



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release: Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008

SEVENTH WHEA SEASON OPENS THIS WEEKEND AT UCONN **~League introduces shootouts for upcoming season~**

WAKEFIELD, Mass. - The seventh season of WHEA regular-season play will commence on September 27, 2008 when Connecticut hosts Sacred Heart at Freitas Ice Forum in Storrs, Conn. In addition, seven exhibition games will be played over the weekend, involving seven league institutions.

The league will introduce shootouts to WHEA league play, as well as in selected non-conference contests, as determined by the host school. The decision was made by the league athletic directors via conference call in mid-September.

The league will implement the NCAA's three-shooter system at the end of 65 minutes of play, as one of three conferences to do so for the upcoming season, along with the CCHA men and WCHA women for the 2008-09 season. If tied, each team will earn one point at the end of the overtime and the winner of the shootout will gain another point in the league standings.

"The league is excited to bring another aspect to the game for the fans and I certainly think the student-athletes will also enjoy the added element of breaking ties," said Bertagna.

The regular season will determine the six teams that qualify for the Hockey East Championship Tournament. The league athletic directors voted to expand the tournament field to six teams at the annual conference meetings in Naples, Fla. in April of 2008. The third and fourth seeds in the tournament will host a quarterfinal round game on Saturday, February 28 or Sunday, March 1 on their respective campuses. The advancing teams will then be reseeded with the top two seeds to play on the site of the highest seed in the semifinal round on Saturday, March 7. The winners will qualify for the seventh annual Hockey East Championship Game on Sunday, March 8.

The Women's Hockey East Association is an eight-team, Division-I college hockey conference which began play in 2002-2003, with offices based in Wakefield, Mass. The league also sponsors an 10 team men's league which began play in 1984-1985.

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