

Niagara Frontier Junior Varsity Hockey Association



Bylaws

Mission Statement

Since 2001, the mission of Niagara Frontier Junior Varsity Hockey Association (NFJV) has been to provide a safe and competitive environment for student-athletes whose intention is to play Varsity Federation High School Hockey.



Niagara Frontier Junior Varsity Hockey

Table of Contents

Membership, Voting Right and Dues	Page 3
League Fees	Page 3
Coaching selection	Page 3
Meetings	Page 3
Season	Page 3
Registration	Page 3
Player/Team Registration and Rosters	Page 3
Player Eligibility	Page 4
Rosters	Page 4
Roster Changes	Page 5
Record-Keeping Responsibilities	Page 5
Home Team Responsibilities	Page 5
Forfeit	Page 5
Rescheduling of games	Page 5
League/Division Schedule	Page 5
Regular Season Game Procedure	Page 6
Playoff Game Procedure	Page 6
Playoff Formats	Page 7
Discipline: Game Misconduct, Match Penalties and Protests	Page 7
Supplementary Discipline	Page 7
Miscellaneous	Page 7
Violations	Page 8



Niagara Frontier Junior Varsity Hockey

Niagara Frontier Junior Varsity Hockey Association (NFJV) or “the League” is subject to all the rules, regulations, and policies of the New York State Amateur Hockey Associations, Inc. (NYSAHA) and USA Hockey Inc, (USAH) West Section (USAH). The following rules and regulations may further restrict these rules.

1) Membership, Voting Rights and Dues

The Board of Directors (Board) shall be composed of the elected officers of the League, who will have the powers of the board between meetings unless the Board expressly limits their powers. The elected officers and each team shall have one vote. Only representatives or their alternates will be allowed to vote. If an officer is the head coach of a team 1 vote is allowed. Any school that wishes to become a member can do so by making a formal application in a written letter to the board. The school will become a member only after being accepted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the board. Applications should be submitted by the school varsity coach and emailed to the board. Once admitted to membership, a JV team may continue to be a member provided it pays its dues and fines on a timely basis, obeys the rules of the League, is a member in good standing with USAH and NYSAH, and is not otherwise terminated with or without reason by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the board.

2) League Fees

League fees/dues to be determined annually by the board. These fees/dues must be paid by December 15th. If after **December 15th** the annual fees/dues are not paid, any teams from non-compliant schools may be disqualified from league play and/or fined \$100.00 per game played after the deadline. Any extenuating circumstances that would prohibit payment of fees/dues must be brought before the board in writing.

3) Coaching Selection

The NFJV hopes to build and continue to have a relationship with the Varsity Federation Head Coaches. Interested coaches shall submit a letter of coaching interest to the board by July 1 of the preceding season. No person(s) shall be a league franchise holder over the said school Federation Head coach or Director of Hockey. The board will approve coaches.

4) Meetings

The NFJV will meet a minimum of twice per season

5) Season

The start date of the season will follow NYSPHSAA. Each team must meet ALL the League commitments. Any team may be disqualified or suspended from the league by the board, pending the outcome of a hearing, for not meeting their league commitment(s) or allowing forfeiture without sufficient reason.

6) Registration

All teams must be members in good standing with USAH and NYSAHA to participate in the NFJV. By **September 15th** of each year, all teams must submit the names and valid USAH Member ID of all anticipated coaches for the upcoming season so that they may be forwarded to NYSAHA.

7) Player/Team Registration and Rosters

All players, coaches and manager/volunteer must register with USAH, pay the appropriate fees and be placed on an official USAH roster generated from the Cybersport software program.



Niagara Frontier Junior Varsity Hockey

- i) All coaches, managers and those that will come in contact with the youth hockey players of NFJV must comply with the screening policy set forth by NYSAHA and USAH. Failure to do so will result in immediate suspension from all NFJV activities.

Teams may not participate in games against non-registered USAH teams.

