



CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS 2023-2024

National Division	American Division	American Division
Kutztown University I	Alvernia University	Bucknell University
PSU Harrisburg	Bloomsburg University	Franklin & Marshall College
Neumann University	Salisbury University	Gettysburg
	Lafayette College	Kutztown University II
		Shippensburg Univ.
		Susquehanna University
		Penn State Univ - Altoona

Constitution

ARTICLE I

NAME

- a) The name of this league shall be the **Delaware Valley College Hockey Conference (DVCHC)**.
- b) The purpose of this league is to provide for organized collegiate hockey among colleges, universities and community colleges in the Delaware Valley and surrounding areas.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

1. The **Delaware Valley College Hockey Conference** shall consist of college level schools with comparable admission policies and athletic philosophies. Each member school shall be entitled to one vote on all matters concerning the functions of the DVCHC.
2. Application for membership to the DVCHC must consist of the following:
 - a. Application for membership to the DVCHC in writing.
 - b. Formal presentation at a DVCHC meeting to the current members consisting of an overview of:
 - i. Ice Facilities (with showers)
 - ii. Club Membership
 - iii. Coaching Staff
 - iv. Financial Status
 - v. School Support
 - c. Entry fee of \$500.00 (Refundable upon non-admittance to the DVCHC).
 - d. Current D-II and D-III teams must make an annual declaration of the Division II or III status, as well as their intention to play as a SUBORDINATE CORPORATION Tournament or Non-Tournament Bound Team to the DVCHC, by the DVCHC's spring meeting. The SUBORDINATE CORPORATION requires declaration of Tournament or Non-Tournament Bound Status no later than your first game or October 1st (whichever is first).
 - e. Teams must have a non-player head coach. Failure to have a non-player coach will result in suspension of the AAU benefits.
 - f. Non-Active Team re-activation
 - g. Re Application Team from other conference
3. Probationary Membership. Schools wishing to become full members of the DVCHC shall be granted a one-year probationary membership (this also includes schools that were once members prior to the upcoming season) by a simple majority vote of the schools currently comprising the DVCHC. Any school granted probationary membership shall:
 - a. Subscribe to the statement of membership.
 - b. Be responsible for payment of all dues on an equal basis with the present membership.
 - c. Be eligible for competition in regular season and championship competition.
 - d. Pay full DVCHC dues prior to the first game.
4. After a probationary period of one year (season), the probationary member shall be reassessed as to performance over the past season. Following this reassessment, the probationary member shall be granted full membership by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the current membership. Probationary teams not receiving full membership with a 2/3 vote may have an additional probationary year upon a majority vote of membership. A team can be on initial probationary status for a maximum of 2 years.
5. Any team to withdraw from the DVCHC shall do so with the understanding they will not receive monetary compensation. The only exceptions being overpayment or cancelled game(s).

ARTICLE III

OFFICERS

1. The Sr. Executive Officers of the DVCHC shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

2. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, D2 Commissioner, D3 National Division Commissioner – Tournament Bound, D3 American/Patriot Division Commissioner – Non-Tournament Bound, and the Executive Director of Hockey Operations.
3. **President** - The president will oversee the DVCHC during the regular season, playoffs and championship series. He or she has authority to enforce the By-Laws as far as disciplinary actions of players, coaches and member schools. He or she acts as a mediator and makes judgments on disputes between members and will make rulings on any protests lodged in accordance with the DVCHC Constitution and By-Laws. The President will be responsible for further enhancing and development of the DVCHC through Corporate and Vendor Sponsorship. The President will not cast a vote on any board or membership related issue unless there is a tie. Should there be a tie on any board/membership vote, the President will cast the deciding vote. The Presidents vote will be considered the tie breaking vote only.
4. **Vice-President** – The vice-president shall discharge the duties of the president in his or her absence and oversee the Divisional Petition Committee, and any special committees formed under the direction of the president. Current responsibilities include collection and organization of End of Season Award nominations, All Star Game and Playoff Support.
5. **Recording Secretary** – The Recording Secretary shall assist the President with preparing agendas, keeping minutes of all meetings, and taking responsibility for any mailings or communications, newsletters, or updates to the DVCHC member team representatives, and/or any other parties as designated by the President.
6. **Commissioners**
 - a. **D-III, D-II National (Tournament Bound) Division:** The Commissioner will oversee the National Division during the regular season, playoffs and championship series. He or she has authority over all disciplinary actions of players, coaches and member schools. He or she acts as a mediator and makes judgments on disputes between members and will make rulings on any protests lodged in accordance with the DVCHC Constitution and By-Laws. The Commissioner will be responsible for the weekly league website updates not later than 48 hours following the completion of each home team’s game. The Commissioner will be responsible for performing a minimum of (1) one game evaluation for each team at their home arena during the regular season. The Commissioner, Natl. Div. will also be responsible to collect and review all National Division eligibility rosters prior to the start of each semester and league playoffs. The Natl. Div. Commissioner cannot be affiliated with any National Division Team.
 - b. **D-III, D-II American/Patriot (Tournament and Non-Tournament) Division:** The Commissioner will oversee the American/Patriot Division during the regular season, playoffs and championship series. He or she has authority over all disciplinary actions of players coaches and member schools. He or she acts as a mediator and makes judgments on disputes between members and will make rulings on any protests lodged in accordance with the DVCHC Constitution and By-Laws. The Commissioner will be responsible for the weekly league website updates not later than 48 hours following the completion of each team’s home game.-The Commissioner will be responsible for performing a minimum of (1) one game evaluation for each team at their home arena during the regular season. The Commissioner, American/Patriot Div. will also be responsible to collect and review all American Division eligibility rosters prior to the start of each semester. The American Division Commissioner cannot be affiliated with any American Division Team.
7. **VP/Director of Tournaments:** The VP of Tournaments will be responsible for for organizing the East Coast Showdown Tournament in November, the DVCHC Playoffs, and any potential All Star Events hosted by the DVCHC.

