

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### IHC MSL BY-LAWS AND LEAGUE RULES IHC MSL REPRESENTATION

1. SEASON
2. ROSTERS AND REGISTRATION
3. ELIGIBILITY
4. UNIFORMS AND PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
5. DIVISIONS
6. GAME OFFICIALS
7. SCORE SHEETS
8. TEAM STANDING AND PLAYOFF
9. APPEALS COMMITTEE
10. ZERO TOLERANCE
11. PRACTICES
12. GAME RULES / IHC MSL ADOPTION OF NARCh RULES

#### 1. SEASON

##### 1/A REGULAR SEASON

The 3<sup>rd</sup> regular season will begin no later than the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October and will conclude by December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007. The league will complete the season, including playoffs by the time most schools close for the holidays.

##### 1/B GAMES PLAYED

The IHC MSL Fall 2007 regular season games will include 8 games, plus playoffs and championships, with at least 1 playoff game. Games will be played on Saturday AM's, (Tuesday PM's will be for religious schools only) and Friday PM's if needed. Practice times are available upon request.

##### 1/C PLAYOFFS

Playoffs will be conducted at the conclusion of the regular season culminating in a championship tournament. The IHC MSL will support 2 divisions (Gold & Silver) for the Fall 2007 season. The higher echelon teams will make up the Gold Division.

#### 2/A ORGANIZATION

Each middle school registering in both divisions must have two head coach's representing that school. The name entered as Gold Coach and Silver Coach will be the main contact with the league and will be the only contacts the league will accept for entry, protests, or schedule changes during the course of the season. **Registration costs will be \$130.00 with an IHC reversible Jersey, or \$160.00 without a reversible jersey. Registration for teams will conclude by October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Each team will be given a tryout time of 50 minutes of Rink Time for their scheduled tryout or practice. All players must register and pay in full on or**

**before this date, with School I.D. Cards or a library card from school that has the child's school name on it.**

#### 2/B TEAM SIZE

Each team will be allowed to carry a maximum of 15 players on their roster. The roster must contain a minimum of one goalie and up to 14 skaters. Each team must have a minimum of (8) player to submit a roster.

#### 2/D REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Registration will begin in September. Registration deadline will be October 7<sup>th</sup>. All league fees are due prior to the first week of regular season play.

#### 2/E SCHEDULE POSTINGS

All attempts will be made to submit and post to the IHC website, the league schedule 5 days prior to the beginning of the season.

#### 2/F ROSTER DEADLINE

The final team roster, with player positions, numbers, and grades must be submitted for approval by the teams 3<sup>rd</sup> game. The team player contacts must be signed by all parties and available for reference before the league season starts, along with full payment and student I.D.

#### 2/G ROSTER CHANGES

##### 2/G1

No changes may be made to the roster after the 3<sup>rd</sup> game of the season. NO SUBS!

##### 2/G2

New players may be added to empty roster spots before the third game of the regular season and after their proof of eligibility is demonstrated. Player contract forms must be completed and have been processed by the league directors before the third game.

##### 2/G3

Goalie rule: Because Goal Keepers are so hard to find, we will not require the goaltender to be from the same school as the rest of the team. The goalie only needs to play one game for the team in order to play in the playoffs.

##### 2/G4

Any substitute goaltenders may cover a game for another school, provided written permission on the back of the score sheet by either a league director or opposing coach.

#### 2/H PLAYER CONTRACT FORMS

Completed player contract forms along with league registration fees, and a copy of the school I.D. must be turned in for players listed on the roster before he/she can play in an IHC MSL game. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit of any games played without signed player contract forms or league registration fees on hand by the IHC management.

#### 2/I COOPERATIVE TEAM MAKE-UP

You must have 5 players that attend the same school to form a MSL team. Students that are home or private schooled may only join the team that they would be assigned to by their public school district, as they would be "bused" to.

##### 2/I2

Schools may combine inside a district if schools cannot produce players due to hardship. (United)

##### 2/I3

When the hardship schools reach 8 students, they must form a separate team. (End of Season)

2/I4

You may not include students from outside of your immediate school district.

