



CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS
2022-2023

Table of Contents

Constitution..... 4

ARTICLE I - NAME 4

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP 4

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS 5

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS 7

ARTICLE V - SPORTSMANSHIP 7

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS..... 9

By-Laws 9

ARTICLE I - Special Meetings 9

ARTICLE II - Quorum 9

ARTICLE III - Election of Officers 9

ARTICLE IV - Order of Business 10

ARTICLE V - Conference Dues..... 10

ARTICLE VI - Rules and Eligibility 11

ARTICLE VII - Contests 18

ARTICLE VIII - Disputes 20

ARTICLE IX..... 21

ARTICLE X - Review 23

Revisions:

Revision Date	Version	Approval Date
6/30/2023	1.0	

Legend:

Color	Context
Yellow	Under Review
Purple	Reference (To Check)
Green	Merge With Other Section

Constitution

ARTICLE I - NAME

1. The name of this league shall be the **New England Independent Ice Hockey Conference (NEIHC)**.
2. The purpose of this league is to provide a framework and governance structure for organized collegiate hockey among Colleges, Universities, and Community Colleges in the New England region.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

1. The New England Independent Ice Hockey Conference (NEIHC) shall consist of College/University 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 NEIHC.
2. Application for membership to the NEIHC must consist of the following:
 - a. Application for membership to the NEIHC in writing.
 - b. Formal presentation at a NEIHC 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 NEIHC).
3. **Probationary Membership.** Schools wishing to become full members of the NEIHC shall be granted a one (1) year probationary membership (this also includes schools that were once members prior to the upcoming season) by a simple majority vote of the current membership - schools currently comprising the NEIHC. 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 NEIHC dues prior to a team's first game.
4. After a probationary period of one (1) 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 two-thirds (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 two (2) years.

5. Any team withdrawing from the NEIHC shall do so with the understanding they will not receive monetary compensation. The only exceptions being over payment or cancelled game(s).

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS

1. The Senior Executive Officers (Executive Board) of the NEIHC shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, the Recording Secretary, and the Treasurer.
2. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the Recording the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Webmaster, the Commissioner(s), and the Director of Hockey Operations.
3. **President** - The President will oversee the NEIHC during the regular season, playoffs, and championship series. He / she has authority to enforce the By-Laws as far as disciplinary actions of players, coaches, and member schools. He / she acts as a mediator and makes judgments on disputes between members and will make rulings on any protests lodged in accordance with the NEIHC Constitution and By-Laws. The President will be responsible for further enhancing and development of the NEIHC through corporate and vendor sponsorship.
4. **Vice-President** - The Vice-President shall discharge the duties of the President in his or her absence, 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 NEIHC member team representatives, and/or any other parties as designated by the President.
6. **Commissioner(s)**
 - a. **Division - III:** The Commissioner will oversee the D-III division during the regular season, playoffs, and championship series. He / she has authority over all disciplinary actions of players, coaches, and member schools. He / she acts as a mediator and makes judgments on disputes between members and will make rulings on any protests lodged in accordance with the NEIHC Constitution and By-Laws. The Commissioner will be responsible for the weekly league website updates not later than forty-eight (48) hours following the completion of each home team's game. The Commissioner will be responsible for performing a minimum of one (1) game evaluation for each team at their home arena during the regular season. The Commissioner will also be responsible for collecting and reviewing all D-III division eligibility rosters prior to the start of each semester and league playoffs. **The Commissioner cannot be affiliated with any D-III team.**

b. **Division – II:** The Commissioner will oversee Division II during the regular season, playoffs, and championship series. He / she has authority over all disciplinary actions of players, coaches, and member schools. He / she acts as a mediator and makes judgments on disputes between members and will make rulings on any protests lodged in accordance with the NEIHC Constitution and By-Laws. The Commissioner will be responsible for the weekly league website updates not later than forty-eight (48) hours following the completion of each home team's game. The Commissioner will be responsible for performing a minimum of one (1) game evaluation for each team at their home arena during the regular season. The Commissioner will also be responsible for collecting and reviewing all D-II eligibility rosters prior to the start of each semester and league playoffs. **The Commissioner cannot be affiliated with any D-II team.**