8. **Treasurer** – The Treasurer, with approval from the President or member schools, shall receive all dues and assessments of the DVCHC. The Treasurer will make all necessary expenditures which will be deposited and withdrawn from an account designated by the DVCHC. He or she shall establish budgets and report quarterly to the members, the receipts, expenditures, and the balance on hand.
9. **Webmaster** – The webmaster is responsible for maintaining the DVCHC webpage as well as educated member teams on proper use of the website and online scoring.
10. **Director of Hockey Operations** – The DHO position is responsible for full oversight of DVCHC Hockey Operations. Responsibilities will include support and coordination with the President and Commissioners for all DVCHC playoffs and DVCHC end of season all-star game. The DHO position will be responsible for the planning and facilitation of any league run tournaments and associated recruitment events. This position will provide oversight and support of social media communications, discipline committee organization, commissioner game evaluation tracking, and provide complete oversight and follow up on Commissioner responsibilities of eligibility compliance and weekly reporting requirements.
11. **Each member** in good standing are encouraged to take turns as a representative, hold a position or sit on a committee for a period of one year.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

1. All DVCHC meetings shall be attended by a representative of each member school. If the regular representative for some reason cannot attend a meeting, it is his (or her) responsibility to appoint someone from their school to attend that meeting. If no representative is available, the president should be notified twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.
2. There will be a \$150.00 per occurrence fine for a team that fails to attend the two mandatory, regularly scheduled DVCHC meetings (*per article IV 3*), or any emergency, mandatory DVCHC meeting.
3. There will be two mandatory meetings per year. Each team must be represented. A mandatory Pre-Season meeting in August/September, in which members may appear in person or electronically, and a mandatory Post-Season meeting in April/May, requiring in person attendance, to discuss Potential New Members, scheduling, and critical league communications. Meetings will take place at a host site that is volunteered and voted on by the members and dates selected two years in advance. [For example, September 10, 2022 meeting date/host, May 13, 2023 meeting date/host.] Any team missing two consecutive mandatory meetings shall be fined and placed on probation for a period of 1 year from the DVCHC.
 - a. Mandatory is defined as “must be present”. All other meetings will be setup with electronic access capabilities.

