

Greater Toledo Broomball League

An Ohio Non-Profit Recreational Sports Association

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I THE ASSOCIATION

- A. The name of this association shall be the Greater Toledo Broomball League. The business of the association may be conducted as the Greater Toledo Broomball League or the GTBL (also referred to herein as the "league").
- B. The purpose of the GTBL is to provide female high school aged students from the greater Toledo area with a positive and fun activity in the competitive sport of broomball.
- C. The Greater Toledo Broomball League is a non-profit association and shall operate exclusively for charitable purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an association exempt from Federal Income Tax under such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part of the activities of the association shall be attempting to influence legislation.
- D. The GTBL is an Ohio non-profit association recognized as tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE II GENERAL CONDITIONS

- A. All association meetings shall be open. Voting to be restricted to the GTBL Board of Directors, except on playing and eligibility rules.
- B. Vacancies occurring on the board shall be filled by election of the board at the next regular meeting.
- C. The president may make emergency decisions on any issue. That issue will, however, be brought before the board at the next regular meeting.
- D. Probationary coaches, assistant coaches, and head coaches, coach only by board approval. No individual is allowed to coach in a Greater Toledo Broomball League sponsored event without first obtaining board approval. The only exception to this would be in an emergency situation where the board approved coach was unavailable and the league director opted to issue a temporary probationary coaching approval for whatever individual was available.
- E. Any coach or official member of the GTBL not fulfilling his or her obligations or office shall be subject to review.
- F. Any prospective new candidates for any of the GTBL coaching positions may seek to obtain board approval by arranging for an interview with the league director.
 - 1. After having completed the interview process, it shall be the responsibility of the league director to either recommend or not recommend for approval the interviewed coaching candidate at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. Once the recommendations of

the league director have been presented before the board, it is the board's responsibility to determine whether the candidate should be approved or disapproved as a probationary coach.

2. Once approved as a probationary coach an individual may coach in GTBL sponsored events; however, a probationary coach is subject to the potential monitoring and intervention of members of the GTBL board and/or its agents. After an individual has served as a probationary coach for one complete season the league director will be called on by the board to make recommendations regarding the coaching status of the probationary coach. Once the league director's recommendations are presented to the board, the board members shall decide whether to:
 - a. continue the individual as a probationary coach,
 - b. recognize the individual as a board approved coach, or
 - c. terminate the individual's privilege to coach at any GTBL sponsored event.
- G. All questions of form and procedure not specifically covered in the association constitution and bylaws shall be governed by the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* in cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws, the association constitution, and any special rules of order the association may adopt.

ARTICLE III DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, LEAGUE OFFICIALS, AND COACHES

A. BOARD COMPOSITION AND TERMS

1. The board of directors shall be composed of nine elected members, three appointed league officials and an unspecified number of honorary members.
2. Election of board members shall be held within thirty days of the end of the GTBL season.
 - a. Election is by ballot.
 - b. A majority needed for election.
3. The nine elected members shall be elected to three year, rotating, terms, with no limit to the number of terms that may be served.
4. The following officers shall be nominated and elected to a term of one year by the existing, voting board members: president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
 - a. The elections of officers is to be held within fifteen days after the annual election of board members.
5. The three appointed league officials include a league manager, league director, and fellowship director.
 - a. League officials shall be appointed to a one year term, with no limit to the number of terms that may be served.
 - b. Appointments are to be made within thirty days of the general election, but not until after the yearly election of board officers.
6. Honorary board membership is conferred on any Greater Toledo Broomball League member who has been a former league manager or league director with a minimum service of four years in that role.
 - a. Honorary membership on the board is perpetual.

