

Coachella Valley Adult Hockey League (CVHL)

Official League Handbook

I. League Governance & Authority

Host Facility

The Coachella Valley Adult Hockey League (CVHL) is operated at Berger Foundation Iceplex, a USA Hockey-sanctioned facility.

League Management Authority

CVHL is fully administered and managed by Hockey Operations at Berger Foundation Iceplex.

Hockey Operations Leadership

- Tirell Stokes – Hockey Manager (League Authority)
- Jen Banford – Hockey Coordinator

Hockey Operations has full authority over:

- Player eligibility and division placement
- Roster compliance and substitutes
- Game operations and enforcement
- Disciplinary reviews and suspensions
- League rules interpretation and application

Decisions issued by Hockey Operations are final and enforceable.

Iceplex Executive Oversight

The Director / General Manager of Berger Foundation Iceplex retains authority only in matters related to:

- Facility operations
- Legal or insurance requirements
- Immediate safety concerns impacting the building

The Director / GM does not participate in routine league management, player placement, or disciplinary decisions.

II. League Overview

CVHL is a non-checking, USA Hockey–sanctioned adult hockey league governed by the current USA Hockey Official Rules of Ice Hockey, as strengthened by this handbook and Iceplex policies.

Participants are expected to review USA Hockey rules at usahockey.com.

CVHL reserves the right to enforce standards more strictly than USA Hockey minimums when required to ensure safety, fairness, or facility operations.

III. Player Eligibility & Registration

- Players must be 18 years of age or older
- All players must:
 - Be registered with Berger Foundation Iceplex
 - Hold a current USA Hockey Adult or Coach membership
 - Be in good standing financially and disciplinarily
- Players must compete in a division that accurately reflects their skill level

Skill Level Review & Ringer Policy

CVHL prioritizes player safety, fair competition, and division integrity.

- Hockey Operations reserves the right to review, reassign, or remove players at any point during the season if a player is determined to be competing below their appropriate skill level (commonly referred to as a “ringer”).
- Skill evaluations may be based on game observation, official reports, captain feedback, prior playing history, or USA Hockey records.
- A player may be required to move to a higher division or may be deemed ineligible for league play if no appropriate division exists.

All reassignment decisions are final and not subject to appeal. Reassignment does not automatically qualify a player for a refund or credit.

IV. League Payments & Credits

Payment Policy

CVHL enforces a strict NO PAY / NO PLAY policy.

- League fees must be paid in full or under an approved payment plan
- Substitute players must pay before entering the ice or bench area
- Players not in good financial standing may be denied ice, bench, or locker room access

Credit Policy

Credits are granted on a case-by-case basis and must be requested in writing.

Credits may be considered for:

- Injury resulting in missing 50% or more of the season (documentation required)
- Employment relocation resulting in missing 50% or more of the season

Credits are not granted for:

- Suspensions or expulsions
- Fighting or prohibited conduct
- Failure to attend games

CVHL reserves the right to deny any credit request.

V. Game Format & Ice Operations

Game Format

- 5-minute warm-up
- Three 20-minute run-time periods
- Stop time in the final 3 minutes if the game is within 2 goals

Tied Games

- Regular season and early playoff rounds: 3-player shootout
- Championship game: 10-minute sudden-death 5-on-5 overtime, followed by shootout if necessary

Ice Operations Disclaimer

Game start times are subject to Iceplex operational constraints. Ice resurfacing and readiness times are not guaranteed to be exact.

The CVHL Supervisor on Duty has final authority regarding game flow, delays, early termination, or safety decisions.

VI. Sportsmanship, Safety & Conduct

USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy

CVHL strictly enforces USA Hockey's Zero Tolerance Policy to maintain a respectful and safe environment.

ICEPLEX

Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Arguing or disputing officials' decisions
- Abusive, obscene, or threatening language or gestures
- Persistent dissent after warnings

Violations may result in penalties, ejection, suspension, or removal from the facility.

Gretzky Rule

To promote balanced competition and sportsmanship, a player may score a maximum of three (3) goals in any regular season or playoff game.

Any additional goals scored by the same player beyond the third goal will not count toward the game score or player statistics. This rule applies across all divisions unless otherwise announced by Hockey Operations.

Hockey Operations reserves the right to enforce additional measures in cases where conduct is deemed inconsistent with the recreational spirit and competitive balance of the league.

