of each season teams will play in the tier they feel appropriate for their combined skill level of play.

* + - 1. At a set number of games to be determined by the RHL, the RHL will rank each team, based on skill level, in order to place each team in an appropriate tier.
         1. The goal of this ranking is to have teams of similar skill levels in the same tier and to allow teams of similar skill to play each other.
         2. This ranking is made at the sole discretion of the RHL.

## Number of Tiers

The number of tiers, or levels of play, may vary for each season, as will the number of teams in each tier.

* + - 1. At any time during the season, the RHL reserves the right to move any team to a different tier if it becomes apparent that the initial ranking was not appropriate, or that through recruitment or skill progression a team has advanced or decreased in their skill level.

# Glass Containers

## Facility Rules

In conjunction with the rules of the Puget Sound Hockey facility (Rink Rules #3) there are to be no glass containers permitted inside the Puget Sound Hockey facility.

## Glass Containers in Facility

Any glass container found in the rink facility will be removed from the facility immediately.

## Person in Possession of Glass Containers

Any person found to be in possession or control thereof any glass containers or to have brought any glass containers into the Puget Sound Hockey facility will be asked to remove the glass containers from the facility immediately and not be permitted to return until having done so.

* + - 1. In addition the team’s manager will be called to a meeting with the RHL Board of Directors and asked to assist in preventing further occurrences of this manner.

## Repeat Violations

Individual players shall be called to a disciplinary hearing and any disciplinary actions will be assessed by the disciplinary board at this time.

# RHL Rules

## Amendments to USA Hockey Rules

The following rules amend the rules of USA Hockey. At all times, however, the rules of USA Hockey remain in effect. These can be found at usahockey.com

# Player Movement

## Playing Down a Level

No player is permitted to participate in a level of play below that of their normal or assessed level of play.

*(i.e.: no player that is participating in Division 2 may participate on a team in Division 3)*

## Determination of Players Assessed Level

The determination of a players assessed level of play is solely at the discretion of the RHL.

## Exceptions

The only exceptions to this rule are as follows:

1. At the sole discretion of the RHL a players assessed level of play is below their actual level of play.
2. Any player wishing to participate at a level below that of their normal level of play must petition the RHL in writing, email is acceptable, as to what team, position and reason for wanting to participate at a lower level.
   1. This petition will be presented to the managers of the division that the player is petitioning to participate in and these managers shall decide whether the individual is permitted to participate in the lower level or not.

## Players being moved up

Players can and will be moved up the a higher level of play as follows

1. 3 managers in the same division must agree that and individual player should be moved to a higher level of play and file a petition with the RHL to have the player moved up a division.
   1. The RHL shall then call all of the managers of the level in which the player currently participates together to decide if the player should be moved to a division above.

# High Stick

## Division 4

If at any time a player carries their stick above their waist in a beginner tier, Division 4, level game, whether during the process of a shot, pass, or at any time during play, the referee will blow the play dead and take the face-off, either outside of the attacking zone or inside of the offending teams zone as to the discretion of the referee to the spot of the face off.

# Division 3A Players on Division 4 Teams

## Scoring

Players who are considered Division 3A players participating on Division 4 teams will not be permitted to score any goals.

**1.** Players considered Division 3A level players who are playing on Division 4 teams will be required to wear a colored arm band on the outside of their jersey to identify them as non-scoring players.

**a.** Any Division 3A level player playing on a Division 4 who does not wear visibly or tries to conceal their arm band from any game official at any time during Division 4 League game they are participating in will be removed from the ice until they appropriately place the arm band on their arm.

**i.** A delay of game penalty will be awarded to the offending team’s bench for failure to wear, or attempt to conceal of the appropriate arm band.

**2.** If a Division 3A player on a Division 4 team scores a goal in a Division 4 game, the goal will not be allowed. If in the determination of the referee, the goal was intentionally scored by the offending Division 3A player the offending player will also receive a delay of game penalty.

## Determination of Players Assessed Level

The determination of a player in Division 4 being considered a Division 3A level player is solely at the discretion of the RHL.

# 3 Goal Limit

## Individuals

No individual player participating in any Division 3 or Division 4 game is allowed to score more than 3 goals in a single game.

