CONSTITUTION OF THE
CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS HOCKEY OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION CHAPTER
NATIONAL ICE HOCKEY OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

AMENDED on October 18, 2014

I. NAME: The name of the chapter shall be the “Central Massachusetts Hockey Officials Association, National Ice Hockey Officials Association.”

II. PURPOSE: The purpose of the chapter shall be to promote the welfare of the game of ice hockey, its players and officials within Central Massachusetts; to maintain the highest standards of officiating; to encourage the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship; to have available at all times an adequate number of thoroughly trained and capable officials for use by various assigning authorities; to cooperate with all other organizations officially connected with the game of ice hockey in furthering its interest and ideals within Central Massachusetts.

III. TERRITORY: The chapter shall be local in scope and consist of an unlimited number of members based on criteria outlined in the National NIHOA and Mass. Congress of NIHOA Constitutions.

IV. MEMBERSHIP: There shall be three classes of membership: Approved, Apprentice and Honorary. Any person shall be eligible to apply for membership in the chapter. Application for membership shall be made to the Secretary of the chapter and shall be accompanied by any fees imposed by the chapter. An applicant for membership must apply to the chapter within the established boundaries as defined by the Mass. Congress of NIHOA. Exceptions to this are detailed in the Mass. Congress of NIHOA Constitution. The Executive Board of the chapter shall establish qualifications for membership, which shall include achieving a passing grade on a written examination on ice hockey rules administered by the chapter and complete a skating test conducted by the chapter.

The chapter shall administer a written examination to its membership on an annual basis, on the ice hockey rules applicable to the chapter’s membership. The chapter Secretary will promptly notify the National Secretary-Treasurer upon the admission of any new member, of any transferred member or of any member no longer in good standing.
A member of the chapter may be reinstated to active membership upon application to the chapter Secretary and, if the Executive Board was involved in that individual’s cessation of active membership, upon approval of the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall have the power, by majority vote, to approve or deny reinstatement.

An apprentice member is one who is a candidate for approved membership who is subject to all of the requirements as defined by the Executive Board. The Apprentice shall be eligible for Approved status after a minimum of one (1) year. Approved status is contingent on a passing grade on the closed book rules test, a skating test and a majority vote of the Executive Board.

An Apprentice Member may maintain Apprentice status for no longer than 3 years upon which time he/she will be required to reapply for membership to the chapter.

Any former active member who has ceased to be an active NIHOA official may be nominated to become an honorary member of the chapter provided that the individual has been an active member in good standing of the chapter for at least ten years, that the individual has been actively officiating ice hockey games for at least ten years and was in good standing with the chapter at the time of retirement. All such nominations shall be voted on by the Executive Board. Upon affirmative vote of the Executive Board and acceptance by the National Board of Directors at its annual meeting, each individual shall become an honorary member of NIHOA for life, but without the right to vote or the obligation to pay dues.

V. EXECUTIVE BOARD: The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President, and five at-large members. The Executive Board is empowered to act on behalf of the chapter with respect to any and all business relating to the chapter.

VI. OFFICERS: There shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Chapter Secretary shall promptly notify the National Secretary-Treasurer of their election.

VII. ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE: The President and Vice President shall be elected every two years by and from the general membership at its last regularly-scheduled meeting of the year for terms to begin July 1st. They shall serve until June 30th of the second year following their election or until their successors are elected.

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected every three years by and from the general membership at its last regularly scheduled meeting of the year for a term to begin July 1st. These individuals shall serve until June 30th of the third year following their election or until their successors are elected.

The five at-large members of the Executive Board shall be elected from the general membership as follows: three (3) to serve a 2-year term and two (2) to serve a one-year term; elections to be held by the general membership at its last regularly scheduled meeting of the year for a term to begin July 1st. These individuals shall serve until June 30th of the year(s) following their election or until their successors are elected.
VIII. PRESIDENT: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and the general membership and shall have the authority to act in their behalf. This individual shall conduct all negotiations in behalf of the chapter and shall make every reasonable effort to further policies adopted by the National Association and the chapter. This individual shall appoint other committees as may be deemed appropriate.

IX. FILLING OF VACANCIES: In the case of death, removal, resignation, absence or the inability to act of the President, the Vice President shall assume the duties of the President.

In the case of death, removal, resignation, absence or the inability to act of the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or any member of the Executive Board, the President shall have the authority to appoint an active member of the chapter to fill the remainder of that individual’s term of office, subject to the approval of the majority of the Executive Board.

X. SECRETARY: The Secretary shall record, or cause to be recorded, the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board, the Executive Committee and the general membership. This individual shall send notices to the general membership and bills, annually, for membership dues. The Secretary shall investigate, at the request of the Executive Board, complaints against members and shall present to the Executive Board all evidence procured. The Secretary shall maintain all records and recordings in a manner that is transferable to his/her successor.

XI. TREASURER: The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection of membership dues. The Treasurer shall draw up an operating budget which, when approved by the general membership at its last regularly scheduled meeting of the year, will be binding upon the chapter for the following operating year.

