

SFHL Rules & Regulations (2015-17)

SECTION A: TEAM AND ASSOCIATION RULES

1. Annual Application: Annual application for membership by an organization shall be submitted to the SFHL EXECUTIVE BOARD for consideration. The EXECUTIVE BOARD shall not unreasonably withhold acceptance of teams that meet the SFHL criteria for membership.

Criteria for membership are as follows:

Each organization must have its own USA HOCKEY Association Code.

Each organization must be a member in good standing with USA HOCKEY and SAHOF.

Each organization must agree to abide by the rules and regulations of USA HOCKEY, SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT, SAHOF, and the SFHL.

Each organization shall be required to provide an annual application per each team and a non-refundable \$1,000 deposit to be included in the scheduling process.

The annual application shall be due no later than July 1st along with the \$1,000 deposit.

Payments for League dues are due on posted dates; any organization that does not pay their dues by the due date will have all of their organizations teams games forfeited until payment is received.

Any Organization to be found consistently late with their payments will forgo the split payment schedule and will be required to pay their entire league fees before the beginning of the season.

2. Home Ice: Each organization must have a firm commitment for available home ice. Each organization shall assume the responsibility of providing sufficient ice time for their home games that meet the requirements of the SFHL scheduler.

3. Association Representative: All participating teams must assign an Association Representative. All communication with the SFHL League office is to be done by your Association Representative.

4. Team Registration: All teams must be registered as Tier II in their appropriate age division. However the League reserves the right to schedule games against non-Tier II USA Hockey sanctioned teams if the need arises to provide a competitive schedule with the approval of the approved teams in the division. The league office must have a certified roster (signed by the Affiliate Registrar) on file along with all certified supplemental.

PER SAHOF RULES- All SFHL teams can have no more than two (2) players not living within the team's geographical district. Refer to SAHOF rules for definition of those districts.

5. Any organization wishing to have more than one team in any age division must have at least one team of the same age classification participating in one of the "A" leagues in the state. The "A" team must be a legitimate "A" team of the same age classification as of the 2nd teams being requested. "A" teams must meet the requirements of SAHOF concerning double rostering. Teams playing "Up" in the "A" leagues do not qualify to fulfill this requirement.

In order for an organization to be awarded with a second team in a division, at least 70% of the players on both teams (with both teams carrying a minimum of 14 players) must have played at the same organization the year before.

6. Player Registration: All players must be registered with USA Hockey.

7. SAHOF Registration: It is the sole responsibility of each organization's designated registrar to duly register the roster with the SAHOF ASSOCIATE REGISTRAR at their earliest convenience following the formation of the team, and with any subsequent changes. Non-registered teams are not permitted to count games toward the 20/10 requirements for post season and tournament play. Rosters may be changed as necessary through December 31.

8. Team Rosters: It shall be the responsibility of each coach or team manager to check the age eligibility of the team members and submit an official USA HOCKEY roster form, or reasonable facsimile for each team, showing player name and birth date.

Failure to file the roster may result in forfeiture of all games until a complete roster is on file.

Any updates or roster changes resulting in a revised roster must also be filed.

9. Team Make Up: A team roster shall consist of no more than twenty (20) registered players. No player can be on the roster of two Tier I or II teams or any national bound team at one time. (this includes juniors). Squirts & Mites rostered on two teams must declare intent by Dec. 31 (refer to SAHOF rules)

10. First Aid: It is recommended that the home rink shall provide a suitable First Aid kit to be kept at the arena for the use of League teams and shall keep an emergency call list available. It is strongly recommended that all teams should maintain a first aid kit so as to be immediately accessible on the playing bench.

11. Jerseys: Each association shall be responsible for supplying their teams with a set of numbered jerseys. The home team shall wear their lighter colored jerseys; however, the home team must change their jerseys if home and visitors have the same color jerseys. All players shall be dressed uniformly. Teams may agree to switch colors for games.

12. Protests: Any grievances or protests involving officiating, procedures, rules and regulations at League games shall be handled according to these guidelines:

Grievances or protests are to be written and submitted by the ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE ONLY to the Commissioner of SFHL within 48 hours of the perceived infraction.

