

CONSTITUTION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SOUTH SHORE
CHAPTER ICE HOCKEY OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

I. Name

The name of this Association shall be the "Massachusetts South Shore Chapter Ice Hockey Officials Association."

II. Purpose

The purpose of the Association shall be to promote the welfare of the game of ice hockey, its players and officials; to maintain the highest standards of officiating; to encourage fair play and sportsmanship; to have available at all times an adequate number of thoroughly trained and capable officials for use by the various appointing authorities, colleges and schools; to cooperate with all other organizations connected with the game of ice hockey in furthering its interest and ideals in the United States.

III. Territory

The territory of the Association shall be those cities and towns as set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto. Association members may however officiate anywhere there is a call for their services.

IV. Membership

1. There shall be three classes of membership: ACTIVE, ASSOCIATE and HONORARY.

2. Any person who is domiciled within the territory of the Association shall be eligible to apply for ACTIVE membership.

3. Application for ACTIVE membership shall be made in writing by completing the Association application form and submitting it to the Association Secretary/Treasurer and shall be accompanied by the application fee as established by the Board of Directors. All applicants shall be screened by the Board of Directors to insure that they meet the (domicile) requirements established for the Association.

4. Applicants must also attend a predetermined number of scheduled rules clinics run by the chapter, achieve a passing grade (as determined annually by the Board of Directors) on a written examination on ice hockey rules administered by the chapter, complete a skating and on ice skills evaluation and be approved by the Board of Directors.

5. To be eligible to be recommended by the Association for membership in The National Ice Hockey Officials Association ("NIHOA") as an approved NIHOA official, one must complete the requirements as detailed in sections 3 & 4 above and section 6 following and meet all the requirements as stated in the Constitution of the National Ice Hockey Officials Association. Individuals who meet these requirements will have their name submitted annually by the Association to the NIHOA Secretary-Treasurer to be included in the approved list of NIHOA officials.

6. Continuation of membership is dependent on:

(a) Payment of dues. Non-payment of dues will result in automatic suspension of membership;

- (b) Attendance at a prescribed number of meetings of the membership annually;
- (c) Each active member is required to successfully complete a pre-season open book written examination which must be (personally picked up and personally) returned on or before a date established annually by the Board of Directors.

Failure to meet any of these requirements shall render the member ineligible for approval as an NIHOA official.

Expired membership may be reinstated by written application to and upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors and payment of fines and/or back dues.

7. Any ACTIVE member who has ceased to be an ACTIVE NIHOA official may elect to become an ASSOCIATE member of the Association provided he or she has been an ACTIVE member in good standing of the Association for a period of at least 5 years and was in good standing with the Association at the time of his or her decision to seek ASSOCIATE membership. An ASSOCIATE member will not be listed on the roster of ACTIVE members of NIHOA and will not be insured with the policy of insurance maintained by the National Ice Hockey Officials Association, nor registered with the MIAA or the equivalent organization controlling high school sports in Massachusetts. ASSOCIATE members shall annually pay one-half of the amount assessed annually by the Board of Directors as dues for ACTIVE members in order to become ASSOCIATE members and to maintain ASSOCIATE member status. Said dues to be paid in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article XII of this Constitution. ASSOCIATE members shall not be required to attend any meetings nor complete the annual rules examination but are eligible to attend all chapter activities including the annual chapter banquet.

8. Any former ACTIVE member who has ceased to be an active NIHOA official may be nominated to become an HONORARY member of the Association provided:

- (a) he/she has been an active member in good standing of the Association for at least 10 years;
- (b) he/she had been actively officiating ice hockey games for at least 10 years; and
- (c) he/she was in good standing with the Association at the time of his/her retirement.

V. Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors shall consist often (10) active members and the President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer. The immediate past president will be an ex officio (non-voting) member of the Board.

2. This Board shall act as the governing body of the Association and shall hear and pass upon all motions and/or proposals which in any way affect the Association, and its members.

