League Operations Manual

NCRHA

National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association

2026-2027

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Note: Changes from the 2025-2026 League Operations Manual are highlighted in gray. Minor changes in wording are not highlighted, for ease of viewing.

I. WHAT IS THE NCRHA?

The National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association (NCRHA) is an organization of College/University affiliated programs which serves as the governing body of collegiate roller hockey in the United States of America.

II. MISSION STATEMENT

As the national governing body of collegiate roller hockey, the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association shall promote and advance the sport of hockey while maintaining the spirit of the game through student leadership, athletic achievement and sportsmanship.

III. CONFERENCE STANDARDS

See the NCRHA By-Laws for details.

A. Payment of dues

i. Each Conference of the NCRHA shall pay dues to the NCRHA based on the number of teams in each division and an amount determined for each division.
   a) Division I, II, III, JC, Women's - $450
   b) Division AA (secondary programs) - $300 (per Division AA program; no additional charge for multiple Division AA teams per college)
   c) Affiliate (Developmental) – $100
ii. Conference Dues are to be paid by each Conference to the NCRHA by November 1st of each season.

IV. TEAM ELIGIBILITY AND STANDARDS

A. School Recognition

i. Members of the NCRHA shall be university or college sanctioned roller hockey clubs.
   a) Exception: Affiliate teams may participate for one season with paperwork pending. School official to notify NCRHA giving the team authority to use school name, logo, mascot, and colors, and stating that the club will be recognized the following year.
ii. Annually, members shall submit a School Acknowledgment Letter to verify affiliation in good standing.
iii. Approved teams are eligible for full membership with all rights and privileges.

B. Divisional Classification

i. Divisions Defined

a) Division I

- The primary teams of all four-year universities and colleges shall be eligible to choose to participate in Division I, complying with the requirements below:
  - All players shall have two (2) sets of aesthetically matching long-sleeve jerseys of contrasting colors with the same numbers on both sets. These will be referred to as home and away jerseys.
  - See the NCRHA Rulebook, Rule 300, for further jersey rules and regulations.
  - All players shall have matching full-length roller hockey pants of the same manufacturer and style.
  - All players must wear matching color helmets, with the exception of the goaltender.
  - The colors of all players' gloves are limited to the following main colors: School/uniform color, black, white, gray; and the following trim colors: school/uniform color, black, white, gray. All gloves need not be the same manufacturer or style. A glove's interior lining or palm is not to be considered as trim and will not be subject to review under this rule.
  - A registered coach is strongly recommended, but not required.
  - All coaches and trainers must be registered with the NCRHA and the NCRHA's sanctioning body.
  - Division I teams are required to accept a bid to the National Championship Tournament, should one be extended.

b) Division II

- The primary teams of all four-year universities and colleges shall be eligible, as approved by their conference and the NCRHA, to participate in Division II, complying with the requirements below:
  - All players shall have two (2) sets of aesthetically matching long-sleeve jerseys of contrasting colors with the same numbers on both sets. These will be referred to as home and away jerseys.
  - See the NCRHA Rulebook, Rule 300, for further jersey rules.
  - All players shall have matching full-length roller hockey pants of the same manufacturer and style.
  - All players must wear matching color helmets, with the exception of the goaltender.
  - The colors of all players' gloves are limited to the following main colors: School/uniform color, black, white, gray; and the following trim colors: school/uniform color, black, white, gray. All gloves need not be the same manufacturer or style. A glove's interior lining or palm is not to be considered as trim and will not be subject to review under this rule.
  - A registered coach is strongly recommended, but not required.
  - All coaches and trainers must be registered with the NCRHA and the NCRHA's sanctioning body.

c) Division III

- The primary teams of all four-year universities and colleges shall be eligible, as approved by their conference and the NCRHA, to participate in Division III, complying with the requirements below:
  - All players shall have two (2) sets of aesthetically matching long-sleeve jerseys of contrasting colors with the same numbers on both sets. These will be referred to as home and away jerseys.
  - See the NCRHA Rulebook, Rule 300, for further jersey rules.
  - All players shall have full-length roller hockey pants of the same predominant color. Trim colors are limited to: school/uniform color, black, white, gray. Matching roller hockey pants are recommended.
  - All players' helmets shall be either black, white, or school/uniform color, with the exception of the goaltender.
  - The colors of all players' gloves are limited to the following main colors: School/uniform color, black, white, gray; and the following trim colors: school/uniform color, black, white, gray. All gloves need not be the same manufacturer or style. A glove's interior lining or palm is not to be considered as trim and will not be subject to review under this rule.
  - A registered coach is strongly recommended, but not required.
  - All coaches and trainers must be registered with the NCRHA and the NCRHA's sanctioning body.

d) Division AA (secondary teams)

- Secondary teams shall be classified with the -AA designation after the division of their primary team, ie. Division I-AA, Division II-AA, etc.
- All secondary teams shall be classified as Division AA teams, complying with the requirements below:
  - All players shall have two (2) sets of aesthetically matching long-sleeve jerseys of contrasting colors with the same numbers on both sets. These will be referred to as home and away jerseys.
  - See the NCRHA Rulebook, Rule 300, for further jersey rules and regulations.
  - All players shall have full-length roller hockey pants of the same predominant color. Trim colors are limited to: school/uniform color, black, white, gray. Matching roller hockey pants are recommended.
  - All players' helmets shall be either black, white, or school/uniform color, with the exception of the goaltender.
  - The colors of all players' gloves are limited to the following main colors: School/uniform color, black, white, gray; and the following trim colors: school/uniform color, black, white, gray. All gloves need not be the same manufacturer or style. A glove's interior lining or palm is not to be considered as trim and will not be subject to review under this rule.
  - A registered coach is strongly recommended, but not required.
  - All coaches and trainers must be registered with the NCRHA and the NCRHA's sanctioning body.

