



**PITTSBURGH AMATEUR  
HOCKEY LEAGUE RULES  
2017-2018 SEASON**

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## **I. AUTHORITY AND ENFORCEMENT**

### **1. RULES:**

- A. PAHL member associations, teams, team officials, players, player's parents and spectators must comply with "PAHL Rules and Procedures", as they are applicable.
- B. All PAHL league and playoff games are to be played in accordance with USA Hockey (USAH) and Mid-American District Hockey (Mid Am) rules, and as modified in these PAHL rules.

### **2. ENFORCEMENT:**

- A. The PAHL (as empowered by USAH) reserves the right to forfeit games, adjust standings and/or fine any PAHL member association, team, team official, player or player's parents and spectators, as necessary to maintain the philosophy of USAH and the good of PAHL.
- B. Any violation of USAH, Mid Am, or PAHL rules may be cause for review by the PAHL Rules and Procedures Committee or PAHL Discipline Committee as applicable.

### **3. FINES, SUSPENSIONS, PROTESTS, AND APPEALS:**

- A. All fines for failure to abide by PAHL rules as defined and where imposed are payable at or before the next scheduled PAHL meeting.
- B. All actions of the PAHL Discipline Committee, including suspensions, will follow procedures outlined in the USAH Annual Guide, and as amended by PAHL.
- C. Protests may be lodged to the PAHL Rules and Procedures Committee or the PAHL Discipline Committee following the "Protest Procedure".
- D. Appeals may be lodged to Mid Am following the "Appeals Procedure".
- E. Association fine payments must be settled and paid in full according to the following deadlines:
  - i. All fines must be paid up to date for association teams to schedule. Payment deadline is scheduling weekend (typically the last weekend of September or the first weekend of October).
  - ii. All fines must be paid up to date for association teams to attend PAHL playoff tournaments. Payment deadline is February 15.
  - iii. All fines must be paid up to date for the end of the season. Payment deadline is May 31.
- F. Member associations who do not have representation during mandatory monthly meetings will be fined \$50.00.
- G. Member associations are required to have representation at mandatory PAHL meetings. After missing 3 consecutive mandatory PAHL meetings, an association will be placed on probation (probation parameters are detailed in PAHL Bylaws) until representation returns and all outstanding fines are paid.
- H. Member associations with declared PAHL Mite teams who do not have representation during mandatory Mite meetings will be fined \$50.00.
- I. Member associations found to be displaying banners with the PAHL name/logo in their rink that were not issued by the PAHL for genuine season or playoff accomplishments, or not approved by the PAHL, will be fined \$500.00.

### **4. FINANCIAL OBLIGATION CLEARANCE:**

- A. Before a player is granted permission to leave one PAHL member association to play for another, all of his or her financial obligations must have been met with the original member association. If the player in question has failed to meet those obligations he or she will be denied playing privileges in any PAHL games until the debt is satisfied.
- B. Associations should provide a list of "Bad Debt" players to PAHL. The players will be located and notified as to requirements for playing clearance.

- C. The PAHL may partner with other non PAHL USAH affiliate leagues or associations for the purpose of collecting unpaid debts. Failure to satisfy financial obligations will result in the loss of playing time under these agreements.
- D. The PAHL will permit a “conditional release” to players that have negotiated terms of repayment of outstanding debt. Should those terms be broken by the debtor, the association that is still carrying the player debt may revoke the release and must advise PAHL immediately so that the player(s) can be removed from game competition. Associations providing for a “conditional release” must also advise PAHL of full satisfaction of debt in order to remove player from the “Bad Debt” listings.
- E. Any team rostered by a PAHL member association, whether they play in the PAHL or not, is subject to and bound by the “Bad Debt” process for fulfillment of PAHL member association financial obligations.
- F. Players identified as owing monies after the start of league games will be given a 14 day time window to resolve their payment issues before being removed from game competition.

## II. STATISTICS AND STANDINGS

### 1. DIVISION STATISTICIANS:

- A. Will review and verify PAHL score sheets against the game record entered by the team(s) into the Pointstreak scoring system. Will report any discrepancies to PAHL for correction.
- B. Report game penalties, game suspensions, and match penalties, and any noted game incidents to the PAHL Discipline Director.
- C. Track and verify the proper serving of game suspensions.
- D. Verify score sheet accuracy, completeness and timeliness, and report and assess fines to PAHL member association Presidents where applicable.
- E. Contact team representative when score sheets are not received within the proper time frame.
- F. Verify all players on score sheets at least three times per year with the appropriate team/player documentation.

### 2. STANDINGS:

- A. League standings will be determined by the following point system. These points for wins, losses, and ties will be combined with Fair Play Points to provide Total Points to determine teams’ qualification for playoffs and season first place positions.  
Win = 2 points    Tie = 1 point    Loss = 0 points
- B. If a tie exists, the following tiebreaker system will be used.
  - i. For two teams tied in total points:
    - 1. Head to head league games (wins, losses, and/or ties only; if a three or more way tie exists, see 2.B.ii. below.
    - 2. Number of wins in league games.
    - 3. Lowest goals against.
    - 4. Lowest penalty minutes.
    - 5. Greatest goal ratio: GF divided by GA (GF/GA)
  - ii. For three or more teams tied in total points:
    - 1. All teams must have played each other the same number of times in order to use the first tiebreaker, 2B.i.1., head to head. If they have not all played each other as such, start with the second tiebreaker, 2.B.i.2., number of wins.
    - 2. If one tie breaker establishes a position for one or more teams, each team is placed in the applicable position. Once a team(s) is placed, the remaining tied teams shall start the tie breaking process again at 2.B.i.1., head to head.

- C. A forfeited game will be counted for PAHL season standings as a 1-0 loss. The opposing team will receive a 1-0 win. This includes all games (wins – ties – and losses).
  - i. Teams involved in forfeited games will receive the following statistics:
    - 1. The winning team receives goals for (GF) based on the GF average of their PAHL regular season games at the end of the season
    - 2. The losing team receives goals against (GA) based on the GA average of their PAHL regular season games at the end of the season.
    - 3. No Fair Play points are awarded in a forfeited game as no game was played.
- D. The Fair Play Point System will be used for 18U through 10U and Girls divisions. Teams will be able to earn one (1) additional point in the standings by meeting Fair Play criteria for a league game. In order to qualify for the additional point teams must comply with the following.
  - i. Penalties in minutes for the game cannot exceed the thresholds established for that particular division.
  - ii. Proper coaches' behavior is necessary; no game misconducts or match penalties assessed to any coach on that team's bench.
  - iii. If PIM for the game exceeds double the threshold allowed, then the team will have a Fair Play point subtracted from their season to date total.

DIVISION	PIM THRESHOLD	PIM THRESHOLD AFTER WHICH A FFP IS SUBTRACTED
18U, 16U	16	32
14U	16	32
12U	16	32
10U	16	32
Girls 19U, 16U	16	32
Girls 14U, 12U 10U	16	32

### III. TEAMS

#### 1. AGE CLASSIFICATION:

- A. The following age classifications are in effect for teams playing in the PAHL.

YOUTH TEAMS	GIRLS TEAMS
18U	19U – ages 19 to 13
16U	16U – ages 16 to 12
14U	14U – ages 14 to 10
12U	12U – ages 12 to 9
10U	10U – ages 10 to 9
8U	

- B. PAHL age classifications for youth team league play will comply with USAH guidelines. Age classifications for house/rec girls team league play will conform to the progression chart below, as approved by the Mid Am District of USAH.

