



**NEW YORK STATE AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

**I. Opening Remarks**

A. NYSAHA President - Eric Guzdek

**II. Remarks by USA Hockey Officers Present**

- A. Presentation on NYSAHA Pilot Programs
- i. USA Hockey District Director – Joe Eppolito
  - ii. NYSAHA Recording Secretary – Linda Groff

**III. Roll Call**

A. NYSAHA Recording Secretary – Linda Groff

**IV. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

A. NYSAHA Secretary – Linda Groff

**V. Treasurers Report**

A. NYSAHA Treasurer – John Ransom

**\*\*\*NEXT PAGE\*\*\***

**VI. Awards Winners and Hall of Fame Inductees**

**2022 - 2023 Hall of Fame Inductees**

Jimmy Howard  
Tony Sericolo

**NYSAHA Award Winners**

USAH Female Honors Award	Malone Minor Hockey
USAH New Leader Award	Joshua Dann
USAH New Leader Award	Linda Groff
USAH Bob O'Connor Award	Mark Hogan
NYSAHA Peter Rush Award	Richard Scammell
NYSAHA Sandy Irwin Service Award	Jody Cullen
NYSAHA Tom Korpinski Award	Pierre "Pete" Pomainville
NYSAHA Larry McCauley Award	Louisville Minor Hockey

**Bob Allen Scholarship Winners**

Mia Fierro from the Central Section, attending Babson College  
Joseph Gagliano from the East Section, attending Cornell University  
Owen Newton from the North Section, attending Jefferson Community College  
Alec Kirk from the West Section, attending Binghamton University

**VII. BY-LAWS PROPOSALS**

A. NYSAHA President – Eric Guzdek

**VIII. RULES AND REGULATION PROPOSALS**

A. NYSAHA President – Eric Guzdek

**\*\*\*PROPOSALS BEGIN ON THE NEXT PAGE\*\*\***

**Proposal #1 Page 23 Tabled at 2022 Annual Meeting**

AMENDED AND RESTATED BY-LAWS  
OF  
NEW YORK STATE AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION, INC.

**ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP SECTION 3.2 Eligibility to Vote****CURRENTLY READS:**

## Section 3.2 Eligibility to Vote.

(b) Initial Selection of Delegates. For each vote an Association is authorized to cast, one person from that Association shall be designated by that Association to cast such authorized vote, as set forth in writing on that Association's Voter Delegate Form (each such voter, a "Delegate"). A Delegate who has signed the Voter Delegate Form may vote on behalf of that Association at any Section meeting or meeting of the Membership of NYS Hockey to be held during the immediately succeeding regular season following the Record Date provided, that, in no event will a Delegate be entitled to cast more than one (1) vote at any meeting; provided, further, that no Delegate representing an Association shall be permitted to vote at any meeting of the Membership of NYS Hockey held after December 31 during such season, unless such Association on or before December 31 had at least fifteen (15) participant members (players and coaches) registered with NYS Hockey. Voting and non-voting members of the Board shall have their own voting rights at Membership meetings, with their own Voter Delegate Form, provided, that, no such Board member shall have the right to vote at Membership meetings in his or her capacity as a Board member if he or she already is a Delegate of an Association entitled to vote at such meeting. In no event shall proxies be allowed to vote. For a Delegate to be eligible to vote, or for an Association to be represented by any person, that person may not: (i) hold an official position in an affiliate of USA Hockey (excluding NYS Hockey); (ii) be a Delegate of another Association; or (iii) be less than majority age (which is presently 18).

## Section 3.2 Eligibility to Vote.

(d) Further Rules Concerning Voting. From time to time, the Board may adopt further rules, regulations qualifications of those Members eligible to vote, provided, that, none of such rules, regulations or policies shall be inconsistent with the Bylaws of NYS Hockey or USA Hockey.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

## Section 3.2 Eligibility to Vote.

(b) Initial Selection of Delegates. For each vote an Association is authorized to cast, one person from that Association shall be designated by that Association to cast such authorized vote, as set forth in writing on that Association's Voter Delegate Form (each such voter, a "Delegate"). A Delegate who has signed the Voter Delegate Form may vote on behalf of that

Association at any Section meeting or meeting of the Membership of NYS Hockey to be held during the immediately succeeding regular season following the Record Date provided, that, in no event will a Delegate be entitled to cast more than one (1) vote at any meeting; provided, further, that no Delegate representing an Association shall be permitted to vote at any meeting of the Membership of NYS Hockey held after December 31 during such season, unless such Association on or before December 31 had at least fifteen (15) participant members (players and coaches) registered with NYS Hockey. Voting and non-voting members of the Board shall have their own voting rights at Membership meetings, with their own Voter Delegate Form, provided, that, no such Board member shall have the right to vote at Membership meetings in his or her capacity as a Board member if he or she already is a Delegate of an Association entitled to vote at such meeting. ~~In no event shall proxies be allowed to vote.~~ For a Delegate to be eligible to vote, or for an Association to be represented by any person, that person may not: (i) hold an official position in an affiliate of USA Hockey (excluding NYS Hockey); (ii) be a Delegate of another Association; or (iii) be less than majority age (which is presently 18).

**Proposal #1 Page 24 & 25 (continued)**

Section 3.2 Eligibility to Vote.

~~(d)~~ **Absentee Voting.** A Delegate who has signed the Voter Delegate Form may vote on behalf of that Association at any Section meeting or meeting of the Membership of NYS Hockey as stated in Section 3.2(b) and the President of an Association, with the consent of the Section President, may substitute a new person in place of a previously designated Delegate to vote on behalf of that Association as stated in Section 3.2(c). If at any time a Delegate or Delegates are not in attendance, the organization President (which is acknowledged by the section President) may cast votes for its absentee Delegate or Delegates but at no time can more votes be cast between the Delegates present and the votes cast by the President of the organization than what has been calculated by the Treasurer of NYS Hockey for that Organization.

Section 3.2 Eligibility to Vote.

~~(d)~~ **(e) Further Rules Concerning Voting.** From time to time, the Board may adopt further rules, regulations qualifications of those Members eligible to vote, provided, that, none of such rules, regulations or policies shall be inconsistent with the Bylaws of NYS Hockey or USA Hockey.

**RATIONALE:**

1. Each delegate has the right to vote but unfortunately that delegate can only vote where and when a meeting is held. Unfortunately, there is no absentee voting provisions or Proxy voting. All too often these meetings are held in different parts of the state causing logistical issues which would make it extremely difficult or impossible to attend. Zone meetings are held on a Saturday morning or the day before a religious holiday etc. also causing it extremely difficult for a Delegate or Delegates to attend. This is not allowing all the delegates in the state to be heard. This practice is not affording the equal rights of the delegates by making it extremely difficult or impossible to attend a vote.
2. Each organization is responsible for providing a list of delegates. Those delegates are or should be members of that organization. Those members and delegates entrust their children in the organization and/or are a part of the organization believing in the direction of that organization. If a delegate has the ability to attend and vote, they should have that right, but the delegates who cannot attend should be heard as well. By the President of the organization casting the vote for those absentee delegates allows for all delegates to be heard.
3. The other Rationale is the practice of "Packing the Room" which is done when an organization wants to accomplish something that is good for them but possible not what is good for hockey, so that organization gets as many delegates to attend, at times some individuals that have nothing to do with the organization and/or borrows delegate votes from other organizations.
4. This practice "packs the room" and swings the votes for what that organizations agenda is and those organizations that don't pack the room, are left dealing with the aftermath of all the delegates not being heard as stated above.
5. A delegate's voice should be heard, and they should have equal representation and it should not be predicated on if they can travel to a meeting or not being afforded a fair voting option.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Thomas J. Palamara, P.A.L. Ice Hockey.

**WITHDRAWN BY SUBMITTER**

**Proposal #2 Page 23**

**AMENDED AND RESTATED BY LAWS  
OF  
NEW YORK STATE AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION, INC**

**CURRENTLY READS:**

**ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

Section 3.2 Eligibility to Vote.

(a) Voter Delegate Forms. For each regular season (September 1 through August 31), each Association shall be eligible to cast one vote for each fifteen (15) participant members (players and coaches) who are registered with that Association through USA Hockey as of August 1 of the immediately preceding regular season (the “Record Date”). Such number of vote(s) shall be calculated by the Treasurer of NYS Hockey, who shall designate the votes that may be cast by each Association on voter delegate forms approved by the Board (the “Voter Delegate Form”). The Voter Delegate Forms may be transmitted electronically by the Treasurer via the NYS Hockey web site, or in any other approved manner, to Associations in good standing no later than twenty (20) days after the Record Date. Each Association must complete its Voter Delegate Form and transmit same to its Section President no later than the start of its respective fall Section meeting in order to permit the Delegates reflected thereon (selected as provided in Section 3.2(b)) to be eligible to cast a vote during the current regular season. Upon timely submission to the Section President of its Voter Delegate Form, duly signed by all Delegates reflected thereon, the Association shall be eligible to vote only the number of votes for that regular season as provided on the Voter Delegate Form and as approved by the Section President at the fall Section meeting.