e) Affiliate Division

- The Affiliate Division is designed for new clubs or those that are trying to build or rebuild their program. The primary teams, and additional secondary/tertiary teams, of all four-year universities and colleges, as well as two-year, community and junior colleges, shall be eligible to participate in the Affiliate Division, complying with the requirements below:
  - All players shall have one (1) set of aesthetically matching long-sleeve jerseys with a number on the back.
  - Affiliate Division teams must consult their Conference to verify jersey color selection prior to placing an order.
  - All players shall have full-length roller hockey pants. Pants of the same predominant color are recommended, but not required.
  - A registered coach is strongly recommended, but not required.
  - All coaches and trainers must be registered with the NCRHA and the NCRHA's sanctioning body.

f) Junior College Division

- The primary teams of all two-year, community and junior colleges shall be eligible to participate in the Junior College Division, complying with the requirements below:
  - All players shall have two (2) sets of aesthetically matching long-sleeve jerseys of contrasting colors with the same numbers on both sets. These will be referred to as home and away jerseys.
  - See the NCRHA Rulebook, Rule 300, for further jersey rules and regulations.
  - All players shall have full-length roller hockey pants of the same predominant color. Trim colors are limited to: school/uniform color, black, white, gray. Matching roller hockey pants are recommended.
  - All players' helmets shall be either black, white, or school/uniform color, with the exception of the goaltender.
  - The colors of all players' gloves are limited to the following main colors: School/uniform color, black, white, gray; and the following trim colors: school/uniform color, black, white, gray. All gloves need not be the same manufacturer or style. A glove's interior lining or palm is not to be considered as trim and will not be subject to review under this rule.
  - A registered coach is strongly recommended, but not required.
  - All coaches and trainers must be registered with the NCRHA and the NCRHA's sanctioning body.

g) Women's Division

- The Women's teams of all four-year universities and colleges shall be eligible, as approved by their conference and the NCRHA, to participate in the Women's Division, complying with the requirements below:
  - Teams are to be comprised solely of women.
  - All players shall have two (2) sets of aesthetically matching long-sleeve jerseys of contrasting colors with the same numbers on both sets. These will be referred to as home and away jerseys.
  - See the NCRHA Rulebook, Rule 300, for further jersey rules.

- All players shall have full-length roller hockey pants of the same predominant color. Trim colors are limited to: school/uniform color, black, white, gray. Matching roller hockey pants are recommended.
- All players' helmets shall be either black, white, or school/uniform color, with the exception of the goaltender.
- The colors of all players' gloves are limited to the following main colors: School/uniform color, black, white, gray; and the following trim colors: school/uniform color, black, white, gray. All gloves need not be the same manufacturer or style. A glove's interior lining or palm is not to be considered as trim and will not be subject to review under this rule.
- A registered coach is strongly recommended, but not required.
- All coaches and trainers must be registered with the NCRHA and the NCRHA's sanctioning body.

h) Following the start of the season, any team found in violation of the requirements above shall risk forfeiture of postseason play (Conference and National Championship Tournaments).

ii. Team Commitment/Divisional Application Form

a) All teams must complete the NCRHA Team Commitment/Divisional Application Form prior to the start of each season. The form must be submitted to the Conference in which the regular season is played, according to their deadlines.

b) This form is an application, subject to Conference and NCRHA approval. The NCRHA or the affected Conference reserves the right to deny any Divisional Application should there be any detriment to the league.

c) Automatic Divisional Application Reviews

- A program moving their team from Division I to Division II or from Division II to Division III without the consent of the NCRHA will be ineligible for the National Championships for one season.
- All teams that participate in the Division II and Division III National Championships are subject to automatic Board review.
- A team that finishes in the Division II Final Four for 2 consecutive seasons must move to Division I the following season.
- A team that finishes in the Division III Final Four for 2 consecutive seasons must move to Division II the following season.

d) With respect to teams who the NCRHA Board of Directors have deemed Division II programs: should the team prefer to remain in Division III, they may not participate in DIII Nationals for one season.

- Conference regular season and post-season eligibility will be determined by their conference.

C. At-Large and Affiliate Membership

i. At-Large Membership

a) At-Large members of the NCRHA are defined as programs located outside the geographical operating boundaries of any NCRHA Conference.

- For Conference boundaries, visit: http://www.ncrha.org/members.php

b) At-Large members must adhere to all membership requirements outlined in Article IV, Section D.

c) All players on At-Large teams must satisfy all requirements under Article V: Player Eligibility for their respective division.

d) At-Large members are eligible to participate in the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Championships and Winter Cup.

e) See Article VIII for additional details regarding the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Championships.

ii. Affiliate Membership

a) Affiliate members of the NCRHA are defined as programs who wish to participate in NCRHA-sanctioned games without becoming full NCRHA members.

b) Affiliate members are eligible to play exhibition games against NCRHA teams at NCRHA Conference events, pending availability. Contact the appropriate Conference and the NCRHA (ED@ncrha.org) for additional details.

c) All players on Affiliate teams must satisfy the Player Eligibility requirements for their respective division. See Article V for additional details.

d) Players will not utilize a year of NCRHA eligibility for participation on an Affiliate team.

e) Affiliate members are NOT eligible to participate in the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Championships and Winter Cup.

D. Membership Requirements

i. Annual submission of Team Commitment/Divisional Application Form by October 15th or sooner, based on Conference deadlines, accompanied by any documentation required in Article IV, Section B of this manual.

ii. Submission of all registration materials in the NCRHA Registration packet (including first semester NCRHA Player Enrollment Verification Form) to the respective Conference by October 15th.

iii. Submission of all registration materials for newly rostered players to be submitted prior to participation.

iv. Submission of all registration materials for the second semester as well as the second semester NCRHA Player Enrollment Verification Form by February 1st.

v. All players and bench staff (coaches, trainers, equipment managers, etc.) must be registered members of the NCRHA's sanctioning body prior to participation.

vi. Team must adhere to all NCRHA standards, policies and procedures.

vii. Team shall participate in organizational meetings, provide timely response to requests for information/feedback by NCRHA Board and staff and remain in compliance with all administrative procedures.

viii. Team and all players shall adhere to any additional registration requirements of their respective Conference.

