



# **CAROLINA AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION RULES, POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

**Effective February 2026**

# **CAHA RULES, POLICIES, PROCEDURES**

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## 1.0 RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF CAHA COMMITTEES

- 1.1** Committees shall consist of a Chair and at least two (2) other members who shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.
- 1.2** The Committee shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Board of Directors between meetings with the Board to conduct its directives as expressed at the annual meetings, subject to review and ratification of the Committee's actions. The CAHA President shall be an ex-officio member of each Committee but shall not vote nor shall their presence be counted for purposes of determining a quorum when serving in an ex-officio capacity.
- 1.3** The Board of Directors may establish other Committees at any time.
- 1.4 YOUTH COMMITTEE:** The Youth Committee shall consist of a Chair, and two (2) or more members and a representative from each recognized youth Member Association in CAHA.
- (a)** The Youth Committee will be responsible for ADM, Tournaments, Player Development, Tier I, High School, Jamborees, CAHA Festival, Goaltending, Parent Education, and Honor the Game Awards.
  - (b)** The purpose of the Youth Committee is the planning, development and conduct of youth hockey within the Carolina Affiliate. At the CAHA Annual Meeting, the Youth Committee will submit to the entire CAHA Board of Directors for approval a statement of objectives for the upcoming year along with the programs that will be put in place to achieve those objectives. Also included for approval shall be a proposed budget and fee structure covering youth hockey for the upcoming season. The Youth Committee may select other interested people to participate in Youth Committee meetings, but such other parties shall be non-voting members of the Committee.
  - (c)** The mission of the Youth Committee is to provide an innovative grassroots foundation for the growth and development of USA Hockey, designing programs aimed at increased participation, improved skills, and a responsible environment for the conduct of youth hockey in accordance with the principles of the American Development Model (ADM).
- 1.5 HOCKEY FOR LIFE COMMITTEE:** the Hockey For Life Committee will consist of a Chair, two (2) or more members, and a representative from each recognized Adult Member Association in CAHA and a representative from each recognized Officiating Association in CAHA.
- (a)** The Hockey For Life Committee will be responsible for Adult and College Hockey and Officiating
  - (b)** The purpose of the Hockey For Life Committee is the planning, development and conduct of Adult and College hockey and Officiating within the Carolina Affiliate. At the CAHA Annual Meeting, the Committee will submit to the entire CAHA Board of Directors for approval a statement of objectives for the upcoming year along with the programs that will be put in place to achieve those objectives. Also included for approval shall be a proposed budget and fee structure covering Adult and College hockey and Officiating for the upcoming season. The Committee may select other interested people to participate in Committee meetings, but such other persons shall be non-voting members of the Committee.
- 1.6 DISCIPLINARY/DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE** The Disciplinary/Dispute Resolutions Committee will consist of the CAHA Vice President and at least two (2) other individuals that are deemed to be impartial, fair, and reasonable people.

- (a) The CAHA President shall also serve as an ex-officio member of this Committee if not otherwise appointed to the committee but shall not vote nor shall their presence be counted for purposes of determining a quorum when serving in an ex-officio capacity.
- (b) The CAHA Vice President shall be chairperson of the Disciplinary/Dispute Resolutions Committee. The chairperson shall be responsible for determining when and if legal counsel is needed for any actions of the Disciplinary/Dispute Resolutions Committee. If it is determined that such legal counsel is necessary, the CAHA legal counsel shall serve on the Disciplinary/Dispute Resolutions Committee in a non-voting capacity.
- (c) The purpose of the Disciplinary/Dispute Resolutions Committee is to resolve disputes and appeals within the Carolina Affiliate in accordance with CAHA and USA Hockey Bylaws, Rules and Regulations involving players, officials, parents, and other spectators.
- (d) The Disciplinary/Dispute Resolutions Committee may select other interested people to participate in disciplinary or dispute resolution meetings, but other parties shall be non-voting members of the Committee.
- (e) This Committee shall have the responsibility and duty to initiate disciplinary proceedings in any matter of significant concern to the Affiliate or as to any matter between Affiliates of USA Hockey under guidelines and rules established by the Committee and ratified, adopted or approved by the Board of Directors.

**1.7 HOCKEY FOR EVERYONE COMMITTEE:** The Hockey For Everyone Committee will consist of a Chair, two (2) or more members, and a representative from each recognized girl's and/or women's Member Association in CAHA plus Association representatives for Disabled, Warrior, Special, and Community Growth (Growth and Inclusion).

- (a) The Hockey For Everyone Committee will be responsible for Girls/Women's Hockey, Disabled Hockey, Special Hockey, Warrior Hockey, and Community Growth (growth, inclusion).
- (b) The purpose of the Hockey For Everyone Committee is the planning, development and conduct of girl's/women's hockey, disabled hockey, special hockey, warrior hockey, and Community Growth within the Carolina Affiliate.
- (c) At the CAHA Annual Meeting, the Committee will submit to the entire CAHA Board of Directors, for approval, a statement of objectives for the upcoming year also with the programs that will be put in place to achieve those objectives. Also included for approval shall be a proposed budget and fee structure covering plan for the upcoming season.
- (d) The Committee may select other interested people to participate in Committee meetings, but other such parties shall be non-voting members of the Committee.

## 2.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

**2.1 Conflicts of Interest Defined:** In this Policy, a person with a conflict of interest is referred to as an "Interested Person." A Conflict of Interest includes actual, perceived, and potential conflicts of interest.

- a) Actual Conflict of Interest — means a Transaction in which an Interested Person who is in a position to make or influence the Board's decision regarding the Transaction has an Affiliation with a Third Party to the Transaction. This occurs when personal, business, or financial interests can reasonably be expected to influence a decision.
- b) Perceived Conflict of Interest — means a Transaction in which an Interested Person could

reasonably be viewed as having a divided loyalty with respect to the Transaction. A perceived conflict exists if a "reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts" would question an individual's impartiality in a matter.

- c) Potential Conflict of Interest — means a Transaction in which a Conflict of Interest is likely to arise because an Interested Person has an Affiliation with a Third Party to the Transaction.

**2.2** For purposes of this Policy, the following circumstances shall be deemed to create a Conflict of Interest:

- (a) A director, officer, staff, or volunteer, including a board member (or family member of any of the foregoing) is a party to a contract, or involved in a transaction with CAHA for goods or services.
- (b) A director, officer, staff or volunteer, (or a family member of any of the foregoing) has a material financial interest in a transaction between CAHA and an entity in which the director, officer, staff or volunteer, or a family member of the foregoing, is a director, officer, agent, partner, associate, employee, trustee, personal representative, receiver, guardian, custodian, or other legal representative.
- (c) A director, officer, employee, or volunteer, (or a family member of the foregoing) is engaged in some capacity or has a material financial interest in a business or enterprise that competes with CAHA.
- (d) Other situations may create the appearance of a conflict or present a duality of interests in connection with a person who has influence over the activities or finances of CAHA. All such circumstances should be disclosed to the board, as appropriate, and a decision made as to what course of action the organization or individuals should take so that the best interests CAHA are not compromised by the personal interests of stakeholders in the organization.

**2.3 Gifts, Gratuities and Entertainment:** Accepting gifts, entertainment or other favors from individuals or entities can also result in a conflict or duality of interest when the party providing the gift/entertainment/favor does so under circumstances where it might be inferred that such action was intended to influence or possibly would influence the interested person in the performance of their duties. This does not preclude the acceptance of items of nominal or insignificant value or entertainment of nominal or insignificant value which are not related to any particular transaction or activity of CAHA.

#### **2.4 Definitions:**

**2.5** A "Conflict of Interest" is any circumstance described in Part 1 of this Policy.

- (a) An "Interested Person" is any person serving as an officer, member of the Board of Directors, staff or volunteer of CAHA or a major donor to CAHA or anyone else who is in a position of control over CAHA who has a personal interest that conflicts with the interests of CAHA.
- (b) A "Family Member" is a spouse, parent, child or spouse of a child, brother, sister, or spouse of a sibling, of an Interested Person.
- (c) A "Material Financial Interest" in an entity is a financial interest of any kind, which, in view of all the circumstances, is substantial enough that it would, or reasonably could, affect an Interested Person's or Family Member's judgment with respect to transactions to which the entity is a party.
- (d) A "Contract or Transaction" is any agreement or relationship involving the sale or purchase of goods or services, the providing or receipt of a loan or grant, the establishment of any other type of financial relationship, or the exercise of control over another organization. The making of a gift to CAHA is not a Contract or Transaction.

