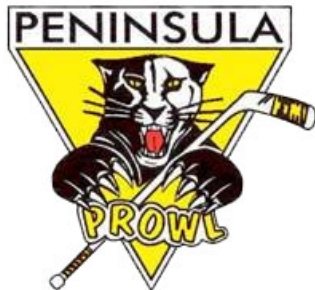


# Official EVHL Rule Book

Amended September 2017



\*See amendments

## Contents

Section 1 – General League Rules .....	4
A. League Play .....	4
D. Player Assignment .....	5
E. League Champion (Post Regular Season Play) .....	5
F. League Standings.....	5
G. Ten Goal Rule.....	6
H. Game Length .....	6
I. Penalty Times .....	6
J. Inability to Play Three Stop-Time Periods (Curfew Rule).....	6
K. Timeouts .....	6
L. Game Score sheets .....	7
M. Handshake .....	7
N. Player Recruiting .....	7
Section 2 – Rosters.....	7
A. Roster Submission .....	7
B. Roster Changes .....	8
C. Substitute Goaltenders .....	8
D. Unrostered Players.....	8
E. Select and Tournament Rosters .....	9
Section 3 – Discipline .....	9
A. Disciplinary Committee / League Coordinators .....	9
B. EVHL Disciplinary Procedures/ Guidelines.....	9
C. Suspensions .....	11
1. Players .....	11
2. Coaches.....	11
<b>D. VIDEO REVIEW</b> .....	12
Section 4 – End of Season Playoffs .....	12
A. Player Eligibility .....	12
B. Game Scheduling .....	12
C. Playoff Format.....	12
The EVHL will use the <i>Buffalo point system</i> as the official format to determine the league championship. .....	12
D. Game Rules .....	12

\*See amendments

E. Championship Game Tiebreaker.....	13
F. Ratification.....	13
Section A: League Play.....	14
Section 2 Rosters.....	14
Section F: League Standings.....	14

\*See amendments

## Section 1 – General League Rules

The Eastern Virginia Hockey League (EVHL) is a cooperative venture for 501C Non-Profit House League Hockey Organizations. Hampton Roads Youth Hockey Association (HRYHA), the Peninsula Youth Hockey Association (PYHA), and the Greater Hampton Roads Travel Hockey Association (GHRTHA) founded the EVHL to provide a league in which house teams at every level (Mites thru Midgets) from each rink can participate. All EVHL games will be played under the rules of USA Hockey. The top representatives of each member organization will endorse these rules each season before September 1st, and the rules will not be changed during the season unless agreed upon by both respective association's hockey directors and or presidents.

### A. League Play

1. League play will take place in the following categories: Mite Cross-ice, Squirt, Pee wee, Bantam, and Midget.\*
2. The league will strive to play 14 regular season games, and up to four playoff games. The number of games will be determined no later than September 30, of the current year based on the number of teams announced by each organization/rink.
3. Organizations/rinks are required to set the number of teams at each level prior to September 25 of the current season, and lock-in game schedules September 25.
4. Pee Wee rules of body contact will be the standard of play for all age divisions.
5. Regular season league play shall begin no later than October 1 and March 1.

### B. Equipment

1. All players are required to properly wear all equipment when on the ice.
2. EVHL players at all age levels are required to wear neck guards or a certified neck guard shirt while on the ice. Failure to comply will result in the player being ruled off the ice.
3. USA Hockey has mandated that ALL helmets and goalie masks must have an *in-date* HECC decal properly adhered to the helmet or mask/cage with expiration date clearly visible. Failure to comply will result in the offending player being ruled off of the ice.

### C. Cross ice play

1. In compliance with USA Hockey mandate regarding cross-ice play for players at the 8U age group, the EVHL will ice teams to help develop our young players. Cross-ice hockey is played across the width of one zone or half-ice. This format is designed to encourage slick stick handling along with quick skating, and develop quick thinking.
2. All players in the mite age classification (8U) will play according to the USAH cross-ice format regardless of ability.
3. Teams

\*See amendments

- a. Each team consists of a minimum of six (6) skaters and one goalie for a total of seven (7) players, and a Maximum of ten (10) including a goalie.
- b. Each player on the team must play at least one game as the goal keeper.