Grievances or protest involving judgment calls by the Referees are not allowed and will not be considered.

13. Fine For Failure To Play: Any SFHL team that does not attend a scheduled league weekend, without prior approval by the league, can have their association assessed a \$750.00 fine. If the fine is not paid in its entirety within 30 days or 7 days prior to the divisional playoff, whichever comes first, the specific team will not be eligible for the SAHOF playoffs or the SE Districts. The fined association will not be allowed to participate in the SFHL at any level the following year until the fine is paid.

14. No Refunds: Each organization shall be required to pay the established registration fees to SFHL on the due dates. There will be no refunds issued for teams that drop out once the schedule is done.

15. Schedule changes: SFHL Leagues Games take precedent over all other games including tournaments.

It is the responsibility of the team requesting the reschedule to coordinate with the other teams involved on an acceptable date for rescheduling. This includes securing and paying for the ice, referees and scorekeepers. There will be no refunds from the league for missed games. If ALL the teams cannot come to an agreement on a rescheduling date the commissioner will serve as an arbitrator to help resolve the conflict. If the game still cannot be rescheduled, the commissioner can elect to have the single visit, count for double points and or award a team with a win in the final standings. Simply electing to forfeit a game is not permissible and can result in the team being disqualified from participating in the State Championships and the organization from being sanctioned for the following year.

SECTION B: PLAYER AND COACH RULES

The SFHL will play by USA Hockey and SAHOF Rules and Regulations.

1. USA Hockey Registration: All Coaches and Players must be registered with USA Hockey.

2. Coaches' Qualifications: All Coaches must have a valid coaching card and must meet USA Hockey minimum coaching guidelines for the team being coached.

3. Suspensions: In any situation where USA HOCKEY/SFHL rules provide for a participant (Player or Coach) to be suspended for one (1) or more games, the suspension is to be applied and served at the next scheduled SFHL sanctioned game(s). This game must be a regularly scheduled game shown on the master schedule. Violation of this rule will result in forfeiture of the game.

If the player or coach's next scheduled game is in a USA Hockey sanctioned Tournament, the manager/coach of that team can apply to the Commissioner of SFHL to use those games in lieu of the next SFHL official games. The decision of the SFHL Commissioner is at his (her) sole discretion.

The Coach or Team Manager must provide an official game score sheet from the tournament where the suspension was served. The suspension must be CLEARLY noted on the score sheet.

All Suspensions should appear on the Point Streak score sheets, and while we will make every effort to keep the suspensions up to date It remains the ultimate responsibility of the coaches & mangers to comply and not play any player that is to be serving a suspension. Any Coach/Player that knowingly plays in a game that he/she should be serving a suspension will lead to forfeiture of the game along with any Sanctions outlined in USA Hockey.

Rule 410 | Supplementary Discipline

(a) In addition to the suspensions imposed by the on ice officials, The SFHL reserves the right, at its discretion and after the game has been completed, to 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 and is open to supplementary discipline of players, coaches, managers, and spectators.

4. Multiple Game Misconducts: Any Coach or Player that receives 5 game misconducts during the course of the SFHL season automatically receives an additional 6 game suspension.

5. Rule 411 | Progressive Suspensions NEW USAH RULE

Beginning with the 2014-15 playing season, the Progressive Suspensions rule will take affect nationally.

- (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.:
- (b) 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).

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 627 Kicking
- Rule 628 Kneeing
- Rule 634 Slashing
- Rule 635 Spearing
- Rule 639 Tripping/Clipping/Leg Checking
- Rule 640 Unnecessary Roughness (Roughing)

- (c) Any player who receives a second major penalty for fighting with the same team during the same season shall receive a three-game suspension. For a third fighting major with the same team in the same season, the player shall be suspended until a hearing is conducted by the proper authorities under Rule 410 Supplementary Discipline.