c. **Division – I:** The Commissioner will oversee Division I during the regular season, playoffs, and championship series. He / she has authority over all disciplinary actions of players, coaches, and member schools. He / she acts as a mediator and makes judgments on disputes between members and will make rulings on any protests lodged in accordance with the NEIHC Constitution and By-Laws. The Commissioner will be responsible for the weekly league website updates not later than forty-eight (48) hours following the completion of each home team's game. The Commissioner will be responsible for performing a minimum of one (1) game evaluation for each team at their home arena during the regular season. The Commissioner will also be responsible for collecting and reviewing all D-I eligibility rosters prior to the start of each semester and league playoffs. **The Commissioner cannot be affiliated with any D-I team.**

7. **Treasurer** – The Treasurer, with approval from the President or member schools, shall receive all dues and assessments of the NEIHC. The Treasurer will make all necessary expenditures which will be deposited and withdrawn from an account designated by the NEIHC. He / she shall establish budgets and report quarterly to the members the receipts, expenditures, and the balance on hand.
8. **Webmaster** – The Webmaster is responsible for maintaining the NEIHC webpages as well as educating member teams on proper use of the website and online scoring.
9. **Director of Hockey Operations** – The Director of Hockey Operations (DHO) position is responsible for full oversight of NEIHC hockey operations. Responsibilities will include support and coordination with the President and the Commissioner(s) for all NEIHC regular season games, playoff games and the 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.
10. Each member in good standing is encouraged to take turns as a representative, hold a position, or sit on a committee for a period of one (1) year.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

1. All NEIHC 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 / 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 two (2) mandatory meetings per year. Each team must be represented. A mandatory pre-season meeting in August/September, and a mandatory post-season meeting in May/June, to discuss potential new members, scheduling, and critical league communications.
 - a. Mandatory is defined as “must be present”.
3. Any team missing two consecutive mandatory meetings may be placed on probation for a period of one (1) year at the discretion of the Executive Board.
4. **Voting:** Voting on all matters/issues shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors and the Board of Governors representing their member schools, unless specified elsewhere in these Rules and By-Laws (e.g., acceptance of new probationary members and By-Law changes require a two-thirds vote by membership).
 - a. The President will not cast a vote on any board or membership related issue unless there is a tie. Should there be a tie, the President will cast the deciding vote. The Presidents vote will be considered the tie breaking vote.
 - b. If a member of the Board of Directors holds multiple positions on the Board of Directors he / she can only vote once.
 - c. If a member of the Board of Directors also serves on the Board of Governors he / she can only vote once in his / her capacity as a school representative.

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 NEIHC.
 - 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 NEIHC in the matter of sportsmanship.
 - b. Reporting to the NEIHC, 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 fifteen (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 may result in disciplinary action taken against said Coach.
- b. Be well versed in the rules and agreements of the NEIHC.
- 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 an AAU or USAH Level 1 Coaching Certificate.
- f. All returning coaches must have an AAU or USAH Level 2 or Level 3 Coaching Certificate. If the level was not available to any returning coaches, coaches will have a one-year grace period until the next class.
- g. Non-certified coaches or assistants will be in violation of the above criteria and if on the bench the game will be forfeited.
- h. Coaching certificates will be sent to the Commissioner(s) prior to each team's 1st game.
- i. Any new coaches joining a team after the start of the NEIHC regular season, will submit their coaching certification to the Commissioner(s) prior to being permitted to coach a NEIHC 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 a game.
- c. To refrain from baiting or questioning officials during a game. The NEIHC 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 NEIHC will incorporate a "zero tolerance" policy when it is determined that any coach, player, or team official has violated the league's 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 coaches 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.
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.
- d. In the event 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 NEIHC Disciplinary Committee

must be held prior to the individuals return to play to determine if additional discipline is warranted.

- e. Repeat violators of the rule above will be subject to additional discipline at the discretion of the Commissioner(s).

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS

1. Amendment proposals must be presented in writing to the President a minimum of seven (7) days prior to a mandatory league meeting. The President must present any proposals to the NEIHC membership at the next meeting. Any proposals will be sent by the President to the membership for review no later than seventy-two (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 and 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 NEIHC may be called by the President, or at the written request to the Commissioner(s) from two (2) member schools.

