



CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

INDEX

CONSTITUTION:

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Article 1.00 TITLE	1
Article 2.00 MEMBERSHIP.....	1
Article 3.00 BOARD OF DIRECTORS	1
Article 4.00 ADMINISTRATION.....	2
Article 5.00 INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATIONS.....	2
Article 6.00 FINANCING.....	2
Article 7.00 BY - LAWS	2
Article 8.00 AMENDMENT, DELETION, & ADDITIONS.....	3

BY-LAWS:

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Article 1.00 AGE GROUPS.....	4
Article 1.10 ATTENDANCE OF LEAGUE MEETINGS	4
Article 2.00 TEAMS	4
Article 3.00 EQUIPMENT	7
Article 4.00 SCHEDULES & POSTPONEMENTS.....	7
Article 5.00 OFFICIALS AND GAME REPORTING	8
Article 6.00 GAME PLAY	9
Article 7.00 DISPUTES & PROTESTS	9
Article 8.00 GAME TIMING	10
Article 9.00 PENALTIES	10
Article 10.00 PLAYOFFS.....	11
Article 11.00 AMENDMENTS	12
Appendix A	DIVISION REALIGNMENT

SNOWBELT HOCKEY LEAGUE

CONSTITUTION

AS ADOPTED 9/29/89 - AMENDED 09/15/90, 03/28/96, 05/21/98 & 10/15/09
AND RETYPED 12/03/93, 10/20/95, 04/01/96, 10/17/02, 12/04/04, 7/15/05, 8/27/10

This League is established for the sole and exclusive benefit of the participants.

The two main objectives of the League are:

- 1) To allow, so far as practical, participation in League play on an equal ice-time basis for each player; and,
- 2) To promote the general rules of sportsmanship among participants, coaches, officials, and spectators.

It is the intent of Snowbelt that it is to be a recreational Hockey League and that participation by Collegiate, Varsity and Junior Varsity High School Players should not be encouraged.

ARTICLE 1.00 TITLE

1.01 This League shall be known as the Snowbelt Hockey League (hereafter, League).

ARTICLE 2.00 MEMBERSHIP

- 2.01 Membership to the LEAGUE shall be available to Youth Hockey Associations in New York State, provided:
- a) Such Associations agree to be bound by the rules of NYSAHA and USA Hockey including Hazing and Discriminatory policies,
 - b) Such Associations agree to be bound by the Constitution and By-Laws of the LEAGUE; and,
 - c) Such Associations are accepted to membership by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 3.00 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 3.01 The LEAGUE shall be governed by the Board of Directors (BOARD), which shall consist of one (1) member from each participating Association. The President of the LEAGUE shall act as Chairman, and the Chairman shall conduct the meetings of the Board. A majority of the members of the BOARD shall constitute a quorum.
- 3.02 Each member of the BOARD shall have (1) vote in all cases where voting takes place, irrespective of number of participants or teams by such Association as they represent.

Snowbelt Constitution Continued

- 3.03 The BOARD shall have authority to make final and binding decisions on all matters concerning LEAGUE administration, scheduling and play. Such authority may be delegated as appropriate.

ARTICLE 4.00 ADMINISTRATION

- 4.01 The BOARD shall, by majority vote, elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the LEAGUE. Each shall serve a two (2) year term of office.
- 4.02 The President shall, pursuant to the Constitution and By-Laws of the LEAGUE, supervise the administration of all LEAGUE activities and, pursuant to Paragraph 3.01 above, shall also assume the office of Chairman of the Board of Directors.
- 4.03 The Vice-President shall substitute for the President in his absence and shall act as the Chairman of the Discipline/Protest Committee.
- 4.04 The Secretary shall maintain the official records of the LEAGUE.
- 4.05 The Treasurer shall maintain the financial accounts and records of the LEAGUE.

