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Empire Amateur Hockey Conference

Bill Gray's Regional iceplex
2700 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road
Rochester, NY 14623
www.empirehockey.org

OCTOBER 2014

Welcome to the 2014-2015 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 is also on our website at www.empirehockey.org on the Documents page.

One area of disciplinary rule change I would like to highlight for this year is that ALL major, Game misconduct and match penalties MUST be reported to your commissioner even when they occur in scrimmages and tournaments. You are urged to review the USA Hockey rule changes as they have a direct impact on your team. Electronic devices will not be allowed to be used to dispute an official's call.

One major change this year will be the implementation of the Fair Play Point into our Empire League. A Fair Play Point is awarded in any regular season game when your teams' penalty minutes do not exceed the thresholds shown below. The Fair Play Point is in addition to the points awarded for a win or tie. Also, no Fair Play Point will be awarded to a team with a player or coach who receives a game misconduct/Match Penalty or if a coach receives an Unsportsmanlike Conduct Minor during that game. The Fair Play Point thresholds are:

Squirt: 5 Minutes	PeeWee: 9 Minutes
Bantam: 11 Minutes	Midget: 15 Minutes

This season we will continue to support on-line referee evaluations via our website at 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 and for RIHOA to deal with any problems or issues that arise while they are still fresh in everyone's mind. We are asking this year that NO coaches file a complaint with any EAHC Board member or their Commissioner about a referee issue in a game without filling out a referee evaluation. We will not respond to the complaint unless one is done. We have shortened the form and made it easier to fill out this year so it will be less time consuming process. As a reminder, EAHC has no power to overrule any referee's call.

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,
Danni Fountain
President
Empire Amateur Hockey Conference

Empire Amateur Hockey Conference
Bill Grey's Regional Ice Plex
2700 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road
Rochester, NY 14623
www.empirehockey.org

CONFERENCE DIRECTORY

CONFERENCE OFFICERS

President:

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Batavia Representative (GAHA)

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Past President '11 (PYH)

Roger Salmons

Past President '10 (RYH)

Steve Weisbeck

Past President '09 (Webster)

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Past President '07 (TCYH)

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Rochester Ice Hockey Officials Association (RIHOA) Contact & USA Hockey Supervisor
Nick Tochelli NST2@aol.com

AREA ICE RINKS:

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

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

Greater Canandaigua Civic Center (GCCC)
250 North Bloomfield Road, Canandaigua NY 14623
(585) 396-7230

Bill Grey's Regional Iceplex - MCC (RYH)
2700 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Rd, Rochester NY 14623
(585) 424-4625

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

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

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

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

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

Paul Louis Arena(formerly SIR) (PYH)
1 Boy's Club Place, Rochester NY 14608
(585) 325-2216

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

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

**Empire Amateur Hockey Conference
2014-2015 CALENDAR
Bill Gray's Regional Iceplex**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Agenda</u>		
May	13	Monthly meeting	6:30	BG Iceplex
June	10	BREAK	No Meeting	
July	8	Monthly Meeting	6:30	BG Iceplex
August	12	Monthly Meeting	6:30	BG Iceplex
September	9	Monthly Meeting Preliminary Team Counts Due	6:30	BG Iceplex
September	23	Petitions for Team Determination Due		
September	30	Pre-Scheduling Meeting Final Team Counts Due & Commissioner Training	6:30	BG Iceplex
October	7	2014-15 Squirt-Midget Scheduling Meeting East High School, 1801 E. Main Street, Rochester, NY 14609	6:00	
October	17	EAHC Squirt thru Midget Season Starts Conference Fee Statements Mailed		
October	18-19	RWB (U8) Pre-Season Jamboree		BG Iceplex
October	20-24	RWB (U8) Game Scheduling		
November	1	RWB (U8) Games may Begin		
November	11	Monthly Meeting	6:30	BG Iceplex
December	9	Monthly Meeting	6:30	BG Iceplex
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	13	Monthly Meeting	6:30	BG Iceplex
February	10	Monthly Meeting	6:30	BG Iceplex
February	15	EAHC Season ends for Squirt thru Midget teams		
February	17-26	EAHC Playoffs		
February 28 – March 1		EAHC Division Championship Games		BG Iceplex
February	28	EAHC Season Ends – RWB (U8) Divisions		
March	10	Monthly Meeting Transition of Officers	6:30	BG Iceplex
April	7	Monthly Meeting	6:30	BG Iceplex

