



CONFERENCE OPERATING STANDARDS

Last updated 9/16/2021

1. **ACHA Registration Requirement.** Each team in the league must be registered with the ACHA for Division II and maintain good standing with the National Governing Body. Player registration and academic eligibility is the function of the ACHA. (2003)
2. **Rules of Play.** All ACHA/NCAA/USA Hockey rules must be followed in game play (unless explicitly modified by WCCHA rules) League game play rules are the same as those used in ACHA non-conference/tournament play: 8 minute warm-up (minimum), 20 minute periods, and a 5 minute OT period featuring 4 on 4 play. (2003). Alterations may be made to the resurface protocol if required by the host facility. (2003)
3. **Recognition of Conference Champion.** The winner of the conference tournament will be crowned conference champion. (2003, amended 2017)
 - a. Starting in 2017-2018, the league will officially recognize Division winners.
4. **Auto-bid Declaration.** For the 2015-2016 Season, the team that finishes in first place during the regular season will earn the WCCHA Auto-Bid to the Central Regional Tournament. For the 2016-2017 Season and beyond, the WCCHA Auto-Bid will be awarded to the Tournament Champion. (2015)
5. **League Play and Tournament Format.** The WCCHA will announce the format of league play, tournament qualification and tournament format by August 31 of the current season, absent exceptional circumstances. (2017) ****SEE BELOW FOR 2021-2022 LEAGUE FORMAT****
 - a. The initial league schedule for the next season will be completed by Dec. 31 of the prior season, absent exceptional circumstances.
6. **Standings.** Teams will earn standings points for the following - 2 for a win, 1 for a tie, and 0 for a loss. There are no points awarded in the conference standings for an overtime loss. Tie breakers are, in order: head to head record, head to head goal differential, overall goal differential, total goals scored, least goals allowed and coin flip by commissioner. (2003, amended 2015, 2017)
7. **Forfeit Rule.** A forfeited game will be scored as a 1-0 win for the non-offending team. If a game/series is cancelled, the presumption will be that the away team caused the cancellation and therefore forfeited the game. However, evidence can be provided by either team to show, on a preponderance of the evidence, the home team was at fault. (2003, amended 2010, 2017)
 - a. In addition to forfeits being scored as a 1-0 win for the non-offending team, the offending team will have a point deducted from their season standings total for each forfeit. If a forfeit occurs after a team is eliminated from contention for the current



season's tournament or after it is ruled ineligible on other grounds, the point deduction(s) will carry over to the start of the next season. (2017)

- b. A team that forfeits a game must provide notice as soon as possible to the opposing team and the league commissioner - this must be done so the opposing team can take steps to mitigate their costs. Upon notice, the opposing team must take all reasonable steps to mitigate the costs of the forfeited games (if hosting, attempting to cancel ice and officials; if traveling, attempting to cancel bus/van rentals and hotels). If, due to a limited time window, the opposing team is not able to eliminate all costs, the forfeiting team shall reimburse the remaining expenses incurred by the opposing team. The forfeiting team will be placed on probation, and temporarily ineligible for the WCCHA Tournament, pending repayment to the opposing team. (2017)
- c. A team may forfeit no more than two games in any season while maintaining eligibility for the WCCHA Tournament - a third forfeit will remove a team's eligibility for the WCCHA Tournament and may be grounds for a probationary year (no tournament eligibility) or dismissal from the league. This rule does not preclude additional discipline based on the circumstances of a particular forfeit nor does it preclude any concurrent discipline from the ACHA. (2017)

8. **Forced Cancellations.** If an “act of God” (weather, etc.) causes a game or series to be cancelled, both teams should make their best effort to reschedule the game(s). If, due to limited time or lack of availability, the game(s) cannot be rescheduled, no standings points will be awarded to either team.
 9. **Game Contracts.** ACHA approved/individualized team contracts should be used in scheduling games; in the alternative, written confirmation of an agreed upon series with dates/time information will be sufficient (i.e. email exchange). The home team shall provide ACHA game scoresheets for all home games. (2003, amended 2016)
 10. **League Dues.** League fees are due (postmarked by) October 31 each season, absent approval of an extension by the Commissioner. (2010)
 - a. Failure to pay League dues by the deadline, absent an extension, shall result in a \$50 late fee. (2011)
 11. **Communication.** League correspondence is done primarily by email, but occasionally by phone or in person. Failure to respond in a timely manner to requests by other conference teams or the commissioner may be grounds for discipline. (2010)
 12. **WCCHA Discipline.** Discipline, which may include a reprimand, fine, suspension, removal from the WCCHA tournament, or expulsion, is assessed at the sole discretion of the Commissioner.
-



Prior precedent/similar situations will be considered along with the specific details of the current issue in making a determination on discipline (2010, amended 2016, 2017)

