

**SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN MINOR HOCKEY LEAGUE
(SSMHL)
CONSTITUTION**

**Constitution updated May 3, 2009
As approved by Membership May 3, 2009 AGM**

1. NAME

This organization shall be known as the South Saskatchewan Minor Hockey League, hereinafter referred to as SSMHL. This league shall include teams of the Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget Divisions as defined by the SHA.

2. OBJECTIVES

The object of the League shall be to control, improve and foster amateur hockey in the area which it embraces, within the framework of the Saskatchewan Hockey Association, hereinafter referred to as the SHA.

3. MEMBERS

- a) Member is defined as a Hockey Association that has been accepted to the SSMHL. This will be understood throughout the document.
- b) Hockey Associations willing to comply with and abide by the rules and regulations of the League, may be admitted to membership upon application accompanied by a Franchise fee of \$50 through the Secretary-treasurer to the Executive Committee, before the hockey schedule is drawn up for the coming season.

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the League shall consist of the Past-President, Vice-President, Commissioners, Referee-in-Chief, Statistician and Secretary/Treasurer. Any majority of the aforementioned shall constitute a quorum.

5. ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting shall be held in May of each year at a place and time to be designated by the President, of which each centre shall have due notice.

- a) The election of the Executive Committee will take place at such meetings. The term of office for each Executive officer shall be two years.
- b) Only Members in the League in good standing will be allowed voting privileges at the Annual Meeting. No Member to have more than (1) one vote.
- c) Set the amount of fine to be assessed for different infractions.
- d) Name League's trophy or trophies and awarding of same. (This is only if the League has a trophy for a team finishing in the top position for regular season and another one for the team winning play-offs).
- e) Members of the Executive do not have a vote unless their center does not have a representative to vote for their centre at the meeting.
- f) Voting procedures for new applications shall be as follows: each centre shall have one vote regardless if they have a team in the division being applied to or not, providing their centre has been a League member in good standing for five years.
- g) Set the annual associate membership fee for each team.
- h) Any new Associate members admitted into the SSMHL will be on a two year probation period; subject to review at the end of each season.
- i) The Performance Bond required by the SSMHL shall be in the amount of \$350.00 per team.

- j) All teams granted a leave of absence for a year must pay the stated membership fee for that year on order to remain in the League.
- k) All-star game fees will be set at the Annual Meeting in a division associated with an all-star game will be required to pay an all-star game fee. These fees will be paid to the League prior to the Scheduling Meeting. The League will transfer all-star games fees to the host centers for each division 30 days prior to the game.

6. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

- a) To conduct the business of the League in its entirety between Annual Meetings and have complete control of hockey activities within its membership.
- b) To re-admit or-re-instate, by majority vote, any club, coach, manager, player or referee under suspension, upon application from such suspended club or person.
- c) To act as sole custodian of all League trophies, be the sole judge as to where such trophies shall be stored and maintained, accept or refuse any new trophies and purchase any new trophies for hockey competition if deemed advisable.
- d) To procure and make available a supply of referee reports and game sheets for the use of all club members.
- e) To procure and make available a copy of the Constitution and Rules and Regulations to each club member.

7. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS

- a) To deal with the business of a minor nature; which does not require the decision of the Executive Committee between meetings of the committee.
- b) To deal with and rule on protests.
- c) To assess fines, suspend or expel any club, coach manager, player or referee refusing to accept and obey the rulings of the Executive Committee or League officers, for proved foul play or for unfair and unsportsmanlike conduct, individually or collectively, at any place where hockey is being played or any meeting, including any games outside of league play.

8. PROTESTS

- a) The League Commissioner shall be the sole judge as to whether a protest shall be entertained and in consultation with the President, the Referee-in-Chief, and the Past President when the host executive is involved.
- b) Protests on a point of rules only, as set out in the Constitution and Rules and Regulations, will be entertained and not on a referee's decision.
- c) Protests and all supporting evidence thereof must be in duplicate signed by the President and Secretary of the protesting club and forwarded to the Commissioner of the League, post marked and registered within 3 hours of the advertised time of the game protested, and accompanied by a money order for \$150.00. A copy of the Protest must also be forwarded to the Secretary of the team protested against. The sum deposited with the protest shall be forfeited to the League should the League Commissioner, whose decisions shall be final, not uphold the protest.
- d) The appeal process for the SSMHL is as follows:
 - i) All rights of appeal available to the player or member must be exhausted before an appeal may be taken to the Appeal Committee.
 - ii) The player or member must be given the opportunity to be present at the hearing.
 - iii) The game sheet and the referee's report must be available at the hearing and the referee shall be given the opportunity to be in attendance, if at all possible.