All meetings are held at the Bill Gray's Regional Iceplex (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

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 disenchanting 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. **The non-member organization must submit a Letter of Intent, attend all meetings/subcommittee meetings requested of them, pay an additional \$100 administrative fee per team, and pay all conference dues by the date that Final Team Counts are due.**
- 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. **Failure to pay dues on time may subject an organization to penalties including the possibility of fines or being excluded from Conference playoffs.**
- a. Red White & Blue (U8) Teams will have conference dues of \$50 per **Team** as they will

not participate in playoffs. **Fees for any Pre-Season Jamborees are billed separately.**

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. Each member Organization is responsible **for supplying a volunteer** for an officer position each year 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 (voting member) and Alternate (votes 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 Representatives on the Conference Board of Directors.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The Conference Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of once every other month. A meeting may be called at any time 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 wave 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.)
5. In circumstances where it becomes necessary to reach an immediate decision and no meeting is scheduled, voting by e-mail correspondence is acceptable on the 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.
6. 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.
7. A roll call shall be taken at each meeting. The record of those in attendance shall become a part of each meeting minutes.
8. 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.

9. Each member organization shall have one (1) vote regardless of the number of teams that they enter into the Conference.
10. Each member organization shall provide a Conference Representative and a Division Commissioner.
11. 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. The Vice President shall coordinate the Conference committee to establish 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, 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 shall:

1. Act as an active participant on the Conference Board of Directors.
2. Act as the Conference's main point of contact to their member organization.
3. Vote on Conference issues on behalf of their member organization.
4. Schedule Conference Disciplinary Committee meetings with the Conference Secretary, as necessary.
5. Be present at the Conference Scheduling meeting to meet coaches and assist in game scheduling.
6. Organize and supervise Conference Playoff games hosted by their member organization and assist the Division Commissioner.
7. Update their member organization of Conference rule changes.
8. Objectively support and enforce USA HOCKEY, New York State Amateur Hockey Association and Empire Amateur Hockey Conference Rules and Regulations.
9. Attend conference games. Watch for signs of competitive imbalance among teams and recommend modifications as necessary.
10. Distribute Conference Board of Directors meeting minutes to their member organization.
11. 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 shall:

1. Act as the main point of contact to the division's coaches and managers.
2. Attend monthly Conference Board of Directors meetings (September - April).
3. Schedule Conference Disciplinary Committee meetings (as needed), advise Conference members of accumulated penalty minutes, aggressive play penalties and major game infractions.

4. Attend the Conference scheduling meeting to meet coaches, assist in game scheduling and take ownership of the division master schedule.
5. Update all division coaches and managers of Conference rule changes.
6. Objectively enforce all USA HOCKEY, New York State Amateur Hockey Association and Empire Amateur Hockey Conference Rules and Regulations.
7. Inform the Conference President of all team and member organization fines assessed.
8. Attend division games. See each team play a minimum of one game per season.
9. Attend and supervise Conference Playoff games for the division.
10. Watch for signs of competitive imbalance among teams and recommend modifications as necessary.
11. Complete and maintain player and team reports and statistics on the Conference website in a timely manner (at least weekly).
12. 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 and timekeeper.
 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-imburement.

EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE OFFICER/CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

YEAR	President	Vice-Pres	Year Off	Secretary	Treasurer	Champ Host	Year Off	Past Pres
2014-15	Geneseo	TCYH	Batavia	Webster	RYH	MCYH	PYH	MCYH
2015-16	TCYH	Batavia	Webster	RYH	MCYH	PYH	Canandaigua	Geneseo
2016-17	Batavia	Webster	RYH	MCYH	PYH	Canandaigua	Geneseo	TCYH
2017-18	Webster	RYH	MCYH	PYH	Canandaigua	Geneseo	TCYH	Batavia
2018-19	RYH	MCYH	PYH	Canandaigua	Geneseo	TCYH	Batavia	Webster
2019-20	MCYH	PYH	Canandaigua	Geneseo	TCYH	Batavia	Webster	RYH
2020-21	PYH	Canandaigua	Geneseo	TCYH	Batavia	Webster	RYH	MCYH
2021-22	Canandaigua	Geneseo	TCYH	Batavia	Webster	RYH	MCYH	PYH
2022-23	Geneseo	TCYH	Batavia	Webster	RYH	MCYH	PYH	Canandaigua

The organization listed in the "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 up 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, Empire or EAHC). Any challenge or protest to these rules shall be directed to the NYS West Section President.

2014-2015 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 (from 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 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 (11th) 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) For Midgets only – Players who have participated in eleven (11) or more Travel 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, rostered or participating as an alternate on any other USA Hockey team.
 - They are not playing, rostered or participating as an alternate on any High School Varsity 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 (1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd 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 & 2013-14 & 2014-15 seasons).~~ If the player refuses the assignment to an Association or team they may not re-apply until the following season.

- c) Any rostered High School Development player is eligible to be rostered on an EAHC team. High School Development teams are limited to 10 games

- (scrimmages) versus travel teams. A High School Development team may not 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 be rostered on more than one (1) EAHC 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 "EAHC 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 grant rights for the player to participate in Tournaments or scrimmages. The Organization's EAHC 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 shall 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, based on the competitive level of the players and follow the petition process below if the team will be registered at the B level.
 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) using the provided electronic version of the EAHC Form for which an exception is being requested. The list should include players' birth dates, and prior year's team(s), 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 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).

D. Conference Liability: 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 (**Bantam** 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 31st 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 **Bantam** 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 suggests minimum rosters be 13 players for 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) or player(s) shall be re-assigned between divisions. Player or team movements within associations shall occur no later than December 31st of each year.
2. If a Division Commissioner **or the Conference Board** determines that a competitive imbalance exists after December 31, the team in question may have its Conference Playoff eligibility revoked or be asked to play in a different division provided that age requirements are met.
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 1st 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 electronic 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. Each team's Head Coach (or his/her designated representative) SHALL submit a completed Referee Evaluation using the EAHC website online form.
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 their 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 and expiration date on the score sheet next to their signature BEFORE the game begins.
 6. Players in the **Bantam** 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. 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.

C. **Fair Play Standings Point: In any regular season game where a team's Penalty Minutes do not exceed the following thresholds, the team will be awarded a "Fair Play Point" in the standings. Both teams involved in the game can be awarded a Fair Play Point if they both stay below the threshold, if only one is below, only that team is awarded the standings point. The Fair Play Point is in addition to points awarded for win or tie. A team will not be awarded a Fair Play Point in a game where a player or coach receives a Game Misconduct or Match Penalty regardless of the team's penalty minute total. In addition, any game in which a coach receives an Unsportsmanlike Conduct Minor, the team will not receive a Fair Play Point regardless of team penalty minute total.**

Fair Play Point Penalty Thresholds:

Squirts: 5 minutes

PeeWee: 9 minutes

Bantams: 11 minutes

Midgets: 15 minutes

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/**incomplete/unreadable** score sheets, **missing signatures, inaccurate uniform numbers**, 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, etc.
 - \$15.00 each occurrence
 3. Protested games:

\$15.00 each occurrence

- B. **Division Commissioners with recurring issues (ex: scoresheets, referee evaluations and missing paperwork) that potentially may result in a fine to a Team should: first warn the team via email, copy the applicable Empire Representative on the second warning, then impose the fine for the third offense.** Commissioners shall notify the Conference President of any fine(s) to be assessed **with supporting documentation**. 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 Squirt Division shall be:
- Minor: One minute, thirty seconds (1.5 minutes)
 - Major: Five (5) or ten (10) minutes.
 - Misconduct: Ten minutes (10 minutes)
- Game or Match Penalty: 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.
- B. Suspensions are incurred for the following:
1. **USA Hockey 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. Score sheets for the original penalty and game in which the suspension was served shall be submitted to commissioners within 72 hours.
 2. **USA Hockey 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. **USA Hockey Progressive Suspensions: See USA Hockey Rule 411 for details. All Major, Game Misconduct, and Match Penalties must be reported to the team's Commissioner regardless of whether they occur in an EAHC regular season or playoff game, scrimmage or Tournament game.**
 4. **EAHC Suspensions:** All EAHC suspensions, other than those occurring from a **USA Hockey Rule**, shall be served in Conference games.

- a) 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.

C. 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 a suspension shall result in the offending Head Coach serving an additional suspension equal to the number of games said suspensions were not served. Egregious violations, as identified by the Division Commissioner, can result in the player and Head Coach being brought before the Conference Disciplinary Committee within 30 days.
3. It is the responsibility of the player's head 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 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 on the team for which they were assessed the Game Misconduct.
 - a) The Division Commissioner shall be made aware of all misconducts.

D. EAHC Penalty Minute Suspensions: Accumulated penalties and misconducts exceeding 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) Conference regular season or playoff games.

1. Penalty minutes shall include minor penalties, five (5) and ten (10) minute major penalties and misconducts/Match Penalties.
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 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.

E. 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".
3. Implementation:
 - a) Players or Coaches shall only be charged for one (1) Aggressive Play penalty per incident. An incident is defined as the penalties written up with the same clock time. Game suspensions imposed for violating the Aggressive Play Policy are not to be counted as Game Misconducts.
 - b) The Head Coach is defined as the Coach who signs the score sheet as the Head Coach for that Game. Head Coaches, if present and not suspended, shall sign the score sheet as Head Coach or face a Conference Hearing under supplemental discipline. Any Head Coach not present for a game shall have any Aggressive Play penalties accrue against his team 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, Head Coach and the parents of the player the penalties that have occurred and the potential injury concern to EAHC.
 - c) Every additional aggressive play penalty (7th, 8th, etc.) 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 and Commissioner, 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 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 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.

F. 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 Chair 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 can 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. Failure to appear shall not factor into the Committee's decision.
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.

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. 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.
 - a) Only a player from a lower level shall be a substitute for a higher-level team. Exception: Goalies may be substituted at the same level with approval from the Division Commissioner. **Exception for 2014-15 Only: Horizontal skater substitutions are allowed at the Bantam and Midget levels with Commissioner approval provided all other skater substitution rules in this section are followed.**
 - b) 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 **or other non EAHC** teams are prohibited.
 - c) **A team may only use a substitute goalie if their goalie is not available or they have fewer than ten skaters available. A substitute goalie may not be used to allow a Goalie to “skate out” if ten or more skaters are available.**
2. 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.
3. 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. Commissioners shall verify that all subs come from appropriate EAHC teams as identified above using the EAHC website rosters. Any violation of the **substitution** rules may result in forfeiture of the game **due to use of illegal players**.
4. Substitution Examples:
 - a) Squirt “B” players may be substituted on other Squirt “B” teams as RWB (**U8**) 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) A PW A team may substitute a PW A goalie from the same organization with Commissioner prior approval if no PW B or Squirt A Goalie is available.

