

HARL Notice of Fair Play & Supplement to USA Hockey Rules

The Hagerstown Adult Recreational League (HARL) is a recreational hockey league for men and women, ages 18 and up. The purpose of the league is to provide an organized structure in which participants can play ice hockey. The league promotes the values of sportsmanship and team play. The HARL and officials refereeing our games follow the [20112013 Official Rules of Ice Hockey](#) (click to follow link). Below are some additional rules that enhance our mission for competitive and fair team play.

USA Hockey, our governing body, has recently changed some of its policies to decrease aggressive actions towards other players, coaches and referees. Below are some descriptions of significant penalties and what happens if they are called, along with suggestions for avoiding these infractions.

General information regarding on-ice infractions

- Physical or verbal abuse of referees is prohibited.
- Players have the right to ask a referee what the call was, or explain the situation, as they skate with the official towards the penalty box.
- Captains and alternates are the only players allowed to discuss the call or penalties on the player(s) in question. Other players in the box, on the bench or on the ice should refrain from discussing items with the referees.
- Excessive behaviors can result in further penalties (unsportsmanlike conduct, delay of game, misconducts, etc.).
- If a player feels a referee is exhibiting extreme bias in a game, he or she may submit an official complaint against the referee online, after the game ends. These are rare circumstances and reserved for egregious acts, NOT for an official who whistles the play dead too quickly or appears to miss a few offside/icing calls in a game.

Abuse of Officials

- No player shall direct personal insults or verbal assaults an official.
- Under no normal circumstance is it appropriate to make any kind of physical contact with officials.
- Physical contact, in an aggressive manor, can be considered assault. Assaulting a referee carries penalties imposed by USA Hockey, which can result in hefty suspensions from USA Hockey-sanctioned events.
- Depending on the severity of the situation, officials can levy game misconducts and match penalties, which can result in a suspension from HARL games.

Game Misconducts

- Players issued a game misconduct penalty will leave the ice immediately after the call is made.
- Teammates will retrieve any equipment they have left behind on the ice or bench. (Lone exception: health related items such as asthma inhalers or cell phones- teammate can immediately deliver these items to the player as he exits the ice). The player should immediately go to the locker room to get changed.
- The misconduct penalty will be reviewed by the HARL commissioner(s) and the player is subject to further discipline, based on the severity of the issue, context and player's history.

Match Penalties

- Players receiving a match penalty are suspended indefinitely from league play. The player must attend a league hearing to be permitted back on the ice for games. Players will have the right to explain the situation, mitigating factors or extenuating circumstances at the hearing.

- Players will receive an automatic 1-game suspension as the commissioner(s) speak with the referees and review the game incident report.
- League commissioner(s) will review all match penalties. Depending on the severity of the issue, or if a player receives multiple game misconducts in a season, commissioner(s) have the right to suspend the player from future HARL games.

What happens if I feel an incorrect call has been made?

- **Explain your perspective** as you skate with the ref towards the box. Communicate clearly and be calm.
- **Take the call-in context.** Referees are human, and they may have missed what you saw, heard or interpreted. A game is not won or lost by a single minor infraction.
- **Do as directed by the game officials.** Arguing will not lead to a reversal of the call.
- **Understand the ramifications of aggressive actions.** A player already assessed a penalty is likely to receive more severe penalties from abusing the referees. Do as the referee tells you. Game misconducts and/or match penalties can be assessed if you do not comply- which will lead to less ice time for the player.

HARL Supplementary Rules

Multiple penalties in a game

Players receiving more than 3 penalties in a game will be ejected from the game. Minor and misconduct penalties each count as **one** penalty. Major penalties count as **two** penalties. If a player receives more than three combined penalties, they can be issued a game misconduct and escorted off the ice. They will be eligible to play in the next game. If a player receives two game misconducts in the same season for this type of offense, the league commissioner(s) will determine if the player will receive additional discipline, such as a game suspension.

Supplementary discipline related to incidents on rink property

If an on-ice incident carries over to another part of the rink- such as the lobby, hallway, locker room or parking lot, additional disciplinary measures may be taken by the league commissioner(s). Any player engaging in a physical confrontation with an opposing player, referee, rink patron or employee at any time on rink property will have their case reviewed by the league commissioner(s), who can impose a suspension on the players. Should physical damage to the rink occur, the player will be expected to pay for the repairs.

Any questions can be brought to the league's commissioner @ harl@hagerstownice.org