2/I5

If the cooperative team has any repeat 8<sup>th</sup> graders seniors they must play Gold.

2/I6

If the cooperative team has no 8<sup>th</sup> graders at all they may request to play Silver.

## 2/J SCHOOLS WITH MORE THAN ONE TEAM

2/J1

A "hardship" toward producing acceptable numbers of players for an approved roster is: 7

2/J2

Any group of home-schooled students within the same matriculation area will be allowed to play for the school they would bus to, if attending public school.

## 3. ELIGIBILITY

3/A

No second year 8<sup>th</sup> graders or any ninth grade or higher girls are permitted to play on any team.

3/B

The IHC MSL league rules may be altered, amended or repealed and the IHC MSL staff may adopt new league rules.

## 3/C TEAM ELIGIBILITY

3/C1

IHC will be required to have a Team Roster Binder that contained copies of players' eligibility requirements, for each player listed on the roster. This binder should include copies of team registration, approved roster, copies of student identification, "home school" student verification documentation, and League payment records.

3/C2

Whether your School requires it or not, an adult over the age of 21 must represent the team as the head coach. Team coaches and team administrators are responsible to enforce all IHC MSL rules and regulations, both in the application procedure and throughout the season.

3/C3

The team must meet the uniform and equipment safety requirements of the league. (See IHC Web site for online rules and regulations)

3/C4

All teams will be expected to comply in full with the league rules, by-laws and decisions which may be handed down in enforcement of said rules.

3/C5

Penalties, suspensions, and fines may be the results of rule violations. Any special circumstances, or situations which you feel should require special consideration, should be brought to the leagues attention in writing.

## 3/D ELIGIBILITY ENFORCEMENT

Teams that fail any league eligibility requirements are not eligible for participation in the IHC MSL playoffs. All games scheduled, during the time a team remains ineligible, will be forfeited.

### 3/D2

Any games played while a team remains ineligible, or while playing an ineligible player, will be forfeited.

### 3/D3

Any team protesting the eligibility of a given player at the start of the game must file an Incident Report form and have both the referee and opposing team coach sign before the start of the game. If the player in question is determined to be in fact eligible, the game will resume and outcome of game posted to the official league stats. However, if the player is determined to be ineligible the game must be played without the ineligible player on the bench or playing surface. If the game has started, and an ineligible player is later identified, that game and any subsequent games played with that ineligible player will be deemed a forfeit.

## 4. UNIFORMS AND PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

### 4/A UNIFORMS

#### 4/A1

All players on the team must wear matching jerseys, similar in color and design. It is mandatory that all goaltenders wear full equipment.

#### 4/A2

Home teams should wear light colored jerseys. Visiting teams must wear dark colored jerseys.

#### 4/A3

Jerseys must have unique numbers for each player, clearly printed on the back, no less than 8 inches in height.

#### 4/A4

The school name, logo, mascot, and player name may be displayed on the jersey.

### 4/B EQUIPMENT

#### 4/B1

Logos on originally manufactured equipment may remain as produced.

#### 4/B2

All players must wear proper fitting approved HECC APPROVED helmets with full cage, or face shield, and chin strap. Helmet must remain snapper at all times on the skating surface. No helmet and/or facemask can be altered in any way. They must be worn as manufactured. A player will be removed from the game and may not return until corrections are made.

#### 4/B3

Elbow pads, shin pads, hockey gloves, an athletic protector/cup, and in-line skates are mandatory. See <http://www.iccdet.org/ihc/equipment.htm> for more details.

#### 4/B4

Skates may not have missing wheels, protruding bolts, or screws of any kind. No loose or hanging equipment will be permitted. No Black Heel Brakes Allowed!!! Protective equipment cannot be exposed.

## 5. LEAGUE DIVISIONS

### 5/A DIVISIONS

#### 5/A1

The league will be divided into divisions. The number of divisions will be based on the number of teams for that level of play (i.e. Gold, Silver, etc.). The league will divide the divisions into Gold and Silver to keep the teams in equitable divisions.

#### 5/A2

The makeup of the division can be adjusted from season to season based on the record from last season.