(b) Initial Selection of Delegates. For each vote an Association is authorized to cast, one person from that Association shall be designated by that Association to cast such authorized vote, as set forth in writing on that Association’s Voter Delegate Form (each such voter, a “Delegate”). A Delegate who has signed the Voter Delegate Form may vote on behalf of that Association at any Section meeting or meeting of the Membership of NYS Hockey to be held during the immediately succeeding regular season following the Record Date provided, that, in no event will a Delegate be entitled to cast more than one (1) vote at any meeting; provided, further, that no Delegate representing an Association shall be permitted to vote at any meeting of the Membership of NYS Hockey held after December 31 during such season, unless such Association on or before December 31 had at least fifteen (15) participant members (players and coaches) registered with NYS Hockey. Voting and non-voting members of the Board shall have their own voting rights at Membership meetings, with their own Voter Delegate Form, provided, that, no such Board member shall have the right to vote at Membership meetings in his or her capacity as a Board member if he or she already is a Delegate of an Association entitled to vote at such meeting. In no event shall proxies be allowed to vote. For a Delegate to be eligible to vote, or for an Association to be represented by any person, that person may not: (i) hold an official position in an affiliate of USA Hockey (excluding NYS Hockey); (ii) be a Delegate of another Association; or (iii) be less than majority age (which is presently 18).

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

Subparts (a) and (b) of Bylaw 3.2 to be replaced entirely by the following –

**ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP****Section 3.2    Eligibility to Vote.**

(a)        Number of Vote Determination. For each regular season (September 1 through August 31), each Association shall be eligible to cast one vote for a designated number of participant members (players and coaches) who are registered with that Association through USA Hockey as of August 1 of the immediately preceding regular season (the “Record Date”). The number of votes to which an Association shall be entitled shall be calculated as of the Record Date, as follows: (i) every Association that registered between 1 and 150 participant members shall have one (1) vote; (ii) every Association that registered between 151 and 300 participant members shall have two (2) votes; (iii) every Association that registered between 301 and 450 participant members shall have three (3) votes; (iv) every Association that registered between 451 and 600 participant members shall have four (4) votes; (v) every Association that registered between 601 and 750 participant members shall have five (5) votes; (vi) every Association that registered between 751 and 900 participant members shall have six (6) votes; and (vii) every Association that registered more than 901 participant members shall have seven (7) votes. No Association shall be entitled to more than seven (7) voting members as of the Record Date.

# participant members	# of votes
1 - 150	1
151 - 300	2
301 - 450	3
451 - 600	4
601 - 750	5
751-900	6
901 plus	7

(b) Voter Delegate Forms. Such number of vote(s) shall be calculated by the Treasurer of NYS Hockey, who shall designate the votes that may be cast by each Association on voter delegate forms approved by the Board (the “**Voter Delegate Forms**”). The Voter Delegate Forms may be transmitted electronically by the Treasurer via the NYS Hockey web site, or in any other approved manner, to Associations in good standing no later than twenty (20) days after the Record Date. Each Association must complete its Voter Delegate Form and transmit same to its Section President no later than the start of its respective fall Section meeting in order to permit the Delegates reflected thereon (selected as provided below) to be eligible to cast a vote during the current regular season. Upon timely submission to the Section President of its Voter Delegate Form, duly signed by all Delegates reflected thereon, said Association Delegates present at the meeting shall be eligible to vote the number of votes for that regular season as provided on the Voter Delegate Form and as approved by the Section President at the fall Section meeting. A Delegate who has signed the Voter Delegate Form may vote on behalf of that Association at any Section meeting or meeting of the Membership of NYS Hockey to be held during the immediately succeeding regular season following the Record Date provided, that, in no event will a Delegate be entitled to cast more than one (1) vote at any meeting; provided, further, that no Delegate representing an Association shall be permitted to vote at any meeting of the Membership of NYS Hockey during such season, unless such Association had at least one (1) participant member(s) (players and coaches) registered with NYS Hockey. Voting members of the Board shall have their own voting rights at Membership meetings, with their own Voter Delegate Form, provided, that, no such Board member shall have the right to vote at Membership meetings in his or her capacity as a Board member if he or she already is a Delegate of an Association entitled to vote at such meeting. In no event shall proxies be allowed to vote. For a Delegate to be eligible to vote, or for an Association to be represented by any person, that person may not: (i) hold an official position in an affiliate of USA Hockey (excluding NYS Hockey); (ii) be a Delegate of another Association; or (iii) be less than majority age which shall be defined as a person who is presently 18 years of age or older.

**RATIONALE:**

Allow Associations to be equally represented at Section and State Annual Meeting on a proportioned number.

**SUBMITTED BY:** NYSAHA Board of Directors as recommended by the Governance Committee

**MOTION - DEFEATED**



Proposal #3 **AS AMENDED**

Page 28

**AMENDED AND RESTATED BY LAWS  
OF  
NEW YORK STATE AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION, INC**

**CURRENTLY READS:**

**ARTICLE VI – DIRECTORS**

**SECTION 6.1 Management by, and Composition of, the Board**

(e) The Non-Voting Directors will consist of the following:

- (i) Any directors appointed pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.3;
- (ii) The attorney selected as “Counsel” pursuant to the provisions of Section 7.1(c); and
- (iii) Any individual who, as a result of prior service on the Board or to NYS Hockey, may be designated as a “Director Emeritus” by the Board.

**PROPOSED CHANGE **AS AMENDED**:**

**ARTICLE VI – DIRECTORS**

**SECTION 6.1 Management by, and Composition of, the Board**

(e) The Non-Voting Directors will consist of the following:

\* \* \*

(iii) Any individual who, as a result of prior service as a Director, may be designated as a “Director Emeritus” by the Board. The criteria for a Director Emeritus shall be a Director who has served at least fifteen (15) years on the Board and who has retired or is retiring from the Board. Such Director shall be eligible for nomination as a “Director Emeritus” after his/her term of office as a Director has expired. A Director Emeritus shall hold office indefinitely as a non-voting Director, and may not run for any NYS Hockey or USA Hockey office unless he/she first resigns as a Director Emeritus. NYS Hockey will pay for a Director Emeritus to attend the NYS Hockey Annual Meeting, or any other meeting of the Board if requested to attend by the President.

**RATIONALE:**

To more clearly describe the requirements necessary to be nominated the position of Director Emeritus

**SUBMITTED BY:** NYSAHA Board of Directors as recommended by the Governance Committee.

**MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED**

**Proposal #4 Page 30**

**AMENDED AND RESTATED BY LAWS  
OF  
NEW YORK STATE AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION, INC**

**CURRENTLY READS:**

**ARTICLE VI – DIRECTORS**

Section 6.12 Chairperson; Vice-Chairperson. The President of NYS Hockey shall serve as the Chairperson of the Board. In addition, at the first meeting of the Board following the Annual Meeting of the Membership, the Board shall elect, and may replace from time to time, a Vice-Chairperson of the Board from among the four (4) Vice Presidents and the Past President. In electing a Vice-Chairperson or any replacement, the Board shall consider the experience, qualifications, and competence of the eligible candidates. At all meetings of the Board, the Chairperson (or, in his or her absence, the Vice-Chairperson) shall preside. If both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are unable to preside at a specific meeting of the Board, the Board shall choose one of the Directors who is present to preside at that meeting. No employee of NYS Hockey may serve as Chairperson or hold any other title with similar responsibilities.

**ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS**

Section 7.3 President.

(a) The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of NYS Hockey; he or she shall preside at all meetings of the Membership and of the Board; he or she shall have the general management of the affairs of NYS Hockey and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Board are carried into effect. The President shall represent NYS Hockey at the USA Hockey Affiliate Presidents meetings conducted during USA Hockey's Winter and Summer Congress. NYS Hockey will provide funding for such expenses.

(b) During the absence or disability of the President of NYS Hockey, the individual serving as the then Vice Chairperson of the Board pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.12 of these Bylaws shall serve as the temporary President of NYS Hockey and, in that capacity, will have all the powers and functions of the President.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

**ARTICLE VI – DIRECTORS**

Section 6.12 Chairperson; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson. The President of NYS Hockey shall serve as the Chairperson of the Board. In addition, at the first meeting of the Board following the Annual Meeting of the Membership, the Board shall elect, and may replace from time to time, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson who shall be selected from four (4) Vice Presidents

and the Past President, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson of the Board from among the voting members of the Board with the exception of the Secretary (Secretary and President cannot hold both positions) In electing the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson or any replacement, the Board shall consider the experience, qualifications and competence of the eligible candidates. At all meetings of the Board, the Chairperson (or, in his or her absence) the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson shall preside. If both the Chairperson and if the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson is unable to preside at the Board, the Board then the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson shall preside at that meeting. No employee of NYS Hockey may serve as Chairperson or hold any other title with similar responsibilities.

## ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS

### Section 7.3 President.

(a) The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of NYS Hockey; he or she shall preside at all meetings of the Membership and of the Board; he or she shall have the general management of the affairs of NYS Hockey and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Board are carried into effect. The President shall represent NYS Hockey at the USA Hockey Affiliate Presidents meetings conducted during USA Hockey's Winter and Summer Congress. NYS Hockey will provide funding for such expenses.