1. If any individual whom already has scored 3 goals in a game shoots the puck into the net for a goal beyond the 3 goal limit the referee will not allow the goal.
2. If the referee determines the goal was an intentional attempt by the offending player to score a goal the referee will award a delay of game penalty to the offending player.

# Penalties

## Rule 410

The RHL will be invoking and using rule 410 as written in USA Hockey Rules.

1. The RHL will be reviewing each game and every incident that occurs in any and all League games.
2. Any incident that is reviewed by the RHL can and will be assessed the appropriate penalties regardless of how or whether the referee called it at the time of the incident.

## Malicious Behavior

The RHL will not tolerate malicious, unsportsmanlike and/or violent behavior.

1. The RHL will strictly enforce the rules on penalties
2. Penalties/suspensions are cumulative.
3. Penalties/suspensions incurred during the regular season will carry over into the playoffs and if necessary, into the following season in which the player plays.
4. Additionally, when faced with exceptional team or player misconduct, the RHL reserves the right to increase any of the following penalties, up to and including ejecting the team or player from the RHL without a refund.

# Length of Penalties and Number of Penalties

## League Games

In the league sanctioned games and playoffs;

1. Minor penalties will be 3 minutes in length.
2. Major penalties will be 5 minutes in length.
3. Misconduct penalties will be 10 minutes in length.

## Failure to Report to Scorekeeper

If a team is penalized for failure to report to scorekeeper;

1. That penalty will be 3 minutes in length.
2. It will be recorded as a bench minor penalty for delay of game.
3. The Captain will serve the penalty.
   1. If the Captain is not at the game any player picked at random will serve the penalty and fill out the roster.

## Goal Scored

If in a delayed penalty situation and a goal is scored before the penalty is called

1. The penalty still needs to be recorded on the score sheet and that penalty will count as one penalty towards the four penalty limit.
2. The penalty will not be served due to the goal being scored.

## Double Minor

Double minors always count as two penalties towards the four penalty limit.

## Penalty Shot

If a player commits a penalty that results in a penalty shot;

1. That penalty will be recorded on the score sheet and will count as one penalty towards the four penalty limit.
2. The penalty will not be served due to the penalty shot being given.

## Bench Minor

When a bench minor penalty is given;

1. The player serving it does not have that penalty count towards the limit of four penalties in a game.
2. It will be recorded on the score sheet as a bench minor.

# Player Penalties and Game Suspensions

## Players on Multiple Teams

A player who is rostered on more than one team in the RHL and receives a suspension will not be permitted to play in any RHL league games;

1. To include any and all playoff games.
2. This includes for any team they are rostered on until the suspension has been served for the team the suspension was assessed.

# Serving Penalties

## While in the Penalty Box

Players serving penalties must remain seated in the penalty box and must remain silent during the entirety of time they are in the penalty box.

1. At the point in the players penalty where there is 10 seconds left to serve the player is permitted to stand and get ready to return to the ice surface at the expiration of the penalty being served.

## Violations

Players who do not remain seated and / or silent during the serving of a penalty in the penalty box will be assessed a misconduct penalty to be served immediately following the completion of the initial penalty (s) being served.

1. The determination of a player being assessed this penalty shall be at the discretion of the referees
   1. The off-ice official may request a referee to asses this penalty.

# Player Penalties and Game Suspensions - Minor

## Four Penalties in a Game

A player who receives four minor penalties in one game will be suspended / ejected for the duration of the game upon receiving the fourth penalty. And will receive a game misconduct penalty.

1. The player will also be penalized for the Game Misconduct. The penalty for a Game Misconduct will be determined by the RHL, but it will not be less than a 1 game suspension. (Amendment 1 to USA Hockey’s Rule 404. Minor Penalties.)
   1. Any player that receives 4 game misconduct penalties in a single season for receiving 4 minor penalties (5 minor penalties in Division 1) in a single game shall be suspended from all play in the RHL.

# Player Penalties and Game Suspensions - Major and Misconduct

## 2 Majors in one Game

A player who receives 2 major penalties in one game will automatically receive a Game Misconduct and will be suspended / ejected for the duration of the game.