6. Players' Equipment: It shall be mandatory that the following equipment be worn by players in league games:

- A. Helmet and full-face mask (USA HOCKEY approved, HECC, CSA, etc.)
- B. Hockey Gloves
- C. Shoulder Pads
- D. Shin Guards
- E. Athletic Cup
- F. Hockey Pants
- G. Elbow Pads
- H. Neck Guard; Must follow USAH Guidelines They are strongly recommended.
- I. Mouth Guard (Required in all age divisions, must be colored. (Recommended Type: Class III, form fitted by Dentist)
- J. Any other equipment mandated by USA HOCKEY RULES.

6. False Registration: Any player, parent or coach who willingly gives materially false information in connection with a player's registration for a team shall be suspended for the current season. The same shall apply to any player who signs his parents' name to his contract.

7. Player Dismissal: Any Coach may replace a player on the team roster for any reason. Once a player is removed from the team's roster, that player shall not rejoin the team during the current season. Such changes must be reported to the SAHOF ASSOCIATE REGISTRAR so that a certified supplemental USA HOCKEY roster can be obtained. The supplemental roster must be submitted to the Commissioner before the replacement player can play in any league game. This rule begins with the first regularly scheduled game (weekend series) for each team.

8. Age Eligibility: Eligibility for play in an age bracket will be based on the year of birth as provided in USA Hockey guidelines. Players are not permitted to play down an age division in the League.

9. Zamboni Rules: While ice is being resurfaced, no player shall step onto the ice until after the Zamboni has left the ice and the Zamboni exit doors have been closed.

10. Tournament Play: Any team found to have participated in more than two tournaments deemed to be "AAA" is considered Tier I teams per SAHOF rules and thus will be deemed ineligible for post season play and final league standings.

SECTION C: LEAGUE PLAY

1. Game Rules: All SFHL games will be played under the rules of USA Hockey and SAHOF. In addition, the SFHL may modify or supplement USA Hockey rules with local rules applicable to SFHL games as appropriate.

2. Age classifications: League play may be scheduled for teams entered in the following classifications:

- SQUIRT
- PEEWEE
- BANTAM
- MIDGET 16U
- MIDGET 18U

3. Participation: The Executive Board may restrict the number of teams in any one division or classification.

NO MINOR OR MAJOR CLASSIFICATIONS will be recognized.

4. Player Rosters: USA HOCKEY Tier II rules for the registration of players and teams strictly apply. No team may dress a player(s) not on that team's official roster for League games. Any team using a player(s) not on the team's official roster shall forfeit all games played with the ineligible player(s).

ADDING & REMOVING OF PLAYERS-

If you would like to add a player to your roster, YOU MUST FAX or EMAIL A SCANNED COPY of the Supplemental roster you are sending to the Affiliate Register by the **THURSDAY BEFORE** YOUR GAMES. IF THE LEAGUE OFFICE DOES NOT HAVE A COPY OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL ROSTER BY THE END OF THE BUSINESS DAY ON THURSDAY THAT PLAYER IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO PLAY THAT WEEKEND. , Follow it up with an email to the league office and you will receive a confirmation that the league received it. You do not have to wait for it to be signed by the Affiliate registrar, once you receive the signed copy back from the affiliate registrar forward it to the League office.

If you drop a player from your roster that player cannot rejoin the team this season for SFHL games, players sustaining injuries will be handled on a case by case basis.

Maximum amount of players on roster is 20.

In the event of a challenge by a team related to the play of non-rostered player, the following actions should be followed:

The team officials should inform the opposing team's head coach and scorekeeper of the challenge. Whenever possible the challenge should be communicated before the game. The challenge should be noted on the score sheet.

The player in question will be allowed to participate in the game.

Subsequent to the game weekend, the team making the challenge is responsible for submitting, in writing, a formal complaint to the Commissioner along with a copy of the score sheet. The Commissioner, in consultation with the EXECUTIVE BOARD, will make a ruling. If the ruling is made that the player was ineligible, the game will be declared a forfeit.

5. Score sheets: Both Managers are responsible for bringing to ALL games the pre-printed Score sheets from Pointstreak. GAME SHEETS THAT HAVE LABELS ON THEM WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED OFFICIAL AND GAME RESULTS WILL BE POSTED 0-0 TIES WITH NO POINTS BEING AWARDED TO BOTH TEAMS.