ARTICLE 5.00 INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATIONS

- 5.01 Each Association, which is a member of the LEAGUE, shall be fully responsible for the administration and financing of their individual programs. The LEAGUE shall not be responsible for any acts or omissions of any individual or any Association.

ARTICLE 6.00 FINANCING

- 6.01 The LEAGUE shall not endeavor to establish and/or maintain assets of any significant size, except as may be necessary to accomplish the objectives of the LEAGUE, as interpreted by the BOARD, for the season then being played.
- 6.02 Assessments may be made by the BOARD, on an equitable basis, solely to provide for expenses necessary to establish and maintain the LEAGUE and to publicize the objectives of the LEAGUE.

ARTICLE 7.00 BY-LAWS

- 7.01 The BOARD shall adopt By-Laws, which shall constitute rules to be uniformly applied by each member Association. Copies of the By-Laws shall be provided by the Secretary to each member of the Board.

Snowbelt Constitution Continued

ARTICLE 8.00 AMENDMENTS, DELETION, and ADDITIONS

- 8.01 Any member of the BOARD may propose amendments, deletions, or additions to the Constitution.

- 8.02 The BOARD member proposing such change must:
 - a.) Provide each BOARD member written copies of the proposed change at least thirty (30) days before the proposed change is to become effective.
 - b.) Request the Chairman to place the proposed change on the Agenda of a meeting to be scheduled not earlier than thirty (30) days or later than sixty (60) days of the proposed change is mailed to each BOARD member.

- 8.03 A majority vote of the BOARD must be counted to adopt any change.

SNOWBELT HOCKEY LEAGUE

BY-LAWS

AMENDED 12/93, 03/96, 02/98, 03/98, 09/99, 10/99, 11/99, 10/00, 3/05, 3/09, & 10/09
RETYPED 10/20/95, 04/01/96, 12/04/04, 7/15/05, 4/06, 4/07, 8/10

These By-Laws cannot cover every situation but are designed to establish rules to cover basic situations. Each Association is expected to approach problems in the spirit of cooperation so that our participants may learn sportsmanship, respect for others and respect for themselves.

These By-Laws apply to all games sponsored by the League.

ARTICLE 1.00 AGE GROUPS

1.01 Participants shall be segregated by USA Hockey age groups.

ARTICLE 1.10 ATTENDANCE OF LEAGUE MEETINGS

1.11 Any Snowbelt Association failing to appropriately represent themselves at 50% of THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING(S) will be placed on probation, following written notice of such.

1.12 Any Association missing meetings will be assessed a fifty (\$50.00) fine for the second (2nd) missed meeting and fifty (\$50.00) for each subsequent missed meeting. The fine will be paid within 30 days. If the fine is not paid the Association will be ineligible for the JAM tournament.

ARTICLE 2.00 TEAMS

2.01 Each Association that enters multiple teams in any age group must, to the best of its ability, divide the participants so that all such teams are of equal talent and ability.

2.01a If an association is entering more than one team at a level, the Snowbelt Youth Hockey League Board of Directors has the right to review and/or deny entrance of multiple teams at that particular level.