13. **Conference Awards.** Conference Awards will be announced each season at the conference tournament.
- a. The All-Conference selections will include a first team (3 F, 2 D, 1 G), a second team (3 F, 2 D, 1 G), a third team (3 F, 2 D, 1 G) and honorable mention selections. Each team will be provided a vote to include nine forwards, six defensemen and three goalies; not more than 5 players from the voting team's roster can be included on the ballot. (2009, 2018)
 - b. The All-Rookie selections will include 3 F, 2 D and 1 G. Teams will nominate up to 3 players from their team for consideration by WCCHA Staff. (2018)
 - c. The following individual awards will also be granted:
 - i. Offensive Player of the Year (Forward)
 - ii. Defensive Player of the Year (Defense)
 - iii. Goaltender of the Year (Goalie) *(added 2018)*
 - iv. Coach of the Year
 - v. Leadership Award
 - vi. Legacy Award
14. **Team Uniforms.** All teams should have both a home (white / light) and an away (dark) jersey. Teams should also set standards for matching equipment (helmets, gloves, breezers). (2011, amended 2017)
15. **New Membership.** Decisions on new membership will be made with input from current members. An application process, including the assessment of a one-time membership fee, will be conducted by the commissioner when the time is appropriate for considering new members. (2014)
16. **Tournament Disqualification.** The WCCHA reserves the right to remove an otherwise qualified team from the WCCHA Tournament field if that team is in violation of ACHA rules or disciplined by the ACHA such that it loses or will likely lose eligibility for Regional/National competition. The purpose of this rule is to ensure the league champion can take the auto-bid and represent the WCCHA at Regionals/Nationals. (2017)
-



2021-2022 League Play and Tournament Format

1. **League Schedule**. Each team will play 12 divisional games, two against each other divisional member, which will count towards the divisional standings. Aside from the two games scheduled by the conference commissioner, teams are free to schedule additional games with conference opponents that do not count toward the divisional standings. (2009, amended 2015, 2017)
 - a. In addition, each team will play a minimum of 4 games (2 series of 2 games) against interdivisional opponents. These games, and any additional games scheduled between WCCHA games not otherwise part of the required schedule, will count towards a team's overall WCCHA record to be used for the KRACH rankings.
 - b. Games against an associate member (none in 2019-2020) will not count towards the overall standings or be used in the KRACH rankings.
2. **Scheduling Process**. Each team will play one series against every other team in the division, a series consisting of two games. Each team will play a balanced home and away schedule over a two year period. The league schedule works on a two-year rotating basis, where one year a team will host a given opponent and the next year they will travel to that opponent. For example: 1. Year 1 – Team A hosts Team B, Team A travels to Team C 2. Year 2 – Team A travels to Team B, Team A hosts Team C 3. Year 3 – repeat Year 1 4. Year 4 – repeat Year 2 Teams are responsible to rearrange any conflicts they have with the proposed conference schedule and inform the commissioner of any changes in writing. (2009, amended 2010, 2017)
3. **KRACH Rankings**. The WCCHA will use computer-based KRACH rankings for both tournament qualification (wild cards) and tournament seeding. The data set for the league-wide KRACH rankings will include all games contested between WCCHA teams, including divisional and interdivisional games. The KRACH rankings will only use final results (win, loss or tie) in the calculations, not scores.
4. **Tournament Qualification**. Following the completion of regular season play, the top three teams from each division will qualify for the WCCHA Tournament. The remaining two teams will qualify via the league-wide KRACH rankings (wild cards), which include both divisional and interdivisional game results.
 - a. Once the field of 8 teams is set, the teams will be seeded in positions 1-8 based on the final KRACH rankings.
5. **Tournament Format**. The WCCHA Tournament will be played as an 8-team bracketed tournament. Teams will be seeded into the Quarterfinal round, with matchups of 1 vs. 8, 2 vs. 7, etc. There will be no re-seeding of teams during the tournament.



- a. For ACHA scoring purposes, games that ends in a tie after the required overtime period will officially be scored as a tie. However, to determine who moves on, or in the tournament final, the winner, an 8-minute 3v3 overtime will follow the initial overtime period. If the game is still tied, a best of 3 shootout will be utilized to determine the “winning” team. (2018)
6. **Team Replacement.** If an otherwise eligible team is removed from the WCCHA Tournament for disciplinary reasons, a replacement team will be invited to fill their position, and teams will be reseeded according to the updated KRACH rankings.
- a. If the team removed qualified via divisional standings, the next highest team in the division will earn the automatic qualification. If that team was previously qualified by the KRACH rankings (wild card), the next highest team in the KRACH rankings will then take the wild card spot.
 - b. If the team removed qualified via KRACH rankings, the next highest team in the KRACH rankings will take the wild card spot.