E. Membership Benefits

i. Members will benefit from participating in the organization by any or all of the following: national affiliation, national information system, national newsletter, national standards, national tournaments, national awards, national program recognition, and recognition for recruiting, technical assistance and affiliation with the NCRHA's sanctioning body.

F. Suspension of Membership Benefits

i. Membership affiliation and benefits may be suspended or withdrawn for non-compliance with any NCRHA rules or regulations. Suspension of benefits may include removal of team participation from NCRHA-sanctioned games including the National Championships, probationary status for one or more seasons, or forfeiture of games for violation of player eligibility requirements.

ii. All suspension of benefits for violations shall be decided by the Board of Directors of the NCRHA.

iii. All suspension of benefits may be appealed in writing within 15 days to the NCRHA Disciplinary Committee.

iv. All appropriate documents shall be distributed to each member of the Disciplinary Committee by the Executive Director. The Committee shall decide to deny, uphold or modify the appeal. The Committee shall render a decision within 15 days of receipt of appeal. The decision of the Committee is final.

G. Membership Standards and Conduct

i. Any NCRHA team which fails to honor a confirmed scheduling commitment except under an act of God shall be ineligible for conference or national tournaments. Any disputes regarding the circumstances under which games are canceled or forfeited shall be reviewed by the Director of League Operations. An Incident Report must be filed with the NCRHA office by the Conference or aggrieved team on each contentious game cancellation incident.

ii. Any team using an ineligible player in an NCRHA game shall forfeit the game in which the player participated and may be subject to suspension of membership benefits by action of the NCRHA Board of Directors.

iii. It is the responsibility of all members to monitor player behavior at hotels, restaurants, rinks, etc., to ensure the NCRHA is represented in a positive manner. Any confirmed damages are the sole responsibility of the teams and institutions directly involved, and restitution is expected to be paid immediately. Violations of conduct as outlined in the NCRHA Team Agreement and NCRHA Player Agreement are subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the respective agreements.

H. Team Uniforms (General)

i. For rules regarding equipment, please consult the NCRHA Rule Book, Section 3.

ii. For jersey/pants/gloves requirements by division, see Article IV, Section B.

iii. All players in all divisions must display an NCRHA logo helmet sticker located on the helmet on the lower part of the rear of the helmet. It is recommended that all goalkeepers also display an NCRHA helmet sticker on the rear portion of their helmet as well. NCRHA helmet stickers can be obtained from each Conference's Director.

iv. Additional Information

a) Aesthetically matching shall be defined as identical in color, style, theme and logo.

b) It is recommended that jerseys display the school name, logo or mascot as the predominant image, as allowed by respective school.

v. Home teams must wear light jerseys and visiting teams must wear dark jerseys.
   a) At the discretion of the Referee, the Visiting Team shall change its jerseys if the colors of the competing team conflict.
   b) Teams shall not change jerseys prior to a game without permission from the Event Director.

vi. Predominant color shall be defined as the recognizably dominant color of more than 50% of the pant.
   a) In the event that a pant style does not contain a predominant color, the color that is predominant when looking at the front of the pant shall be considered the overall predominant color of the pant.
   b) See Article IV, Section B for acceptable pant trim colors (Division III, Junior College, AA and Women's).
   c) Goaltenders are not required to wear full-length roller hockey pants.

vii. Each player listed on a game roster must wear an individual identifying number at least eight (8) inches in height on the back of the jersey.
   a) The number shall be permanently attached to the jersey.
   b) The number shall be of a contrasting color to the jersey.
   c) All numbers assigned must be whole numbers from 0-99, inclusive.
   d) No two members of the same team shall be permitted to be rostered or wear the same number.
   e) All Players must remain in uniform for the warm-up period as well as the entirety of the game.
      - During a game, if a jersey is rendered unwearable and is replaced, the team captain shall report immediately to the referee the previous number and the new number for the player.

viii. Logos and Sponsorship
   a) It is recommended that teams display their school name, logo, or mascot upon the front of their jerseys.
   b) Such branding shall be the predominant image of a team's uniform.
   c) A team's uniform or any item of apparel (e.g. jerseys, pants or helmet) may not contain any aftermarket industry brandings, sponsor names, logos, or patches unless league approved. Sponsorship branding is not permitted.
   d) The following images are permitted explicitly as logos or patches:
      - NCRHA, Conference, or the NCRHA's sanctioning body. logos
      - American flags, ribbons and other similar patriotic symbols
      - Team logos and school/mascot names
      - Memorials, such as 9/11 tributes
   e) On team jerseys, manufacturer branding must be contained within a geometric figure that does not exceed sixteen (16) square inches. The jersey may contain multiple manufacturer or designer logos or trademarks, provided the total area of branding does not exceed sixteen (16) square inches.
   f) There shall be no size restriction on manufacturer branding on roller hockey pants.

g) Helmets shall not contain any aftermarket stickers unless approved by the NCRHA Director of League Operations. The following stickers are explicitly permitted:

- NCRHA, Conference, or the NCRHA's sanctioning body. logos
- American flags, ribbons, and other similar patriotic symbols
- Player numbers, team logos, and school/mascot names
- Memorials, such as 9/11 tributes

h) All new jersey designs must include the NCRHA logo. The NCRHA logo should be at least 2 inches tall and include a white or black border that differentiates it from the jersey color itself. Any jersey re-orders (ie. partial team orders) must include the NCRHA logo, and will be considered "matching jerseys" to the original jerseys without NCRHA logo.

- Please contact the NCRHA regarding NCRHA logo size and placement prior to jersey production.

i) Please contact the league authorities for clarification regarding legality of logos and sponsorship under this rule.

I. Master Rosters

i. All clubs shall list every fully-registered player and all bench staff from their program on their master roster.

ii. Master rosters may contain multiple teams and therefore are unlimited in maximum size.

iii. Master rosters are submitted to NCRHA once per semester.

iv. Players can be added to the master roster at any point in the semester, provided the players have completed all required paperwork. Contact your Conference for details.