8) Player Eligibility

Junior Varsity All players must be enrolled in high school for the entire season and be in grades 9-11. Players must try out for the school they attend. If a player no longer attends stated school, the player is not eligible to participate on the team. There is no limit as to the number of games a player who is rostered for a junior varsity AAU team may play in the NFJV league so long as they are registered USAH and have been properly submitted by the league registrar by December 31st. For players to be eligible to participate in playoff games, the player must have played in a specific number of league games, not including scrimmages. This number will vary each season. Only players who have missed due to injury should be noted for eligibility.

Per USAH: No 8th-graders are allowed to participate with any NFJV team.

Modified Players need to: 1) attend the school/reside in the district for which they wish to play modified hockey for or 2) be an 8th grader who has financially committed to attend one of the private schools in our league. The board will have the ability to make decisions for any circumstances not covered in the above criteria.

Any 8th-grade student-athlete who participates for a travel hockey team/organization that does not allow their athletes to compete in High School Hockey their 9th-grade year are not eligible to play modified that season. Any other circumstances for a player not covered in this directive will need to be board approved prior to participating. For teams not in compliance, please see section 22.

9) Rosters

All coaches listed on the roster must have a current certification at the proper level and completion of the age-appropriate module as outlined by USAH. Only properly registered coaches will be allowed on the bench. It is the responsibility of each team to ensure that every coach is credentialed properly and that each coach is properly certified. Each roster shall list the participant's name and date of birth that are eligible to participate on that team. Player's signatures are not required on the official USAH roster. The head coach and staff will also be listed on the roster with their CEP information and module taken. Each team may roster up to 30 players maximum at any given time including goaltenders. A maximum of 20 players, in which not more than 18 are skaters, shall be permitted to play in the game. No additional players other than the official 30 may be on the ice at any time. Each team is eligible to roster a total of 5 Juniors and any **3 Juniors** may dress per game. Any team using an ineligible player(s) or coach(es) shall forfeit all league games in which such player(s) participated. An ineligible player shall include one who is not properly registered with USAH, not properly rostered and registered by NFJV or one who is serving a suspension. If a team does not have a goalie, they may petition the NFJV board to use a goalie who was cut from another school district or ask for a short term exemption to use an underclassman varsity backup. Regardless, if approved, any goalie used must be USAH registered.

- The League has voted to approve up to 4 Juniors may dress for the 2024-25 season.



Niagara Frontier Junior Varsity Hockey

10) Roster Changes

You must contact the League Registrar for any changes to your team's roster. The Registrar will return any supplement rosters with additions or deletions to the team manager. Players/Coaches may not participate until they receive notification from the league registrar.

For JV: There will be no roster changes after December 31st

For Modified: Each team's roster will be frozen after they play their first game

11) Record Keeping Responsibilities

Each registered team should have a team manager. The team manager, who may also be the head coach or assistant coach shall be responsible for all record keeping of the team, and have all access to documents necessary for tournaments, playoffs, and championships. Before the season begins, the aforementioned individuals need to contact the league webmaster to request access to their team page on the website.

12) Home Team Responsibilities

Home team needs to supply an Ipad for Game Sheet scoring system.

13) Forfeit

If there is a failure to show for a game, such game shall be declared a forfeit for the offending team. The official score will be 1-0 and the goal will be awarded to the team captain. The team that forfeited will be held responsible for any costs associated with the game.

14) Rescheduling of games

Rescheduling of games must be approved in advance by the board after consulting with head coaches of the respective teams. If a game needs to be canceled due to school functions, shortages of players, etc., responsibility will be on both teams to find a mutual date and time for the contest to be made up. The team who canceled will be responsible to supply new ice for that game to be made up and NFJV will not reimburse for costs associated with the rescheduling. The game must be rescheduled before the end of the regular season. If a game needs to be canceled due to poor weather conditions or rink closure, it will be the responsibility of both teams to mutually find a date and time for the contest to be made up. In this instance, the league will reimburse the costs associated with the makeup. Games rescheduled greater than 24 hours in advance of poor weather conditions will not be reimbursed by NFJV. The game must be rescheduled before the end of the regular season. Note that some programs in our league are recognized by their school which means in the case of inclement weather they may be unable to play. It is the responsibility of all coaches in our league to be in contact and notify their players. The board will notify all vendors of cancellations.

