

WESTERN NEW YORK AMATEUR HOCKEY LEAGUE, INC.
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES and REGULATIONS
2025 – 2026

Where Every Game Counts, and Every Player Matters

The Western New York Amateur Hockey League, Inc. (WNYAHL), hereafter referred to as "the League," operates under its own established rules, regulations, and policies designed to ensure consistency, fairness, and accountability across all member associations. The guidelines outlined in this book are intended to support the smooth operation of League activities and may include additional restrictions or clarifications as needed.

The League reserves the right to update or modify these rules at any time during the season as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Board of Directors. Any changes will be communicated promptly to association presidents and/or representatives as listed in the League's official contact records.

Mission Statement

The Western New York Amateur Hockey League is committed to providing a safe, fair, and competitive environment where every player has the opportunity to grow, learn, and excel through the game of hockey. We strive to promote respect, sportsmanship, and teamwork both on and off the ice, while ensuring that all participants, players, coaches, officials, and families, share in the values of integrity, accountability, and community.

Our mission is to foster lifelong love of the game by offering structured league play, skill development, and positive experiences that strengthen individuals and build stronger associations across Western New York.

A Membership, Voting Rights and Dues

- 1) The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the elected officers of the League and the three Liaisons who will have the powers of the Board between meetings unless the Board expressly limits their powers.
- 2) The elected officers and each member association will have one vote. Only association representatives or their alternates will be allowed to vote.
 - a. Any Association(s) that wish(es) to become members can do so by making a formal application in a written letter to the league President and Executive Director. The association will become a member only after being accepted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors.
 - b. Once admitted to membership, an association may continue to be a member provided it regularly attends meetings, pays its dues, fees and fines on a timely basis, obeys the rules of the League, is a member in good standing with all governing bodies and is not otherwise terminated with or without reason by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors.
- 3) League fees/dues to be determined annually by the board. These fees/dues must be paid 14 days after the invoice date for all teams.
 - a. For the 2025-26 season League Fees are \$700.
 - b. Failure to pay league fees in a timely fashion will result in a late fee of:
 - (1) \$500 if received from 15-21 days after the invoice date,
 - (2) \$1000 late fee if received 22 – 30 days after the invoice date.
 - (3) Any payments received AFTER 35 days or later, after the original invoice date will incur a \$1500 late fee in addition to a mandatory hearing of the non-compliant organization with the WNYAHL Executive Board.
 - c. Annual fees/dues that are not paid within the designated time frame shall result in all teams from the non-compliant organization to be disqualified from league play until all fees are satisfied. Any extenuating circumstances that would prohibit payment of dues/fees must be brought before the board in writing by the president of the organization.

B Season

- 1) The Board of Directors shall determine the exact date of the season for all divisions at least ten (10) days prior to the Annual Scheduling Meeting. The meeting shall take place at least ten (10) days prior to the commencement of the season unless otherwise determined by the board.
- 2) Each team must meet ALL their league and playdown commitments. Any team and/or an association may be disqualified or suspended from the WNYAHL by the Board, pending the outcome of a hearing, for not meeting their league commitment(s) or allowing a forfeiture without good and sufficient reason.
- 3) Playoffs, sectionals and championship tournaments take precedence over any other commitments, and no association shall schedule other conflicting play during these times. Failure to comply may result in forfeiture, fines or suspensions as determined by the President with appeal to the Board of Directors.

C Registration

- 1) All organizations must be members in good standing with their governing body, USAH, NY State hockey or Hockey Canada to participate in the WNYAHL.
- 2) **Team Declaration:** Each Association shall inform the League of their intention to register a team and the division in which they will play on June 1st unless another designated date has been established. The method of notification of intent to enter a team shall include an organization team declaration overview listing all teams, level, strength and division request on 1 page and individual team application forms for each declared team. Organizations which have not timely notified the League of their intention to register a team or teams by June 1st of the current season will result in a \$250 fine to the organization. Failure to submit team declarations and applications by June 1st for each individual team in the league will result in a \$200 fine per team. No application will be accepted after June 30th of the current season unless deemed in the best interest of the WNYAHL. The Board has the discretion to add or refuse late applications in any event. Any team not represented at the Annual Scheduling Meeting may not thereafter be registered without approval of the President or the Board and the payment of the late fee(s) as determined. No teams may be added after the commencement of the Tournament Bound Division.

- 3) The WNYAHL as a membership body accept and adopt USA Hockey's lead in that we do not recognize the designations of Tier 1 - AAA, Tier 2 - AA, or Tier 3 - A, including on a roster or team name when setting up teams and league divisions, until the 12u age division (Pee Wee Major) level of play, when teams can compete for their respective district/state tournaments.
- 4) No teams may call themselves a Tier1, Tier 2 or Tier 3 team. AAA, AA, A unless said team is TB.
- 5) AAA teams playing in a "AAA" division and up a level or at the same age level within WNYAHL must be the same team using the same playing roster for both divisions.
- 6) **Player/Team registration**
 - a. All individual participants and teams in the league shall be properly registered with USA Hockey before the start of the league season.
 - b. Dual registration of players in multiple clubs is not allowed in the Western Section of NYSAHA
 - c. Participants and teams will adhere to the classifications of USA Hockey. The classifications of a player shall be determined by his/her age at midnight on December 31st prior to or during the current playing season.
 - d. Teams may not participate in games against non-registered teams or events
 - e. All players 8 and under will play cross ice. The league will determine if a Mite Jamboree league will occur season to season.
 - f. The following is a quick reference for registering for the current season. Note that the USA Hockey on-line Registration is available beginning on April 1st. The USAH season is from September 1st through August 31st.

2025– 2026 SEASON AGE CLASSIFICATIONS
USA Hockey Playing Season: September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026

YOUTH TEAMS		
DATE OF BIRTH	AGE CATEGORY	AGE DIVISIONS
2007	18 YEARS	18 & UNDER
2008	17 YEARS	18 & UNDER
2009	16 YEARS	16 & UNDER
2010	15 YEARS	16 & UNDER
2011	14 YEARS	14 & UNDER
2012	13 YEARS	14 & UNDER
2013	12 YEARS	12 & UNDER
2014	11 YEARS	12 & UNDER
2015	10 YEARS	10 & UNDER
2016	9 YEARS	10 & UNDER
2017	8 YEARS	8 & UNDER
2018	7 YEARS	8 & UNDER
2019	6 YEARS	6 & UNDER

GIRL'S & WOMEN'S TEAMS		
DATE OF BIRTH	AGE CATEGORY	AGE DIVISIONS
2006	19 YEARS	19 & UNDER
2007	18 YEARS	19 & UNDER
2008	17 YEARS	19 & UNDER
2009	16 YEARS	16 & UNDER
2010	15 YEARS	16 & UNDER
2011	14 YEARS	14 & UNDER
2012	13 YEARS	14 & UNDER
2013	12 YEARS	12 & UNDER
2014	11 YEARS	12 & UNDER
2015	10 YEARS	10 & UNDER
2016	9 YEARS	10 & UNDER
2017	8 YEARS	8 & UNDER
2018	7 YEARS	8 & UNDER
2019	6 YEARS	6 & UNDER

Important note: If a player's registration is completed with a wrong year of birth and should be at a different fee then USA Hockey national office will refund the original registration fee and have the individual register again. This will result in the person getting a NEW Confirmation number. The old confirmation number will be deleted from the national database and if it was already claimed to your association the process of us deleting it will remove this number from your Registry. You will need to get the NEW confirmation number from that member to claim them again with the correct DOB. Example player registers with 2018 and should be 2011 this would result in us processing a refund for the 2018 and having member register again and getting new number. If the error is just in the day or month or stays within the same fee, then we can correct this in the national database and re-sync to the Registry without a new registration needing to be completed.

7) Rosters

a. General Information

- (1) All Players, coaches and manager/volunteer/team rep must be registered with USAH, pay the appropriate fees and placed on an official USA Hockey Roster generated from the USAH Portal Registry. There is no charge to register with USAH for Managers/volunteers. (See below for the fees for the current season)
- (2) All team names must follow the naming convention as outlined in the NY Technical bulletin.
- (3) Teams will be identified by their roster Team ID # as well as the head coach. Roster should clearly note if the team is State or National Bound by having the letters "TB" in the team's name.
- (4) **NYSAHA Rule Requirement: Teams must use their registering club name not a nickname or pseudonym. Games will not count unless registering club's name is used on scoresheets and official documents. In addition, the Team ID number from the USAH roster must be on the scoresheet for the team.** Teams should be aware of who they are playing and ensure the team is a USAH member program.
- (5) **NO ONE SHOULD BE ON THE ICE WITHOUT BEING ON AN APPROVED ROSTER** – Associations are to enforce this within their programs.

b. Coaches and Staff

- (1) The head coach is responsible for the team, approved roster, or eligible players and all staff.
- (2) Prior to roster placement each coach and staff member must be screened as per NYSAHA/USAH. Screening is good for 2 seasons. **Anyone not showing as screened in the USAH Portal will not be able to be placed on the roster. The person must RESCREEN.**
- (3) All coaches (head coaches and all assistants), listed on the roster must have a current certification (unexpired) at the proper level and completion of the age appropriate module as outlined by USA Hockey and NYSAHA prior to working with any team in WNYAHL and being placed on a roster. Only properly registered coaches will be allowed on the bench. It is the responsibility of each Organization to ensure that every coach is credentialed properly for their age group and that each coach is appropriately certified. Coaches that are not qualified and those not meeting the requirement should not be coaching.
- (4) **USAH mandates all coaches have the age module prior to roster placement and working with any team.**
- (5) All coaches must take the USAH SafeSport training prior to being placed on the roster. SafeSport training is good for 1 season.
- (6) Coaches with expired CEP, no age module completion, not screened, SafeSport certified or redlined on the current roster, cannot participate with a team in league play.
- (7) Every team must have a **minimum of three (3) coaches** listed on the roster for the season and a designated Manager. A minimum of 2 coaches should be on the bench for each game. Teams not in compliance may be subjected to further discipline as well as their organization.
- (8) NYSAHA rules allow coaching changes to be made at any time during the season.

Coaching Education Information

- Level 1, 2, 3 will be valid for one season; the Level 3 recerts have been removed; Level 1, 2 or 3 will not be able to earn coaching education credits to bank for future use
- As of the 2021-22 season, coaches who obtained a Level 4 are part of the continuing education path. Their education will be valid for three (3) seasons; coach needs to take 5 credits of continuing education to advance the expiration to the next three-year cycle.
- As of the 2021-22 season, coaches who obtained a Level 5 will be valid for four (4) seasons. If a coach was a Level 4 with expiration of 12/31/2019 then the Level 5 will also stay with the 12/31/2019 unless that individual in the future coaches a Tier I or Tier II team, then they would change to the continuing education based on the grandfather clause below.
- Grandfathered Level 4 & 5 coaches; if the coach had their Level 4 or 5 prior to January 1, 2021 and was not a coach on a category Tier I or Tier II roster since that date, they are grandfathered into the system and their expiration remains as 12/31/2019. If they do coach on a category Tier I or Tier II roster from the 2020-21 season or after, the expiration changed from 12/31/2019 to the three-year expiration and they are now on the continuing education path. Once a grandfathered coach is on the continuing education path they will remain on that path.