1. The player will also be penalized for the Game Misconduct. The penalty for a Game Misconduct will be determined by the RHL, but it will not be less than a 2 game suspension.
   1. Any player that receives 3 game misconduct penalties in a single season for receiving 2 major penalties in a single game shall be suspended from all play in the RHL.

# Player Penalties and Game Suspensions - Fighting

## Fighting

A player who receives a Fighting penalty in a game will be suspended / ejected for the duration of the game upon receiving the Fighting penalty, as well as receiving a game misconduct penalty.

1. The player will also be subject to a penalty to be determined by the RHL that will not be less than a 3 game suspension,
   1. With the exception of Division 1 which shall follow USA Hockey Rules with no amendments.
2. Special emphasis will be made on people involved in fights who are wearing full face protection.
   1. The referee’s will have the latitude to assess additional penalties on any person who instigates and/or enters into an altercation while wearing full face protection.

## 2 Fights in one Season

A player who receives two Fighting penalties in one season will be suspended / ejected for the duration of the game upon receiving the second Fighting penalty, as well as receiving a game misconduct penalty.

1. The player will also be subject to a penalty to be determined by the RHL that will not be less than a 5 game suspension, (Amendment 1.1 to USA Hockey Rule 613. Fisticuffs (Fighting).
   1. With the exception of Division 1 which shall follow USA Hockey Rules with no amendments.

## 3 Fights in one Season

A player who receives three Fighting penalties in one season will be suspended indefinitely from any and all play in the RHL pending a hearing.

# Suspended Players

## Suspension Carry Over from one Season to Another

Any player whose suspension carries over into the next regular ( winter ) season must be registered and rostered on a team, as well as paying and currently up to date on their fees for games missed to be counted towards their satisfying of assessed game suspensions that extended beyond the end of the season in which the suspensions were incurred.

## Players Bench Restriction

Any player serving a suspension may not be on the players bench during the game (s) in which they are serving their suspension.

1. The RHL reserves the right to refuse to allow the player to return to the league and under no circumstances will any player trying to return from an extended suspension be guaranteed a spot on any RHL team.

# Replacing Suspended Players

## Maintain Minimum Players

Teams must maintain the required minimum number of players described above.

1. If, because of a player suspension that extends for the balance of the season, a team falls below this number, the team may replace the necessary players with prior RHL approval.
   1. Alternatively, the RHL may assign players to the team roster in order to help the team meet the minimum player requirements.

# Ineligible Players

## Requirements

The RHL will strictly enforce the roster requirements discussed above.

1. Only players registered with USA Hockey and the RHL will be allowed on any team's official roster.

## Persons on Bench

Only players on a team’s official roster may be on the player’s bench during a game.

## Age Restrictions

At no time during an RHL game are persons under the age of 18 permitted on the player’s bench or in the penalty boxes or time keeper’s box.

## Goalie Exception

With the exception of goalies only players on a team's official roster that have been officially rostered and are current on their payments will be qualified to play in RHL games.

1. Captains should consult with the RHL to confirm player eligibility.
   1. However any person acting as a goaltender for any RHL team must be registered in the RHL whether they are rostered on a team or not.

## Non-Rostered Player – 1st Violation

If any time during a game or afterwards a team is caught with any players not on the team's official roster, players serving a suspension or other penalty, or similar misconduct, the offending team will forfeit the game.

1. If discovered during the game, the forfeit will be immediate and will occur regardless of the score.
2. The Captain/representative that recruited and /or allowed the use of the non-rostered player shall be called to attend a disciplinary hearing with the RHL.

## 2nd Violation

Any team caught violating this rule a second time in a season shall have the manager called to a disciplinary hearing with the RHL Board of Directors who shall determine any disciplinary actions.

## 3rd Violation

Any team caught violating this rule a third time in a season shall be removed from the schedule and the individual team members shall be drafted by the remaining teams of the division in a player draft.

1. The captain of the offending team will be suspended indefinitely pending a hearing by the RHL.
2. The draft will begin with the team in last place at the time of the draft and work its way to the team in first place having the last pick.
   1. Any team that already has the maximum number of players (20) on the roster at the time of the draft shall not be eligible for the draft.