ARTICLE V

SPORTSMANSHIP

1. **General Procedure.** While sharing in the general opinion that the fundamental solution for any problem with sportsmanship rests with each school, the By-Laws Committee has selected the following specific suggestions as being the most helpful in maintaining and strengthening the bonds of sportsmanship within the DVCHC.
 - a. The holding of a team meeting at the beginning of each new season to acquaint and reacquaint each team member with the desires of the DVCHC in the matter of sportsmanship.
 - b. The reporting to the DVCHC by the visiting school of any breach of conduct emanating from spectators. Such reports are to be drawn as specifically and carefully as possible.
2. **Each Coach should...**
 - a) Be present behind the bench for each regularly scheduled game. Each team should have at least one coach behind the bench for each scheduled game. If none of the coaching staff is present 15 minutes prior to the start of the contest, the captain of the team will assume all coaching duties. He (the captain) will serve all penalties assessed to the coach for said game in question. Persistent abuse of this section of the constitution will result in disciplinary action taken against said coach.
 - b) Be well versed in the rules and agreements of the DVCHC.
 - c) Accept the judgment of league and game officials as closed matters.
 - d) Go on the presumption that every other coach is as honest and sportsmanlike as himself.
 - e) Each new coach must have at least a AAU or USAH Level 1 Coaching Certificate.
 - f) All returning coaches must have AAU or USAH Level 2 Certificate or Level 3. If the level was not available to any returning coaches, coaches will have a one-year grace until the next class.
 - g) For the 2019/2020 season:
 1. Head Coaches must have Level 3 by January 1, 2019, and Asst. Coaches must hold a current level 1.
 2. New incoming coaches & teams have two years to get a coach certified to Level 3 but must have Level 1 certification to start.
 3. Non-certified coach or assistant will be in violation and game will be forfeited.
 - h) Coaching certificates will be sent to the DVCHC Commissioner prior to each team's 1st league game.
 - i) Any new coaches joining a team after the start of the DVCHC regular season, will submit their coaching certification to the Commissioner prior to being permitted to coach a DVCHC game.
3. **Contestants should be taught...**
 - a) To play according to the spirit of the rules without looking for every legal loophole to gain an unfair advantage.
 - b) To refrain from baiting opponents by directing derisive remarks at him during the course of a game.
 - c) To refrain from baiting or questioning officials during the course of a game. The DVCHC has a zero-tolerance policy for abuse of officials which will be enforced by Commissioner review pending further discipline.
4. **Racial, Sexual or Ethnic Misconduct**
 - a. The DVCHC will incorporate a "zero tolerance" policy when it is determined that any coach, player, or team official has violated the leagues Racial, Sexual and/or Ethnic Slur Policy.
 - b. Upon a referee being notified that a Racial or Ethnic slur has occurred, he/she shall immediately stop play and confer with the on-ice officials to alert them of the situation. The referee will

approach each head coach and inform the coach of the situation which shall be considered a warning.

- c. A Game report shall be written by the Head Referee along with both coaches and sent to the league to notify them of the situation as well.
- d. Note: It is the intent of the league not to have the officials be the judge and jury, only to alert every one of the situations and allow the league to investigate as needed.
- e. In the event that a player, coach or team official is penalized by an official under NCAA Playing Rules 6 Sect. 1 rule h) at a game, a review by the DVCHC Disciplinary Board must be held prior to the individuals return to play to determine if additional discipline is warranted.
- f. Repeat violators of rule (Article V, d, 1, c) above will be subject to additional discipline at the discretion of the DVCHC Commissioner.

ARTICLE VI

AMENDMENTS

- 1. Amendment proposals must be presented in writing to the President a minimum of 7 days prior to a mandatory league meeting. The President must present any proposals to the DVCHC membership at the next meeting. Any proposals will be sent by the President to the membership for review no later than 72 hours in advance of the meeting. The proposals will be added to the agenda where the author will present the proposal, discussion will be held, a motion to modify may be made, and finally the motion will be voted on. This constitution/by laws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the member schools present at a meeting.

By-Laws

ARTICLE I - Special Meetings

- 1. Special meetings of the DVCHC may be called by the President, or at the written request to the Commissioners from two (2) member schools.

ARTICLE II – Quorum

- 1. At any meeting of the DVCHC, two-thirds (2/3) of the schools in the DVCHC shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE III - Election of Officers

1. Officers of the DVCHC shall be elected annually at the spring (April/May) meeting. A person may hold any office in the DVCHC without limitation to time, as long as the DVCHC membership is satisfied with their performance, and so indicates by re-election.
2. Officers of the DVCHC shall be elected from among those persons representing their schools in the DVCHC, or past representatives of DVCHC Teams, and shall be limited to full member schools in good standings.
3. One vote per designated member team permitted.
4. See ARTICLE III, Constitution Officers

ARTICLE IV - Order of Business

1. The order of business at all regular meetings of the DVCHC shall be as follows:
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Attendance
 - c. Reading of the Minutes
 - d. Consideration and Vote of new teams (at April/May meeting)
 - e. Reports and Communications
 - f. By Law Proposals for consideration and vote (at Mandatory Meetings only)
 - g. Committees
 - h. Elections
 - i. Discipline Review
 - j. Unfinished Business
 - k. New Business
 - l. Scheduling of next league meeting
 - m. Adjournment

ARTICLE V - Conference Dues

1. The dues for each school in the DVCHC shall be determined by the Treasurer and the President prior to the August/September meeting each year. To be included will be an itemized breakdown of how dues are spent by the DVCHC. Payment of dues assumes that each team adheres to and abides by the constitution and by-laws.
2. League bills are due as follows:
 - a. First Half – One week prior to first game or October 1st (whichever is sooner).
 - b. Second Half – One week prior to first game in January or January 10th (whichever is sooner).
 - c. Probationary schools must pay dues in full one week prior to their first game or October 1st (whichever is sooner).
 - d. The penalty for failure to comply with paragraph “b1 & 2” of this article shall be suspension of the offending school from the DVCHC until the delinquent dues have been paid. Any games missed due to such suspension shall be considered as forfeited.
 - e. If any monies are owed one week prior to the start of DVCHC playoffs, that team will be ineligible for playoffs. There will be no appeals or exceptions granted. Each team must have a \$0.00 balance with the DVCHC.