Snowbelt By-Laws Continued

- 2.01b At the beginning of every season a League team fee and a deadline for final number of teams per association is set. For each and every team that is withdrawn from the League after this date, but before the League schedules are distributed, the association responsible shall pay the yearly team fee for the team even though the team will not be participating for the season. If an association is unsure of team numbers, it is in their best interest NOT to declare a team in the League- a pick-up schedule can be done after the League schedules are distributed when the team is confirmed. If the team is withdrawn after the League schedules are distributed, in addition to the yearly team fee, the offending association shall pay an additional \$150 payable to the League. If an association chronically withdraws teams from the League (multiple teams and/or multiple years) that association shall be placed on probation and action taken deemed appropriate by the Snowbelt Board.
- 2.02 All teams shall be properly registered with USA Hockey and be comprised of twenty (20) players with a maximum of eighteen (18) skaters. No player shall participate on any other USA Hockey registered team or high school team concurrently, exception to this rule as noted under 2.07 below.
- 2.03 Interim team rosters shall be submitted to the President before the third (3rd) weekend of play. Subsequent revisions to the interim rosters shall be reported to the President. Interim rosters consist of a list of all coaches, assistant coaches, managers and players.
- 2.04 USA Hockey rosters shall be submitted to the President not later than December 31st. Rosters must be official USA Hockey rosters with signatures from all coaches, assistant coaches, managers and players. Players may be added to USA Hockey rosters only by approval of the League Board.
- 2.05 Any Association failing to properly submit either Interim or USA Hockey rosters for any team shall forfeit all games by all teams from date due until date received.
- 2.06 As a general rule a team that is “State Tournament Bound” is ineligible for Snowbelt league play. If a particular team’s ineligibility provides a hardship for the League (i.e. not enough teams at Bantam age class), then the Snowbelt Board may waive this rule for the specific age class via a majority vote. This waiver would be in effect for one year with the possibility of renewal on a year-to-year basis. If an Association does not field a team that is “State Tournament Bound” in a specific age class, then a majority vote of the Snowbelt Board is required for that Association to participate in the Snowbelt Hockey League at that age class.

Snowbelt By-Laws Continued

- 2.07 Players registered on a High School or split season tournament bound players are permitted to play on Midget teams provided:
- a) High School and split season tournament bound players are noted as such on the roster.
 - b) A written application must be submitted to the Snowbelt President for Board approval. The member association may seek a waiver of the ban on the use of high school/split season players in the Snowbelt League. Such application will be generally viewed with disfavor. The board may grant this waiver if the following conditions are found to exist.
 1. The team involved is a midget team.
 2. The petitioning association must field a Midget team of ten (10) skaters and one (1) goalie non-high school/split season players before a waiver will be considered.
 3. A maximum of four (4) high school/split season players can be added and may not exceed twenty (20) players.
 4. Any waiver granted is valid for only one season.
 - c) Each high school and split season tournament bound player must play at least seventy-five (75) % of Snowbelt League games to be eligible for the JAM Tournament.
 - d) Non-high school and non-split season tournament bound players have preference on a roster of twenty (20) players per USA Hockey.
- 2.08 Players registered on a High School team are permitted to play on Bantam Snowbelt team provided:
- a) High School players are noted as such on the roster.
 - b) A written application must be submitted to the Snowbelt President for Board approval. The member association may seek a waiver of the ban on the use of high school players in the Snowbelt League. Such application will be generally viewed with disfavor. The board may grant this waiver if the following conditions are found to exist.
 1. The team involved is a bantam team.
 2. The petitioning association must field a Tournament Bound or UNYHL Bantam team as well as Bantam Snowbelt Team.
 3. The High School player must have been a Snowbelt or House equivalent skater for the previous two seasons.
 4. A maximum of 4 High School players can be added to the team, with an 18 skater & 2 goalies (20 per USA Hockey).
 5. Any waiver is granted for one season.
 - c) Each High School player must play at least seventy-five (75) % of Snowbelt League games to be eligible for the JAM Tournament.
 - d) Non-high school and non-split season tournament bound players have preference on a roster of twenty (20) players.

Snowbelt By-Laws Continued

- 2.09 Any Midget age appropriate player not currently enrolled in high school must meet the following criteria in order to be permitted to play on ANY Snowbelt team:
- a) May not displace a currently enrolled High School attending student from the roster
 - b) Cannot be playing for any hockey team sponsored by or affiliated with a College or University (Varsity, Club, Intramural)
 - c) Must be approved by the Board on a individual basis after proof of meeting all of the above criteria
 - d) Must comply with the 75% rule in order to be eligible for JAM tournament.

ARTICLE 3.00 EQUIPMENT

- 3.01 Safety equipment is encouraged but shall be no less than prescribed by USA Hockey rules.
- 3.02 Each team shall maintain uniform, numbered jerseys for each player.
- 3.03 The home team shall be responsible for maintaining color differentials from the visiting team. In the event the teams have similarly colored jerseys, the home team is expected to wear pull-overs, or make some similar accommodation.