(b) During the absence or disability of the President of NYS Hockey, the individual serving as the then 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson or 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson of the Board pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.12 of these Bylaws shall serve as the temporary President of NYS Hockey and, in that capacity, will have all the powers and functions of the President.

### **RATIONALE:**

In order to have in place a line of succession due to absence of the Chairperson (President) due to illness or other reasons

**SUBMITTED BY:** NYSAHA Board of Directors as recommended by the Governance Committee.

**MOTION PASSED**

**Proposal #5 AS AMENDED Page 46 – 47**

**New York State  
Amateur Hockey Association, Inc  
Rules & Regulations**

**CURRENTLY READS:**Association Admission to Membership; Classifications and Levels; Changes to Same

2. An application for membership by a new proposed Association must also state the program level at which the teams of the proposed association will compete. “Level” means the following program and team levels including as defined by USA Hockey where applicable: (a) Tier I; (b) Tier II; (c) Tier III; All tournament-bound teams of an Association must compete at the same Level, with the exception of Girls teams as provided under these Rules.

5. New proposed Associations involving Youth, Girls and High School Club teams will not be eligible for Tier I, II or III tournament-bound play for the first three (3) seasons of the proposed Association (and subject to any additional requirements of USA Hockey), after acceptance by the Section and confirmation by the Board, unless such tournament-bound Classification play is approved by the Board.

7. Requested change in Classification by an Association must be made through the President of the responsible Section, voted on at a duly noticed Section meeting of the responsible Section, and any such acceptance by the Section confirmed by the Board.

8. Requested change in Level by an Association must made through the President of the responsible Section, voted on at a duly noticed annual meeting of the responsible Section, and any such acceptance by the Section confirmed by the Board.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**Association Admission to Membership; Classifications and Levels; Changes to Same

2. An application for membership by a new proposed Association must also state the program level at which the teams of the proposed association will compete, **subject however to the tournament-bound restrictions provided at ¶ #5 below**. “Level” means the following program and team levels including as defined by USA Hockey where applicable: (a) Tier I; (b) Tier II; (c) Tier III. All tournament-bound teams of an Association must compete at the same Level, with the exception of Girls teams as provided under these Rules.

5. New proposed Associations involving Youth, Girls and High School Club teams will not be eligible for Tier I, II or III tournament-bound play for the first three (3) [consecutive](#) seasons of the proposed Association (and subject to any additional requirements of USA Hockey), after acceptance by the Section and confirmation by the Board, unless such tournament-bound Classification play is approved by the Board.

7. Requested change in Classification by an Association must be made through the President of the responsible Section, voted on at the duly noticed [Annual Section Meeting](#) of the responsible Section, and any such acceptance by the Section confirmed by the Board.

8. Requested change in Level by an Association must made through the President of the responsible Section, voted on at the duly noticed [Annual Section Meeting](#) of the responsible Section, and any such acceptance by the Section confirmed by the Board.

**RATIONALE:**

House Keeping for Clarification

**SUBMITTED BY:** NYSAHA Board of Directors as recommended by the Governance Committee

**MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED**

Proposal #6 Page 46

**WITHDRAWN BY PROPOSER**

**New York State  
Amateur Hockey Association, Inc  
Rules & Regulations**

**CURRENTLY READS:****1. MEMBERSHIP****C. New York District Team Registration**

A team must register in the Section in which eighty percent (80%) or more of its players reside. If eighty percent (80%) of the players do not reside in a single Section, the team must register in the Section where it plays the highest percentage of its home games. The Board must approve any exception.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

The regular season shall be September 1 through August 31. New members or those members who register on or after April 1 of any calendar year are eligible for participation from the date of their registration through August 31 of the following calendar year.

- (1) A sanctioned USA Hockey Member Program, as determined by the applicable Affiliate, must register all of its teams in the USA Hockey Affiliate in which the greatest percentage of the Member Program's players reside (as defined below). In addition, unless approved by the applicable Affiliates, all Teams registered within a Member Program must have the greatest percentage of team members that reside in the Affiliate where the Member Program is registered and shall comply with all applicable Affiliate Rules regarding Team Registration. An Affiliate may require that teams registered within its Affiliate have a minimum percentage of players that reside in the Affiliate (or similarly, an Affiliate may place a limitation on out-of-Affiliate or non-resident players). [154 2022-23 USA Hockey Rules & Regulations](#)
- (2) Teams that are not part of a sanctioned Member Program but which are approved by the Affiliate (an "Independent Team"), must register in the USA Hockey Affiliate in which the greatest percentage of its players reside. Independent Teams must comply with all applicable Affiliate rules regarding Team Registration.
- (3) In the event that a Member Program/Independent Team have equal percentages of players that reside in two or more Affiliates, the Affiliates involved shall promptly convene and decide as to where that Member Program/Independent Team shall register.

- (4) Notwithstanding that application of the above rules would require that a Member Program or Independent Team register in a particular Affiliate, two neighboring Affiliates, with the Member Program's or Independent Team's consent, may agree that a particular Member Program or Independent Team may register through either of those two Affiliates.
- (5) If there is a dispute between one or more Affiliates and a Member Program or Independent Team regarding the proper Affiliate in which a Member Program or Independent Team must register, then the Member Program, Independent Team and any affected Affiliate shall seek resolution of such dispute through an appeal to the USA Hockey Youth Council.
- (6) For the purposes of determining where a player resides under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, absent specific Affiliate rules regarding residency, the residency status of a minor age player shall be the same as at least one of the minor's parents or legal guardians. Should a player not be residing with a parent or legal guardian but rather residing and attending school elsewhere, the location of the school can be considered the player's residence or the players parents residency in which they register for USA hockey with. Any dispute under this section regarding where a minor age player resides shall be resolved by the appropriate USA Hockey Registrar(s), in consultation with the Assistant Executive Director of Member Services of USA Hockey. There shall be no appeal following such determination. The residency determination for the purposes of this rule does not affect the player's residency for the purposes of representation at player development camps.
- (7) The plurality of the team composition can be based off of where the players is residing school wise or their parents residency.

**RATIONALE:**

This allows academies such as BK (Buffalo Saints and Northwood) to continue to compete in the state tourney but also allows NYS kids whose parents pay income taxes on them in NYS to continue to play in the NYS tournament even if they go to prep school in another state. If we are about the kids (EX: player x plays NYS tourney at 12,14, 15, 16 but then leaves to go to prep school in Massachusetts we are telling that player you cannot participate as a NYS resident). It is very discriminatory against players who seek higher education and choose to go to boarding school in which their license still states they are a NYS resident, but NYS hockey does not consider them one. Again, this keeps NYS kids competing for NYS titles versus MASSACHUSETTS or New England.

**SUBMITTED BY:** BUFFALO REGALS

**Proposal #7 Page 49**

***NYSAHA ANNUAL MEETING  
RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS  
SAINTS HOCKEY CLUB, INC.***

**Rule 2 (13). A. of the NYSAHA Guidebook (Page 49) – Multiple Team Registration****CURRENTLY READS:****2. PARTICIPANT MEMBER AND TEAM REGISTRATION****13. Multiple Team Registration**

A. A player may not register on more than one team that is tournament bound except for High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions. Player changes to the official team roster form (1-T) for youth Tier I, Tier II and Tier III teams and girls' national tournament-bound teams will not be accepted after December 31. For high school club, varsity and/or prep school divisions changes will not be accepted after February 15.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:****2. PARTICIPANT MEMBER AND TEAM REGISTRATION****13. Multiple Team Registration**

A. A player may not be concurrently registered on more than one team that is tournament bound except for (i) High School Varsity division, or (ii) Prep School divisions; *provided however*, it shall not be a violation of this Section, if a player is moving from one organization to another organization, and such player's departing organization fails to timely drop the player from its roster after providing a written release, or other documentation that such player does not owe any financial obligations to the departing organization. Player changes to the official team roster form (1-T) for youth Tier I, Tier II and Tier III teams and girls' national tournament-bound teams will not be accepted after December 31. For High School club, varsity and/or prep school divisions changes will not be accepted after February 15.

**RATIONALE:**

In the event a player makes a move during the season in compliance with Rule 4, and the departing team gives the player a written release, however, delays or forgets to remove such player from the roster, the player shall not be penalized.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Chris Collins - Saints Hockey Club**MOTION DEFEATED**



**Proposal #8 Page 50**

**New York State  
Amateur Hockey Association, Inc  
Rules & Regulations**

**CURRENTLY READS:****4. PLAYER MOVEMENT**

A. Player Movement Restrictions. Once a Player/Association Commitment Form, (NYSAHA-01), is signed by the Player/Parent or Guardian, coach and Association, no player movement to another Association shall be allowed until the conclusion of the appropriate State or National Tournament as outlined below unless there are extenuating circumstances as set forth in Rule 4, Section E below. In addition, no team or Association may engage in “Recruitment” (as defined in this Rule 4) of players or offer contracts to players for the following season until:

(i) for teams comprised of players 13 years old and Over (including Tier I, Tier II and Tier III teams), until 48 hours after the last game of the Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed), or;

(ii) for all other teams that do not lead to a National Championship (currently 8 & Under, 10 & Under, and 12 and Under, until 48 hours after the conclusion of the last game of the NYS Hockey State Tournaments.