ARTICLE II - Quorum

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

ARTICLE III - Election of Officers

1. Officers of the NEIHC that are running opposed shall be elected every two years by the Board of Directors and the Board of Governors representing their member schools. Elections shall be held at the spring (April/May) meeting. Officers of the NEIHC that are running unopposed and electing to continue another term can have their terms extended with a majority approval by the full board. A person may hold any office in the NEIHC without limitation of time, if the membership is satisfied with their performance, and indicates so by re-election.
 - a. If a member of the Board of Directors holds multiple positions on the Board of Directors he / she can only vote once.

- b. If a member of the Board of Directors also serves on the Board of Governors he / she can only vote once in his / her capacity as a school representative.
2. Officers of the NEIHC shall be elected from among those persons representing their schools in the NEIHC, or past representatives of NEIHC teams, and shall be limited to full member schools in good standings.
 - a. To be a full member school in good standing requires regular attendance at spring and fall annual meetings, timely payment of dues and fees to the NEIHC and CHF, properly utilizing the GameSheet application, and maintaining good communications.
3. One (1) 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 NEIHC 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 NEIHC 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 NEIHC. 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 (1) week prior to first game or October 1st (whichever is sooner).
 - b. Second Half – One (1) week prior to first game in January or January 10th (whichever is sooner).

- c. Probationary schools must pay dues in full one (1) week prior to their first game or October 1st (whichever is sooner).
- d. The penalty for failure to comply with the above terms shall be suspension of the offending school from the NEIHC 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 NEIHC 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 NEIHC.

ARTICLE VI - Rules and Eligibility

Reference AAU Operations Manual

1. Club team Student-Athletes must be enrolled in a College/University as an undergraduate student in a degree-seeking program (matriculation); the 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; the Student-Athlete must adhere to club team 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
2. Club team Student-Athletes must be enrolled in a College/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 club team 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
3. All Players can only participate for the College or University club team where they go to school.
4. 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.
5. Student-Athletes will have five (5) seasons of club team eligibility during their undergraduate years and two (2) seasons of club team eligibility during their graduate years.

6. Student-Athletes who have played or been rostered on teams in these professional leagues, shall not be eligible to participate on a club team:
 - 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
7. Former CHL players are not eligible to participate on a club team.
8. Student-Athletes who have been rostered on teams in the following organizations shall be eligible to participate on a club team, however, will utilize a year of eligibility for each year the Student-Athlete was rostered in the following organizations:
 - a. NCAA (US)
 - b. ACHA (US)
 - c. CIS (Canada)
9. Student-Athletes who have exhausted their NCAA eligibility (in any division) or ACHA D-1 shall not be eligible to participate on a club team. Players in unique circumstances may appeal to the Commissioner(s).
10. Student-Athletes who have or have not exhausted their NCAA/ACHA D-I eligibility may appeal to the Commissioner(s) who will offer a recommendation to the Board of Governors for evaluation and decision.
11. Club team Student-Athletes shall be required to complete the club team registration process, which includes electronic submission of player information, acknowledgement of the club team

player agreement at the beginning of each season or whenever added to the player roster prior to playing a game.

12. If a club 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 nine (9) semester hours during the spring semester.

13. 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 15th. The league's Eligibility Committee, which will be empaneled under the direction of the Director of Hockey Operations will review and render a decision no later than December 15th. The Eligibility Committee determines criteria for approval.

14. 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 or University registrar for verification. The Registrar will verify the information completed by team officials and certify the roster by signing off on the letter/cover sheet and applying an 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(s).

- 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.

15. Any team challenging the eligibility of any player in a national tournament shall do so in writing to the Commissioner(s) no later than ten (10) days prior to the start of the tournament. If a player's eligibility is challenged by another team, the club team reserves the right to petition the Registrar of the player's College/University to verify the eligibility of a player.

16. Club teams shall be required to enter all official team and roster information into the appropriate portals prior to the member teams first contest.