ARTICLE 4.00 SCHEDULES & POSTPONEMENTS

- 4.01 The Board shall approve League Schedules. Changes can be made by the agreement of all Associations concerned, providing alternate arrangements are made to complete League Competition by the last day of the season. The Board at the first meeting of the season will determine last day of play.
- 4.02 In the event that weather makes travel safety questionable, all reasonable doubts are to be resolved against travel. Communication on road and weather conditions between coaches is encouraged.
- 4.03 No League game involving an out-of-town team may be scheduled prior to 9:00 a.m. when a team must travel more than 90 minutes.
- 4.04 Games that are postponed, canceled or otherwise unscheduled shall be considered a FORFEIT in final standings unless otherwise determined by the league.
- 4.05 CANCELING GAMES - As much notice as possible should be given when canceling games. If less than forty-eight (48) hours notice is given the offending team will be assessed a one hundred fifty dollar (\$150.00) fine, (except when cancellation is due to weather) payable to Snowbelt within thirty (30) days. If the fine is not paid further action will be taken which could include suspension of the team from playoffs and/or placing the organization on probation. Snowbelt will compensate the Home organization at the end of the season. Notification for weather-related or less than

Snowbelt By-Laws Continued

seven (7) days of game cancellation must be completed by telephone to the opposing team coach or association scheduler and to the Snowbelt scheduler.

- 4.06 Any team that does not complete assigned League games will not be awarded the Division championship. No team shall be penalized for not completing the assigned schedule if the opposing team forfeited. The League President and Scheduler will determine the fairness of the team forfeit.

ARTICLE 5.00 OFFICIALS AND GAME REPORTING

- 5.01 The home association is responsible for securing game referees. All referees and/or linesman must be currently registered by USA Hockey for the age group participating.
- 5.02 The home association is responsible for timekeepers and score keepers. Scores should be reported by the home association to the League Statistician by Sunday night for accurate weekly League standings. Properly completed original (white copy) score sheets with game number indicated shall be submitted to the League Statistician. Game sheets not received within one (1) week will be considered delinquent and a notice issued. Game sheets not received within two (2) weeks of play will result in FORFEIT for the home team.
- a) Forfeits will only be removed after game sheets are received AND fines are paid.
 - i. Fines based on all games played within a weekend for 1st & 2nd offense, individual games after that.
 - 1. First weekend - \$25 fine/weekend
 - 2. Second weekend - \$50 fine/weekend
 - 3. Additional weekends - \$50/GAME
 - b) Any team with outstanding fines for forfeits will be ineligible for the JAM tournament.
 - c) Any team receiving (4) FORFEITS for any reason other than late/missing game sheets shall be ineligible for the JAM tournament.
- 5.03 Officials must, as a first priority, control play. This responsibility includes controlling players, coaches and spectators.
- 5.04 Officials are encouraged, in the event of disorderliness by anyone in the rink, to exercise their prerogatives to penalize players or teams. Referees by unanimous vote, may suspend further play in a game or, in extreme circumstances, declare an offending team in forfeit of the game. Suspensions of play or forfeits shall be reported immediately to the League President.

Snowbelt By-Laws Continued

ARTICLE 6.00 GAME PLAY

- 6.01 All games shall be played pursuant to USA Hockey rules except noted herein.
- 6.02 Each team shall have a Captain, who shall be identified by wearing the letter “C” on their jersey.
- 6.03 Before starting each League game, the Captain(s) of each team shall meet with the Referees at center ice and exchange handshakes. Unless impractical coaches shall do likewise at the players’ bench.
- 6.04 No more than four (4) USA Hockey Carded Coaches are to be allowed on the players’ bench during the play of games (in accordance with USA Hockey). Each coach must comply with USA Hockey screening policy, hold the required level coaching card, and be registered on the team T-1 roster.
- 6.05 In accordance with the Snowbelt Constitution all players shall receive equal ice time in each game (except Goalkeepers, who may alternate games). Each Association shall monitor and enforce this regulation with its own team.