**2.6 Procedures:** Prior to board or committee action on a Contract or Transaction involving a Conflict of Interest, a director or committee member having a Conflict of Interest and who attends the meeting shall disclose all facts material to the Conflict of Interest. Such disclosure shall be reflected in the minutes of the meeting. If board members are aware that staff or other volunteers have a conflict of interest, relevant facts should be disclosed by the board member or by the interested person themselves if invited to the board meeting as a guest for purposes of disclosure.

- (a) A director or committee member who plans not to attend a meeting at which they have reason to believe that the board or committee will act on a matter in which the person has a Conflict of Interest shall disclose to the chair of the meeting all facts material to the Conflict of Interest. The chair shall report the disclosure at the meeting, and the disclosure shall be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.
- (b) A person who has a Conflict of Interest shall not participate in or be permitted to hear the Board's or committee's discussion of the matter except to disclose material facts and to respond to questions. Such person shall not attempt to exert their personal influence with respect to the matter, either at or outside the meeting.
- (c) A person who has a Conflict of Interest with respect to a Contract or Transaction that will be voted on at a meeting shall not be counted in determining the presence of a quorum for purposes of the vote.
- (d) The person having a conflict of interest may not vote on the Contract or Transaction and shall not be present in the meeting room when the vote is taken unless the vote is by secret ballot. Such person's ineligibility to vote shall be reflected in the minutes of the meeting. For purposes of this paragraph, a member of the Board of Directors of CAHA has a Conflict of Interest when they stand for election as an officer.
- (e) Interested Persons who are not members of the Board of Directors of CAHA, or who have a Conflict of Interest with respect to a Contract or Transaction that is not the subject of Board or committee action, shall disclose to the Chair, or the Chair's designee, any Conflict of Interest that such Interested Person has with respect to a Contract or Transaction. Such disclosure shall be made as soon as the Conflict of Interest is known to the Interested Person. The Interested Person shall refrain from any action that may affect CAHA 's participation in such Contract or Transaction.
- (f) In the event it is not entirely clear that a Conflict of Interest exists, the individual with a potential conflict shall disclose the circumstances to the Committee Chair/President or the Committee Chair/President's designee, who shall determine whether full board discussion is warranted or whether there exists a Conflict of Interest that is subject to this policy. If a full discussion is warranted, the Board shall determine whether a conflict of interest exists and, if so, the Board shall vote to take any action it deems necessary to address the conflict and protect the best interests of CAHA.

**2.7 Confidentiality:** Each director, officer, employee, and volunteer shall exercise care not to disclose confidential information acquired in connection with disclosures of conflicts of interest or potential conflicts, which might be averse to the interests of CAHA. Furthermore, directors, officers, employees, and volunteers shall not disclose or use information relating to the business of CAHA for their personal profit or advantage or the personal profit or advantage of their Family Member(s).

**2.8 Administration of Policy:** Each board member, staff and volunteer shall be provided with and asked to review a copy of this Policy and to acknowledge in writing that they have done so. Annually each director, officer, employee, and volunteer shall complete a disclosure form identifying any relationships, positions, or circumstances in which they are involved and believe could contribute to a Conflict of Interest. Each member of the Board of Directors shall annually review this policy. Any changes to the policy shall be communicated to all staff and volunteers.

## 3.0 RECORD RETENTION POLICY

**3.1 Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the necessary records of CAHA are adequately protected and maintained. This policy is also for the purpose of aiding board members, officers, and representatives of CAHA in understanding their obligations to retain CAHA records in the event of actual or threatened litigation, governmental investigations, or subpoenas.

**3.2 Documents Covered by Policy:** This policy relates to all CAHA's significant records and documents including, without limitation, the following categories of records and documents and the retention period as follows:

### 3.2.1 Corporate Records:

Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws	Permanent
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes	Permanent
IRS application and approval for federal tax exemption	Permanent
Policies and Resolutions adopted by CAHA	Permanent
Conflict of Interest Disclosure Forms	7 years

### 3.2.2 Finance and Banking:

Audit Records	Permanent
Bank Reconciliations	7 Years
Bank Statements	7 Years
Cash Receipts	7 Years
Check Copies	7 Years
Check Copies – Capital Purchases	Permanent
Check Signature Authorizations	7 Years
Deposits Slips	7 Years
Depreciation Schedules	Permanent
Expense Reports	7 Years
Financial Statements	Permanent
Fixed Asset Purchases	Permanent
General Ledger	Permanent
Invoices	7 Years
Invoices and Expense Records	7 Years
Purchase Orders	7 Years
Stop Payment Orders	7 Years
Tax Returns	Permanent

### 3.2.3 Administration:

Contracts and Agreements	7 years after all obligations end
Correspondence - General	7 years
Correspondence – Legan Counsel and Accountants	Permanent
Grant Requests	Permanent
Insurance Claims	Permanent
Insurance Policies	Permanent

**3.3 Employment Records:** CAHA does not have any current employees. Should CAHA hire employees in the future Payroll Records, Payroll Tax Returns, Personnel Files, State Unemployment Tax Records, W-2 Forms and W-4 Forms shall be retained for seven (7) years.

**3.4 Legal Records:** Records relating to court documents, court records, disposition records, litigation files and records relevant to pending or threatened litigation or administrative proceedings and Board disciplinary hearings shall be retained permanently.

## **4.0 RULES OF ORDER**

**4.1** All meetings of Member Associations, Board of Directors and Committees shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of "Robert's Rules of Order" unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws.

**4.2** The Order of Business for CAHA Board Meetings and CAHA Annual Meetings of Member Associations shall be:

- Call To Order
- Role Call of Officers and Directors
- Approval of the Minutes
- President's Report
- Executive Director Report
- Financial Report
- Standing Committee and Subcommittee Reports
- Task Force Reports
- Old Business
- New Business
- Adjourn

## **5.0 CAHA WEBSITE**

CAHA designates its website, [www.carolinahockey.org](http://www.carolinahockey.org), as its means of communication with Associations and members. Affiliate Bylaws, Operating Rules, Policies, and Procedures, Affiliate Grant information, notice of events, and other documents and valuable information will be posted to the website. Information will be updated and changed periodically. Associations, teams, and coaches are responsible for being familiar with, and following USA Hockey and CAHA Bylaws and CAHA Operating Rules, Policies, and Procedures.

## **6.0 WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY**

**6.1 Introduction:** CAHA requires all board members and volunteers to observe the highest standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of their duties and responsibilities. Board members and volunteers must practice honesty and integrity in fulfilling their responsibilities and comply with all applicable laws and regulations. Set forth below is the CAHA policy with respect to reporting good faith concerns about the legality or propriety of CAHA actions or plans.

**6.2 Reporting Concerns or Complaints:** It is the responsibility of all board members and volunteers to comply with CAHA Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Policies, Code of Ethics and Conduct and applicable law and to report violations or suspected violations in accordance with this Whistleblower Policy.

**6.3 Confidentiality:** CAHA will treat all communications under this policy in a confidential manner, except to the extent necessary (a) to conduct a complete and fair investigation, or (b) to review CAHA operations by the board, its independent public accountants and legal counsel.

**6.4 Retaliation:** CAHA will not permit any negative or adverse actions to be taken against any individual for making a good faith report of a possible violation of its Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Policies, Code of

Ethics and Conduct or applicable law, even if the report is mistaken, or against any individual who assists in the investigation of a reported violation. Retaliation in any form will not be tolerated. Any act of alleged retaliation should be reported immediately and will be promptly investigated. Anyone who retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to discipline up to and including expulsion from the organization. This Whistleblower Policy is intended to encourage and enable individuals to raise serious concerns within CAHA prior to seeking resolution outside the organization.

**6.5 How to Report Concerns or Complaints:** An individual who has a concern or complaint may communicate suspected violations of Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Policies, Code of Ethics and Conduct, applicable law, or other wrongdoing or alleged retaliation by contacting the president of CAHA. However, if you are not comfortable dealing with the president of CAHA or are not satisfied with their response, you may contact any board member whom you are comfortable approaching. If you wish to remain anonymous, it is not necessary that you give your name or position in any notification.