2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022 AND FORWARD
19U – ages 19-13	19U – ages 19-14	19U – ages 19-15	19U – ages 19-16
16U – ages 16-12	16U – ages 16-13	16U – ages 16-13	16U – ages 16-14
14U – ages 14-10	14U – ages 14-11	14U – ages 14-11	14U – ages 14-12
12U – ages 12-10	12U – ages 12-10	12U – ages 12-10	12U – ages 12-10
10U – ages 10-9	10U – ages 10-9	10U – ages 10-9	10U – ages 10-9

- C. Girls may play on Youth teams but must conform to Youth age classifications.
- D. Any player who plays at a younger age playing classification shall be considered an “ineligible player”.

**2. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS:**

- A. The method of player selection is exclusively a PAHL member association matter.
- B. There shall be no less than eleven (11) and no more than twenty (20) players officially rostered on each team.

**3. TEAM TRYOUTS**

- A. Member associations will not hold tryouts for teams until after April 1.
  - i. The only exceptions that will be granted are in cases of home rinks having unavailable ice after April 1. If this applies, the association must request approval from PAHL and must provide a letter (email) from the rink manager to the PAHL as to the last day of ice availability.
- B. Member associations scheduling tryouts for national bound teams are required to follow requirements as written in the USAH Annual Guide for those teams. Those requirements include waiting a minimum of 48 hours after the USAH National Championship Tournaments have concluded, as well as restrictions on advertising and clinic offerings.

**IV. REGISTRATION**

**1. ASSOCIATIONS:**

- A. PAHL member associations must be members of, and in good standing with, USAH and Mid Am.
- B. All PAHL member associations must submit the names, email addresses, positions, and phone numbers of their Board of Directors, indicating the designated PAHL representatives for each new season.
  - i. Each member association is allowed five (5) designated representatives (2 board members, of which one must be the association President, and three others).
  - ii. The list of designated representative must be current and accurate and may be amended or revised not more than twice in any PAHL season.

**2. TEAM ROSTERING:**

- A. All teams must be registered and in good standing with USAH and Mid Am (using official USAH forms) and all prescribed USAH and Mid Am hockey fees must be paid prior to playing any PAHL league games.
- B. All teams must have submitted their rosters to the USAH Registrar in order to schedule league games and before playing any PAHL regular season games.

**3. PLAYER REGISTRATION:**

- A. Players must have completed all USAH required documents and paid all prescribed fees prior to participation in any PAHL games.
- B. Each player must be a registered member of a PAHL member association in order to participate in PAHL games.
- C. Boys shall be rostered on only one (1) PAHL youth team and with one (1) PAHL association.
- D. Players rostered on any Tier I youth team, or a Tier I youth team or any other youth team in a Tier I hockey association, are not permitted to also be rostered on a PAHL member association Tier II or House/Rec youth team. Girls rostered on a Tier I girls team may not be rostered on a PAHL girls team, but may be rostered on a PAHL Tier II or House/Rec youth team, subject to USAH guidelines.
- E. Youth players are not permitted to be rostered on a Junior team and a PAHL midget team.
- F. Girls may be rostered on up to two (2) PAHL teams.
  - i. One must be a girls team.
  - ii. The second team may be either a youth or a girls team, but if a girls team it must be in a different division.
  - iii. A maximum of five (5) girls may be double rostered between girls teams. Double rostering under this rule must be within a single association, and may not cross over to other association girls teams.
- G. Girls must declare by December 31 which team they would play for in games leading towards a USAH National Championship.
- H. Goalies may be rostered on two PAHL teams within the same PAHL association.
  - i. Goalies may be rostered on a second team during the season, subject to PAHL and USAH roster requirements.
    - 1. Goalies that will double roster cannot be rostered and processed until PAHL Team Placement is complete for the divisions affected.
    - 2. Goalie double rostering can only be done from a lower skill / age team upwards. Goalies may not be rostered down under this rule.
    - 3. Goalies may double roster up one birth year, except for mites to squirts, subject to proper approvals.
  - ii. Goalie placement on a second team must be processed through the PAHL Placement Committee like all other player placement, and is subject to the approval or denial by the authority of the PAHL Placement Committee. Denials may occur based on the competitive appropriateness of the player for the division in which the team participates.
  - iii. Goalies may not be deleted from a second team, and added to a third team during the season. Choices one and two are final.
  - iv. Emergency goalie additions after December 31 must be done by and are final as of the last game day of the regular season. Changes are not permitted the week of PAHL Playoffs.
  - v. Double rostered goalies may not participate with both teams in the playoffs. Goalies must choose which team they will play for and once that team is done, they cannot participate with the second team.

**4. COACHES REGISTRATION:**

- A. Coaches must have completed a USAH “Individual Membership Registration” (IMR) and paid all fees prior to participation in any on ice try-outs, practices, scrimmages, exhibition games, tournament games, or PAHL league games.
- B. The head coach and all rostered assistant coaches must have attained at least the level of coaching certification as required by USAH, as well as the age specific USAH Training Module, Act 33/34 screening by the approved USAH vendor, and completion of the USAH Safe Sport Module.
- C. A properly registered player age 13-17 may be rostered on a team as a Student Coach. That team must be at least one age division lower than the player is rostered.
  - i. A student coach must adhere to all qualifications spelled out by USAH in the Annual Guide, and be under the training and supervision of senior coaching staff members.
  - ii. A student coach may not participate as a player, or substitute as a head or assistant coach.



- iii. A student coach is not subject to the same coaching compliance as the head or assistant coaches, but must have a completed “USAH Student Coach Information Form” with proper authorizations.

**5. ROSTER CHANGES:**

- A. All roster changes shall be made according to the rules of PAHL and USAH. Roster changes must be submitted to the USAH Registrar on or before the same day the player participates in any PAHL games.
- B. When adding a player to a PAHL team, the PAHL member association must submit notification to the PAHL Placement Committee for approval. The added player must be approved prior to participating in league games. A player is considered to be ineligible if this procedure is not followed.
- C. Once rostered, a PAHL player cannot move down to a lower skill level without the approval of the PAHL Placement Committee.
- D. Player additions submitted after team placement is finalized will be approved or denied by the authority of the PAHL Placement Committee. Denials may occur based on the competitive appropriateness of the player for the division in which the team participates.
- E. PAHL prohibits any roster changes after December 31, except when voted on and approved by the PAHL Board of Directors at a scheduled PAHL meeting. Any player added after 12/31 is not eligible for PAHL Playoffs unless voted on and approved by the full membership. Exceptions can be made for special situations which may include new players moving into the area, or the replacement of injured players. In cases after 12/31, the Placement Committee must provide a 75% positive recommendation to the PAHL Executive Board who will approve or deny the addition. Any appeals must be made to the full membership at the next regularly scheduled meeting. This rule applies to teams that are registered as House/Rec only.
- F. Rostered players may not change PAHL member associations after July 1 without written approval and financial release by the original PAHL member association President. All correspondence concerning movement of players from one member association to another must have a copy of the correspondence emailed to the Executive Director of PAHL and the PAHL Competition Director.
- G. Temporary rostering of players in PAHL is strictly prohibited. A temporarily rostered player will be considered an “ineligible player”.