## 6. REFEREES

### 6/A

IHC MSL referees will be present at all IHC MSL games

#### 6/1A

The 2-referee system will be employed at all IHC MSL games. If both referees are not available when the game is scheduled to begin, the game will start with one referee. At this time the rink will then make every effort to get a replacement referee to the rink as soon as possible. If the game ends with only one referee, the game will stand as an official game.

#### 6/2A

If neither scheduled referee is present at game time, the rink will notify the league and make effort for replacements. Both teams will wait up to 15 minutes from game time before the game is officially cancelled. The league will re-schedule this game at the most appropriate time, based on rink time availability.

#### 6/3A

Any team feedback regarding referees must be submitted to the league in E-Mail form by the team **coach ONLY**. Please send these directly from the IHC website [www.jccdnet.org/ihc](http://www.jccdnet.org/ihc)

### 6/B DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

#### 6/B1

Referees will complete an incident report form for any infractions that require attention from IHC Management. The IHC Management will meet when necessary to decide on disciplinary issues during the regular season. This means that the player in question will be suspended from league games until the IHC Management resolves the issue. You have the right to an appeal. Appeals must be submitted in writing, with a \$100 appeals fee within 48n hours of the incident to the IHC MSL for review by the IHC Management.

### 6/C RULES

IHC MSL will use a modified NARCh – IHC Rulebook for Middle School play.

### 6/D TEAM STAFF

A limit of 3 team staff members will be allowed on the player's bench (head coach, 2-assistant coaches). All players must have their helmets on at all times.

### 6/E RULE CHANGES

The IHC MSL if deemed necessary may enact changes to the league format or the rules. All teams will be notified of any such changes.

## 7. SCORE SHEETS

### 7/A

Any request to review statistic discrepancies found on the IHC MSL website must be submitted by the coach, of the requesting team. Any request made by players, spectators, or parents will not be accepted. To change a statistic, coaches must E-Mail [kcarrier@iccdet.org](mailto:kcarrier@iccdet.org) and the sending E-Mail address will be on file with the league. No exceptions. All information necessary to make the change: date, time, teams involved, game played, player, regarding the stat change must be submitted within 48 hours from the conclusion of the game in question.

### 7/B PLAYER ROSTER

The team roster must be filled out prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> game. The league will post each player's name, number onto the web site and score sheets (Pointstreak). Score sheets will be made available on the [www.pointstreak.com](http://www.pointstreak.com) website prior to each league game. We recommend that team coaches download score sheets to verify their own and opposing team rosters for eligibility.

7/B1 NOTE: Coaches, referees, and scorekeepers may be required to review and sign-off on games in question score sheets at the end of each competition. Identifying errors before signing the score sheet is very important.

### 7/B2

If a rostered player wears a number other than listed on the roster/score sheet, he must report this change to the scorekeeper before game play.

### 7/B3

If a player is legally rostered on that team, and the omission of his/her name is clearly inadvertent, then the player's name can be added to the score sheet and roster. The league must be notified to make the appropriate correction to the score sheet and roster within 48 hours of the game.

### 7/C SCORE SHEETS DISTRIBUTION

IHC MSL score sheets are digitally produced from the [www.pointstreak.com](http://www.pointstreak.com) website, and are not given out prior to the game. If coaches want to verify or check another team's roster, we suggest you print it out before you come to the rink.

### 7/D STATISTICS

Statistics will be maintained by the IHC MSL and posted usually within 2 hours from the time the score sheet is submitted into the Pointstreak system.

### 7/E SCORING

Players will earn 1 point for each goal, or assist, for which they are credited with on the score sheet. Only coaches, referees, and scorekeepers sign the score sheet, the stats remain final, with the exception of any errors that require correction (refer to 7/A).

### 7/F FORFEITS

In forfeited games the neither team will be credited with any goals or assists. The only statistic recorded will be that of a 1-0 score. The team accepting the forfeit will receive (2) two points for the win.

## 8. TEAM STANDINGS AND PLAYOFFS

### 8/A INDIVIDUAL SCORING

Team points will be accumulated as follows; 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss.