Whether or not you identify yourself, for a proper investigation to be conducted, please provide CAHA with as much information as you can, sufficient to do a proper investigation, including where and when the incident occurred, names and titles of the individuals involved, and as many other details as you can provide.

## **7.0 CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY**

**7.1 Nondisclosure Policy:** Each Responsible Person (defined below) shall exercise care not to disclose confidential information acquired in connection with such status, the disclosure of which might be averse to the interests of CAHA or USA Hockey, Inc. No Responsible Person shall use confidential information for his or her personal gain. For the purposes of this policy, a “Responsible Person” is any person who holds one or more of the following positions with CAHA: Board Director; Director Emeritus; officer; member of a Committee; member of CAHA staff; member of a task force or other similar ad hoc committee; member of a hearing or appeal panel regarding a disciplinary matter, or any other person determined by the President of CAHA to be subject to this policy.

### **7.2 Types of Confidential Information**

- a) The following types of information received by a Responsible Person in the performance of their responsibilities as a Responsible Person shall be treated as confidential unless otherwise determined by the Board:
  - i. Information regarding the appointment or termination of employees.
  - ii. Employee evaluations and compensation.
  - iii. Information about contractual relationships with third parties.
  - iv. Financial information.
  - v. Membership data, including any identifying or contact information for any member of USA Hockey or within USA Hockey’s records or database(s).
  
- b) The foregoing is not intended to be a complete list of all the types of information that may be considered confidential.

### **7.3 Failure to Comply**

Any Responsible Person who fails to comply with the provisions of this confidentiality policy shall be subject to such sanctions or other action by USA Hockey or CAHA pursuant to USA Hockey’s and CAHA Bylaws. Any other person who is subject to this policy and who fails to comply with it shall be subject to discipline, termination of employment, or such other sanction as USA Hockey and CAHA determines is appropriate. Each Responsible Person must also be familiar with and comply with any applicable state or federal law with respect to protection of confidential information. Affiliates shall be required to adopt their own Confidentiality Policy conforming to this policy.

## 8.0 DISCIPLINE

**8.1 Appeals to CAHA Disciplinary Committee after Association Disciplinary Authority** - Any party that is suspended, otherwise disciplined or subject to an Administrative Action by a Disciplinary Authority of a Member Association or League may, after a hearing or failure to have a hearing in accordance with the Unified Procedure, appeal such action to the CAHA Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Committee in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10 E. Appeals. On appeal, the CAHA Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Committee may affirm, reverse, or modify (including increase or decrease the term of a suspension) any decision in its sole discretion and as it deems proper under the circumstances.

**8.2 Discipline or dispute hearings of Member Associations or Leagues** - are subject to review by the CAHA Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Committee. The CAHA Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Committee may affirm, reverse, or modify (including increase or decrease the term of a suspension)

**8.3** The CAHA Board of Directors may approve additional policies that supplement USA Hockey policies and provide additional penalties when handling disciplinary matters. Any fines levied against associations will be utilized to fund Coach, Parent, and Player Education in support of USAH's "Zero-Tolerance Initiative" within the CAHA Affiliate.

**8.4 Progressive Suspensions (Rule 411)** - USA Hockey is committed to providing a safe and fair environment for all participants. While most players participate within the rules and respect the game and their opponents, USA Hockey recognizes the need to hold those players and coaches deemed to be repeat offenders accountable for their actions.

(a) Any player who receives their third major penalty during the same season for any combination of aggressive infractions listed below shall receive an additional three game suspension. For any player who receives their fourth major penalty in this category, the player shall receive an additional five-game suspension. Any player who receives their fifth major penalty in this category during the same season shall be suspended until a hearing is conducted by the proper authorities (USA Hockey Affiliate). These designated game suspensions shall be in addition to any other suspensions imposed through the official playing rules. The aggressive infractions that fit into this category are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rule 603 Boarding</li><li>• Rule 604 Body Checking (Competitive Contact categories)</li><li>• Rule 606 Butt-Ending</li><li>• Rule 607 Charging</li><li>• Rule 608 Checking From Behind</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rule 609 Cross-Checking</li><li>• Rule 611 Elbowing</li><li>• Rule 619 Head-Butting</li><li>• Rule 620 Head Contact</li><li>• Rule 621 High Stick</li><li>• Rule 622 Holding an Opponent (Grabbing Facemask)</li><li>• Rule 627 Kicking</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rule 628 Kneeing</li><li>• Rule 634 Slashing</li><li>• Rule 635 Spearing</li><li>• Rule 639 Tripping/Clipping/Leg Checking/Slew Footing</li><li>• Rule 640 Unnecessary Roughness (Roughing)</li></ul>
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(b) Any team that receives three major penalties in the same game shall have its Head Coach suspended for the next game of that team. For any subsequent game where that team receives three or more major penalties in the same game, the Head Coach shall serve a three-game suspension. For a third game with three or more major penalties by the same team during the same season, the Head Coach shall be suspended indefinitely until a hearing has been conducted by the proper authorities (USA Hockey Affiliate).

(Note) The role of the Official is to enforce all always playing rules and they are expected to strictly enforce playing rules that fall under the aggressive infraction category. Players and coaches must be held accountable for dangerous actions, and the onus is on them to teach and play the game within the rules. Officials are required to submit a game report no later than 24 hours after the game for any

major penalty falling in the aggressive infraction category, game misconduct or match penalty that is assessed.

**8.5 Progressive Suspensions for Fighting (Rule 615(a) or 615(b))** - Whereas a player is assessed a major and game misconduct penalty under Fighting Rule 615(a) or 615(b), they are subject to the following progressive discipline:

(a) **Youth Hockey Programs** - for the purposes of this rule, the USA Hockey season is from September 1 to August 31.

- First Offense - Player will serve the one (1) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus an additional one (1) game suspension mandated by CAHA (total 2 game suspension).
- Second Offense - Player will serve the three (3) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus an additional three (3) game suspension mandated by CAHA (total 6 game suspension).
- Subsequent Offenses - Player shall be suspended until a hearing is conducted by the proper authorities under Rule 410 Supplementary Discipline.

(b) **Adult Hockey Programs** – for the purposes of this rule, the USA Hockey season is from September 1 to August 31. These suspensions are the minimum that Adult leagues may impose. Adult leagues may add game suspensions at their discretion.

- First Offense - Player will serve the one (1) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus an additional four (4) game suspension mandated by CAHA (total 5 game suspension).
- Second Offense - Player will serve the three (3) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus an additional three (3) game suspension mandated by CAHA (total 6 game suspension).
- Subsequent Offenses - Player shall be suspended until a hearing is conducted by the proper authorities under Rule 410 Supplementary Discipline.

**8.6 Abuse of Officials (Rule 601 (d)) Automatic CAHA Discipline** - whereas a coach/team official is assessed game misconduct by the official:

- First Offense - Coach/Team Official will serve the one (1) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus an additional two (2) game suspension mandated by CAHA.
- Second Offense – Coach/Team Official will serve three (3) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus an additional three (3) game suspension mandated by CAHA.
- Subsequent Offenses - Coach/Team Official will be suspended for a thirty (30) day period and must attend a hearing with the CAHA Discipline Committee. The Coach/Team Official's Association shall be fined in the amount of \$500.

**8.7 Abuse of Officials (Rule 601 (d)) in games involving Officials 17 years old or younger** - Should the Abusive Conduct occur in a game where any of the assigned game officials are 17 or younger, the stated penalties shall double, regardless of whether the abusive conduct is directed at any official 17 or younger. This applies to coaches, players, and spectators.

**8.8 Green Armband Initiative for Officials 17 years old or younger** - the Green Arm Band Initiative aims to enhance the safety and development of young ice hockey officials by clearly identifying them on the ice. Effective August 1, 2025, they will be required to wear one green armband during officiating assignments in the 2025-26 season. CAHA aims to create a more supportive environment for developing officials.

- The green armband must be worn by any Official 17 years old, or younger and the Official may stop wearing the green armband as of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- The green armband is to be worn on the left arm, between the elbow and shoulder.
- If in the role of Referee, the green armband is worn over the orange armband on the left arm.
- The green armband is to be worn regardless of the age of the players involved in the game and of

the competition level of the game.