- Continuing Education courses will be provided by the Coaches Section; these could be virtual or in-person courses, online videos or goaltending clinics. Additional information on the credit classes will be coming.
- The Registry/Admin will include information on the CEP Level as well as how many earned credits a coach has available. This will show in reports, in personnel and in roster views.
- A coach who is on continuing education path is required to earn 5 credits before their expiration date; if they earn more than 5 credits once they hit their expiration date all earned credits will go to zero and the expiration will move out to a new expiration date (3 years for Level 4, four years for Level 5). Extra credits over 5 will not carry over.
- If a coach reaches the expiration date and does not have 5 credits they will be redlined on 1/1/YYYY by the Associate or District Registrar and not eligible for that season until they complete the credit requirement. Once the next season start the coach would have until 12/31 to earn 5 credits and advance the expiration date. A coach can be on a roster with an expired CEP as they have until 12/31 to take a course or earn the necessary credits; unless your district or affiliate has rules in place that require the CEP to be valid before being placed on a roster.

Other Requirements for Coaches

- Coaches MUST have the appropriate module completed PRIOR to being placed on a roster.
- Age Modules will change in the 2022-23 season from the 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U and 16U/18U/19U modules and will combine some age classifications. The new modules will be 8&Under, 12&Under and 13&Over.
- If a coach already has a 10U module and coaching a 10U team they would not need to take the new 12&Under module. However, if they are coaching a 12U team and did not have the 12U module then they would need to take the new 12&Under module and the 10U and 12U modules are now combined in one.
- Remind your coaches that they must have current CEP completed by 12/31 or they will be redlined as of January 1st.
- **Please encourage coaches to use their legal name when registering so their coaching education (clinics and modules), safe sport and screening show in their record. Example if history is Michael Smith and new registration is Mike Smith the system will create a new record and not connect previous education and compliance.**
- All coaches must enter USA Hockey's Coaching Education Program at Level 1, and must continue their education with a coaching clinic every year until, at a minimum, they achieve Level 4. Coaches of only 8 and Under players, **as well as coaches of disabled hockey**, may remain at a Level 1 **or other certification level, even if expired**, until such time as they are coaching any older age level of play **or something other than disabled hockey**.

Safe Sport

- All coaches are required to have current/completed Safe Sport training PRIOR to participation in your program.
- Managers and volunteers must also complete Safe Sport in order to be placed on a team roster.
- **All players, 2005 birth year and older, participating on a team with minor participants will need to complete Safe Sport training PRIOR to being allowed to participate in any program.**
- Safe Sport training is available free of charge to anyone (including parents) as long as they have a USA Hockey confirmation number.
- **Safe Sport is required annually and will expire on the exact date it was taken in the previous season.** Individuals will take the core training the first season after that a Refresher course is available each subsequent season.
- **USA Hockey will communicate with members during the season to remind them to renew their registration on their annual date.**
- **USAH Will automatically redline any expired staff, volunteers, players that do not meet the SafeSport training requirements.**
- The words "SafeSport verified" will appear on the personnel screen for any member in your program who has current/completed training. That information will also be reflected on the official roster. You can generate a Safe Sport report from your registry as needed. The report will indicate the date in which the member needs to renew their training.
- Additional information can be found in the Safe Sport Handbook, located in the Registry, Forms.

National Background Screening

USA Hockey National screening started in the 2020-21 season. NCSI is the company that processes the background screen for USA Hockey members. All adult coaches, officials, board members, employees, volunteers, and anyone else who will have regular contact with, or authority over, athletes under the age of 18 are required to submit to a background screen.

Screening must be completed before a person begins having regular contact with minor athletes. **You will not be able to add Team Staff (Coach or Manager) to a Youth/Girls/HS Roster until their Background Screen has been completed.**

The words Verified or Verified with conditions will appear on the Personnel screen for any member who has completed the background screen. If verified with conditions, the terms of those conditions will be provided to the affiliate, District Registrar and association through separate correspondence. Screening will also be reflected on the Official Roster and on the Credentials Verification sheet. You can also generate a Safe Sport & Screening Report from your Registry. This report will show you the season in which the participant needs to renew their Safe Sport Training and Background Screening.

Screening is valid for two seasons. To start a background screen go to: <https://www.usahockey.com/backgroundscreen>

Members will receive an email after their screening has been submitted for processing which will provide them with an Applicant ID Number. This number or other identifiers can be used for the member to check their status online at www.ncsisafe.com and click on "check your background screening status". The status will indicate in process or completed. The screening process generally takes 10 business days to complete.

C. Participants (including Alternates)

- (1) All participants on teams must adhere to the proper registration requirements by USAH, NYSAHA and those further outlined in this section. The term "Alternate" is used as a term WNYAHL and other leagues; however under USAH Rules that designation does not exist and all players are considered full time rostered players. The alternate designation should not be on the roster.
- (2) Teams may use alternate players during the season provided they also meet the following criteria required by all youth participants in WNYAHL
- (3) Each roster shall list the participants' name and birth year that are eligible to participate on that team. Participant signatures on rosters are NOT REQUIRED by USAH, NYSAHA or WNYAHL. The head coach and staff will also be listed on the roster with their CEP information, module taken, screening and SafeSport training. A copy of this roster approved by the USA Hockey registrar must be **submitted to the WNYAHL division Statistician prior to the start of the season**. All rostered players must meet the criteria listed in these rules and regulations. Roster Links from the current USAH registry can be sent to the Executive Director.
- (4) Each team may roster up to 20 players' maximum at any given time including goaltenders and alternates (Maximum skaters is 18 excluding goaltenders).
- (5) **WNYAHL: All minor age travel divisions in the WNYAHL (9, 11,13,15) will be comprised of players that are pure minor birth year and younger (one level lower). Birth years will be based on USAH ages for the current season.**
- (6) All players must be age eligible to participate on the rostered team
- (7) Tier I – 13 only and 15 only teams will have a USAH national tournament.
- (8) All players MUST be a member of the same organization with the exception of Girls and High School (note: **MOHL** rules limit travel participation) The participants and/or addition of players will not exceed the 18-skater limit as set forth by USA Hockey for any team in the WNYAHL travel divisions or **MOHL**.
- (9) Playing Down is not allowed; meaning overage players are not permitted to participate on younger teams. All players must be of the same age level. USAH rules will be followed in governance.
- (10) Can only be rostered on one tournament bound team – **once dropped from a TB roster, the player may not be placed back on that TB roster.**
- (11) Players listed on TB teams as their primary team cannot be alternates on any teams within WNYAHL even if they are age eligible unless there are extenuating circumstances and with prior approval by the Executive Director.
- (12) Teams requiring an emergency goaltender may be granted an exception if circumstances warrant an exception. The Executive Director must be contacted for approval. Goaltenders must be from the same organization for consideration.
- (13) Players in the WNYAHL Cannot be rostered on a Junior or College team
- (14) Alternate players can only play in a total of **10 any games (league, scrimmage, tournament etc.) as an alternate**. Upon playing in the 11th game that player can no longer participate on the lower/original team in any WNYAHL play. **MOHL players playing as alternates on travel teams can play 10 league games at travel before being considered ineligible.**
- (15) Alternate players should participate in at least **5 league games** with a team to be eligible for **WNYAHL and MOHL playoffs**
- (16) **MOHL TEAM ROSTERS:** Players participating on "Junior" or college teams are not allowed to be rostered on any M.O.H.L. team. Players in the same organization can only play for the **MOHL** team for which they are rostered. Sharing of players between teams will not be allowed. A rostered **MOHL** player may be an alternate on a travel team but can only play up to 10 games total with a travel team as an alternate.
 - Head coaches are responsible for their team's conduct both on and off the ice. All coaches listed on a team roster, must be certified at the proper level, and have completed the appropriate module as outlined by USA Hockey. All coaches will also be properly screened under NYSAHA/USAH.
 - LRM must be available at all times monitoring the locker room and all players while the locker room is in use before and after the game.

d. Roster Changes:

- (1) The USAH District/Associate registrar and division statistician must be notified in writing and by phone at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to adding a new player or deleting a current player from the team roster. All changes are not official until approved and officially

added to a roster. A copy of the approved amended roster including the additional or deleted players must then be sent to the statistician within 72 hours.

- (2) Player movement, roster changes
 - a. Rosters will freeze for High School Friendly split season 15 only, 16u and 18u teams on November 15, 2025.
 - b. All full season team rosters will freeze on December 31, 2025
 - c. **USA Hockey passed the rule that any player dropped from a tournament bound (TB) team cannot go back on that team's roster. NYSAHA has also adopted a rule that state once a player is dropped from any TB team, that player may not be rostered on another TB team at any level**
- (3) Roster changes for travel teams cannot be made after December 31st of the current playing season. All changes will be final as of December 31st of the current playing season. This applies to tournament bound and non-tournament bound teams within the WNYAHL. No player changes on rosters will be allowed for any team after December 31st.
- (4) Midget rosters freeze as of November 15 for tournament bound teams at all Tiers
- (5) **MOHL** and house rosters are not frozen.
- (6) Movement should go up as per USA Hockey, not down. USA Hockey defines levels as "Tier I, Tier II, Tier III – House/Rec. Selection order should start with the same age classification (lower-level team) first, and if not available, then move to the next younger age classification and progress to house/Rec teams.
- (7) Any player (alternate or primary) that participates in a NYSAHA State tournament at any level, are no longer eligible to participate in WNYAHL play. This includes playoffs and league championship games. Players need a minimum of 5 games to participate in WNYAHL playoffs and championships.
- (8) **Any team using an ineligible player(s) shall forfeit all league games in which such player(s) participated.** An ineligible player shall include one who is not properly registered with USA Hockey, on a suspension, redlined on a current roster, not birth and citizen verified, not properly rostered on a league team and/or with the division statistician, or is listed on the roster of a non-WNYAHL member organization or another organization's team. This includes out of district teams.

e. Final Rosters:

- (1) A roster must be submitted to the USA Hockey Registrar prior to the start of the season as well as submitted to the league before any league games are played. Final rosters must be submitted by December 31st of the current playing season to the league electronically by email sending the roster link from the current USAHA registry, scanned and emailed or by regular USPS Mail. A copy of this roster must also be sent to the division statistician. The final roster submitted to the statistician must include the signature and date of the district registrar.
- (2) **MOHL Rosters** – MOHL rosters do not freeze and can be changed and modified at any time. **However players must play in at least 5 games to qualify to play in the playoffs.**
- (3) **The HEAD COACH is responsible to check the roster and ensure all players are correctly listed and no one was omitted from the approved roster. Players participating and not properly rostered are considered ineligible players.**
- (4) Any team that **has not submitted its entire roster** will forfeit all scheduled League games until roster is submitted. Additional penalties, fines or further disciplinary action may be levied on any team and/or organization as deemed appropriate by the board. Teams may also be disqualified from playoff participation.
- (5) Any team(s) which begin league play, and which have not registered with USAH and has not submitted a roster (roster link) to the USAH registrar and the WNYAHL shall forfeit all league games prior to proper registration.

