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## **Empire Amateur Hockey Conference**

The Sports Centre at MCC  
2700 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road  
Rochester, NY 14623  
[www.empirehockey.org](http://www.empirehockey.org)

### **OCTOBER 2012**

Welcome to the 2012-2013 Empire Amateur Hockey Conference season.

Changes from last season's rules and regulations have been typed in bold letters for your convenience. Please note that as a member of the Empire Amateur Hockey Conference it is your responsibility to know and abide by the rules in this guidebook. The guidebook information is also on our website at [www.empirehockey.org](http://www.empirehockey.org) .

Disciplinary rules have been updated. The focus is shifting from simply counting game misconducts, to more attention on major penalties. This shift recognizes that simply using game misconducts does not always bring focus to the real issue of player safety. Measuring major penalties is a much better proxy for identifying players who need to additional attention and focus. In addition, relaxing some of rules and guidelines for Midget player eligibility have been established as well. This is the first step in a major change for the Midget format for next year. The proliferation of JV teams in our area has led to a huge growth of High School "Development" teams, at the expense of the Empire House Midget program. The intent is to bring many of these programs back under Empire.

This is the second year for our Red White & Blue (RWB) U8 division. Last year we began a phased in approach, beginning with the RWB B level which replaced the full-ice Mite B play. This year, the former Mite A division is now participating in the cross ice/half ice format. Empire Hockey has worked hard to establish a framework of rules for game play for this division. Please note the playing guidelines for RWB A and B are slightly different. Refer to the new guidelines in this document for a full description of those rules. Your Red White & Blue Commissioners are your resource for questions and feedback.

This season we will continue to support on-line referee evaluations via our website at [www.empirehockey.org](http://www.empirehockey.org). It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to make sure an evaluation form is filed for all games. Just go to the "Coaches Corner" page and click the link for "On-Line Referee Evaluation Form." This system allows the Conference and the Rochester Ice Hockey Officials Association to view your game evaluations in a timely fashion. This gives us the opportunity to deal with any problems or issues that arise while they are still fresh in everyone's mind.

Good luck to all the teams this season and thank you for volunteering your time working with this league, your organization, and your players.

Sincerely,  
David Melroy  
President  
Empire Amateur Hockey Conference

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The Sports Centre at MCC  
2700 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road  
Rochester, NY 14623  
[www.empirehockey.org](http://www.empirehockey.org)

## CONFERENCE DIRECTORY

### CONFERENCE OFFICERS

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### *Past President '09 (Webster)*

Rick Abraham

### *Past President '08 (Batavia)*

Gerald Wolcott

### *Past President '07 (TCYH)*

Sean Grady

### *Past President '06 (Geneseo)*

Jeff Chamberlain

### *Past President '05 (CKH)*

Tim Eddinger

### *Past President '04 (PYH)*

Jim Young

### *Rochester Grizzlies / Red Wings Contact Person: (non-voting, non-member)*

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## CONFERENCE DIRECTORY DIVISION COMMISSIONERS

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## CONFERENCE DIRECTORY

### MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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[NST2@aol.com](mailto:NST2@aol.com)

## *AREA ICE RINKS*

*Falletti Ice Arena (Batavia)*  
22 Evans Street  
Batavia, NY 14020  
(585) 344-3991

*Greater Canandaigua Civic Center  
(GCCC) (Canandaigua)*  
250 North Bloomfield Road  
Canandaigua, NY 14424  
(585) 396-7230

*Wilson Field House Ice Arena  
(Geneseo)*  
SUNY at Geneseo  
Geneseo, NY 14454  
(585) 245-5356

*Scottsville Ice Arena (MCYH)*  
1800 Scottsville-Chili Road  
Scottsville, NY 14546  
(585) 889-1810

*Lakeshore Ice Arena (MCYH)*  
123 Ling Road  
Rochester, NY 14612  
(585) 865-2800

*Genesee Valley Ice Rink (MCYH)*  
131 Elmwood Ave.  
Rochester, NY 14611  
(585) 428-7889

*Tuttle Building (TCYH)*  
SUNY at Brockport  
Brockport, NY 14420  
(585) 395-2244

*The Sports Centre at MCC (RYH)*  
2700 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Rd  
Rochester, NY 14623  
(585) 424-4625

*Thomas Creek Ice Arena (PYH)*  
80 Lyndon Road  
Fairport, NY 14450  
(585) 223-2160

*Webster Community Sports Arena (WYH)*  
865 Publishers Parkway  
Webster, NY 14580  
(585) 787-3530

*Skating Institute of Rochester (PYH)*  
1 Boy's Club Place  
Rochester, NY 14608  
(585) 325-2218

*Village Sports Rink*  
2830 Baird Road  
Fairport, NY 14450  
(585) 381-0090

**Empire Amateur Hockey Conference  
2012-2013 CALENDAR  
The Sports Centre at MCC**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Agenda</u>	
May	9	BREAK	No Meeting
June	12	Monthly meeting	6:30 Lakeshore
July	17	Monthly Meeting	6:30 Lakeshore
August	14	Monthly Meeting	6:30 MCC
September	11	Monthly Meeting Preliminary Team Counts Due	6:30 MCC
September	25	Pre-Scheduling Meeting Final Team Counts Due	6:30 MCC
October	2	2012-13 Mite-Midget Scheduling Meeting	6:00 East High School, 1801 E. Main Street, Rochester, NY 14609
October	13	EAHC Midget Season Starts Conference Fee Statements Mailed	
October	20	EAHC Mite/RWB-Bantam Season Starts	
November	13	Monthly Meeting	6:30 MCC
December	11	Monthly Meeting	6:30 MCC
December	31	USA Hockey Team Rosters Frozen All Coaches must be certified at the Proper CEP level he or she is coaching	
January	1	Conference Fees Due	
January	8	Monthly Meeting	6:30 MCC
February	10	EAHC Season ends for teams	
February	12	Monthly Meeting	6:30 MCC
February	12-21	EAHC Playoffs	
February	23-24	EAHC Division Championship Games	Webster Ice Arena
March	12	Monthly Meeting Transition of Officers	6:30 MCC
April	9	Monthly Meeting	6:30 MCC

All meetings are held at the Sports Centre at MCC which is located at 2700 Brighton-Henrietta Rd. on the MCC Campus in Henrietta, NY. All Monthly Meetings are "Open" to all interested parties. Call or email the EAHC President or Secretary, to add any items to the meeting agenda.

The EAHC Directory has a list of the EAHC Board of Directors.

Web-Site: [www.empirehockey.org](http://www.empirehockey.org)



# **EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE BY LAWS**

## **ARTICLE I - ORGANIZATION NAME**

This organization shall be known as the EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE, here in after referred to as the Conference or EAHC.

## **ARTICLE II - ORGANIZATION OBJECTIVES**

- A. The objective of this organization shall be to administer a recreational youth hockey program that provides:
1. A safe and healthy environment in which to play the sport of ice hockey,
  2. A fair and equal opportunity for all youth to participate in the sport,
  3. An opportunity to learn the basic skills of ice hockey without an over-emphasis on winning,
  4. The promotion of good sportsmanship and fair play,
  5. An operating philosophy, which attempts to reduce the number of players that become disenchanted and drop out of the sport,
  6. An opportunity for those who desire to advance to a higher level of play; in a more skilled and competitive environment, to do so,
  7. Qualified, knowledgeable and motivated adult leadership.
- B. The Conference shall achieve these objectives by supporting member youth hockey organizations and providing opportunities for the free exchange of information among members which focuses upon the betterment of the sport, the youth hockey participants (players and coaches) and the member organizations.
- C. Each member organization is expected to make substantial sacrifice of time in service and operational funding to the Conference, consistent with their member's other organizational, personal and family responsibilities.

## **ARTICLE III - ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Members of the Conference shall be active youth ice hockey organizations as defined by and registered with USA Hockey and the New York State Amateur Hockey Association.
- B. Membership in the Conference can be acquired by application in writing to the President or Secretary, acceptance by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and a stated willingness to comply with and adhere to the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Conference. Whenever any new Organization joins the Conference, the first year shall be a probationary period with no voting rights. A vote shall occur after the new Organization's first season to consider full membership.
- C. The Board of Directors may permit individual teams from non-member organizations to participate in Conference play, providing that the non-member organizations shall agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Conference and pay the dues required of them.
- D. Membership in the Conference shall be subject to suspension or forfeiture in the event of a

member organization or team's failure to comply with any of the requirements of the by-laws, rules and regulations, or decisions of the Board of Directors.

E. Conference dues are \$125.00 per team and shall be billed by the Treasurer in October and due January 1st of each year. Teams from organizations with unpaid dues are not eligible for the playoffs.

a. **Red White & Blue (Mite) Teams will have conference dues of \$50 per Scheduling Entity as they will not participate in playoffs.**

#### **ARTICLE IV - PLAYING RULES**

Conference playing rules shall from time to time be adopted by the Empire Amateur Hockey Conference, but shall in no way conflict with the rules of USA HOCKEY or the New York State Amateur Hockey Association.

#### **ARTICLE V - GOVERNMENT**

##### **A. Officers**

1. Officers shall be appointed each year by the member Organizations. Each member Organization is responsible for a different officer each year according to the "Officer/Championship Schedule" attached to these By-Laws.
2. The responsibility of supplying a volunteer to fill the Officer positions each year shall be rotated by the Member Organizations according to the "Officer/Championship Schedule" attached to these By-Laws.

##### **B. Board of Directors**

1. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of one voting member from each member organization, and his/her alternate, who have been appointed to represent the interests of that member organization. These individuals shall be known as the Conference Representative and Alternate, who shall vote in the absence of the Representative.
2. The Conference shall be notified annually, in writing of the Representative and Alternate that the member organization has appointed to serve as their Representative on the Conference Board of Directors.
3. The Conference Board of Directors shall be empowered to set the policy of the Conference and resolve issues pertaining to the interpretation of the By-Laws and the Rules and Regulations of the Conference.
4. The Conference Board of Directors shall convene periodically. Meetings of the board shall be open to the public and minutes shall be published and distributed to each member organization.
5. The Conference Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of once every other month. A meeting may be called at anytime by any member of the Board of Directors for just cause, upon the agreement of the President, or upon petition to the President in writing and signed by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors.
  - a) In the event of such a petition, the meeting shall be scheduled in a timely fashion. In no event shall the meeting be in less than three (3) days from the President's receipt of the petition or no more than fifteen (15) days, unless the petitioner's otherwise waive the maximum time requirement in their petition.
  - b) Notice of all meetings of the conference Board of Directors shall be given no less

than seven (7) days in advance to all members unless written waiver of such notice is received by the President. (See above provision.)