**8.9 Twelve (12) or More Penalties in a Game (Rule 401 (b) Automatic CAHA Discipline** - whereas a team is assessed twelve (12) or more penalties during one game, they are subject to the following progressive discipline:

- First Offense - Head Coach will serve the one (1) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey.
- Second Offense - Head Coach will serve the one (1) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus an additional one (1) game suspension being mandated by CAHA.
- Third Offense - Head Coach will serve the one (1) game suspension mandated by USA Hockey plus an additional two (2) game suspension being mandated by CAHA.
- Subsequent Offenses will add an additional game suspension for each occurrence of this rule infraction in addition the prior offence.

**8.10 Leaving the Players' Bench (Rule 629 (a)) Automatic CAHA Discipline** - whereas any player leaves the players' bench during an altercation or for the purpose of starting an altercation:

- First Offence - Head Coach will serve a three (3) game suspension being mandated by CAHA.
- Second Offence - Head Coach will be suspended for a thirty (30) day period and must attend a hearing with the CAHA Discipline Committee. The Head Coach's Association shall be fined in the amount of \$500.

**8.11 Match Penalty Schedule for Game Suspensions** – USA Hockey has established suspension range recommendations for match penalties. These suspension ranges serve to create consistency in the application of suspensions involving players or team officials assessed match penalties. The following procedure *shall* be followed by the proper authorities as determined by the Affiliate in each instance when a match penalty is assessed.

Any Match Penalties assessed under Rule 601(e.1) (Physical Assault of Official) and Rule 601(e.3) Uses language that is hateful or discriminatory in nature are *excluded from this policy*. Original jurisdiction in any hearing resulting from a match penalty assessed under either of these rules shall *reside with the Affiliate* and are governed by USA Hockey's "Resolutions of Disputes, Arbitration and Suspensions" section of the current USA Hockey Annual Guide.

In all instances where a player or team official has been suspended for a period of time as a result of a match penalty, the player or team official shall be prohibited from participating in all USA Hockey activities for the length of the suspension. The required game(s) suspensions shall include the next regularly scheduled games that appear on the schedule of their team at the time of the incident. A player or team official who is rostered on multiple USA Hockey registered teams must serve the suspension in full before they are permitted to participate on any other USA Hockey registered team, unless otherwise specified by the proper authorities as determined by the Affiliate.

For this policy, there shall be three levels of standardized suspensions. They are:

**Level 1** – Match penalties assessed under the below rules have a recommended range of a 6-10 game suspension.

- Rule 305(b) Dangerous Equipment
- Rule 601(e) Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct (This includes all match penalties assessed under this rule except 601(e.1) Physical Assault of an Official)
- Rule 602(a) Attempt to Injure or Recklessly Endanger an Opponent

**Level 2** – Match penalties assessed under the below rules have a recommended range of a 4-8 game suspension.

- 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 assessed under the below rules have a recommended range of a 3-5 game suspension.

- Rule 601(e.3) Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct Hateful/Discriminatory Language
- 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)

## 8.12 Spectator Policy

Any participant attending a sanctioned USA Hockey event removed from the venue by a USA Hockey official, security personnel, facility personnel, or Association personnel over a period of two consecutive seasons will be subject to mandatory suspension from ALL USA Hockey events for the following periods:

- 1st offense automatic 30-day suspension from all events involving the Association and may be subject to additional supplemental discipline review as determined by the association/CAHA based on the event.
- 2nd offense, automatic 60-day suspension from all events involving the Association and required hearing with the CAHA Discipline committee subject to additional supplemental discipline up to and including permanent lifetime suspension from all USA Hockey events.

If an Official 17 years old or younger is officiating the game where the incident occurred, the fines and suspensions will be doubled. This is regardless of whether the behavior was directed at the Official 17 years old or younger or not.

Any Association that does not reasonably cooperate in the identification of the parent involved or reasonable attempt to enforcement of the above will be subject to referral to the CAHA Discipline Committee, which may include discipline up to and including suspension from all USA Hockey events for the Head Coach and the President of the Association. All suspension periods shall run from the date of the incident in question.

## 8.13 Locker Room Monitor Automatic CAHA Discipline - for no locker room monitors in any USA Hockey event (game, practice, off-ice):

- First Offence: Automatic \$500 fine payable by the Association to CAHA and automatic 2-game suspension of head coach
- Second Offence within the same season: Automatic \$1000 fine payable by the Association to CAHA

and a mandatory discipline hearing that may include discipline up to and including permanent suspension from all USA Hockey events for the Head Coach and the President of the Association.

## 8.14 CAHA Schedule of Discipline

Rule	USA Hockey Action	1st Offense including CAHA Action	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense including CAHA Action	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense including CAHA Action
<b>Rule 411 Progressive Suspensions</b> – player with 3 major penalties in a season	3 <sup>rd</sup> Major penalty in the same season receives an additional 3-game suspension from USA Hockey			
<b>Rule 411 Progressive Suspensions</b> – team with 3 major penalties in a game	Head Coach suspended for next game		Head Coach suspended 3 additional games	Head Coach suspended indefinitely until a hearing is conducted by CAHA
<b>Rule 411 Progressive Suspensions</b> – coach/team official with game misconduct in a season for violating Rule 601 Abuse of Officials	1 game suspension	3 game suspension: 1 from USA Hockey and 2 games from CAHA	6 game suspension: 3 games by USA Hockey plus 3-game suspension from CAHA	Suspended indefinitely until a hearing is conducted by CAHA, Association fined \$500
<b>YOUTH Rule 615(a), (b), (f) Fighting</b> – Progressive Suspensions	1 game suspension	2 games: 1 game suspension from USA Hockey and 1 game from CAHA	6 game suspension: 3 game from USA Hockey plus 3-game suspension from CAHA	Player is suspended indefinitely until a hearing is conducted by CAHA
<b>ADULT Rule 615(a), (b), (f) Fighting</b> – Progressive Suspensions	1 game suspension	5 games: 1 game suspension from USA Hockey and 4 game suspension from CAHA	6 game suspension: 3 game from USA Hockey plus 3-game suspension from CAHA	Player is suspended indefinitely until a hearing is conducted by CAHA
<b>Rule 401(b)</b> – 12 or more penalties in a game	Head Coach 1 game suspension	1 game suspension from USA Hockey	2 game suspension (1 game from USA Hockey plus 1 game from CAHA)	3 game suspension: 1 from USA Hockey plus 2 games from CAHA. Each subsequent offense will add an additional game to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> offense. 4 game total suspension for 4 <sup>th</sup> offense, 5 games for 5 <sup>th</sup> offense
<b>Rule 629(a)</b> – Players leaving the Bench	1 game suspension	4 game suspension: 1 from USA Hockey plus 3 games from CAHA	Coach suspended for 30-days by CAHA plus hearing conducted by CAHA. Association fined \$500	
<b>Spectator Policy</b>		Automatic 30-day suspension plus additional supplemental review by CAHA	Automatic 60-day suspension plus additional supplemental review by CAHA up to and including permanent lifetime suspension from all USA Hockey events	

## 9.0 RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

### 9.1 REGISTERED MEMBER ASSOCIATION

**9.2** Status: A properly Registered Member Association ("Member Association" has as its meaning the definition contained in the Bylaws of the Carolina Amateur Hockey Association, herein "CAHA") is the non-exclusive organization authorized by CAHA to develop players and teams and conduct the affairs of CAHA to promote the sport of amateur hockey under its hockey program (herein "Participant Program").

**9.3** All teams registered by a Member Association must be known by the same team name, i.e., mascot, and wear the same team uniforms as the Member Association unless specifically approved by the CAHA Board of Directors in advance of team tryouts or team formation. Teams seeking registration through a Member Association known by a separate team name will not be sanctioned by CAHA.

### 9.4 AUTHORITY-JURISDICTION

### 9.5 Authority

- a) **Separate Organization:** Each Registered Member Association of CAHA is and shall be an independent and separate organization or entity distinct from CAHA.
- b) **Conduct Of Its Affairs and Programs:** Each Registered Member Association is the Local Governing Body which shall have initial, primary authority and responsibility to conduct its affairs and programs; including, at a minimum, the conduct of its directors, officers, players, parents, coaches, minor officials, administrators, fans, participants and members within its participant program.
- c) **Renewal of Membership:** Once duly admitted, the membership of each registered Member Association shall be renewed from year to year, subject to the rules and regulations of CAHA and payment of dues, upon submittal of documentation of financial information (non-profit only), by-laws and a current certificate of good standing from the state of incorporation of the Member Association, and an executed member association agreement by June 30 of each year.
- d) **Subject to CAHA and USA Hockey:** Each Registered Association Member's authority regarding participation in CAHA and USA Hockey and sanctioned hockey events is subject to the obligations and restrictions contained in the By-Laws and Rules of CAHA and USA Hockey. The By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of CAHA and USA Hockey and their decisions shall take precedence over and supersede all similar governing documents, authority, and/or decisions of a Registered Member Association. Each Registered Member Association shall abide by and act in accord with the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and decisions of CAHA and USA Hockey.