4. **Playing rules**

- a. Full hockey equipment is required and all safety gear is to be properly worn when on the ice.
- b. Each game is run by the coaches; **NO REFEREES**. Encourage junior coaches to participate. USAH rules regarding junior coaches apply.
- c. Players are allowed a three minute warm up prior to the start of the first game.
- d. Each game will consist of a single, twenty minute run-time contest with no off-sides, icing, etc. The only whistle will be for an injured player to signal the end of the game.
- e. There are no statistics kept for the cross-ice games.
- f. Two games will be played at each end of the arena either across the width of one zone, **or half-ice**
- g. When a goal is scored, the puck stays in the net and the coach will say, "NEW PUCK!" and place another puck in play.
- h. If at any time during the game, a puck goes out of the playing area, the coach will say, "NEW PUCK!" and place another puck in play.
- i. There are no playoffs in the cross-ice division.
- j. Organizations are encouraged to participate in "mite jamborees."

**D. Player Assignment**

Player assignment (numbers permitting) to classifications from Squirt to Midget will be governed by the current USA Hockey rules.

**E. League Champion (Post Regular Season Play)**

The league championship at each age classification will be determined by performance in an end of season playoff. Teams will be seeded based on regular season performance and will participate in a Season Ending Tournament to determine the league champion.

**F. League Standings**

- 1. League standings will be determined on the following basis:
  - 2 points for a Win
  - 1 point for a Tie\*
- 2. If two or more teams have an equal number of points at the completion of the regular season, the final seeding for the end of season playoff will be determined by the following criteria:
  - ii. Total number of wins

\*See amendments

- iii. Head to head competition
- iv. Goal differential
- v. Fewest Goal Against
- vi. Fewest penalty minutes

**G. Ten Goal Rule**

A ten-goal rule is in effect for all levels of play, except cross-ice mites. If one team attains a lead of ten goals at any time during the game, the scoring on the scoreboard terminates. The score and statistics continue to be accounted for on the score sheet only. Games must continue until the end of the time slot.

**H. Game Length**

- 1. All other games will consist of three (3) 15-minute stop clock periods for all levels. There will be a three-minute warm up period and a one-minute break between periods. Scheduled game slots will be a minimum of 60 minutes for cross- ice mites, and a minimum of 75 minutes for squirts, pee wees, bantams, and midget divisions. [ or EL, JV, HS divisions if used].

**I. Penalty Times**

Level	Period Length	Minor	Major	Misconduct
SQ (EL),Peewee(JV)/ Bantam/Midget(HS)	15 minute	2 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes

**J. Inability to Play Three Stop-Time Periods (Curfew Rule)**

In the event insufficient time remains in a game slot to complete a full third period as prescribed above, the referee will coordinate with the off-ice officials (scorekeeper and timekeeper) to manage the time remaining in the following fashion:

- 1. The remaining time in the rink's scheduled game slot will be divided in half (by 2) and the result placed on the clock for the third period (e.g. 12 minutes remaining in the game slot – 6 minutes on the clock at the start of the third period).
- 2. After the third period starts, when the time remaining on the clock equals the time remaining in the game slot, a running clock will be used.
- 3. It is the responsibility of each organization to ensure every head coach understands this rule which will be enforced by the referees in the event that game time is exceeding the allotted time slot.

**K. Timeouts**

A single, one-minute timeout per team will be allowed each game including playoffs.

\*See amendments

**L. Game Score sheets**

After each game, a copy of the USA Hockey score sheet shall be forwarded to the respective association league statisticians within five days. League statisticians shall be named prior to the beginning of each season.

**M. Handshake**

Handshake should take place at the end of each game. At the end of each game, the visiting team should leave the ice first. Teams should enter and exit through opposite doors.

**N. Player Recruiting**

The governing boards of each association will prohibit recruiting of players between associations by board members, coaches, and other association officials. If an EVHL rostered player registered to an association wishes to move to another organization, it will require a letter of release from the original association. Every effort should be made by each association to cooperate with each other on this issue.

## Section 2 – Rosters

**A. Roster Submission**

USA Hockey T1 rosters for each EVHL team at all level **shall** be provided to the EVHL league statistician as well as to each participating rink facility prior to October 1, **of the current season**.