6. In circumstances where it becomes necessary to reach an immediate decision and no meeting is scheduled, voting by e-mail correspondence would be acceptable on condition that the President of the Conference approves, oversees, validates (by collecting and recording responses) and agrees to such a request. Any EAHC Board of Directors member in good standing may request an e-mail vote. All e-mail voting shall follow procedures as outlined and shall be formally ratified at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
7. The majority of voting members of the Board of Directors shall be present at any meeting to form a quorum and conduct Conference business. A majority vote of those present shall govern, except where otherwise provided for. Any questions or requests for action shall be discussed for a maximum of twenty (20) minutes. A vote on this subject shall then be held.
8. A roll call shall be taken at each meeting. The record of those in attendance shall become a part of each meeting minutes.
9. If a member of the Board of Directors shall miss three (3) consecutive meetings, without an excuse, their member organization shall be notified that it is necessary for them to replace their Conference Representative or Officer on the Board of Directors.
10. Each member organization shall have one (1) vote regardless of the number of teams that they enter into the Conference.
11. Each member organization shall provide a Conference Representative and a Division Commissioner.
12. Membership on the Board of Directors is excluded to all active Conference players.

#### C. The Conference Executive Committee

1. The Conference Executive Committee shall be comprised of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Conference.
2. The Executive Committee shall convene periodically to plan activities and events on behalf of the Board of Directors.
3. Decisions of the Executive Committee shall be subject to the final approval of the Board of Directors.

#### D. Standing or Special Committees

1. The Board of Directors may designate from among its members one (1) or more standing or special committees.
2. The committees shall have such authority as the Board of Directors shall provide, subject to the limitations provided in the Conference By-Laws.
3. The Chairman of the committee or the Board of Directors may designate one (1) or more individuals to serve as member of the committee or to replace an absent member or members at any meeting of such committee.
4. Decisions of standing or special committee shall be subject to the final approval of the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE VI - ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. The Conference President**

1. The President shall act as the Chief Executive Officer of the Conference. It shall be the President's duty to supervise the management of the affairs of the Conference, subject to the oversight of the Board of Directors.
2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors at which the President is required to be present.
3. The President shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Board of Directors are carried out.
4. The President shall secure a meeting location for the Board of Directors to meet, then propose and publish an agenda for the meeting.
5. The President shall maintain and update, as needed, the By-Laws of the Conference and present them to the Board of Directors for ratification and/or amendment.
6. The President shall vote only in the event of a tied vote by the Board of Directors.
7. The President shall serve as chairman of the Disciplinary Committee, but shall vote only in the event of a tie of the committee's members.
8. The President shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to the President by the Board of Directors.

### **B. The Conference Vice President**

1. The Conference Vice President shall, during the absence or disability of the President, have all of the powers and functions of the President.
2. The Vice President shall coordinate the training and routine administrative activities of the Division Commissioners.
3. The Vice President shall maintain and update, as needed, the Rules and Regulations of the Conference and present them to the Board of Directors for approval and/or amendment.
4. The Vice President shall coordinate the Conference playoff and championship games for all participating division Conference Representatives and Division Commissioners.
  - a) The Vice President shall coordinate the Conference committee to establish specific playoff and championship game rules and procedures and present same to the Board of Directors for approval.
5. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Board of Directors.

### **C. The Conference Secretary**

1. The Conference Secretary shall keep the records of the Conference, conduct correspondence, issue notice of meetings, prepare an official Conference calendar of events, publish the Conference Roster, record the minutes of each meeting and perform the usual duties of a secretary.
2. The Secretary shall coordinate the Conference Scheduling Meeting for team officials and provide organizational materials and methods to ensure the successful operation of same.
3. The Secretary shall compile and publish the "Official Guide" of the Conference.
4. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the

Board of Directors.

D. The Conference Treasurer

1. The Conference Treasurer is responsible for all of the financial matters concerning the Conference, which shall include keeping all books and accounts, invoicing member organizations for fees, the collection of said fees and the payment of all bills.
2. The Treasurer shall present an annual financial report setting forth, in full, the financial condition of the Conference.
3. The Treasurer shall, at all reasonable times, exhibit the Conference books and accounts to any Conference Officer or member of the Board of Directors.
4. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him/her by the Board of Directors.

E. The Conference Representative/Alternate

1. The Conference Representative/Alternate shall:
  - a) Act as an active participant on the Conference Board of Directors.
  - b) Act as the Conference's main point of contact to their member organization.
  - c) Vote on Conference issues on behalf of their member organization.
  - d) Schedule Conference Disciplinary Committee meetings with the Conference Secretary, as necessary.
  - e) Be present at the Conference scheduling meeting to meet coaches and assist in game scheduling.
  - f) Organize and supervise Conference Playoff games hosted by their member organization and assist the Division Commissioner.
  - g) Update their member organization of Conference rule changes.
  - h) Objectively support and enforce USA HOCKEY, New York State Amateur Hockey Association and Empire Amateur Hockey Conference Rules and Regulations.
  - i) Attend conference games. Watch for signs of competitive imbalance among teams and recommend modifications as necessary.
  - j) Distribute Conference Board of Directors meeting minutes to their member organization.
  - k) Participate actively in their member organization and seek to insure correct placement of players (level of play) / teams and participate in the on-going assessment of coaches / other team personnel.

F. The Conference Division Commissioner

1. The Conference Division Commissioner shall:
  - a) Act as the main point of contact to the division's coaches and managers.
  - b) Attend monthly Conference Board of Directors meetings (September - April).
  - c) Schedule Conference Disciplinary Committee meetings (as needed), advise Conference members of accumulated penalty minutes, aggressive play penalties and major game infractions.
  - d) Attend the Conference scheduling meeting to meet coaches, assist in game scheduling and take ownership of the division master schedule.

- e) Update all division coaches and managers of Conference rule changes.
- f) Objectively enforce all USA HOCKEY, New York State Amateur Hockey Association and Empire Amateur Hockey Conference Rules and Regulations.
- g) Inform the Conference President of all team and member organization fines assessed.
- h) Attend division games. See each team in the division play a minimum of one game per season.
- i) Attend and supervise Conference Playoff games for the division.
- j) Watch for signs of competitive imbalance among teams and recommend modifications as necessary.
- k) Complete and maintain player and team reports and statistics on the Conference website in a timely manner (at least weekly).
- l) The Conference Division Commissioner cannot hold a head coach position within the same division that they are responsible for.

#### **ARTICLE VII - APPROVAL/CHANGES TO BY-LAWS**

- A. A vote of two-thirds of the entire Conference Board of Directors shall be required to ratify, amend and/or repeal these by-laws.

#### **ARTICLE VIII - HOST OF CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES**

- A. The privilege of hosting the Empire Amateur Hockey Conference Championship games shall be rotated among the member Organizations per the "Officer/Championship Schedule". If the designated organization turns down this privilege, hosting of Championship games will be open to any member organization.
- B. The responsibilities of hosting the Championship games include:
  - 1. Supply ice time for all Championship games on the date designated on the Conference schedule.
  - 2. Schedule referees for all Championship games.
  - 3. Supply all off-ice officials for all games including scorekeeper, timekeeper, and penalty box attendants.
  - 4. Supply a public address system for all Championship games.
  - 5. Be prepared to assist Conference Officers with the presentation of awards.
- C. The ice and referee fees shall be split equally among the member Organizations. It is the responsibility of the "Host" to pay the original fees and submit a copy of the invoices to the Conference for re-imbursement.

## EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE OFFICER/CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

### OFFICER SCHEDULE

YEAR	PRESIDENT	VICE PRES.	YEAR OFF	SECRETARY	TREASURER	CHAMP HOST*	YEAR OFF	PAST PRES.
2012-2013	CANANDAIGUA	MONROE CO.	GENESEO	BROCKPORT	BATAVIA	WEBSTER	ROCH. YOUTH	PERINTON
2013-2014	MONROE CO.	GENESEO	BROCKPORT	BATAVIA	WEBSTER	ROCH. YOUTH	MONROE CO.	CANANDAIGUA
2014-2015	GENESEO	BROCKPORT	BATAVIA	WEBSTER	ROCH. YOUTH	MONROE CO.	PERINTON	MONROE CO.
2015-2016	BROCKPORT	BATAVIA	WEBSTER	ROCH. YOUTH	MONROE CO.	PERINTON	CANANDAIGUA	GENESEO
2016-2017	BATAVIA	WEBSTER	ROCH. YOUTH	MONROE CO.	PERINTON	CANANDAIGUA	GENESEO	BROCKPORT
2017-2018	WEBSTER	ROCH. YOUTH	MONROE CO.	PERINTON	CANANDAIGUA	GENESEO	BROCKPORT	BATAVIA
2018-2019	ROCH. YOUTH	MONROE CO.	PERINTON	CANANDAIGUA	GENESEO	BROCKPORT	BATAVIA	WEBSTER
2019-2020	MONROE CO.	PERINTON	CANANDAIGUA	GENESEO	BROCKPORT	BATAVIA	WEBSTER	ROCH. YOUTH
2020-2021	PERINTON	CANANDAIGUA	GENESEO	BROCKPORT	BATAVIA	WEBSTER	ROCH. YOUTH	MONROE CO.
2021-2022	CANANDAIGUA	GENESEO	BROCKPORT	BATAVIA	WEBSTER	ROCH. YOUTH	MONROE CO.	PERINTON

### CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

The organization listed in the second "CHAMP HOST\*" position has the option to host the Conference Championship games. If that organization declines, the privilege of hosting the Conference Championship games will be opened to any member organization and approved by the Board of Directors.

# EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE RULES and REGULATIONS

The current USA HOCKEY and NEW YORK STATE AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION rules and regulations shall govern all play in the EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE (herein after referred to as the Conference or EAHC). Any challenge or protest to these rules shall be directed to the West Section President.

## 2012-2013 Rule updates are noted in bold text

### SECTION I - ADMINISTRATIVE

#### A. Player Eligibility

1. All area youth hockey players are eligible to play in the Conference except those players participating on any Tier III or above Travel or Select hockey team for the current season (example: August 1 through completion of Conference Championship Games). A player with any prep school, college or junior experience has to petition the EAHC Board for acceptance into the Midget A division. Any exceptions except those noted below are subject to approval by the Empire Amateur Hockey Conference Board of Directors.
  - a) Any player (skater or goalie) rostered on a Conference Team may play ten (10) games TOTAL (includes any USA Hockey Sanctioned game with referees and a score sheet) for a Tier III or above Travel Team (including Girls Travel) and/or Select Team. Once a player rostered on a Conference Team plays in their eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) game for a Travel and/or Select Team, they shall forfeit their Conference eligibility and subject their Conference Team to penalties associated with use of an illegal player. Note that the definition of "play" is being listed on the score sheet for the game.
  - b) ~~Any girl playing on an All Girls Team which plays in an All Girls League is not subject to the ten (10) game rule and may play an unlimited number of games for their All Girls Team.~~ **REMOVED (starting in the 2011-12 season)**
  - c) Provisional Rule Change for Midget only – Players who have participated in eleven (11) or more Tier III or above games at the Midget level may petition the Conference for assignment to a team provided they meet the following qualifications:
    - They are not playing or rostered or participating as an alternate on any other USA Hockey team.
    - They are not playing or rostered or participating as an alternate on any High School or JV team.

The petition shall include:

- Details of the player's current situation
- The roster of the player's last team
- The contact information of the player's last coach
- The player's preference of Association (1<sup>st</sup> choice, 2<sup>nd</sup> choice, 3<sup>rd</sup> choice, etc.)

Upon approval of the petition the Conference shall assign the player to any Association or team within the Conference to preserve competitive balance. ~~No single team shall have more than two (2) approved player~~



exceptions (by petition) to the eleven (11) game limit on their roster. ~~(removed for 2012-13 season)~~. If the player refuses the assignment to an Association or team they may not re-apply until the following season.

~~d) When considering requests the player shall have been to a tryout and been cut by his/her JV or Varsity team. (removed for 2012-13 season)~~

**e) Any rostered high School Development player is eligible to be rostered on an Empire house team. High School Development teams are limited to 10 games (scrimmages) versus travel teams. A High School Development team can't be a member of any Travel League.**

2. A player shall be rostered on only one (1) Conference team within a single member organization.

a) It is not unlawful for a player to participate on more than one (1) team by being registered in more than one (1) member organization.

3. "Select Teams" and "Travel Teams" are not eligible to participate in the Conference. The definition of a "Select Team" or "Travel Team" is a team that has had try-outs and one from which players may be "cut" based on ability. A "House Team" is defined as the teams in an organization in which players are evaluated for playing ability and there are no players "cut" from the organization based on ability.

4. Age classifications set by USA HOCKEY shall be strictly adhered to.

5. Any team official or member of the Conference may challenge a player's age. Having done so the player has one (1) week (seven days) to provide proof of age to the respective Division Commissioner. If after one (1) week, proof of age has not been established, the challenged player shall be suspended and shall remain so until proof of age has been established.

**a) The Conference encourages all member organizations to age verify all players at the Squirt level and above.**

6. High School players are eligible to play in the conference as long as they meet the eligibility rules in the above sections.

#### B. Conference Waiver Policy

A USA HOCKEY registered player shall play within the outlined age classifications. Younger players may "play up" if skill is such that it is deemed appropriate. "Playing down" is not allowed by USA Hockey. USA Hockey can grant a waiver for a medical condition that is documented only by a physician. The USA Hockey waiver allows a player to play down one level and is not granted for player size reasons; only for a valid medical condition. Players with USA Hockey medical waivers for a season may play down in Conference games/playoffs and shall not participate on any High School, JV, travel or select team. The Conference's acceptance of the USA Hockey medical waiver does not guarantee or grant rights for the player to participate in Tournaments or scrimmages. The Organization's Conference Representative shall declare players who are "playing down" with a USA Hockey medical waiver to the Division Commissioner and the Conference Board.

### C. Determination of Team Levels

1. When **fifteen (15)** or more teams are registered for a division the division shall be split into "A" and "B" levels (Exception – if a Division registers less than **15** teams in the previous year, the Division shall not be split into A & B and if a member organization has more than one team, the players should be divided equally).
2. When a member organization registers only one (1) team in a division, the member organization shall decide at what level that team shall play, dependent on the competitive level of the players on that particular team.
3. When a member organization registers two (2) or more teams in a division, one half or greater shall be registered at the A level.
  - a) **If an organization wishes to have more B than A teams in a division, the organization must submit a written letter of explanation (email is acceptable) to the president and the secretary of the league. This letter must be received by the president and secretary no later than two (2) weeks before the scheduling meeting.**
  - b) **The letter of explanation should include a list of players on the team(s) for which an exception is being requested. The list should include players' birth dates, and prior year's teams and division and level (for example PeeWee B).**
  - c) **If the letter of explanation is not received by the due date, an exception to the Team Level rule will not be considered.**
  - d) **The President and/or the Board of Directors will evaluate the letter of explanation and will determine whether to allow the exception (more B than A teams in a division).**
4. The Conference and its Division Commissioner shall correct competitive imbalance among teams.

### D. Conference Liability

1. In the event of any injuries, the Empire Amateur Hockey Conference shall be held "Save Harmless". Each participating member organization and/or player shall carry his or her own insurance.

## SECTION II - PARTICIPATING TEAM ROSTERS

- A. The EAHC Team Roster form shall be submitted to the Division Commissioner at the October scheduling meeting. Players (Peewee B Division and above) are required to sign the Empire Team Roster. Players at all levels are required to provide date of birth. Player addresses are not required on rosters as per USA Hockey. Any player additions to the original EAHC Team Roster shall be made, in writing, to the Division Commissioner prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> of that year (No player movement shall take place after this date). The EAHC Team Roster shall be used as the official team roster until the USA Hockey Team Roster is available.
  1. Upon receiving his/her certified/stamped USA Hockey Team Roster, it is the Head Coach's responsibility to deliver it to the Division Commissioner as soon as possible and no later than February 1st. Failure to obtain a certified/stamped

USA Hockey Team Roster may result in the team becoming ineligible for playoffs and/or a fine. The USA Hockey roster is the official team roster for the rest of the Conference season and throughout the Conference Playoffs and Championships. Signatures on the EAHC Team Roster shall continue to be utilized for player verification at the Peewee B level and above as signatures on the USA Hockey Team Roster are no longer required by the Conference.

2. Any questions or challenges to a team roster shall be directed to the appropriate Division Commissioner for resolution.
3. The minimum number of players on a team roster shall be eleven (11). EAHC does not recommend forming teams this small and strongly suggests minimum rosters be 13 players for Mites/Squirts, 15 players for Peewee/Bantam & 17 players for Midgets when possible.
  - a) The maximum number of players on a USA Hockey roster is twenty (20) with no more than eighteen (18) skaters and the remainder goalies.

**B. Player Movement – (addition/subtraction from team roster):**

1. When any player is added or subtracted from a team's roster, the Division Commissioner shall receive a player movement request.
  - a) Official notification shall be made verbally, in writing or via e-mail by the requesting coach to the Division Commissioner of all team roster changes before any player participates in a game. Receipt of official documentation (EAHC Team Roster with complete player information including player's signature if applicable) shall be received from the requesting team official within one (1) week after verbal/email notification to the Division Commissioner. Failure to supply an updated EAHC Team Roster shall result in forfeiture of the game(s) involving the player(s) in question.
  - b) If the Division Commissioner determines that a serious imbalance exists in his/her division, he or she shall convene a meeting of the Conference to ascertain whether team(s)/player(s) shall be re-assigned between divisions. Movements within associations shall be made effective no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.
2. If a Division Commissioner determines that a competitive imbalance still exists after December 31, the team in question may have its Conference Playoff eligibility revoked.
3. An objection to any decision of the Division Commissioner by any participating organization may be appealed to the Conference Board of Directors.

**SECTION III - COACHING REQUIREMENTS**

- A. On January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season, all coaches (Head and Assistant) shall meet the USA Hockey mandated certification levels for their respective divisions.
- B. All of the organization's Conference Representatives shall submit to the Conference Vice-President a copy of the Coaching Certification Report in PDF format which is generated by the USA Hockey Registration software. This report is required monthly starting in September until the organization can prove that all coaches are certified to the proper level. Using the Conference website to determine a list of coaches for every

organization, the Conference Vice-President shall prepare a report on any coaches not certified to the proper level by the November Conference meeting and the Conference Board can determine what actions, if any, are needed at this meeting.

- C. All coaches, BOTH Head and assistant, who do not obtain the proper USA Hockey CEP Level for which he/she is coaching for the current season by December 31 of the current season is subject to suspension from the Conference, ineligibility to coach their team in the Conference playoffs and/or a fine.