**V. SCHEDULING**

**1. SCHEDULING:**

- A. The PAHL will determine the number of teams in each division and the nomenclature of those divisions in advance of scheduling league games. There must be a minimum of 4 teams to declare an “official” division for scheduling.
- B. Each PAHL member association team must schedule half (1/2) the number of games required for league play as home games.
- C. Each PAHL member association team should schedule half (1/2) of its PAHL games before 12/31.
- D. If a PAHL member association has 2 teams in the same division, their games against each other must be completed by 12/31. If these teams play each other more than once, some latitude may be approved at scheduling by the PAHL.
- E. PAHL scheduled league games will take precedent before exhibition games, scrimmages, tournament games, or other outside league games.
- F. Each team in every division must play every other team in its division at least once during the season. If necessary, the division will be divided. Any additional decisions on splitting divisions will be made by the PAHL Placement Committee, to be approved by the PAHL Executive Board.

- G. All regular season PAHL games must be played on the weekends, except for makeup games. Makeup games scheduled on weeknights will need the approval of both association presidents and clearance from the PAHL.
- H. All PAHL teams should reserve the last weekend of the regular season to allow for regular season make up games due to cancellations.
- I. Any PAHL member association that withdraws a team from competition after PAHL placement games have begun or scheduling, whichever is earlier, will still be responsible for payment of that team’s per player fees and any other fines that have been incurred to date. In addition the association will be fined \$2,500.00 for their “refusal to play commitment violation”. Exception to this “refusal to play” fine may be made by the PAHL Executive Board only in cases of a team folding for reason of insufficient players.
- J. 10U teams will be grouped by the PAHL Placement Committee for a 6 game preseason. Following the completion of the preseason games the 10U teams will then be regrouped and scheduled for a 14 game regular season for standings and qualification for ODSET playoff tournaments.
- K. 8U Red, White & Blue scheduling will be handled separately. See Section X.

**2. TEAM PLACEMENT:**

- A. It is the philosophy of PAHL for teams to play in the most competitive division commensurate with their player’s skill level.
- B. All PAHL member association teams must submit a completed PAHL roster experience spreadsheet to the PAHL Placement Committee for placement consideration.
- C. A PAHL member association team who does not submit a PAHL roster experience spreadsheet by the deadline will not be eligible to schedule PAHL games.
- D. All youth teams 12U through 18U will be required to participate in mandatory placement scrimmages, with the number of scrimmages and teams selected by the Placement Committee, prior to being placed by the Placement Committee.
- E. The PAHL Placement Committee will review all PAHL roster experience spreadsheets for approval at each level.
- F. A PAHL member association team may request to play at a different level by submitting additional documentation along with the PAHL team experience sheet to the PAHL Placement Committee for review.
- G. All decisions by the PAHL Placement Committee that involve moving a team up or down from the requested position will be communicated to the PAHL member association’s President before team finalization in September.
- H. Team placements in each division are as follows.
  - i. “AA” notation for top skill
  - ii. Intermediate and entry level skill divisions to be notated with appropriate letter/numeric headings as deemed proper by the PAHL Placement Committee, and approved by the PAHL Executive Board.
  - iii. 8U skill groupings handled within the 8U Red, White & Blue Program rules.

**3. NUMBERS, LENGTH, AND TIME OF GAMES:**

- A. The minimum number of PAHL league games scheduled for each age and level classification for the current season will be as follows.

AGE CLASSIFICATION	AA	A	B
18U, 16U	20	20	20
14U	20	20	20
12U	20	20	20
10U	20 (6 pre +14)	20 (6 pre +14)	20 (6 pre +14)
Girls 19U, 16U	20	20	20
Girls 14U	18	18	18
Girls 12U, 10U	14	14	14

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- B. The PAHL will not schedule any one team playing another team in the same division more than a maximum of 4 times in the regular season (two home and two away). The PAHL Executive Board reserves the right to change the total number of games in any division to accommodate the previously stated condition. In addition, the number of teams eligible to attend playoffs may be adjusted by decision of the PAHL Executive Board.
- C. All PAHL league games must have the following minimum ice slots available for game play, excluding resurfacing time.

18U / 16U with 2 <sup>nd</sup> period ice cut	100 minutes
18U / 16U without 2 <sup>nd</sup> period ice cut	90 minutes
14U AA	90 minutes
14U A/B	70 minutes
12U / 10U / Girls 12U / 10U	65 minutes
Girls 19U / 16U / 14U	70 minutes

- D. The following time periods will be used for game play.

18U / 16U	15 – 15 – 15
14U AA	15 – 15 – 15
14U A/B	12 – 12 – 12
12U / 10U	12 – 12 – 12
Girls	12 – 12 – 12

- E. The home team must commit to either, always or never performing an ice cut during an 18U or 16U game before the annual scheduling meeting in September. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game in question by the home team.
- F. No PAHL game may be scheduled to start before 7:00 am, or after 8:00 pm.
- G. All PAHL games will be played. A PAHL member association team will not be eligible for PAHL Playoffs if all PAHL games are not played. Any exceptions must be approved by the PAHL Executive Board.
- H. Youth team 18U, 16U and girls 19U division players must play a minimum of 10 PAHL regular season games to be eligible for the playoffs. Exceptions must be approved by the PAHL Executive Board.

**4. HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- A. Pays for all costs associated with PAHL league home games and PAHL mandated preseason games and placement scrimmages.
- B. Supplies off ice officials (timekeeper and scorekeeper).
- C. Schedules referees.
- D. Secures services of a Certified Athletic Trainer, Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic, or Medical or Osteopathic Physician, to be in attendance at all PAHL games.
  - i. This group shall include any licensed health care professional and any additional persons who have successfully completed and maintained certification for advance first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and basic life support.
  - ii. A suitable first aid kit or “trauma bag” must be available.
- E. Curfew clock.
  - i. It is mandatory to provide a digital or analog clock to be visible to coaches and the official timekeeper for each PAHL scheduled game.
  - ii. There is a \$50.00 fine for each game a curfew clock is not provided and visible.
- F. If the sound equipment is provided the home team is encouraged to play the National Anthem just prior to the opening faceoff at any PAHL game.

**VI. CANCELLATIONS**

**1. GAME POSTPONEMENT:**

- A. It is the philosophy of the PAHL that teams should play their full schedule of games. So every effort should be made to reschedule no shows so the players do not lose the opportunity to play the games. In addition, reference Rule V.3.G., which states that all games must be played by any one team to qualify for PAHL Playoffs.
- B. Extreme inclement weather, rink equipment failure, inadequate number of required referees, or other extraordinary circumstances shall be grounds for game postponement and will not require that game costs be reimbursed.
  - i. This decision will be made by the two PAHL association Presidents, the PAHL Executive Director, or designated Executive Board members, and if necessary by the PAHL Rules Committee.
  - ii. Coaches, referees, and team managers are not authorized to cancel games.
  - iii. The game should be rescheduled at the rink where it was originally scheduled to be played. The game may be rescheduled at the opponent's rink, or a neutral site, if home ice is not available or the teams agree.
- C. Any team not showing up to play a scheduled game except for the reasons in 1.B. will reschedule the game and the following will apply:
  - i. The PAHL member association of the no show team is liable for all game costs incurred by the home association.
  - ii. The game should be rescheduled at the rink where it was originally scheduled to be played. The game may be rescheduled at the opponent's rink, or a neutral site, if home ice is not available or the teams agree.
- D. Any team cancelling a scheduled game except for the reasons in 1.B. will reschedule the game and the following will apply:
  - i. If the cancellation notification is within 24 hours prior to the game, the canceling PAHL member association is liable for all game costs.
  - ii. If the cancellation notification is within 72 hours but more than 24 hours prior to the game, the cancelling PAHL member association is liable for 50% of actual game costs that the home association was not able to cancel.
  - iii. The game should be rescheduled at the rink where it was originally scheduled to be played. The game may be rescheduled at the opponent's rink, or a neutral site, if home ice is not available or the teams agree.
- E. A team that shows up for a scheduled PAHL league game without a coach will be considered a no show, and be required to reschedule as per 1.C.ii. above.
- F. If a visiting team shows up to play and the home team is a no show, except for circumstances outlined in B. above, the home team will be fined \$100.00 and will be required to reschedule as per 1.C.ii above. The fine will be credited to the visiting association's PAHL Fee Account.