B. Player Movement Policy.

(i) At the completion of the current regular season as defined in this rule, all players without an outstanding financial obligation shall be automatically released from their current season Association. Financial obligation included both monetary and equipment obligations. Individuals shall be notified by their current season Association of such financial obligation before the end of the current season.

(ii) No later than ten (10) days before the first established tryout date, all Associations shall provide a Financial Obligation List to their respective Section President which shall detail all players who have an outstanding financial obligation. Failure of an Association to submit this list within this time frame will waive the right of that Association to object to a release pursuant to subsection Rule 4.B.(i) above.

(iii) No later than seven (7) days before the established tryout date, the Financial Obligation Lists shall be shared by the Section Presidents with all Association Presidents within the respective Section and with the other Section Presidents.

(iv) Once a player is included on a Financial Obligation List, an approved Player/Financial Release form (NYSAHAA-02) shall be required to release the player. Form NYSAHA-02 can be found on the NYSAHA website ([www.nysaha.com](http://www.nysaha.com)) and in the NYSAHA Guide Book (Section I).

(v) Players included on the Financial Obligation List and engaged in player movement, shall be required to have and provide an Approved Player/Financial Release Form (NYSAHA- 02) prior to skating with or committing to another Association, including tryouts and/or evaluations for players.

(vi) Player movement is defined as a player leaving an Association to play in another Association before the completion of the current season.

(vii) It is not considered player movement if a player participates on teams in multiple Associations during a season unless otherwise restricted by the appropriate Section.

C. Out of District Player Movement. In the event a player was rostered during the previous season in a different USA Hockey Affiliate or District than NYSAHA, a written document that verifies the player does not have a financial obligation to the former team shall be required.

D. Player Movement During the Season.

1. When a player joins a new Association and the Association and player commit in writing, that commitment to participate is for the next complete season. Until the season ends as provided in sub-section B above, no permission to move shall be granted without “Extenuating Circumstances”, as defined in this Rule 4 Section E, below.

2. Regardless of the circumstances, players shall be prohibited from signing or committing to a new Association between February 1 of the current season until the official end of the season as outlined above.

3. All player movement during the season shall require an Approved Player/Financial Release Form (NYSAHA-02) signed by the Association President and the Parent or Guardian.

4. Movement in the season shall not be from one State or National Tournament Bound team to another State or National Tournament Bound team unless approved by the NYSAHA Board of Directors.

E. Extenuating Circumstances. For any player movement request not permitted in accordance with sub-sections B above, the request shall be submitted to and approved by the respective Section President who will make the determination. Unless approved by the New York State Amateur Hockey Association Board of Directors, Extenuating Circumstances are limited to the following:

(i) The player’s current Association has signed a Player/Financial Release at any time during the season with respect to the player who is not in violation of their NYSAHA Player/Association Commitment Form (NYSAHA-01);

(ii) The team on which the player was rostered has been disbanded, and the Association cannot offer the player a comparable team on which to play (a non-tournament-bound team is not a comparable team if the player was originally rostered on a tournament-bound team); or

(iii) The player has relocated to another region such that it would be impracticable, or unreasonable, to require the player to continue to play with the current Association. For any reason other than (i) above, extenuating circumstances must include the player having satisfied all reasonable financial obligations to the current Association. A Player/Financial Release sought under Extenuating Circumstances ordinarily should not be granted after February 1 if the player was rostered on a tournament-bound team during the current season.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:****4. PLAYER MOVEMENT**

A. Residency. In accordance with the statement of purpose, the residency of Tier I team players registered through NYS Hockey shall be determined as follows:

(i) For purposes of this Article, any player who, at the time of roster submission, does not have an immediate family member who is domiciled in New York State is an Out-of-State player. An immediate family member is defined as:

(a) a natural or adoptive Parent or Grandparent;

(b) an older sibling or; and

(c) a Guardian appointed due to the death or incapacity of a Parent.

A player who meets the requirements of this subsection is an In-State Player, subject to provisions of this paragraph.

(ii) A player who has reached the age of eighteen (18) years and who otherwise would be an Out-of- State Player of this paragraph will be treated as an Out- of-State Player notwithstanding any claim that said player is of the age of majority. In any case where a player's address, as submitted on a Roster, is different than that of the immediate family member domiciled in New York State through whom the player claims to be an In-State Player, the NYS Hockey Board of Directors is authorized and directed to conduct such investigation as may be necessary to determine whether treating the player as an In-State Player is consistent with the purposes of this Article.

(iii) The NYS Hockey Board of Directors shall have final decision and authority in determining whether a player sought to be rostered on a Tournament Team is an Out-of-State Player, subject to any appeals as provided for under USA Hockey Bylaws.

A B. Player Movement Restrictions. Once a Player/Association Commitment Form, (NYSAHA-01), is signed by the Player/Parent or Guardian, coach and Association, no player movement to another Association shall be allowed until the conclusion of the appropriate State or National Tournament as outlined below unless there are extenuating circumstances as set forth in Rule 4, Section E below. In addition, no team or Association may engage in "Recruitment" (as defined in this Rule 4) of players or offer contracts to players for the following season until:

(i) for teams comprised of players 13 years old and Over (including Tier I, Tier II and Tier III teams), until 48 hours after the last game of the Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed), or;

(ii) for all other teams that do not lead to a National Championship (currently 8 & Under, 10 & Under, and 12 & Under, until 48 hours after the conclusion of the last game of the NYS Hockey State Tournaments.

~~B~~ C. Financial Obligations and Disputes.

(i) At the completion of the current regular season as defined in this rule, all players without an outstanding financial obligation (~~which shall include receipt of the Associations financial release form~~) shall be automatically released from their current season Association. ~~Financial obligation included both monetary and equipment obligations. Individuals shall be notified by their current season Association of such financial obligation before the end of the current season.~~ Financial obligation included both monetary and equipment obligations.

Individuals shall be notified by their current season Association of such financial obligation before the end of the current season.

(ii) No later than ten (10) days before the first established tryout date, all Associations shall provide a Financial Obligation List to their respective Section President which shall detail all players who have an outstanding financial obligation. Failure of an Association to submit this list within this time frame will waive the right of that Association to object to a release pursuant to subsection Rule 4.B.(i) above.

(iii) No later than seven (7) days before the established tryout date, the Financial Obligation Lists shall be ~~the~~ shared by the Section Presidents with all Association Presidents within the respective Section and with the other Section Presidents.

(iv) Any dispute regarding the existence of an unpaid financial obligation must be resolved consistent with USA Hockey Bylaws pertaining to financial disputes. ~~Once a player is included on a Financial Obligation List, an approved Player/Financial Release form (NYSAHAA-02) shall be required to release the player. Form NYSAHAA-02 can be found on the NYSAHA website ([www.nysaha.com](http://www.nysaha.com)) and in the NYSAHA Guide Book (Section I).~~

(v) Subject to (iv) above, players included on the Financial Obligation List and engaged in player movement, shall be required to have and provide an Approved Player/Financial Release Form (NYSAHA- 02) prior to skating with or committing to another Association, including tryouts and/or evaluations for players.

(vi) Player movement is defined as a player leaving an Association to play in another Association before the completion of the current season.

(vii) It is not considered player movement if a player participates on teams in multiple Associations during a season unless otherwise restricted by the appropriate Section.

€. D. Out of District Player Movement. In the event a player was rostered during the previous season in a different USA Hockey Affiliate or District than NYSAHA, a written document that verifies the player does not have a financial obligation to the former team shall be required.

Ð. E. Player Movement During the Season.

1. (i) When a player joins a new Association and the Association and player commit in writing, that commitment to participate is for the next complete season. Until completion of the national tournament the season ends as provided in sub-section B above, no permission to move shall be granted without “Extenuating Circumstances”, as defined in this Rule 4 Section F, below.

2. (ii) Regardless of the circumstances, players shall be prohibited from signing or committing to a new Association between February1 of the current season until the official end of the season as outlined above.

3. (iii) All player movement during the season shall require an Approved Player/Financial Release Form (NYSAHA-02) signed by the Association President and the Parent or Guardian.