#### **SECTION IV – OFFICIAL SCORE SHEETS**

- A. The Conference score sheet is the official record and conclusive evidence of the circumstances of each game.
  - 1. There are absolutely no changes allowed in any penalty calls once they are assessed. Any alterations of the score sheet concerning players who have scored goals or made assists are to be made with the referees in attendance and prior to them signing the score sheet.
  - 2. Suspended players shall be listed on the score sheet. There shall be a written indication on the score sheet that a player was serving a suspension.
    - a) It is the Conference's recommendation that all suspended players be physically present at those games in which they are serving suspensions.
- B. The original score sheet (white copy) shall be completed and mailed to the Division Commissioner by the HOME team, along with a completed Referee Evaluation (both teams SHALL submit a completed Referee Evaluation).
  - 1. If a score sheet is submitted incomplete, a fine against the offending organization may be assessed.
  - 2. Score sheets shall be mailed within seventy-two (72) hours after the completion of the game or a fine may be assessed against the offending organization.
  - 3. Score sheets and reports of games involving a Match Penalty or Game Misconduct shall be reported to the appropriate Division Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours or prior to the next game.
  - 4. Score sheets SHALL be signed by all coaches (head and assistant), scorekeeper and the referees shall print their name as well as sign their name.
  - 5. All coaches SHALL write their certification numbers on the score sheet next to their signature.
  - 6. Players in the PeeWee B division and above are required to sign the score sheet and shall do so BEFORE the player participates in a game, including late arrivals. Failure to do so by any player may result in forfeiture of game and/or suspension of the player or coach or other action (ex: fine) as determined by the Conference.
  - 7. Coaches are required to sign score sheets and shall do so BEFORE the game begins.
  - 8. If the Referees need extra time to write the explanation of a Game Misconduct or Match Penalty on the score sheet, a copy of the score sheet shall be made available to both coaches in a reasonable amount of time after the game.

## SECTION V – ASSESSMENT OF FINES

### A. Fines are incurred for the following:

1. Any violation of the administrative rules not affecting the outcome of the game (late/missing score sheets, etc.)  
\$25.00 first offense per team  
\$35.00 each offense per team thereafter
2. Violations of administrative rules that hamper the effective operations of the Conference are: late/missing waivers, team rosters, proof of coaching certification, etc.  
\$15.00 each occurrence
3. Protested games that have been ruled against  
\$15.00 each occurrence

B. Division Commissioners shall notify the Conference President of any fine(s) to be assessed. The Conference President shall provide written notification of said fine(s) to the offending organization, Division Commissioner, and Conference Treasurer.

C. All fines shall be paid by member organizations before the conclusion of the regular season in order for a team to participate in the Conference playoff and championship games.

## SECTION VI – GAME PENALTIES

### A. Penalty minutes in the PeeWee through Midget Divisions shall be:

- Minor: Two minutes (2 minutes)
- Major: Five (5) or ten (10) minutes.
- Misconduct: Ten minutes (10 minutes)

### Penalty minutes in the ~~Mite A and~~ Squirt Divisions shall be:

- Minor: One minute, thirty seconds (1.5 minutes)
- Major: Five (5) or ten (10) minutes.
- Misconduct: Ten minutes (10 minutes)

### B. Game or Match Penalty

1. When a player or coach is assessed a Game or Match Penalty, ten (10) minutes in additional penalty time shall be added to the player's or coach's accumulated penalty minutes by the Commissioner.

### C. Suspensions are incurred for the following:

#### 1. Game Misconduct

A one (1) game suspension for all players, coaches and team officials in all Divisions is mandated by USA Hockey. USA Hockey mandated suspensions shall be served in the next game (Conference, Tournament or scrimmage) that already appears on the team's schedule at the time of the infraction which warranted the suspension.

#### 2. Match Penalty

Two (2) game suspension minimum. The offending player/team official is suspended from and shall not participate in any and all Conference and USA Hockey games/functions **and team practices** pending the outcome of a hearing

before the Disciplinary Committee. The hearing shall be held within thirty (30) days of the date the Conference is notified of the penalty.

Any player/team official who receives a Match Penalty is automatically placed on a one-year probationary period regardless of the outcome of the hearing.

### 3. Conference Suspensions

All Conference suspensions, other than those occurring from a Match Penalty or Game Misconduct, shall be limited to and served in Conference games.

## D. Disciplinary Committee

1. The Conference members who have the authority to act under USA HOCKEY Rule 410 entitled "Supplementary Discipline" shall be the Conference's Disciplinary Committee.
2. The Disciplinary Committee should consist of at least one voting member from each of the member organizations (representative, alternate or commissioner). It shall also include one member of the executive board. (President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer) who shall act as the Chairperson and cast the tie-breaking vote if necessary. The executive board member shall not come from the organization that has the infraction. A majority vote of a quorum of five is required to render a decision. The Committee Chairperson can limit number or participants from each party.
3. Disciplinary Committee hearings shall be held as needed.
4. Coaches of players requiring a Disciplinary Committee hearing shall notify their respective Division Commissioner of the need for the hearing.
5. If a referee issues a Match Penalty, a hearing by the Conference's Disciplinary Committee is required.
6. Players or team officials requiring a hearing shall be notified by mail, email or telephone of the date and time of the hearing by the Conference President.
7. Players or team officials requiring a hearing have the right to be in attendance and / or be represented by a person or persons of their choice.
  - a) If the Player or Team Official cannot within reason or due to extenuating circumstances attend the scheduled hearing, the Conference shall make an attempt to reschedule the hearing within thirty (30) days of the infraction so that the offending player / team official can be heard and present witnesses on their behalf.
8. If a player or team official decides not to appear at their scheduled hearing, the hearing shall still be held and they shall be notified of the Committee's decision by mail and/or telephone.
9. Any appearance before the Disciplinary Committee by a player or coach shall result in a mandatory one-year Conference probationary period. During this period prior incidents shall be considered when determining discipline or eligibility.
10. The Conference can make a request to the West Section President to extend any suspensions to all USA Hockey activities.

11. Any decision reached by the EAHC Disciplinary Committee may be appealed to the West Section President of the New York State Amateur Hockey Association (NYSAHA). Any appeal shall be placed within ten (10) days of the receipt of the written decision of the EAHC Disciplinary Committee.
  12. A written report of any and all hearings and disciplinary action(s) shall be sent to the West Section President for review and record keeping purposes.
- E. Accumulated penalties and misconducts exceeding ~~twenty (20) minutes for Mite level,~~ thirty (30) minutes for Squirt level, forty (40) minutes for Pee Wee level, fifty (50) minutes for Bantam level, and seventy (70) minutes for Midget level shall require an automatic suspension for a minimum of two (2) games (shall be served in Conference regular season or playoff games).
1. Penalty minutes shall include minor penalties, five (5) and ten (10) minute major penalties and misconducts.
  2. Once a player or coach has exceeded the accumulated penalty minutes noted above for their respective age division, additional penalties subsequently accumulated in fifteen (15) minutes increments thereafter (20 minutes for Midget) including Playoff games, shall result in the player or coach automatically receiving an additional two (2) game suspension **and the player or coach must** attend a hearing before the Disciplinary Committee.
    - a) The hearing shall be held within thirty (30) days of the date the Conference was notified of the accumulated penalty minutes.
  3. The Commissioner, at his/her discretion, may notify the coach when a player or coach has amassed the ~~first ten (10) penalty minutes at the Mite level,~~ twenty (20) minutes at the Squirt level, thirty (30) minutes at the Pee Wee level, forty (40) minutes at the Bantam level, and fifty (50) minutes at the Midget level.
  4. Coaches are responsible for keeping track of a player's penalty minutes.
- F. Any Game Misconduct incurred by a player, coach or team official in any regular season, playoff or championship game will automatically result in a one game suspension for all Divisions or as otherwise mandated by USA Hockey.
1. Game suspension – A player or team official incurring a game misconduct penalty shall be suspended for his/her team's next game (the game already appearing on the schedule of that team at the time of the infraction). This game may be a Conference or non-Conference game. Score sheets shall be submitted to commissioners within 72 hours.
  2. Any **coach** who receives three (3) Game Misconducts (excluding USA Hockey suspensions for a head coach whose team receives 15 penalties in one game) **or player who receives three (3) Major Penalties** during any given season shall forfeit their eligibility for the remainder of the season and playoffs. A player or coach may appeal the suspension within thirty (30) days.
- G. Suspension Procedures
1. Any suspension that carries over from the previous season shall use the first scheduled Conference Game of the new season as the first game served for such a suspension. In addition, all remaining carry-over games shall be served in

immediately succeeding games until such time as the suspension is satisfied. A player is eligible to participate in any scrimmages or tournaments prior to the first scheduled Conference Game.

2. **Player or coach** failure to serve the suspension shall result in **the offending Head Coach serving an additional suspension equal to the number of games said suspensions were not served.**
  3. It is the responsibility of the player's coach to enforce the suspension and indicate that the player is serving the suspension on the game score sheet.
    - a) The appearance of the player's name on the score sheet without the clear statement that he or she is sitting out a suspension shall be conclusive evidence that the player did in fact play in the game.
    - b) If the suspension is served in a non-Conference game, the completed score sheet shall be submitted to the Division Commissioner within 72 hours or the suspension shall not be counted as served.
  4. If a player, coach or team official receives a Game Misconduct, and is a player, coach or team official for one or more teams, they shall serve the suspension in the age division in which they were assessed the Game Misconduct.
    - a) The Disciplinary Committee shall be made aware of all misconducts.
  5. In instances where a suspension of a player(s) or team official(s) is not adhered to, the player(s) or team official(s) responsible is immediately suspended indefinitely and shall be brought before the Disciplinary Committee within a time frame not to exceed thirty (30) days.
- H. Parents or spectators who interfere with any game or become rowdy or abusive in any way may be ejected from the arena.
1. The referee may hold up a game until the person(s) are removed.
  2. Incidents of this nature will be noted by the referee on the score sheet and brought to the attention of the respective member organization immediately for necessary action.
  3. Use of noisemakers is prohibited during Conference games and playoffs. Examples of prohibited noisemakers include (but are not limited to): whistles, air horns, pennies in jars, megaphones, etc.
- I. A player whose equipment becomes dislodged during play may not resume play until the equipment is properly replaced.
1. Mouth protection pieces are mandatory for all levels. All mouthpieces shall be colored (non-clear). **Mite/RWB** and Squirts will be asked to leave the ice until the proper equipment is obtained. Peewees and above are governed by USA Hockey rules enforced by the referees.
  2. Throat/neck protection guards are REQUIRED for all levels of play. Players will be asked to leave the ice until the proper equipment is obtained.
- J. EAHC Aggressive Play Policy:
1. Purpose: This policy is intended to provide additional support to the USA Hockey, NYSAHA and EAHC playing rules, regulations and points of emphasis and not



necessarily intended to impose supplementary discipline. This policy is intended to draw attention to the dangerous and/or reckless behavior of participants and will hopefully result in modifications to such behavior so that additional supplementary discipline and suspensions are not necessary. This policy is directed at both players and team officials.