- iv) The player or member affected has the right to sit in throughout the hearing.
- v) The player or member affected shall be permitted to ask questions, within reason, of all people who give evidence.
- vi) The player affected may be represented by a lawyer or agent if he or she so wishes.
- vii) Appeal hearings will be held within fourteen (14) days after the date the appeal is received by the SSMHL President. The Commissioner of that division, secretary and Referee-in-Chief shall be members of the Appeal Committee. If one of these members has a conflict of interest in the appeal, the President will appoint another member of the SSMHL.
- viii) The President shall be charged with the giving of sufficient notice of the hearing to all parties. The Appeal Committee shall be charge with giving a decision in writing.
- ix) Minutes of the hearing shall be recorded by the League secretary and kept on file.
- x) All appeals must be accompanied by a fee of \$200.00. Any special hearings shall be \$300.00 and will be held seven (7) days from the date that the appeal is received by the President of SSMHL.
- xi) Individuals must appeal on their own behalf.
- xii) Appeal Committee shall not be allowed to reduce a suspension to less than the minimum as set out in the SHA Rules Handbook see 3.07.02 to those parties found guilty of the offense charged.
- xiii) Any individual who files an appeal remains suspended and is not eligible to participate in games until such time as the appeal process is completed.
- xiv) Players, coaches, managers, team officials, game officials, and the teams have the right to appeal the decision of the SSMHL Appeal Committee to the SHA.

9. DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT

- a) The President shall have the right to represent any or all of the Executive Committee on any occasion and will be responsible to the Executive for same. In the absence of the President, or at his request, the Vice-President shall have the full posers of the President in every respect.
- b) To give a full report to the SHA executive director regarding any suspensions if the hockey clubs, managers, coaches, players, referees or any other officials.

10. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

- a) To record all minutes of the meetings, attend to all correspondence, record all receipts and payments, to deposit all moneys received in a bank of the League's choice, pay all accounts of the League as directed by the Executive Committee and prepare a statement of receipts and payments for information at each meeting.
- b) To send notices to League representatives of all meeting when directed by the President.
- c) To supply, at the expense of the League, a copy of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, a list of contacts of each club, supply of referee reports and game sheets and any other information to each club.
- d) To submit a copy of all amendments to the Constitution as approved by the League to the SHA executive director for his information.

11. QUALIFICATIONS & DUTIES OF A COMMISSIONER

- a) There shall be four commissioners, one for each division; Atom, Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget.

- b) A commissioner shall be neutral and not connected with any club member in any way.
- c) He shall be interested in and have a good knowledge of hockey.
- d) He shall act in an advisory capacity to the League and assist on rulings on matters such as protests, fines suspensions, etc.

12. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- a) The SSMHL shall have the right to approve associate memberships. Such memberships shall be acquired by application in writing accompanied with an associate membership fee to the Executive Committee through the Secretary-Treasurer. Membership shall take effect upon the election of the applicant by a majority vote of the League Members at its Annual Meeting. An Associate member is a hockey team that is a member in good standing in the SSMHL. This will be understood throughout the document.
- b) The Annual Associate Membership fee shall be set by the League at its Annual Meeting and paid to the Secretary-Treasurer before such member can participate in the League.
- c) Representatives of associate members are entitled to attend and take part in the Annual Meeting and other meetings of the SSMHL.
- d) Associate members will be allowed voting privileges; one vote per league Member
- e) Membership shall also entitle such members to the usual services provided to members.
- f) Associate members shall take what steps they deem necessary for the registration and administration of personnel in teams, leagues and groups, which are strictly within their own organizations, and shall report such registrations to the SHA annually.
- g) For each Associate Member an annual membership fee is payable as set by the League at its annual meeting. Privileges are automatically lost on default of payment of any moneys due to the league. Fees are payable to the Secretary-Treasurer prior to scheduling.

13. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

THE CONSTITUTION SHALL BE AMENDED ONLY AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND THE INTENDED AMENDMENT MUST BE GIVEN IN WRITING TO THE LEAGUE SECRETARY AND CAN BE ADOPTED ONLY BY A 2/3 MAJORITY VOTE OF THE VOTING DELEGATES PRESENT.

14. OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPERS, TIMEKEEPERS AND GOAL JUDGES

- a) It shall be the duty of the home team management to appoint and assign an official scorekeeper, time keeper and penalty timekeeper, who once named, are League officials and are responsible to the League President. They must conduct themselves as such and carry out their respective duties according to the rules. (Please note: Goal Judges are not required for League, Regular Season and Play-off games.)
- b) It shall be the duty of the official scorer to obtain names of players on the provided score sheet before the start of the games, record all goals, assists and penalties and hand same to the referee for verification at the completion of all games.

15. REFEREES

- a) Only referees registered with the SHA Referee's Division shall be allowed to referee hockey games in the League.

- b) All games will be officiated by a three man system in all League and play-off games.
- c) Once a referee and linesmen are named, they are League officials and are responsible to the Referee-in-Chief. They must conduct themselves as such and are expected to go by the rule book all the way. ROUGH OR DIRTY HOCKEY MUST NOT BE TOLERATED.
- d) It shall be the duty of the referee and linesmen to sign the score sheet after the game is completed and if the referee has any remarks relative to the game, this must be written on the score sheet, signed and forwarded to the League Statistician not later than the following morning after the game.
- e) If there are any penalties such as match penalties or any disturbances that may call for immediate action by the President, the referee must phone and report same to the President the same night, if possible, or the first thing next morning.
- f) Teams may request to the Referee-in-Chief to have neutral referees for a game or a play-off series, however this must be done 72 hours before the start of the game or play-off series and whichever team requests a neutral site ref either during a league game or play-off game is responsible to pay the travel mileage and the refs fees for the game.
- g) League play: The referees' game fee and travel costs are to be paid by the team that requested the neutral referee.
- h) Play-off games: Travel costs are to be paid by the team that requested the neutral referee.
- i) When a team makes a request to the League Referee-in-Chief to assign neutral officials, the Referee-in-Chief shall, at that time, make the request known to the other team.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE RULES AND REGULATIONS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED AND COVERED HEREIN, THE SHA RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL PREVAIL IN ITS ENTIRETY.

All hockey teams in the SSMHL shall be affiliated with the SHA. It shall be the duty of each club member to forward a sum required to affiliate or register the team with the SHA.

1. The League will register with the SHA. Teams violating player eligibility rules as established by SHA will forfeit all points for games that the ineligible player has played in.
2. Each team will submit to the League Statistician a type-written player roster before the first league game. Additions and deletions to this roster must be submitted with the effected game sheet.
3. Any team from a centre where the League has established teams may only be admitted on the consent of the local organization holding voting privileges and the Executive Committee.
4. Any Minor Hockey Association that wants to become a member of the SSMHL will have to pay a \$3650.00 Franchise Fee before any of its teams can participate in any scheduled league games. The fee is to be paid back over a five year period based on an organizations past history. If the Association was unable to pass the League's two-year probation period then they will be forced to forfeit this Franchise Fee. (Franchise Fee re-payment schedule: \$0 returned after the first year, \$1000.00 returned after the second year, \$1000.00 returned after the third year, \$1000.00 returned after the fourth year and \$650.00 returned after the fifth year.)
5. The amount of a fine assessed against any team, coach, manager or player for infractions of any rules, foul play, etc. by the League officers or Commissioner shall be taken out of the Performance Bond so posted by the team, which amount shall be replaced with the League Secretary before that team can participate in any further scheduled hockey games.