4. (iv) Movement ~~in~~ during the season by a player shall not be from one State or National Tournament Bound team (whether located in New York State or otherwise) to a New York State or National Tournament Bound team. Players who leave a State or National

Tournament-Bound Teams may, for the balance of the current season, only be registered on a non-Tournament Bound Team, unless otherwise approved by the New York State Amateur Hockey Association Board of Directors. ~~unless approved by the NYSAHA Board of Directors.~~

**E. F. Extenuating Circumstances.** For any player movement request not permitted in accordance with sub-sections **E** above, the request shall be submitted to and approved by the respective Section President who will make the determination. Unless otherwise approved by the New York State Amateur Hockey Association Board of Directors, Extenuating Circumstances are limited to the following:

(i) The player's current Association has signed a Player/Financial Release at any time during the season with respect to the player who is not in violation of their NYSAHA Player/Association Commitment Form (NYSAHA-01);

(ii) The team on which the player was rostered has been disbanded, and the Association cannot offer the player a comparable team on which to play (a non-tournament-bound team is not a comparable team if the player was originally rostered on a tournament-bound team); or

(iii) The player's **family** has relocated to another region such that it would be impracticable, or unreasonable, to require the player to continue to play with the current Association. For any reason other than (i) above, extenuating circumstances must include the player having satisfied all reasonable financial obligations to the current Association. A Player/Financial Release sought under Extenuating Circumstances ordinarily should not be granted after February 1 if the player was rostered on a tournament-bound team during the current season.

**~~F.~~ G. Recruitment.** Associations, through their Participant Members or other component persons (whether or not affiliated with the Association), are prohibited from soliciting or otherwise contacting youth, girls or high school players from another Association, such as by offering contracts, holding tryouts, development camps, programs or other activities, or otherwise engage in conduct that would appear to suggest that such a player who has not been released change his or her affiliation with their current Association (such activities to be known as "Recruitment"). It shall be evidence of Recruitment if after such player and Association have executed a commitment and the player has not been released by obtaining a Player/Financial Release, if necessary, as outlined in rule 4, that the player is contacted by another Association in the above prohibited manner. Any written and signed complaint regarding Recruitment shall be directed to the respective Section President, who will investigate and make a full report to the Board, which will take action as deemed necessary and appropriate.

## **RATIONALE:**

Clarification of the rules

**SUBMITTED BY:** NYSAHA Board of Directors as recommended by the Governance Committee.

**MOTION PASSED**

**Proposal #9 AS AMENDED Page 50**

**New York State  
Amateur Hockey Association, Inc  
Rules & Regulations**

**CURRENTLY READS:****4. PLAYER MOVEMENT****D. Player Movement During the Season.**

4. Movement in the season shall not be from one State or National Tournament Bound Team to another State or National Tournament Bound team unless approved by the NYSAHA Board of Directors.

**PROPOSED CHANGE AS AMENDED:****4. PLAYER MOVEMENT****D. Player Movement During the Season.**

4. Beginning with the 2023-2024 season, movement in the season shall be permitted from one State or National Tournament Bound Team to another State or National Tournament Bound team so long as the player in question has not participated in a State or District Tournament game and their financial obligation is satisfied to the previous organization. The previous organization has final determination on granting release to the player.

The player's eligibility for District & National tournament within their new District is defined by whether or not he/she has played in a game that lead to the National tournament while playing for his/her previous team (Refer to USA Hockey Annual Guide, page 168, Section E National Championship Bound Teams which states "No player may play in more than one State, Affiliate or District Championship or playoffs leading thereto." Refer to the District guidelines from the District where the player is coming from for determination of what constitutes a State, Affiliate, District Championship or playoff game that leads to Nationals.

All player movement must be done prior to December 31 deadline in order for player to be eligible for State and National tournaments within his/her new District. This is restricted to players at the Tier 1 level only.

Movement is only permitted in two instances:

- A. A player outside of the New York District coming into the New York District.
- B. A player from the New York District going to play in another District.

Movement of a player from one New York District team to another New York District team is prohibited.

**RATIONALE:**

- 1. Players should be free to move in season if they feel their development needs are not being met, if they have been sold a model for their development that isn't made good on, or if a better opportunity exists elsewhere, i.e: If a coach or organization promises 3 full ice practices per week but only provides 2; If a coach promises individual video review each and does not provide.
- 2. Equal playing field – players are currently able to leave the New York District and play on another National Tournament Bound team in another District so long as they have satisfied their financial obligation. This creates an uneven playing field for teams in the New York District as competitors outside the District are able to add players until December 31.

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**May 21, 2024**

**10:00 AM**

**Albany, New York**

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**SUBMITTED BY: Dan Cassano - NYH0132 Gulls Amateur Hockey Association**

**MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED**

SEE REVISED 9

Proposal #10 **AS AMENDED** Page 52

**New York State  
Amateur Hockey Association, Inc  
Rules & Regulations**

**CURRENTLY READS:**

**5. TEAM/PARTICIPANT MEMBER REGISTRATION FOR 8 AND UNDER COMPLIANCE**

All Players 8 and under shall participate on teams registered in the 8 and under classification. Any exception to the cross ice program must be approved by NYS Hockey then sent to USA Hockey for approval by USA Hockey Player Development Committee.

USA Hockey has approved the following: THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTION for an 8 year-old (refer to the current Season Age Classification). ALL 8U AND UNDER PLAYERS will play cross or half ice only.

**PROPOSED CHANGE **AS AMENDED**:**

Beginning with the 2023-2024 season, two 8U and under players (must be last year of Mite eligibility) per organization shall be permitted to play 10U if the player demonstrates the ability and skill necessary to play at the 10U level. Each organization selects the two players who will play up for their respective organization. Players must have played for the organization in the previous season to be eligible to play up at 10U. ~~and must be identified prior to 10U tryouts.~~

**RATIONALE:**

1. Players who have shown the ability to play one level up based on success at Mite should have the choice to do so if it is in the best interests of their development.
2. Players are leaving New York and going to other Districts where rules are less restrictive for 8U. We want to keep players in the District and playing in New York, passing this rule change will allow New York to keep it's highest level players here.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Long Island Gulls.

**MOTION AS AMENDED DEFEATED**



## Proposal #11 Page 52

**New York State  
Amateur Hockey Association, Inc  
Rules & Regulations**

**6. OFFICIALS REGISTRATION**

D. The USA Hockey Officiating Program Registration Fees are as follows:

AFFILIATE LEVEL (NON-SKATING)	\$25.00
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	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
USA Hockey	\$35	\$60	\$80	\$90
NYS Hockey	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
TOTAL	\$60	\$85	\$105	\$115

**PROPOSED CHANGE:****6. OFFICIALS REGISTRATION**

Remove D in entirety and replace with:

D. For information regarding the USA Hockey Officiating Program Registration fees and NYS Hockey officiating fees review the USA Hockey Registration website for any updated fee structure.

**RATIONALE:**

To keep updated at all times with any and all changes from USA Hockey without requiring future guidebook changes.

**SUBMITTED BY:** NYSAHA Board of Directors as recommended by the Governance Committee

**MOTION PASSED**

**Proposal #12 AS AMENDED Page 54**

**New York State  
Amateur Hockey Association, Inc  
Rules & Regulations**

**CURRENTLY READS:****8. PLAYING RULES – MODIFICATIONS TO USA HOCKEY OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES**

B. When a match penalty is assessed to a NYS Hockey team member, the offender shall immediately be suspended from participating playing, coaching, officiating (on or off ice) in any USA Hockey event until the infraction has been dealt with by the proper authorities. The coach of such team shall report the incident to the Section President within 48 hours. Failure to do so MAY result in IMMEDIATE suspension of the coach upon the Section President becoming aware of the situation. A mandatory hearing shall be held by the proper authorities and a decision made relative to any further disciplinary action within 30 days of the incident. If extenuating circumstances prevent the proper authorities from conducting the mandatory hearing, the offender shall automatically be reinstated after 30 days. If an Association/league conducts an internal hearing, the Association/league president or designee must notify the Section President, in writing, of the results of said hearing within 72 hours.

C. Any official within the New York District assessing a match penalty must forward a written report, along with a copy of the scoresheet, to his/her Local Supervisor of Officials within 48 hours. The Local Supervisor will immediately provide the information to the Section President. Please note that the Local Supervisor will provide each official with a "New York District Official Incident Report". This is the only form that may be used when assessing a match penalty. Failure to correctly report the abovementioned penalties will result in the suspension of the official's certification.

D. NOTE: When a Match penalty is assessed for an alleged physical attack/assault on an official, the District Referee-in-Chief must be notified by telephone, and a copy of the incident report must be forwarded, both within 48 hours

**PROPOSED CHANGE AS AMENDED:**

Subparts B, C and D of the Rule to be replaced entirely by the following –

**8. PLAYING RULES – MODIFICATIONS TO USE HOCKEY OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES**

B. Match Penalty Report and Suspension.

(i) Participants. When a match penalty is assessed to a player, coach, manager and/or team official (collectively, a “Participant”), the participant shall immediately be suspended from all USA Hockey/NYS Hockey sanctioned events until the infraction has been addressed by a hearing as required herein unless such infraction has been addressed under the

NYSAHA Discipline for match penalties set forth below. The coach of such team shall report the incident to the Vice President for the Section within 48 hours. Failure of the coach to report may result in immediate suspension of the coach upon the Section President becoming aware of the situation. A mandatory hearing shall be held by the proper authorities and a decision made relative to any further disciplinary action within 30 days of the incident. If extenuating circumstances prevent the proper authorities from conducting the mandatory hearing, the offender shall automatically be reinstated after 30 days. If an Association/league conducts an internal hearing, the Association/league president or designee must notify the Section President, in writing, of the results of said hearing within 72 hours.