**9.6 Fees and Fundraising:** A Registered Member Association is authorized to do the following:

- a) **Fees:** to assess and charge a reasonable fee for participants/members within its Participant Program, in addition to any regular CAHA and USA Hockey fees; it is encouraged that the amount of any charge shall be communicated in writing to each participant/member prior to tryouts and the undertaking of any obligation by the participant/member. CAHA may request a report of the fees charged by the Registered Member Association to its participants which shall remain confidential, and Registered Member Association shall promptly provide the report on request.
- b) **Fund-raising:** to operate fund-raising programs to support its functions as a Registered Member Association of CAHA, including special charges on paid-gate tournaments, games or events sponsored by the Registered Member Association but not on events sponsored by CAHA, nor may such events conflict with CAHA or national USA Hockey® events, unless specifically authorized by CAHA or national USA Hockey®.

**9.7 Other Authorized Services:** to perform and/or provide other authorized services or functions to promote and regulate the play of the sport of amateur hockey as a Registered Member Association of CAHA in the Registered Member Association's Participant Program.

**9.8 CAHA COOPERATION**

**9.9 CAHA Recognition of Teams:** CAHA accepts and registers only those individuals and teams within Registered Member Association's Participant Program which holds and continues membership in good standing with Registered Member Association.

**9.10 CAHA Cooperation:** CAHA will cooperate with and assist the Registered Member Association in the administration of the sport of amateur hockey within the Registered Member Association's Participant Program, when such cooperation and assistance is deemed necessary and/or advisable by CAHA. Each Registered Member Association understands it, however, that primary and initial responsibility is with the Registered Association Member, and that CAHA has no duty or authority to assist in, advise, or manage a Registered Member Association's affair.

**9.11 CAHA Name:** Registered Member Association shall have no right to use the name Carolina Amateur Hockey Association, Incorporated, CAHA, or their logos ("CAHA Names") and shall not use CAHA Names or any affiliations with CAHA except as approved in writing by CAHA. Requests shall be made in writing to the CAHA Secretary.

**9.12 BY-LAWS AND/OR POLICIES WHICH MUST BE ADOPTED BY REGISTERED MEMBER ASSOCIATION**

**9.13 By-Laws or General Guidelines:** Registered Member Association shall have written By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, or General Outlines of the method of governance and authority of the Registered Member Association.

**9.14 Operating Policies, Rules and Regulations:** Registered Association Member shall have written Operating Guidelines, Policies, Rules, or Regulations that will inform the participant/members or any potential member of the organization of its day-to-day operating procedures, including any concept that Registered Member Association wishes to enforce, and it shall make them reasonably available to its participants prior to selection of any team, but no less than fifteen (15) days prior to try outs.

**9.15** Registered Member Association shall adopt Policies as required by USA Hockey as set forth in the current USA Hockey Annual Guide, including, but not limited to:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| A. Zero Tolerance  | A. Use of Mailing Lists                   |
| B. Sexual and Physical Abuse   | B. Whistleblowers Policy                  |
| C. USA Hockey Safe Sport and Background Screening Policy Locker Room Supervision | C. Conflict of Interest Policy            |
| D. Hazing  | D. Documents and Records Retention Policy |
| E. Consumption/Use/Abuse of Mood Altering Substances                             | E. Social Media                           |
|  | F. Travel Policy                          |
|  | G. One-to One Interaction                 |

**9.16 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF REGISTERED ASSOCIATION MEMBERS**

**9.17 Organizational Structure:** Registered Member Association shall have an organizational structure described in writing on a REGISTRATION FORM provided by CAHA prior to commencement of its Participant Program. The REGISTRATION FORM shall be provided in connection with application for membership in USA Hockey.

**9.18 Corporation 501(c)(3) Status:** It is strongly suggested, but not required, that the Registered Member Association have a corporate structure and always maintain a tax-exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**9.19 Certification:** The REGISTRATION FORM shall be signed by an authorized agent of the Registered Member Association who shall acknowledge that all Officers, Directors, or Managing Agents have received the REGISTRATION FORM, CAHA Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations.

**9.20 GOVERNANCE**

**9.21 Government and Responsibility:** It is *recommended* that the government and authority of Registered Member Associations be vested in a Board of Directors composed of at least five (5) representatives, as determined by Registered Member Association, who should be representative of the Registered Member Association and its programs and fundamentally fair to all the participants/members of the Registered Member Association. It is recommended that there be multiple representatives for each level of the Registered Member Association's program. The burden of showing fundamental fairness to participants shall be on the Registered Association Member. It is recommended that the terms of directors and

officers be staggered. If the Participant Program is operated by a Managing Agent or Officers, the above responsibilities shall be equally applicable to them. Beginning with the 2026-27 season, the following shall apply:

**(a) Government and Responsibility For-Profit Associations:** It is recommended that the government and authority of Registered Member Associations be vested in a Board of Directors composed of at least five (5) representatives, as determined by Registered Member Association, who should be representative of the Registered Member Association and its programs and fundamentally fair to all the participants/members of the Registered Member Association. The burden of showing fundamental fairness to participants shall be on the Registered Association Member. It is recommended that the terms of directors and officers be staggered. If the Participant Program is operated by a Managing Agent or Officers, the above responsibilities shall be equally applicable to them.

**(b) Government and Responsibility Non-Profit Associations:** It is required for non-profit Associations that the government and authority of Registered Member Associations be vested in a Board of Directors composed of at least three (3) representatives, as determined by Registered Member Association, who should be representative of the Registered Member Association and its programs and fundamentally fair to all the participants/members of the Registered Member Association. The burden of showing fundamental fairness to participants shall be on the Registered Association Member. It is required that the terms of directors and officers be staggered and not one person may hold multiple officer positions at one time. The Board of Directors is required to use Robert's Rules of Order for all Board meetings, Annual Meetings, and Committee Meetings. If the Participant Program is operated by a Managing Agent or Officers, the above responsibilities shall be equally applicable to them.

**9.22 Annual Meetings:** The Registered Member Association shall hold an annual meeting of its participants/members and provide reasonable notice to its participants/members.

**9.23 Communication:** The Registered Member Association shall establish reasonable methods of communication with its participants.

## **9.24 MINIMUM PRINCIPLES**

**9.25 Registered Member Association Reflect Principles:** Registered Member Association's organization, structure, policy, by-laws, and/or operation of Registered Member Association shall reflect, and shall not violate, the minimum principles outlined herein.

**9.26 Team/Player Membership:** All teams, players and coaches of a Member Association, as a condition of membership in good standing with the Member Association, shall also be required to be member teams, players, and coaches in good standing of CAHA and USA Hockey.

**9.27 Overview of Program:** Registered Member Association shall prepare and distribute to its participants an overview of its program, including its philosophies and associations (i.e., with learn to skate or Initiation Programs) the teams, ice times, team selection, team and individual fees and costs, income and expenses, how team and individual fees and costs were determined, Grievance and Disciplinary Procedure. This Overview shall be available and provided to potential participants prior to selection of any team, but no less than fifteen (15) days prior to tryouts, start of season or team selections.