V. Player Eligibility and Standards

A. Recruitment

i. Each member of the NCRHA shall have the option of utilizing a non-binding NCRHA letter of intent in recruiting student athletes for their university and their hockey program.

ii. No staff or team member from an Active NCRHA team shall actively recruit other member NCRHA players or staff during the season. This includes teams under probation or perceived as “not in good standing”. Any exception must be approved by the Director of League Operations in writing.

iii. A player who participates in any games with an NCRHA club program may not transfer mid-season to a school with a Division I program and participate in any NCRHA sanctioned competition for the remainder of the season, unless they are released by their original club program. Players transferring to a school with a Division II, Division III, or Junior College Division program require approval from the Conference Director to participate.

B. Player Registration

i. Each player shall verify with the NCRHA his or her academic and playing status at the beginning of each season as well as submit completed documentation as provided in the NCRHA Registration Packet.

ii. The NCRHA Enrollment Verification form shall be completed and signed by the registrar, and received by the respective Conference by October 15st for the first semester and February 1st for the second semester. All teams attending the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Championships are required to submit an additional Enrollment Verification form.

C. General Player Eligibility

i. *The NCRHA does not discriminate against gender and is an equal-opportunity organization that permits coed participation.*

ii. A student-athlete shall be subjected to limited eligibility for participation in the NCRHA if the individual signed a salaried contract to play in a professional hockey league, or received a salary to do so. Student-athletes who have played in domestic or foreign professional or major junior ice hockey leagues, or in the RHI or foreign professional roller hockey leagues, shall be subjected to limited eligibility as follows:

a) In the context of this rule, pay shall be defined as receiving compensation (monetary or otherwise) in excess of the sum total of the cost of uniform, equipment and travel/practice/game expenses.

b) In the event of a challenge upon eligibility under this rule, players who have participated in professional or semi-professional roller hockey leagues must submit documentation indicating that pay was not received by said player.

c) Such student-athletes must meet NCRHA academic eligibility requirements of the division in which they wish to participate for two (2) terms immediately prior to commencing participation in the NCRHA.

d) Such student-athletes shall lose one full season of NCRHA eligibility for any portion of one year of professional hockey.

e) Such student-athletes shall lose two total full season of NCRHA eligibility for any portion of two combined years of professional hockey.

f) Such student-athletes shall lose all NCRHA eligibility for any portion of three combined years or more of professional hockey

Note: At time of publication, the NCRHA does not consider any domestic roller hockey organizations as being in conflict with this rule, subject to review.

iii. Student athletes appearing on any NCRHA roster must be age seventeen (17) or older as of September 1st of the current season.

a) Players over age 17 but under age 18 must have written parental consent to participate in NCRHA activities.

iv. Student athletes shall have five (5) years of NCRHA eligibility.

a) Graduate students shall have one (1) additional year of eligibility, provided they meet the requirements of Section D. Academic Requirements below.

v. Student athletes shall utilize a year of NCRHA eligibility for each season that said student is eligible for post-season play. See item x. below.

vi. NCRHA student athletes shall be required to sign a player eligibility form at the beginning of each season.

viii. If a player's eligibility is challenged by another team, the NCRHA reserves the right to petition the registrar of the player's university to verify the eligibility of a player.

ix. Players may not participate in more than 5 games per event weekend.

x. All players must compete in a minimum of six (6) NCRHA-sanctioned games in order to be eligible for post-season play. Post-season eligibility cannot be obtained in one weekend. Regular season games (in-conference and inter-conference) played during the dates of the regular season shall count towards the 6-game requirement. Exhibition games and games played at the NCRHA Winterfest event will not count towards the 6 games played requirement. Post-season play includes Conference Championship Tournaments and the Collegiate Roller Hockey National Championship Tournament.

xi. Games must be played with the same club in both the regular season and post-season. Players must be currently enrolled, subject to the requirements in Article D, with that club, in order to play in the post-season.

xii. **Division AA Eligibility** – If a member university or college fields two or more NCRHA teams and a Division AA player is rostered on six (6) or more game score sheets for a Division I, II, III, Women's or JC's primary team during a single regular season, that player shall be deemed ineligible for participation in Division AA games for the remainder of that season, including post-season play.

a) Games played at each Conference Championship Tournament count towards the six (6) game lock.

b) Once a player participates in a game for their primary team at a Conference Championship Tournament or National Championship Tournament, they are locked to the primary team for the duration of the event.

c) Exception: Goaltenders are permitted to be rostered as a goaltender for an unlimited number of games with any team, but will be deemed ineligible for Division AA play upon participating in six (6) or more games with their primary team. The intent of this rule is to provide a backup goaltender for the primary team, due to injury or other circumstances.

d) Exception: A skater on a Division I, II, III, Women's or JC's primary team may play as a goaltender in Division AA until such time as said player has played six (6) games as goaltender on the primary team. Said player may play up to 5 games as a skater on the primary team and 5 Division AA games as a goaltender per regular season weekend, as well as participate in both divisions at a Conference Championship Tournament or National Championship Tournament, as skater on the primary team and goaltender on the Division AA team. A maximum of 5 games per weekend will count towards post-season eligibility.

e) Exception: A goaltender on a Division I, II, III, Women's or JC's primary team may play as a skater in Division AA until such time as said player has played six (6) games as skater on the primary team. This exception is only valid for games that the Division AA team has 5 skaters or less playing the game. Said player may play up to 5 games as a goaltender on the primary team and 5 Division AA games per weekend, as well as participate in both divisions at a Conference Championship Tournament or National Championship Tournament, as goaltender on the primary team and skater on the Division AA team. A maximum of 5 games per weekend will count towards post-season eligibility.

xiii. **Women's Division Eligibility** – Women's Division teams will be considered a primary team, and the primary team/AA team eligibility rules above will apply. In addition, Women's Division teams may not participate in the same division as their primary team.

xiv. Any appeals to the eligibility rules outlined above must be submitted to the NCRHA Board of Directors (BOD@ncrha.org) in writing. See Sections G and H below.