2. Definitions: For the purpose of the policy, the following shall be defined as an “Aggressive Play Penalty”:
  - a) Any Major Penalty including those that result in a Game and/or Match Penalty. Note that Game Misconducts or Match Penalties that are NOT the result of a Major Penalty are NOT considered Aggressive Play Penalties.
  - b) Minor Penalties imposed for checking from behind, boarding, charging.
  - c) Any penalty (minor, major or misconduct) that the referee states to the scorekeeper or writes up as “intent to injure” or “head contact” shall also count as an Aggressive Play Penalty.
3. Implementation:
  - a) Players or Coaches shall only be charged for one (1) Aggressive Play penalty per incident. Any incident is defined as the penalties written up with the same clock time. For example, a Major Check from Behind plus a Game Misconduct that the referee writes up as “intent to injure” would only result in one (1) Aggressive Play Penalty as all penalties were imposed with the same clock time.
  - b) Game suspensions imposed for violating the Aggressive Play Policy are not to be counted as Game Misconducts.
  - c) Head Coaches are defined as the Coach who signs as the Head Coach for that Game. Note that Head Coaches, if present and not suspended, shall sign the score sheet as Head Coach or face a Conference Hearing under supplemental discipline. Any rostered Head Coach who is not present for a game due to personal conflict or game suspension shall have any Aggressive Play penalties accrue against his totals for Aggressive Play penalties
4. Players:
  - a) Any player who incurs five (5) aggressive play penalties during EAHC games in any season in any combination shall, following the fifth such penalty, be suspended for two (2) games (to be served in Conference/playoff games) in addition to any other suspensions that are incurred for the infractions.
  - b) Upon the sixth (and higher) penalty the player shall be suspended one additional EAHC game and required to appear before the EAHC Disciplinary Committee. This hearing shall occur within a time frame not to exceed thirty (30) days from the sixth (or higher) infraction. The purpose of this hearing is to review (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 Conference.

- c) Every additional aggressive play penalty (7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>) received thereafter shall result in an automatic additional game suspension.

5. Head Coach:

- a) A Head Coach shall be required to submit a letter to the Conference president, if his or her team has incurred seven (7) or more aggressive play penalties over any four game period. The Head Coach shall be expected to explain the steps that they are taking to curtail this behavior. If not satisfactory to the EAHC President, then a hearing shall be called before the EAHC Disciplinary Committee.
- b) The Head Coach of the team for each player who appears before the EAHC Disciplinary Committee under this policy shall also be required to appear with the player. The Head Coach shall be expected to explain the steps that he or she is taking, both with the team and with this player, to reduce the incidence of aggressive play penalties. Where circumstances warrant, the EAHC Disciplinary Committee can impose supplementary discipline on the Head Coach and/or player.
- c) The Head Coach is responsible for tracking Aggressive Play penalties and ensuring that Conference suspensions are served in the next Conference game. The Commissioner, at his/her discretion, may notify the team officials when a player has amassed the first three or four Aggressive Play penalties. Failure to have players serve their suspensions in the next Conference game shall result in **the offending Head Coach serving an additional suspension equal to the number of games said suspensions were not served.** Team officials are encouraged to seek advice on their player's status from their Commissioner.

## SECTION VII – GAME RULES

### A. Substitution of Players

1. The substitution of players is permitted only when a team has less than ten (10) skaters or does not have a goaltender. Only a player from a lower level shall be a substitute for a higher-level team.
  - a) Only players from within the same member organization shall be substituted. Only players from another EAHC team shall be used as substitutes. Substitutes from travel teams are prohibited.
  - b) Goalies may be substituted at the same level with approval from the Division Commissioner. For example: PW B to PW B.
2. A team shall only add via substitution the number of players needed to bring the team to a maximum of ten (10) skaters and a goal tender.
3. No skater shall serve as a substitute more than a total of two (2) times throughout the season. This total includes playoff and championship games. All penalty minutes incurred while substituting count toward the player's total penalty minutes on his/her rostered team.
  - a) Goalies may be substituted unlimited times.

4. All substitutes shall be listed on the score sheet. The word “sub” and the team that substitute plays for shall be included on the score sheet. A copy of the roster which the substitute is officially rostered on shall accompany the game score sheet. Any violation of the above rule may result in forfeiture of the game.
5. Substitution Examples:
  - a) **Squirt “B” players may be substituted on other Squirt “B” teams as RWB/Mite players may not play on Squirt teams.**
  - b) A Pee Wee “B” team needs a substitute. Any Squirt (“A” or “B”) player may serve as a substitute. No Pee Wee player may substitute.
  - c) A Pee Wee “A” team needs a substitute. Any Squirt (“A” or “B”) or Pee Wee “B” player may serve as a substitute. No Pee Wee “A” player may substitute.
  - d) As noted above, a team may substitute a goalie from the same level. A Peewee A team may use a substitute Peewee A goalie from the same organization with Division Commissioner approval.

## B. Delayed Games

1. If a team is late for a scheduled game, there shall be a ten (10) minute waiting period from the scheduled starting time of the game. If, at the end of the waiting period a team does not have enough players to start, the game shall be forfeited and the remainder of the ice time will be used for a practice by both teams. A team may not start a game unless they have at least six (6) skaters and a goaltender.
2. Games may be postponed due to hazardous driving conditions, emergencies, gross illness or other acts of God, which reasonably prevent the playing of the game, by the coach’s decision (with notification to the opposing coach).
3. The Division Commissioner shall be notified of all postponed or rescheduled games or the home team will be fined.
  - a) Postponed games shall be rescheduled within a reasonable time as determined by the Division Commissioner.
  - b) The home team is responsible for notifying the opposing team of the time and date of a rescheduled game.
4. All regularly scheduled conference games shall be played as scheduled at the October Scheduling Meeting. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of the game by the team attempting to make the change (unless agreed to by BOTH Head Coaches and the Division Commissioner).
  - a) Once scheduled, all EAHC games and playoff games hold precedence over any non-Conference or tournament games.
  - b) The Division Commissioner shall maintain a master schedule for their division. This is the schedule that all teams shall follow.
  - c) If the home team needs to make a change to the master schedule; they shall notify the Division Commissioner and visiting team as soon as

possible. If a home team does not notify the Division Commissioner and the visiting team, they shall forfeit the game.

- d) A score sheet shall be turned in for a forfeited game. The Division Commissioner makes the final decision and shall notify both teams.
- 5. The following rule pertains to what constitutes a “completed game” in case of injured players(s) or other unforeseen circumstances (which are beyond the Conference’s control) which delay play of game:
  - a) During a regular season game, two (2) full stop clock periods shall be completed before a game is considered complete.
  - b) During a playoff game, same as regular season.
  - c) If the above requirements are not met, the game shall be rescheduled at a later date.

#### C. Game Duration (Zamboni time to resurface ice is not included)

- 1. Games at the ~~Mite and~~ Squirt level shall consist of three (3) ten (10) minute stop clock periods. The curfew time for **RWB/Mite and Squirt** games shall be no less than fifty (50) minutes.
- 2. Games at the Pee Wee level shall consist of three (3) twelve (12) minute stop clock periods. The curfew time for Pee Wee games shall be no less than sixty (60) minutes.
- 3. Games at the Bantam level shall consist of one (1) twelve (12) minute stop clock period and two (2) fifteen (15) minute stop clock periods played in 12-15-15 order. The curfew time for Bantam games shall be no less than seventy (70) minutes.
- 4. Games at the Midget level shall consist of three (3) fifteen (15) minute stop clock periods. The curfew time for Midget games shall be no less than eighty (80) minutes.

#### D. Game Curfews

- 1. The curfew time (finish time) shall be noted on all game score sheets prior to the start of the game and announced to the coaches and referees.
- 2. The location of the curfew clock and/or other “official” timepiece shall be identified prior to the start of the game and announced to the coaches and referees.
- 3. A curfew time shall not be changed after the start of the game. It is the responsibility of the timekeeper to blow the horn at curfew time.
- 4. A game cannot be protested because of curfew time expiration.
- 5. During playoff games only, both teams shall follow those guidelines set forth by the rink personnel of the arena at which the game is being played if there is any dispute concerning a game curfew.
- 6. There shall be no time-outs allowed during any Conference game.

#### E. Double Shifting

EAHC promotes the USA Hockey fair play policy. It is EAHC’s intent to have all players receive an equal amount of ice time.

All violations of this rule shall be referred by the Division Commissioner who receives the complaint to the member organization.

#### F. Game Protests

1. All protests regarding the application of Conference Rules shall be submitted in writing to the Division Commissioner. There are no changes allowed for USA Hockey Rules and all referee calls once the call is made during the game. The Conference does not have jurisdiction to change the referee's call or the suspension(s) affiliated with any call.
2. Protests regarding regular season game actions shall be submitted within seventy-two (72) hours following a game.
3. Judgment calls on the part of the referee(s) shall not be the subject of a protest.
4. A copy of the score sheet, supporting documentation, and a written explanation of the protest shall accompany all protests of games.
5. All protests of games, which are denied, shall be subject to a fine.