1. To ensure fair play, players rostered outside of the EVHL **will not** be allowed to play on an EVHL rostered team. Only EVHL rostered players can play in the EVHL. House players may be added to the rosters throughout the season, **prior** to the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline, with the modified roster provided to the league prior to the player participating in any league games. The modified roster must also be provided to each participating rink.
2. In the interest of providing a safe, developmental atmosphere for EVHL players, if it is determined upon evaluation by the director of HRYHA and or PYHA of ANY age player, he or she would be better suited to play in a lower age division it will be allowed. If during the course of the regular season that player shows significant improvement to where he or she can safely play AND continue to develop in their respective age bracket, the player will be re-evaluated and allowed to be rostered at that level.
3. **Players cannot move from team to team to fulfill a temporary requirement.\***
4. If an underage player is moved up to a higher level, i.e. Bantam to Midget, the player cannot be returned to the lower level.

\*See amendments

5. **Addition of players graduating from initiation program.**
  - a. At any point during the regular season, a player who successfully completes the initiation program at HRYHA or the PVHA, that player will be allowed to be rostered to an EVHL team. This exception is for those players ONLY.

## **B. Roster Changes**

Organizations must maintain stable rosters throughout the season. If it becomes necessary to shift a player from one team to another to balance competition levels of teams, the ***updated rosters must be provided to other organizations directors prior to shifted players participating in games with the new teams.***

1. All attempts should be made to have a player shifted only once during the season.
2. Players from other teams at the same age level or higher-age levels may not serve as substitutes or temporary replacements for any game (see section C regarding goaltenders).
3. The deadline for shifting players is **October 31<sup>st</sup>** of the current season; a player is limited to one shift. Rosters are frozen as of **December 31<sup>st</sup>** of the current season.

## **C. Substitute Goaltenders**

In the event that a team's regular goaltender cannot attend a game, a substitute goaltender from another EVHL team may substitute to play as the goaltender.

1. The substitute goaltender must be a rostered player on another team registered within the EVHL, at the same level **and** his or her original team must be noted on the official score sheet for the game.

*Example:*

HRYHA Mite 2 Jr. Admirals

4- B. Orr  
7- P. Esposito  
8- C. Neely  
9- G. Howe  
10- G. Lafleur  
16- B. Clarke  
22- M. Bossey  
66- M. Lemieux  
87- S. Crosby  
99- W. Gretzky

20- V. Tretiak (G) (on loan from PYHA Mite 1)

2. The opposing coach must be notified that the team is competing with a substitute goaltender.
3. Goaltenders are not allowed to play down a level.

## **D. Unrostered Players**

1. Any game played with a player not properly rostered will be considered a forfeit.
2. Each coach is **required** to list all players on a game score sheet prior to each game.
3. Each coach **will** record his USA CEP certification number on the official score sheet and sign it to validate his roster prior to the start of any EVHL contest.



## **E. Select and Tournament Rosters**

1. To allow the EVHL House players to attempt to play at a higher competition level, the EVHL will support house select or tournament teams.
2. To participate on an EVHL Select or tournament team, the player must be a properly rostered EVHL *house* player. Each association may determine how they conduct their respective select programs but will adhere to the EVHL roster requirements.
3. EVHL Select teams are free to schedule games as they wish.
4. Players can only play on the rostered EVHL team for their house league. This goes for girls and boys.

## **Section 3 – Discipline**

### **A. Disciplinary Committee / League Coordinators**

The EVHL disciplinary committee will convene when a written request is submitted by any of the following personnel to any of the three organizations of the EVHL to resolve a discipline/conduct issue:

1. President or Vice President of Hockey Operations/Director of Hockey Operations
2. Head Referee supporting EVHL
3. Rink ownership/management
4. Any member of the committee or association
5. Any individual with the endorsement of their respective organization.

The committee will review ALL:

1. Game Misconducts
2. Match Misconducts
3. Any fights before, during or after the game, while on the property of any of the EVHL rinks, or at any other venue where the player is actively taking part in an EVHL sanctioned/sponsored event.
4. These will extend to include tournament teams and CHL teams.