The manager or coach is responsible for counting how many players the other team has on the ice. In the event there are more players on the ice than on the roster you should make the referee aware of it. Any players that are not present should be scratched.

YOU CANNOT WRITE IN ANY PLAYERS, ON THE GAME SHEETS. IF A PLAYER DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE PRE-PRINTED GAME SHEET HE /SHE CANNOT PLAY, VIOLATION OF THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN A FORFEIT AND A ONE GAME SUSPENSION OF THE HEAD COACH. THE ONLY CHANGE YOU CAN MAKE TO THE GAME SHEETS IS PLAYER NUMBERS. (In the case where a rostered player forgets, tears or bloodies his jersey, make an effort to tape their rostered number on the same color jersey, if that is not possible inform the other coach and note the number that the player is playing in.)

All Suspensions should appear on the Point Streak score sheets, and while we will make every effort to keep the suspensions up to date. It remains the ultimate responsibility of the coaches & managers to comply and not play any player that is to be serving a suspension. Any Coach/Player that knowingly plays in a game that he/she should be serving a suspension will lead to forfeiture of the game along with any Sanctions outlined in USA Hockey.

Notes: Suspensions will appear on all game sheets of the day, until the suspension is actually served, so even if the suspension is only for one game it will show up on both score sheets for the day. (Because the suspension has not been served). BE SURE TO INDICATE THE PLAYER IS SERVING THE SUSPENSION ON THE Score sheet at the bottom.

If a player/coach receives a suspension in the first game of the day, it will not appear on the second Game Sheet, It is the coach's responsibility to report and not play that player in the next game. If a coach plays a player in a game that he knows he is suspended for, the game will be a forfeit and the coach and player will be subject to further suspension per USAH & SFHL Hockey rules.

6. Game Results: The Winning team , or Home team in the event of a tie, is responsible of reporting(via Email or FAX) the results of the weekend league games to the commissioner by the Monday Night following the weekend series.

Coaches must sign scoresheets BEFORE the start of the game. This signature verifies that all players listed and not "scratched" are present for play in that game. If it is found that a player appearing on the scoresheet and not scratched was not present for the game and the Coach signed the scoresheet the Head Coach of that team will be suspended for the next scheduled game.

7. Players' Stats: Only penalties will be posted to Pointstreak. NO INDIVIDUAL STATS WILL BE POSTED. We suggest Team Associations post those stats to their web sites.

8. Start Times: It is requested that players be at the rink thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled start time for their respective game. Games may be started as many as 15 minutes prior to their scheduled time. Referees have the latitude to issue delay of game penalties and teams will forfeit the option to warm-up if they are not ready to take the ice immediately after it has been resurfaced.

9. Game Times: The length of periods, time-outs, and penalties and the number and the arrangement of games in a league weekend are determined by the playing rules for each division of play. (See Addendum-1)

10. Curfew: Games shall not start before 6:00 AM or after 11PM.

In the event that host team cannot accommodate all scheduled games in accordance with the above curfew and the visiting team is unwilling to play during the curfew, the overall game schedule shall be reduced by the number of games required to meet the curfew guidelines.

11. Game Officials: The hosting rink is required to furnish all on ice and off ice officials including timekeeper and scorekeeper for all games. Both teams should provide a minor off ice official to handle the duties in the penalty box. All minor off ice officials, including penalty box workers, scorekeepers and timekeepers are to be reminded that coaching is not permitted from that area.

12. Travel Rule (Inclement Weather): All League games on the SFHL master schedule are to be played as scheduled. In the event that inclement weather is imminent, the association representatives for the organizations affected should be in contact with each other and with the various state agencies and media sources as necessary to gather information to make the most prudent decision. In the interest of the safety of the players, coaches, families and officials, it is best to err on the side of caution. Every effort must be made to reschedule the games as soon as possible. Each organization is to leave the weekend two weeks prior to the SAHOF Playoffs open to fill any weather related series games. If the home team cannot reschedule the game before the end of the SFHL regular season or the weekend two weeks preceding SAHOF Playoffs, the visiting team may reschedule the games on its own ice with the "home team" paying for the ice and the officials. If neither team can reschedule the games, all affected games shall be counted as tied games. Both organizations must make reasonable, good faith efforts to schedule the games; especially if the games have an impact on the positioning for playoffs. If all age groups cannot be rescheduled, then the divisions where playoff implications are greatest should be rescheduled first.