#### 8/B DIVISION STANDINGS

The teams accumulating the most team points in regular season conference play will determine their placement within the league team standings and eligibility for league playoffs.

#### 8/C DIVISION TIE BREAKING

In the event of a tie for Division Champion, the tie breaking criteria will be as follows;

- (a) Head-To-Head competition – results of games against each other
- (b) Goals-Against – Goals registered against the teams
- (c) Goals-For – Goals registered against other teams
- (d) Coin Toss – At a designated location

#### 8/D LEAGUE DECISION

The IHC Management staff will render final tiebreaker decisions based on (1) head-to-head competition, (2) If a coin toss is necessary, then representatives of both teams will be present.

### 9. APPEALS PROCESS

#### 9/A

The IHC Management will meet when necessary to decide on disciplinary issues during the regular season. The player(s) in question will not play any league games until the IHC Management resolves the issue.

### 10. ZERO TOLERANCE

#### Zero Tolerance Policy

In an effort to make inline hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, the IHC MSL has instructed the Officiating Program to adhere to certain points of emphasis relating to sportsmanship. This campaign is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, teams officials and administrators and parents/spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all IHC MSL middle school games.

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
2. Use of obscene, vulgar language, discriminatory remarks in a boisterous manner at any time, including swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
3. Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision. Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action. These actions will be recorded and maintained in the IHC MSL scoring system.

If any infraction exceeds a reasonable amount of occurrences and are deemed by the IHC Management staff to be excessive, the player can be assessed a suspension or a penalty up to and including revocation of IHC MSL membership.

#### Coaches

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

1. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
2. Use of obscene, vulgar language, or discriminatory remarks in a boisterous manner at any time, including swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
3. Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision. Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action. These actions will be recorded and maintained in the IHC MSL scoring system.

Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty. If any infraction exceeds a reasonable amount of occurrences and are deemed by the Rules and Infractions Committee to be excessive, the coach can be assessed a suspension or a penalty up to and including revocation of IHC MSL membership.

#### Officials

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial, and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited.

Officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind. If any infraction exceeds a reasonable amount of occurrences and are deemed by the IHC Management to be excessive, the referee can be assessed a suspension up to and including revocation of IHC MSL officiating privileges.

#### Parents/Spectators

The game will be stopped by officials when the parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior, interfere with other spectators or the game. The officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing the parents/spectators from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the facility and/or IHC Management.

This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

1. Use of obscene, vulgar language, or discriminatory remarks in a boisterous manner to anyone at anytime.
2. Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
3. Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, player's bench, penalty box, or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

#### Equal Opportunity Policy

IHC MSL shall provide an equal opportunity to amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in middle school inline hockey athletic competition, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin, and with fair notice and opportunity for a hearing to any middle school athlete, coach, manager, administrator, or official before declaring such individual ineligible to participate in IHC MSL programs or competition.

IHC MSL has determined that it is not in the best interest of its programs and the sport of hockey, and has therefore prohibited any conduct detrimental to hockey to do with any of the following while participating in or affecting the sport of middle school inline hockey:

- (a) Discriminate on the basis of race, religion, age, sex, or national origin,
- (b) Consume, use, sale, give or abuse of mood altering substances, other than in accordance with a Doctor's prescription,

For purposes of this policy, the words "mood altering substances shall include the following:

1. Intoxicating beverages, including, but not limited to, alcohol.
2. Non-prescription or prescribed controlled substances.
3. Prescription or prescribed controlled substances when used to excess in violation of doctors' orders, or to produce the state of intoxication in the participant.
4. Abuse, (including but not limited to ethnic, racial, sexual, physical or mental).

#### Consumption/Use/Abuse of Mood Altering Substances

It is the considered judgment of the IHC MSL that consumption/use/abuse of mood altering substances is detrimental to a healthy state of mind, body, and spirit in an athletic participant. This is especially true for those participants aspiring to develop their talents in the furtherance of their playing, or coaching, or officiating careers in the sport of inline hockey.

Therefore, with the best interests of its participants in mind, IHC MSL prohibits use by any participant of mood altering substances during active participation in its programs, and, upon discovery of any violation, shall take action to remove the participant from participation in its programs for a reasonable period of time.