B. PRESIDENT

1. To oversee all of the functions of the board and its committees. This would include:

1. make appointment to board committees,
 2. instruct the treasurer on the disbursement of funds according to the will of the organization,
 3. call at least one regular board meeting per month from Dec. through March, or as deemed as necessary; and
 4. call special meetings at his/her discretion.
2. Presides at all meetings of the board.
 3. At all times promote and secure the goodwill of the Greater Toledo Broomball League.
 4. To both uphold and abide by the GTBL Constitution and Bylaws.
 5. Attend board meetings as a voting member.
- C. VICE PRESIDENT
1. Perform the duties of the president in his/her absence.
 2. Assist the president in the fulfillment of his/her duties.
 3. Attend board meetings as a voting member.
 4. Referee training.
- D. SECRETARY
1. Keep complete and accurate records of all the board meetings.
 2. Conduct the correspondence of the organization.
 3. In all board meetings, all voting proceedings are to be duly recorded including
 - a. the names of who made what motion,
 - b. who seconded any motion, and
 - c. how each board member present voted, unless sealed ballot.
 4. In all coaching meetings, all voting proceedings are to be duly recorded including
 - a. the names of who made the motion and
 - b. who seconded the motion.
- E. TREASURER
1. Be custodian of the GTBL finances.
 2. Place all funds in a reputable, FDIC or NCUA insured institution.
 3. Disburse funds as directed by the board.
 4. Prepare accurate reports for each board meeting.
 5. See that all checks are counter signed; the treasurer and president will sign all checks.
 6. Keep accurate records of the fees paid in by each team.
 7. Attend board meetings as a voting member.
 8. Keep a file of all current contracts of the GTBL.
 9. Keep a file of all current records required for the operation of the GTBL.
- F. LEAGUE MANAGER
1. Shall be responsible to the board of directors for all aspects of providing support for GTBL games. Duties include:
 - a. attend board meetings as a voting member,
 - b. submitting, prior to the start of the season, for the board approval, the mandatory scheduling of
 - i. all board members and all coaches for their refereeing obligations and
 - ii. by lottery, of all teams for their required days of filling the GTBL's volunteer field staff needs;

- c. preparing regular season and tournament games scheduling for board approval,
 - d. submitting ice time practice schedules and teams attending,
 - e. contracting sufficient ice time,
 - f. scheduling referees, and
 - g. check the bank balance of the league each month during the league season.
2. The league manager will be appointed by the board.
 3. The league manager may or may not have coaching duties depending on the wishes of the league manager and the needs of the association.

G. LEAGUE DIRECTOR

1. Shall be responsible to the board of directors for the supervision of all GTBL coaches, GTBL games, and the enforcement of all GTBL rules and bylaws relating to coaches, teams and games (all of Bylaws Article III K , Article IV , and Article V). Duties to include:
 - a. conducting all coaches meetings,
 - b. attending board meetings as a voting member,
 - c. ensuring that all regular season and playoff games are conducted according to all league rules and bylaws,
 - d. be available at all regular season and playoff games to answer questions, make rulings, and conduct game day activities;
 - e. interviewing prospective new coaches with any board member and make recommendations to the board,
 - f. at least a week prior to any coaches meeting, provide an agenda of any proposed rule changes that will be discussed and brought up for vote,
 - g. be responsible for providing opportunities for the discussion and voting within a month of the start of a broomball season.
2. In all issues related to rule interpretation, the league director has authority over all GTBL staff including :
 - a. coaches,
 - b. referees,
 - c. scorekeepers, and
 - d. timers.
3. The league director will be appointed by the board.
4. The league director position may be split between two people (co-league directors).
5. If only one league director is appointed, they may not have coaching responsibilities. If there are co-league directors, they may not have coaching responsibilities when they acting as league director.

H. FELLOWSHIP DIRECTOR

1. Shall be responsible to the board of directors for all aspects regarding the GTBL fellowships. Duties to include:
 - a. organizing and directing all GTBL fellowships for the purpose of promoting sportsmanship,
 - b. attend board meetings as a voting member, and
 - c. organizing the end of season awards banquet.
2. The fellowship director will be appointed by the board.
3. The fellowship director may have coaching duties.

I. BOARD MEMBERS

1. A board member shall be entitled to all of the privileges of board membership. These privileges include the following:
 - a. attending and participating in discussions at board and coaches' meetings, including any board meeting that goes into executive session,
 - b. the right to make motions for voting purposes,
 - c. the right to vote on all motions proposed to the board,
 - d. the right to serve on board committees,
 - e. the right to serve as an elected board officer or an appointed board official, and
 - f. the right to either coach or not coach a broomball team unless otherwise outlined in the bylaws.
2. A board member shall have all of the duties and obligations of board membership. These duties and obligations include the following:
 - a. Supporting the GTBL association and fellow board members by providing regular attendance at scheduled board meetings, unless excused in advance by the board president.
 - i. Board members seeking to be excused from attending a regularly scheduled board meeting are required to contact the president no later than 48 hours prior to the starting time of the scheduled meeting (unless in emergency situations).
 - b. Non-coaching board members are asked to provide service for at least 50 % of all scheduled GTBL games, participating as GTBL field staff or game referees.
 - c. Coaching board members may be asked to provide additional field staff assistance on an as needed basis.
 - d. Be available to assist in the interviewing of perspective coaches with the league director, if needed.
 - e. Actively serve on at least one board committee.
3. Board members are charged with fulfilling their primary function, which is to serve as stewards of the GTBL association. The role of steward includes the following duties and responsibilities:
 - a. holding all GTBL elected officers, appointed officials, and board approved coaches accountable to serving the will of the board; and
 - b. exercising responsible ownership over the GTBL association with the goal of providing female high school aged students from the greater Toledo area with a positive and fun activity.

J. HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

1. An honorary member shall have none of the obligations of membership to the board.
2. An honorary member shall be entitled to all of the privileges except those of making motions, of voting and of holding office.
3. Their primary function is to serve the board as consultants.

K. COACHES AND ASSISTANT COACHES

1. Shall be responsible to the board of directors for the promotion and goodwill of the GTBL. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- a. Prior to the start of the season, sign up or find a substitute that is acceptable to the league manager or present board members, to serve as referee on scheduled game days.
 - i. In addition, if obligations are not fulfilled, each offending coach will be assessed a fee of ten dollars (\$10) per game missed to be paid to the scholarship fund or banquet fund, at the board's discretion.
 - ii. If the fee is not paid by the next week of games, a game loss will be assessed at the end of the season.
 - b. Prior to the start of the season, sign up the adults that are part of the team's support group to assume the responsibility for providing all the required support staff for as many scheduled game days as the league requires of each team.
 - i. Two or more teams will be assigned for each game night.
 - ii. Each scheduled team will be required to provide at least two responsible adults, aged 21 or over, unless previously approved by the board.
 - iii. The consequence for teams failing to fulfill this requirement will be as follows:
 1. Senior teams will be disqualified from participating in the post season playoffs.
 2. Junior, sophomore, and freshman teams will be disqualified from participating in the next, ensuing broomball season, and will lose their designation as a "returning team."
2. Shall conduct their team in a manner as outlined by the GTBL Constitution and Bylaws and are empowered by the GTBL to instruct, supervise, and discipline the players or their team(s) throughout the entirety of the broomball season.
 3. Shall show no evidence of alcohol or drug abuse at a practice or a game. No smoking shall be permitted at the bench while directing a team during a game.
 4. Shall be responsible for entire team conduct at practice, to and from games, as well as during the regular season and tournament games.
 5. Shall show a good example to all concerned. Shall not use profanity or abusive language.
 6. Shall be responsible for providing timely advance notification, to both GTBL officials and opposing coaches, if forfeiture is planned or anticipated.
 7. Shall be responsible for assuring that each girl on the team has paid the required fees.
 8. Any form of physical violence by a coach towards a player will be grounds for immediate dismissal.
 9. Provide the GTBL appointed board member with a list of any seniors from the assigned team who have achieved a 3.4 GPA or higher by the end of their seventh semester or equivalent.
 10. All coaches will attend all coaches meetings or give prior notice to a board member.

ARTICLE IV GENERAL LEAGUE RULES

A. GENERAL RULES

1. Before the start of each game, both participating teams shall supply the official referee with a typed list containing the names and numbers of all team players and team coaches that will be present in either the bench area, or on the ice, during the game. It should follow the format given in the current season guide. This list is the responsibility of the acting head coach of each team to put together and verify with his/her signature.
2. Only players in uniform and a maximum of three board approved coaches, who are listed on the team roster as coaches, may be in the team bench area during the game.
 - a. School photographers are allowed with board approval.
3. All players will wear a helmet with a face mask and a colored mouth piece or dental mouth piece at all times while on the ice.
4. Players on the ice are prohibited from wearing jewelry such as rings, watches earrings, bracelets, necklaces (including cloth or string types), barrettes or other cosmetic or decorative items that are hard.
 - a. Medical-alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn they must be taped to the body, so as to remain visible.
 - b. All casts, splints, and braces must be padded.
 - c. Prostheses may be worn.
 - d. Any equipment judged by the referee to be potentially dangerous is illegal.
 - e. Penalty: If a player violates the jewelry rule, the referee shall issue a team warning. Any subsequent offender on that team shall be restricted to the bench area (off the ice) for the duration of the game.
5. All players will be allowed to play in at least one-fourth (1/4) of the total of all league and tournament games (e.g., if there are twelve league games, all players will have played in any combination of at least three of those games, six halves, etc.).
6. If a coach chooses to discipline a player by restricting her play in one game, that coach will inform a league official of his/her intent prior to the start of restricted game. This game then will not be counted in the 1/4 playing time rule.
7. A player or coach who is ejected from a game must leave the ice and bench. Failure to do so will result in a delay of game penalty.
8. Any player who is found abusing either league equipment or any playing equipment will receive a major penalty. If the penalty extends beyond the game being played, then the league director, or majority of league board members present will determine when the offending player is eligible to play again.
 - a. This would include throwing helmets, broomballs, brooms or any personal or league playing equipment in anger or frustration.
9. Teams coming onto the ice will wait in a designated area for a referee's signal before proceeding to the bench.