**2. GAME CHANGES:**

- A. After scheduling of the current season, (other than situations covered in A. above) a PAHL member association team is responsible for the \$25.00 game change fee for their first game change (fee for date change only), unless made during the ten (10) day grace period following the scheduling date. Any subsequent game date changes by that team will result in a \$250.00 fee per game to the requesting organization. The \$250 fee may be waived down to \$25 in cases that are beyond the control of the team / association, subject to approval by the PAHL Executive Board.

**3. GAME FORFEITS:**

- A. Game forfeits will not be permitted until the end of the season, and until all efforts to reschedule are exhausted.
  - i. Game forfeits must be approved by PAHL.
  - ii. The PAHL member association of the team forfeiting must reimburse the PAHL member association of the non-forfeiting team the sum of all game costs (ice, refs, emt) for the game(s) not played.

## VII. GAMES

### 1. CONTROL OF THE GAME:

- A. The referee may do anything in his power to control the game, including the premature termination. In such instances the PAHL Rules Committee will decide whether the game shall be canceled, suspended, forfeited, or considered complete.
- B. In addition to suspensions imposed under USAH rules, the PAHL Rules Committee or the PAHL Discipline Committee, at their discretion, may investigate any incident that occurs in connection with any game. They may assess additional penalties and/or suspensions for any offense committed before, during or after a game, by a team, team player, team official, or parent, whether or not such offense has been penalized by a referee.

### 2. COACHES:

- A. The Head Coach or acting Head Coach will initial the score sheet prior to the start of the game to acknowledge a correct roster, documented player game misconducts, and game curfew time.
- B. All coaches who are present on the bench for a registered PAHL team must have completed the required USAH coaching certification as required by USAH, as well as the age specific USAH training module, Act 33/34 screening by the approved USAH vendor, and completion of the USAH Safe Sport module.
- C. After a PAHL game, it is the responsibility of the head coach to review the game score sheet to determine if any player has received a game misconduct, had five (5) or more penalties, or the team was in excess of fifteen (15) penalties during the game, and then by signing the score sheet acknowledges that he/she has done so.
- D. Contact the Discipline Director within 48 hours of a game for any and all game misconducts.
- E. The Head Coach shall be responsible for the eligibility of his/her players.

### 3. REFEREES:

- A. Only duly registered officials holding USAH Referee cards shall be authorized to serve as referees or linesmen in any PAHL league game.
- B. USAH on-ice officials are required to file reporting on game misconducts and match penalties with USAH. The PAHL Discipline Director will access those reports and will request additional reporting from the referees if necessary.
- C. The name of any parent or fan and their association, whose conduct is inappropriate or contradictory to the guidelines of USAH and the PAHL shall be noted on the score sheet and any additional information must be included as necessary.
- D. A referee or linesman for a PAHL regular season game or a PAHL playoff game must satisfy the following requirements.
  - i. CANNOT be a parent, step parent, brother, sister, or live in the same household of a player, or of any team in the same skill level of an age division.
  - ii. CANNOT be a coach of either team.
  - iii. CANNOT be a player in the same age division.
  - iv. CANNOT be a coach in the same skill level of an age division
    - 1. Violation of the above rule must be reported to the PAHL Discipline Committee for consideration.
    - 2. These rules may be waived by the mutual agreement of the coaches prior to the start of the game and must be written and signed by both coaches on the score sheet.
    - 3. Failure to sign the agreement will result in a forfeiture of the game by the offending team.
- E. A minimum of two officials are required for all 18U youth, 16U youth, 14U youth, and girls 19U through 14U games. If only one official shows up and the second does not arrive within 15 minutes of the start time, the game must be rescheduled. The teams are not permitted to

scrimmage in place of the scheduled game. If the teams engage in an unauthorized scrimmage, both head coaches will be suspended.

- F. An association, at their discretion, may choose to schedule 3 officials for a game, and if done, will follow the USAH rule of one (1) referee and two (2) linesmen.

**4. EMT:**

- A. An EMT (see rule V.4.) is to be present at all PAHL games. At multiple ice surface facilities, there must be an EMT at each ice surface if there are separate games being played simultaneously.
- B. EMTs are to sign the score sheet indicating their presence prior to the start of the game.
- C. EMTs must be on a player's bench, in a penalty box, or scorer's area.
- D. If an EMT is not present for a game, the game must be canceled and rescheduled. The home association will receive a \$100.00 fine for each offense.
- E. The EMT must have at their disposal a suitable first aid kit or trauma bag.
- F. Coaches cannot serve as both EMT and coach in the same game.
- G. If an EMT must leave the immediate game area temporarily to attend to a player, the game may continue.

**5. PARENTS / SPECTATORS:**

- A. Parents must at all times before, after, and during the game, conduct themselves according to the USAH "Spectator Code of Conduct" and "Zero Tolerance Policy".
- B. Failure to follow proper code of conduct will result in disciplinary action.

**6. NUMBER OF PLAYERS:**

- A. Each PAHL team must have the proper minimum number of players dressed and on the ice before the opening face-off, under penalty of forfeiture. The teams cannot waive this rule.
- B. A PAHL game may be played without a team goaltender.
- C. A minimum of nine (9) players are required to play a PAHL game with the exception of the 18U / 16U youth and girls 19U age classifications where a minimum of eight (8) players are required.
- D. The opening face-off shall not be delayed by more than fifteen (15) minutes by reason of insufficient players (to be defined as players on the way). The game must be played according to the scheduled start and curfew times, unless the rink schedule permits a change before the puck is dropped. Once the puck is dropped the curfew cannot be adjusted.
- E. An insufficient number of players or inappropriate USAH level coach will be classified as a no show subject to the appropriate costs and fines.

**7. TEAM DOCUMENTS:**

- A. Each PAHL team coach and/or manager must have in their possession at every PAHL scheduled game the following documents.
  - i. A USAH "Player Roster Form" that has been certified by the Mid Am Hockey Registrar to be true and correct.
  - ii. Evidence of completion of required USAH Coaching Education Program (CEP) clinics and Age Specific Training Modules. Evidence of Act 33/34 screening and Safe Sport compliance as required by USAH for each coach and manager.
  - iii. Other USAH or PAHL documents pertinent to players and coaches eligibility.
  - iv. PAHL "Risk Acknowledgement and Liability Waiver" form for any player that is playing up at an age level that is one year in age above USAH's recommended guidelines.
- B. Birth certificate copies shall be kept on file by the association registrar and not in the team book as per USAH.
- C. Documentation will be available, upon request, to a team official of the opposing team prior to the game.
- D. Any challenge by an opposing team, of a player or coach's eligibility, shall be noted on the score sheet, and signed by the team official.