(ii) Officials. Any official within the New York District assessing a match penalty must forward a written report, along with a copy of the scoresheet, to his/her Local Supervisor of Officials within 48 hours. This report shall be made using the official USA Hockey Game Reporting Forms when assessing a match penalty. Failure to correctly report the above-mentioned penalties will result in the suspension of the official's certification. NOTE: When a Match Penalty is assessed for an alleged physical attack/assault on an official, the District Referee-in-Chief must be notified by telephone, and a copy of the incident report must be forwarded, both within 48 hours.

C. Match Penalty and Game Misconduct Disciplinary Procedures.

(i) NYS Hockey shall maintain a state wide disciplinary panel (the “Match Panel”) with a Disciplinary Chair selected by the NYS Hockey President to oversee Match Panel hearings. Four (4) Match Panel Members shall be appointed by each Section VP, for a total of 16 Match Panel Members. Each Section President shall designate one of said 4 Match Panel Members to be the Assistant Chair for that Section. The Assistant Chair shall assist the Disciplinary Chair in scheduling Section Match Panel hearings (with a minimum of 3 Match Panel Members for such Panels), assigned by the Disciplinary Chair. All Match Panels must consist of an odd number of Match Panel Members (*e.g.* 3, 5). The Match Panels shall constitute the Disciplinary Authority to hear issues resulting from infractions under this provision unless a different Disciplinary Authority is authorized below. Match Panel notices of hearing will be sent out by the Disciplinary Chair or the Assistant Chair for the pertinent Section to the suspended Participant and the assigned Match Penalty Panel Members, providing the known details and alleged factual information regarding the match penalty and the Participant’s option of selecting a standard number of game suspensions.

(ii) Associations and teams that are part of a recognized USA Hockey/NYS Hockey League, such League shall constitute the Disciplinary Authority to hear issues resulting from match penalty infractions under this provision. In conducting its hearing, the League will be required to (a) give the Participant the option of a standard number of game suspensions (as listed below), or (b) to conduct a hearing pursuant the time lines required under the applicable bylaws and rules of USA Hockey and NYS Hockey.

(iii) If an Association or team is not a member of a recognized USA Hockey/NYS Hockey League, the Match Panel for the Section in which the Participant resides shall hear issues resulting from infractions under this provision. The Match Panels in each Section shall be scheduled to meet at a minimum of every 3 weeks with at least 3 Match Panel Members

available, and shall hold such scheduled hearings if required, so that Participants will be offered a timely hearing within the 30-day hearing requirement.

(iv) The Section VP shall not serve as a Match Panel Member or on the Disciplinary Authority, and shall only be involved as the Appeal Authority within the appeal process. Any determination that is handed down from an Appeal to the Section VP may then be appealed to the NYSAHA Appeals Panel of the NYSAHA Board of Directors.

(v) Standard Game suspensions for Match Penalties are intended to standardize the penalties assessed in most match penalty circumstances. In many but not all circumstances, a Participant may opt for a standard game suspension, but if such is not selected a hearing shall be held before the Disciplinary Authority. The Disciplinary Authority may impose a different (more or fewer) game suspension penalty dependent upon the factual basis for the infraction than the standard game suspension. In addition to any suspension imposed by the Disciplinary Authority, the suspended Participant may also be placed on probation for a period of time as determined by the Disciplinary Authority; and if a Participant accepts the Standard Game suspension they will automatically be placed on probation as stated herein below. As defined in this Guide Book, "Probation" shall mean that, for a defined period of time, if a new infraction against the person or organization is determined to have occurred, then the earlier infraction that gave rise to the probation will be also considered with the current infraction in deciding an appropriate penalty. Often, this means that the penalty will be increased from what it would have been had probation not been imposed. Probation may be imposed by the Disciplinary Authority initially hearing the Dispute, or by the Appeal Authority (as defined in this Article VIII) hearing an appeal hereunder.

(vi) Match penalties requiring a hearing are determined under USA Hockey Rule 601(e.3) Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct – Hateful/Discriminatory Language, as modified by the NYS Hockey Guide Book at paragraph 8.E.

D. NYSAHA Standard Suspensions. Except as may be modified from time to time by USA Hockey and/or NYS Hockey, Standard Match suspensions are as follows -

**Level 1 Match Penalties - 10 games plus a minimum of 1 year Probation, or request a hearing**

Rule 305(b) Dangerous Equipment

Rule 601(f) Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct (this includes all match penalties assessed under this rule except 601(f.1) Physical Assault of an Official)

Rule 602(a) Attempt to Injure/Deliberate Injury of Opponent

**Level 2 Match Penalties - 7 games plus a minimum of 9 months Probation, or request a hearing**

Rule 603(c) Boarding

Rule 606(b) Butt-Ending

Rule 607(e) Charging

Rule 608(c) Checking from Behind

Rule 619(b) Head Butting

Rule 620(c) Head Contact

Rule 634(d) Slashing (Swinging Stick During Altercation)

Rule 635(b) Spearing

**Level 3 Match Penalties - 5 games plus a minimum of 6 months Probation, or request a hearing**

Rule 604(e) Body Checking- Competitive Contact Category

Rule 609(c) Cross-Checking

Rule 611(c) Elbowing

Rule 615(c) Fighting (Helmet Removal)

Rule 621(c) High Sticks

Rule 622(c) Holding an Opponent

Rule 623(c) Hooking

Rule 627(b) Kicking Opponent or Puck

Rule 628(c) Kneeing

Rule 633(a or b) Refusing to Start Play

Rule 634(c) Slashing

Rule 639(c) Tripping/Clipping/Leg Checking/Slew Footing

Rule 640(e) Unnecessary Roughness (Roughing)

E. Additional Rules Related to Match Penalties

(i) The following additional rules shall apply to match penalty resolutions under this provision –

(a) If the Participant requests a hearing, the Disciplinary Authority may, as a result of that hearing, impose a different penalty than the otherwise applicable standard game suspension; If the actions and/or history of the Participant warrants further discipline review, the Disciplinary Authority panel may hold a hearing and forgo the option of the otherwise applicable standard game suspension;

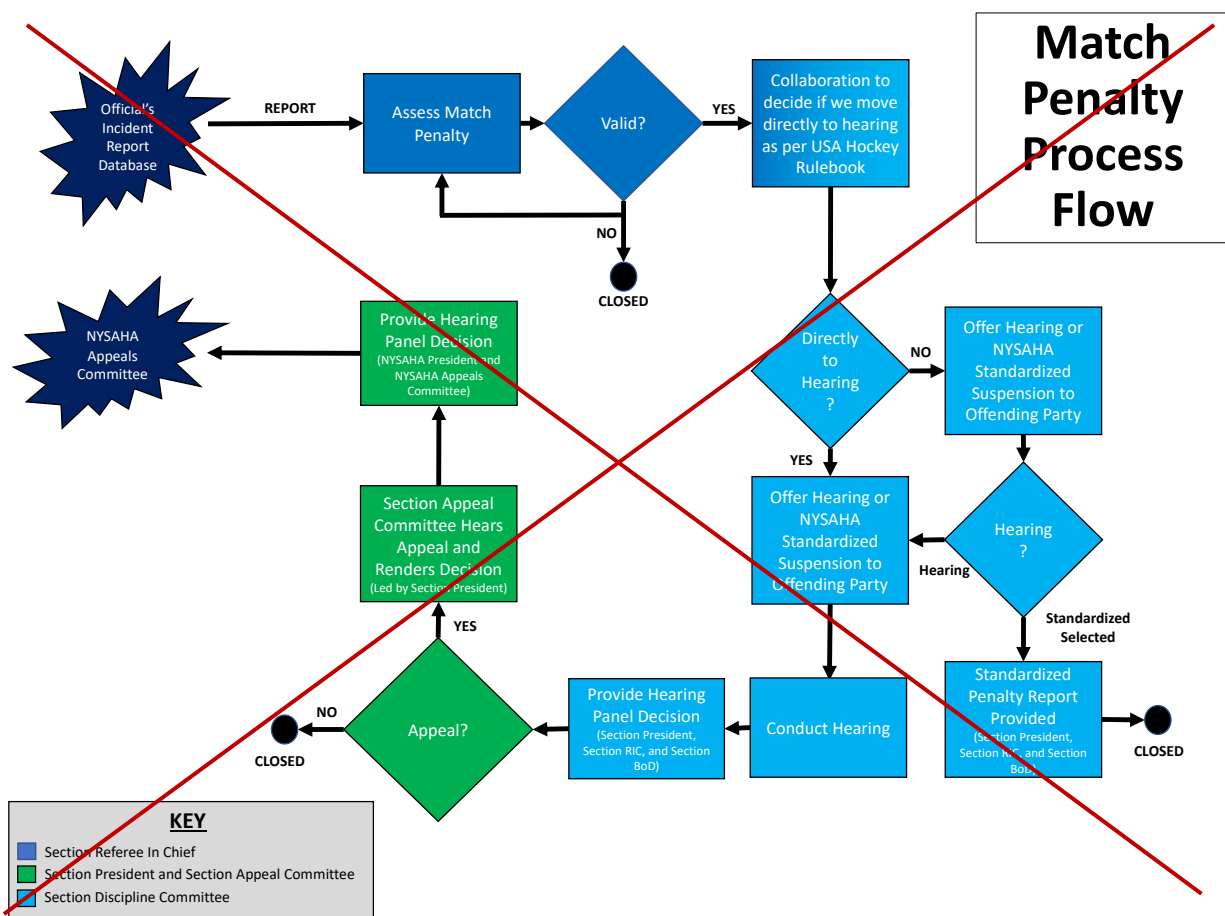
(b) If the Participant opts for the standard game suspension, they cannot participate in any USA Hockey/NYS Hockey activities until the game suspension is completely served. The number of games to be served will be from the games on the team schedule of the Participant at the time of the infraction, and no games added during that time can be used to serve the suspension. This will include all games and practices or any sanctioned team activity whether related to the Participants present team or any subsequent team; If the Participant is rostered on two (2) or more USA Hockey/NYS Hockey teams, the Participant cannot participate on both or more teams until the suspension is fully served.