D. Academic Requirements

i. Players must be high school graduates or hold the equivalent of a high school diploma.

ii. Student athletes shall be eligible to participate in their program according to that school's standards.

iii. Student athletes shall be enrolled in a program of study leading to a baccalaureate, masters, or doctoral degree as determined by the regulations of the university or college.

iv. Student athletes shall be degree-seeking according to that school's definition of degree-seeking.

v. Undergraduate students participating in Division I, II, III or Women's (or their respective Division AA team) must carry a minimum credit requirement of nine (9) semester hours (or the equivalent quarter hours). Students participating in the Junior College Division (or their respective Division AA team) must carry a minimum credit requirement of six (6) semester hours (or the equivalent quarter hours).

vi. Graduate students participating in all divisions must carry a minimum of 2 graduate courses per semester (or the equivalent quarter hours/courses).

a) Due to the nature of graduate programs, players under the requirement of 2 graduate courses may appeal in writing to the league authorities.

vii. Credit hours taken at another college or university, even if transferrable, will not count towards the credit hour requirement.

viii. Special student athlete cases (such as internships and co-ops) must have certification of full-time status from the Dean and/or school Registrar and must be approved by the league authorities in writing.

ix. Student athletes must successfully maintain the minimum requirement of credit hours (or equivalent quarter hours) as outlined in Article V, Section D, through the duration of the semester in order to be considered eligible to play. Credit hours that are dropped from the player's schedule shall not be counted towards the total credit requirement.

x. A senior in the last semester or quarter prior to graduation is not required to meet the required semester or quarter hour minimum. Documentation of upcoming graduation and credits or courses remaining must be submitted to the respective Conference at least 7 days in advance of player's next scheduled game. Student athletes must also be eligible to participate in their program according to that school's standards.

xi. A student that graduates mid-season is not required to meet the required semester or quarter hour minimum for any remaining semesters or quarters for that season. Documentation of graduation must be submitted to the respective Conference at least 7 days in advance of player's next scheduled game. Student athletes must also be eligible to participate in their program according to that school's standards.

xii. Any appeals to the eligibility rules outlined above must be submitted to the NCRHA Board of Directors (BOD@ncrha.org) in writing. See Sections G and H below.

E. Financial Aid

i. *The spirit of this rule is to prevent the use of financial compensation without academic or legitimate financial merit as a recruitment tool. Specifically, this rule is NOT designed to prohibit scholarship awards given by high school leagues and industry vendors. Exceptions to this rule will be granted on a case-by-case basis by the Director of League Operations.*

ii. Student-athletes may receive only financial aid which has been properly channeled through the college/university financial aid office or other college/university office. Financial aid shall be awarded on a need basis only as determined by the United States Department of Education Standards for Financial Assistance Program formula as applied to each institution.

iii. Additionally, student athletes may not receive financial aid or monetary disbursement of any kind directly from the NCRHA program he/she represents nor from any booster club or sponsor affiliated with the NCRHA hockey program. Scholarships directly awarded by the NCRHA, its Conferences or sponsors of the NCRHA are exempt from this clause. In addition, independent scholarships provided by organizations such as high school leagues are permissible provided that they do not require the recipient to attend a specific NCRHA program.

iv. Failure to adhere to the financial aid policy will result in immediate suspension of membership benefits in the NCRHA for a one-year period. The Board of Directors will review and act upon requests for reinstatement.

F. Use of Ineligible Players

i. Any team using an ineligible player in any NCRHA-sanctioned game shall forfeit those games in which the player participated.

ii. Teams penalized under this rule are subject to suspension of membership benefits by action of the NCRHA Board of Directors.

G. Player Eligibility Appeal Policies

i. Appeals may request relief from player eligibility standards due to the establishment of reasonable cause (care and prudence), undue hardship, or evidence of administrative error.
   a) A participant must establish reasonable cause by providing facts and circumstances showing the participant exercised reasonable care and prudence, but nonetheless, was unable to comply.
   b) Reasonable Cause is based upon all the facts and circumstances in each eligibility situation that the player was unable to fulfill.

ii. A participant has established reasonable cause when all of the following are addressed:
   a) What specifically occurred?
   b) That the participant was unable to satisfy the requirement, due to no fault of their own.
   c) The facts and circumstances that prevented participant from complying.
   d) If the facts and circumstances changed during the incident, what attempts and measures did the participant make to comply?
   e) Did something prevent the participant from complying, that otherwise could have been an option?

iii. Evidence of reasonable care and prudence includes making provisions for compliance to be met when a reasonably foreseeable event could occur (intent and instigation).

iv. In determining the participant exercised reasonable care and prudence, the Board of Directors will review information including:
   a) The participant's reason for their inability to satisfy the eligibility requirements. This reason must explicitly address each specific eligibility requirement.
   b) The participant must reference each specific eligibility requirement that they are requesting relief from.
   c) Undue Hardship may support granting relief or provided there is evidence of a legitimate hardship beyond the 'inconvenience' to a participant or participant's team.
   d) Administrative error
   e) Evidence of a mishandling of a policy

v. Non-Appealable Issues:
   a) Ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable basis for appeal.
   b) Opinions are subjective, therefore are unacceptable evidence of administrative error.
   c) Intent is subjective, therefore unacceptable evidence.
   d) Inconvenience to a participant or participant's team does not constitute hardship.