Further, IHC MSL hereby recommends that each and all of its teams, associations, programs, and affiliates adopt reasonable regulations concerning the prohibition of consumption/use/abuse of mood altering substances, and a reasonable enforcement of procedure thereafter, in order to maintain the health of our athlete participants, the integrity of our programs, and the eligibility of all of our competitors for national, international, and collegiate competition.

#### 11. PRACTICE

Teams are responsible for scheduling, organizing, and conducting practices. Teams are asked to support the rink that will be used in league play when scheduling practice times.

#### 12/A NON-CHECKING LEAGUE

The IHC MSL is a Non-Checking league. "Checking" meaning, any deliberate or meaningful body contact deemed as excessive by, or at the referee's discretion. Accidental contact or action seemed as "Playing the puck" may or may not be penalized as "Checking" at the referee's discretion.

#### 12/B GAME TIME

Games will consist of 3 periods of 14 minutes each, no stop time. Stop time in last 2 minutes for 2 goals or less score differential.

#### 12/C TIME OUT

Each team will have 1 time out, consisting of 45 seconds. The coach, captain, or alternate may indicate to the referee that the time out is requested.

#### 12/D OVERTIME

There is no "Overtime" policy for the regular season. During the playoffs and championship rounds, a 5-minute sudden death period will be played if the game remains tied at the end of regulation time.

Sudden death implies that the first team that scores wins. If, after the sudden death overtime period, the teams remain tied, the game will go to a "Shoot-Out"

#### 12/E PRE GAME WARM UP

2-minute warm-up will be provided prior to the start of the game if time permits.

#### 12/F BETWEEN PERIODS

There will be a 45 second official time out between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> periods.

#### 12/G MERCY

There is an 8-goal differential mercy rule in the IHC MSL league.

#### 12/H FIGHTING

The league has a zero-tolerance for fighting. As a result, players assessed a penalty for fighting will receive an automatic 5-minute Major Penalty, Game Ejection Penalty (10-minute Game Misconduct), and a 3-game suspension. Repeat penalty for fighting will warrant a Game suspension, and including a season suspension or league ban.

#### 12/I RESCHEDULED GAMES/INCLEMENT WEATHER

Games officially cancelled due to "acts of nature" (such as winter storms, floods, or other natural disasters) will be re-scheduled at the end of season play if rink time is not made available. Game rescheduling, for any reasons other than the above mentioned will not be considered.

#### 12/I1

Game rescheduling will not be considered for reasons pertaining to school parties, proms, dances, Bar Mitzvahs, conflicting sports events, tournaments, personal league schedule conflicts, or game day preferences. There will be no refunds for game forfeits or the leagues inability to reschedule games.

#### 12/I2

Any games that the IHC MSL deems to be a reasonable "hardship" may be considered for rescheduling with a required \$75 rescheduling charge. All reasonable attempts will be made to reschedule at the end of the season, but will not be guaranteed.

#### 12/I3

Coaches that purposely choose not to engage his/her team in a scheduled game will be placed on probation by the league, or up to and including league suspension. Any coach that knowingly persuades his/her team to purposely forfeit a game(s) will receive a league suspension or up to loss of all coaching privileges in the IHC.

Game rescheduling arrangements between team personnel will not be permitted or accepted to the league season schedule. Games not originally on the league schedule or approved by the IHC MSL will not be considered and officially recorded as a forfeit.

#### 12/J THREE MINOR PENALTIES IN SAME GAME

On the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) minor penalty in the same game to the same player, including the goalkeeper, that player will receive a game ejection penalty for a minimum of (6) Six penalty minutes assessed.

NOTE: The player will have a substitute serve the minor penalty and the player will serve the entire penalty. Any subsequent penalty incurred within the game will result in that player being assigned a game misconduct.

#### 12/K MAXIMUM LEAGUE SEASON PENALTIES INDIVIDUAL

The maximum total of "Penalty Minutes" during the league season is 40 minutes for the regular season and post-season competition. Any player that reaches the 40-minute limit will be suspended for one game and one game for every 10 minutes thereafter.