- E. The PAHL Rules Committee will review and investigate challenges of eligibility, for final determination of penalties, including forfeitures and suspensions when found valid.
- F. A verification of coach and team manager USAH required credentials will be completed by the PAHL.

**8. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS:**

- A. All PAHL member association team players, at all levels, are required to properly wear protective equipment at all practices, warm-ups, and games as required by USAH rules with the following additions.
  - i. All players are required to wear an internal mouthpiece.
  - ii. An unaltered neck guard of a commercial type specifically designed as a slash guard. Socks, rags, handkerchiefs, etc., tied around player's throat, are not adequate throat protection.
  - iii. In addition, goalkeepers are required to wear a "gobbler style" throat protector and neck guard.
  - iv. Only a player who is recuperating from a facial and/or mouth injury, or who has permanent vision impairment, as certified by a doctor's certificate, may wear special face and/or mouth protection.
- B. All uniforms on a team, including the goalkeeper's, shall be of the same color and shall be numbered (no duplicate numbers).
- C. In case of similar colors, the home team must make the change. Coaches are to cooperate in the choice of colors. Home teams should get their choice but must accommodate visiting teams that have only one color jersey.
- D. All PAHL players must wear a "stop patch" on the back of their jersey for all PAHL games.
  - i. "STOP" stands for the "Safety Towards Other Players" Program.
  - ii. A player is not able to play in any game that the "stop patch" is missing.
  - iii. The scorekeeper will not start the game clock until the player without a "stop patch" leaves the ice.
  - iv. Curfew times will not be changed.
  - v. Stop patches are not required for Mite R, W & B.
  - vi. The "STOP patch" must be placed in the center back of the jersey, right above the number, and below any name plate affixed to the jersey. Existing jerseys that have the "STOP" incorrectly placed should be changed if possible, short of making players buy new jerseys or incurring significant costs. All new jerseys purchased going forward from the 1617 season must have the "STOP" in the correct location.



- E. Goal pins shall be used in games for all divisions, squire through midget, including girls.

**9. GAME TIME:**

- A. PAHL league games will be played using USAH "stop time" rules.
- B. When one team has a lead of seven (7) or more goals there will be a "running clock".
  - i. The clock will run continuously except when a goal is scored, a penalty is called, the puck leaves the playing area, or a player is injured.
  - ii. Penalties occurring with a "running clock" will also be on "running time" and will be consistent with USAH rules. There is no 3 minute penalty during the "running clock" time.

- iii. The game will return to “stop time” whenever the goal differential is six (6) goals or less.
- iv. The “running clock” will not start prior to the second period even if the seven (7) goal lead is attained in the first period.
- v. A maximum goal differential of seven (7) will be the largest goal differential that can be displayed on the scoreboard.
- C. It is the responsibility of the home association to abide by all curfew times and to insure that each official game score sheet has a curfew time written in its proper space.
- D. Prior to the start of the game, the official timekeeper must notify both coaches of the curfew time and have both coaches initial the score sheet.
- E. The official timekeeper and on ice officials are the only people that have the authority to curfew a PAHL league game (coaches cannot curfew a game).
- F. Time outs are not permitted in PAHL regular season games.
- G. Overtime is not permitted in PAHL regular season games.

**10. HANDSHAKE AND EXITING THE ICE:**

- A. The handshake will take place after the game.
- B. If an incident occurs during the handshake, both players and coaches may be issued a game misconduct by the referee. If a player is involved in a second incident during the PAHL season, the player(s) and involved coach(s) will receive a 3 game suspension.
- C. The referees are the only parties permitted to waive the handshake and send teams directly to the locker rooms. Refusal by the coaching staff to shake hands will result in a one (next) game suspension to the head coach.

**11. SCORE SHEET:**

- A. The coach and/or manager have the ultimate responsibility for the complete and accurate records of the team.
- B. The score sheet shall be initialed prior to the game by each head coach, the official scorekeeper, and the EMT.
- C. After a PAHL league game, the score sheet is to be verified and signed by all referees, linesmen, coaches and the official scorekeeper, and a copy retained by each PAHL association’s statistician.
- D. Any match penalties, game misconduct and/or suspensions, and the serving of which, is to be noted on the top of the score sheet.
- E. Record the name of any parent or spectator, their association, and the type of offense as indicated and requested by an on ice official.
- F. The HOME team has the ultimate responsibility that the score sheet is filled out in an accurate, legible, and complete manner according to PAHL and USAH rules.
  - i. Date of game.
  - ii. Age group.
  - iii. Level and division.
  - iv. Complete team names, both home and visitor (home team on the left side of the score sheet and visitor on the right side of the score sheet).
  - v. Game number.
  - vi. Curfew time.
  - vii. Coach and manager names and phone numbers.
  - viii. On ice officials.
- G. Upon completion of a PAHL league game, the home team is responsible for forwarding game results to the appropriate Division Statistician.
  - i. **The white (top) copy of the** game score sheet must be scanned and emailed to the division statistician by Monday, 6:00 pm, following the weekend the game was played. **The scan must clearly show both rosters and all scoring and penalty sections.** If the score sheet document is not legible the team will be notified and the sheet will need to be resubmitted.
  - ii. The white (top) copy of the score sheet must be retained by the home association, filed and sorted, and turned in to the PAHL at regularly scheduled meetings.



- iii. Failure to scan and email score sheets as required will result in a \$10.00 per score sheet fine assessed to the home team association.
- H. Score sheet must be submitted in a legible, complete, and accurate manner. If not, the PAHL member association home team will be assessed a fine as defined by the PAHL Fine Schedule, payable to the PAHL.
- I. The PAHL Discipline Director must be notified within 48 hours of any game misconducts or match penalties. This is the responsibility of the team whose player received the penalty.

**12. POINTSTREAK GAME SCORING:**

- A. All games must be scored through the Pointstreak game scoring system. The scorekeeper may choose any of the following.
  - i. Score the game in real time on the terminal located in the scorekeeper's box.
  - ii. Score the game within 48 hours of the game's completion on the terminal located in the score keeper's box.
  - iii. Score the game within 48 hours of the game's completion on a secondary device.
- B. The Pointstreak game scoring will create the record of the game, subject to final verification from the paper score sheets. The paper score sheets will still remain the final record of game results for PAHL league games.
- C. A fine of \$25.00 will be assessed to the home association for any game not scored to Pointstreak in 48 hours from the game.

**13. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL:**

- A. Any spectator, as well as any game participant including players, all coaches, found to be under the influence of alcohol, narcotic drugs, or illegal drugs of any kind, shall be ejected from the game and shall face a hearing before the PAHL Discipline Committee within 30 days.
- B. Prior to the hearing the violator shall not participate or be involved with the team in any way including practices, exhibition games, tournament games, or PAHL games.

**14. 8U RED, WHITE & BLUE HOCKEY:**

- A. Guidelines for the 8U Red, White & Blue hockey are in Section X.

**VIII. PLAYOFFS**

**1. SEASON CHAMPS:**

- A. Season Champions will be recognized for 18U, 16U, 14U, 12U, and girls divisions 19U, 16U, 14U, and 12U.
- B. Season Champion teams will receive a PAHL Season Champion Banner and individual players will receive medals.
- C. The presentation of the season championship awards either immediately prior to the first playoff game/open division game, off the ice prior to the first playoff game or after the playoff game will be determined by the head coach. The head coach may also choose to waive a presentation and instead hand out the awards at another time.