8) Injuries: Questions on the process can be directed to Deb Cravatta Assistant Executive Director at debcravatta@gmail.com

- a. Injury report link is for injuries that require medical attention. Remember it is important to report all injuries association and team representative/registrar for tracking and record keeping.
- b. As of January 1, 2025, all participant accident claims need to be submitted through the below Injury Report Link. USA Hockey is no longer using K&K as the TPA for the Participant Accident coverage. You should not distribute the K&K claim form to members as it will be returned. The new company, AG Administrators, will be processing the claim forms through this online link.
- c. The below Injury Report Link is what you would send to a member who needs to submit a claim, or you can refer them to <https://www.usahockey.com/filingaclaim> USA Hockey is in the process of editing the Member Brochure and Insurance Handbook. The K&K Insurance claim form has been removed from the USA Hockey Registry Portal
- d. Injury Report Link:
<https://agadmin.retool.com/embedded/public/6e78cb84-68da-4691-a66b-6a1147877fd3>
- e. A few differences to note about the online process:
 - (1) **Reporter** – this is the person that is submitting the claim. It could be the injured member, parent, or someone with the team.
 - (2) **Injured person** – this will be the person who has been injured. All fields need to be completed or if they do not apply enter N/A.
 - (3) **Verifier** – this is a person named by the Reporter that should be verifying that the event was sanctioned and did happen on the date and location as the reporter has indicated. The reporter is the one that will be entering this person's name, role, and email; it is suggested that the person is the coach, team manager, team physician, athletic trainer, or club administrator. In the case where an official is the injured person, the verifier will default to the District Referee-in-Chief where that member is from.
- f. Once the reporter submits the claim an email will be sent to the verifier to verify the information. The email will come from cdxnotify@agadministrators.com

- g. USA Hockey verifies the information prior to any claim being processed. Therefore make sure all staff and players are claimed to the association.

9) **Locker room Monitors**

- a. Every team must have a manager and Locker Room Monitor (LRM) listed on the roster before it can be approved. The LRM must be gender-specific: youth/boys' teams must have a male LRM, and girls' teams must have a female LRM. If there are any females on boys' teams, there must be at least two LRMs: one male and one female. It is not acceptable to list a female LRM with the expectation that she can work in tandem with a male coach or male LRM when they are present together. This practice is highly discouraged. Rosters will not be approved without following these protocols.

10) **Birth and Citizenship Verification**

- a. NYSAHA rules mandates that every player, house or travel, and females on a women's senior team that is national bound, be date of birth and citizenship verified prior to participation (on or off the ice) with their team. Failure to do so can mean forfeiture of all subject game(s) and Forfeiture fines may apply. Players not verified are ineligible for league play at any level until verified. This includes cross ice 6u and 8u.

11) **Twenty/Ten Game Rule credential requirement for Tournament Bound Teams**

- a. Each Tournament Bound (TB) team must have competed as a team in at least twenty (20) Games from the approval date on the roster
- b. Each player must have played in at least ten (10) games during the season with the Tournament bound team.
 - (1) Game clarification: A game is a match played against another team, from another USA Hockey registered member organization, Hockey Canada or another IIHF member organization. This team must be of the same competitive level.
 - (2) All games must be officiated by USAH registered officials to be legal and shall consist of a minimum of two (2) periods.
- c. For the 20/10 game requirement to count toward a state tournament credentials review, the 1 – T form (roster) must be signed and validated by the USA Hockey registrar. The Season for Squirt through Bantam begins September 1st of the current season and for Midgets August 15th. The latter date will be used to determine credentials. **NOTE: Tier III Midget credentials are 10/8. Girls/Women are 14/10**
- d. In order to be eligible for a State tournament, a team must complete its entire league schedule. If a tournament bound team fails to complete its league schedule, the NY District will be informed, and the team will be subject to the NY District rules and regulations which may include a loss of tournament eligibility for a NY District and/or National tournament as per NY District Rules.

12) **Record keeping responsibilities:**

- a. Each registered team shall have a team manager whose name, address and telephone number shall be sent out in the Hockey team registration and USA Hockey certified roster. The team manager, who may also be a head coach or assistant coach, shall be responsible for all record keeping of the team and shall have access to all documents necessary for credential review, tournaments, playoffs and championships.
- b. **Required documents** for Credentials shall comply with USAH and NYSAHA requirements for TB teams. Consult Janice Cavaretta at janice.cavaretta@usahockey.org or Deb Cravatta at debcravatta@gmail.com for the complete list of requirements
- c. The Code of Conduct is not required for any teams.
- d. The Consent to treat is required for all teams that will be attending a NY District tournament. This form must be signed in ink and available for each participant and staff member including the manager in the credential book. Electronic signatures are not acceptable.

D **League Play, League Games and Tournaments**

- (1) Number of games in league play shall be determined annually by the Executive Director on team declarations
- (2) Each team must play the required schedule of games set forth by the WNYAHL
- (3) It is recommended that no game shall be scheduled to start later than:

Squirts	8:30 p.m.
Pee Wee	9:00 p.m.
Bantam	9:45 p.m.
Midget	10:15 p.m.
- (4) Any deviation to the recommended times must be agreed upon by both teams and approved by the Division statistician. Remember these are only recommended times. Offered times should be fair and reasonable.
- (5) All league games shall be played using stop time penalties as outlined in the chart

Age Class	Warm-up	Period Length	Ice Cut During the Game	Minor Penalty	Major Penalty	Misconduct and game misconduct	Curfew allowed	Minimum Ice-Time including ice cut before the game	Time Out Allowed
NOTE: ALL TIMES LISTED ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON ANY FURTHER REQUIREMENTS BY USA HOCKEY OR NYSAHA									
2025-2026 GAME AND PENALTY TIMES * UPDATED: 06/24/2025									
18U TIER 1 TB ONLY	5	3-(20's)	After 2nd	2	5	10	No	No Curfew	Yes
ALL OTHER 18U TEAMS	3	3-(17's)	None	2	5	10	Yes	105 Minutes (95 min actual game time)	No
19U Girls	3	3-(17's)	None	2	5	10	Yes	100 minutes (90 minutes actual game time)	No
16U Youth Tier I TB	5	3-(17's)	None	2	5	10	No	No Curfew	Yes
ALL OTHER 16U Youth & Girls TB	3	3-(17's)	None	2	5	10	Yes	105 Minutes (95 min actual game time)	No
15 O Tier I TB	5	3-(17's)	None	2	5	10	No	No Curfew	Yes
15 WNY & All Other Non-TB teams	3	3-(17's)	None	2	5	10	Yes	100 minutes (90 minutes actual game time)	No
14 U Youth Tier I TB	5	3-(16's)	None	2	5	10	No	No Curfew	Yes
ALL OTHER 14U Youth & 14U Girls TB	3	3-(16's)	None	2	5	10	Yes	100 Minutes (90 minutes actual game time)	No
13 O Tier I TB	5	3-(16's)	None	2	5	10	No	No Curfew	Yes
13 WNY & All other Non-TB teams	3	3-(16's)	None	2	5	10	Yes	100 Minutes (90 minutes actual game time)	No
12U Youth Tier 1 TB	5	3-(15's)	None	1.5	4	8	No	No Curfew	Yes
ALL OTHER 11 & 12 U Youth & 12U Girls TB	3	3-(15's)	None	1.5	4	8	Yes	90 Minutes (80 minutes actual game time)	No
9 & 10U WNY & All other Non-TB teams	3	3-(12's)	None	1	3	6	Yes	70 Minutes (60 minutes actual game time)	No

8U AEM	3	2-(10), 1-(12)	None	1	3	6	Yes	60 Minutes 50 Minutes actual game time	No
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- (6) Late arrival players must follow USAH playing rules
- (7) A maximum of **eighteen (18)** skaters approved on the roster **excluding goalkeepers** shall be permitted. A starting line-up is not required.
- (8) A maximum of three alternate players may be used in a game provided they are properly rostered unless cleared by the WNYAHL prior to the game start time.
- (9) **Players' Bench area:** *Team Personnel are any non-playing persons not in uniform on the players' bench. All such persons must be registered in the current season as a Coach with USA Hockey, and must comply with coaching education requirements for the appropriate certification level as required by USA Hockey Coaching Education Program. One such person must be designated as the Head Coach. A player or goalkeeper on the roster who is unable to play, other than through suspension, may be on the players' bench without being considered a Team Personnel if he is wearing the team jersey and all required head and face protective equipment*
 - Trainers, managers, EMT's, parents etc. are not allowed on the bench

(10) Invitational Tournaments

If your program hosts an invitational tournament, you are required to sanction the tournament by submitting the Invitational Tournament Application form. The form for requesting sanctioning approval is an online application process at www.nysaha.com. As of April 12, 2021, the USA Hockey tournament sanction fee is \$250; additional fee for Canadian teams has been removed.

You are also required to verify that all participating teams are properly registered with USA Hockey or their country's federation. USA Hockey Official Team Roster Form (1-T) approved by the District or Associate Registrar shall be proof of proper registration and individual player age. Invitational tournaments shall not require player birth certificates for review.

Travel Permits: are required for any team from an affiliate requiring Travel Permits, and approved travel permits from Hockey Canada or member branches are required for all Canadian teams. An International Competition Travel Form is required for all other foreign teams. All forms are available in your Registry, click on 'Forms'.

E Home and Away Team Responsibilities

1) The home team shall be responsible for the following:

- a. **PLAYING ICE:** Supplying a suitable ice surface with proper equipment and gender equitable locker rooms for the game of ice hockey.
- b. **OFFICIALS:** Provide **USA Hockey registered officials** from an independent Referee Organization.
 - (1) Every home team shall arrange for the referees and may elect to utilize a two-official system, three official system or four official system.
 - (2) Only duly registered officials holding a current USAH Official card shall be authorized to serve as referees or linesmen in any WNYAHL and/or USAH sanctioned game. Parents, former and current players who are not registered officials cannot referee any game(s).
 - (3) Relatives of participants, parents, brothers, sisters, coaches, team members or those living in the same household should not be refereeing WNYAHL games. Having relatives or household members officiating games will only produce a negative outcome and cause grief. It should be avoided at all cost.
 - **Agreeing to the game:** If an official shows up to a game and realizes that a relative is on one of the teams in any capacity, full disclosure should be given to both team's head coaches. The head coaches at that time can either agree to the official and allow that person to referee the game or request that the official recuse themselves from the game.
 - Note: rejecting an official because of disclosure of a relative on one of the teams, may require rescheduling the game.
 - (4) It is also advised that the use of younger referees is encouraged if they are accompanied by a senior referee over the age of 21. Organizations are to communicate this with their assignor.
 - (5) Fees for referees are to be paid by the home team

c. SCORESHEET:

- (1) The official WNYAHL score sheet is the scoring iPad app "test flight" specifically designed for the league. Only the official E-Scoresheets app "Test flight" will be used for all league play and scrimmage games. This app is private and by invite only
 - a. Home team should supply the iPad and have the app already installed on the iPad
 - b. Before you enter in your team's roster check to see if your roster is in the app before using the app or score a game
 - c. If a team's roster is not in the iPad, it must be entered. Give yourself enough time or have it done before going to the rink.