ARTICLE VI - Rules and Eligibility

DVCHC Eligibility

1. Freshman/First Year Eligibility Student will be defined as the first year playing College Ice Hockey (for any school or team) as an under-graduate student.

2. DVCHC student-athletes must maintain a *cumulative* GPA of at least 2.00 (on a 4.00 scale) by the beginning of their second year of eligibility and must have earned a minimum of 18 credits (as determined by the college or university) in the previous calendar year (Sept 1 – Aug 31).
3. DVCHC student-athletes must be enrolled in a college or university as an undergraduate student in a degree-seeking program (matriculation); the student-athlete must maintain a *cumulative* GPA of at least 2.00 (on a 4.00 scale) by the beginning of their second year of eligibility; the student-athlete must adhere to DVCHC/CHF Academic Progression Standards earning a minimum number of credits as determined by the college or university) in the previous academic calendar year (Sept 1 – Aug 31):
 - 18 credit by the beginning of their second year
 - 36 credits by the beginning of their third year
 - 54 credits by the beginning of their fourth year
 - 72 credits by the beginning of their fifth year
4. DVCHC/CHF student-athletes must be enrolled in a college or university as a graduate student in a degree-seeking program (matriculation); the student-athlete must maintain a *cumulative* GPA of at least 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) by the beginning of their second year of eligibility; the student-athlete must adhere to DVCHC Academic Progression Standards earning a minimum number of credits as determined by the college or university) in the previous academic calendar year (Sept 1 – Aug 31):
 - Must possess an earned bachelor's degree at beginning of their first year
 - 12 credits by the beginning of their second year
5. All Players can only participate for the College/University Club Ice Hockey Team where they go to school.
6. Joint teams (players on one team from more than one institution) will be allowed but will not be eligible for post-season (national tournament) play or rankings.
 - a. Any registered student at the school he or she represents or plays for, whether undergraduate or post-graduate, completing a minimum of nine (9) academic credits per semester, or 18 credits in previous school year, may compete in DVCHC play of the school of his or her registration. However, if a member school has consistently fallen short of roster expectations such that participation would not be feasible, that school may combine players with another school in a similar situation to form a combined team. An agreement signed by both schools is required. A player will be eligible to compete for five (5) years within a five (5) year period.
7. Student-athletes will have five (5) seasons of DVCHC eligibility during their undergraduate years and two (2) seasons of DVCHC eligibility during their graduate years.
8. Student-athletes who have played or been rostered on teams in these professional leagues, shall not be eligible to participate in the DVCHC:
 - a. NHL (US)
 - b. AHL (US)
 - c. ECHL (US)
 - d. SPHL (US)
 - e. FHL (US)
 - f. LNAH (Canada)
 - g. KHL (Russia)
 - h. HHL (Russia)
 - i. DEL (Germany)

- j. SM-Liga (Finland)
 - k. SHL (Sweden)
 - l. Eredivisie (Netherlands)
 - m. Git-Ligaen (Norway)
 - n. Extraliga (Slovakia)
 - o. Extraliga (Czech)
 - p. Any Tier 1 European League
9. Former CHL players are not eligible to participate in the DVCHC.
 10. Student-athletes who have been rostered on teams in the following organizations shall be eligible to participate in the DVCHC, however, will utilize a year of eligibility for each year the student-athlete was rostered in the following organizations.
 - a. NCAA (US)
 - b. aha (US)
 - c. CIS (Canada)
 11. Student-athletes who have exhausted their NCAA eligibility (in any division) or aha D-1 shall not be eligible to participate in the DVCHC. Players in unique circumstances may appeal to the DVCHC Commissioner or President
 12. Student-athletes who have or have not exhausted their NCAA/aha D-I eligibility may appeal to the representative Commissioner who will offer a recommendation to the Eligibility Committee for evaluation and decision.
 13. DVCHC student-athletes shall be required to complete the DVCHC/CHF registration process, which includes electronic submission of player information, acknowledgement of the DVCHC player agreement at the beginning of each season or whenever added to the player roster prior to playing a game.
 14. If a DVCHC team would like to add a player mid-season, they will need to provide confirmation via their respective school registrar that the new player is a full-time student in good standing and taking at least 9 semester hours during the Spring semester.
 15. Student-Athletes who successfully complete their academic programs prior to the completion of the playing season (e.g. December graduates) may apply for a post-season participation waiver no later than (November 15). The DVCHC Eligibility Committee, which will be empaneled under the direction of the Director of Hockey Operations or President will review and render a decision no later than December 15. (Eligibility Committee determines criteria for approval). May need a security deposit to ensure compliance, or administrative sanctions etc.
 16. Eligibility process will include the completion of an official academic roster packet by team officials (includes the chart with name student id, year, credits GPA etc. and an official roster verification letter/cover sheet with roster inert - just player names), with submission to the college/university registrar for Verification. Registrar will verify the information completed by team officials and certify the roster by signing off on the letter/cover sheet and applying official college/university seal. Only the verified cover sheet/letter is submitted to conference official, who will forward the completed packet of certified members from their conference to the commissioner.
 - a. There will be two windows of roster certification. The Fall Window will be the academic review; Winter Window will be the Re-Certification (confirming all rostered players are still enrolled).