H. Player Eligibility Appeal Procedures

i. Player Eligibility Appeals are to be handled on a national level in accordance with the League Operations Manual of the NCRHA.

ii. While a Player Eligibility Appeal is in process, the suspended participant is completely ineligible to participate in any games.
   a) Safety concerns
   b) Liability concerns

iii. Appeals are not automatic. There must be a basis for the appeal that meets appealable standards.

iv. The following process must be adhered to:
   a) The Representative of the participant's team submits appeal.
   b) The appeal must be submitted at least 7 days in advance of next scheduled game.
   c) The appeal must contain all mitigating support by the participant.
   d) The appeal must contain contact information for at least one school official.
   e) Only one appeal may be submitted and must contain all pertinent information.
   f) No additional information or amendments will be permitted once the appeal is submitted.
   g) Appeals are to be submitted to the NCRHA Board of Directors via email to **BOD@ncrha.org**.
   h) Appeals without proper citation will be denied.
   i) Player may not participate until the appeal is processed.
   j) Appeals may take up to 30 days to process.

VI. RULES OF PLAY

The NCRHA will use the rules of play specified in the NCRHA Rule Book for all sanctioned games. Any rules not covered in the NCRHA Rule Book will default to the rules of the NCRHA's sanctioning body. Teams are responsible for obtaining copies of the Rule Book each season (available online at www.ncrha.org).

VII. PLAYER SUSPENSIONS AND APPEALS

A. The Suspension Process

i. Suspensions shall be investigated and determined at the conference level of administration in which the incident has occurred. The Conference Administration will have final say on all matters determined in their conference. (see appeals).

a) In the case of games between programs from different Conferences, the "Home" organization shall have jurisdiction and will advise the NCRHA of all suspension determinations.

ii. The NCRHA Director of Officiating shall be notified of all suspensions.

iii. Procedures for all Conferences

a) When a player commits an offense in a game setting that carries mandatory suspension per the NCRHA Rule Book, or commits an offense worthy of a suspension (on, off, before, after, or during a game) the following procedure shall be followed in ruling on a disciplinary action:

- If a penalty incurred during a game or an incident warrants, the Referee will make a suspension recommendation. This is generally recorded by the scorekeeper/timekeeper of the game.
- Officials shall not discuss suspensions with any game participant at any point on or off the playing surface, neither before nor after any recommendation or official ruling by the League Authorities.
- Immediately following the end of the game that the offense pertains to, the information is relayed to the Referee-in-Chief (if present), and/or the Event Director(s).
- Should the offending participant have games remaining during the specific hockey weekend, then the time frames will be taken into consideration in accordance to when next game may occur.
- The Referee-in-Chief should meet with the Game Officials and Minor Officials to discuss pertinent facts and initial suspension recommendation.
- As needed, the Referee-in-Chief and the League Authorities will make a thorough investigation.
- Suspension is finalized and signed by the League Authorities.
- The Referee-in-Chief (or Event Director if applicable) presents ruling to a Team Representative of the suspended participant.
- The suspended participant is not permitted to be present during the deliverance of the disciplinary action.

b) The following conditions will apply:

- Since time is a dynamic variable that is taken into consideration, in cases where a participant may be involved in additional games in the same weekend and a prompt ruling is necessary, a full or partial ruling may be issued to determine the participant's immediate eligibility for the remaining games of that weekend.
- The Referee-in-Chief reserves the right to determine the time frame necessary (with respect to fairness and ethics) to complete a thorough investigation of the incident. This time shall not exceed thirty (30) days.

c) Additional discipline shall be determined in all incidents where the offending player receives a suspension in the last game of his/her season or career with his/her program.

- This type of conduct, normally warranting a suspension, frequently occurs when a player has no intention of returning to the league and feels that they personally cannot be mandated to serve suspensions or penalties.
- This type of conduct is not taken lightly and in extreme cases may involve suspension of team and team officials in addition to the offending player. The premise for holding a team/team management accountable is the idea that a team is generally aware of what player(s) amongst them will act out in malice in the last game. In course with the ethics of NCRHA and school spirit of a club, a team should take a proactive approach to the situation with preventative measures to keep such player from disparaging their program.

B. Serving of Suspensions

i. Suspended players must serve their own suspensions.
ii. Suspensions begin immediately once they are assessed.
iii. Multiple suspensions shall be served consecutively.
iv. Should a player of a program with multiple teams be suspended, the player will be ineligible to play on any other NCRHA team until all suspensions have been served with the team the player was suspended from.
v. Suspended players are not permitted behind the bench or on the playing surface.
vi. Suspensions left unserved at the end of any regular season shall
   a) Travel with a player to any other team
   b) Carry forward to future seasons
   c) Apply to other NCRHA events, such as the NCRHA National Championship Tournament
vii. In order to receive credit for serving a suspension, please check the guidelines of the specific Conference in which the suspension is being served.

C. National Enforcement

i. Suspensions will be enforced on a national joint-cooperative level:
   a) Suspensions assessed during any NCRHA-sanctioned game, including Conference games, are subject to disciplinary actions and appeal procedures of the NCRHA.
   b) Similarly, suspensions assessed during NCRHA-administered events such as the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Championships or Winter Cup may be subject to additional disciplinary actions and appeal procedures of the program's Conference.

D. Alcohol and Drug Policy

i. The NCRHA will not tolerate or condone drug or alcohol use by its players, coaches or Club members.

ii. It is the policy of the NCRHA to maintain an environment free from drug and alcohol abuse and its effects; thus, regardless of age, all participants of the NCRHA shall not partake in the consumption of alcohol or the use of illegal drugs at NCRHA-sanctioned events.

iii. The possession, use, sale or distribution of drugs or alcohol and/or being under the influence of either substances by program members during NCRHA-sanctioned activities will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the NCRHA.