B. REFEREES' DECISIONS

1. Any and all decisions that are made during the course of a game by the referees are final and not subject to appeal.
 - a. It must be recognized that, while this league will do everything possible to provide trained and experienced referees, even the best referees will miss some calls. This is an inherent part of any sport where humans are making judgment calls and must be accepted as part of the game.

- b. The referees will allow or disallow any goal and it is their responsibility and their decision alone. They may, however, ask for technical assistance from the head referee or league director regarding rule interpretation.
2. Those aspects of a game that may be subject to appeal are technical rules that are established by the league and administered by the board. These include but are not limited to:
 - a. illegal brooms,
 - b. Illegal shoes, and
 - c. ineligible players.

C. APPEALS

1. If a coach has reason to believe that a violation of league rules is taking place, then a protest must be voiced before the game is to begin to the league director or the majority of GTBL board members present. Any violations will be dealt with prior to the start of the game.
2. If a coach has reason to believe that a referee improperly interprets some aspect of the technical rules during the game, then that coach may appeal during the game (if the referee allows for a stoppage of play, then it is an official timeout, not a charged timeout), or the coach must lodge a complaint with the league director or the majority of the GTBL board members prior to the start of the next game day or playoff game.
3. If a coach has reason to believe that a violation of league rules has taken place in a game, but does not discover the violation until the game has been played, then that coach must lodge a complaint with the league director or the majority of the GTBL board members prior to the start of the next game day or playoff game.
4. If the league director or the majority of the GTBL board members determine that a violation of league rules has occurred after a game has been played, then the team found violating the rules will, at the league director's discretion:
 - a. be reprimanded,
 - b. forfeit one or more goals, or
 - c. forfeit the game
5. If the league director or the majority of the GTBL board members determine that some aspect of the technical rules was improperly interpreted during the game, and that this improper interpretation significantly influenced the outcome of the game, then the league director or the majority of the GTBL board members may respond by taking whatever measures necessary to fairly rectify the situation.
6. There is no higher course of appeal other than the league director or the majority of the GTBL board.

D. TEAMS

1. Teams can consist of the high school girls from any public or parochial school within the greater Toledo area.
2. A team will consist of between 10 to 20 players.
3. Teams shall not practice or condition no earlier than Dec. 1st and shall form no later than seven days prior to the first GTBL game.
4. All team rosters will be turned into the league no later than 7 days prior to the first league game. Only 2 girls may be added to this roster after this date.

5. No girl will be allowed to play for more than one team. If a girl is found to be playing on more than one team, those teams that have her on their roster will forfeit all games said girl has played in.
6. Team names, emblems, and uniform logos must be approved by the board prior to implementation.

E. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Only those girls who are presently enrolled in a high school are eligible. Any game won involving a non-approved player will be forfeited.
2. Under no circumstances may a player (including players returning to the GTBL from a previous season) transfer from one team to another unless the player (or an individual representing the player) first seeks and obtains the permission from the GTBL board.
 - a. No player transfers to another team are allowed after 7 days prior to the first coaches meeting in December.
3. Each player will be assessed a playing fee as determined by the board of directors. No player will be allowed to play in a league game until all the fees are paid.
 - a. Hardships will be reviewed on a case by case basis and could be eligible for a discounted rate, or an alternate plan, at the discretion of the board.
4. Players suffering a major medical injury (e.g., concussion, etc.) must have a doctor's release before participating in Broomball practices or games. Player's eligibility will be determined at the discretion of the board.

F. EQUIPMENT

1. Brooms
 - a. All brooms will have wooden handles and straw bristles only; no plastic or metal.
 - b. Brooms may be reinforced with tape only. Brooms must be flexible after taping.
 - c. Brooms will have a minimum of ten inches (10") of straw from top to bottom.
 - d. All brooms will be equipped with a protective tip on the handle end of the broom purchased from the league.
 - e. If a broom is broken during the course of play it will be immediately be removed from the ice by the referee. Any unrepaired or cracked brooms will not be allowed.
 - f. Brooms are subject to inspection at any time.
2. Uniforms
 - a. Members of a team will wear jerseys of the same color and type.
 - b. Each jersey will display a number on the back. Each team member will have a different number that must match at all times their number on the official team roster (unless obtaining prior approval of league director or the majority of board members present at that time.
 - c. Numbers may be of paint, decal, or iron-on.
 - d. No uniforms will display any obscene or inappropriate language or symbols.
 - e. If two teams have similar color jerseys, then a coin toss will determine which team will wear colored slip on jerseys provided by the league.
 - f. If jerseys do not match, the board requires all members of the team to wear color slip on jerseys provided by the league.