- b. Players can be added to the roster at any time prior to the close of the Re-Certification window in January, but teams must complete the academic review documentation for certification.
 - c. Players can be removed from the roster at the end of a semester only
17. Any team challenging the eligibility of any player shall do so in writing to the DVCHC Commissioner no later than 7 days prior to the start of the game vs the team being challenged. If a player's eligibility is challenged by another team, the DVCHC reserves the right to petition the registrar of the player's university to verify the eligibility of a player.
 18. DVCHC Member Teams shall be required to enter all official team and roster information into the appropriate portals within the official DVCHC website, prior to the member teams first contest.
 19. DVCHC Student-Athletes/ Coaches / Team Staff will be required to register for AAU for insurance and include the appropriate AAU unique registration number and verification printout to conference commissioners prior to rosters being certified.
 - a. Men's Division 2 and 3 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. Multiple undergraduate degrees are not allowed.
 - b. Student- athletes must enroll in a minimum of 9 credit hours during each semester of competition. A player who drops below 9 credit hours during a semester becomes immediately ineligible to continue competition. An equivalent standard shall be applied to institutions utilizing a quarter system.
 - c. Men's Division 2 and 3 student- athletes must enroll in and successfully complete a minimum of nine (9) credits each semester for associate and baccalaureate degree students or six (6) credits each semester for masters, doctoral or professional degree students, to be eligible for play in the following semester. An equivalent standard shall be applied to institutions utilizing a quarter systems.
 - d. A senior in the last semester or quarter prior to graduation is not required to meet the required semester or quarter hour minimums. A player can invoke this waiver prior to starting their Grad School career.
 20. The rules governing play in the DVCHC shall be exactly as those prescribed in the NCAA Ice Hockey Guide, with the following exceptions:
 21. Each coach must carry with him a copy of each player's photo ID. All students are provided with a student photo ID upon college registration, so simply make a copy of each player's card and keep it in the event of a dispute.
 22. Mouth guards must be worn by all players as outlined in NCAA Chapter 3 rule 6
 23. **Fighting, Spearing, Butt-Ending,** and any penalty involving intent to injure.
 - a) Any player involved in a fight during the course of a DVCHC game or a non-DVCHC game and so penalized by the referee in that game; or any player receiving a major penalty for spearing, butt-ending, or any penalty involving intent to injure shall receive an automatic game disqualification (DQ) and an additional one game suspension from his teams next DVCHC game (Regular season game or playoff game).
 - b) Multiple game suspensions will be assessed for any combination of the above offenses. Every player's disqualification results in a penalty against that player's team. Each player is limited to a maximum of three (3) disqualifications. Every DQ will be reviewed by the league commissioner and additional discipline may be added if warranted.

- c) Also, when referring to how many games a player sits his/her suspension was amended to read ‘Regularly Scheduled Game’ which is defined as games which appear on the schedule that was submitted to the DVCHC and SUBORDINATE CORPORATION prior to the first game of the season.
- d) In the event that the “next regularly scheduled game” is a game that was originally scheduled (prior to the first game of the season) but was postponed or rescheduled due to an emergency situation, that rescheduled game will be considered the “Regularly Scheduled Game” if it appears as the next game on the schedule prior to the DQ being issued.

24. Suspensions.

a. CHF Suspensions

- i. Using ineligible player(s) and not self-reporting will result in the team being ineligible for regional and national tournament consideration.