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) **A team** may not start a game until they have at least six (6) skaters and a goalie.
 2. Games may be postponed due to hazardous driving conditions, **rink or other** 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). **This is not a forfeit situation for either team.**
 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 **negotiating** the time and date of a rescheduled game **with the away team. The home team shall offer non-conflicting, reasonable options and the opposing team is required to accept one of them. The Division Commissioner determines if the options offered are reasonable.**
 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. **Teams must utilize all scheduled ice time even if they do not expect to complete the game. A coach refusing to continue to obtain a win or tie may be assessed a Match Penalty for removing his team from the ice or a forfeit.**
 - a) During a regular season **or playoff** game, two (2) full stop clock periods shall be completed before a game is considered complete.
 - b) If the above requirements are not met, the game shall be rescheduled at a later date. **At the Commissioner's discretion, the game may be re-played in its entirety (preferred) or resumed at the clock time reached when the curfew expired (utilized late in the season when options are limited).**
- C. Game Duration (Zamboni time to resurface ice is not included)
1. Games at the Squirt level shall consist of three (3) ten (10) minute stop clock periods. The curfew time for Squirt games shall be no less than fifty (50) minutes.
 2. Games at the Peewee level shall consist of three (3) twelve (12) minute stop clock periods. The curfew time for Peewee 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 and 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.
2. 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. **If there are reports of a curfew clock manipulation, the Division Commissioner shall investigate and recommend to the EAHC Board changes to the game score if needed.**
3. A game cannot be protested because of curfew time expiration.
4. During playoff games only, both teams shall follow the guidelines set forth by the **Division Commissioner** and the rink personnel of the arena at which the game is being played if there is any dispute concerning a game curfew.
5. 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 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. USA Hockey Rules that are followed correctly may not be protested. **Judgment calls on the part of the referee(s) shall not be the subject of a protest. No changes can be made to a referee call 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. A copy of the score sheet, supporting documentation, and a written explanation of the protest shall accompany all protests of games.
4. All protests of games **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 RWB (**U8**) 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 the issue 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 home team shall forfeit the game.

- e) The Conference recommends that independent referees be used at the RWB **(U8)** and Squirt levels.
 - f) The Conference requires that independent referees be used at the Pee Wee level and above.
 - g) The Conference requires that an independent referee organization 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 and prior to the start of the season. 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.
- 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 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). RWB **(U8)** 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.

SECTION VIII – REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS TIE BREAKER

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 2014-15 Red White & Blue (U8) Rules & Regulations

Mission

The goal of the Rochester Area 8U/House Directors is for all Associations to be working together through continuous communication to provide competitive competition for all skill levels in accordance to USA Hockey ADM guidelines. This committee will meet mid-season to review the guidelines and assess the performance of this format. The committee retains the right to make changes as deemed appropriate. Any changes would be disseminated in writing to all teams prior to any change(s) taking effect.

General Regulations

Players

The EAHC RWB League shall consist of 3 divisions, Red, White, and Blue. For the 2014-15 season, players with Birth years of 06-07, and experienced 08 players, are eligible for RWB play. Partial level definitions are as follows:

- Red** For the most advanced or experienced players, would be unusual for a 1st year RWB player to be placed here.
- White** For 2nd year, final year, or advanced younger players
- Blue** Should be primarily 1st year RWB players who have gone through a Learn To Play Hockey/Initiation (or similar), and/or Pony (6U) program the previous year.

League Standings and Statistics **WILL NOT** be kept at the White and Blue level. In accordance with USAH/ADM guidelines, the focus of RWB hockey is fun and skill development, with zero emphasis on winning, or team/individual statistics. Win and Loss counts may be kept at the Red level to determine 2nd interleague game schedule.

Teams

Team size should be 9-11 players, for the intended goal of 2 full lines plus a goalie. Teams without sufficient players should plan accordingly to bring substitute players from a lower level team to facilitate 2 complete, 5 player, line changes. USAH & ADM strongly encourages this model to maximize ice time for each player. Additional players reduce the amount of ice time per player, slowing their development and reducing their fun.