17. Current D-1, D-II, and D-III teams must make an annual declaration of Division I, II or III status, as well as their intention to play as a Tournament or Non-Tournament Bound team to the NEIHC, by the NEIHC's spring meeting. Teams must make a final declaration of Tournament

Bound or Non-Tournament Bound status no later than a team's first game or October 1st (whichever is first).

18. Refer to the NEIHC Team Declaration Procedures document for additional information.

19. Club team Student-Athletes/ Coaches / Team Staff will be required to register with the AAU for insurance and include the appropriate AAU unique registration number and verification printout to the Commissioner(s) prior to rosters being certified.

20. The rules governing play in the NEIHC 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/University 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 NEIHC game or a non-NEIHC 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 (1) game suspension from his team's next NEIHC 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. Every DQ will be reviewed by the Commissioner(s) and additional discipline may be added if warranted. Each player is limited to a maximum of three (3) disqualifications and then will be automatically subject to league disciplinary review and potential subsequent discipline.
- c. Also, when referring to how many games a player sits his suspension was amended to read 'regularly scheduled game' which is defined as games which appear on the schedule that was submitted to the NEIHC and club team 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. Club team Suspensions
 - i. Using ineligible player(s) and not self-reporting may result in the team being ineligible for regional and national tournament consideration.

- b. A player who receives an automatic suspension in a club team game shall serve that suspension in the next regularly scheduled club team game.
- c. NEIHC Suspensions
 - i. If a player receives a DQ in a NEIHC Divisional League game, that player must serve that suspension in the next scheduled club team game. Should that next game not be against a NEIHC Divisional League opponent, then that player must serve an additional game suspension against his team's next scheduled NEIHC Divisional League opponent. (*League game is defined as any game which directly affects that team's NEIHC standings in league play)
 - ii. The NEIHC President and the club team must be notified by email following the game.
 - iii. Failure to comply with serving the proper suspension 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 the offending team.
 - v. **NCAA Rule 23** - Disqualification Penalties
 23.1 Disqualification Penalty/Progressive Discipline - A player may be assessed more than one (1) 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. Exhibition games cannot be used to fulfill the disqualification penalty.
 - vii. Refer to the NEIHC Suspension Protocol document for additional information.
- d. **Other Suspensions.** Suspensions for other unsportsmanlike offenses shall be determined by the President.
- e. **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.
- f. **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 for undergraduate and six (6) credits for post-graduate, may compete in NEIHC in the following semester.
 - i. A player who drops below nine (9) credit hours during a semester becomes immediately ineligible to continue competition.

- ii. A player will be eligible to compete for five (5) years within a five (5) year period.
- iii. A senior in the last semester prior to graduation is not required to meet the required semester minimums. A player can invoke this waiver once in their career.
- iv. If a transferred player from a DII school joins a DIII school, they shall lose one (1) year of eligibility.
- v. All teams must register other players as "1" through "5" based on the number of years played in the NEIHC 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 Commissioner(s) and by the dates outlined below. Rosters will include the following information:
 - vi. Player's name
 - vii. Student ID
 - viii. Number of Credits Taken
 - ix. Number of years played in the NEIHC, club team, NCAA,
- b. A roster must be submitted prior to the 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 the 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 NEIHC for a 2nd offense.

26. Score Sheets Protocol for Non-CHF Games using Paper Score Sheets

- a. Scores must be reported to the Commissioner(s) and the President within twenty-four (24) hours after the game via email.
- b. Game score sheets must be scanned and emailed to the Commissioner(s) within two (2) calendar days, forty-eight (48) hours, from the game date.
- c. Teams will have forty-eight (48) hours from the end of each game to enter all stats and game results into the GameSheet.
- 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 enter their starting lineups, scratch players that will not be playing and correct jersey numbers on the score sheet prior to the start of the game.
- f. Referees must review penalties and sign the score sheet after the game.
- g. Coaches must sign the score sheet after the game, failure to do so will result in the forfeiture of said game.
- h. Refer to the Score Reporting Procedures for Away Games vs Non-CHF Opponents for additional information.