#### G. Game Procedures

1. The home team shall supply a minimum of two (2) referees with current USA HOCKEY registration for each game.
  - a) If two (2) referees are not available, the game shall be played with one (1) referee, or
  - b) If no referees are in attendance, the game shall be rescheduled at the Pee Wee level and above and the ice used as practice time by both teams.
  - c) Per USA HOCKEY rules, at the **Mite/RWB** and Squirt levels a rostered coach or assistant coach may be appointed as referees if both coaches agree and sign to this agreement on the score sheet.
  - d) If there is a doubt that the referees are USA HOCKEY registered, the game shall be played and a protest noted on the score sheet before the end of the game. An investigation by the Division Commissioner shall determine whether the referee(s) is USA HOCKEY registered. If the referee is not USA HOCKEY registered, the protest shall be upheld and the home team shall forfeit the game.
  - e) The Conference recommends that independent referees be used at the **Mite/RWB** and Squirt levels.
  - f) The Conference requires that independent referees be used at the Pee Wee level and above.
  - g) The Conference requires that independent referee organizations be used in all playoff games including the Conference championships.
2. A responsible adult from each team shall staff the penalty box for each team who is over eighteen years of age. No players may staff the penalty box.
3. The home team shall provide for each game a qualified scorekeeper, timekeeper, first aid kit, score sheet and game pucks. Before the game starts, either team

and/or the Commissioner may request that the away team supply the scorekeeper and the teams shall accommodate this request.

4. All players from the same team will be in matching and numbered uniforms. Teams shall submit uniform colors at the time the roster is submitted prior to the start of the season.
  - a) The home team is responsible for resolving any jersey color conflicts using the following resolution order: (1) the home team wears an alternate jersey, (2) the away team wears an alternate jersey, or (3) the home team wears pinneys. Teams are required to bring BOTH their primary and alternate jerseys (if available) to ALL games.

### **SECTION VIII – REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS TIE BREAKER**

- A. If a tie results between two or more teams after completion of the regular season games, the following format shall be used as tie breaker for the divisional final standings and to determine the playoff game seeding. All tiebreaker scenarios are cumulative throughout the regular season. (If more than two teams are tied, start with #2 and then start over at #1 when only two teams are left.)
  1. Head to head record against each other in the regular season (does NOT apply if more than two teams are tied)
  2. The team with the most wins
  3. The team with the least amount of losses
  4. The team with the least goals against
  5. The teams with the least amount of “accumulated penalty minutes”
  6. A coin flip

### **SECTION IX - CHANGES TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

All requests for Conference rule changes shall be submitted in writing to the Division Commissioner. The Board of Directors shall review the proposed changes.

Any situation not specifically covered in the aforementioned rules and being deemed not to be in the best interest of the Conference, or amateur hockey in general, shall be dealt with by the Board of Directors at the next scheduled Board Meeting.

## EAHC Red White & Blue (U8) A/B Guidelines

The Guidelines below may be adjusted during the season to enhance the player's enjoyment of the game. Changes will be posted on the Empire website and sent to coaches and managers as they occur.

### 1. Scheduling Entity Composition:

- a. **RWB A:** Primarily 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> year House players
- b. **RWB B:** Primarily 1<sup>st</sup> year House players (players should have completed at least one year of some type of "Learn to Skate", "Initiation" or Beginner program)
- c. Organizations should use skill evaluations to place players on A or B
- d. Red White & Blue (RWB) will consist of U8 players only. Squirt aged players may not play down on RWB teams. U8 RWB players may not play up or "sub" on Squirt teams.
- e. Each Scheduling Entity consists of 18 to 30 players (suggested - optimal is 20 to 26) although smaller or larger Scheduling Entities may be formed depending on an organization's U8 registration.
- f. The number of RWB scheduling entities will be determined by the organization. An organization may have, for example, players on 2 USA Hockey rosters of 13 each ( $2 \times 13 = 26$ ) due to the USA Hockey roster limit of 20, but for scheduling purposes, they will be combined into 1 "Scheduling Entity".

2. **Game Format:** Two half-ice games will be played on one sheet of ice. Both the Home and Away Scheduling Entities will split their players into two teams. With sufficient players, the games will be played as 5 on 5 plus goalie between a Home team and an Away team. If there are not enough players, 4 on 4 may be played.

3. **Scheduling Entity Game Procedures:** When splitting a scheduling entity into two teams for games, balance the skill/ability of the players to make the two teams approximately equal.

- a. **Coaches Discretion:** Coaches of opposing teams are encouraged to discuss team composition before the game, to decide how to balance the levels of play for the day. Coaches *may* decide to play lower skill players on half of the ice and higher skill players on the other half of the ice.
- b. At games, Scheduling Entities may bring additional RWB players from other RWB team(s) in their organization, to fill the benches.
- c. RWB A players may not play in RWB B games. RWB B players may "sub" in RWB A games an unlimited number of times but only if less than 22 players are available for the A games.

4. **Scheduling:** Games will be scheduled in the traditional fashion between Scheduling Entities, for example Webster 1 vs. Perinton 1.

5. **Referees:** There will be 1 referee per game (two referees will be scheduled per game ice sheet). When a penalty is called, the wronged player gets a penalty shot. Face offs are only performed at the start of the game, and at line changes. After a goal, frozen puck or at the discretion of the referee, the referee tosses the puck into a nearby corner and play resumes.

6. **Timekeeping / Scoring:** Line changes are made every 1.5 minutes on a buzzer. Home team provides a timekeeper to stop the clock every 1.5 minutes for line changes. Except for these timed stops, play will be continuous, with no periods, through to the end of the ice curfew. There will be no official scorekeeping during the game.

### 7. Empire League Considerations:

- a. The Empire League season will consist of 14 games with no end of season playoffs.
- b. No team standings, scorekeeping and no player stats will be compiled.

# **EAHC PLAYOFF / CHAMPIONSHIP RULES AND PROCEDURES**

## **PLAYOFF GAME RULES**

All current USA HOCKEY and EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE rules and regulations shall apply during the Divisional Playoff games.

- A. All Divisional Playoff games shall be played as scheduled. No rescheduling shall be permitted without the consent of the Conference President or Secretary. (The EAHC Playoff "Matrix" shall be used in all games)
- B. All regular season division game curfews shall apply. NO overtime periods.
- C. There shall be NO time outs.
- D. A list of five (5) players and two (2) alternates from each team shall be given to the Division Commissioner prior to the start of the game. They shall be written in the order in which they will be used to shoot on the opposing goaltender (in the event the game is tied at the end regulation play). Alternates shall be used if a player on the list of five is unable to participate due to injury, ejection or is serving a penalty at the end of regulation/sudden death. An alternate replaces the listed player in the order specified on the score sheet (e.g. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 if 2 is unable to participate).
- E. The higher seeded team is considered the HOME TEAM in all Playoff and Championship games (#1 is highest seed, #16 is lowest seed).

## **PLAYOFF GAME TIE BREAKERS**

### **Method #1: The Five Round Shoot-Out (if tied after regulation)**

- A. A shoot-out shall consist of one (1) player from each team (per round) shooting on the opposing goal tender. The home team shall have the choice of whether they shoot first or last. Teams shall alternate shots which will comprise one (1) round. The team with the most goals after five (5) rounds shall be declared the winner.  
All shooters shall be declared before the game has started as indicated above.

### **Method #2: The Sudden Death (Per Round) Shoot-Out**

If, after conducting the "Five Round Shoot-Out" noted above, the score is still tied, the following shoot-out procedure shall be used to break the tie:

- A. The same players from the Method # 1 shoot-out from each team (in the same sequence noted above) shall shoot on the opposing team's goal tender. The home team shall have a choice of whether they shoot first or last. At the conclusion of one (1) round, the team that scores a goal wins. If both teams score and/or the score is still tied a second round shall be conducted. This process shall continue, with subsequent rounds, as necessary, rotating each of the shoot-out players from both teams in sequence, until the tie is broken.

## **CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RULES**

All current USA HOCKEY and EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE rules and regulations shall apply during the Division Championship games.



- A. All Divisional Championship games shall be played as scheduled. No rescheduling shall be permitted without the consent of the Conference President or Secretary.
- B. All Championship games shall have no curfews.
- C. There shall be one (1) time-out per team during a championship game.
- D. A list of five (5) players and two (2) alternates from each team shall be given to the Division Commissioner prior to the start of the game. They shall be written in the order in which they will be used to shoot on the opposing goaltender (in the event the game is tied at the end of the sudden death period). Alternates shall be used if a player on the list of five is unable to participate due to injury, ejection or is serving a penalty at the end of regulation/sudden death. An alternate replaces the listed player in the order specified on the score sheet (e.g. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 if 2 is unable to participate).
- E. There shall be a five (5) minute sudden death OVERTIME PERIOD used should there be a tie at the end of regulation play. If at the conclusion of this overtime period the score is still tied, the methods outlined below shall be used.
- F. Two (2) referees shall be used in ALL Championship games. Referees for Championship games shall be scheduled through RIHOA.

### **CHAMPIONSHIP GAME TIE BREAKERS**

#### **Method #1: The Five Round Shoot Out**

- A. A shoot-out shall consist of one (1) player from each team (per round) shooting on the opposing goal tender. The home team shall have the choice of whether they shoot first or last. Teams shall alternate shots which will comprise one (1) round. The team with the most goals after five (5) rounds shall be declared the winner.

All shooters shall be declared before the game has started as indicated above.

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- A. The same players from the Method # 1 shoot-out from each team (in the same sequence noted above) shall shoot on the opposing team's goal tender. The home team shall have a choice of whether they shoot first or last. At the conclusion of one (1) round, the team that scores a goal wins. If both teams score and/or the score is still tied, a second round shall be conducted. This process shall continue as necessary, rotating each of the shoot-out players from both teams in sequence, until the tie is broken.

### **QUESTIONS/PROTESTS**

- A. Any questions regarding the Divisional and/or Championship games should be referred to the Division Commissioner or the Conference President. All disputes shall be received, in writing, within one (1) hour of the completion of the game to be considered. See, Section VII - GAME RULES, paragraph F.
- B. All questions or protests SHALL be made by the head coach.
- C. All protest or disputes that are not upheld shall be subject to fines

# EAHC SAMPLE SCORE SHEET

**EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE**

Date: 10-04	Start Time: 19:00	Game No: 18
Home Team: MON COUNTY EAGLES		
Visitor Team: PEE WEE A		
Score: 2-0		
Referee: SEBASTIAN WELLS		
Officiation: 00		

**EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE**

Date: 10-04	Start Time: 19:00	Game No: 18
Home Team: MON COUNTY EAGLES		
Visitor Team: PEE WEE A		
Score: 2-0		
Referee: SEBASTIAN WELLS		
Officiation: 00		

Time	Home Goals	Visitor Goals	Home Penalties	Visitor Penalties
1 4:08	1	0	1	0
2 11:00	1	0	1	0
3 10:00	0	0	0	0

  

Player Name	Time Point	Player Signature
1 BOB ANDERSON		
2 STEVE CARPER	6	PEE WEE A
3 WICK O'CONNOR	ADUWE	ADUWE
4 JIMMY GARDNER	MUST SEEN	
5 JAMES FERRILL		
6 LESTER NAMED	5	
7 ALPHABETICAL		
8 ORDER		
9 PLACE GO		
10 NEXT TO		
11 GOALIE NAME		

  

Referee Signature & No.	Lineupman Signature & No.	Player	Time	Signature	Signature & No.