## Ineligible Player Refuses to Leave Ice

Players whom are not eligible to participate in a RHL game shall be notified by the official scorekeeper during the warm-up period or at the time the official scorekeeper becomes aware the ineligible player in on the ice. In the event an ineligible player refuses to leave the playing surface the game will take place as normal.

1. The game shall then be reverted to a forfeit loss to the offending team.
2. The team manager shall be called to a disciplinary hearing with the RHL Board of Directors and any disciplinary actions shall be imposed at this time by the Board of Directors.
   1. The ineligible individual (s) shall be suspended indefinitely pending hearing.

# Appeals Process: Player Suspension

## Who May Appeal

The individual player being assessed the suspension, may appeal game suspensions assessed by the RHL within 7 days of the penalty being issued.

## How to Appeal

1. The appeal must be in writing and sent to the RHL Board of Directors. E-mail is acceptable.
2. The appeal must clearly and concisely explain why the player believes the penalty was inappropriate and should identify any witnesses to the event.
   1. The RHL does not consider challenges to a Referee's call to be a valid basis for an appeal.

## Who Reviews the Appeal

The RHL Board of Directors will review the appeal.

1. At its discretion, the RHL may elect to interview witnesses or have them submit statements regarding the penalty.

## Improper Appeals

Under no circumstances should league representatives, officials, scorekeepers or the like be approached to discuss the penalty.

1. Such conduct may be considered harassment and the player initiating the conduct may be penalized.
2. Only written appeals will be considered.
   1. League Commissioners’ may be contacted to discuss issues such as scheduling, rankings and other non-penalty related issues.

## During the Appeals Process

The player will be barred from play and serve the assessed suspensions while the appeal is pending.

1. The RHL will endeavor to respond to any appeal in a timely fashion.

# Protest of Game

## Procedures

If a team wishes to play a game under protest, the following procedures must be met.

1. The team protesting the game must notify the official scorekeeper at the time of the game that they decide to play the game under protest and inform the official scorekeeper of the reason for the protest.
   1. The official scorekeeper shall make note on the official score sheet of the game being played under protest, the team initiating the protest and the reason for the protest.
      1. The game shall then be played as normal.
2. After the completion of the game the team initiating the protest shall be allotted 1 hour to file an official protest in writing to the offices of the RHL accompanied with a $250.00 bond (cash, or cashier’s check).
3. The official protest must state the reason and accompanied rule violation that the initiating team feels warrants the protest of the game.
   1. Playing rules are not a valid protest.
   2. If the team initiating the protest does not file the appropriate protest in writing within the 1 hour limit the game will be ruled complete and the results of the game valid.
4. Upon receipt of the official protest and $250.00 bond the RHL will convene a hearing at the earliest convenience.
5. Upon the completion of the hearing process the RHL will rule as to the validity of the protest and determine the results of the game in protest. The decision of the RHL shall be final. Should the teams protest be denied, the team will forfeit the $250.00 bond.

## Time Restraints

In the event that time or circumstances do not permit the conveyance of a board the decision shall be made by the League Commissioner.

## League Commissioner

For any decision other than playing rules interpretations, with regard to the operation of league games (including zero tolerance, game play or conduct not in the best interest of hockey), the RHL League Commissioner shall have the final authority to make the appropriate decision.

1. The RHL League Commissioner, in all matters pertaining to league play, shall have the authority to adjust matters at any time in the best interests of the RHL season and ice hockey in general.

# Playoffs

## Playing Rules

The official USA Hockey playing rules and the RHL policies, rules and guidelines shall be used. No protests shall be permitted on playing rules.

## Eligibility

Teams and team members properly registered and in good standing with the RHL and USA Hockey shall be eligible to participate in the playoffs.

1. Team members must be registered with the RHL in accordance with Section 5.03.
2. Substitute goalies are permitted in accordance with Section 5.09, 5.10 and 5.11.