27. Score Sheet Protocol for CHF Games using GameSheet

- a. It is a league requirement that all NEIHC games be scored using the GameSheet live scoring system. If Wi-Fi is not available, all game stats must be entered no later than 5 PM Monday each week.
- b. Coaches must select their starting lineups, scratch players that will not be playing and correct jersey numbers in the GameSheet application prior to the start of the game.
- c. 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.
- d. Referees must review penalties and sign the score sheet in the GameSheet application after the game.
- e. Refer to the NEIHC Scorekeeper Procedures document for additional information.

28. Postponements

- a. No game shall be postponed, except by mutual consent of the Coaches of the two schools involved and approval of the Referee Assignor, the Commissioner(s) or the President and the DHO.
- b. The visiting team must contact the host team twelve (12) days before the scheduled game if they wish to cancel/postpone a game. Failure to do so will result in ice time and referee's fees being paid for by the visiting team. Payment by the offending team will be deducted from the dues in the treasury of said team. Continuation of said team in the NEIHC play will depend on the receipt by the treasurer of the sum involved within twelve (12) days.
- c. If the game is not made up by the week prior to playoffs, both teams will have forfeits.
- d. Game contracts/rules are required for all non-league games.
- e. Game cancellations due to inclement weather:
 - i. All teams are reminded that if their school is closed, there is no game. Most 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(s) or the President, who will pass it on to the referees.
 - ii. Inclement Weather Game Cancellation Protocol:
 1. Communication by both coaches to the Commissioner(s) or the President as soon as bad weather is forecasted or no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to game.
 2. Both coaches will coordinate a timeline and a plan for the final decision time.
 3. Both coaches will contact the Commissioner(s) or the President once a decision to cancel is reached.
 4. Notification deadline will be no later than six (6) hours prior to game time.

5. Approval from the Commissioner(s) or the President must be provided prior to cancellation of game.
6. Date to replay game must be re-scheduled within five (5) calendar days of cancellation or a forfeit will be declared by the Commissioner(s) or the President.
7. Financial responsibility issues to be resolved by the Commissioner(s) if no agreement can be reached between two (2) teams within five (5) calendar days of cancellation.
8. Cancellations not due to inclement weather require cancellation notification of forty-eight (48) hours prior to game time or teams will be held responsible for any costs incurred – ice, referees, travel etc.
9. Refer to the NEIHC Inclement Weather / Game Cancellation Policy document for additional information.

29. Uniforms.

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

ARTICLE VII - Contests

1. All teams/members in the NEIHC will manage games per rules and By-Laws and are considered under game contract regulations within the NEIHC.
2. NEIHC hosted games shall consist of three (3) twenty (20) minute periods with an ice cut during 1st and 2nd intermission and a five (5) minute overtime (if necessary).
 - a. In the event there is a lack of ice time due to injury or as a result of travel conditions for the away team, the game can be played but the length of the periods must remain at twenty (20) minutes. With mutual agreement by both teams, warmup time can be reduced, ice cuts can be cancelled, and running time can be used. If such ice time restrictions impact the ability to play overtime, a tie will be recorded based on the score at the end of regulation play.
3. Overtime will be five (5) minutes of 3 on 3. 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.
4. The sudden death shoot out will take place only in regular season games.
 - a. If the shootout remains tied at the end of this round, each coach will select a different shooter, this time in a sudden death situation. The first three shooters are ineligible until all other bench players have attempted a shot.
 - b. Each team will have an equal number of chances to shoot before a winner is declared.

5. For post season games, if there is no overtime winner in the first overtime the teams will play a series of ten (5) minute overtimes until there is a winner.
6. Refer to the NEIHC Game Protocol document for additional information.
7. 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:
 - a. Points - The team with the most points gains the higher position.
 - b. Head-to-Head Points - For games in head-to-head competition between the tied teams, the team with the larger points total gains the higher position.
 - c. Wins - The team with the most wins gains the higher position. (whether in regulation, overtime, or shootout).
 - d. Goal Differential - Goals against subtracted from goals scored, with positions being determined in the order of the greatest surplus.
 - e. Goal Quotient - Goals scored divided by goals against, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. A quotient involving dividing by zero (0) has higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any number other than zero.
 - f. Goal Quotient 2 - Goals scored divided by the sum of the goals scored and goals against, the positions being determined in the order of the greatest percentage.
 - g. Goals For - The team with the most goals scored gains the higher position.
 - h. Goals Against - The team with the least goals against gains the higher position.
 - i. In the unlikely event that the above listed tiebreakers 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.
8. Refer to the NEIHC League Format and Tie Breaking document for additional information.
9. The order of finish during the regular season shall determine the home team all throughout the playoffs.
 - a. **Playoffs.** The playoff formula will be voted on and approved each year at the May meeting once the number of teams and divisions have been finalized. Dates are to be determined each year.