- d. The team must use their official name as it appears on the approved USAH roster. This name has a specific naming convention.
 - e. The iPad should be given to the visiting team approximately 30 minutes before the start of the game to designate players as active, inactive, on suspension or injured.
 - f. Head coaches are responsible for ensuring all staff and players are properly listed on the scoresheet with the correct designation. Head coaches must mark players accordingly
 - g. Coaches are required to sign the iPad in the proper area.
 - h. For Test Flight Scoresheet app support contact
Kim Hubbard: 310hubbka@gmail.com
John Blando: Johnblando@cavnology.com
- d. **PLAYING TIME/ACTUAL GAME TIME:** Providing the proper playing time for each age group as defined in the chart in these rules.
- (1) Any Association unable to provide the required ice times should bring the problem to the Board of Directors before the Annual Scheduling Meeting.
 - (2) In order to aid in the completion of games, all teams will be limited to
 - A three (3) minute on ice warm-up immediately following the exit of the Zamboni. The referee will call delay of game on any team not ready to play three (3) minutes after the ice has been resurfaced. The offending team then has two (2) minutes before a second delay of game is called. If the team is not ready after two (2) more minutes, the game is forfeited. If there is to be no curfew the above rule may be suspended only upon prior agreement with both coaches and the ice rink personnel. The referee should be notified immediately to avoid confusion.
 - There are no time outs in curfewed games
- e. **SPECTATORS, PARENTS AND OFF ICE OFFICIALS:** To maintain order and good behavior of the spectators and rink personnel.
- (1) The WNYAHL holds each member team/association responsible for policing the conduct of the coach, player, spectator and parents at sanctioned events (games/practices).
 - (2) If the member team/association fails to act, WNYAHL reserves the right to suspend the association and/or have any person who causes a disturbance removed from the playing area.
 - (3) Parents, spectators or staff who interfere with any game or become rowdy, obnoxious, abusive or exercises unsportsmanlike conduct in any way may be ejected from the arena and may be barred from further participation with the WNYAHL. The association is responsible.
 - (4) Parents and spectators must conduct themselves according to the USAH "Spectator Code of Conduct" and "Zero Tolerance Policy". Failure to follow proper code of conduct will result in disciplinary action by the association.
 - (5) Artificial noisemakers such as air-horns, pennies in bottles or jars, megaphones etc. are prohibited.
 - (6) The referee may hold up the game until such person(s) are removed. Incidents of this nature will be noted by the referee on the official scoresheet and referred to the disciplinary panel for any necessary action. Associations should be pro-active on these issues.
- f. If a parent refuses to abide by a written request or ruling of the disciplinary panel, the player of that parent shall be barred from competition. In ice arenas where referees go through a public area to the locker room, a team official should accompany them.
- g. To maintain necessary facilities and personnel to ensure the prompt and competent treatment of injuries.

h. NYSAHA Rules on Parent and offending party

K. NYSAHA OFFENDING PARTY AND PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT (NYSAHA-03 Mandatory Signature) Effective 2025 – 2026 Season

An offending party and parent/guardian (hereinafter "offending party") conduct, before, during, and after a game is subject to review and possible sanction by NYSAHA. In addition, offending parties are prohibited from approaching game officials as the officials are coming off the ice and are walking to their locker room, or to/from the facility. Any abusive behavior or language towards an official will result in the offending party being ejected.

If a game official or a League/Tournament official (USA Hockey Sanctioned Event) deems it necessary to eject an offending party, the following shall occur:

- a. The offending party will be ejected and shall leave the rink property and shall not be allowed reentry to the property for a minimum of three (3) hours.
- b. If and when possible, the scoresheet shall be documented that an ejection occurred. Whenever possible, the offending party's name should be documented on the scoresheet. The referee will file a USA Hockey Incident report within twenty-four (24) hours.
- c. The team and/or Association of the offending party shall be sanctioned per incident, including but not limited the setting of fines of \$500.00. In the event a fine is assessed against a team and/or Association the same shall be paid by check or money

order to NYSAHA within thirty (30) days of Notice of said fine.

d. The offending party shall be summarily suspended by their association from attending any NYSAHA and/USA Hockey activities for thirty (30) days. A hearing shall be held upon request. The hearing shall be held by the Association with appeals as outlined in Rule 8 Disciplinary procedure.

e. The team Coach, Manager and/or Association President shall be responsible for facilitating compliance with this rule including assisting with identification of the offending party for the scoresheet.

f. Persons receiving a second offending party ejection at any time in the same playing season may be banned from attending any NYSAHA and/or USA Hockey activities for the remainder of that season or for additional seasons as appropriate.

g. Teams that have incurred multiple offending party ejections at any time in the same playing season may be subject to a ban on parent/guardian attendance for all future games the remainder of the season, at NYSAHA discretion.

h. If a party who has signed this Code of Conduct brings offending party(s) with them to an event covered by this Code, the party shall be responsible for the actions of those offending parties as if the offending party(s) signed this Code of Conduct, and the party shall be subject to appropriate discipline arising from the conduct of the offending party(s).

I have read the above; I agree to abide by the code of conduct established by NYSAHA.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian Signature

i. **OFF – ICE OFFICIALS:** To supply competent minor officials.

- (1) A qualified scorekeeper and timekeeper that knows how to use the iPad, penalty box supervisor and all needed facilities including an extra stopwatch, whistle, and first aid kit. The scorekeeper will have prior to the start of the game the **OFFICIAL** WNYAHL scoresheet furnished by the home team, completely filled in by both competing teams, legible and signed as required.
- (2) Away team has the option to supply a penalty box supervisor and a scorekeeper, and these officials are to be in place before the start of any game.
- (3) The minor official(s) responsibilities include:
 - a) knowledge of proper usage of the clock
 - b) proper procedure for using the iPad scoring system Test Flight, completing and finalizing the scoresheet
 - c) requesting that referees print their name on the sheet prior to the start of the game and making sure they sign after the game
 - d) asking the referees to clarify any confusion with in-game procedures or penalties
 - e) Ensuring that a curfew is listed and both team coaches/staff and officials are informed of such.
- (4) **CURFEW** - To designate a **curfew prior** to game time on the scoresheet and ensure all parties, away team, home team and officials know how curfew will be determined.
 1. Home team must designate the clock or other timepiece used to determine the curfew and notify the visiting team's coach and the referee of such.
 2. **IMPORTANT *** CURFEW PROCEDURE:**
 - a. No change in curfew is allowed once the game commences
 - b. The minor official is in charge of the game regarding starting and curfew.
 - c. Curfew procedure is that during a stoppage of play prior to curfew, the minor official will notify the referees and both benches that the curfew is nearing.
 - d. When curfew is reached the game is over, even without a whistle.

F Game, Scoresheet and Reporting Requirements

1. Reporting Procedures

- a. Each team in the league will designate a person to correspond with the league.
 - i. The designee will be the responsible party that will officially report scores, maintain the website team page, report game misconducts and where applicable match penalties for the team.
- b. Home team reporting responsibilities
 - i. The home team will finalize the game within 24 hours of completion of the game. **There is a \$150.00 fine for NOT finalizing the game within 24 hours . A good internet connection is mandatory to upload the game and finalize it.**
 - ii. Teams in the league are required to email all non-league games in PDF that are not scored using the app to **scoresheetsdata@gmail.com**

MOHL teams will also use the scoresheet iPad app “Test Flight” no exceptions to this requirement

1. The WNYAHL WILL BE UTILIZING AN iPad E-SCORE SHEET APP Test Flight FOR ALL Q GAMES AND LEAGUE GAMES

1. The scoresheet will require the use of an Apple iPad with a minimum iOS of 13
 2. Training will be provided by WNYAHL at various locations.
 3. Supporting documentation will be provided to all teams
 4. Support and Help Desk will be provided by Greg Cavaretta scoresheetapp@nyregistrar.com, John Blando johnblando@cavnology.com, Kim Hubbard 310hubbka@gmail.com and Janice Cavaretta janice@nyregistrar.com or **text Janice at 716.581.3996**
 5. Teams wishing to have games scored using the WNYAHL App can contact NFOA Rodney Hogg rodbookman@aol.com
<https://sites.google.com/site/niagarafrontierofficials/off-ice-hockey>
- c. The E-Scoresheet are the only official WNYAHL scoresheet that are acceptable for all league games
 - d. **Duplicate jersey numbers are not allowed.** Only those players approved on the official roster, on the ice fully dressed and eligible to participate in the game are allowed on the scoresheet. Cross off all players not eligible on all copies of the scoresheet.
 - e. The head coach must sign the score sheet their CEP information should already be in the app. The signature will also serve as an attestation that the playing roster is accurate, and every player is eligible to participate in the game. Those players that are ineligible shall be crossed off the sheet.
 - f. Suspended players should be clearly identified and noted as such on the COMMENTS SECTION OF THE score sheet and list their coaching information. **SUSPENDED PLAYERS SHOULD BE CROSSED OFF THE SCORE SHEET** and their suspension noted on the scoresheet in the comments area. All score sheets must be clearly signed prior to beginning the game. Failure to comply will result in a fine.
 - g. In league games involving a curfew, the curfew must be clearly noted on the scoresheet prior to the beginning of the game. If a game is called due to the curfew, the time remaining on the clock must be noted in the comments section of the scoresheet. (Also see E-6 curfew procedure). If there is no curfew for the game, the words “no curfew” shall be written on the score sheet in the curfew box. **NO CHANGES** to the curfew time or adding any time onto the curfew will be allowed during the game.

2. Scoresheet Requirement Submittal for both Home and Away Teams using the WNYAHL Scoring app test flight

- a. All WNYAHL E-Scoresheets will be automatically submitted to the WNYAHL via the app.
- b. Games must be finalized in the app Within 24 hours of the completion of a league and/or Q game. **Failure to do so will result in a \$150 fine to the offending team.**
- c. Non-league Games, scrimmages, and tournaments, and/or and game that utilizes a paper scoresheet are to be emailed as a clear, scanned PDF copy of all other scoresheets from any games played: scrimmage, tournament, Q, showcases etc. are required to be sent to scoresheetsdata@gmail.com
- d. All TB teams whether in the WNYAHL or not must send in all their scoresheets for ongoing credentialing purposes to address the USAH/NYSAHA requirement.
- e. If there are any issues finalizing the game or using the app Janice Cavaretta, the division liaisons and tech support must be notified asap
- f. **All games played outside of WNYAHL that use a non-TestFlight scoresheet are required to be sent to**
scoresheetsdata@gmail.com

******* Subject line should always indicate the “Age Classification, Team Name, type of game and date of game.
for example: 18u Rochester Grizzlies Cravatta scrimmage 08/01/2025

- c. For all games involving a **GAME MISCONDUCT OR MATCH PENALTY** (locally or away), the original game score sheet will be scanned and emailed to the league and the original must also be mailed into the league via USPS. **REPORTING VIA THE FORM WITHIN 24 HOURS** is also mandated.

MOHL – Teams will send the completed PDF of the finalized WNYAHL Test Flight Scoresheet to Bob Lewek within 24 hours of the completion of the game. E-mail--bflobobo@usermail.com

G. League/Division Schedule

- a) **Team Placement, Division Structure, General Placement Information:**
 - 1) The WNYAHL will determine the number of teams in each division and the nomenclature of those divisions in advance of scheduling league games. There must be a minimum of 4 teams to declare an “official” division for scheduling. The WNYAHL **MOHL** and Mite scheduling will be handled separately.
 - 2) It is the philosophy of the WNYAHL for teams to play in the most competitive division commensurate with their player’s skill level.