E.Suspension Appeal Policies

i. Appeals may request relief or removal from suspensions due to the establishment of reasonable cause (care and prudence), undue hardship, or evidence of administrative error.
   a) A participant must establish reasonable cause by providing facts and circumstances' showing the participant exercised reasonable care and prudence, but nonetheless, was unable to comply.
   b) Reasonable Cause is based upon all the facts and circumstances in each situation that each suspension was assessed for.

ii. A participant has established reasonable cause when all of the following are addressed:
   a) What specifically occurred?
   b) That the participant's conduct justifies the removal or reduction of a suspension.
   c) The facts and circumstances that prevented participant from complying.
   d) If the facts and circumstances changed during the incident, what attempts and measures did the participant make to comply?
   e) Did something prevent the participant from complying, that otherwise could have been an option?

iii. Evidence of reasonable care and prudence includes making provisions for compliance to be met when a reasonably foreseeable event could occur (intent and instigation).

iv. In determining the participant exercised reasonable care and prudence, the BOD and the Referee-in-Chief will review information including:
   a) The participant's reason for their specific actions. This reason must explicitly address each specific penalty and/or suspension.
   b) Undue Hardship may support granting suspension relief or reduction providing there is evidence of a legitimate hardship beyond the 'inconvenience' to a participant or participant's team. In addition, the participant must also show that they exercised reasonable care and prudence as previously defined.
   c) Undue hardship support includes proof and/or documentation that a detrimental consequence or significant hardship can and will be taken against the participant or participant's club as a direct result of the imposed suspension.
   d) Administrative error
   e) Objective video
   f) Evidence of a mishandling of a policy

v. Non-Appealable Issues**:**
   a) Ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable basis for appeal.
   b) Opinions are subjective, therefore are unacceptable evidence of administrative error.
   c) Intent is subjective, therefore unacceptable evidence of administrative error.
   d) Inconvenience to a participant or participant's team does not constitute hardship.
   e) Disappointment or discontentment over missing special events is not an acceptable basis for appeal.

F. Suspension Appeal Procedures

i. Appeals are to be handled on a conference level in accordance with the Governing Operational Procedures of the Conference in which the suspension was assessed.
ii. While a Suspension Appeal is in process, the suspended participant is completely ineligible to participate in any games.
   a) Safety concerns
   b) Liability concerns
   c) See specific guidelines for the appeals procedure in each Conference.
iii. National Appeals
   a) If the suspension occurred in an NCRHA Conference event, the appeal must be heard and denied at the conference level first.
   b) The appeal is to be submitted with a $200 non-refundable fee made payable to the NCRHA.
   c) While a Suspension Appeal is in process, the suspended participant is completely ineligible to participate in any NCRHA-sanctioned games.
   d) Appeals are not automatic. There must be a basis for the appeal that meets appealable standards.
      - A suspension must be for a total of three or more games before an appeal can be initiated.
      - The Representative of the participant's team submits appeal.
      - The appeal must contain all mitigating support by the participant and a copy of the conference appeal.
      - Only one appeal may be submitted and must contain all pertinent information.
      - No additional information or amendments will be permitted once the appeal is submitted.
      - Appeals are to be addressed to the NCRHA Director of League Operations.

VIII. NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

A. NCRHA Winter Events (Optional)

i. Site Selection

a) Should the NCRHA elect to sponsor a national winter event or events, such as WinterFest, site(s) shall be selected as soon as possible but no later than the October 1st preceding the competition.

b) Proposals for sites shall be approved by a vote of the Board of Directors.

ii. Team Selection

a) Teams selected for an invitational winter event hosted by the NCRHA shall be notified of their selection by the NCRHA Selection Committee no later than December 15th preceding the event.

b) Teams must accept or deny bids in writing within 48 hours of notification.

iii. Tournament Format and Seeding Policies

a) The tournament format and seeding policies shall be set by the NCRHA Director of League Operations no later than the December 15th preceding the event.

B. National Collegiate Roller Hockey Championships

i. Site Selection

a) Site shall be selected and announced no later than the January 1st preceding the competition.

b) Proposals for sites shall be approved by a vote of the Board of Directors.

ii. Team Selection

a) The NCRHA Board of Directors shall have the final authority to determine which divisions shall compete for a national championship during the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Championships. At least four teams must accept bids in a given division for the division to compete for a national championship during the event, unless otherwise approved by the NCRHA Board of Directors.

b) In the event that there is only 1 post-season eligible Junior College Division team, the NCRHA Board of Directors reserves the right to place a Junior College Division team in another division of the Board's choosing.

c) In the event that there is only 1 post-season eligible Women's Division team, the NCRHA Board of Directors reserves the right to place a Women's Division team in another division of the Board's choosing.

d) All Division AA teams will compete in one division at the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Championships.

e) Teams shall be selected by the NCRHA Selection Committee on the first Monday of the first full week of March, also known as "Selection Monday."

f) Teams shall be notified of selection within 48 hours of selection and must accept or deny bids in writing within 48 hours of notification.

g) Teams shall pay a registration fee for participation in the National Championships, by the deadline set forth by the NCRHA. Teams that do not pay by the deadline may forfeit their bid, and alternate teams notified. National Championships registration fees are non-refundable.

- Proof of payment, such as a Purchase Order, may hold a team's bid, provided the proof of payment is from the college/university.

h) The NCRHA Selection Committee reserves the right to extend Nationals bids to teams in any division, regardless of regular season division, if teams do not fit the division in which they selected.

- For example, a team who elected to play Division III but were clearly a Division II team during the season. The Nationals bid would be extended to that team in Division II only.

i) The NCRHA Selection Committee shall select teams to receive alternate bids for all applicable divisions, should there be any team that denies their bid or defaults on payment.

iii. Tournament Format

a) Tournament format and seeding policies shall be set by the NCRHA Director of League Operations no later than the first Monday of the first full week of March.

iv. Tie Breakers

a) Should 2 or more teams be tied in points after Round Robin play and there is a need to break the tie, the following tie breakers are to be used:

- Head to Head record (skip Head to Head if more than 2 teams are tied)
- Wins
- Goal Differential (most)
- Goals Against (least)
- Goals For (most)
- Penalty Minutes (least)
- Coin Toss

  Note: Once a tie breaker is used it is not repeated if two or more teams remain tied. Remaining tie breakers are continued and to be used in order.

v. Multiple Team Participation

a) Players listed on a primary team's roster at the beginning of the event are locked onto that primary team for the duration of the event.

b) Players listed on a Women's Division team's roster at the beginning of the event are locked onto that team for the duration of the event.

c) Players listed on a secondary team's roster at the beginning of the event may be added to the primary team's roster at any time. Once added to the primary team's roster, players are locked to the primary team for the duration of the event.

d) Women players listed on a secondary team's roster at the beginning of the event may be added to the Women's Division team's roster at any time. Once added to the Women's Division team's roster, players are locked to the Women's Division team for the duration of the event.

e) A secondary team's goaltender may be rostered as a goaltender for any/all games of the primary team, and retain their eligibility to participate on the secondary team, until said goaltender participates in a primary team's game.