10. Game Officials.

- a. Division III: NEIHC games will be officiated using a three (3) man referee system in the NEIHC as outlined in the NCAA Ice Hockey Guide by referees from the association contracted for at the beginning of each season by the NEIHC. 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 the game shall be played with only two officials.
- b. Division II: NEIHC games will be officiated using a three (3) man referee system in the NEIHC as outlined in the NCAA Ice Hockey Guide by referees from the association contracted for at the beginning of each season by the NEIHC. 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 on whether the game shall be played with only two officials.

- c. Division I: NEIHC games will be officiated using a three (3) man referee system in the NEIHC as outlined in the NCAA Ice Hockey Guide by referees from the association contracted for at the beginning of each season by the NEIHC. 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 on whether the game shall be played with only two officials.

ARTICLE VIII - Disputes

1. All disputes or differences in regard to contests or discipline, other than player eligibility, shall be emailed by the Coach to the NEIHC President and 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 NEIHC President.

THIS SECTION IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

ARTICLE IX

Awards

1. NEIHC Trophy
2. Most Valuable Player
3. Offensive POTY - High Scorer (as according to league stats)
4. Defensive POTY - Outstanding Defenseman
5. Outstanding Goalie (according to criteria which includes shots, GP, Saves)
6. Coach of the Year
7. Finbarr O'Connor Sportsmanship Award

Awards Protocol

1. NEIHC Championship Trophy – Winners of the National, American, Patriot and D-II Divisions will be named NEIHC Champions
2. Most Valuable Player
 - a. Every coach must recommend a player from the league that they would like to be considered as League MVP (own team player or other team player)
 - b. A brief description of why the individual should be considered should be attached to the nomination.
 - c. Only statistics posted on the NEIHC website will be considered during the selection process.
3. High Scorer (according to league stats from the NEIHC website only)
4. Outstanding Defenseman
 - a. Coaches must recommend a defensive player from the league that they would like to be considered as Outstanding defenseman (own team player or other team player)
 - b. A brief description of why the individual should be considered should be attached to the nomination.
 - c. Only statistics posted on the NEIHC website will be considered during the selection process.
5. Outstanding Goalie/Lowest Goals Against (selection to be made from NEIHC website statistics)
 - a. Minimum 10 games (600 minutes) played.
 - b. Coaches will recommend a goalie from their own division.
6. 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 NEIHC, 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 nominee's chance to receive the award.
7. Coach of the Year
- a. Nominees for Coach of the Year can be sent in by any team's 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 NEIHC?
 - ii. How has the Coach contributed to the overall organization, promotion and development of hockey in the NEIHC?
 - 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

1. 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.
2. All awards candidate names must be submitted to the President and the Commissioner(s) of the League no later than February 28th.
3. All candidates will be forwarded to the Awards Committee by March 1st for review.
4. The Awards Committee will select Award Winners from those names submitted or from the list of any league members meeting the criteria below.
5. A conference call will be scheduled within 24 hours to discuss the process and nominees.
6. Each Awards Committee member will email their choice for each of the awards to the league Vice President
 - a. In the event of a tie for any award, the President and the Commissioner(s) will select the winner following a conference call with the Awards Committee
7. Awards will be handed out at the league All Star Game in March at the close of the season.

ARTICLE X - Review

1. All teams, players, coaches, team officials, league officers and referees (who are assigned NEIHC games) shall be fully aware of our Constitution and By-Laws and should be fully aware of the "Sportsmanship and General Procedure" section of the constitution.