- 3) Teams that are state and national bound (TB), will have a league and "Q" schedule (this may be one in the same). All other teams will be placed in appropriate divisions.
 - 4) All WNYAHL member association teams must submit a completed team declaration request for each team and a data spreadsheet to the WNYAHL for placement consideration.
 - 5) A WNYAHL member association team who does not submit a team declaration and data roster spreadsheet by the deadline will not be eligible to schedule WNYAHL games.
 - 6) Club presidents will approve the declarations for their club and attest that they are accurate. All decisions for division placement and any movement of a team up or down will be communicated to the league by the member association's President before teams are finalization.
- b) **Annual Scheduling meeting:**
- 1) All teams must be represented at the scheduling meeting to participate in league play.
 - 2) Representation must be either by the manager or head coach. Organizations cannot send 1 person to represent multiple teams.
 - 3) All member associations must be members in good standing with USAH, NYSAHA and WNYAHL and have paid all fees and fines to allow their teams to participate in the scheduling meeting.
 - 4) Coaches and team reps must bring a roster of players, coaches and manager including their coaching certification levels and card numbers, as well as an ice schedule with the proper amount of ice time for their respective division and level of play.
 - 5) No team shall depart from the scheduling meeting unless their schedule is completed in full. Failure to do so could result in the team being disqualified from league play for the current season as determined by the executive director.
- c) **Games, Official Schedule and Game Changes:**
- 1) Games listed in the official master schedule shall be reviewed by each member team or association to assure that the schedule is accurate. Discrepancies must be reported to the appropriate statistician within seven (7) days of publication.
 - 2) League play ***INCLUDING WNYAHL PLAYOFFS*** will take precedence over any other play with the exception of play downs. No game is official unless the Division statistician has it ***PROPERLY*** scheduled.
 - 3) No change in league game schedule date will be permitted without prior notice and approval of the Division statistician.
 - 4) The **game change form** located on the web site will be used to submit a game change.
 - 5) The official league schedule when published, on the web site (www.wnyahl.net), is considered a commitment by the member teams and associations to make every effort to play the entire schedule. Both teams must notify the statistician of the change.
 - 6) Teams are not to change any games on their WNYAHL team page. The Executive Director will make all changes official.
 - 7) Game numbers will stay the same
- d) **Division Parity** - The Executive Director with the Executive Board shall have the authority to review the competitive balance of a division after the first five regular league games of the current season. The Executive Director with the executive board may re-assign teams to other divisions; lower or higher, if it is determined that it is necessary to restore and/or maintain competitive balance.
- e) **Standings** will be available on the WNYAHL statistics web site
<https://wnyahl-scoresheet.firebaseio.com/standings>
 The WNYAHL Scoring app Test Flight is mandatory for each league game. The app is also available for all scrimmage and non-league games.
- f) **Game Procedure**
- 1) In the interest of promoting, demonstrating, ensuring good sportsmanlike behavior, and in an effort to adopt uniform game procedures, the following procedure shall be followed in each league game:
 - 2) **Pre-Game:**
 - a) Coaches should introduce themselves to the opposing coach and the referees.
 - b) The coach should inform the referees of the division and significance, if any, of the game, period length and if any players are suspended.
 - c) Prior to game commencement both teams will shake hands.
 - 3) ***Any teams that are found to shake hands AFTER a league game will be subject to a \$250 fine and the offending head coaches will be suspended for their next league game. Offending teams will be placed on notice, fines will be doubled for each subsequent offense, and further suspensions may result"***
 - 4) **End of Game** - At the conclusion of the game, each team shall proceed directly to their respective bench area.
 - a) Upon instructions from the referee, teams will exit the ice area. If the referee does not direct the teams off the ice, the visiting team shall proceed first to their locker room. Once the visiting team enters their locker room the Home team shall proceed directly to their locker room upon instructions from the referee. If there is only one exit/entry door the closest team will exit first, and the other team will remain by their bench until all players from one team leave the ice area.
 - b) Any player, coach or team official who fails to follow the procedure outlined herein and/or fails to leave the ice in a sportsmanlike orderly manner, causes an altercation before, during or after a game may incur an additional penalty and/or suspension(s).
 - c) Off-ice official should distribute copies of the scoresheet to each team

H. Postponement of games

- a. **Delays, weather related cancellations and/or postponements**
- 1) If unavoidable delays occur and games are postponed due to weather or hazardous driving conditions, they must be rescheduled as soon as possible. FOR THIS PURPOSE, FAILURE OF A TEAM TO REASONABLY CONCLUDE THAT THERE IS A WEATHER OR TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM WILL BE CONSIDERED A FORFEIT, AS DETERMINED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.
 - 2) Individual team representatives (manager and/or coach(es)) are responsible and required to notify the opponent team's representative (Manager and/or coach(es)) of cancellations, postponements & reschedules.

- 3) Individual teams are responsible for notifying their players, parents and officials
- 4) **The WNYAHL may, at their discretion, extend the season to accommodate games postponed to inclement weather if deemed necessary or declare a game null, meaning it does not have to be played.**
- b. **Non-weather-related cancellations:** teams cancelling games without an agreed postponement and reschedule are required to pay all ice cost of their opponent and are subject to review by the league to determine if a forfeiture is warranted and/or further possible disciplinary action.
- c. **A team cancelling with less than 48 hours notice before a scheduled game must pay both the ice fees and the game officials fees for the contest regardless of age classification**
- d. **Any team postponing a game during the season that is not weather related and with more than 48 hours notice will be responsible for ½ the home team's ice cost**
 - 1) **Any request for reimbursement must be made within 7 days from the cancellation or the rule does not apply.**
 - 2) **Notification should go to the team that cancelled, the president of the associations, the division liaison and the Executive Director.**
- e. **Rescheduling of games**
 - a) Rescheduling of games must be approved in advance by the statistician and will be permitted only after consulting the head coaches/managers of the respective teams and mutual consent of both coaches. If extenuating circumstances exist (as determined by the league), the league will mandate a reschedule.
 - b) **Once permitted, there will be a \$50.00 fee for the rescheduling of games that are not weather related. The team requesting the change will be responsible.**
 - c) The statistician is to be notified of the rescheduling of any games via the form on the WNYAHL website. If the form is not accessible, then notification should be made by email to: janice@nyregistrar.com
 - d) If the Statistician is not notified of any rescheduled games, the game is considered unofficial and will not count in the league standings.
 - e) If the teams cannot agree to a date and time to play the game after a cancellation or unavoidable delay, both teams will be required to submit schedules to the league and the game will be scheduled by the WNYAHL at their discretion. If ice has to be purchased the teams will split the cost.
 - f) Individual team representatives (manager and/or coach(es)) are responsible and required to notify the opponent team's representative (Manager and/or coach(es)) of cancellations, postponements & reschedules.
- f. **Procedure to reschedule league games**
 - 1) Always include the specific age liaison on the rescheduling of games.
 - (a) Kim Hubbard Midget 15, 16, 18u 310hubbka@gmail.com
 - (b) Dan Fitzpatrick Bantam 13 & 14u dfitzpatrick@jrpurpleeagles.com
 - (c) Christina Biondillo PeeWee 11 & 12U wnyah112u@gmail.com
 - (d) Nedra Miller Squirt 9 & 10U nedralmiller@gmail.com
 - 2) The home team is responsible for notifying the opposing team of the available date(s) and time(s) for the rescheduled game.
 - 3) The home team will contact the opponent with potential dates, location and times for the reschedule within (7) seven days of the postponement.
 - 4) All postponed games shall be rescheduled within seven days and played by the last date of games as determined by the league statistician.
 - 5) If the game cannot be rescheduled in the 7-day time frame both teams will submit their entire schedule to the WNYAHL statistician or designee.
 - 6) If the game is not played prior to the season's end, a forfeit will be awarded against the team causing the delay. The game does not have to be played within seven days
 - 7) The game should be rescheduled at the rink where it was originally scheduled to be played. The game may be rescheduled at the opponent's rink, or a neutral site, if home ice is not available or both teams agree.
- I. **Forfeits:** All teams are expected to commit to the league and finish their league schedule. Should teams not finish their schedule and a forfeit is required the following rules apply:
 - 1) FORFEITS – ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE and will be dealt with accordingly. TB Teams may not forfeit games.
 - 2) QA, QB, QC games are considered league games as per NYSAHA rules and regulations. Therefore, teams will not be allowed to forfeit and must complete their entire schedule.
 - 3) Forfeit – IF THERE IS A failure to show for a game without weather or transportation problems or extenuating circumstances, such game shall be declared a forfeit for the offending team. FOR THIS PURPOSE, FAILURE OF A TEAM TO REASONABLY CONCLUDE THAT THERE IS A WEATHER OR TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM WILL BE CONSIDERED A FORFEIT, AS DETERMINED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. Unless the Executive Director has approved in advance that a game may be rescheduled, and a team does not show, the game shall be a forfeit.
 - 4) For a "NO SHOW" forfeit in a league game, the offending team will be fined as described in the WNYAHL rules herein, and the offending team or head coach may be subject to further discipline by the disciplinary committee. More than one forfeit per season, including play - downs, will require the head coach (and, if requested, the association) to appear before the disciplinary committee and may result in the suspension of the team, coach and/or association or such other action as may be determined by the disciplinary committee
 - 5) With the exception of Midgets, all teams forfeiting will incur a \$350.00 Fine for the first offense, \$700.00 FINE for subsequent forfeits plus all ice and referee costs for the forfeited game (and, if it is determined that the forfeited game must be played, all ice and referee costs for any rescheduled game) whether the offending team was (is) the home or visiting team
 - 6) For all Midget levels, the first offense will incur a \$700.00 fine and subsequent offenses will incur a \$1000.00 FINE. The foregoing fines are doubled if it is determined that the forfeited game must be played. After the second forfeit a team and/or organization at

all levels in WNYAHL can face possible disciplinary action and expulsion from the league after a WNYAHL executive committee hearing.

- 7) **Note: a bill of record will be required to be submitted to the league DETAILING ICE AND REFEREE COSTS FOR THE FORFEITED GAME Teams have 10 days from the forfeit to submit an ice/referee bill reimbursement request. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF PAYMENT BY THE OFFENDING TEAM FOR THE ICE AND REFEREE COSTS, the WNYAHL will reimburse the NON-OFFENDING team FOR its ice and referee costs. FURTHERMORE, IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT THE FORFEITED GAME MUST BE PLAYED, THE NON-OFFENDING TEAM WILL RECEIVE ONE-HALF OF THE FINE WHICH IS COLLECTED FROM THE OFFENDING TEAM.**

J. Fines

- 1) Scoresheet fines:
 - a) Fines for inadequate scoresheet completion will begin at \$50 per offense (not per scoresheet) and will be imposed for incomplete and unsatisfactory score sheets **as determined by the statistician**. Scoresheet fines are different from reporting fines.
 - b) An unsatisfactory score sheet includes one that is not completely filled in, legible and signed as required. (See addendum and example of a properly completed scoresheet)
 - c) Individual teams are responsible for ensuring that the score sheet list all eligible players, those on suspension, coaches and their CEP information, and the team name {both home and visiting teams} and division are listed in the proper area.
 - d) Note: there may be multiple offenses on one score sheet which may increase the fine amount.
- 2) All fines for failure to abide by WNYAHL rules as defined and where imposed are payable within 15 business days of the invoice date. Failure to do so will result in additional fines as outlined herein and can also result in additional penalties and/or suspension imposed on the association.
- 3) Penalties for not paying fines in a timely manner after the 15-day period are as follows:
 - a) 15 – 25 days after the invoice date an additional \$500.00 Plus original fine amount
 - b) 26 – 35 days after the invoice date \$1000.00 Plus original fine amount
 - c) Over 35 days after the invoice date \$1500.00 plus the original fine amount in addition to the immediate suspension of the head coach and team from league play. The organization will be brought in for a hearing before the executive board to explain why the fines were not paid in a timely manner. Reinstatement of the Head Coach and team will start after all monetary fines have been successfully fulfilled and received by the WNYAHL Treasurer. In addition, the organization and head coach will be placed on a year probation.
- 4) Associations are responsible to ensure compliance with the rules and that fines are paid in a prompt manner.