- g. Legs must be covered with appropriate pants or shorts must be worn with colored leggings.
 - h. All players will wear a helmet with a face mask and a colored mouth piece or dental mouth piece at all times while on the ice.
 - 3. Shoes
 - a. Players will wear athletic, non-cleated shoes or broomball shoes.
 - b. No substance will be added to the shoes for the purpose of improving traction.
 - c. Shoes and players may be subject to inspection at any time.
 - 4. Helmets
 - a. Players will wear hockey helmets with face guards in good condition only.
 - b. Players must provide their own helmets.
 - 5. Goal Nets
 - a. Goal nets will be provided by the league.
 - b. The goal poles at the mouth of the goal shall be set 147" from the wall.
 - c. The dimensions of the goal crease shall be as follows: as long as the goal poles at the mouth of the net and 48" deep.
 - 6. Violations
 - a. Any violations of league equipment rules may result in the loss of one team goal for that game that was played under violation, at the discretion of the league director, or the majority of board members present at that time.

G. INJURIES

- 1. If a timeout is called because of an injury then that player must leave the ice. She shall not return to the game until she has been released by paramedic and must sit out at least one minute.
- 2. If a player has received an injury while playing broomball and is under a physician's care because of that injury, she must have either her physician's release or written approval from her parent before she will be allowed to play.

H. TEAM SEEDINGS (Pre-season)

- 1. There will be four divisions, and two conferences. Teams will be placed in a division by the league manager in a manner that will attempt balance each division. Each division will have one of four top seeded teams.
- 2. The following procedures will be adhered to in determining pre-season placement of teams in divisions and conferences.
 - a. 1st consideration: where the team ended up in the previous season's tournament.
 - b. 2nd consideration: where the team ended up in the previous season's regular season.
 - c. 3rd consideration: team's years of experience.
 - d. 4th consideration: team's age.
 - e. 5th consideration: coach's years of experience.
 - f. 6th consideration: team's performance in any pre-season scrimmages.
 - g. 7th consideration: no two teams from the same school, from same grade, in the same conference.

I. TIE BREAKING RULES (For Post-season Standings)

1. Team records (i.e., 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) will determine the final standings of teams, both within their division and conference. In situations where two or more teams share the same record, they will also share the same division and/or conference final standing. In situations where there is a tie for 1st place then the title of the division winner and/or conference winner will be shared by all of those teams involved.
2. Tie breaking rules for the seeding of teams in the GTBL post season tournament are as follows:
 - a. In case of a tie between two teams, the winner of their regular season game will be seeded higher.
 - b. If still a tie, then the team with the largest difference in goals scored and goals scored against will be seeded higher.
 - c. If still a tie, then the team with the largest number of goals scored will be seeded higher.
 - d. If still a tie, then a toss of a coin between the two coaches will be the tie breaker.
 - e. In the case of a tie between more than two teams, and after going through all of the above tie breakers, then a coin toss is needed and the odd man will be out after all three or more teams have called.

J. TEAM SEEDINGS (Post-season)

1. The post-season tournament is an invitational; not all teams will be invited to participate.
 - a. The top ten teams from each conference, based on their regular season record, may be invited to participate in the invitational tournament.
 - b. Teams that accept the invitation to play in the tournament must agree to be in the lottery for volunteers for the first night of the playoffs.
 - c. The coaches of the teams that accept the invitation to play in the tournament must agree to serve as either referees or volunteers on both nights of the playoffs as their teams are eliminated from tournament play.
2. The Bylaws Article IV I 2 will be used to determine seeding rank for the invitational tournament.
3. All play-off games, except championship and consolation games are to be played within conference.
 - a. 1st game, 8 vs. 9.
 - b. 2nd game, 7 vs. 10.
 - c. 3rd game, winner of 8 & 9 vs. 1.
 - d. 4th game, winner of 7 & 10 vs. 2.
 - e. 5th game, 4 vs. 5.
 - f. 6th game, 3 vs. 6.
 - g. 7th game, winner of (8 & 9 vs. 1) vs. winner of (4 & 5).
 - h. 8th game, winner of (7 & 10 vs. 2) vs. winner of (3 & 6).
 - i. 9th game, semi-finals, winner of (1,4,5,8,9) vs. winner of (2,3,6,7,10).
 - j. 10th game, consolation game, losers of semi-finals.
 - k. 11th game, championship game, winners of semi-finals.
4. The invitational tournament brackets and game schedule will be as follows:

- a. Semi-finals are for the conference championships.
- b. Finals are for the league championship.