Any official roster recorded should include as many Alternate players as possible to most easily facilitate player movement between teams, both laterally as well as vertically. Ideally, rosters would be kept unofficially to most easily allow player movement/substitution.

Level

Organizations shall submit their team count per level by Sept 23.

EAHC shall hold a pre-season Determination Tournament to ensure teams are appropriately placed, to be held by the 3rd weekend of October. A committee consisting of a rep from each EAHC Organization shall review tournament play and make any suggestions for vertical movement. Host for Determination Tournament shall be decided by same Rotation as Championship Hosting, with Orgs having the right to refuse and allow vote of alternate host Org.

Scheduling

Season shall consist of 14 games, 7 Home 7 away, and will be scheduled the week following the determination tournament, with a start date for games the 1st weekend of November. Scheduling may be done by Organizational representatives outside of standard scheduling meeting, or by single appointed person/volunteer working with all organizations submitted ice times.

Scheduling will be done on a half sheet basis, per team. Home associations are responsible for finding 2 RWB teams to share the allocated hour of ice time, but each home team will schedule their opponent independently. Example, RYH has White/Jones and Blue/Miller on Saturday XX/XX at 9AM. White/Jones schedules against MCYH/Smith and Blue/Miller schedules against PYH/Buford. **Home Association is responsible for supplying 2 RWB teams of any level or mix of level. In the event of an odd number of teams, accommodations may be made to host a single Half Ice game, but RWB teams shall not split or play full ice.**

Equipment

- Cross-ice boards should be used at the redline for all RWB games (Note that bumpers are allowed but it is the ultimate goal for every organization to use Cross-ice boards)
- Goals shall be Jr size, measuring 48" X 36".
- Goalies shall wear complete goalie equipment meeting HECC requirements (no street hockey pads) including stick. It is strongly recommended that goalies at Blue and White levels be done on a rotation so that all players are given an opportunity to play the position, both to identify future interest but also develop a respect for the position.
- Blue Pucks **only** are to be used.

Games

Format

A game is defined as a half ice event between 2 teams. It is expected that 2 games will be taking place simultaneously on each half of the ice. However, for clarity in regulations below, a game is only 1 half ice event.

- All RWB games shall be played half ice, red line to end of rink, both sides
- Games shall be 5 vs 5
- 1 Referee per game shall be present pursuant to organizations referee scheduling practices.
- Score will be kept at the Red and White levels via a flip card controlled by a designated home team volunteer.
- Home team(s) shall be responsible for providing **Blue** pucks for each game.

Time Keeping

A time keeper shall be provided by the home team. Game time will be regulated by a single running clock for both games simultaneously.

- The Curfew Clock shall be set at 50 minutes.
- The game clock (scoreboard) shall have a 3 minute countdown for warm-up.
- Immediately following the horn at the end of that 3 minute warm up period, 23 minutes shall be put on the game-clock and started to run continuously.
- The time keeper shall sound the horn every 1.5 minutes to indicate a line change.
- After 23 minutes, there will be a 1 minute break. Teams shall switch ends at this end, with goalies skating to opposite goals during the break.
- In the event of an injury or other delay: If the delay is during the first 23 minute period, the game clock shall stop, and resume once play is ready to start. After the 1 minute break, the game clock shall be set to match time remaining on the Rink Curfew clock and run continuously. If the delay occurs during the 2nd period, no action with regards to the game clock shall be taken, it will continue to run leaving whatever time is left for the remainder of the game once play resumes.

It is the coaches' responsibility to manage their bench and players so as to maximize ice time for game play, for example working at practice to teach players to head to the bench at the sound of the whistle.

Play

These guidelines are to promote a near continuous game flow, with play stoppage only for goals and injuries.