## Playoff Format

1. Divisions with 2 teams will play a best of 5 series to determine a division champion.
2. Divisions with 3 teams will play:
   1. Round 1: 1st place team receives a bye, 2nd place team and 3rd place team play a best of 3 series.
   2. Round 2: Winner of round 1 plays 1st place team in a best of 5 series to determine division champion.
3. Divisions with 4 teams will play:
   1. Round 1: 1st place team plays 4th place team and 2nd place team plays 3rd place team in a best of 3.
   2. Round 2: The winners of round 1 series will play a best of 5 to determine a division champion.
4. Divisions with 5 teams will play:
   1. Round 1: 4th and 5th place teams will play one game to determine which team moves on into the playoffs.
   2. Round 2: 1st place will play the winner of round 1 and 2nd place will play 3rd place in a best of 3 series.
   3. Round 3: The winners of round 2 series will play a best of 5 series to determine division champion.
5. Divisions with 6 teams will be split into 2 equal divisions of 3 teams each division. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams will be set into the upper level of the division. The 3rd, 4th and 5th place teams will be set into the lower level of that division and set as 1st, 2nd and 3rd place of the lower division.
   1. The upper and lower levels of a division with 6 teams in the division would play two separate playoffs under the guidelines of Article 31, section 31.03, subsection (b) divisions with 3 teams. Each level, upper and lower, would have a separate division champion.

## Disputes/Operation of Playoffs

Teams’ wishing to protest a game during the playoffs shall follow the guidelines of article XXX II of the RHL Policies, Rules and Guidelines 2011-2012 with the following exception.

1. The 24 hour time limit to file a protest shall be amended to time period of 1 hour.
2. For any decision other than playing rules interpretations, with regard to the operation of the playoffs (including zero tolerance, playoff play or conduct not in the best interest of hockey), the RHL League Commissioner shall have the final authority to make the appropriate decision.
3. The RHL League Commissioner, in all matters pertaining to playoff play, shall have the authority to adjust matters at any time in the best interests of the RHL playoffs and ice hockey in general.

## Opening Coaches/Managers Meeting

An opening meeting for all teams participating in the playoffs of the RHL may be held prior to the start of the playoffs at a time and place to be set by the League Commissioner. All participating teams shall have a representative (coach, and/or manager) present at such a meeting. No one person may represent more than 1 team at this meeting unless prior approval is granted by the League Commissioner. Failure of a team to have a representative present shall result in the suspension of the captain and/or manager from that team’s first game of the playoffs.

# Disciplinary and Actions Board

## Establishment

The RHL may establish a Disciplinary and Actions Board to help in the matters of conducting a safe and enjoyable adult hockey league. The RHL shall establish the Disciplinary and Actions Board from a list of team managers from the league.

## Eligibility

For a league member to be eligible to be a member of the Disciplinary and Actions Board the member must be;

1. A manager of a team in the RHL, no manager may represent more than one team, in the event that two or more teams have the same manager the individual manager must select one team to represent and a designee shall be appointed for the team (s) remaining to be a member of the Disciplinary and Actions Board, Upon approval by the League Commissioner.
2. A full time currently registered member of the RHL
3. A participant in good standing with the RHL and USA Hockey

## Appointment

The League Commissioner shall select the Disciplinary and Actions Board members from the list of Individual Team managers as needed.

1. Any Disciplinary and Actions Board member who is deemed to not be suitable to remain on the Disciplinary and Actions Board by the League Commissioner shall be notified of such and their vacated seat shall be filled by the League Commissioner in accordance with Article XXXIV, Section 34.02, 1-3.
   1. This is to include but not be limited to, failure to pay league fees, not in good standing with USA Hockey and/or the RHL, actions detrimental to the conducting of the league and the sport of ice hockey. The League Commissioners decisions in Eligibility, appointment and removal of members of the Disciplinary and Actions Board shall be final.

## Duties

The Disciplinary and Actions Board shall be the voice of the league to the RHL Board of Directors. The Disciplinary and Actions Board shall receive input in the forms of suggestions and complaints from the league members and conduct meetings to suggest these suggestions and complaints and make suggestions to the RHL in which direction to move the league in a manner to promote the sport of ice hockey to best suit the interests and enjoyment of the sport and continue growth.