13 Officials: Every effort will be made to schedule not less than two (2) on ice officials for Squirt , Peewee and Bantams games per current USA Hockey rules, and a three (3) man official system for Midget games. In the event that an official cannot be present, both coaches must agree to play the game with the number of officials present and record and sign the score sheet.

14. Determination of Champions or Place Positions: League champions may be recognized as per the direction of the SFHL EXECUTIVE BOARD. The team within the specific age group with the highest total points at the end of the season will be designated as Champion of that age level. Unless there is a Playoff Series in that case the winner of the Playoff Series will be designated the League Champion.

Teams will receive the following points based on game play:

- 2 points for a win in league play.
 - One point for a tie
 - Zero points for a loss
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- League champions may be recognized as per the direction of the SFHL EXECUTIVE BOARD

In the event of a tie the following tie breaker rules will apply: the following tie breaker shall apply in this order until a tie breaker is reached:

Most Points
Most Wins
Head to Head game results of tied teams
Least Goals Allowed
Least amount of Penalties minutes.
Most Goals Scored

Coin toss.

The SAHOF Executive Board has sole determination of how teams from our Affiliate advance to the USAH Nationals Tournament – not the SFHL.

Should SAHOF extend Automatic Bids for SFHL teams to participate in the USAH Nationals Tournament, any Automatic Bid shall go to the highest ranked team in each age group at the conclusion of regular season league play.

SECTION D: SUPPLEMENTARY DISCIPLINE, GRIEVANCES AND PROTESTS

1) Grievances: Any grievances or protests involving officiating, procedures, rules and regulations at League games shall be handled according to these guidelines:

Grievances or protests are to be written and submitted by the ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE ONLY to the Commissioner of SFHL within 48 hours of perceived infraction.

Grievances or protest involving judgment calls by the Referees are not allowed and will not be considered.

2. Investigations: The Commissioner shall be responsible for investigating and reporting on incidents which may call for the assessment of supplementary discipline under the USA HOCKEY rule book and shall make recommendations on supplemental disciplinary actions to the EXECUTIVE BOARD.

The Commissioner shall use his(her) best efforts to gather and report on each situation in a fair and consistent fashion and complete the review and recommendation process in within one week. The EXECUTIVE BOARD will act upon the recommendation of the Commissioner.

The EXECUTIVE BOARD may assist the commissioner with his investigations and in preparing the recommendation. The EXECUTIVE BOARD shall have 72 hours to review the recommendation of the Commissioner and cast their vote in favor of or against the stated recommendation. Supplementary discipline shall only be assessed upon a majority vote of the EXECUTIVE BOARD. In the case of a tie, the commissioner shall cast the deciding vote.

Rule 410 | Supplementary Discipline

(a) In addition to the suspensions imposed under these rules, the proper disciplinary authority, at its discretion and after the game has been completed, may 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.

The SAHOF SUSPENSION COMMITTEE will handle any appeals of this process through the USA HOCKEY BY-LAWS SECTION 10.

Addendum 1 (2015-2017)

Game time will be as followed: All Squirt, PW & Bantam games have 1:15 minute time limits. Midgets have a 1:20 game slot

Squirts: 3-12 minute stop time periods, one time out allowed.

Peewees 3- 13 minute stop time periods one time allowed.

Bantams 3- 14 minute stop time periods one time out allowed

Midget U16 3- 14 minute stop time periods one time out allowed

Midget U18 3- 14 minute stop time periods one time out allowed.

Time allowing the third period will start with the allotted game times,

In the event of time constraints the third period will become running clock when the game time and the Ice slot are equal; no time outs will be allowed once the clock has begun running time.

All games must be completed the allotted time slot.

At any time that a team is ahead by 5 goals in the third period, time will be running clock. If time permits timeouts will be allowed, see rule above.

All USA Hockey guidelines concerning penalties apply.