

**Laurel Mountain (5th - 8th grade)  
Developmental Hockey League**

# **PLAYING RULES**



**2023-2024**

*Approved and Updated  
October 1, 2023*

## **ARTICLE 1: RULES BASIS**

### **Section 1.01 Purpose and Playing Rules Definition**

The purpose of this developmental, in-house hockey league is to provide instructional hockey for 5th through 8th grade students in Laurel Mountain Member Schools and their co-ops after the dissolution of the Flex-Player option by Mid-Am and USA Hockey. All Laurel Mountain Developmental Hockey League (herein referred to as "The League" or "LMDHL") teams must abide by the rules, as defined, in this document.

### **Section 1.02 League Playing Rules/USA Hockey Rules**

All Rules and Regulations of the LMDHL not specifically outlined in this document will be governed by the USA Hockey Rule Book.

## **ARTICLE 2: ELIGIBILITY**

### **Section 2.01 Teams**

- A. In order for a team to be eligible for play in the LMDHL, all criteria will be met for the LMHL Rules of Play under Article 2: Eligibility.
1. Schools will work with the League to police a grading policy as well as eligibility requirements.
  2. Teams are not permitted to cut players from their Co-Op districts. If a report is received and verified of a program cutting or discouraging players from any of their co-ops, they will be subject to review and discipline by the executive committee.
  3. Any players that do not fall under one of the above mentioned organizations will be brought before the placement committee and will be placed on a team by the league if there is a team to accommodate the player.

### **Section 2.02 Coaches**

- A. In order to coach in the League, the coach must adhere to the requirements as set forth in LMHL By- Laws, Article 6 and be able to show proof of their current USA Hockey coaching certification, background clearances and SafeSport certification.
1. At all games coaches are required to keep proper documentation of their coaching credentials in the team book. League Executive Board members and on ice officials reserve the right to check all team personnel before, during or after a game.
    - a) Violators of this rule will be immediately ejected from the bench and will no longer be eligible to participate in any team practices, scrimmages, games, or be present in the teams locker-room until they show proof that all eligibility requirements have been met.
    - b) If the ineligible coach violates the rule a second time he is automatically suspended from the League, his name will be removed from all League rosters, and his team will forfeit each game that the coach illegally participated in. He is not permitted to coach any League team(s) until he shows proof that he has met all League coaching requirements and has received approval from the LMDHL Executive Committee to commence with coaching activities.

### **Section 2.03 Players**

- A. A player from a school with a closed program or recognized open program must play for their respective hockey organization unless meeting an exemption from Section 2.03 of the LMHL

B. LMDHL Financial Obligation Policy:

1. Any LMDHL player whose financial obligations have not been satisfied with their home organization, whether open or closed, will be suspended from regular season play and ineligible for playoffs until his or her financial obligations have been met.
2. The LMDHL may "conditionally allow" a player who has negotiated terms of repayment of outstanding debt to play in LMDHL games. Should the debtor break these terms, the LMDHL may revoke the playing privileges of the player. Organizations must advise the LMDHL of full satisfaction of debt to remove the player from the financially delinquent player list.
3. Players identified of being financially delinquent after the start of league games will be given a 14-day window to resolve their financial issues before being removed from game competition.

C. Academic Eligibility

1. Every Monday during the playing season, all players must be declared in good academic standing with attending school district.
2. Host hockey organizations have the responsibility to report ineligible players to the League President. Failure to report will result with penalties associated with ineligible players.

## **ARTICLE 3: ROSTER ADDITIONS**

### Section 3.01 Deadline for Additions

- A. No coaches or players may be added to a team's League Roster after Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> of the current playing season.
1. Exception: LMDHL may allow player/coach additions after Dec 31<sup>st</sup> based on extenuating circumstances (e.g., roster hardships). In this case, the organization must first request and seek approval for a player addition from the League Executive Committee. Until such time as an approval, the team may only participate in League play with the approved roster as of Dec 31<sup>st</sup> and is subject to any penalties if a game cannot be played (e.g., reimbursement of game costs, game forfeiture, etc.).