15) League/Division Schedule

All teams will be scheduled to participate in league play. No change in the league game schedule will be permitted, without prior notice and approval from the board. Before the season begins, each team is to assure that the schedule is accurate by comparing the games listed in the official master schedule (website) compared to their scheduling meeting notes and rink times. No teams shall schedule any scrimmage/exhibition games until AFTER the league schedule is completed. The board shall have the authority to review the competitive balance of a division and may re-assign teams to other divisions if determined necessary to restore and maintain this competitive balance. Standings will be updated on the NFJV website.



Niagara Frontier Junior Varsity Hockey

16) Regular Season Game Procedure

In the interest of promoting, demonstrating, and ensuring good sportsmanlike behavior, and adopting uniform game procedures, the following procedure shall be followed in each league game:

a) Pre-Game:

Coaches should introduce themselves to the opposing coach and the referees. The coach should inform the referees of the division and significance, if any, of the game.

b) During the game.

Warm-up time for all regular-season games will be 5:00

Games are three 15-minute periods. The curfew clock ends the game.

The home team will select the jersey color and inform the visiting team 30 minutes before game time.

Each team is allowed one (1) 60 second timeout per game.

The length between periods will be 1:30 and placed on the scoreboard.

Mercy rule shall be in effect after a six (6) goal difference. This will result in running the clock until either the game ends or the score differential is less than 6 goals at which point the game reverts back to stop the clock.

c) Conclusion of game:

The Handshake line will be at the conclusion of the games

If a player is removed from a game for disciplinary reasons, they are to be escorted to the locker room by a rostered coach. Any player, coach or team official who fails to follow the procedure outlined herein and/or fails to leave the ice in a sportsmanlike orderly manner, causes an altercation before, during or after a game may incur an additional penalty and/or suspension(s).

17) Playoff Game Procedures

USAH tiebreaker rules, as found in the annual guide, apply to games where teams will be needed to be seeded. **USAH Rules** apply to all playoff games

Two non-USA Hockey Rules will be in effect and are as follows:

- Each Team is allowed one (1) 60-second timeout (including all OT periods)
- Mercy rule shall be in effect after six (6) goal differential. This will result in running the clock until either the game ends or the differential is less than six (6) goals at which point the game reverts to a stopped clock.

Home team: The higher-seeded team is home and will select jersey color

Warm-Up: 7:00 Warm up on "old ice", resurface before the start of the game. After both teams have re-entered, 1:00 running clock and then the game starts. The handshake line will be after each game.

Game Format: 3 (15) minute periods with resurfacing between 2nd and 3rd There is a 1:30 break between each period and all OT periods.

Tie Game: If the score is tied after 3 periods, sudden death OT period(s) to follow in these formats:

The First OT period will be 4v4 for 10 minutes

In the event, a team has assessed a penalty, the format moves to 4v3

All subsequent OT periods will be 5 minutes and will be 3v3 until there is a winner

In the event, a team has assessed a penalty, the format moves to 4v3. Upon completion of the minor penalty, the play continues 4v4. However, with the next stoppage in play, the 3v3 format will resume again

Teams will switch ends at the end of each period, including all OT periods



Niagara Frontier Junior Varsity Hockey

- NFOA should announce all goals/penalties on rinks that are able to accommodate in all playoff games. Championship games will have a starting lineup/National Anthem.
- The home team will have the option to control of any music for warm-ups and during the game

18) Playoff Formats

TBD every season

19) Reseeding Between Playoff Rounds

In all rounds, the remaining highest-seeded team (based on regular-season standings) plays the remaining lowest-seeded team (based on regular-season standings).