K. PLAYOFF GAME RULES

1. Playoff games will consist of two, nine minutes halves. Each team will have four time outs instead of three.
 - a. If the game is tied at the end of regulation play the game goes into extra periods, each team will receive one additional time out for any amount of overtime, not one time out per overtime period. Therefore no team may ever have more than five time outs in any one game.
2. The playoffs will be a single elimination tournament.
3. If a game is tied at the end of regulation play, then a two minute intermission will be followed by a nine minute, sudden death, period. The first team that scores, wins. If necessary, this procedure will be followed again until a team wins.

L. PAYMENT OF FEES

1. Each team is required to make complete payment of their tournament fees by the board decided payment meeting. This fee should be paid to the league treasurer with a money order or cash. The funds will accompany two copies of typed roster and the amount of funds should correspond with the number players on the roster.
2. If a girl on any team has not paid her fees as outlined in Bylaws Article III E 3 prior to the first GTBL game, she will not be eligible to play.
3. There will be a maximum of thirty-two teams allowed to participate in the league.
 - a. All team's rosters, with signed release forms and registration fees, will be turned into the league secretary and league treasurer no later than the board-decided payment meeting. Teams that do not have the required items, listed above, turned in by the due date will jeopardize their roster spot in the league. All forms must be typed.
 - b. Returning teams are subject to the above rules. Schools losing teams due to graduation will be guaranteed a new team the following year, up to two teams per school, if they turn a roster and release forms for at least ten players by the board-decided payment meeting.
 - c. New team spots will be filled as a first come basis with the following priority given: first to a new school, then to an existing school with less than four current teams, and then schools with less than two teams from a class.

M. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

1. Any board member, coach, assistant coach, or other staff member who has been accused of a violation of the GTBL Constitution or Bylaw, and that accusation results in a board disciplinary action of that individual either being placed on probation, being suspended, or being terminated, shall have the right of due process.
2. The right of due process shall include:
 - a. Be informed of the charges in a timely manner.
 - b. Given reasonable time to prepare their defense.
 - c. Appear before the board and defend themselves, at a regular or special board meeting, within a reasonable timeframe from the original notification of the charges.

3. After reviewing all of the information presented, the decision of the board shall be final.

ARTICLE V GAME RULES

A. GENERAL GAME RULES

1. A game will consist of two nine minute halves with a two minute intermission between halves.
2. At the end of each period of play, teams will change ends of the ice.
3. A team will only have a maximum of ten players on the ice at any one time. These players may be positioned in any manner the coach sees fit, with the following exceptions:
 - a. There will only be one player allowed within the goal crease for the purpose of defending the goal and that player will be referred to as the goalie.
 - b. There will only be six players allowed within the defensive half of the playing surface.
4. The team with the most goals at the end of the game is the winner of that game. The winner of regular season games will receive two points for a win, one point for a tie, and no points for a loss.
5. Both teams will be given a three minute pregame warm up period. Once the three minute warm up period is over, the game will begin. If one (or both) of the teams is not available (e.g., not on the ice ready to play) when the game is ready to begin, that team will be assessed one minor penalty to be served at the beginning of the game. If after four minutes from the declared starting time, the missing team has still not assembled on the ice and positioned itself to initiate game play, then they shall forfeit the game and the final score shall be 5-0.
6. When a team is ahead by a 10 point margin, a mercy rule applies, the game will terminate, and final score will be recorded. Teams will then have the option to use remainder of the ice time for scrimmage or practice at the board's discretion.

B. INITIATION OF PLAY

1. Play is initiated with a face-off at the appropriate location.
 - a. Two players, one from each team, shall be in the circle.
 - b. No players other than those facing off shall be allowed inside the approximately 10' diameter circle.
 - c. The ball shall be placed on the ice.
 - d. Both players' brooms shall be placed on the ice no closer than one foot from the ball, until play starts with the referee's whistle.
2. No player may assume a position in the offensive direction of the face-off line. Violations will result in another face-off.
3. Face-offs may take place at center ice or to the left and right sides and halfway between center ice and the goal line. Face-offs other than center ice will be in the area that the ball was last in play.
4. Face-offs will start play at the beginning of each half, after a time-out, after an out of bounds, or after a penalty or injury that has stopped play.
5. Face-offs at the beginning of a game and at the beginning of the second half will always be at center ice.