## **9.28 Financial Reports/Dues and Assessments**

a) **Financial Stability:** Registered Member Associations shall maintain fiscal responsibility. The

following shall apply to each Nonprofit Registered Member Association, except those Registered Member Associations that are sponsored by a licensed educational institution or a governmental body:

- b) **Budget:** Each Non-Profit Registered Member Association shall provide an initial budget for its membership and provide it to its potential participants prior to selection of any team, but no less than fifteen (15) days prior to tryouts.
- c) **Annual Financial Report:** Each Nonprofit Registered Association Member shall also prepare an annual report of operations with a copy to CAHA and make it available to its members within sixty (60) days of the end of its hockey season. CAHA's treasurer shall maintain the confidentiality of such data and it shall not be disclosed to any person other than CAHA's Officers or Directors who shall use such information for purposes only related to the affairs of CAHA.
- d) **Fees, Dues and Assessments:** All fees, costs, dues, and assessments by all Registered Member Associations, Profit or Non-Profit, shall be reasonable in relation to the programs it offers to its members/participants.
- e) **Detailed Financial Statements/Fiscal Responsibility:** Each Nonprofit Registered Member Association shall prepare detailed financial statements in form and substance that shows fiscal responsibility and control, and which shall be available to CAHA on request. The detailed financial statements of the Registered Member Association shall be reasonably available to its participants. Reasonably available financial statements shall mean making books and records available to participants upon a written request and a reasonable time and place for any participant interested in coming and viewing the statements with the Registered Member Association's treasurer (or someone reasonably knowledgeable of the contents of the statements) present to answer reasonable inquiries but not more than every two months during the hockey season without charging a reasonable fee.

**9.29 Publication of Constitution, By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations:** All Registered Member Associations shall make their constitution, by-laws, or other governing documents, including all amendments, available to its members and to CAHA. Copies shall also be available at reasonable request.

### **9.30 Equal Opportunity:**

**Advise CAHA:** In the event of any allegation of discrimination in CAHA and USA Hockey sanctioned events, or CAHA Member activities, Registered Member Association shall notify the CAHA Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Committee in writing immediately upon knowledge of such allegation and keep CAHA advised in writing (including, but not limited to, any action taken or recommended).

### **9.31 Abuse:**

**Advise CAHA:** In the event of any allegation of abuse including, but not limited to, sexual, physical, or emotional abuse in CAHA and USA Hockey sanctioned events, or CAHA Member activities, Registered Member Association shall notify the CAHA Screening Committee Chair as that person is identified in CAHA's Screening Policy in writing immediately upon knowledge of such allegation.

**9.32 Grievance/Suspension Resolution:** Each Registered Member Association shall provide a grievance and discipline procedure for the prompt and equitable resolution of grievances and discipline of its members by adopting USA Hockey's Unified Procedure as set forth in USA Hockey Bylaw 10. This procedure includes a channel of communication, establishment of an impartial and reasonably disinterested hearing panel, fair notice and opportunity for a hearing to any amateur athlete, coach, parent, trainer, manager, administrator, or official before declaring such individual ineligible to participate, except for violation of playing rules and as set out in USA Hockey Bylaw 10 D. Exclusions from Unified Procedure or as required by law.

**9.33 Turnover Files:** Registered Member Association shall make reasonable efforts to prepare, maintain and make available "turnover" files for each of its operations with the intent of smooth transitions of personnel.

**9.34 Indemnity:** By registering with CAHA, each Registered Association Member agrees to indemnify, defend and hold CAHA harmless from any and all claims, expenses, liability, judgments, attorney's fees, charges, or costs arising from the acts and omissions of Member Association except to the extent (i) CAHA caused such claims, expenses, liability, judgments, attorney's fees, charges, or costs by its own active (but not passive) negligence or intentional acts or willful misconduct; or, (ii) that such acts were the direct result of compliance with the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Playing Rules or decisions of the Board of Directors of USA Hockey or CAHA.

**9.35 Beginning with the 2011-2012 Season:** All CAHA Member Associations are expected to be knowledgeable of and adopt the USA Hockey American Developmental Model (ADM) and to implement ADM principles and practices into their day-to-day hockey operations. For the 2011- 2012 season adopting the USA ADM Model shall be defined as limiting 8U games to cross- ice hockey and skill development ("Red, White, and Blue Hockey").

### **9.36 AVAILABILITY OF ICE**

**9.37 Show Availability:** Registered Member Association shall be able to show sufficient availability of ice to support its program and promote that program in accordance with the By-Laws and Rules of CAHA and USA Hockey.

**9.38 Ice Contracts:** Registered Member Association should have each ice contract it anticipates entering or enters into reviewed by the USA Hockey Risk Manager for the Carolina Affiliate prior to entering into each contract.

### **9.39 INSURANCE**

**9.40 General Liability:** Registered Member Association shall, always, obtain and be covered by the general liability insurance policy maintained by USA Hockey. The limits of that policy may be made by USA Hockey at its sole prerogative. The Registered Member Association may also obtain whatever additional insurance coverage it may desire, at its own expense, but agrees to name CAHA as an additional insured of any such policy. By purchasing and maintaining the USA Hockey general liability insurance policy, USA Hockey and CAHA do not assume, and indeed disclaim, any liability for any actions or omissions of Registered Member Association.

**9.41 Officer's and Director's Liability:** Registered Member Association should use reasonable efforts to purchase, acquire or provide, and always maintain in full force and effect, and (to the extent such insurance is not obtained through USA Hockey) name USA Hockey and CAHA as an additional insured under any such policy.

### **9.42 COOPERATION IN ANY LITIGATION**

**9.43 CAHA and Registered Member Association Cooperation:** CAHA and Registered Member Association shall reasonably cooperate with each other in any litigation and provide reasonable support in connection with that cooperation, including but not limited to advice and testimony upon reasonable request; provided, however, that such cooperation shall not require CAHA to incur any out-of-pocket expenses not reimbursed by Registered Member Association.

## 9.44 REGISTRATION

Each Association shall designate one person to manage all registration for that Association and to receive and distribute to their Association all USA Hockey and CAHA notifications and publications.

- (a) All participants, coaches and players, shall complete individual registration and acknowledgement of the USA Hockey Waiver of Liability / Assumption of Risk online at [www.usahockey.com](http://www.usahockey.com) in accordance with the procedures prescribed by USA Hockey.
- (b) A player shall not participate in any hockey related activity (including tryouts), until the USA Hockey Individual Membership Registration has been completed and the appropriate fee paid. "Participation" or "playing" shall be defined as all on-ice or off-ice hockey related activities within a Member Association or as part of a Member Association's team, including but not limited to, tryouts, skill development sessions, practices, and/or games.
- (c) A team, excluding youth house and adult house, may not participate in any pre-season, exhibition, league, or tournament until a USA Hockey Team Roster has been properly completed and submitted to the Associate Registrar for approval. Only coaches listed on the team roster will be allowed in the vicinity of the player's bench during games.
- (d) All players must present a government issued birth certificate or a copy of a passport identification page for date of birth and citizenship verification prior to being approved on a team roster.
- (e) A written transfer must be approved for all non-citizen players, male and female under the age of 18 and females over the age of 18 prior to being approved on a team roster.
- (f) All coaches must complete the appropriate Age-Specific online module, SafeSport Awareness Training and Screening prior to being approved on a team roster.
- (g) All coaches must obtain the appropriate USA Hockey Coaching Education Level and continuing education requirements (as applicable) as of December 31 of the current playing season.
- (h) A Tier I, Tier II, Rec Travel (Youth or Girls), Women's national bound or Invitational Tournament player shall not participate in a game with a team until a USA Hockey Team Roster or Supplemental Roster has been properly completed and submitted to the Associate Registrar for approval.
- (i) Every Association with a House program must create an official USA Hockey 1-T Roster for all coaches in each age group and program. All coaches will be listed on a 1-T Staff roster created for each program or age group where USA Hockey requires coaches with credentials. This includes rosters for Learn To Play, Learn To Skate, 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U, Girls, and any age group combined programs. Rosters must be completed 4 weeks after the beginning of each House session.
- (j) Every Association with a House program must create an official USA Hockey 1-T Roster for all Locker Room Monitors in each age group and program. All Locker Room Monitors will be listed on a 1-T Staff roster created for each program or age group where USA Hockey requires Locker Room Monitors. This includes rosters for Learn To Play, Learn To Skate, 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U, Girls, and any age group combined programs. This does not include Adult. Rosters must be completed 4 weeks after the beginning of each House session.
- (k) Any House program that fields a team in any age group or combined age groups that will travel to another location for a game, tournament, or other hockey event must create USA Hockey 1-T Team Rosters or Supplemental Rosters. This excludes the travel between facilities for House programs with more than one facility.
- (l) Every Association must create an official USA Hockey 1-T Roster for all Locker Room Monitors for every Tier I, Tier II, Girls, and Travel team. All Locker Room Monitors will be listed on a 1-T Staff roster created for each team. These are due at the same time as the standard USA Hockey 1-T team roster for players and coaches.
- (m) No CAHA Tier I, Tier II Rec Travel (Youth or Girls, Women's national bound or Invitational Tournament team shall use any player not properly rostered to its team. Participation of a player in a sanctioned game not rostered to the team will be deemed an "Improper Roster" and the game will automatically

be forfeited. Additionally, the head coach of a team using an "Improper Roster" will be referred to the Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Committee for discipline.