**2. PLAYOFFS – QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS:**

- A. All 18U, 16U, 14U, and 12U division teams, and all girls division 19U, 16U, 14U, and 12U teams must qualify for playoff participation by their performance and final standings in the PAHL regular season.

- B. The number of teams eligible to participate from each division will be as follows and will include approximately 40% of each division, with a minimum of 4 teams.

10 teams or less	Top 4 make playoffs
11 to 14 teams	Top 6 make playoffs
15 or more teams	Top 8 make playoffs

- C. The playoff seeding will be determined from the final PAHL regular season statistics and the higher seeded team in each game will be considered the “home” team.
- D. All divisions will follow a single elimination tournament format.
- E. All PAHL teams that have qualified for the PAHL playoffs must participate or a fine of \$1,000.00 will be assessed.
- F. Playoff Champions will receive a PAHL Playoff Champion Banner and individual players will receive medals.
- G. Playoff Finalists (second place) will receive medals.

**3. PLAYOFFS – OPEN DIVISION SEASON END TOURNAMENTS:**

- A. All 10U division teams are eligible to enter the open division tournament for their divisions.
- B. Teams electing to attend the Open Division Season End Tournament (ODSET) will be required to register for the tournament and submit payment for their first game in advance.
- C. The tournament formats will be based on the number of teams attending and the most efficient round robin tournament game structure. The tournament seeding will be a random method. Awards will be given to 1<sup>st</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and “participants” – all players will receive an appropriate award.
- D. There will be no playoff/end of season tournament for mites.

**4. HOST ASSOCIATIONS:**

- A. Host associations / locations will be determined by the PAHL Executive Board after bids have been submitted for the playoff / ODSET divisions.
- B. The host association is responsible for the scheduling and all associated costs for the ice time, referees, EMTs, and security if required.
- C. The host association is responsible for contacting each PAHL team entered in the playoff tournament and informing them of their game times.
- D. Each host must choose a Playoff Director who is responsible for verifying team credentials, player eligibility, schedules, game results, etc.
- E. Each host must choose a Discipline Director who is responsible for resolving any minor discipline and/or rules violations at the playoff site; and resolving any major discipline and/or rules violations with the assistance of the PAHL Discipline Director or the PAHL Rules Director.
- F. All game misconducts and match penalties must be reported to the PAHL Discipline Director.

**5. PARTICIPATING TEAMS:**

- A. All teams participating in a playoff tournament must submit their team documents for review (see rule VII.7.A.) to the Playoff Director before their first game.
- i. The Playoff director is empowered to determine the eligibility of any player, coach, or team.
  - ii. Protests can be heard following the “Protest Procedure” (telephone, faxes, and email will be used).
- B. All playoff teams will be charged an amount to be determined by the PAHL. All checks are to be made payable to the host association and paid prior to the start of each playoff game.
- C. All players must sign in before the start of each playoff game and be prepared to play 20 minutes ahead of the scheduled game time.

**6. GAME RULES:**

- A. All PAHL playoff games are to be played under PAHL regular season rules except:
  - i. Games will not have a curfew.
  - ii. The Playoff Director at each playoff site will decide in a joint meeting with both the head coaches, how to resolve a suspended game. The completion of a suspended game, if deemed necessary, will be restarted from the point of suspension.
  - iii. One time out per team of one (1) minute is permitted during regulation time.
  - iv. 18U / 16U AA divisions will be required to have an ice cut between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods.
- B. Open Division Season End Tournament games (ODSETs) will use the following 5 point scoring system.
  - 2 points for a game win
  - 1 point for a game tie
  - 1 point for the team scoring the most goals in one period and ½ point for any tied periods
  - i. No shoot out will be permitted
  - ii. If teams are tied in points at the end of the round robins the tie breaker list will be as follows.
    - 1. Head to head during the tournament (if a three or more way tie exists, all teams must have played each other the same number of times in order to use this first tiebreaker).
    - 2. Lowest goals against.
    - 3. Lowest penalty minutes.
    - 4. Greatest goal ratio (GF/GA).
  - iii. If tie games occur during semi final or final single elimination format games during the ODSET competition, the tiebreakers in section “C” below will be used.
- C. Single elimination format qualifying playoff games tied at the end of regulation time will be decided as follows.
  - i. Five minute sudden death 5 on 5 overtime.
  - ii. Five minute sudden death 4 on 4 overtime.
  - iii. Five player shootout (home team choice to go first).
  - iv. Sudden death shootout. First unanswered goal wins. The entire player roster (except goalies) must be used before repeating any shooters. The five players participating in the first shootout may not shoot until all other players on the roster have shot.
  - v. There will be a one (1) minute time out between each overtime period.
  - vi. Any player with unserved penalty time at the end of the overtime periods will not be permitted to participate in either the five player shootout or the sudden death shootout.

## 7. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING:

- A. The “Qualifying” playoff tournaments and ODSETs will be held before the USAH state tournaments.
- B. The Girls’ division playoff tournaments will be scheduled one week before the youth divisions.

## IX. DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

### 1. COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES:

- A. The PAHL Discipline Director will chair the PAHL Discipline Committee.
  - i. The committee will have a minimum of five (5) members and a maximum of fifteen (15) members, three (3) of which must be present at any PAHL discipline hearing to be held.
  - ii. Additional members of the PAHL Executive Board may belong to the committee.
  - iii. All other committee members are to come from the PAHL membership at large.
- B. The PAHL Rules Director will chair the PAHL Rules and Procedures Committee.

- i. The committee will have a minimum of three (3) members and a maximum of twelve (12) members, two (2) of which must be present at any PAHL rules hearing to be held.
- ii. Additional members of the PAHL Executive Board may belong to the committee.
- iii. All other committee members are to come from the PAHL membership at large.

**2. PARENTS / SPECTATORS:**

- A. Any offense will be dealt with under the USAH “Zero Tolerance Policy”.
- B. A reported parent/spectator incident will be relayed to the affected member associations by the PAHL Rules Director and those associations will be responsible to investigate and report back to the PAHL Rules Director within seven (7) days.
  - i. The association(s) will report findings.
  - ii. The association(s) will be responsible for assessing appropriate discipline and will report actions taken to the PAHL Rules Director.
  - iii. PAHL will determine if actions are adequate.
  - iv. Additional time may be granted to perform due diligence; however, if the incident has not been “closed” within 30 days the PAHL Rules Committee will take charge and additional discipline or fines may be rendered.
- C. If a parent/spectator is reported for a second Zero Tolerance incident, the process outlined above in IX.2.B. will be followed.
  - i. The parent/spectator found “guilty” will be assessed a \$250.00 fine, payable to the PAHL, and will be suspended from games until the fine is paid.
  - ii. Multiple fines may be issued to separate repeating offenders for one incident.
- D. If a parent/spectator is reported for a third Zero Tolerance incident, the process and penalties outlined above in IX.2.B and IX.2.C. will be followed.
  - i. The parent/spectator found “guilty” will be required to attend a PAHL Rules Committee hearing where additional discipline may be rendered.
  - ii. Additional discipline may take the form of suspensions and/or fines.