Alcohol & Substance Policy

- Alcohol and tobacco are prohibited on player benches and in the scorekeeper area
- Outside alcohol is prohibited on Iceplex property
- Players under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be permitted to participate

Facility access is a privilege, not a right.

VII. Uniforms & Equipment

- HECC-approved helmet with secured straps is mandatory
- Full protective equipment is required
- Teams must wear matching jerseys with unique numbers

Players are responsible for complying with any USA Hockey equipment mandates introduced during the season.

VIII. Rosters & Substitutes

- Teams may roster up to 20 players
- A minimum of 12 full-time paid players is required
- Rosters are frozen after the team's 7th game unless approved by Hockey Operations

Substitute Players

- Substitute players must be registered, paid, and approved prior to participation
- Substitute approval is a privilege, not a guarantee

Substitute Goalies

- Must be USA Hockey and Iceplex registered
- Do not pay the substitute fee
- Must be pre-approved for playoff games

Team captains are responsible for roster compliance. Failure to comply may result in forfeits or disciplinary action.

IX. Illegal Players & Forfeits

An illegal player includes any individual who:

- Is not registered with Berger Foundation Iceplex
- Does not hold a current USA Hockey membership
- Is not in good standing financially or disciplinarily
- Is not rostered on the team for which they are playing
- Is under suspension

Use of an illegal player results in a forfeit win for the opposing team.

X. Divisions

- Division 1 (Open) – Advanced competitive players
- Division 2 (North) – Intermediate / 60+ players
- Division 3 (South) – Novice to intermediate players
- Division 4 (Beginner) – Entry-level players and Learn-to-Play graduates

XI. Penalties & Disciplinary Process

Disciplinary Review Process

CVHL empowers on-ice officials to manage games and remove players when necessary to maintain safety and control.

When a serious incident occurs (including Major penalties, Game Misconducts, Match penalties, or significant off-ice conduct):

ICEPLEX

1. Immediate Authority of Officials

On-ice officials have full authority to assess penalties and eject players from a game when warranted under USA Hockey rules. An ejection ends the player's participation in that game.

2. Official Report & Recommendation

Following the game, officials will submit a written report outlining the incident. Officials may include a recommendation regarding additional discipline, if deemed appropriate based on the circumstances.

3. League Committee Review

Hockey Operations reviews the official report, any available video, and relevant context. The League Committee evaluates the severity, intent, and pattern of behavior.

4. Division Captain Consultation

The League Committee shares its assessment with the captain(s) of the division in which the incident occurred. Division captains may provide written feedback on appropriate disciplinary action.

5. Final Decision

The Hockey Manager, in consultation with the Hockey Coordinator, determines whether additional discipline is warranted, including but not limited to:

- No further action
- Written warning
- One or more game suspensions
- Removal from the league

6. Notification

The affected player and team captain will be notified in writing of the final decision.

Suspension Guidelines

- An in-game ejection does not automatically result in a suspension, unless specified by USA Hockey rules (e.g., Match penalties).
- Any additional suspension must be reviewed and issued by Hockey Operations.
- Suspended players are not permitted on the bench or ice during suspension games.
- Off-ice misconduct on Iceplex property may carry the same disciplinary consequences as on-ice conduct.

All disciplinary decisions issued by Hockey Operations are final.

XII. Video Monitoring

Berger Foundation Iceplex records activities on the ice and in public areas. Video may be used to supplement disciplinary reviews but does not replace official reports.

XIII. Iceplex Facility Expectations

- No players may enter the ice surface until resurfacing equipment has exited and gates are closed
- Locker room access may be limited due to Arena events
- Iceplex staff instructions are final
- Unsafe or disruptive behavior off the ice may result in disciplinary action equal to on-ice violations

XIV. Statistics Reporting & Game Documentation

Statistics Review & Correction

Team Captains have 48 hours following the completion of a game to submit any statistical corrections or discrepancies by email to the Hockey Manager and Hockey Coordinator.

After the 48-hour window, all statistics will be considered final, and no further changes will be made.

Scorekeeper Reporting Requirements

The scorekeeper is required to document any incidents, concerns, or noteworthy situations at the conclusion of each game by recording them directly in Gamesheet.

This ensures Hockey Operations has a formal record of any issues and can take appropriate follow-up action when necessary.

XV. Amendments & Final Authority

Berger Foundation Iceplex reserves the right to amend this handbook at any time in the interest of safety, league integrity, or facility operations. The most current version will be published by the Iceplex.

Effective: May 2026