6. Postponement of scheduled games, except in the case of adverse weather conditions, must be arranged between the two teams concerned at least 48 hours before the scheduled game time. Any hockey team postponing a scheduled game in order to participate in any exhibition game at home or away shall reschedule the game. All rescheduled games are to be implemented in accordance with the implementation of a Game Change Report.
 - a) That team postponing a scheduled league game must provide to the President a signed (by both teams) a copy of the Game Change Report within (7) seven days of the postponed game. Failure to comply will result in a forfeited game. Postponed games can only be rescheduled once, unless the League Executive grants permission after reviewing the circumstances.
7. Teams will be fined \$500.00 per game for any no-show or withdrawal/forfeit of Regular season League games and:
 - a) Teams may submit a claim for expenses when another team has a no-show for a scheduled Regular Season League game. The League Executive will have the responsibility to decide if these expenses are legitimate.
 - b) Legitimate expenses would include the cost of ice and referees.
 - c) Should a team not pay the fine of \$500.00 within one week of the date of the withdrawal/forfeit game, they would no longer be eligible to participate in league or play-off competition.
8. The management of each team shall make every effort to prevail upon rink management to improve facilities and conditions of skating rinks where it is deemed necessary for the safety and comfort of players and spectators. This shall include adequate lighting over the ice arena and throughout the arena, adequate time and penalty keepers boxes, players boxes, visible time clock, fire exits properly constructed of lumber material, doors in the puck fence opening in and not into the ice surface and are equipped with an adequate latch or fastener, and showers in the dressing rooms.
9. There shall be no overtime played in regular season games which end in a tie at the end of regulation time.
10. At the completion of all League games, the top teams, which number shall be agreed upon at the Annual Meeting, shall commence their play-off games without delay.
11. Overtime shall be played in all play-off games (other than the first game of a two-game total goal series) ending in a tie at the end of regulation time, according to the SHA overtime rules.
12. League play-off formats will be established for the coming year at the League Scheduling Meeting and sent to all teams by November 1 of the current year.
13. All teams participating in the SSMHL must have the approval of the League executive to participate in tournaments during the time frame of League play-offs. Any team not having approval for tournament entry during this time will forfeit their bond and the possibility of removal of the team from the League participation for the next season will exist.
14. In case of a tie in team standings at the end of the regular League games, ties shall be decided as per the SHA handbook.
15. The team finishing in a top position shall have the choice of playing the first play-off game at home and if an odd game is necessary to declare a winner; this too shall be played in the home ice of the team in the top position.
16. That the SSCMHL will not allow teams to play a League game that serves as a Regular Season/Provincial game or League Play-off/Provincial game.

BYLAWS

This League is to be operated in accordance with CHA and SHA rules and policies, unless otherwise specified.

- 1.Length of the games shall be three- twenty minute stop-time periods. All games shall commence on flooded ice and the ice shall be cleaned and flooded between periods. There shall be a fifteen minute warm-up prior to the game.
- 2.Team representatives for the coming year shall be filed with the Secretary-Treasurer at the League's Scheduling Meeting.
- 3.Where there is a change in Team management, it will be the responsibility of the team concerned to advise the League President and each team coach or manager in its division immediately upon any change being made.
- 4.Any damages incurred at any rink will be repaired by the visiting team, providing it is established that the visiting team or its representatives are responsible.
- 5.League play-off format will be established at the League's Scheduling Meeting.
- 6.A minimum of twelve (12) skaters and one (1) goaltender must be dressed for each game. Upon the first offence, the team will receive a written warning from the SSMHL President. Second offence will be forfeiture of the game.
- 7.Centers hosting round robin play-offs shall be responsible for payment of ice time, referee costs and any other associated costs.
- 8.The Executive Committee shall be paid for telephone bills plus any other expenses that pertain to League business.
- 9.The Executive shall remain in office for a two-year period. During the second year a vice-president shall be named from the incoming executive center.
- 10.Attendance at the Spring Annual Meeting and Fall Scheduling Meeting is mandatory for all centers who are members of the SSMHL. Failure to attend will result in a fine in the amount of a Team's Performance Bond and League status will not be granted until replaced.
- 11.League trophies must be returned to the President by Feb. 1 of the current playing season. Failure of a team(s) to return these trophies will result in a \$50.00 fine.
- 12.Home teams shall be responsible to submit the score sheet to the League statistician within 12 hours after the game. Failure to do so will result in a fine of \$50.00 being levied to the home team.
- 13.All SSMHL players must wear mouth guards in all league games.