(c) All hearings if requested or required ordinarily will be conducted via Zoom or other similar online application. The hearings, as required, will take place on a date that is reasonable for all involved and that is within the timeframes outlined in the USA Hockey/NYS Hockey bylaws and rules.

(ii) The determination of the Disciplinary Authority will be issued by the Disciplinary Chair or the Assistant Chair for that Section. Appeals from such determination will be made to the Section VP for the Section in which the Participant resides. There will not be any appeal from a Participant who has decided to accept, and received, a Standard Match Penalty suspension.

(iii) With respect to Game Misconduct playing rule infractions, a Participant who receives a Game Misconduct penalty shall be suspended for that penalty in the next scheduled game of the team on which they were participating when the penalty was assessed, subject, however, to any stronger penalty of the local league or applicable Section. No games may be added to fulfill the penalty requirement.

**NOTE IF THERE IS AN ISSUE WITH PENALTY TIME LENGTHS FOR NYS HOCKEY**



## RATIONALE:

Add to the Guide book in order to create a uniformed and consistent suspension policy state wide.

**SUBMITTED BY:** NYSAHA Board of Directors as recommended by the Governance Committee

**MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED**

**Proposal #13 Page 55**

**New York State  
Amateur Hockey Association, Inc  
Rules & Regulations**

**CURRENTLY READS:****10. TOURNAMENT – BOUND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS****A. Requirements Applicable To All Teams and Players****3. Tournament-Bound Obligation**

A tournament-bound team is obligated to play in the Sectional and State Tournament unless the team is hosting the national tournament. If the designated host elects to participate in the State tournament and wins, the runner up will be designated to represent NYS Hockey in the national championships. An Association that does not honor that commitment may be banned from all sanctioned tournaments for the next year. Intent: A team which qualifies for a state tournament must compete in that tournament. Also, a team that commits itself to play in a Sectional tournament must play in that tournament.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:****10. TOURNAMENT – BOUND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS****A. Requirements Applicable To All Teams and Players****3. Tournament-Bound Obligation**

~~A tournament bound team is obligated to play in the Sectional and State Tournament, unless the team is hosting the national tournament. If the designated host elects to participate in the State tournament and wins, the runner up will be designated to represent NYS Hockey in the national championships.~~

**Delete language in 3. and change in its entirety to the following:**

If a tournament bound team fails and/or refuses to play in Sectional, State and/or National Tournament the Association, team, coach and/or players responsible for not honoring the commitment to play shall be required to pay two (2) times the cost of the State Tournament entrance fee and may be subject to sanctions which may include, but not be limited to, banishment from all NYSAHA State and District and/or USA National tournaments for the following year.

**RATIONALE:**

To ensure that all teams that commit to being Tournament Bound adhere to their commitment or face the penalty so provided.

**SUBMITTED BY:** NYSAHA Board of Directors as recommended by the Governance Committee

**MOTION PASSED**

**Proposal #14 Page 60**

**New York State  
Amateur Hockey Association, Inc  
Rules & Regulations**

**CURRENTLY READS:**

**10. TOURNAMENT-BOUND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

E. Classification Process for Tier II Girls' Youth Hockey 12U, 14U, 16U and 19U

1.

(a) Girls' Tier II Youth 14U, 16U and 19U USA Hockey National tournament-bound teams, and Girls' Tier I and II U12 NYS Hockey Tournament-Bound teams (collectively referred to herein as Girls' TB Teams), must declare their intention to compete at their respective level, in writing, to their Section President or his/her designee, prior to or at their Section's Fall meeting. Within an Association only one team per age classification can be tournament-bound regardless of its Tier status. Teams that fail to declare risk the loss of their USA Hockey National or NYS Hockey tournament-bound status.

(b) Teams forming after the Fall Section meeting should notify the Section President or his/her designee of their intent to go tournament bound. This notification must occur prior to December 1 and will be subject to approval by the Board. Teams that form after the Fall Section Meeting may only compete at the Tier II national tournament bound level, if applicable.

(c) The Board reserves the right to deny Tier status to teams that will adversely affect the development of Girls' hockey across the state.

2. National Tournaments

Girls' team classifications will be independent of their Association's current Youth Tier status within NYS Hockey. Associations may have Girls' teams at both Tier I and Tier II. However, if multiple teams exist at any one age classification at the Girls' Tier I and Tier II levels, only one of those age classification teams either Girls' Tier I or Tier II may be declared tournament-bound for that association regardless of Tier.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

**10. TOURNAMENT-BOUND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**



~~E.~~ 2. Classification Process for Tier II Girls' Youth Hockey 12U, 14U, 16U and 19U

(a) Girls' Tier II Youth 14U, 16U and 19U USA Hockey National tournament-bound teams, and Girls' Tier I and II U12 NYS Hockey Tournament-Bound teams (collectively referred to herein as Girls' TB Teams), must declare their intention to compete at their respective level, in writing, to their Section President or his/her designee, prior to or at their Section's Fall meeting. Within an Association only one team per age classification can be tournament-bound regardless of its Tier status. Teams that fail to declare risk the loss of their USA Hockey National or NYS Hockey tournament-bound status.

(b) Teams forming after the Fall Section meeting should notify the Section President or his/her designee of their intent to go tournament bound. This notification must occur prior to December 1 and will be subject to approval by the Board. Teams that form after the Fall Section Meeting may only compete at the Tier II national tournament bound level, if applicable.

(c) The Board reserves the right to deny Tier status to teams that will adversely affect the development of Girls' hockey across the state.

(d) Girls teams that are declared and registered as Tier 2 Nationally Tournament Bound must play a minimum of 30% of its overall games against other Tier 2 teams registered with USA Hockey. A detailed overall game schedule, including opponents, dates, times and results must be provided as a part of the credentialing process to qualify for sectional and state tournaments. Teams not meeting the minimum 30% requirement may be declared ineligible for sectional or state tournament play.

**RATIONALE:**

To ensure that all Tier 2 teams play a schedule that is primarily against teams in their same Tier classification.

**SUBMITTED BY:** NYSAHA Board of Directors

**MOTION PASSED**

Proposal #15 Page 61 – 62

**WITHDRAWN BY PROPOSER**

**New York State  
Amateur Hockey Association, Inc  
Rules & Regulations**

**CURRENTLY READS:**

Not Applicable

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

- Tier 1 NYS State Tournament Qualification Proposal
- Top 10 teams Tier 1 in NYS based on myhockeyrankings have chance to qualify for state tournament Top 6 teams in myhockeyrankings get auto bid into state tournament
- Remaining 4 teams play round robin tournament to qualify for state tournament
- 3 game round robin tournament with top 2 teams advancing to state tournament

**RATIONALE:**

- The goal of the NYS State Tournament should be to have the top teams in the state competing for the state championship. Under the current system that is not the case.
- Under the current system, teams are qualifying for the tier 1 NY State Tournament without playing a single Qualifying game.
- Under the current system, since every section is guaranteed a spot in the state tournament, far weaker teams are qualifying for the state tournament while far stronger teams are not qualifying because the West and East sections have so many strong teams.
- Under the current system, the sections as set forth in NYS are very unbalanced and as such, teams in the west and east have a much more difficult path to qualify for the state tournament.

**SUBMITTED BY: David Waldo – Rochester Youth Hockey**

**Proposal #16 Page 84**

**USA HOCKEY MEMBER PROGRAM AGREEMENT  
TO ADOPT AND COMPLY WITH SAFESPORT PROGRAM**

**CURRENTLY READS:**

This Agreement, dated \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, is being entered into by ("Member Program"), a hockey program that is a member of, or an affiliated organization with, The New York State Amateur Hockey Association, Inc. ("NYS Hockey"), as a condition of being sanctioned by USA Hockey.