VI. Officers

1. There shall be a President, Vice-President and a Secretary-Treasurer.

2. Such other officers as may be deemed necessary may be elected by the Board of Directors.

VII. Elections and Terms of Office

1. Vacancies on the Board of Directors shall be filled by an election from the active membership. The Board of Directors will determine the time and manner in which the election will be conducted.

2. The Vice-President shall be elected for a term of two (2) years from and by the Board of Directors by a majority vote of those Directors present and voting at the final meeting of the season of the Board. The term shall begin April 1 and end March 31. The Vice-President shall automatically succeed the President for a term of two (2) years. Upon election of a Director to the position of Vice-President, his or her seat on the Board of Directors will be automatically vacated, thereby creating a vacancy on the Board which shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of Article VII Section 1.

3. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected for a term of six years from and by the Board of Directors by a majority of those Directors present and voting at the final meeting of the season of the Board. The six-year term shall begin on April 1 and end on March 31 of the sixth year following the election. There is no limit on the number of terms that an individual may be elected as Secretary-Treasurer of the Association. If a vacancy in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer is filled by the President as provided in Article XI, Section 3, the individual so appointed shall serve the balance of the term of the individual being replaced.

4. Any member elected to the Board of Directors shall be elected for a term of five (5) years. Any member of the Board of Directors is eligible to run for re-election at the expiration of his or her five (5) year term. Any Director expelled from the Association as a result of impeachment proceedings shall be removed from the Board.

VIII. President

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors. He/she shall, under the direction of the Board of Directors, conduct all negotiations on behalf of the Association and shall make every reasonable effort to further policies adopted by the Association. He/she shall appoint other committees as he/she may deem necessary.

IX. Vice-President

1. The Vice-President shall plan, schedule and conduct the annual clinics for applicants for membership in the Association and prepare, administer and grade the written examination for such applicants.

2. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall assume and execute all the duties of the President.

X. Secretary-Treasurer

1. The Secretary-Treasurer shall record or cause to be recorded the minutes of all meetings; conduct all correspondence; send out all notices and bills; collect all dues; pay all bills; and have charge of all funds.

2. He/she shall keep a record of all financial and business transactions of the Association; maintain a record of all members, their residences and telephone numbers and date of acceptance; and perform all duties pertaining to the office.

3. He/she shall have a written itemized financial report showing receipts, expenditures and balances prepared for review by the Directors at the first and final meetings of each year.

4. He/she shall investigate, at the request of the Board of Directors, complaints against members and shall present to the Board of Directors all evidence he/she may procure.

5. For such service rendered, the Secretary-Treasurer shall receive an annual stipend as appropriated by the Board of Directors.

XI. Filling of Vacancies

1. In case of death, removal, resignation, absence or inability to act of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President.

2. In case of death, removal, resignation, absence or inability to act of the Vice-President, his/her vacancy shall be filled from and by the Board of Directors by a majority vote of those present at the first meeting of the Board of Directors following such vacancy. Any vacancy created on the Board of Directors by such election shall be filled pursuant to Article VII Section 1.

3. In case of death, removal, resignation, absence or inability to act of the Secretary-Treasurer, his/her vacancy shall be filled by the President subject to approval by a majority of the Board of Directors.

XII. Dues

1. To defray expenses of the Association, there shall be an annual assessment of active members, the amount of which shall be fixed annually by the Board of Directors.

2. Dues shall be payable on or before the third yearly meeting of the Association. After the third meeting, there will be a fine of Ten Dollars (\$10.00). Due to unusual or extraordinary circumstances, grace periods may be granted by the Secretary Treasurer with approval of the Board of Directors.

3. Failure to pay dues and/or fines by December 31 of any year shall result in automatic suspension of membership.

XIII. Vote & Quorum

One third of the total Board of Directors including proxy votes, shall constitute a quorum. The act of the majority of the directors present or present by proxy at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors, except as otherwise set forth in this Constitution.

XIV. Expenses

Expenses of Officers in conducting the business of the Association shall be paid from the funds of the Treasury when, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, the financial condition of the association justifies such expenditures.