## **ARTICLE 4: LEAGUE COMPOSITION AND DIVISIONS**

### Section 4.01 Competitive Play

- A. The intent of the league is to promote the play of hockey through scholastic organizations in a developmental environment.

### Section 4.02 Number of Games

- A. Each season, the League Scheduler shall identify the number of games per team based on BOD direction. At a minimum, the following must be adhered:
1. Developmental division – Minimum of twelve (12) games per team

### Section 4.02 Developmental Division

- A. Developmental Division will be played as a single-division
- B. End of Season Play
1. There will be 2 games played after the regular season schedule to determine seeding for any end of season tournament.
  2. Points for those two games for each team will be as follows:
    - a) 1 point to the team that scores more goals than the other team for each period (3 points total)
    - b) ½ point to both teams if teams score the same amount of goals for each period

- c) 2 points to the team that wins the game
3. In the event the game is tied at the end of regulation the following overtime policy will apply
    - a) OT Period: One (1) 5-minute period, 4 on 4 with goalies changing ends
    - b) If tied after OT period, the game will proceed to a 3 vs 3 shootout. If tied after 3 shooters from each team, the shootout will continue as a 1 vs 1 shootout. A skater cannot make a 2nd attempt until 6 other skaters have made an attempt.
    - c) No additional points will be awarded for winning the OT period or shootout.
  4. After the two seeding games have concluded, the teams with the top 4 points will be make the tournament. Selection and seeding tie breakers will consist of the following, as needed:
    - a) Games won
    - b) Periods won
    - c) Head-to-Head
    - d) Goals For Minus Goals Against Differential
    - e) Penalty Minutes
    - f) Executive Committee Decision
  5. End of year tournament games will be normal games and scheduled as follows:
    - a) Game 1: 1st seed (home) vs 4th seed (away)
    - b) Game 2: 2nd seed (home) vs 3rd seed (away)
    - c) Winners from Game 1 and 2 with higher seed being home

## ARTICLE 5: SCHEDULE

### Section 5.01 Scheduling Responsibilities

- A. Only the League appointed scheduler (League Scheduler) or LMHL President can schedule regular and post-season games. All LMDHL issues under Article 5 should refer to Article 5 of the LMHL Rules of Play.
- B. Only the Head Off-Ice Official or League President can schedule League Representatives.
  1. In the event a League Representative is not present for a game, it is the Home Team's responsibility to manage the game and ensure a score sheet is filled out and submitted to the Head Off-Ice Official.
- C. Unless otherwise directed by the Executive Committee, all EMT services and security will be scheduled by League appointed service providers.
- D. The Home Team is responsible for scheduling gate personnel, home penalty box operators, and clock operators for all regular season games. The Visitor Team is responsible for scheduling visitor penalty box operators.

### Section 5.02 Game Scheduling

- A. Games will be scheduled to the following defined curfew times:
  1. Developmental division – Sixty-five (65) minute ice slots

### Section 5.03 Length of Season

- A. The current regular season officially begins in October and concludes in March:

- B. The start of the season is defined as the following:
  - 1. Pre-season start (first allowable team practice) – September 1
  - 2. Season start (official game play start) – First game of the season as identified by the final league schedule, per division

#### Section 5.04 Pace and Consistency

- A. The schedule shall be prepared with the targeted consistence of each team playing one game per week. Every effort will made to assure that no team will play more than two games in one week.
- B. Game rescheduling due to weather cancellation may result in teams playing more than two games in a given week. Every effort will be made to limit the number of games per team, per week.

#### Section 5.05 Game Cancellation

- A. Please see LMHL Rules of Play Article 5 Section 5.06, 5.07 and 5.08 for Game Cancellation Policies.