Member Program agrees that its membership in, or affiliation with, NYS Hockey and sanctioning by USA Hockey are conditioned on the following:

1. Compliance with SafeSport Program. Member Program agrees to implement, comply with, and monitor compliance with: (a) the USA Hockey SafeSport Program Handbook and the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement as adopted by the U.S. Center for SafeSport; and (b) the requirements set forth in the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and SafeSport Authorization Act of 2017. Copies of the USA Hockey SafeSport Program Handbook may be found at [www.usahockey.com/safesportprogram](http://www.usahockey.com/safesportprogram), and copies of the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement may be found at [www.safesport.org](http://www.safesport.org).

2. SafeSport Training and Background Checks. Member Program agrees that it shall require and cause all of those persons who: (a) have regular contact with or supervision over minor Participants (e.g., coaches, hockey directors, trainers, team managers, chaperones, etc.); (b) are responsible for enforcing child abuse and misconduct policies (e.g., all officers and members of the board of directors); (c) are adults authorized by the Member Program to have regular contact with or authority over minor Participants, including all persons that are in managerial or supervisory roles of the Member Program (including owners and administrators of Member Program), and (d) are new and current employees and/or volunteers of Member Program; to: (i) consent to be screened and pass a background screen in accordance with USA Hockey's background screening program; and (ii) complete SafeSport Training prior to having regular contact with minor Participants, or if they do not have regular contact with minor Participants, not more than 45 days after beginning such role.

3. Adoption of Required Policies. Member Program shall adopt, comply with and maintain rules and policies requiring its members to comply with the One-on-One Interactions, Locker Room, Athletic Training Modalities, Social Media and Electronic Communications and Travel Policies as set forth in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook.

4. Required Reporting. Member Program agrees that it shall adopt, maintain and enforce policies that require its adult members to report: (a) actual or perceived violations of the USA Hockey SafeSport Program Handbook; (b) any violations of the Sexual Misconduct, Physical Misconduct, Emotional Misconduct, Bullying, Threats or Harassment, or Hazing Policies; and (c) suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse as required by the USA Hockey SafeSport Program. Member Program agrees that, should it become aware of any such

violation(s), it will promptly make a report thereof as required by the USA Hockey SafeSport Program. **The USA Hockey reporting policy specifically provides that, pursuant to federal law, any adult authorized by a Member Program to interact with a minor or amateur athlete at an event sanctioned by USA Hockey or a Member Program is considered a mandatory reporter, and if any such person learns of facts that give reason to suspect that a child has suffered an incident of Child Abuse, including sexual abuse, he or she shall as soon as possible make a report of the suspected abuse to the U.S. Center for SafeSport and to applicable law enforcement authorities. Member Program and its adult members/representatives shall not attempt to evaluate the credibility or validity of child physical or sexual abuse allegations as a condition for or prior to reporting their concerns.**

5. No Retaliation. Member Program will not encourage, allow or tolerate attempts from any individual, group or organization to retaliate, punish, or in any way harm any individual(s) who report(s) a concern in good faith or otherwise participates in an investigation (e.g., a witness). Such actions will be considered a violation of the USA Hockey SafeSport Program and grounds for disciplinary action, and may also be subject to civil or criminal proceedings.

6. Member Program Reporting to NYS Hockey. Member Programs shall on a monthly basis provide the NYS Hockey SafeSport Coordinator with notice of any alleged violations of SafeSport policies, and shall promptly advise the NYS Hockey SafeSport Coordinator of the results of any investigations, hearings or other proceedings within their program that involve allegations or violations of the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies or the SafeSport Handbook.

7. Submission to Jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for SafeSport and Enforcement of Sanctions or Discipline. Member Program agrees that it shall not engage in its own investigation or disciplinary process related to any allegations or reports that are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for SafeSport unless and until such time as the U.S. Center for SafeSport has declined jurisdiction. Upon the issuance by the Center for SafeSport, USA Hockey or NYS Hockey, of any disciplinary measures, eligibility decisions or other sanctions, Member Program agrees to enforce such suspension, measures or other sanction within its program.

8. Compliance Certification. Member Program shall at least annually, or more often if required by NYS Hockey, report and provide information as required or requested to NYS Hockey and/or the NYS Hockey SafeSport Coordinator on the Member Program's compliance with the USA Hockey SafeSport Program. Member Program agrees that its compliance with the terms of the requirements herein shall be subject to review by the NYS Hockey and/or USA Hockey. The terms of this Agreement shall be an ongoing obligation of the Member Program and, unless NYS Hockey or USA Hockey require that this Agreement be re-executed, expressly renewed or modified, shall automatically be renewed annually unless NYS Hockey or Member Program provide advance written notice of its termination effective as of the following 31st of August.

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

Add the following after 8. Compliance Certification:

9. NYS Hockey will appoint a SAFE SPORT COORDINATOR who shall work directly with USA Hockey and the CENTER FOR SAFE SPORT. He/she shall be the lead contact and record keeper of all SAFE SPORT complaints that are filled in or against members of the New York District.

10. If a report is filed through the CENTER for SAFE SPORT and it determines that it will accept jurisdiction, then NYS Hockey shall not investigate, take action and/or resolve the complaint. If the CENTER declines jurisdiction and the report is returned to USA Hockey and then to NYS Hockey, an investigation shall begin immediately into the allegations.

11. Upon receipt of a complaint the SAFE SPORT COORDINATOR and/or designee shall immediately conduct the initial investigation. The respective Section President shall be advised of the investigation. If the coordinator determines the complaint warrants immediate action, they may summarily suspend the reported respondent. The appropriate Section President and/or SafeSport Coordinator shall thereafter conduct further investigation and as required, for the respondent. If the coordinator determines the complaint falls under a Playing Rules violation, it would be forwarded to the appropriate Section President who will have the responsibility of commencing an investigation and determining if a hearing is required.

12. The Section President shall maintain a committee (appointed at the beginning of each season) to assist with the investigation and conduct a hearing, if required. If a hearing is required, the Section President shall conduct the hearing in accordance with Bylaw 8 of the NYS Hockey Bylaws.

13. Any player, coach, manager and/or team official who has been named in a SAFE SPORT complaint may be SUMMARILY SUSPENDED from all USA HOCKEY/NYS Hockey sanctioned participation pending and subject to (a) a determination to the contrary by the Center for SafeSport; or (b) an investigation and determination by NYSAHA as set forth in the USA Hockey SafeSport Program Handbook.

**RATIONALE:**

To better clarify the responsibilities and requirements of the SafeSport Policy

**SUBMITTED BY:** NYSAHA Board of Directors as recommended by the Governance Committee

**MOTION PASSED**

**Proposal #17, PAGE 61-62 FROM THE FLOOR**

11 A 5 (a)

CURRENTLY READS:

For the NYS Tournament each section winner is represented after all qualification games are completed. The next four teams are selected through a competition committee and the myhockey rankings information.

PROPOSED CHANGE:

New York State Amateur Hockey Association, Inc Rules & Regulations

- Tier 1 NYS State Tournament Qualification Proposal
- Top 8 teams (u14/15/16/18) Tier 1 in NYS based on myhockeyrankings qualify for state tournament after January 31st.

RATIONALE:

- The goal of the NYS State Tournament should be to have the top teams in the state competing for the state championship and will eliminate mandatory qualification games per section and make them optional depending on each team's scheduling preferences. Under the current system that is not the case.
- Under the current system, some teams are qualifying for the tier 1 NY State Tournament without playing a single Qualifying game.
- Under the current system, since every section is guaranteed a spot in the state tournament, far weaker teams are qualifying for the state tournament while far stronger teams are not qualifying because the West and East sections have so many strong teams.
- Under the current system, the sections as set forth in NYS are very unbalanced and as such, teams in the west and east have a much more difficult path to qualify for the state tournament.

SUBMITTED BY: Bob Thornton- Westchester Express

**MOTION TO ACCEPT FROM THE FLOOR DEFEATED**, DID NOT RECEIVE 2/3 TO COME BEPLACED ON THE AGENDA.

**IX. USA Hockey Declaration – NYSAHA President – Eric Guzdek**

The New York State Amateur Hockey Association, Inc. declares its intention to participate in the 2024 USA Hockey National Tournaments.

**MOTION PASSED**

**X. Annual Meeting Site 2024**

- A. Central Section – Kirk Avery **Binghamton, N.Y. Double Tree**

**XI. Election of Officers**

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**May 21, 2024**

**10:00 AM**

**Albany, New York**

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**ELECTED POSITION**

**NOMINEE**

Secretary

Linda Groff - **ELECTED**  
Renee Lochner

USA Hockey District Director #3

Mark LaMarr - **ELECTED**  
Mike Lashway

USA Hockey District Director #4

Gary Lebrun - **ELECTED**  
Royce Lawrence

Tournament Director

Mark LaMarr (unopposed)

**XII. Awarding of State Tournaments 2024**

- A.** NYSAHA Tournament Director - Mark LaMarr     **DATES AND LOCATIONS  
WILL BE POSTED TO THE NYSAHA WEBSITE WHEN RECEIVED FROM  
THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR.**

**XIII. Adjournment**

**MEETING ADJOURNED WITH NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS CONDUCTED.**