K. Tie Breakers

For all WNYAHL, MOHL and “Q” games at every level: Tier I, Tier II and Tier III, the tiebreakers outlined herein will be used to determine standings/position. Teams that qualify for the NY District/State championships should be aware that the games played during the championships will be played to conclusion and the tiebreakers may be different. The WNYAHL Playoffs will also have a modified structure as outlined in the playoff section of the guide book.

Note: The league statistician and/or board will not apply or advise on any tiebreakers until the season is over and a tie actually exists between two or more teams in a division.

Tie Breaking Rules to Determine Standings Position

If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their position in the standings shall be determined by the following tie breaking format. If one tiebreaker establishes a position for one or more teams, each team is placed in the applicable position. Once a team or teams are placed, the remaining tied teams shall start the tie breaking process again at step 1. (If all tied teams have not played each other, then proceed to step 2).

Note: A team may go into the tie breaking process having defeated another of the tied teams and still not advance.

The tie-breaker formulas are as follows:

1. **The results of the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:**
 - a. Standings — Most points
 - b. Most total wins
 - c. Differential — Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus. {GF-GA}
 - d. Quotient — Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against {GF/GA}, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. A quotient involving dividing by zero (0) has higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any number other than zero. Where two or more teams have no goals against and the quotient tie breaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of “goals for.”
 - e. Most periods won — In the games played by each tied team, points will be awarded for each regulation period won (2 points) and for each regulation period tied (1 point). Positions shall be in the order of highest point total.

2. If after applying the formulas of 1 a, b, c or d the tie still exists, the results of all the games played by the teams tied in the following order.
- Most total wins
 - Differential — Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus {GF-GA}.
 - Quotient — Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against {GF/GA}, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. A quotient involving dividing by zero (0) has higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any number other than zero. Where two or more teams have no goals against and the quotient tiebreaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of “goals for.”
 - Most periods won — In the games played by each tied team, points will be awarded for each regulation period won (2 points) and for each regulation period tied (1 point). Positions shall be in the order of highest point total.
 - Quickest first goal — The team that scored the quickest goal in their games shall be ranked highest.
3. If the above procedure does not break the tie, the teams shall use a shootout procedure as described by the league.

Note on FORFEITS: If a team forfeits any of its games and becomes involved in any tie breaking formula to determine its eligibility to advance to the next level of play, the team forfeits all games and the games are recorded as 1-0 victories for the nonoffending team. This applies to league play, playoffs, Q games (all levels) and round robin play

L. Discipline, Game Misconduct's and Match Penalties

- Game Misconducts, Match Penalty and Suspensions etc.
 - REPORTING:** It is mandatory that all game misconduct penalties and any match penalty must be reported within 24 hours of the completion of the game. This encompasses all games (scrimmages, league, tournament and non-league games) at home, locally or away.
 - NOTIFICATION:** 24 HOUR Notification using the “report a misconduct” form on the WNYAHL web site is the method to report game misconduct or match penalties.
 - There is usually no “downtime” and the form unavailable. However, if the team representative cannot access the form for whatever reason, notification can be made via email, by telephone notification or text to the ***Division Statistician*** or league designee, within twenty-four (24) hours.
 - Once the form can be accessed, the team designee must follow through and complete the form noting that reporting was made in an alternative way: include the means and the date the notification was made using the alternate means.
 - Reporting within 24 hours is the same for out of state tournaments, games played away, out of town and/or out of the district. No exceptions.
 - There are two forms available on the website: one for game misconduct and another for Match penalties only. Select the correct form for the penalty accessed.

ALSO SEE MATRIX FLOWCHART IN THIS GUIDE AND ONLINE TO GET AN OVERVIEW OF THE AMOUNT OF GAME SUSPENSION(S)

Questions on reporting penalties and suspensions can be directed via text or voice call to Dave Waldo 585-750-2448

- Scoresheet:** A legible copy of the original game scoresheet involving Game Misconduct's, and/or Match Penalties in league, non-league, or tournament games in or out of Western New York, shall be scanned and emailed to the league and the original mailed to the ***Division Statistician*** within twenty-four (24) hours of the completion of the game.

For the current season, the league designees are Dave Waldo and Janice J. Cavaretta

EMAIL: janice@nyregistrar.com

Dave Waldo

EMAIL: waldo.wnyahl@gmail.com

The responsibility of mailing and notification shall be that of the team who received the penalty

- Failure to comply with the reporting of **Game misconduct penalties and/or Match penalties within 24 hours will result in a \$75.00 fine** and an additional 1 game suspension to the coach. Multiple infractions by the same team may result in additional discipline.
- Suspensions** will be served in the team's next scheduled game(s) already on the schedule.
 - The scheduling of additional games for the purpose of satisfying a player or coach's suspension is not allowed and the suspended personnel will not be allowed to participate until the suspension is satisfied in the next game(s) already on the schedule.
 - Additional discipline may be imposed if it is determined a circumventing of the rules was deliberately done
 - A copy of the scoresheet showing the suspension being served must be sent to the liaison
 - Kim Hubbard Midget 15, 16, 18u 310hubbka@gmail.com
 - Dan Fitzpatrick Bantam 13 & 14u dfitzpatrick@jrpurpleeagles.com
 - Christina Biondolillo PeeWee 11 & 12U wnyah112u@gmail.com
 - Nedra Miller Squirt 9 & 10U nedralmiller@gmail.com
- Canada and out of district play
 - Teams traveling to Canada will abide by Hockey Canada rules while playing in Canada including those rules referencing suspensions. All suspensions incurred while playing games in Canada will carry over to WNYAHL play.

- (2) Upon return to NY the penalty equivalent will be taken to determine if the suspension is satisfied or if a further suspension is warranted. This applies to games out of district and those played in Canada.
- g) Upon notification from the statistician all penalties, game misconduct's, and match penalties will be reviewed by the disciplinary panel.
- h) Excessive team penalty minutes: If a team has an excessive amount of penalty minutes (above the average for that division) a warning letter will be sent to the organization and coach. The coach will be required to respond to the warning letter in writing addressing what measures they will take to curtail the penalties. The coach will have 7 days to respond or be suspended from participating in any WNYAHL activities until the letter is received.
- i) In addition, all coaches and players must abide by the leagues aggressive play policy and monitor their players/teams play and take the necessary action to curtail any overly aggressive play.
- j) If deemed necessary, disciplinary action will be taken, pending the outcome of a hearing, as defined in these rules and USAH supplemental discipline; following the guidelines set forth by NYSAHA and USA Hockey for conducting hearings.

M. WNYAHL Aggressive policy

1. **POLICY OVERVIEW:** The WNYAHL Policy is intended to provide additional support to the USA Hockey and NYSAHA Playing rules, points of emphasis and not necessarily intended to impose supplementary discipline, but to bring an awareness to playing within the rules and in the spirit of the game. This policy is intended to draw attention to the dangerous and/or reckless behavior of participants that will hopefully result in modifications to that behavior so additional supplementary discipline and lengthy suspensions are not necessary. This policy is directed at both players and Team Officials. Individual teams are to monitor their players behavior. **The Policy applies to WNYAHL games only.** Be advised that if a player or coach is brought in for a disciplinary hearing, the disciplinary panel and WNYAHL have the right to review all penalties the player and/or team incurred during the season as well as past history.
2. **MONITORING:** Each team is responsible for monitoring and tracking the penalties for their participants during WNYAHL games.
3. **PLAYERS:** Players are encouraged to develop a deep sense of respect for all (opponents and officials) while endeavoring to enjoy the sport and improve their playing ability. Each player is expected to use proper skill and technique when engaging in any type of body contact
 - a) For the purposes of this policy the following infractions are defined as "Aggressive Play Penalties": any Match penalty, any 5 minute major penalty including fighting, any major 5 minute penalty, all major and a game misconduct penalties for body-checking (violation of rule 604c, d), ANY minor penalty for Checking from Behind, Boarding, charging, intent to injure, facemask, butt ending, kicking, kneeling, spearing, all Head Contact penalties. ***Slashing minor penalties will be carefully monitored but not included in this section at this time.***

NOTE: Body checking minor penalties in non-checking age classifications will be handled separately

- b) Any Player who incurs **THREE (3)** Aggressive Play Penalties (as outlined in 3a) in **WNYAHL games only** during a Season in any combination would, following the **THIRD** such penalty, be suspended for one (1) additional game in addition to any other suspensions that are incurred for the infractions. **Any aggressive type penalty thereafter would carry an automatic game suspension.** The team representative will report the player to the league who reaches the aggressive penalty limit.
- c) Upon the **FOURTH** such penalty, in addition to the automatic one game suspension noted in M 3b, the player would be required to submit an essay of 200 words minimum stating the types of penalties received and how they will address their overly aggressive play in the future. The Head coach will submit the essay to the Executive Director and VP of the league within a 7-day period after the fourth aggressive penalty was incurred. The WNYAHL will review the written document submitted.
- d) Upon a 5th (Fifth) aggressive penalty, the participant will be suspended an additional game as outlined and will be mandated to appear before the WNYAHL Disciplinary hearing panel or its designee for the purpose of reviewing (with the player and head coach as well as the parents of the player) the penalties that have occurred and the concern that this raises with the League to determine if additional disciplinary action is warranted.
- e) Player will be placed on a probationary period determined by the panel
- f) Violations of the policy to the extent that the circumstances relating to the penalties incurred require the disciplinary panel to take action for a second time would result in supplementary discipline by way of suspension for a minimum of an additional five games above and beyond any other discipline the panel deems necessary or mandatory suspensions served to date. A hearing may also be scheduled at the discretion of the disciplinary panel.
- g) A player, who has appeared before the Disciplinary Panel under this rule and incurs a match penalty for an aggressive play penalty, will be automatically suspended from all WNYAHL Activities for the duration of the season including playoffs, and championship games. A request will also be made to the section President to extend the suspension to all NYSAHA and USA Hockey activities.
- h) **BODY CHECKING IN NON-CHECKING AGE CLASSIFICATIONS:** This policy applies to players in all non-body checking age categories (6u, 8u, 10u, 12u). Penalties will be monitored in WNYAHL games only. Be advised that if a player is brought in for a disciplinary hearing, all penalties that the player incurred during to the season in any game, will be reviewed. The team will have to furnish all scoresheets when requested.
 - (1) **Applies to Playing Rule 604: Body Checking (Body Contact Categories & Non-Check Adult Classifications)**
 - (a) **(Note 1)** For the purpose of this rule, an illegal body check is defined as when a player makes deliberate physical contact with the opponent using overt hip, shoulder, arm or torso action. This includes physically impeding the opponent's progress for the purpose of physically forcing the opponent off the puck and with no effort to legally play the puck.
 - (b) **(Note 2)** USA Hockey has identified two different categories of play. They are Body Contact (where Body Checking is prohibited) and Body Checking (where a legal body check is permissible). Please refer to the Glossary for specific definitions of Body Contact and a Body Check.