6. The game clock will start at the referee's whistle.

C. PLAY

1. The ball may be advanced only by the use of a broom. Hands, feet or heads may not be used.
2. A player may use the broom to hit the ball in any manner she sees fit; however, she may not pull her hands together less than six inches between closed hands. She may scoop the ball into the air as long as the head of the broom does not go beyond a twelve o'clock position.
3. She may use the handle of the broom to control a ball in the air. When the broom handle is in the air, the player's hands must be separated on the handle, with the top hand being within six inches from the top of the broom.
4. A player may not advance or carry the ball balanced on the head of her broom.

D. TIMEOUTS

1. Time will be stopped for time-outs (regular, official, or injury) and any penalty that in the opinion of the referee has unfairly changed the momentum of the game. (See Bylaws Article V B 3 for location of face-off.)
 - a. A referee may stop play if in his opinion a situation arises that needs to be immediately resolved.
2. Time will be stopped if the ball leaves the boundary or play. (See Bylaws Article V B 3 for location of face-off.)
3. Time will be called if the ball is caught on the top of the net. Neither the goalie nor a player will be allowed to play the ball. (See Bylaws Article V B 3 for location of face-off.)
4. Time is not called for goals.
5. Each team will be allowed three timeouts per game. Four timeouts will be allowed for teams throughout the tournament playoffs.
6. Timeouts may be called by a player on the ice who is control of the ball or at the request of the controlling team's coach. The referee will blow his/her whistle and stop play when, at his/her judgment the team requesting the time-out is in control of the ball. Control of the ball is defined as when a play on the ball is not being closely contested. (See Article V B 3 for location of face-off.)
7. Timeouts will be called if a penalty shot has been awarded.
8. Timeouts will be called if a player or group of players ties the ball up for longer than five seconds. An example of this is holding the ball against the wall or another broom in such a way as to make it impossible for another player to make a play on the ball.
9. Timeouts will be one minute in duration.
10. Injury timeouts will be handled as follows:
 - a. If a player is injured and an official time out is called, then each team will go to a neutral area of the ice, not the bench.
 - b. No coach will be allowed to coach their team during injury time-out; however, the coach of the injured player will be allowed to attend to the player.
 - c. After the injury time-out, each coach will have one minute to coach their team prior to the resumption of play.

E. GOALS

1. A goal is scored when a team hits the ball into the goal during the play of the game.

2. A goal is scored only when the ball is entirely across the goal line.
3. A goal is scored only when the initiation of the ball was from the result of being hit with a broom.
4. Goals will be scored if:
 - a. it is hit with a broom,
 - b. it is deflected off a defensive player,
 - c. it is accidentally knocked in by the goalie or a defensive player,
 - d. it is caught by the goalie, but the ball is inside the plane of the goal, or
 - e. if the goalie catches the ball and pulls it inside of the goal.
5. Goals will be disallowed if:
 - a. the initiated motion of the ball was not initiated by a broom,
 - b. if there was an offensive player in the goal crease before the ball,
 - c. if the ball is hit out of the goalie's possession, or
 - d. if the buzzer sounds before the ball crosses the goal line, even though the ball was hit before the buzzer sounds.
6. The referee will allow or disallow any goal. This decision is final.

F. THE GOALIE

1. The goalie will play within the goal and goal crease. If the goalie is not going to use the broom, she must make sure that the broom is out of play.
2. She may control the ball within that area in any manner she sees fit. (Her options of how to control the ball only becomes limited if she chooses to catch the ball.) She may use a broom or any part of her body to prevent the ball from crossing the goal line.
3. If she catches the ball, she has five seconds to put the ball into play. If the goalie chooses to throw the ball, she must throw the ball to the side of, or behind, the net. She may not advance the ball beyond the plane of the goal line.
4. If the goalie takes longer than five seconds or advances the ball by throwing it, play will be stopped and a face-off will ensue.
5. Any player on the ice can switch with the goalie; however, only one player may be within the goal area at one time. (See Bylaws Article V H 4 I.)
6. A goalie may not use her broom to trip or hit another player. (See Bylaws Article V H 4 c & g.)
7. If the goalie is assessed a minor penalty, the coach will be given the option of selecting a different player to be penalized.