- Each referee shall have 2 Blue pucks on their person throughout game play
- The referee shall indicate a valid goal with **both** a vigorous arm signal and whistle.
- After a valid goal, the referee shall instruct players on the scoring team to move to center ice (of half sheet playing surface), and toss the 2nd puck in his possession **behind** the net, allowing the scored-upon team first possession, then recover puck in net.
- For whistles for goalie covering the puck, the referee shall instruct offensive players to move to center ice (of half sheet playing surface), then toss the puck **behind** the net, allowing defending team first possession. **Coaches are encouraged to practice this during practices to minimize non-playing time during games.**
- On a line change horn, the referee shall pick up the puck, and once ALL players have cleared towards their respective benches, the referee shall toss the puck against the boards opposite the benches at the half sheet center line. This will facilitate **continuous play**, as entering players will rush from the bench to the free puck
- In the event of an injury whistle, all players will be instructed to return to their bench by the referee and remain there until the injured player has left the ice. A face off shall take place at center ice (of half sheet playing surface) after all injury whistles.
- Each period will start with a faceoff.
- As per USAH/ADM Guidelines, **double shifting is not allowed**. Coaches should work diligently towards balanced and equal ice time for all players during a game, excluding the goalie position.

Penalties

- All USAH rules will be followed with particular emphasis on the following infractions at the RWB level- Tripping, Hooking, Charging and High Sticking with head contact.
- As per ADM guideline, penalties shall be enforced as follows: When a penalty is called by the Referee, the player receiving the penalty shall return to their bench and leave the ice immediately, resulting in a man down situation for the duration of the shift. Any subsequent penalties in that shift will allow a substitute player for the 2nd and subsequent penalties, resulting in the penalized team never being down more than 1 player. At the next line change teams will return to even strength regardless of number of penalties.
- **NO PENALTY SHOTS WILL BE PERFORMED**

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.
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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

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 2013 through 2017 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 **Body Contact** categories, 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 **Body Checking** categories, 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.

USA Hockey will also continue to emphasize the Body Checking Standard of Play and Rule Emphasis adopted in 2011 as part of its effort to create a safe environment for all participants. This goal is to enhance player skill development by eliminating intimidating infractions designed to punish the opponent. Proper enforcement of this standard will improve the proper skill of legal body checking 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 (**Body Contact categories**) 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 (Body Contact Categories)

A player cannot deliver a body check to any player while participating in a **Body Contact category**. 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 players 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 **Body Checking categories**, 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 (**Body Contact categories**) 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.