- (2) Players that incur 3 body checking and/or body contact penalties (any combination) during WNYAHL league games will have reached the threshold. There is no suspension for the third body contact/checking penalty at this time just a warning the threshold has been reached. Upon the player's 4th (fourth) body checking/contact penalty will incur an additional 1 game suspension. Each body checking and/or body contact penalty thereafter will also incur a game suspension.
 - (3) Players that incur a 5th (Fifth) body checking and/or body contact penalty (any combination) in a WNYAHL league game will be suspended for **3 additional games**. Both the player and the head coach of the team will put in writing how they are working together to teach and learn body contact within the scope of the playing rules. A hearing may be scheduled at that time for the player and coach.
4. **MAJOR PENALTIES RULE 403b:** for the second major penalty in one game to the same player or goalkeeper, the player is suspended for the team's next TWO (2) games. The league will review the incident and may at their discretion bring the player in for a hearing.
 5. **MATCH PENALTIES:** Any player, coach or staff member incurring a second match penalty in the same season will be expelled from the WNYAHL the for the remainder of the season. A hearing will be held to determine if any further disciplinary action is necessary.
 6. **HEAD COACH:**
 - a) Coaches are responsible for instructing their players to play the sport in a safe and sportsmanlike manner. To that end, coaches are directed to teach only those skills necessary to allow for proper and legal body contact.
 - b) A coach whose team has incurred FIVE of more Designated Aggressive play penalties over a five-game period or less including fighting will be required to respond in writing to the WNYAHL Vice President and Executive Director within 5 days of notification, addressing the penalty issue, their coaching methods and the plan to remediate. In addition, based on the types of aggressive penalties, the WNYAHL at their discretion, may bring the head coach in for a hearing.
 - (1) For this purpose, "Designated Aggressive Play Penalties" shall be any Match penalty, any major penalty including fighting, and minor penalty for Checking from Behind, Boarding, charging, intent to injure, body checking, butt ending, facemask, kicking, kneeling, spearing, all Head Contact penalties.
 - c) The team will be on probation for the remainder of the season. If the team continues to display overly aggressive play and incurs another 5 aggressive penalties in a 5-game period, supplemental discipline will be levied and a hearing will be scheduled for the head coach.
 - d) When a hearing is scheduled, the team's head coach and manager will be required to attend the hearing. It is advised the organization president or their designee, also attend. The coach and the manager will be expected to explain the steps that they are taking to curtail this behavior. If not satisfactory to the Disciplinary Panel, then supplementary discipline can be imposed by the Disciplinary Panel at its discretion. The coach will be placed on a one-year probationary period.
 - e) The Head Coach of the Team for each player who appears before the Disciplinary Panel under this policy will also be required to appear with the player. It is recommended that the president or their designee attend. The Head Coach will be asked to explain what steps he or she has taken, both with the team and with this player to reduce the incidence of Aggressive Play. Where circumstances warrant, the panel can impose supplementary discipline on the Head Coach by way of a suspension for up to three games.

Rule USA Hockey Rule 411 Progressive Suspensions

(Note) USA Hockey is committed to providing a safe and fair environment for all participants. While the vast majority of players participate within the rules and respect the game and their opponents, USA Hockey recognizes the need to hold those players and coaches deemed to be repeat offenders accountable for their actions.

(a) Any player who receives **their THIRD MAJOR penalty during the same season** for any combination of aggressive infractions listed below shall receive an additional three-game suspension. For any player who receives their fourth major penalty in this category, the player shall receive an additional five-game suspension. Any player who receives their fifth major penalty in this category during the same season shall be suspended until a hearing is conducted by the proper authorities (USA Hockey Affiliate). These designated game suspensions shall be in addition to any other suspensions imposed through the official playing rules. The aggressive infractions that fit into this category are:

Rule 603 Boarding Rule 604 Body Checking (Body Contact categories) Rule 606 Butt-Ending Rule 607 Charging Rule 608 Checking from Behind	Rule 609 Cross-Checking Rule 611 Elbowing Rule 619 Head-Butting Rule 620 Head Contact Rule 621 High Stick Rule 622 Holding an Opponent (Grabbing Facemask)	Rule 627 Kicking Rule 628 Kneeing Rule 634 Slashing Rule 635 Spearing Rule 639 Tripping/Clipping/Leg Checking	Rule 640 Unnecessary Roughness (Roughing) A separate progressive suspension rule for Fighting is covered under Rule 615(f) Fighting
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Any team that receives three major penalties in the same game shall have its Head Coach suspended for the next game of that team. For any subsequent game where that team receives three or more major penalties in the same game, the Head Coach shall serve a three-game suspension. For a third game with three or more major penalties by the same team during the same season, the Head Coach shall be suspended indefinitely until a hearing has been conducted by the proper authorities (USA Hockey Affiliate).

(Note) The role of the Official is to enforce all playing rules at all times and they are expected to strictly enforce playing rules that fall under the aggressive infraction category. Players and coaches must be held accountable for dangerous actions and the onus is on them to teach and play the game

within the rules. Officials are required to submit a game report immediately following the game for any major penalty falling in the aggressive infraction category, game misconduct or match penalty that is assessed.

N. Protests

1. Any member club wishing to file a protest against another member club shall have its request processed by the WNYAHL in accordance with the procedures as outlined below.
2. A protest may only be lodged by an Association's President or WNYAHL representative. No protest may be lodged by a coach, manager or parent regardless of their position.
3. The official USA Hockey playing rules shall be used for all games. No Protests shall be permitted on the playing rules, referee calls or penalties assessed before, during or after the game.
4. The WNYAHL Association Representative and/or President shall notify the WNYAHL Executive Director of the impending protest within 48 hours of the completion of the game via email.
5. A formal written protest must be received within 10 days of the completion of said game accompanied by a \$50.00 check made out to the WNYAHL. A copy of the protest should also be sent to the opposing team. Email notification is acceptable.
6. Format for filing a protest
 - a) Written protest should outline the basis for the protest - why the protest is being filed
 - b) Outline the facts of the incident
 - c) Provide evidence in support thereof the protest
 - d) The desired outcome. State precisely what you are looking for in the protest. Do not be vague in any statements, nor overly wordy.
 - e) The defending party will have 36 hours to file a defensive rebuttal in writing with the WNYAHL Executive Director, stating its evidence thereof.
 - f) Protest deadlines not met in the prescribed way, will not be heard
7. The WNYAHL Executive Director will direct the protest to the appropriate persons or league designee for review. The WNYAHL disciplinary panel members (minimum of 3) may rule on the protest. If necessary, an investigation will be conducted, and pertinent people may be called for questioning.
8. Protests are taken on an individual basis and investigated independently of each other
9. Once all the documents are received, both parties will be notified of the decision of the panel after the investigation is complete. The investigation and decision should not exceed 30 days after the documents are received and the investigation is complete. However, should extenuating circumstances occur that impact a timely decision, the WNYAHL will contact both parties.

O. System of Discipline

The system of disciplinary action in the League shall be in accordance with USAH and in the manner as hereinafter set forth:

1. Each season there will be a Disciplinary Director and disciplinary panel selected by the Executive Committee presided over by the Executive Vice-President or league designee.
2. The disciplinary panel shall be responsible for deciding any action, suspensions or otherwise, to be taken against a player, team official, organization.
3. The panel shall have the authority to initiate action involving supplementary discipline against a player, team official, staff member whether or not it involves the playing rules; provided, however that no suspension shall occur without first giving notice of the intended action and providing the opportunity for a hearing.
4. The Panel shall meet, hear, try and determine all disciplinary matters and protests referred to them by the League under the rules. Provided that there are matters to be heard, the Panel shall meet as needed.
5. If a disciplinary matter or protest involves an accused person or team from the same association or business associate of a Panel Member, then that Member is excused from sitting in on that matter and will be replaced for that matter by the Executive Committee.
6. The Panel shall have jurisdiction to conduct a "closed session" hearing, determine the facts and rules that apply, determine the punishment to be handed out to any offenders or the disposition of game protests or other matters which come before it under the rules.
7. In hearing evidence, the Panel shall give all parties a reasonable opportunity to present verbally, without delay, evidence on its behalf by common sense and fair play in light of the gravity of the offense and the urgency of the decision-making process. Only Committee members will question any person(s) appearing at the hearing or make any comments during the presentations.
8. The Panel shall have the authority to impose the following disciplinary action
 - a) Suspension of any person, team or Association from any or all **Western New York Amateur Hockey League activities** i.e. coaching or managing any team, refereeing, playing in, being present in any capacity at any game or activity for any period of time not exceeding one year.
 - b) Censure by letter to the Section President Gary Joseph of any person, team or Association and recommend the discipline which should be taken regarding any person, team or Association. Such letter should be accompanied by a summary or evidence taken and any conclusion drawn there from the Panel. In addition, a Request to the section President to extend the suspension or disciplinary action to all USA Hockey activities can be made at that time.
 - c) Determine the outcome of any game protest and apply the appropriate rule to determine the ultimate disposition of the protest such as game forfeiture, game continuation (and the circumstances hereunder as to scheduling, costs involved and who shall pay etc.) and apply any other decision concerning such decisions reasonable and is justified by the facts and circumstances.
9. The Executive Vice-President shall designate a time and place for the matter to be heard and shall see to it that the person, team representative, Association and/or referee complaining receive notice of the hearing. Any player appearing may appear with either coach or manager of his team. Only persons accused may actually appear personally and this may be dispensed with by permission of the Executive Vice-President.
10. Written statements may be submitted. Testimony may be taken under oath or otherwise.
11. Video Review is at the discretion of the disciplinary chair. The panel is not obligated to review video evidence

12. The accuser or person instigating a protest bears the burden of proving his accusation or protest to the satisfaction of the Panel.
13. The hearing shall be conducted informally with evidence presented first by the party filing the protest, followed by the party against which the protest was brought. The Panel may deviate from this procedure if in their discretion it is fair and practical to do so.
14. After hearing the evidence, the Panel shall privately deliberate and shall have 10 days to establish a decision. However, where possible the decision will be made immediately upon the close of evidence to the parties present. In any event, the Panel shall reach and publish their decision within one 10 days after hearing the evidence. All decisions shall be summarized and forwarded to the President, and executive board for their review.
15. Decision shall be reached by a majority vote of the Panel.
16. Appeals of the decision of the panel shall be made to the NYSAHA West Section Vice- President for further consideration within 20 days. The section President is **Garv Joseph, 5800 Main St, Williamsville, NY 14221**
17. A minimum of a one-year probation is automatically given to anyone that comes before the disciplinary panel

P. Supplementary Discipline

1. According to **USA HOCKEY Rule 410, Supplementary Discipline**, the proper disciplinary authority may, at the conclusion of the game, at their discretion, investigate any incident that occurs in connection with any game. Any incident that occurs prior to, during, or after the game is subject to review regardless of whether the action was penalized by the Referee.
 - a) Pending the outcome of a hearing, the disciplinary authority may assess additional suspensions for any offense committed before, during the course of a game, or any aftermath thereof by a player or Team Official, whether or not such offense has been penalized by the Referee. For the WNYAHL, the proper disciplinary authority is the Executive Vice President.
2. **Fighting**
 - a) All fighting penalties in WNYAHL play before during or after the game shall incur a (2) two game suspension to the offending player(s) in addition to the USAH suspension.
 - b) **MOHL GAMES:** Fighting will not be tolerated and dealt with HARSHLY. Suspensions for fighting are as follows:
First offense: 3 game suspension
Second offense: Suspended pending league hearing: minimum 1 year probation
3. **Refusal to Continue Play – pulling team of the ice**
 - a) Any team playing in a league, exhibition, or tournament game that leaves the ice during the game, shall be assessed a match penalty by the game referee under USAH rule 633.
 - b) In WNYAHL games any team who is assessed a match penalty under this rule shall forfeit the game by a score 1-0 if ahead at the time, or by the official score at that time, if the team leaving the ice is behind.
4. **Legal Action:** In order to preserve as far as possible, the integrity of amateur hockey and the WNYAHL, any recourse to the courts or legal action by a member or individual before and/or during all the rights of the Bylaws and Rules & Regulations of this corporation have been exhausted, shall be considered ungentlemanly conduct entailing the immediate suspension and disqualification of any such member or individual(s). Refer to USA Hockey, Inc., Bylaws, Suspensions and Resolution of Disputes for additional information.