### **ARTICLE 6: GAME STANDARDS**

#### Section 6.01 General Standards

- A. All games in all divisions will adhere to USA Hockey standards unless detailed by LMDHL or LMHL game standards identified in these Playing Rules, any additional League documents, and any Executive Orders issued during the season.
- B. All teams may charge an admission fee to each of their home games.
  - 1. The admission fee shall be no more than three dollars (\$3) per adult and two dollars (\$2) per student age twelve (12) or older.
    - a) Organizations may waive or discount their admission fee for promotional purposes.
    - b) Organization may charge more than the above noted amounts for special purposes (e.g., charity games). Any admission amounts greater than the above noted amounts must be presented to the Executive Board for review and approval.
- C. All teams must have jerseys for all players with player numbers clearly shown.
  - 1. Standard protocol is for a two-jersey system consisting of a home jersey, typically in predominantly black or colored, and an away jersey, typically in predominantly white or light colored (e.g., gray, cream, off-white, yellow, etc.). Final determination of jersey protocol (colored and white) will be decided by the home team prior to the game.
  - 2. An exemption to this protocol may be requested by member organization in order to facilitate any single jersey contingencies. This request must be issued to the Executive Board for review and approval.
- D. All LMDHL member association team players are required to properly wear protective equipment at all practices, warm-ups, scrimmages and games as required by USAH rules with the following additions. This includes the following:
  - 1. All players are required to wear an internal mouthpiece. Mouthpiece can be any color except clear and does not have to be attached.
  - 2. All players are required to wear an unaltered neck guard of a commercial type specifically designed as a slash guard. Socks, rags, handkerchiefs, etc., tied around player's throat, are not adequate throat protection.

- a) A player who is on the ice surface (including warm-ups and entering/exiting the ice surface) without a neck guard will be immediately ejected for the remainder of that game unless prior approval by the officials for not wearing a neck guard
  - b) If the same player gets ejected for three (3) or more games in the season of play, that player will automatically receive a one-game suspension for each instance.
  - c) If a player (same or different) is ejected in three (3) separate games in the season of play, the coach will be assessed a game suspension.
3. Goalkeepers are required to wear a “gobbler style” throat protector AND neck guard that adhere to all guidelines defined by USA Hockey.
- a) A player who is on the ice surface (including warm-ups and entering/exiting the ice surface) without a “gobbler style” throat protector AND neck guard will be immediately ejected for the remainder of that game unless prior approval by the officials for not wearing a neck guard.
  - b) If the same player gets ejected for three (3) or more games in the season of play, that player will automatically receive a one-game suspension for each instance.
  - c) If a player (same or different) is ejected in three (3) separate games in the season of play, the coach will be assessed a game suspension.
4. All players are required to wear standard full face protection, as approved by USA Hockey. Only a player who is recuperating from a facial and/or mouth injury, or who has permanent vision impairment, as certified by a doctor’s certificate, may wear special face protection with LMHL approval.
5. The LMHL Executive Committee reserves the right to attend an on-ice function to monitor the use of proper protective equipment. Violations for one or more players not wearing proper protective equipment will be as follows:
- a) First instance: written warning issued to the organization for the division in violation.
  - b) Second instance: written notice of violation and one-game suspension of the head coach of the division in violation.
  - c) Third and more instances: written notice of violation, one-game suspension of the head coach of the division in violation and a \$100 fine to the organization, per instance.
- E. Penalty Minutes Definition
- a) Developmental League will be played as follows:
    - (i) A minor penalty will be 1:30 minutes
    - (ii) Major and Misconduct penalties will remain 5 min and 10 min, respectively.

## Section 6.02 Regular Season Game and Division Standards

- A. All games will start at the scheduled start time or up to twenty (20) minutes before the scheduled start time if the ice surface is available (e.g., prior game ending early, prior game cancelled, etc.) , whichever is first. All other Game Standards will refer to Article 6 Section 6.02 of the LMHL Rules of Play.
- B. At the conclusion of each game, every player shall proceed through the traditional congratulatory line and offer a handshake to each opposing player. The coach may proceed through the traditional congratulatory line or may remain on the bench but must be accessible for the game conclusion handshake.