1. Suggestions and complaints must be submitted to the Disciplinary and Actions Board in writing, email is acceptable.
2. Verbal complaints and suggestions are not permitted and shall not be accepted.
3. Emails sent to personal email addresses of a Disciplinary and Actions Board member are not permitted and shall not be accepted. Emails must be sent to the established Disciplinary and Actions Board email. **rhlcommissioner@gmail.com** 
   1. Hand written and/or typed complaints and/or suggestions must be delivered to the Disciplinary and Actions Board by mail to the following address:

RHL

Attn: RHL Commissioner

1918 Stewart Street Tacoma, WA. 98421

,or hand delivered to a member of the Board of Directors (not to include any Board of Directors member acting in the capacity of an official scorekeeper)

1. The Disciplinary and Actions Board shall conduct discipline hearings for matters in the RHL under the guidelines of USA Hockey bylaw 10.
   1. The League Commissioner may elect to have any discipline hearing held by a committee set up of members of the league that are not members of the Disciplinary and Actions Board if it is deemed in the best interest of the RHL, the parties involved and the sport of ice hockey. Not to exclude the appointment of the Board of Directors as the Discipline Committee when and if needed.
   2. The decision of the League Commissioner as to the appointment of the Disciplinary and Actions Board shall be final.
2. Decisions of the Disciplinary and Actions Board shall be final.
   1. Appeals to the decision of the Disciplinary and Actions Board may be filed in accordance with US Hockey rules bylaw 10.
   2. Appeals to the decision of the Disciplinary and Actions Board must be filed in writing to the League Appeals Chair, Emails are acceptable.
   3. Verbal complaints and suggestions are not permitted and shall not be accepted.
   4. Emails sent to personal email addresses of the Appeals Chair are not permitted and shall not be accepted. Emails must be sent to the established email. **rhlcommissioner@gmail.com**
3. Hand written and/or typed complaints and/or suggestions must be delivered to the League Appeals Chair by mail to the following address:

RHL

Attn: RHL Commissioner Re: Appeals

1918 Stewart Street Tacoma, WA. 98421

,or hand delivered to a member of the Board of Directors (not to include any Board of Directors member acting in the capacity of an official scorekeeper)

1. Results of any disciplinary hearing must be provided to the player and/or team in writing within 24 hours after the conclusion of the disciplinary hearing stating the outcome of the hearing, the voting numbers (i.e. 5 members in attendance, 3 members in favor 2 opposed) and the process for appeal.
2. The Disciplinary and Actions Board shall make recommendations to the RHL as to the assessment of an individual and/or teams level of play and recommend the actions they feel are needed to properly place an individual player and/or team in the appropriate level of play.
3. Upon approval from the League Commissioner the Disciplinary and Actions Board shall notify the individual player and the Manager of the team of the individual player of the assessment of the player’s level of play and the actions deemed necessary to place the player in an appropriate level of play.
4. Upon approval from the League Commissioner the Disciplinary and Actions Board shall notify the Manager of the team the assessment of the Team’s level of play and the actions deemed necessary to place the team in an appropriate level of play.

## Written Minutes

Written records shall be kept of any and all Disciplinary and Actions Board meetings or hearings and copies of the written records must be forwarded on to the League Commissioner at the conclusion of any and all meetings or hearings.

# Reservation of Rights

1. The RHL is committed to providing a safe league. As a result, it reserves the right to suspend, expel or otherwise prevent any player from playing that the RHL determines, in its sole discretion, to be detrimental to the safe operation of the League. The RHL also reserves the right to refuse or deny the application of any prospective player that the RHL determines, in its sole discretion, to be detrimental to the safe operation of the League.
2. The RHL reserves the right to change its rules or guidelines at any time. Teams and players are encouraged to check the League's website throughout the season for any updates.

# Board of Directors

Kyle Gregory – *League Commissioner* Email: rhlcommissioner@gmail.com 1-253-272-7825

Donna Kaufman – *Deputy Commissioner: Pshcdk@aol.com*

Dutch Holt – *Secretary*

# Disciplinary and Actions Board

Kyle Gregory – *Chair (non-voting)* Email: rhlcommissioner@gmail.com 1-253-272-7825

# Appeals Board

Donna Kaufman – *Chair (non-voting)* Email: PSHCDK@aol.com 1-253-272-7825