Q. Miscellaneous

1. Association Directories that include name, position, address and telephone numbers of the president and association representatives shall be in to the League Secretary prior to **June 1st** each year.
2. Every Team must have a manager and gender specific locker room monitor LRM
3. Team declarations are due into the Executive Director by **June 1st** of the current playing season including the names and addresses of coaches, managers and team representatives. Organization's not abiding may incur additional penalties and/or fines
4. Every team should have a concussion and injury protocol policy in place in addition to a return to play policy which include obtaining a written medical release that is to be provided to a club for any injured player prior to returning to on-ice participation.
5. CO-ED gender equitable locker room policy: It is not acceptable under USA Hockey policies on physical and sexual abuse for members to be observing the opposite gender while they dress/undress. In order to provide an enjoyable and safe experience for all players, please make certain that proper adult supervision is present in locker room settings at all times, including the provision for having more than one adult supervisor present in the locker room. In the locker room means actually being physically inside the locker room and/or standing right outside, not at the concession stand or somewhere nearby in the lobby area or stands.
6. Locker Boxing Policy USA Hockey, NYSAHA and the WNYAHL is concerned with the activity known as "locker boxing" that produces head trauma in children and young adults. USA Hockey is opposed to that activity and recommends that our local associations take action to prevent this activity through awareness, education and supervision.
7. **Head coach responsibilities:**
 - a) The Head Coach or Acting Head coach of each team shall be held responsible for the conduct of the members and team officials of that team both on and off the ice, in and out of locker rooms immediately before, during, and after any event including but not limited to games, practices, scrimmages and tournaments.
 - b) It is recommended that a team official monitor in accordance with USAH the locker room before and after the game. This includes any time a player or players leave the ice area due to injury, ejection or a violation of the playing rules.
 - c) The Head coach or acting Head Coach of any team member or team official involved in any disruptive or unsportsmanlike behavior or any conduct detrimental to the sport of ice hockey may be called to account for the actions of any such team member or team official and may be subject to disciplinary measures.
8. **Language that is offensive, hateful or discriminatory in nature, inappropriate remarks, verbal abuse:**
 - a. Anyone who uses language that is offensive, hateful or discriminatory in nature anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game shall be assessed a game misconduct from USAH.

- b. In the NY District, any racial or discriminatory remark becomes a match penalty under the rules of the district. The player is suspended from all USAH functions pending a hearing
- c. The WNYAHL highly recommends that coaches inform and educate their participants and parents of the detrimental effects of discriminatory and racially motivated slurs, inappropriate remarks, and/or abusive language toward opponents, referees or team officials on or off the ice, before, during and after a game.
- d. Note: If during a game racial slurs and inappropriate remarks are made, comments of this nature can be brought to the attention of the referee during a stoppage of play to make them aware and perhaps warn the offenders that their actions can and will be penalized. As per USA Hockey rules for a referee to levy penalties the remarks must be clearly heard by the referee.
- e. The WNYAHL reserves the right to conduct an investigation, hearing and further discipline if deemed necessary anyone in violation. **Coaches and teams that do not take the necessary actions to curtail this behavior with their participants and staff whether penalized or not, will be subject to supplemental discipline under rule 410.**

8. Safety:

- a. All coaches, managers, trainers and all those that will come in contact with the youth hockey players of the WNYAHL must be in compliance with the screening policy as set forth by NYSAHA and USA Hockey. Failure to do so will result in immediate suspension from all WNYAHL activities.
 - b. Independent on ice instructors must also be screened if the training last more than 2 sessions per season
 - c. SafeSport training must be taken by all staff members. It is recommended that parents also take the parents SafeSport training course.
9. The President of the League shall have power to act on behalf of the Board of Directors between meetings and subject to the Board of Directors review at the next meeting.
10. Any Association which discontinues team play after commencement of the League season will be subject to a \$2000.00 per team penalty at the discretion of the Board of Directors in addition to any fees payable to the League for registration of such team and such other penalties as the Board of Directors may determine.

R. Violations

Violations of any of these rules or regulations may result in discipline to a team, Association or any individual connected with them. Teams and individuals shall be disciplined through the aforesaid system of discipline contained in these rules. Associations shall only be disciplined by a majority vote of those members of the Board of Directors present at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of Directors. These rules and regulations are effective when passed and shall remain in effect until otherwise amended or repealed. All prior rules and regulations are revoked upon the passage of these rules and regulations. By-Laws and Constitution remain unaffected.

S. WNYAHL PLAY-OFFS Clarification on procedures

*** PLEASE NOTE THAT TEAMS ARE ADVISED NOT TO SCHEDULE TOURNAMENTS DURING THE LAST 2 WEEKS OF FEBRUARY AND THE FIRST WEEK OF MARCH AS THEY MAY CONFLICT WITH THE SCHEDULING AND PLAYING OF PLAYOFF GAMES**
PLAYOFF WEEKENDS WILL NOT BE CHANGED DUE TO VACATIONS OR SCHOOL BREAKS

1. The WNYAHL shall determine the playoff format and procedures each season for all divisions including **MOHL**
2. Ice and referee cost will be incurred by the individual teams as determined by the league. The treasurer will bill the organization the cost of the playoff game(s) for teams from their organization. Organizations will then have until April 1st to pay the playoff fees for their teams. Fees not paid by April first will incur a late fee of \$500 and possible further sanctioning as determined by the board
3. The number of teams qualifying in each division and the play-off format shall be determined each season. No teams will be allowed to participate in post-season play if they qualify or attend a state tournament and/ OR SECTIONAL PLAY-DOWNS at any level.
4. The following is a guide as to the number of teams allotted for the playoffs. This may be adjusted as deemed appropriate based on competitiveness, ice time available etc.

Number of teams in a division (after State Bound Qualifying teams are taken out)	Teams qualifying for the WNYAHL playoffs (the league may adjust depending on ice and competition)
3 – 5 teams	2
6 – 7 teams	3
8 – 9 teams	4
10 – 11	5
12 and up	6

5. If a game is tied following regulation play in the playoffs or in the championship games overtime rules shall be employed as outlined.
- a. Play-off Games: One ten-minute sudden death overtime will be played to determine a winner. In playoff games only, if a winner is not determined after a full 10-minute over-time period is played, a shoot-out procedure will be used to break the tie.
 - b. Championship games: If a game is tied following regulation play in the Championship game one (1) Ten-minute sudden death Overtime period will be played. If the teams are still tied at the completion of the 10-minute OT, five (5) minute sudden death OT periods will be played until a goal is scored and a winner determined.

- c. Shoot-out Procedure: When the overtime period is completed during a playoff game and no one has scored a goal, the shoot-out procedure shall be conducted. A shoot-out is defined as a player attempting to score a goal and the opposing goalkeeper attempting to stop the shooter from scoring a goal.
1. Three (3) **different** players from each team will be designated by the head coach of the team to participate in the shoot-out. Note: any player who received a penalty that has not been completely satisfied (time still remaining to serve) will not be eligible to be one of the players selected to participate in any portion of the shoot-out. They shall remain in the penalty box during the procedure. All players not in the shoot-out are to remain on the bench.
 2. The Home team has the option as to who begins. On the referees signal the players will alternately take one shot at the opposing team's goaltender. All three players will shoot during the first shoot-out procedure and the goals will be tallied. Players will not be allowed to take another shot until all players on the team have been given an opportunity to do so. Goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot. The team scoring more goals will be declared the winner.
 3. If the tie is not resolved using the regular shoot-out procedure, teams will go to a sudden death shoot-out. A sudden death shoot-out is defined as each team attempting a shot to score a game winning goal. Rebound goals are not allowed. Should one team be successful and the other team not, the successful team shall win the shoot-out and be declared the game winner. The process will be repeated incorporating a single player shoot-out, using one player from each team at a time until the tie is broken. Both players will have the opportunity to shoot at the opposing team's goaltender. Players that participated in previous shoot-out will not be allowed to take another shot until all players on the team have been given an opportunity to do so. Goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot.
 4. It will be the responsibility of the official scorekeeper to record all shots taken indicating the player(s) by corresponding number on the scoresheet, goalkeeper(s) and goals scored in order as they occur.
 5. Once a player shoots, that player cannot shoot again in the process until every player on the team has taken their chance.
5. All teams that qualify for the playoffs and championship games are expected to participate. Disciplinary action will be taken on all teams and their organization that fail to participate in the WNYAHL Playoffs, pending the outcome of a hearing. In addition, a \$500.00 fine will be levied, and a one-year probation will be placed on the organization. Probation shall be that the organization or any of its teams do not appear before any Discipline Panel or become involved in activities unsuitable to the sport of ice hockey.
 6. Any organization team that does not participate in the playoffs or championship games must inform the WNYAHL through their organization president.
 7. The WNYAHL may change or modify the playoff structure and these rules at their discretion prior to the designated playoff and championship dates.
 8. The Executive Director and/or the playoff coordinator may make special rulings during the playoffs.

T. Tryout Regulations, Releases and Player Signing

Players of teams who are involved in post season play-offs, state or national activities shall be ineligible to try out for other teams until such post season commitments have been fulfilled.

At such time any hockey player desiring to tryout with another association may do so only by obtaining an appropriately completed New York State Amateur Hockey Association release form from their present association. Once a player is released from an association, a player must then re-register either with a new association or the previous one. See Section P for the release form. Signing of players is not allowed between February 1st of the current season until the designated tryout period.

See the NYSAHA website or guidebook for the complete rules and policies of the district regarding player movement and tryouts

USAH Rule

National Championship-Bound Teams

A player may not register on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a national championship except for High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions, who may also play on a Youth or Girls'/Women's national championship-bound team. Player changes to the official team roster form (1-T) for youth Tier I and Tier II teams and girls'/women's (except Women's A) national championship-bound teams will not be accepted after December 31. Refer to Rules and Regulations Section IX: District Playoffs and National Championships, for additional requirements for national championship-bound teams.

No player may play in more than one State, Affiliate, or District Championship or playoffs leading thereto.

In the event a player is registered on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a national championship, the appropriate registrar shall have the final authority to certify the eligibility of any such player solely on the basis of the date on which the effective date of the earliest team roster registration form, as provided above, is received.

REMINDER:

All rules are subject to change. Consult USAH and NYSAHA guidebooks for further rules and the Official Rules of Ice hockey 2025-29. It is difficult to cover all possible situations, so please don't hesitate to contact one of the people listed here if you are in doubt about something or have additional questions.

CONTACTS

WNYAHL Executive Director and USAH Registrar

Janice Cavaretta

(716) 581-3996

Janice@nyregistrar.com

Assistant Executive Director, Registrar & Chief Strategic Administrator

Deb Cravatta

debcravatta@gmail.com

WNYAHL President

Jeremy Rowley

jerrowley@gmail.com

WNYAHL VP and Disciplinary Chair

Dave Waldo

Waldo.wnyahl@gmail.com

WNYAHL VP of Administration

Kim Hubbard

310hubbka@gmail.com

MOHL Coordinator

Bob Lewek

bflbobbo@usermail.com

716.432.6336

**PLAY SMART, COACH WELL AND ALWAYS ENCOURAGE YOUR PLAYERS TO BE THE
BEST PERSON THEY CAN BE AND TO NEVER GIVE UP!**