(n) A player may not be rostered to a team without the prior written consent of a parent or guardian. Participation in a tryout or selection process is not considered consent to participate on a team. Member Associations that roster a player without consent shall be referred to the Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Committee for discipline.

(o) Beginning in the 2026-2027 season, no non-National Bound Travel/Rec (Youth or Girls) roster shall have more than two (2) out-of-affiliate players. Any out-of-affiliate players allowed to roster on these CAHA Travel/Rec rosters must reside only in VA, TN, or GA.

(p) An out-of-affiliate player is defined as 1) an un-emancipated minor whose parents' or guardian's primary residence is outside of the states of North Carolina or South Carolina, 2) a player who has reached the age of majority with legal residence (more than 50% of the calendar year) outside of the states of North Carolina or South Carolina. Additionally, no player may create a residence for the purpose of playing hockey. Temporary or limited guardianships are not permitted or recognized by CAHA as residence in the states of North Carolina or South Carolina.

## 10.0 TIER I

**10.1** CAHA, an Affiliate of USA Hockey, shall be the sole governing body to grant Tier I status to Member Associations within the geographical boundaries of North Carolina and South Carolina.

**10.2** The designation for Tier I shall also be identified as "AAA."

**10.3** Tier I status will not be allowed or granted in the 8U and 10U age classifications. The identified Tier I age classifications are 11U, 12U, 13O, 14U, 15O, 16U, 18U, 19U (Girls). Effective with the 2027-28 season, the 11U age classification will no longer be granted.

**10.4** To safeguard the integrity of Tier I and maintain the competitive level of play with the most elite players in the Affiliate, CAHA will limit the number of Member Associations granted Tier I status and the number of Tier I teams formed at each age classification. Applicants for Tier I status must be Member Associations in good standing with CAHA. Consideration of Tier I applications shall be based on the following criteria, which shall be part of the Member Association's application:

- Financial and historical information demonstrates that the applicant is financially solvent. This shall include the operating budget and the most recent tax return.
- Proof of IRS 501 (c)3 tax exemption status, where appropriate.
- Documentation demonstrates the applicant's ability to procure sufficient ice to support an appropriate number of home games and practices consistent with the size of the applicant's program. A letter of intent from local rinks may be required.
- Details of the applicant organization, which shall include at a minimum:
  - A list of the Officers and Directors of the organization
  - The number of Tier I teams planned at each level
  - Names and qualifications of Coaches for each team and proof that each Coach has obtained the appropriate Coaching Certification level and has complied with the USAH/CAHA screening requirements or can and will obtain those by Sept. 1st.
- Structure of the upcoming season (practices, games, proposed competition, etc.)
- Applicant organization's written Bylaws, Rules & Regulations.
- Structure and format of the try-out and player selection process.
- For each current team, the overall win-loss record and the win-loss record and scores of all

games from the current season.

Approval of both new associations and the maximum number of teams allowed will be solely the discretion of CAHA determined by an evaluation utilizing the application process and an annual review of all players registered as of December 31st of the current season within the Affiliate at the respective age classifications. The total number of Tier I players shall fall within five percent (5%) to ten percent (10%) of the total registered players at each age classification but cannot exceed ten percent (10%). CAHA reserves the right to field no Tier I teams at any or all age classifications and allow one (1) team at each age classification even if the given percentages do not cover the required number of players to create a team of twenty (20) players. In the event a High-Performance Club application is approved within the Carolina Affiliate, CAHA reserves the right to field no Tier I teams at any or all age classifications.

**10.5** Applications for Tier I status must be submitted by Member Associations in good standing to CAHA no earlier than November 1<sup>st</sup> and no later than November 30<sup>th</sup> for the upcoming season. The applicants will be notified of the final decision by January 15 the following year. Once Tier I status is granted, it is subject to annual review by CAHA.

CAHA will continue to review yearly all Tier 1 statuses and at its sole discretion can revoke Tier 1 granted status. A supermajority (2/3 or greater) or unanimous will be required to remove the granted Tier 1 status. Notice of any such decision for the upcoming decision will be shared in writing with such organization by Jan 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year that their Tier 1 status is revoked.

**10.6** To safeguard the integrity of Tier I and maintain the competitive level of play with the most competitive players in the affiliate, the CAHA Board reserves the right to deny approval of an application. CAHA may also limit the number of Tier I teams formed at an age classification. In no circumstance, shall the number of Tier I teams allowed exceed the limit set out in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

**10.7** Any Association or organization applying for Tier I Youth status must agree to field teams in their first year, in a minimum of 3 of the age groups offered by USA Hockey: 13O, 14U, 15O, 16U, and 18U. In year 2 of existence as a Tier I program, the Tier I program must field a minimum of 4 of these age groups in Tier I. If a 13O team is fielded by a program, that 13O team must register as a Tier I roster, but does not need to declare national bound status. In the event an Association applies for, and is granted Tier I status, and then fails to field a Tier I team at any of the required age classifications that Association *may* be prohibited from applying for Tier I status the following season.

## **10.8 Qualifications**

- (a) Tier I applicants must provide a schedule history including win/loss record.
- (b) If affiliated with a league, provide the league identity and participating associations within the league.
- (c) Provide a written insight as to teams it will play if granted Tier I status.

## **10.9 Player Selection**

- (a) All Tier I teams must have open tryouts.
- (b) Teams will select a roster up to twenty (20) players, (18 skaters/2 goalies.)
- (c) Before December 31 of the current season, any Tier I player may move down to Tier II, however, once a player moves down to Tier II that player may not move back up to Tier I for the remainder of the current season.
- (d) Before December 31 of the current season, any Tier II player may move up to Tier I. Any player who moved up to a Tier I team may be placed back on a Tier II team no more than once during the current season.

(e) All selected Tier I players must sign a Commitment Letter.

- 10.10** Associations applying for Tier I status for new or previously approved teams may not advertise, market, or communicate the new seasons' teams until approval notification by CAHA.
- 10.11** All Tier I Member Associations which register Tier II, Recreational and/or House level teams and players are expected to be knowledgeable of and adopt the USA Hockey American Development Model (ADM) and to implement ADM principles and practices into their day-to-day hockey operations in accordance with the working timeline as set forth by USA Hockey, unless specifically approved otherwise.
- 10.12** All coaches of Tier I 14U, 16U and 18U, major and minor teams, must complete CEP Level 4 in their fourth season of coaching, or first season of eligibility, regardless of their current CEP Level expiration date.
- 10.13** At its discretion, CAHA may grant Tier I Member Associations in good standing a three-year approval. Tier I Member Associations, who receive a three-year approval will provide to CAHA no earlier than November 1st and no later than November 30th of each season a summary of game results against their opponents for the past season, the teams that they plan to field for the subsequent season, and the number of players within their organization they forecast will matriculate to those teams the following season. If a Tier I Member Association with a three-year approval wishes to expand beyond the number of teams approved, in their three-year approval, they will submit a full annual review packet to CAHA during the annual submission window described in 12.5.

## 11.0 TRYOUTS

- (a) No tryouts may be held before the completion of the USA Hockey National Championship Tournaments at ANY LEVEL.
- (b) Tier I tryouts may be held 48 hours following the completion of the USA Hockey National Championship Tournaments.
- (c) Youth Tier II, Girls Tier II, and all Travel/Rec tryouts may not be held nor may positions be offered to players until the fifth Friday following the completion of the USA Hockey National Championship Tournaments. Should the fifth Friday fall on the start date of the Southeastern District National Camp Tryout, Tier II Youth tryouts may begin on the Friday following the Southeastern District National Camp Tryout.
- (d) House and House Select tryouts/evaluations cannot be held before August 1.
- (e) CAHA will not accept or consider waiver requests to begin tryouts before the timeline defined above.
- (f) Youth tryouts may not be held on the same weekend as the Southeastern District National Camp Tryout.
- (g) Girl's tryouts may not be held on the same weekend as the Southeastern District Girls National Camp tryout.
- (h) A player may be charged a reasonable fee to participate in Member Association tryouts, but a player shall not be required to join that Member Association to participate in the tryout. A Member Association holding a tryout shall furnish all tryout participants with a written statement of the player's responsibilities if they should be selected and choose to join the team to include the anticipated total annual cost to participate on that team, (Association dues plus an estimate of any additional team assessments), travel requirements, information on the league or anticipated schedule and the name and qualifications of any coaches already selected.
- (i) Player Agreements/Contracts: A Member Association shall not have any player or parent execute an association/team player agreement or contract for the next hockey season prior to the appropriate

tryout dates listed above. Offers for a position on a team must be held open a minimum of 48 hours following the extension of the offer. Players shall not be required to execute a player agreement or contract until 48 hours have elapsed from the conclusion of the Association's tryouts or date of the Association's offer for a position on a team, whichever occurs later.

