

OFF-ICE OFFICIALS GUIDE

Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League 2023-24



MINOR PENALTIES

- The offending player serves up to 2 minutes of time in the penalty box and is usually released when the time expires on the penalty clock or a power play goal is scored.
 - If the penalty time is not put on the game clock (as instructed by the referee for instances such as multiple penalties), the player is released at the next stoppage of play after that time has expired.
 - A running-clock scenario does not change the length of any penalty times in PAHL games.
- If the player was assessed an accompanying misconduct penalty, the time for the minor penalty is always served first and the additional 10 minutes of penalty time starts being served once the minor penalty time completes.
 - If another player is placed into the penalty box to “serve the penalty,” that player is only there to be released as the expiration of the penalty. As such, the additional player is not actually “serving” any penalty time; he/she is only there since the penalized player is not eligible to leave the penalty box at the expiration of the first penalty. The penalized player is still “serving the penalty” and therefore must serve all of the accumulated penalty time (time does not transfer to the player “serving the penalty”).
 - If a powerplay goal is scored during the minor penalty, the minor penalty ends and the additional penalty begins at that point. Therefore, a player given a 2+10 is not necessarily in the penalty box for a full 12 minutes; that player will begin serving the 10 minutes at the time of the powerplay goal.
- A Bench Minor Penalty usually requires a player on the ice to be selected to “serve the penalty.”
 - In this instance, the player in the box is still not the player who is penalized; the scoresheet reflects the penalty as being issued to the team bench (#0).
- A minor penalty is recorded on the scoresheet as type of infraction (“Tripping,” “Roughing,” “Interference,” etc.) and is denoted as a minor penalty (1 minute or 2 minutes, depending on the level) by marking the corresponding column on the official scoresheet.

MAJOR PENALTIES

- A player can never be issued just a major penalty in a PAHL game; it will always be accompanied by a Game Misconduct. As such, the offending player is removed from the game.
 - If only one team is issued a major penalty during a single stoppage (penalty time gets posted to the scoreboard), another player must “serve” the entirety of the 5 minutes in the penalty box.
 - If both teams are issued a major penalty during the same stoppage (no penalty time is posted to the scoreboard), no other player needs to be in the penalty box since no one needs to be released from the box at the time the penalties expire.
 - A major penalty that gets posted to the scoreboard always continues – with the remaining time on the clock – if the opposing team scores a power play goal during the penalty.
- If the player was assessed a minor penalty in addition to the major penalty at the same stoppage, the time for the major penalty is served first (by another player) and the additional time starts being served once the major penalty time has been completed.
- The penalty is recorded on the scoresheet as type of infraction (“Boarding,” “Charging,” “Head Contact,” etc.) and is marked as a 5-minute penalty.
 - The accompanying Game Misconduct is also recorded on the scoresheet with the same infraction at the same stoppage and is marked as a GM penalty.

MISCONDUCT PENALTIES

- The offending player (excluding a goaltender) serves 10 minutes of time in the penalty box and is released at the next stoppage of play after that time has expired.
 - If the player was assessed any minor penalties in addition to the misconduct, the minor penalty time is served first (often by another player) and the misconduct time starts being served once the minor penalty time has been completed.
 - Example: a player who receives a 2+10 serves 12 minutes of penalty time, which is only reduced if a power play goal shortens the 2-minute penalty.
- The penalty is recorded on the scoresheet as a Misconduct (“10”) with the appropriate infraction.
 - “Misconduct” is not a type of infraction (it is a type of penalty), so the specific infraction is needed.
- No penalty time is ever put on the penalty clock for a misconduct penalty.
- There is no further consequence for a standalone misconduct penalty in a game; just the time served in the box.
- A second misconduct penalty received by a single player in the same game results in a game misconduct penalty being issued instead of the second misconduct.
 - The result is still a single penalty (a GM instead of a 10), and the infraction is “2nd Misconduct.”

GAME MISCONDUCT PENALTIES

- The offending individual (player or team official) is immediately removed for the remainder of the game.
 - Another player does not need to serve penalty time for a game misconduct, but another player would have to serve any additional penalty time assessed that makes the team shorthanded.
- The penalty is marked on the scoresheet as a Game Misconduct (“GM”) with the appropriate infraction.
 - “Game Misconduct” is not a type of infraction; the appropriate infraction must be recorded.
- No penalty time is ever put on the penalty clock for a game misconduct.
 - A major penalty issued in conjunction with a game misconduct may need to be posted to the game clock, as instructed by the referee.
- A player who receives a game misconduct shall be suspended from at least the team’s next scheduled game.
 - The team’s head coach is responsible for applying the suspension correctly or contacting the League Office to obtain clarification on the specific length of the suspension.

MATCH PENALTIES

- The offending player is immediately removed for the remainder of the game.
 - Unless there is a corresponding match penalty to both teams at the same stoppage, another player will need to serve 5 minutes of penalty time in the penalty box, as well as any other time for penalties assessed to the offending player.
- A match penalty consists of only one line of scoring information and is marked only in the ‘M’ column.
 - The penalty is never a Major + Match as two penalties, just a Match.
- The 5 minutes of penalty time is put on the scoreboard if it is non-coincidental (other team was not issued a 5-minute penalty during that stoppage), as instructed by the referee.
 - This scenario can be very confusing since the penalty counts as 10 minutes against the player and a major penalty is not a part of the assessed infraction.
- A player who receives a match penalty shall be suspended indefinitely from all USA Hockey team activities (games and practices for all teams) until a disciplinary review is conducted.
 - The team’s head coach is responsible for applying the suspension correctly or contacting the League Office to obtain clarification on match penalty procedures.

PENALTY SHOTS

- A penalty shot is simply a minor penalty that results in a “free shot” in order to restore the lost scoring opportunity (versus awarding a power play).
 - No player serves time in the penalty box when a penalty shot is awarded.
- A penalty shot goal does not result in any existing power play ending.
 - A penalty shot goal during a power play does not count as a power play goal, so the existing penalty is not cleared off the scoreboard.
- The penalty is always recorded on the scoresheet and should be marked in two columns: the minor penalty column and the “PS” column.
- A penalty shot goal is recorded on the scoresheet similar to a standard goal, and both the “ES” and “PS” columns will be marked.

EMPTY-NET SITUATIONS & EMPTY-NET GOALS

- An empty-net situation is when a team has only “skaters” on the ice and no “goalie” tending to its net (goalie is on the bench).
- The time the goalie comes off the ice also pauses the amount of minutes that goaltender is accumulating in the game for the purposes of Goaltender Records.
 - The off-ice officials should collectively monitor situations when a goaltender might be removed from the game, and the Official Scorer should track the time the goaltender exits and enters.
- An empty-net goal is when a team scores while the opponent is in an empty-net scenario.
 - A team that scores a goal while its goalie is “pulled” is not credited with an empty-net goal, and that goal is only a powerplay goal if the opponent is serving penalty time.
- An empty-net goal is always recorded on the scoresheet similar to a standard goal, with the “EN” column also receiving a mark.
 - An empty-net goal is also always an “ES”, “PP”, or “SH” goal, like a standard goal.