ARTICLE 7.00 DISPUTES

- 7.01 Members should try their best to resolve problems without going to the Snowbelt Board. However, the Board may entertain complaints, which shall be finally resolved by a majority vote.
- 7.02 Disputes must be followed up within seven (7) days by a letter from the Association Representative to the Snowbelt League President, stating the nature of the dispute and action requested. Failure to do so will result in the nullification of the dispute.
- 7.03 Disputes shall be reviewed by the Snowbelt League Vice-President, who shall investigate the matter concerning the dispute. If sufficient grounds for the dispute are determined, the Snowbelt Disciplinary Committee shall review the dispute and determine action to be taken. Findings and actions taken by the Disciplinary Committee shall be reported to the Snowbelt Board at the next regular meeting, who shall have final authority. USA Hockey Rule 410 Supplemental Discipline will be applied.
- 7.04 Referees calls are final.

Snowbelt By-Laws Continued

ARTICLE 8.00 GAME TIMING

8.01 All Snowbelt sanctioned games shall be three (3) periods in length. The length of each period, for all League and tournament games, shall be twelve (12) minutes. The coach of the home team may choose to use alternate period lengths up to the maximum allowed under USA Hockey's Rules and Regulations – Operating Procedures – Section Q - Time of Periods and/or NYSAHA Rules and Regulations Section 14 – Tournament Regulations sub-section G – Time of Periods for State Hockey Tournaments, in their respective guide books. The maximum periods are:

Squirt	- 12 minutes (NYSAHA only)
Pee Wee	- 15 minutes
Bantam	- 16 minutes
Midget	- 17 minutes

8.02 All games shall be three periods of stop time. However, if the game has a curfew time, with each head coach notified (by the referee or arena staff) of that curfew time prior to the start of the game, then “running time” will start when the game clock plus one minute (to allow for post-game handshakes) equals the curfew time remaining. There shall be no timeouts allowed during “running time” play.

ARTICLE 9.00 PENALTIES

9.01 Penalty times shall be stop time, as follows:

- a) ***Minor*** - One and one half (1 1/2) minutes, if 15 minute periods are used, Two (2) minutes.
- b) ***Major*** - Five (5) minutes.
- c) ***Misconduct*** - Ten (10) minutes.

9.02 A team member (player or coach) given a Game Misconduct is ineligible for the balance of that game plus the next following League game, including John Abbott Memorial (JAM), (even if the suspension has already been served in a non-league game).

9.03 A team member (player or coach) receiving two (2) penalties in League play during the season for Fighting or Match Penalty in any combination shall be suspended from further League play until his case has been dealt with by the League Discipline Committee. A hearing shall be held and a decision made relative to the case within thirty (30) days of the incident under USA Hockey Rule 410 Supplemental Discipline or the team member shall be automatically reinstated.

9.04 A team member (player or coach) receiving a third (3rd) penalty as described in 9.03 (Fighting or Match Penalty) during the season shall be automatically suspended from League play for the balance of the season.