b. DVCHC Suspensions

- i. If a player receives a DQ in a DVCHC Divisional League game, that player must serve that suspension in the next scheduled DVCHC game. Should that next game not be against a DVCHC Divisional League opponent, then that player must serve an additional game suspension against his team’s next scheduled DVCHC Divisional game opponent. (*League game is defined as any game which directly affects that team’s DVCHC standings in league play)
- ii. The DVCHC President and the CHF Commissioner must be notified by E-mail following the game.
- iii. Failure to comply with the aforementioned rules (Article VI, Section A, B and C) will result in a forfeiture of said game(s) by the offending team. In addition, the offending player(s) will receive an additional automatic suspension of the same duration plus one game.
- iv. The team of the suspended player must indicate suspended player(s) and uniform number(s) on subsequent game score sheets in the "Sitting Game DQ's" section. A suspended player’s uniform/number may not be worn by another player. Failure to comply will result in a disqualification of said player and forfeiture of said game by offending team. *Example: John Doe of ESU received a 1 Game DQ against Stockton. ESU's next 4 regularly scheduled games consist of IUP, CALU, Widener and Rutgers. In this case, John Doe must serve his DQ against IUP before he can play against CALU. Then, John Doe must sit the game against Widener before he can return to play in another DVCHC game.*
- v. NCAA Rule 23 - Disqualification Penalties
23.1 Disqualification Penalty/Progressive Discipline - A player may be assessed more than one disqualification penalty in a game. The progressive game-disqualification structure shall be:
 - 1. First disqualification penalty—that game plus one.
 - 2. Second disqualification penalty—that game plus two.
 - 3. Third disqualification penalty—that game plus three.
 - 4. Fourth disqualification penalty—that game plus four.
 (The progression shall continue after the fourth disqualification penalty.)
- vi. Any game-disqualification penalties shall carry over to the next season for players with remaining eligibility. The team of the disqualified player(s) shall be permitted to dress a

substitute player or players (equal to the number of disqualified players) in the next scheduled game. A player who receives a disqualification penalty in any game (including exhibition games) shall not be permitted to play in the team's next played regular-season or tournament game against an NCAA member institution. Exhibition games cannot be used to fulfill the disqualification penalty.

- vii. DVCHC - Any team with players ending their season with a game disqualification that cannot be served (e.g. due to graduation or no future DVCHC participation), shall be responsible for a \$100 fine per disqualification.
- c. **Other Suspensions**. Suspensions for other unsportsmanlike offenses shall be determined by the president.
- d. **Spitting**. Any player who is caught spitting on or in the direction of another player or team official will be charged with a Game DQ.
- e. **Eligibility**. Any registered student at the school he represents or plays for, whether undergraduate or post-graduate, completing a minimum of nine (9) academic credits per semester, may compete in DVCHC play of the school of his registration. A player will be eligible to compete for five (5) years within a five (5) year period.
 - i. **If a transferred player from a DII school joins a DIII school, they shall lose one (1) year of eligibility.**
 - ii. All teams must register other players as "1" through "5" based on the number of years played in the DVCHC or another conference. No players can be added to a team roster after January 31. Players can be added prior to this date at any time by proper written notification to the president, sealed by the school registrar and must be received prior to being listed on a game roster.

25. **Roster**

- a. Fall and Winter Eligibility Rosters must be submitted to the DVCHC Commissioner by the dates outlined in item 25b below. Rosters will include the following information:
 - i. Player's name
 - ii. Student ID
 - iii. Number of Credits Taken
 - iv. Number of years played in the DVCHC, CHF, NCAA, aca, other, etc...
- b. Roster must be submitted prior to first game of the season. 2nd Semester rosters must be submitted prior to the first game in the 2nd semester. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of games played during period of violation.
- c. Only rosters stamped with a school seal and signed by each school's registrar or authorized representative will be accepted.
- d. No team will allow a non-rostered player to compete. There is to be no variance from the official roster and/or changing of uniform numbers.
- e. Any variance will result in a team forfeit for a 1st offense and termination from the DVCHC for a 2nd offense.

26. **Score sheets/Live Scoring**

- a. Scores must be reported to the Commissioner/President within twenty-four (24) hours after the game via E-mail. Failure to comply will result in a \$5.00 fine.
- b. Game score sheets must be legibly printed and postmarked (mailed or scanned to the Commissioner) within two (2) calendar days, forty-eight (48) hours, from the game date. There will be a \$25.00, per occurrence, fine to a team that submits a late score sheet.
 - i. **It is a league requirement that all DVCHC games be scored using the iPad Live Scoring program within the league website.** If teams decide not to Live Score their

games, they will have 48 hours from the end of each game to enter all stats and game results or fines will be applied.