1. Print Name of the level and division, home team on top, visitor below goals per period filled in and totaled

2. Goals - List goals period scored, time on the clock player who scored and any players who assisted

3. Penalties - List all penalties as they occur, period, player number, minutes of penalty, infraction name, time off ice on clock, time on ice

4. List team full name and team number assigned by commissioner IE. Monroe County Eagles #3.

5. List all players on team in alphabetical order, pee wee and above must sign sheet if they are playing in game, also note if player is sitting a suspension, note if there is a sub player, list team and level they came from

6. Coaches - All coaches head and assistants on bench must sign in before start of game and list coaching card number and level of certification

7. Referees - All referees must sign and print names and number on sheet

8. Visitor team - duplicate all information for the visiting team same as home team info

9. Game Info - fill in all boxes with proper info, most important is game number for tracking

10. Comments - This section is for referee use to note any misconducts, protests, suspensions

Make sure score sheets are filled out completely and legibly to avoid any fines to be issued

Length of Period	1	2	3
Division	10	10	10
Mile	10	10	10
Sault	10	10	10
Fee West	12	12	12
Manitou	12	12	12
Michigan	15	15	15

11. Home Team: MON COUNTY EAGLES #3

12. Visitor Team: PEE WEE A

13. Score: 2-0

14. Referee: SEBASTIAN WELLS

15. Officiation: 00

16. Home Goals: 2

17. Visitor Goals: 0

18. Home Penalties: 2

19. Visitor Penalties: 0

20. Referee Signature: [Signature]

21. Lineupman Signature: [Signature]

22. Player: [Signature]

23. Time: [Signature]

24. Signature & No.: [Signature]

25. Comments: [Blank]

26. Please Note: [Blank]

27. A completed referee evaluation form for this game must be completed on time at <http://empirehockey.org>

28. Match penalties, gross and game misconducts must be reported to division commissioner within 24 hours of game completion.

29. All areas must be completed to avoid fines. Completed score sheet must be sent to division commissioner within 72 hours of game completion.

30. Home Team sends score sheet to division commissioner.

31. White Copy: Division Commissioner, Yellow Copy: Home Team, Pink Copy: Away Team

## USA HOCKEY ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, USA Hockey instituted a zero tolerance policy beginning with the 1992-93 season. This policy requires all players, coaches, officials, team officials and administrators and parents/spectators to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all USA Hockey-sanctioned games. Thus, the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all referees and linesmen:

### Players

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

- 1) Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- 2) Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
- 3) Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision. Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.

### Coaches

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

- 1) Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- 2) Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- 3) Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision including standing on the boards or standing in the bench doorway with the intent of inciting the officials, players or spectators.

Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, he/she shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

### Officials

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited. Officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

### Parents/Spectators

The game will be stopped by game officials when parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The game officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectator's viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include:

- 1) Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- 2) Taunting of players, coaches, officials or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or physical violence.
- 3) Throwing of any object in the spectators viewing area, players bench, penalty box or on ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

## Locker Room Supervision

USA Hockey is concerned with locker room activities between minor players; minor players and adult players; adults being alone with individual minor players in locker rooms; and with non-official or non-related adults having unsupervised access to minor participants at sanctioned team events.

It is the policy of USA Hockey and USA Hockey In-Line that all Affiliates, Districts, leagues and local hockey programs have at least one responsible adult present directly monitoring the locker room during all team events to assure that only participants, coaches and players, approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room and to supervise the conduct in the locker room. Any individual meetings with a minor participant and a coach in a locker room shall require a responsible adult be with the coach.

Further, responsible adults must personally monitor the locker room environment at all times while participants are present and also make sure the locker room is appropriately secured during times when minor participants are on the ice.

Teams, leagues and local hockey associations shall also comply with the USA Hockey Co-Ed locker room policy.

# USA HOCKEY OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

## *Points of Emphasis 2011 through 2013 Seasons*

The goal of USA Hockey is to promote a safe and positive playing environment for all participants while continuing to focus on skill development and enjoyment of the sport. All officials, coaches, players, parents, spectators and volunteers are encouraged to observe these "Points of Emphasis" when participating in the sport of ice hockey.

### **Fair Play and Respect**

Fair play and respect are the backbone of any successful amateur sports program. In order for a positive environment to be created, it is imperative that all participants and spectators have respect for all players, coaches, officials', administrators, spectators and the sport of hockey. Hockey is a game demanding high levels of concentration and skill. Taunting or unsportsmanlike conduct directed at opponents or officials will not be tolerated.

**Intimidation** tactics have no place in ice hockey. These tactics include any contact to the head of the opponent, checking from behind and late avoidable body checks to an opponent who is no longer in possession and control of the puck. Officials are instructed to enforce these rules to a high standard and assess the appropriate penalty when these actions occur. In addition, officials are expected to strictly enforce any avoidable contact occurring after the whistle - including during scrum situations around the goal.

In non-check classifications, legal body contact shall be allowed and players allowed to compete using proper body position skills. However, any deliberate body checks shall be penalized accordingly. If a body check is delivered for the purpose of intimidation, a major penalty should be assessed to the offending player.

In classifications where body checking is allowed, the purpose of the check shall be to separate the opponent from the puck and officials should strictly penalize any illegal actions such as boarding, charging and a late avoidable body check to a player who is no longer in possession and control of the puck.

**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 encouraged to use proper skill and technique when engaging in any type of body contact.

**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.

**Officials** should be diligent and confident when officiating the sport. Each official should enforce the playing rules fairly and respectfully with the safety of the players and the best interest of the game in mind. Players must be held accountable for dangerous and illegal actions with the proper enforcement of the rules at all times.

**Spectators** are encouraged to support their teams while showing respect for all players, coaches, officials and other spectators.

### **Standard of Play and Rule Emphasis**

USA Hockey will continue to observe the Standard of Play and Rule Emphasis restraining fouls adopted in June 2006. The goal is to reduce restraining infractions in the game, allowing the skill levels of the participants to determine the outcome of a game and to increase participant enjoyment.

In addition, USA Hockey has adopted a Body Checking Standard of Play and Rule Emphasis for immediate implementation at all levels of play. This goal is to enhance player skill development by reducing intimidating infractions designed to punish the opponent. Proper enforcement of this standard will improve the proper skill of legal body contact or legal body contact at all levels of play.

### **Conclusion**

Hockey should be enjoyed by all participants. To that end, all participants and spectators should observe a level of personal behavior that demonstrates respect for all. The USA Hockey Officiating and Coaching Education programs will continue to increase awareness among all officials and coaches with regard to these Points of Emphasis and the Standard of Play and Rule Enforcement.

## ***Standard of Play and Rules Emphasis - Body Checking***

Through the standard of rules enforcement, our game will continue to allow the opportunity for improved skill development and a more positive hockey environment for all participants. The mission of USA Hockey is clear; through this new initiative a greater emphasis will be placed on skating, puck possession and the proper use of the body to establish position and legally gain a competitive advantage.

The goal of the enforcement standard is to create an environment that enhances player skill development by reducing intimidating infractions designed to punish the opponent. This standard is designed to improve the proper skill of legal body checking or contact at all levels of play and will not remove the physical component from the game. A hard body check or using body contact/position (non-checking classifications) to gain a competitive advantage over the opponent should not be penalized as long as it is performed within the rules. The focus of the body check should be to separate the opponent from the puck.

The principles of this enforcement standard include the following:

- The purpose of a body check is to separate the opponent from the puck.
- Only the trunk (hips to shoulders) of the body shall be used to deliver a body check.
- The check must be delivered to the trunk (hips to shoulders) and directly from in front or the side of the opponent.
- Players who use their physical skills and/or anticipation and have a positional advantage shall not lose that advantage provided they use their body to check the opponent within the rules.
- Players will be held accountable for acts of an intimidating or dangerous nature.

***Enforcement Standard – These penalties are to be called with very strict enforcement.***

### ***BODY CHECKING (Non-Checking Classifications)***

A player cannot deliver a body check to any player while participating in a non-checking classification.

Examples include:

- Makes deliberate physical contact with an opponent with no effort to legally play the puck.
- Uses overt hip, shoulder or arm contact with the opponent to physically force them off the puck.
- Physically impedes the progress of the opponent with hips, shoulders or torso without establishing legal body contact and having no intent of playing the puck.

### ***BOARDING***

A player cannot commit any infraction, including body checking, for the purpose of intimidation or punishment that causes their opponent to go violently or excessively into the boards. Examples include:

- Accelerating through the check to a player who is in a vulnerable position off of the boards that causes them to go violently into the boards.
- Driving an opponent excessively into the boards with no focus on or intent to play the puck.
- Any other infraction (tripping, cross-checking, charging etc.) that causes the opponent to go violently and excessively into the boards.

### ***CHARGING***

A player cannot take more than two fast strides or travel an excessive distance to accelerate through a body check for the purpose of punishing the opponent. Examples include:

- Running or jumping into the opponent to deliver a check.
- Accelerating through a check for the purpose of punishing the opponent.
- Skating a great distance for the purpose of delivering a check with excessive force.

### ***CHECKING FROM BEHIND***

A player cannot deliver a body check to an opponent directly from behind; or diagonally from behind. The onus is on the player delivering the check to not hit from behind. Examples include:

- Body checking or pushing an opponent from behind directly into the boards, goal frame or in open ice.