XV. Committees

The president may appoint such committees as he/she may, from time to time, deem necessary.

XVI. Leaves of Absence

1. Any member unable to meet the annual membership requirements for meeting attendance and written examination must notify the Secretary-Treasurer in writing.
2. On approval of the Board of Directors, an active member may be granted a one year leave of absence. The member is responsible for annual dues during the leave of absence. Members receiving such a leave of absence will not be listed as approved NIHOA officials during a leave of absence period. (Dues may be waived for members on military leave of absence.)
3. A member on leave of absence with the approval of the Board of Directors may request a one year extension of the leave. No more than two one year extensions shall be granted.
4. A member of the Board of Directors with the approval of the Board may be granted a one year leave of absence. A leave of absence to a member of the Board of Directors cannot exceed one year and cannot be extended. Requests for such leave of absence from the Board of Directors must be submitted in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer.
5. A member of the Board of Directors on leave of absence requiring a leave of more than one year must resign from the Board of Directors and may request an additional one year leave as an active member as in paragraph 3 preceding. The leave granted as a member of the Board of Directors will be considered as the first year leave of absence as an active member and the additional year required will be considered the first extension.
6. All leaves of absence will be for a period of one year. Maximum leave of absence cannot exceed three one-year periods.

XVII. Directors to Annual National Meeting

The Board of Directors shall elect from the Board, members to attend the Annual NIHOA Meeting as directors. Any member of the Association serving as a National Officer in NIHOA shall automatically be a director from the South Shore Chapter to any Annual NIHOA meeting during the member's term of National Office.

XVIII. Conduct

Integrity is essential to the performance of duties and responsibilities. When carrying out duties and responsibilities, honesty, sound judgment and careful observation of the laws and policies applicable to this Association are prerequisites for its success. A conflict of interest can arise when the personal interests of a member influence or reasonably appear to influence, that member's judgment or ability to act in the best interests of the Association. Every member is responsible for the protection of the assets of the Association. In addition, members are personally responsible for safeguarding and accounting for all Association assets entrusted to their individual control.

XVIII. Impeachment & Discipline

1. Any active member in good standing may seek to impeach any other member for conduct which may bring discredit to the Association.
2. An active member seeking to impeach another member may do so by notifying in writing the Secretary-Treasurer. Said writing shall contain: (a) the nature of the conduct for which impeachment is sought; (b) the evidence which he/she believes pertinent; (c) the names of all persons who he/she wishes to be contacted concerning the impeachment. Upon

receipt of such a request, the Secretary-Treasurer shall notify in writing the member who is the subject of the impeachment of the fact that impeachment is being sought and the reasons therefore. That member shall, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice of the impeachment complaint respond in writing setting forth with particularity: (a) the evidence which he/she believes pertinent; (b) the names of all persons who he/she wishes to be contacted concerning the complaint; (c) a statement which summarizes why he/she believes the complaint is without merit or any mitigating factors which he/she wishes to be considered. The Board of Directors shall hear the parties at its next meeting. A 3/4 vote of the Board of Directors shall be required for impeachment. The Board of Directors, by majority vote, may take what other action it deems appropriate in the matter before it.

XIX. Change In Constitution

1. The Association's Constitution may be amended by an affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of the active members at a meeting of the Association.

2. Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be presented to the Board of Directors at least four (4) weeks prior to any meeting of the Association. Any such proposed amendments along with the recommendations of the Board of Directors will be presented to the membership of the Association as the next meeting of the Association.

XX. Order Of Business

Parliamentary procedure under the Association's Constitution shall be governed by Roberts' Rules of Order Revised.

XXI. Official Dress

3. The official dress is black trousers and the official black and white sweater with the NIHOA insignia on the left chest, and a black ice hockey helmet with chin strap fastened.

4. Members assigned league games who are required to wear the league's insignia shall wear the small NIHOA insignia on the upper left sleeve of the sweater.

5. Each member shall supply his/her own officiating equipment which shall be neat and clean and have a well groomed appearance.