1. \$25 fine for failure to meet 24-hour deadline
 2. \$5/day fine for each day following that stats and score are not entered.
- c. A \$5.00 fine will be charged for each additional day that a score sheet is late or scores are not reported to the commissioner.
 - d. Score sheets must be filled out by both teams and given to the scorekeeper no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the game.
 - e. Coaches must sign the score sheet, failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of said team.
 - f. Failure to have one of the named coaches not on the bench will have a two (2) minute minor. Should the named coach continue to be absent in the 2nd and 3rd periods, a five (5) minute major will be assessed.
 - g. additional penalties shall be determined by the president.

b) **Postponements**

1. No game shall be postponed, except by mutual consent of the coaches of the two schools involved and approval of the Referee Assignor & Commissioner/DHO.
2. Visiting team must contact host team twelve (12) days before the schedule game if they wish to cancel/postpone a game. Failure to do so will result in the ice time and referee's fees being paid for by the visiting team. Payment by offending team will be deducted from the dues in the treasure of said team. Continuation of said team in the DVCHC play will depend on the receipt by the treasurer of the sum involved within twelve (12) days.
3. If game is not made up by the week prior to playoffs, both teams will have forfeits, unless other remedy is reached following appeal by either team.
 - a) Appeal to Commissioner/President for decision on forfeits must be made once teams are unable to resolve.
4. All Forfeits will be reviewed by DVCHC Commissioner/Dir of Hockey Operations, and/or President for potential fines or suspension from DVCHC
5. Game contracts/rules are required for all non-league games.
6. Game Cancellations due to inclement weather:
 - a) All teams are reminded that if their school is closed, there is no game. A majority of schools will not allow their teams to use school vans in the event schools are closed for bad weather. Once this is announced, both coaches are to contact each other, then contact the Commissioner, who will pass it on to the referees.
 - b) Inclement Weather Game Cancellation Protocol:
 1. Communication by both coaches as soon as bad weather is forecasted or no later than 24 hours prior to game
 2. Both Coaches will coordinate a timeline and a plan for final decision time
 3. Both Coaches will contact the Commissioner or President once a decision to cancel is reached
 4. Notification deadline will be no later than 6 hours prior to game time
 5. Approval from league Commissioner or President must be provided prior to cancellation of game
 6. Date to replay game must be re-scheduled within 5 calendar days of cancellation or a forfeit will be declared by the Commissioner and/or President.

7. Financial responsibility issues to be resolved by Commissioner if no agreement can be reached between two teams within 5 calendar days of cancellation

a) Uniforms.

1. All players must wear their assigned numbers on the back of their team uniforms.

ARTICLE VII

Contests

- a) All teams/members in the DVCHC will manage games according to the rules and bylaws and are considered under game contract regulations within the DVCHC.
- b) Regular season games in the DVCHC shall consist of three (3) twenty (20) minute periods with an ice cut during 1st and 2nd intermission with five (5) minute overtime for Division III A teams.
- c) Overtime will be five minutes of 4 on 4. If at the end of this overtime if the game is still tied, a shootout (3 man) will take place followed by sudden death shoot out if necessary and as ice time permits.
- d) At the conclusion of the regular season, the team that has accumulated the most points in their respective divisions (to be determined by awarding two (2) points for each win and one (1) point for each overtime loss) shall be declared the regular season champion. In case of a tie, regular season champion shall be determined in the following order:
 1. The team with the most points accumulated in regular season play.
 2. The team with the most games won.
 3. The team among those involved having accumulated the most points in “head-to-head” competition.
 4. The team having allowed the fewest goals for the season.
 5. The team with the greatest goal differential (goals scored – goals allowed =differential)
 6. Team with the least amount of penalty minutes in league games.
 7. In the unlikely event that the above listed tie-breakers fail to produce a winner, a one game playoff will be scheduled prior to the start of playoffs. The league will identify a neutral rink for this game.
- e) Order of finish during regular season shall determine home team all throughout the playoffs.
 1. **Playoffs.** The playoff formula will be voted on approved each year at the May Mandatory Meeting once number of teams and divisions have been finalized. Dates are to be determined each year.
 2. **Division II/III National (CHF Tournament Bound):**
 - i. Number of teams eligible: 4
 - ii. Number of rounds of play: 2
 - iii. Dates of playoff games: Feb 24, 25, 26 2023
 - iv. Location of games: Ice Works, Aston PA
 3. **Division II/III American:**
 - i. Number of teams eligible: 6
 - ii. Number of rounds of play: 3
 - iii. Dates of playoff games: Feb 24, 25, 26 2023
 - iv. Location of games: Ice Works, Aston PA
 4. **Division II/III Patriot:**

- i. Number of teams eligible: 3
- ii. Number of rounds of play: 2
- iii. Dates of playoff games: Feb 24, 25, 26 2023
- iv. Location of games: Ice Works, Aston, PA

f) **Game Officials.**

- a. **National and American TB Division:** DVCHC games will be officiated using a four (4) man referee system in the DVCHC as outlined in the NCAA Ice Hockey Guide by referees from the association contracted for at the beginning of each season by the DVCHC. A minimum of one referee, from said association, must be present or the contest cannot be considered an official game. The coaches of each team must agree to whether or not the game shall be played with only three officials.
- b. **American and Patriot NTB Divisions:** DVCHC games will be officiated using a three (3) man referee system in the DVCHC as outlined in the NCAA Ice Hockey Guide by referees from the association contracted for at the beginning of each season by the DVCHC. A minimum of one referee, from said association, must be present or the contest cannot be considered an official game. The coaches of each team must agree to whether or not the game shall be played.