### ***HEAD CONTACT***

A player cannot contact an opponent in the head, face or neck, including with the stick or any part of the player's body or equipment. The onus is on the player delivering the check, regardless as to size differential, to not make contact in the head/neck area of the opponent. Examples include:

- A body check delivered with any part of the body that makes direct contact with the head or neck area.
- The use of the fore arm or hands to deliver a check to the head or neck area of the opponent.

### **ROUGHING**

A player cannot use the hands, stick or extension of the arms to body check an opponent or deliver an avoidable body check to a player who is not in possession and control of the puck. Examples include:

- Intentionally playing the body of an opponent who does not have possession and control of the puck.
- Delivering an avoidable check to a player who has already relinquished control of the puck by a pass or shot. This is oftentimes referred to as “finishing” the check.
- Any avoidable contact after the whistle shall be penalized strictly, including scrum situations around the goal or along the boards. Officials are instructed to assess an additional penalty to those players acting as the aggressor or who instigates any contact after the whistle.

### **SUMMARY**

All USA Hockey members must demonstrate awareness and support for the application, spirit and the respect of the rules in order for continued improvement in the game of hockey. At the same time, it is important to remember that:

- A player is entitled to use proper body position and body contact in all age classifications in order to gain a competitive advantage.
- Players are allowed to compete for body position using their strength and balance in front of the goal or along the boards.
- In classifications where body checking is allowed, the focus of the body check must be to separate the opponent from the puck.

## ***Standard of Play and Rules Emphasis - Restraining Fouls***

Through the standard of rules enforcement, our game will continue to allow the opportunity for improved skill development and a more positive hockey environment for all participants. The mission of USA Hockey is clear; through this new initiative a greater emphasis will be placed on skating, puck possession and the proper use of the body to establish position and a competitive advantage.

The goal of the enforcement standard is to reduce restraining infractions in the game and not to remove legal body checking or body contact. A hard body check or using body contact/position (non-checking classifications) to gain a competitive advantage over the opponent should not be penalized as long as it is performed within the rules.

The principles of the continued enforcement standard include the following:

- The use of the stick will be limited to only playing the puck.
- The stick will not be allowed to in any way impede a player’s progress.
- The use of a free hand/arm will not be allowed to grab or impede a player’s progress.
- Players who use their physical skills and/or anticipation and have a positional advantage shall not lose that advantage as a result of illegal acts by the opponent.
- Players will be held accountable for acts of an intimidating or dangerous nature.

***Enforcement Standard – These penalties are to be called with very strict enforcement.***

### **HOOKING**

A player cannot use his/her stick against an opponent’s body (puck carrier or non-puck carrier) to gain a positional advantage. Examples include:

- Tugs or pulls on the body, arms or hands of the opponent which allows for the space between the players to diminish
- Placing the stick in front of the opponent’s body and locking on – impeding the opponent’s progress or causing a loss of balance.
- Stick on the hand/arm that takes away the ability for the opponent to pass or shoot the puck with a normal amount of force

## **TRIPPING**

A player cannot use his/her stick on the legs or feet of an opponent in a manner that would cause a loss of balance or for them to trip or fall. Examples include:

- Placing the stick in front of the opponent's legs for the purpose of impeding progress, even if on the ice, with no effort to legally play the puck
- Placing the stick between the legs of the opponent (can opener/corkscrew) that causes a loss of balance or impedes the progress of the opponent.

## **HOLDING**

A player cannot wrap his/her arms around an opponent or use a free hand to clutch, grab or hold the stick, jersey or body on the opponent in a manner that impedes their progress. Examples include:

- Wrapping one or both arms around the opponent along the boards in a manner that pins them against the boards and prevents them from playing the puck or skating
- Grabbing the opponent's body, stick or sweater with one or both hands
- Using a free arm/hand to restrain or impede the opponent's progress

## **INTERFERENCE**

A player cannot use his/her body ("pick" or "block") to impede the progress of an opponent with no effort to play the puck, maintain normal foot speed or established skating lane. Examples include:

- Intentionally playing the body of an opponent who does not have possession or possession and control of the puck.
- Using the body to establish a "pick" or "block" that prevents an opponent from being able to chase a puck carrier
- Reducing foot speed or changing an established skating lane for the purpose of impeding an opponent from being able to chase a puck carrier

## **SLASHING**

The use of the stick will be limited to only playing the puck. Any stick contact, as a result of a slashing motion, to the hands/ arms or body of the opponent will be strictly penalized. In addition, hard slashes to the upper portion of the stick (just below the hands) of an opponent, with no attempt to legally play the puck, shall also be penalized.

## **CONCLUSION**

All USA Hockey members must demonstrate awareness and support for the application, spirit and the respect of the rules in order for continued improvement in the game of hockey. At the same time, it is important to remember that:

- A player is entitled to the ice he/she occupies as long as they are able to maintain their own foot speed and body position between opponent and puck
- Players are allowed to compete for body position using their strength and balance in front of the goal or along the boards

Coaches are expected to teach proper skills and hold their players accountable for illegal and dangerous actions, regardless as to whether they are properly penalized, or not.

Parents are expected to support the decisions of the officials and support the coaches in teaching the proper skills in a safe and positive environment.

Officials shall enforce a strict penalty standard according to the guidelines that have been established.

Players are expected to compete within the playing rules.

Administrators are expected to hold players, coaches, officials and parents accountable for their actions in an effort to promote a safe and positive environment for all participants.

***All members of USA Hockey share an equal responsibility to ensure the integrity of the game is upheld. The onus to incorporate change is not only on the officials, but also on administrators, coaches, parents and players, as well.***

# 2011-13 USA HOCKEY RULE CHANGE SUMMARY

For Youth, Girls'/Women's and Adult Classifications

For the 2011-12 and 2012-13 Seasons

## Rule # Rule Description of Change

**USA Hockey Official Playing Rules Book** Entire Rule Book has been edited for grammar and redundancy in an effort to provide for more logical flow and easier to read language.

**Standard of Play and Rules Enforcement** Adds language that addresses legal body checking and legal body contact, including a new Body Checking Standard of Play. The goal is to improve proper skills pertaining to legal body contact and body checking with the emphasis on separating the opponent from the puck.

**103 & 104 Goal Lines and Goal Crease** Provides locations and dimensions of optional goal lines and goal creases to be added in each zone for use in cross-ice games.

**109 Signals and Timing Devices** Deletes language referring to goal lights and the connection to the game clock. Clarifies responsibility of on-ice officials to determine whether a goal is scored at the end of a period.

**201 Composition of Team** Moves language pertaining to maximum number of Team Officials allowed on the bench to this rule.

**201 Composition of Teams** Outlines process to allow game to continue if no Team Officials are present on the bench due to penalty, injury or illness. Allows game to continue with proper adult supervision and suspended if no adult supervision is available.

**203 Players in Uniform** Deletes language requiring officials to determine whether player's omission from game roster was inadvertent clerical error.

**302 Skates** Deletes language referring to HECC approved skate blades - HECC no longer certifies skate blades.

**304 Protective Equipment** Standardizes penalty as a misconduct for an equipment violation (except sticks) after a team warning has been issued.

**309 Adjustment to Clothing and Equipment** Moves language pertaining to clothing and equipment (Rule 602) to Rule 309 at the end of Section 3 - Equipment.

**401 Penalties** Deletes language specifying order for players to enter penalty bench when coincidental penalties are assessed and location of respective penalty benches.

**402 Minor Penalties** Gives authority to USA Hockey Affiliates or Governing Bodies to reduce length of minor penalties to 1 1/2 minutes for games where period length is 15 minutes or less.

**403 & 405 Major and Match Penalties** Requires a team to immediately place substitute player on penalty bench in instances where a non-coincidental major (plus game misconduct) or match penalty has been assessed (Excluding Adults).

**501 Appointment of Officials** Moves all language pertaining to injured officials and/or process to be followed if officials are not present to this rule.

**501 Appointment of Officials** Gives USA Hockey Districts or Affiliates the authority to use the Four-Official System (Two-Referees/Two Linesmen) in games under their jurisdiction at the Youth and Girls 16-&-Under age classifications and older.

**604 Body Checking/Non-Checking Classifications** Moves language specific to body checking to stand alone Rule 604. Prohibits body checking in the 12-&-Under age classification as part of Progressive Checking Skill Development Program initiative that allows for greater body contact at younger levels and stricter enforcement of illegal body checks in checking classifications.

**615 Fighting** Calls for additional suspension (three games) for a player who is assessed their second major penalty for fighting on the same team during the same season. For third fighting major on same team during the same season, player is suspended until a hearing has been conducted by the proper authorities.



## 2011-13 USA HOCKEY RULE CHANGE SUMMARY (con't)

**615 Fighting** Strengthens rule for removing helmet during an altercation. Game misconduct is assessed to player whose helmet/facemask comes off during an altercation. A match penalty is assessed to any player who deliberately removes his (or opponent's) helmet/facemask during or prior to an altercation.

**620 Head Contact** Strengthens rule for any contact to the head, face or neck of the opponent with any part of the body or equipment. Calls major plus game misconduct, or match penalty, to be assessed for any intentional or reckless contact to the head, face or neck of the opponent.

**622 Holding an Opponent** Clarifies actions that call for a major plus game misconduct penalty to be assessed for rubbing, grabbing or holding the facemask and adds option for match penalty.

**630 Off-sides** Allows for delayed off-sides with "tag-up" option to be used in the Youth and Girls 14-&-Under age classifications and older.

**630 Passes** Deletes rule and allows all passes to be made unless prohibited elsewhere in the rules.

**636 Start of Games and Time of Match/Time Outs** Consolidates these rules for efficiency and deletes some language that is not pertinent in this day and age.

**639 Tripping/Clipping/Leg-Checking** Clarifies rule and adds language addressing contact at or below the knees.

**Glossary Body Checking** Clarifies definition of legal body check to include purpose of the check is to separate opponent from puck.

**Glossary Fighting** Changes title of definition for "Fisticuffs" to "Fighting"

**Glossary Head Contact** Modifies definition to conform with language in the rule.