**3. INELIGIBLE PLAYER:**

- A. A player unregistered with USAH will result in:
  - i. The immediate suspension of that player until proper registration is processed.
  - ii. The immediate suspension of the head coach for each game that the player participated in up to a maximum of three (3) games.
  - iii. Forfeiture of all PAHL games said player participated in.
- B. A player who is not rostered with USAH will result in:
  - i. The immediate suspension of that player until the proper PAHL and USAH roster processes are completed.
  - ii. The immediate suspension of the head coach for each game that the player participated in up to a maximum of three (3) games.
  - iii. Forfeiture of all games said player participated in.
  - iv. If documentation is provided by the association that shows the player was submitted properly by the association, and subsequent processing did not meet the proper timelines or just did not complete, then the forfeiture of all games and any coach suspensions will be waived.
- C. A player who has not been properly submitted for the roster through the PAHL Placement Committee will result in:
  - i. The immediate suspension of that player until the proper PAHL and USAH roster processes are completed.
  - ii. The immediate suspension of the head coach for each game that the player participated in.
  - iii. The association will be fined \$100 per player, per game, for violations under this rule.
- D. A player who is playing down an age division will result in:
  - i. The immediate suspension of that player until proper registration is processed.
  - ii. The immediate suspension of the head coach up until a PAHL discipline hearing is held.

- iii. Forfeiture of all PAHL games said player participated in.
- E. A player who has outstanding unserved game misconducts will result in:
  - i. The immediate suspension of the player until all outstanding game misconducts have been served.
  - ii. The immediate suspension of the head coach for each game that the player participated in up to a maximum of three (3) games.
  - iii. Forfeiture of all PAHL games said player participated in.
  - iv. The serving of suspensions must be recorded on the original game score sheet to count as served.

#### 4. SUSPENSIONS:

- A. If any team official or player is serving a suspension, the official/player may not sit on or near the bench of the official/player team or in any way attempt to direct the play of the official/player's team.
- B. Players and team officials not serving their suspensions will be considered "ineligible players" for every game in which they participate, until their suspension is served.
- C. When a game suspension is being served, it must be clearly indicated on the score sheet (number of games served and number of games total).
- D. All suspensions resulting from game misconducts received by players in game play with their PAHL team must be served in game play with their PAHL team. Game misconducts received in PAHL game play, cannot be served by the player in one of his/her high school league team games.
- E. All suspensions must be served in the next game played, as required by USAH, subject to the following:
  - i. If the next game played is a PAHL regular season game, PAHL playoff game, or USAH sanctioned tournament game, the suspension is counted as being served in that game, provided:
    - 1. Official score sheet is noted properly.
    - 2. Evidence of suspension being served is provided to the PAHL Discipline Director.
  - ii. If the next game played is a scrimmage or exhibition game, the player must sit out that game for USAH, plus the next game for PAHL as noted in (i.) above.
- F. A player or coach will receive additional penalties under the USAH 5/15 rules.
  - i. If a player/coach receives a 2<sup>nd</sup> game misconduct during the PAHL season, they will receive an automatic additional two game suspension, for total three game suspensions.
  - ii. If a player/coach receives a 3<sup>rd</sup> game misconduct during the PAHL season, they will receive an automatic additional three game suspension, for total four game suspensions, and will have a discipline hearing before the PAHL Discipline Committee for further actions.
- G. A player or coach will receive additional penalties under the following game misconduct situations.
  - i. If a player/coach receives a game misconduct following the conclusion of play, they will receive an automatic additional one game suspension.
  - ii. Accumulation of game misconducts over the course of regular season PAHL game play will result in the following progressive penalties.
    - 1. If a player /coach accumulates a total of three game misconducts, the player/coach will receive an automatic additional one game suspension on top of the suspension required for that third game misconduct, to be served in the next game played as required in section E.
    - 2. If a player/coach accumulates a total of five game misconducts, the player/coach will receive an automatic additional three game suspension on top of the suspension required for that fifth game misconduct, to be served in the next game played as required in section E.
    - 3. Any game misconducts received beyond five will result in immediate suspension from PAHL until a PAHL Discipline Committee hearing is held. (Hearing to be scheduled within fourteen (14) days of the infraction).

- iii. If a game is concluded prematurely because of multiple altercations on the ice or a bench clearing brawl incident, or if these incidents occur at the natural end of the game, the following penalties will apply in addition to any assessed to the players by the referees.
  - 1. Both head coaches will receive a one game suspension.
  - 2. Players may be assessed additional penalties under USAH supplementary discipline rule provisions if deemed necessary by the PAHL Discipline Committee.
  - 3. The second occurrence for a team will result in a three game suspension for the head coach and a discipline hearing by the PAHL Discipline Committee for the entire team with additional penalties to be determined. (Hearing to be scheduled within fourteen (14) days of the infraction).
- H. Penalties under sections F. and G. will be handled as separate sets of violations and served penalties by the Discipline Director.
- I. Carry over suspensions, from the prior season, are to follow the individual player/coach to their new season's PAHL team, and are to be served per rule IX.4.E.a.
- J. USAH Rule 411 – Progressive Suspensions, continues to be an emphasis in PAHL and USAH game play.

**5. REPORTING SUSPENSIONS:**

- A. The reporting procedures in this section apply to all PAHL member association teams that schedule and play in PAHL. The PAHL will defer discipline matters to any secondary league(s) in which the member association plays, but must be kept informed of all suspensions and/or hearings.
- B. All infractions causing a suspension must be reported to the PAHL Discipline Director by the offending player's association by any means within forty-eight (48) hours of the incident.
  - i. All suspensions must be reported and served, even though they may not appear correctly on the score sheet.
  - ii. Failure to report within this specified time period will result in a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fine to the negligent association.
  - iii. For a game misconduct, it is only necessary to report the incident to the PAHL Discipline Director.
  - iv. For a match penalty, a legible copy of the score sheet and a written report about the incident must be sent to the PAHL Discipline Director, postmarked, within five days of the infraction.
- C. Representatives of both teams must report the occurrence of a match penalty to their own PAHL member association President or discipline representative.

**6. MATCH PENALTIES:**

- A. A player or team official incurring a match penalty shall be suspended from participating in any USAH games, practices, or team functions, including high school, until their case is dealt with by the PAHL Discipline Committee or Mid Am if applicable.
- B. A mandatory hearing by the proper authority shall be held and a decision made relative to any further discipline action within thirty (30) days. If extenuating circumstances prevent the hearing, the player/team official shall automatically be reinstated after thirty (30) days.
- C. The penalized player/team official's association president or designated PAHL discipline representative will be notified of the time and date of the hearing before the PAHL Discipline committee. The player/team official's association is then to notify the player and head coach.
- D. Any person appearing at a hearing can only be accompanied by a team representative and/or his/her parents. The PAHL Discipline Committee will notify the player/team officials's association president, as well as the association president of the opposing team, of the extent of any additional suspensions.

**7. ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL DISCIPLINE:**

- A. Supplemental discipline may be assessed by the PAHL Discipline Committee under USAH Rule 410 for any incident before, during, or after the game that is not penalized by the on ice officials.
- B. Supplemental discipline may be assessed by the PAHL Discipline Committee or the PAHL Rules Committee for issues that are contrary to or a detriment to the fair and equitable competition and the appropriate game experience for all involved. This may include excessive penalties by a team, player, or team official over the course of the season, specific detrimental behavior exhibited outside of the game environment (parking lot, social media, etc), or behavior or activities that are contrary or threatening to PAHL's USAH affiliate status.
- C. Proper review and investigation must occur, with a hearing if necessary, before supplemental discipline is determined.