20) Discipline: Game Misconduct, Match Penalties, and Protests:

All suspensions will be served in the team's next scheduled game(s). The scheduling of additional games to satisfy a player or coach's suspension is not allowed and the suspended person will not be allowed to participate until the suspension is satisfied in the next game(s) already on the schedule. All suspensions are to be served in the league in which they are assessed. All matters of discipline and procedures for hearings will be in accordance with USAH. Further questions may be directed to West Section President Gary Joseph, gjoseph847@gmail.com.

Supplementary Discipline

According to USAH Rule 410, supplementary discipline, the proper disciplinary authority may, at the conclusion of the game, at their discretion, investigate any incident that occurs in connection with any game. Pending the outcome of a hearing, the disciplinary authority may assess additional suspensions for any offense committed before, during the course of a game, or any aftermath thereof by a player or Team Official, whether or not such offense has been penalized by the Referee. For NFJV, the proper disciplinary authority is the board.

Refusal to Continue Play: any team playing in our league, exhibition, or tournament game that leaves the ice during the game, shall be assessed a match penalty by the game referee. In NFJV any team that is assessed a match penalty under this rule shall forfeit the game by a score of 1-0.

In order to preserve as far as possible, the integrity of amateur hockey and the NFJV, any recourse to the courts or legal action by a member or individual before and/or during all the right of the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of this Association have been exhausted, shall be considered ungentlemanly conduct entailing the immediate suspension and disqualification of any such member or individual(s). Refer to USAH, Bylaws, Suspensions and Resolution of Disputes for additional information.

21) Miscellaneous

- a) CO-ED gender-equitable locker room policy. It is not acceptable under USAH policies on physical and sexual abuse for members to be observing the opposite gender while they dress/undress. To provide an enjoyable and safe experience for all players, please make certain that proper adult supervision is present in locker room settings at all times, including the provision for having more than one adult supervisor present in the locker room. In the locker room means being physically inside the locker room and/or standing right outside, not in the lobby or somewhere nearby.

Niagara Frontier Junior Varsity Hockey



- b) Locker Boxing Policy. USAH NYSAHA and NFJV is concerned with the activity known as “locker boxing” that produces head trauma in children and young adults. USA Hockey is opposed to that activity and recommends that our local associations take action to prevent this activity through awareness, education, and supervision.
- c) Head Coach responsibilities
 - i) The Head Coach or acting Head Coach of each team shall be held responsible for the conduct of the member and team officials of that team both on and off the ice, in and out of locker rooms immediately before, during and after any event including but not limited to games, practices, scrimmages and tournaments. A team official must be in the locker room before and after the game to monitor. The Head Coach or acting Head Coach or any team member/team official involved in any disruptive or unsportsmanlike behavior or any conduct detrimental to the sport of ice hockey may be called to account for the actions of any such team member or team official and may be subject to disciplinary measures.
 - ii) Racial Slurs, inappropriate remarks, verbal abuse: The NFJV highly recommends that coaches inform and educate their participants and parents of the detrimental effects of racial slurs, inappropriate remarks, and/or abusive language towards opponents, referees, or team officials on or off the ice, before, during and after a game. Note: If during a game racial slurs and inappropriate remarks are made, comments of this nature can be brought to the attention of the referee during a stoppage of play to make them aware and warn the offenders that their actions can be and will be penalized. As per USAH rules for a referee to levy penalties the remarks must be heard by the referee.
 - iii) The President of the League shall have the power to act on behalf of the Board of Directors between meetings and subject to the Board of Directors review at the next meeting.

22. Violations

Violations of any of these rules or regulations may result in discipline to a team or any individual connected with them. Teams and individuals shall be disciplined through the aforesaid system of discipline contained in these rules. Teams shall only be disciplined by a majority vote of those members by the board present at a duly constituted meeting. These rules and regulations are effective when passed and shall remain in effect until otherwise amended or repealed. All prior rules and regulations are revoked upon the passage of these rules and regulations.