XII. DUES: Membership dues in the chapter and any fines or late fees shall be fixed annually by the Executive Board at its last regularly scheduled meeting of the year. Dues are payable by April 1st of each year for the following season.

Any member who is delinquent in paying their dues (after April 30th) in two consecutive years will be no longer be a member of the chapter and may reapply for membership after a one year waiting period.

XIII. MEETINGS: The Executive Board shall meet before October 1st each season with the time and date being determined by the President. Special meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at the call of the President. The President must call such meetings when requested to do so by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

There shall be a minimum of five, general membership, business meetings annually. Two of these four meetings shall be scheduled during the MIAA Ice Hockey Season (end of November through February). Attendance at four of these meetings is required to maintain membership. Excused absences shall be defined by the Executive Board. Failures to maintain membership requirements will result in immediate suspension from the chapter until reinstatement requirements, as determined by the Executive Board, are met. A “call to meet” shall be made to the
general membership not less than four-weeks prior to the scheduled date of their meeting. This “call to meet” shall be delivered via email and via notice on the chapter’s website.

XIV. VOTE AND QUORUM: A majority of the Executive Board or one-third of the general membership, at their respective meetings, shall constitute a quorum in order to conduct the business of the chapter. The act of the majority of the Executive Board or general membership present at their respective meetings, at which a quorum is present, shall be the act of the meeting. Proxy voting is not permitted.

XV. EXPENSES: The expenses of Officers in conducting the business of the chapter shall be paid from the funds of the treasury when, in the opinion of the Executive Board, the financial condition justifies such expenditures.

XVI. COMMITTEES: The President shall appoint an Audit Committee, with the approval of the Executive Board, which shall be composed of two active members of the chapter whose duties shall be to audit and check accounts of the Treasurer and to do so prior to the last regularly scheduled meeting of the year of the general membership. The Audit Committee shall report its findings to the Executive Board prior to this meeting and to the general membership at this meeting.

The President shall appoint a Scholarship Committee, with the approval of the Executive Board, which shall be composed of 5 active members of the chapter whose duties shall be to distribute post-secondary financial assistance, based on availability of funds and other criteria, to graduating Central Massachusetts high school ice hockey playing seniors, who will continue their education at an accredited post-secondary educational institution. The Scholarship Committee shall recommend annually to the Executive Board, for its approval, the maximum number of scholarships to be awarded and their values.

The Scholarship Committee shall make known to the Central Massachusetts hockey community the availability of scholarships, as well as the application process to become a candidate for consideration to receive a scholarship. The committee shall develop criteria by which candidates are selected and funds are distributed to recipients. The committee shall report its selections to the Executive Board for its review not later than May 15th and, after which shall notify all candidates of its selections not later than June 1st of the year candidates will enter a post-secondary institution.

The Scholarship Committee shall report annually to the general membership, at the first meeting of the general membership, its actions for the previous twelve month period. The funds of the Scholarship Committee shall be kept by the CMHOA Treasurer in an account separate from the general funds of the chapter and, such funds shall be audited by the Audit Committee prior to the last regularly scheduled meeting of the year of the general membership. The Audit Committee shall report its findings to the Executive Board prior to this meeting and to the general membership at this meeting.

XVII. 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 Constitution and policies applicable to this chapter 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
chapter. Every member is responsible for the protection of the assets of the chapter and for maintaining its professional image in words spoken or written, deeds and appearance (both on and off the ice). In addition, members are personally responsible for safeguarding and accounting for all chapter assets entrusted to their individual control.

XVIII. FEES: Game fees are the responsibility of each assigning authority. Members shall not independently charge less than the established fees nor be a member of any organized association whose membership underbids that of the chapter or its assigning authority’s fee structure.

XIX. IMPEACHMENT AND DISCIPLINE: Any active member in good standing may seek to impeach or discipline any other member for conduct, which may bring discredit to the chapter. The charges may be submitted by the President or to the President by any member of the chapter. Full and complete notice to any member sought to be disciplined must be given by the President or Secretary. Such notice shall include the nature and substance of the allegations against said member and the opportunity to present evidence to rebut such allegations. The Executive Board shall examine the evidence and, after conscientiously weighing the facts presented, shall render a decision on discipline. A majority vote of the Executive Board shall be required for expulsion.

XX. ASSIGNMENTS AND PENALTIES: Each official who accepts a formal assignment from an assigning authority does so under the penalty of a full game fee for each assignment missed. If the fine is not paid to the Treasurer within one week of notification from the assigning authority, said member will be automatically suspended from the chapter and will be subject to any reinstatement fees as determined by the Executive Board.

XXI. CHANGE IN CONSTITUTION: The chapter’s Constitution may be amended by an affirmative vote of three-quarters of the general membership present at its meeting, at which a quorum is present.

XXII. ORDER OF BUSINESS: Parliamentary procedure under the chapter’s Constitution shall be governed by Roberts’ Rules of Order, revised. The order of business at each regularly scheduled meeting shall be: Roll Call, Reading of Minutes from the previous meeting, Treasurer’s Report, Communications, New Business, Unfinished Business, and Adjournment.