2013-17 USA HOCKEY RULE CHANGE SUMMARY

For Youth, High School, Girls' Women's and Adult Classifications

For the 2013-14 through 2016-17 Seasons

Rule #	Rule	Description of Change
Preface	"Points of Emphasis" including Standard of Play and Rules Enforcement	Continues language that addresses legal body checking and legal body contact, including a Body Checking and Restraining Foul Standards of Play.
Preface	Philosophy of Youth Hockey	Updates wording to coincide with language appearing in Annual Guide referencing the ADM and establishes consistency of message with other educational documents.
All	Section One	Simplifies language pertaining to rink requirements as needed to play the game. Makes reference to STAR's USA Hockey Facility Guide as the resource to obtain detailed information and more specific requirements for rink standards and ice markings.
201	Composition of Team	Moves language pertaining to who can occupy the players' bench during a game.
304	Protective Equipment	Adds Note to Section (c) acknowledging the expiration date on HECC helmet stickers and places the responsibility on the player to wear a certified helmet.
308	Electronic Devices	Adds language that prohibits a team official from using electronic devices to question, challenge or dispute a game official's decision while the game is in progress.
404 & 601(e)	Misconduct Penalties	Calls for a game misconduct penalty to be assessed in lieu of the second misconduct penalty assessed to the same player during the same game.
411	Progressive Suspensions	Adds new rule effective for the 2014-15 season (recommended for 2013-14) that will increase game suspensions to a player who receives their third and subsequent major penalties for infractions classified as "Aggressive Infractions" during the same season. Also adds suspension to the head coach for a team receiving three major penalties in the same game.
501	Appointment of Officials	Moves all language pertaining to officials' equipment to this rule and also mandates that all officials wear a half-shield visor effective with the start of the 2013-14 season.
503	Linesman	Deletes language that allows for a referee to call upon a linesman to conduct any face-off during the course of the game.
507	Penalty Timekeeper	Moves reference as to whom may occupy the penalty bench during the course of the game.
602	Attempt To Injure/Deliberate Injury of Opponent	Adds note that specifies all incidents of attempt to injure/deliberate injury to a game official should be penalized under Rule 601(f.1).
603	Boarding	Establishes penalty options for boarding as minor plus misconduct, major plus game misconduct or match penalty.
604	Body Checking/Body Contact Categories and Non-Check Adult Classifications	Establishes youth "body contact" categories and modifies terminology to coincide with "Learn-to-Check" educational materials.
607	Charging	Establishes penalty options for charging as minor plus misconduct, major plus game misconduct or match penalty. Adds note(s) that moves description of goalkeeper's "privileged area" to this rule and clarifies difference between goalkeeper interference and charging the goalkeeper.
612	Face-Off Locations	Clarifies location of face-off if the puck were to illegally enter the goal directly off an official.
614	Falling on Puck	Adds note referencing the goalkeeper's "privileged area" to this rule.
615	Fighting	Allows for a game misconduct penalty to be assessed to a player in the Adult Male Classifications for removing his (or opponent) helmet/facemask prior to or during an altercation.
620	Head Contact	Establishes penalty options for head contact as minor plus misconduct, major plus game misconduct or match penalty.
632	Puck in Motion or Out of Sight	Deletes outdated language referring to a player who passes the puck back into their own defensive zone for the purpose of delaying the game.
637	Throwing Stick/Object	Deletes reference to "deliberately" throwing a stick or object out of the rink and in the direction of spectators for a game misconduct penalty to be assessed.
639	Tripping/Clipping/Leg Checking	Adds language specific to "slew-footing" to this rule.
Glossary	Goalkeeper's Privileged Area	Moves definition from Section 1 of the rules and add to glossary.
Glossary	Goalkeeper's Warm-up Area	Moves definition from Section 1 of the rules and add to glossary.

EAHC SAMPLE SCORE SHEET

EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE

Date: 10-04	Start Time: 2:00
Score: 20-18	Game No: 18
Home: MON COY EAGLES	Visitor: WILSON
Office Time Remaining: 00	

1

Division	Home Team	Visitor	1	2	3	Total
	MON COY	WILSON	1	1	1	3

Home Goals	
Per	Time
1	4:08
2	11:00
3	10:00

Visitor Goals	
Per	Time
1	4:08
2	11:00
3	10:00

Home Penalties	
Per	Time
1	1:30
2	1:00
3	1:00

Visitor Penalties	
Per	Time
1	1:30
2	1:00
3	1:00

<p>Home Team: MON COY EAGLES #34</p> <p>Captain: STEVE SMITH</p> <p>Coach Signature & No.: [Signature]</p>	<p>Visitor Team: WILSON</p> <p>Captain: [Signature]</p> <p>Coach Signature & No.: [Signature]</p>
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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. Last 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

Division	Length of Periods			Curfew
	1	2	3	
Elite	10	10	10	50
Senior	10	10	10	50
Post Wee	12	12	12	60
Junior	12	12	12	70
Midget	15	15	15	80

Comments: _____

2

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14

Please Note:

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

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

All errors must be completed to avoid fines. Completed evaluation must be sent to division commissioner within 72 hours of game completion.

Home

Visitor

Commissioner

Team

White Copy-Division Commissioner, Yellow Copy-Home Team, Pink Copy-Away Team

Home

Visitor

Commissioner

Team