## **8. PROTESTS:**

- A. Only a PAHL member association president or their designated PAHL representative can lodge a protest. A coach or parent may not lodge a protest.
- B. Protests may be lodged under this section on rule violations occurring during game play, eligibility issues affecting games, and any other issues not sufficiently resolved by officials, coaches, or other administrators. Once filed, determination will be made as to whether the protest has merit, and if so, the PAHL will move forward with an investigation, a hearing if necessary, and final resolution.
- C. Notification must be sent to the President of PAHL within forty-eight (48) hours of the game.
- D. The written protest and a check for \$50.00, made payable to PAHL, must be postmarked within seven (7) days from said game, and must be mailed to the PAHL treasurer.
- E. The president of the offending teams' association will be notified within forty-eight (48) hours after notification of the protest to the PAHL.
- F. The offending association has seventy-two (72) hours from notification to provide a written response to the protest to the PAHL.
- G. Every protest shall be administered individually.
- H. The PAHL Discipline Committee or PAHL Rules Committee will rule on the protest within thirty (30) days. If the protest is denied, the \$50.00 will be forfeited. If the protest is upheld, the \$50.00 will be returned.
- I. End of the PAHL season protests will be handled prior to PAHL playoffs.

## **9. APPEALS:**

- A. Any PAHL member association team, player, or a member of any league or association in Mid Am may appeal a disputed case or matter or protest to the Mid Am Board of Directors only after they have had a hearing decision or have been refused a hearing within its own league or association. (See "Appeals-Protests", Mid Am rules)

# **X. PAHL 8U RED, WHITE AND BLUE HOCKEY**

## **1. PAHL PROGRAM PHILOSOPHIES**

- A. Affiliate associations have the responsibility to structure their 8U programs to maximize development for their 8U age players.
  - i. Each association must structure their 8U programs to fall within the parameters of the USAH American Development Model (ADM) for the 8U age group. This requires the usage of the skill development concepts and cross ice / half ice game play specified within the ADM.
  - ii. Each association's adaptation of this program will differ slightly based on their available ice time, their number of players, their ice cost, and their volunteer base.
- B. PAHL has scheduling and jurisdictional responsibilities for the 8U division.

- i. The PAHL has the responsibility to provide a “game” structure for the 8U division. Associations will choose to “declare” their 8U team units to participate or not participate, just as they declare teams to play or not play now. The PAHL game structure will be a Jamboree format that will give teams a league schedule to play cross ice / half ice competition versus other member associations within the jurisdiction of the league.
- C. All 8 and under age players as of 12/31 will play cross ice / half ice Jamboree hockey in PAHL. No 8 and under players will be permitted to play up to squirt on a PAHL participating team.

**2. RECOMMENDED RULE PARAMETERS:**

- A. The development and advancement of PAHL 8U Red, White and Blue Hockey, within the member associations’ in house “practice” environment, and within the cross-association events scheduled among PAHL member associations, is of paramount importance to the PAHL.
- B. Of utmost importance is building a flexible framework that provides member associations of all sizes the ability to create their individual programs such that they meet their members’ needs based on the parameters within which they operate (such as, but not limited to, available ice time, association budgetary constraints, and number of players).
- C. Compliance is required and mandatory of all member associations. PAHL will monitor associations to ensure the growth and development of these programs as a league, to feed all other PAHL programs up the development pyramid, from 10U to 18U, from entry level B teams to high level AA/Tier II teams.

**3. ADMINISTRATION:**

- A. Member associations will be required to appoint an 8U Coordinator for their program. This will be the contact person for their program, along with the association president.
- B. PAHL will schedule periodic mandatory meetings for all 8U Coordinators. These meetings will be for the purposes of reporting, educating, and sharing information, and anything else that is necessary to further and maintain the PAHL 8U Red, White and Blue hockey structure.
- C. PAHL reserves the right to assign consequences/penalties/fines for non-compliance (ie continuation of full ice competition for mites) with the 8U ADM Mandate within the league.

**4. TEAM UNITS:**

- A. Team unit size: range of 9-13, based on the USAH recommendation.
- B. Associations will assign their team units as best fits their group of 8U players via their association player evaluations. Team units must be classified by the association as Red, White, or Blue. The Red division being the top skill level, the White the intermediate skill level, and the Blue the entry skill level. Each team within those division classifications should be fielded as evenly as possible, not from top to bottom.
- C. Team units must be rostered through USAH as “Developmental”. Rosters and subsequent additions/deletions must be submitted to PAHL to be entered into the player database for future reference. There is not deadline for roster changes.
- D. Players may be moved from one team unit to another as the association sees fit through the season.
- E. The Mid Am rule permitting players to play up one birth year is not applicable in the PAHL to 8U age players.

**5. JAMBOREE GAME PLAY:**

- A. PAHL will not rank team units or formally schedule Jamborees between associations. PAHL will devise and supervise a scheduling session in the beginning of the season for interested member associations to schedule cross Jamborees with other member associations. This will permit associations to more properly match up their groups for cross-ice competition and determine their own geographic travel circle. Associations will not be forced to schedule if they prefer to keep their program totally in house.
- B. The following rules for cross association Jamborees apply.



- i. Limit PAHL Jamborees to 10 total at scheduling.
  - ii. Host may determine if the team units will play 2 or 3 games at the same time.
  - iii. Games in the Red division may be played half ice (dividers across center ice). Games in the White and Blue divisions are to be played cross ice only (dividers at blue lines).
  - iv. Goalies are required. Full goalie equipment is required, however a regular player helmet may be used. All goalies must use a gobbler affixed to the helmet. Teams are encouraged to rotate goalies.
  - v. Games are to use intermediate nets. You may use pegs in the intermediate nets.
  - vi. Regular size nets are permissible as a substitute.
  - vii. Games with a visiting association will require an EMT to be present at that ice pad, as in all PAHL cross-association events.
  - viii. Play and time clock in all playing zones must stop in the event of an injury to facilitate the EMT's access to the player (the timekeeper will use 3 sounds to stop play).
  - ix. On ice/bench/dividers limit of 3 coaches per team.
  - x. Players must be rotated, no consecutive shifts.
  - xi. After goal or freeze, players must retreat to center (ie use orange cones for demarcation).
  - xii. Host associations must provide officials; one official per game.
  - xiii. Referees will call penalties; however, there will be no penalty shots. The offending player sits remainder of shift (does not carry over to next shift regardless of time), and the coaches are responsible to explain the infraction to the player.
  - xiv. Players are not to touch the puck after the buzzer. The consequence is that the opposing teams get possession of the puck.
  - xv. Participating teams may determine whether to play 3 x 3 or 4 x 4, depending on the number and distribution of players available for a particular Jamboree session.
  - xvi. Games will run 12 to 15 minutes with a running clock and a buzzer every 60 to 90 seconds. The clock and buzzer choice should be made to maximize the ice usage. At the end of each period, the team units will switch and play a new game against a new team unit, with an approximate 2 minute break to allow teams to enter and exit playing areas.
  - xvii. Recommended ice slot is 70-90 minutes. Team units should be able to play 5-6 games within this time frame.
  - xviii. No score sheets; no scoring on the scoreboard.
  - xix. Jamborees will be scheduled from the beginning of November to the end of February.
- C. Associations may determine which and how many of their team units will participate in Jamborees.
- D. 8U Jamborees may only be scheduled on weekends.
- E. No 8U preseason game play.
- F. No banners; no season champs; no playoffs.
- G. Every player that is rostered in a PAHL association 8U Jamboree hockey program will receive a "participation medal" at the end of the season.
- H. Cancellations and no shows are governed by Section VI. Cancellations, of these PAHL Rules.