### **B. EVHL Disciplinary Procedures/ Guidelines**

1. Actions in violation of the governing rules, regulations, policies and procedures of USA Hockey, the EVHL, as well as behavior that reflects poorly on any team are grounds for disciplinary action. A wide range of disciplinary actions or sanctions is available to the Disciplinary Board. These include, but are not limited to:
  - verbal reprimands
  - written reprimands
  - game suspensions

\*See amendments

- season suspensions
  - In extreme cases, disbarment from the EVHL.
2. The Disciplinary Board will be comprised of the Hockey Operations Vice-President of each association.
  3. The EVHL coaching staff has the primary responsibility for maintaining team discipline, while all members of teams in the EVHL are responsible for monitoring and maintaining discipline within the league. To ensure that there is a fair and consistent approach to discipline within the EVHL, a disciplinary process has been established as outlined below.

### 3.1 Player Discipline

Coaches are responsible for enforcing player discipline. If a parent has any disagreement with or disapproves of any methods that a coach uses, including disciplinary actions he/she is to follow the complaint procedure outlined below:

- a. Communicate your concern to the Team Manager.
- b. The team manager will try to address/rectify the problem with the coach.
- c. If the manager is unsuccessful, the concerned party should contact their hockey association's director of youth hockey operations.
- d. Should the problem still not be resolved, the concerned party should contact EVHL Discipline Board. The League Coordinators will review the complaint and decide what action, if any should be taken.

### 3.2 Complaint Submittal

The submittal of a complaint can be invoked for player disciplinary matters that cannot be adequately addressed at the team level through the process outlined above or for other non-player disciplinary matters.

- a. A complaint must be filed within three (3) days of the alleged incident. The Conduct Board will meet and render a decision within five (5) days of the complaint being filed.
- b. Submission of a complaint must be in written form. It must indicate the exact nature of the problem *and* the remedy sought. This information will allow the committee to focus and confine the discussion on the issue.
- c. This committee's responsibility will be to review the facts presented. The committee should interview all parties on both sides of the issue.
- d. Others as deemed necessary will be interviewed along with any documents or procedures. Any relevant evidence to an incident may be submitted.

- e. ***The rules of evidence that apply to judicial proceedings shall not apply at the hearing.*** The complaint /violation must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence presented as more likely true than not true.
- f. After the hearing, the Disciplinary Board will meet and determine if there is a need for any disciplinary action and vote on a recommendation for disciplinary action. The recommendation will include a summary of the complaint/grievance, a statement of facts of the matter and the action to be taken. The Chairman of the Conduct Board will issue the ruling.

3.3 The results of this process are final. In addition, members of the EVHL agree upon the following:

**All players, coaches and parents are required to read and sign the EVHL Code of Conduct form. This will occur before the start of the season of the EVHL and each organization will maintain copies of these forms.**

## **C. Suspensions**

### **1. Players**

- 1.2 Any player receiving **four (4) penalties** in one game will be assessed a game misconduct and must sit out the next regularly scheduled EVHL game.
- 1.3 Players receiving a major penalty for **Fighting** will be disqualified for the next two (2) **regularly** scheduled EVHL games for the first offense and four (4) games for the second offense **in the same season**. A third fighting penalty **during the same season** will result in permanent suspension for the remainder of the season.
- 1.4 Suspended players are not required to sign the official score sheet. The official score sheet **must note** who the suspended player(s) are.
- 1.5 In accordance with USA Hockey rules, suspended players are **not permitted** in the locker room, on the team bench, or penalty box.
- 1.6 All misconducts, major, and fighting penalties must be reported to the respective youth hockey directors of each association no later than the Monday morning following the infractions.
- 1.7 It is the responsibility of the association and their coaches to ensure that game suspensions are properly served. Failure to do so will result in additional suspensions and possible forfeits.

### **2. Coaches**

- 2.1 Coaches receiving Game **Misconduct** must sit out the next scheduled EVHL game.
- 2.2 In the event a team receives **13 penalties** within one EVHL league game, the head coach on the official score sheet for the penalized team will receive a one (1) game suspension to be served during the next regularly scheduled EVHL game.

- 2.3 For the Second 13 penalty game during the same EVHL season, the head coach of record on the official score sheet will sit out the next two (2) regularly scheduled EVHL games.
- 2.4 If there is a third game during the same season where the same team incurs thirteen (13) penalties or more, the head coach will be relieved of coaching duties and responsibilities in the EVHL for the remainder of the current season.