G. SUBSTITUTIONS

1. A coach may substitute freely during a game.
2. Substitutions may occur during a timeout or during play.
3. Substitutions during play:
 - a. Substitutions can be made on the fly as long as the player coming off the ice and the substituting player are not involved in a play on the ball.
 - b. If a substituting player is involved in a play before the other player is heading off the ice, then play will be stopped and a faceoff will ensue. (See Bylaws Article V B 3 for location of face-off.)

H. PENALTIES

1. Major penalties:

- a. A major penalty will result in, as determined by the league director or by a majority of board members, one of the following actions:
 - i. The ejection of the offending player or coach for half of one game for a total of nine (9) minutes.
 - ii. An ejection of a complete game or ejection from all of the league and/or tournament games, whichever the officials feel is the most appropriate action. There will be no refund of fees.
 - b. All major penalties will be observed at the first possible opportunity.
 - c. Major penalties are player penalties, not team penalties. The offending player or coach will leave the game, but the team will not play shorthanded.
2. Major penalties are:
- a. Fighting
 - i. There will be no fighting or attempt to injure an opposing player either on or off the ice, before, during, or after a game.
 - b. Abuse
 - i. The severe abuse of the referees, league officials, league equipment, or playing equipment by any player, coach, or assistant coach will result in a major penalty.
3. Minor penalties:
- a. Minor penalties will result in the penalized player being placed in the penalty box one minute for each minor penalty incurred. During the penalty time a team will play shorthanded for each person in the penalty box.
 - b. All minor penalties must be served at the first opportunity available.
4. The following are considered game violations which will result in a minor penalty:
- a. Body checking (i.e., playing the player instead of the ball).
 - b. Slashing at a player's ankles or legs.
 - c. Spearing at a player's body or arms.
 - d. High sticking: bringing the broom head above the chest. (The following through of a scoop to the 12:00 position will not be called high sticking.)
 - e. Kicking the ball.
 - f. Throwing the broom at the ball.
 - g. Tripping or pushing another player to the ice.
 - h. Holding or interfering with another player's play on the ball. (Hooking of the broom is a legal play.)
 - i. Using hands or feet to direct the ball.
 - j. Swinging at the ball when it is in the possession of the goalie.
 - k. Violation of any of the equipment or safety rules.
 - l. Any player in the crease area other than the goalie. If a goal is scored with an offensive player in the crease then the goal is disallowed and the offensive player is given a minor penalty.
 - m. Unsportsmanlike conduct and inappropriate behavior both on and off the ice, and any game activity that a referee judges to be dangerous play, may result in a minor penalty. Such behavior may include: pulling hair, scratching, spitting,

swearing, obscene gestures, arguing with the referee, or any other action that referees and or league officials find inappropriate.

- n. There will be a one minute penalty if the goalie is interfered with in any way at the discretion of the referee on the ice.
- o. The first time that a team is penalized for using an illegal defense, the player(s) in violation will be given a minor penalty.

I. PENALTY PROCEDURES

- 1. For all penalties, other than major penalties, the penalized player will leave the ice and enter the penalty box for a period of one minute.
- 2. Penalty time will be kept by the time keeper and will start only when the player has left the ice and is in the penalty box.
- 3. More than one player can be penalized from one team at any time.
- 4. If a player is in the penalty box at the end of the first half, then the remainder of the penalty will be carried over at the start of the second half.
- 5. If a penalized player's team is scored upon, then all penalized players from that team may return to the ice for the face-off.
- 6. At the end of penalty time the penalized player will return to the ice on the run.
- 7. If a player is penalized for more than one infraction, then her time will be served consecutively.

J. PENALTY SHOT PROCEDURES

- 1. A penalty shot may be awarded for the following reasons:
 - a. If a player is fouled in the act of attempting to score, and the foul was committed solely to prevent the score.
 - b. If a defensive player commits an infraction of the rules solely to prevent a score.
 - c. If a team is penalized for the second time during a game for using an illegal defense (i.e., has more than 6 players in their defensive zone).
- 2. The penalty shot procedure is as follows:
 - a. An official timeout is called.
 - b. The ice is cleared of all players except the fouled player and the opposing team's goalie or designated defender.
 - c. The fouled player will be given possession of the ball at center ice. She must advance the ball towards the net. If she stops or retreats the shot is ended. She may shoot the ball at any point prior to the goal crease. A goal will be disallowed if the shooter commits a penalty.
 - d. The fouled player has only one shot. If the ball crosses the goal line, then a goal is scored. If the goalie stops the ball from crossing the goal line, then the penalty shot is ended and play is resumed with a center ice face-off.