ARTICLE VIII

Disputes

- a) All disputes or differences in regard to contests or discipline, other than player eligibility, shall be submitted in writing by the coach to the DVCHC President and postmarked no later than forty-eight (48) hours following the conclusion of the contest/notification of discipline or will not be considered. The dispute shall be decided by the Executive appointed Discipline Committee. Exception – when time is of the essence, the coach may call the DVCHC President.

ARTICLE IX

Awards

- a) DVCHC Trophy
- b) Most Valuable Player
- c) Offensive POTY - High Scorer (as according to league stats)
- d) Defensive POTY - Outstanding Defenseman
- e) Outstanding Goalie (according to criteria which includes shots, GP, Saves)
- f) Coach of the Year
- g) Finbarr O'Connor Sportsmanship Award

Awards Protocol

- h) **DVCHC Championship Trophy** – Winners of the National, American, Patriot will be named DVCHC Champions
- i) **Most Valuable Player**
 - a. Every Coach must recommend a player from the league that they would like to be considered as League MVP (other teams player nominees only)
 - b. A brief description of why the individual should be considered should be attached to the nomination

- c. Only statistics posted on the DVCHC website will be considered during the selection process
- j) High Scorer (according to league stats from the DVCHC website only)
- k) Outstanding Defenseman
 - a. Coaches must recommend a defensive player from the league that they would like to be considered as Outstanding defensemen (other teams players only)
 - b. A brief description of why the individual should be considered should be attached to the nomination
 - c. Only statistics posted on the DVCHC website will be considered during the selection process
- l) Outstanding Goalie/Lowest Goals Against (selection to be made from DVCHC website statistics)
 - a. Minimum 10 games (600 minutes) played
 - b. Coaches will recommend a goalie from their own division (other teams players only).
- m) Finbarr O'Connor Sportsmanship Award
 - a. Every Coach must recommend a player from the league that they would like to be considered as the Finbarr O Connor Award Winner (own team player or other team player). This award is presented to the individual that represents the league, his/her team, their school, and themselves meeting the following criteria:
 - i. The player shows respect for the opponent at all times.
 - ii. The player shows respect for the officials at all times.
 - iii. The player shows respect for the coaches at all times.
 - iv. The player shows respect for his/her teammates at all times.
 - v. The player knows, understands, and appreciates the rules of the game.
 - vi. The player maintains self-control at all times.
 - vii. The player displays perseverance in spite of difficulty.
 - viii. The player that goes beyond the game to show leadership, compassion for others, volunteerism, dedication to enhance the DVCHC, etc...
 - b. A description/testimonial of why the individual should be considered should be attached to the nomination to be read at the awards announcement. Failure to submit this statement will lessen the nominees chance to receive the award.
- n) Coach of the Year
 - a. Nominees for Coach of the Year can be sent in by any teams Coach or Team Rep.
 - b. The Awards Committee will select the Coach of the Year from those names submitted or from within the list of any Divisional coaches meeting the criteria below.
 - c. The following criteria will be considered/used as a guideline in making their decision:
 - i. Has coached a minimum of 2 consecutive years in the DVCHC
 - ii. How has the coach contributed to the overall organization, promotion and development of hockey in the DVCHC?
 - iii. In what way(s) has the coach been effective in assisting the athletes achieve their personal goals in hockey?
 - iv. What is the conduct of the coach? Is the coach a positive role model for the athletes and for other coaches and parents?
 - v. Does the coach provide stable and consistent leadership qualities?
 - vi. Does the coach teach and practice co-operation, self-discipline and respect?

Awards Selection Process

- A copy of the awards selection process will be posted on the website and sent to each team representative by January 15th for their review prior to submitting potential award candidates.
- All awards candidate names must be submitted to the President/Commissioner of the League no later than February 28th
- All candidates will be forwarded to the Awards Committee by March 1st for review.
- The Awards Committee will select Award Winners from those names submitted or from the list of any league members meeting the criteria below.
- A conference call will be scheduled within 24 hours to discuss the process and nominees.
- Each Awards Committee member will email their choice for each of the awards to the league Vice President
 - In the event of a tie for any award, the league President and Commissioner will select the winner following a conference call with the Awards Committee
- Awards will be handed out at the league All Star Game in March at the close of the season.

ARTICLE X

Review

- a) All teams, players, coaches, team officials, league officers and referees (who are assigned DVCHC games) shall be fully aware of our constitution/by laws and should be fully aware of the “Sportsmanship and General Procedure” section of the constitution.