#### **D. VIDEO REVIEW**

1. Upon the discretion of the disciplinary committee or the directors of each association, video *may* be used for the following:
  - i. In review of assessed match penalties to HRYHA or PYHA members.
  - ii. In events of player injury
2. Video *cannot* be used to overturn an official's call or missed call, including but not limited to penalties and goals.

### **Section 4 – End of Season Playoffs**

#### **A. Player Eligibility**

Players must participate in a minimum of 50% of their respective team's games to be eligible for league playoffs.

1. Injured players are exempt from this rule with EVHL approval.

#### **B. Game Scheduling**

End of season tournament games will be scheduled once the final standings for the regular season are established. The seeding and game schedules will be published following a meeting of league representatives from all organizations. The playoffs will be held the end of February. Game slots will be provided by organizations proportionally to the number of teams entered.

#### **C. Playoff Format**

The EVHL will use the Buffalo point system as the official format to determine the league championship.

2. Teams will be seeded according to the number of points earned during the playoff tournament.
3. In the event of a tie the tie breakers will be:
  - a. Head to head
  - b. Goal differential
  - c. Least PIMS

#### **D. Game Rules**

- Two points for a win
- One point for a tie
- + one point for each period WON
- + ½ point for each period TIED
- A maximum of five (5) points are available for each game

## E. Championship Game Tiebreaker

### 4. OVERTIME

In the event the championship game ends in a tie, a series of three (3) - three-minute sudden death overtime periods will ensue in the following format:

- The first overtime period will be five on five.
- The second, four on four.
- The third will be three on three.

### 5. SHOOTOUT

In the event that the tie has not been broken after three overtime periods, a shootout of five (5) shooters will be used to determine the winner.

- The lower seeded team will shoot first.
- If there is still a tie after the initial five shooters, a sudden death shootout will ensue. Players cannot shoot a second time until all players (excluding goalkeepers) have shot once.

## F. Ratification

By signing this agreement, your Association agrees to follow the guidelines set forth with-in the Rules, Regulations, Policies and Procedures by the EVHL pertaining to House League Hockey. Any changes made to this agreement must be in writing and agree upon and approved by the EVHL League Coordinators and Presidents of each Organization.

This league rulebook is considered a "living document" and may be reviewed, updated, and or amended at any time, and will be reviewed at a minimum of every 24 months since date of ratification.

Association Presidents: Sara Faatz, President of PYHA \_\_\_\_\_

Richard Appleby, President of HRYHA \_\_\_\_\_

Date of acceptance:

# AMENDMENTS

## **Section A: League Play**

\*Excluding Mite cross-ice, if there are not enough players to fill out a team, the league may opt to combine some eligible first or second year Squirts with Pee Wee (called Elementary), combine the Peewees and Bantams (called Junior Varsity or JV). Second-year bantams may play in the midget division (called High School).

### **\*2017-2018 SQ, PW, BN, MG, EL, JV, HS Divisions:**

It is permissible for teams with small rosters to fill the roster to a maximum of thirteen. This amendment is approved for the 2017-2018 season. This amendment will be reviewed next season and may be extended at the discretion of the directors of HRYHA and PYHA for the 2018-2019 season.

EX: BN P1 has a roster of 15 skaters and a goalie. BN HS HR2 has a roster of nine skaters and a goalie. BN HR2 may ask permission from the Coach of BN HR1 for players to fill out the roster to a maximum of thirteen.

Goaltenders may play up or down one age level.

Prior to ANY athlete playing for another team, the coach of the short-staffed team shall request permission from the respective athlete's head coach.

1. Coaches requesting players shall do so as far in advance as possible and **SHALL notify:**
  - a. Opposing head coach/manager
  - b. Respective director of organization (electronically to provide documentation)
2. Players shall be added to the official game roster **PRIOR TO** the start of the game as within USAH rules.
3. Substituted players may not skate two consecutive games for another team. ***This does not apply to goalies.***

## **Section 2 Rosters**

### A. Roster Submission

3. Players cannot move from team to team to fulfill a temporary requirement.\*  
(Rule temporarily suspended for 2017-2018 EVHL season)

## **Section F: League Standings**

\*There are neither overtimes nor shootouts during the regular season.

\*See amendments