## Section 6.03 Game Requirements

- A. All games can only be played with the following personnel present prior to the start of the game:
  - 1. Minimum of two (2) league approved on-ice official, with the following exception:
    - a) Any developmental game that does not have two referees present may be played with one referee with the approval of either the League President or the Chief Referee.
    - b) Referees will check goalie for required and approved gear and gobbler and that all players

are wearing an approved neck guard.

2. Minimum of one (1) league approved EMT
    - a) Responsible for addressing medical issues of players prior to, during, and after a game and all other specifics shall follow Section 6.03A2 of the LMHL Rules of Play.
  3. Minimum of one (1) security personnel
    - a) Responsible for managing fan behavior prior to, during, and after a game
    - b) Ensuring LMHL behavior policies are followed
    - c) Has authority to remove fans from the rink
    - d) In the event that a paid security agent is not present at the start of the game, the League Representative will contact the home team manager to assign someone from the home team to fill in for this position until such time that or if a professional security agent is present. The appointed person will be required to ensure all LMDHL and LMHL policies are being adhered to by all fans before, during, and after the game.
- B. All games shall be played with a league approved League Representative and fall under Section 6.03B of the LMHL Rules of Play.
- C. All games, regardless of division, can only be played with minor off-ice officials under the following titles: clock operator (one required) and penalty box operator (one per penalty box required).

#### Section 6.04 Home and Away Organization Requirements

1. All Home and Away team requirements will fall under Section 6.04 of the LMHL Rules of Play.

#### Section 6.05 Conduct Requirements

1. All conduct requirements fall under Section 6.05 of the LMHL Rules of Play.

### **ARTICLE 7: END OF SEASON TOURNAMENT GAMES**

#### Section 7.01 League Responsibilities

- A. The League Scheduler shall determine the dates following the completion of the regular season schedule, assign games, arrange support personnel and notify all corresponding organizations.
- B. The Head Off-Ice Official and League Executive committee are responsible for managing the gate and ensuring all ice and personnel are paid.
  1. Prior to the start of the tournament, the BOD will decide and vote on required needs and personnel for playoff games. These include but are not limited to: game locations, number of on-ice officials, number of League Representatives, and number of security personnel.

#### Section 7.02 Organization Responsibilities

- A. Each organization shall notify the League if they will participate in the tournament (a team may be eligible but may request exclusion by notifying the League in writing by Feb 1<sup>st</sup>.)
- B. Each organization and team indicating participation shall be available for play on all scheduled dates (no makeup games will be played if a team is unable to participate)
  1. Any organization who fails to participate shall be subject to the penalties of Section 5.07 for each game that they were scheduled to play in.

- C. Organizations are responsible for providing penalty box personnel and personnel to assist at the scorer's table and/or with announcements
- D. Organizations are responsible for reimbursing the League for any incurred tournament costs, which are not covered by the gate money, after the conclusion of the tournament.

### Section 7.03 Eligibility

1. All eligibility requirements will fall under Section 7.03 of the LMHL Rules of Play

## **ARTICLE 8: PLAYER/TEAM/COACH CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY REVIEW**

### Section 8.01 Conduct

1. All conduct policies for LMDHL will fall under the LMHL Rules of Play Article 8.

## **ARTICLE 9: GAME MISCONDUCTS, MATCH PENALTIES, AND SUSPENSIONS**

### Section 9.01 Discipline

1. All discipline will fall under Article 9 of the LMHL Rules of Play except there will be no ability to appeal higher than the LMHL Disciplinary Review Committee and Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE 10: EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

### Section 10.01 Executive Orders

1. All executive Orders made by LMHL will apply to LMDHL unless otherwise stated.