Snowbelt By-Laws Continued

- 9.05 The League Board may suspend or review any team member, team, or Association in constant or continuing violation of the rules and may apply USA Hockey Rule 410 Supplemental Discipline action, pending the outcome of a hearing.
- 9.06 Proper Authority as referenced in USA Hockey Rules shall be defined as the local Association. Such association must report to the League President and Central Section, findings and actions taken at any disciplinary hearings conducted related to League play. The report will include a copy of the Referee report, Score sheet and Local Association Discipline Committee report. Should the League President deem insufficient punishment, a Discipline hearing will be scheduled within fourteen (14) days.
- 9.07 All penalties imposed regarding suspension from future games shall carry over to the next season as applicable.
- 9.08 If any player or team official receives a Match Penalty, then the offender is immediately suspended from the League and the home association must notify the League President or Vice President within 48 hrs. A Match Penalty hearing will take place with the Discipline Committee within thirty (30) days per USA Hockey upon notification from the Central Section President.
- 9.09 If any player receives five (5) penalties in one (1) game he/she will be assessed a game misconduct and serve the penalty as described in 9.02 and USA Hockey Rule 404.
- 9.10 If any team receives fifteen (15) or more penalties the head coach of the team will receive a game misconduct and serve the penalty as described in 9.02 and USA Hockey Rule 404.
- 9.11 Any appeal can be made to the Central Section President within twenty (20) days of any Snowbelt League discipline action. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Snowbelt President and the Central Section President.
- 9.12 A written disciplinary report must be submitted to the Central Section President on any discipline action resulting from a By-Law violation or a hearing. This written report must be submitted within seven (7) days for record keeping purposes by the League President.

ARTICLE 10.00 PLAYOFFS

- 10.01 It is anticipated that post-season playoffs will be held, subject to these By-Laws, and that all teams will be eligible to participate.
- 10.02 In any age division where the number of teams equals eight or more, the division will be split in two on the basis of standings at the end of the regular season. In the case of

Snowbelt By-Laws Continued

an odd number of teams the top division will have one extra team and the first place team will have a bye in the first round, unless the Round Robin format is used. Standings will be determined on the basis of average points, two (2) for a win, one (1) for a tie, and zero (0) for a loss. Average points are the points total divided by the number of games played. In the event of a points tie, then tie in standings will be broken in the following order:

- a) Head to head record.
- b) An average of least goals scored against, of common opponents played during the regular season.
- c) Toss of coin.

10.03 The League will decide on the playoff format to be used. This will be either single elimination tournament or Round Robin format. The playoff tournament will follow the rules in the New York State guidebook, except that ties in Round Robin standings to determine advancement will be broken in the following order:

- a) The points acquired in Round Robin.
- b) Least goals against.
- c) Least penalty minutes.

10.04 For Tournament play only, the maximum length for overtime periods shall be six (6) minutes for twelve (12) minute periods and ten (10) minutes for all other period lengths. This shall apply only to semi final and final games.

ARTICLE 11.00 AMENDMENTS

11.00 Any member of the BOARD may propose amendments, deletions, or additions to the by-laws.

11.01 The Board member proposing such change must:

- a) Provide each BOARD member with written copies of the proposed change at least thirty (30) days before the proposed change is to be voted on.
- b) Request the Chairman to place the proposed change on the Agenda of a meeting to be scheduled not earlier than thirty (30) days or later than sixty (60) days of the proposed change to be voted on.
- c) The proposed change must contain the date, author's name, association, the article number and the proposed change.
- d) Once a By-Law change has been made, it may not be added to, deleted, or amended, for the duration of that season. A season is defined from the conclusion of the JAM tournament up to, and including, the next JAM tournament.

11.02 These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the BOARD.

RED DIVISION	
Midget	All select teams, All teams w/ HS players, split season, travel players that do NOT comply with by-law 2.07, All non-tournament bound association teams
Bantam	All select teams, All teams w/ HS players, split season, travel players that do NOT comply with by-law 2.08, All non-tournament bound association teams
Peewee	All select teams, All non-tournament bound association teams, Multiple team associations
Squirt	All select teams, All non-tournament bound association teams, Multiple team associations
BLUE DIVISION (teams that comply with current SB by-laws)	
Midget	Single team associations, Multiple team associations after travel & select teams are formed, Teams that comply with by-law 2.07
Bantam	Single team associations, Multiple team associations after travel & select teams are formed, Teams that comply with by-law 2.08
Peewee	Single team associations, Multiple team associations after travel & select teams are formed.
Squirt	Single team associations, Multiple team associations after travel & select teams are formed.