- The intent of this rule is to provide a backup goaltender for the primary team, due to injury or other circumstances.

vi. Number of Teams per Division

a) Each college or university may only field one team in any division at the National Championships.

b) Colleges or universities that have more than one team participating in Division AA during the regular season may combine their teams for the National Championships.

- Combined teams must submit a player roster to the NCRHA, stating which players will participate at the National Championships, and which team they played on during the regular season.
- Combined teams are subject to the same game roster requirements as all other teams. It should be noted that there is no limit to the number of players that may participate in the event.

IX. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

A. Awards

i. In addition to awards garnered at the National Championships, the NCRHA will annually recognize outstanding individuals from each division in the following four categories: All-American (First and Second Team minimum, players from all divisions being eligible), Program of the Year, Player of the Year, and Coach of the Year.

ii. Following the National Championships, the league authorities will solicit from all teams in good standing, nominations for any and all of the award categories. Nominations must be accompanied by appropriate documentation and must be submitted no later than May 1st.

iii. The league authorities will distribute copies of the nomination material to Awards Committees to select annual national awards recipients. In the event that an insufficient quantity of nominations is submitted, the Awards Committee reserves the right to nominate players and coaches.

iv. The NCRHA Board of Directors will review and certify the results of the election and announce the award recipients.

X. NCRHA LOGO

The NCRHA Logo is the sole property of the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association. Any commercial use of the NCRHA Logo must be approved by the Executive Director. Conferences and member teams are permitted to use the NCRHA logo in promotional materials, on web sites and on apparel provided: the logo is not altered, “NCRHA” or “National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association” is clearly visible either on the logo or in its immediate vicinity, and promotional items are in accordance with the NCRHA Player and Team agreements.

For clarification, contact the Executive Director.

XI. ADMINISTRATION

Note: The following descriptions are only maintained for informational purposes. For official job descriptions and officer information, consult the NCRHA Bylaws. The NCRHA reserves the right to combine/delete staff positions at any time, following the NCRHA Bylaws.

A. Board of Directors

i. The Board of Directors manages the business and affairs of the NCRHA and has the authority to establish policies and procedures for the operation of the organization and its services.

ii. The duties of the BOD are delineated in the NCRHA Bylaws and include: appointment of the Executive Director, receipt of reports from the Executive Director, control of the financial plan for the organization, oversight of programs and appointment, supervision and receipt of reports of committees.

B. Executive Director (ED)

i. The Board appoints an Executive Director who is the administrative officer of the organization.

ii. The ED is responsible for the administration of approved NCRHA activities and subject only to policies and orders issued by the Board or by any of its authorized committees.

iii. The ED serves as the representative of the organization where the Board has not designated another person as an organizational representative.

iv. Specific responsibilities of the ED include chairing of the ranking committees, representing the NCRHA in matters with the NCRHA's sanctioning body. and the NCRHA, and general promotion of the NCRHA to the public and other members of the industry.

v. The ED is nominated and appointed by the Board of Directors and is responsible directly to the Board.

C. Director of League Operations (DLO)

i. The Director of League Operations is appointed by the organization to facilitate the day-to-day activities of the organization.

ii. Responsibilities of the DLO include providing technical assistance to leagues and member programs, following up on player and team registration and eligibility issues, facilitating resolution of member concerns during the season, assisting in the organization and operation of conference and national tournaments, representing the NCRHA at special events, and other duties assigned by the Board.

iii. The DLO is nominated by the Executive Director, approved by the Board of Directors and is responsible to the Executive Director in the performance of duties.

D. Director of Development

i. The Director of Development is appointed by the organization to facilitate conference, team and player development.

ii. Responsibilities of the DD include fostering relationships with high school players and leagues, creation of literature aimed at prospective students and teams promoting of the league, and other duties assigned from time to time by the Board.

iii. The DD is nominated by the Executive Director, approved by the Board of Directors, and is responsible to the Executive Director in the performance of duties.

E. Director of Officiating

i. The Director of Officiating is appointed by the organization to facilitate referee and rules development.

ii. Responsibilities of the Director of Officiating include fostering relationships with new and current NCRHA officials, creation of literature aimed at referee development and education, modification and cultivation of the NCRHA Rule Book in conjunction with the NCRHA Rules Committee, and other duties assigned from time to time by the Board.

iii. The Director of Officiating is nominated by the Executive Director, approved by the Board of Directors, and is responsible to the Executive Director in the performance of duties.

F. Director of Marketing

i. The Director of Marketing is appointed by the organization to promote the league as a whole to the public, hockey players of every age group and level, industry leaders and manufacturers.

ii. Responsibilities of the Director of Marketing include fostering relationships with new and current sponsors, creation of literature and programs aimed at marketing the organization to various other entities and other duties assigned from time to time by the Board.

iii. The Director of Marketing is nominated by the Executive Director, approved by the Board of Directors, and is responsible to the Executive Director in the performance of duties.

XII. DIRECTORY OF PERSONNEL

Executive Director	**Brennan Edwards** PO Box 703 Arrington, TN 37014 Phone (310) 753-7285 Fax (310) 347-4001 ED@ncrha.org
Director of League Operations	**Rob Coggin** (719) 331-7344 DLO@ncrha.org
Legal Counsel	**Benjamin Picker** legal@ncrha.org

For general information, contact: info@ncrha.org
Official web site: www.ncrha.org