- (j) Sanctions: Member Associations that knowingly violate the CAHA tryout schedule are subject to action by CAHA.

## **12.0 TAMPERING**

- (a) Tampering is defined as recruitment of a rostered player without the prior written approval from the Association of the rostered player.
- (b) A coach, manager or other team or association official may not directly or indirectly initiate contact with a player appearing on an approved team roster for the purposes of recruitment to roster and play on another team during the current season or to solicit players for the following season until 48 hours after the last game of the USA Hockey National Championships.
- (c) A coach, manager or other team or association official may not communicate directly or indirectly with a player appearing on an approved team roster by means of contact initiated by the player, the player's parent/guardian or any other person acting on behalf of the player for the purposes of recruitment to roster and play on another team during the current season or to solicit players for the following season until 48 hours after the last game of the USA Hockey National Championships.
- (d) An Association, team and/or coach may avoid tampering by securing written permission, in advance of any contact with a player from the Association on whose active approved roster the player currently appears.
- (e) Players that dual roster on youth and national bound high school teams shall be exempt from this requirement.
- (f) The intent of this policy is to assure roster integrity and prevent disruption to teams and players. Complaints for alleged violations of this rule should be referred to the Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Committee of CAHA. A coach, team or Association which knowingly violates the Tampering policy is subject to fine up to \$1,000, a one-year suspension or both. All fines assessed shall be paid by the Association. Any decision of the Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Committee may be appealed to the CAHA Board of Directors by submitting, in writing, the grounds for such appeal to the President or Secretary within fourteen (14) days of being notified of the sanctions imposed.
- (g) To open a tampering inquiry an Association is required to submit a written complaint accompanied by evidence to substantiate the violation and a \$250 deposit to the Dispute and Discipline Resolution Committee. Complaints will be accepted from Member Associations only. Complaints submitted without evidence will be dismissed.
- (h) The sanction for Tier I teams that violate this bylaw shall result in the offending team being ineligible to be recognized as Tier I and ineligible for District or National Championships for the season in which it was recruiting or holding an early tryout.

## **13.0 PLAYER TRANSFERS / FINANCIAL RELEASE LETTER**

- (a) The stability of team rosters during the season is encouraged, and the transfer of a player from one association team to another association team is strongly discouraged to assure roster integrity and prevent disruption to teams. Any Youth or Girls' player transferring from Association to Association within the same season, is required to obtain a financial release letter signed by the President or the equivalent of their current Association.
- (b) An Association may not roster a player on any team, regardless of competitive level, who has a delinquent financial obligation to another Association, the Carolina Amateur Hockey Association, the

Southeastern District, USA Hockey or any other USA Hockey Affiliate or District. All delinquent financial obligations must be properly reported under the requirements described in Bylaw 16.0 - Outstanding Financial Obligations or according to the bylaws, rules or regulations of the governing USA Hockey Affiliate or District.

- (c) A player approved on a team roster, withdrawing from their current Association, must secure a financial release in writing before they can register with another Association or be rostered on another team at any competitive level. An Association or team may not allow a player to tryout, practice or play in any games until a financial release letter is obtained. All rosters adding the player to a new team must be accompanied by a copy of the financial release letter if the previous Association has not taken actions necessary to remove the player from the team roster.
- (d) All requests for a financial release letter should be made in writing to the current Association. Such Association shall have 5 calendar days from receipt of the written request in which to respond, by either providing a financial release letter to the player, detailing the requirements for a financial release or for refusal to provide a financial release letter. An Association that sets forth requirements for a financial release or refuses to grant a financial release must do so in writing and must inform the player of their right to appeal to such requirements or the refusal to the CAHA Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Committee. A player requesting a release must be granted their request if they do not owe any fees and/or equipment to the team or Association. The CAHA Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Committee has the authority to release a player who is refused a release by their team or Association.
- (e) A player approved on a team roster, seeking to roster and play on another team while maintaining membership of their current team, must secure both of the following:
  - written permission from the Association on whose active approved roster the player currently appears permitting the player to register with another Association or be rostered on another team at any competitive level.
  - a letter of good financial standing. An Association or team may not engage in direct or indirect contact of any type with players, allow a player to tryout, practice or play in any games until written permission is granted from the current Association and a letter of good financial standing is obtained. Players that dual roster on youth and national bound high school teams shall be exempt from this requirement.
- (f) Any games played with a player prior to submitting a roster and financial release letter, (if required) or written permission from the player's current Association accompanied by a letter of good financial standing to the Associate Registrar for approval, or games played with a player who has a delinquent financial obligation to another Association will be considered as playing with an "Improper Roster" and are subject to the Rules and Regulations of "Improper Rosters" [refer to 11.0 Registration (c)]. Sanctions to include forfeiture of all games played under the "Improper Roster" and referral of the Head Coach to the Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Committee for appropriate action. Appropriate action for the Head Coach of the team using the "Improper Roster", knowingly or unknowingly, is a one game suspension for every game in which the "Improper Roster" was used. Repeat offenses shall be subject to additional discipline at the discretion of the Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Committee.

## **14.0 OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

It is the express purpose of this Article to establish a fair and orderly process for the resolution of financial disputes within CAHA and to require that all Registered Participant Members, Team Members and Member Associations of CAHA utilize that process. In that connection, CAHA expressly adopts the USA Hockey Financial Dispute Resolution Procedure set forth in USA Hockey Bylaw 10 D. 3. (j) Procedures Applicable To Participant Ineligibility Determinations Based on Financial Disputes, as it now exists or may hereafter be amended as the exclusive remedy for financial dispute resolution and requires that Member Associations follow such procedures. Notice is hereby given to Registered Participant Members, Team Members and Member Associations to review the USA Hockey Annual Guide for specific details of

the Financial Dispute Resolution Procedure currently in effect.

## 15.0 COACHING HELMET POLICY

All Registered Member Associations shall enforce the following discipline policy for coaches who fail to wear a helmet.

In accordance with USA Hockey policy, all ice hockey coaches and instructors of registered USA Hockey Youth 18U and below, High School, Girls'/Women's 19U and below, and disabled programs must properly wear an approved ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages and all Coaching Education Program clinics and/or workshops. Failure to comply will result in a 30-day suspension from all activities involving USA Hockey registered programs. Proper wear shall include a secure and fastened chin strap. Member Associations may impose additional suspensions or fines beyond this minimum requirement.

Pursuant to USA Hockey rules and CAHA Bylaws, CAHA shall enforce as follows:

Any report concerning violation of this rule must be made to the CAHA Vice President of Discipline.

- The CAHA Vice President of Discipline will review all reports.
- All reports must be submitted within two (2) weeks of the incident.
- After review, if the report is deemed to be credible, it will be referred to the relevant Member Association for action and enforcement.
- The Member Association must inform the Disciplinary Chair within 72 hours on the action it is taking, and the CAHA Vice President of Discipline will keep records of same and follow up, as necessary.

The penalty is mandatory. There is no discretion involved in the matter or warnings, however, as this is a disciplinary matter, the offending party has a right to a hearing. The hearing must be held by the Member Association before it invokes the penalty using USA Hockey Bylaw 10.

All reports submitted to be considered must contain the following:

- It is recommended (but not mandatory) that contact information of the reporting party be submitted to help verify the incident. Failure to provide contact information could hinder investigation of the incident.
- Information sufficient to identify the offending individual can include but is not limited to:
  - Date, time, and place of the violation.
  - Identify the Member Association of the offending individual.
  - Tangible evidence of the incident, such as a photograph or video, must be included with the report for it to be actionable.

If the identity of the individual violating the rule is clear, the CAHA Vice President of Discipline may, at their sole discretion, issue a summary suspension pursuant to the provisions of USA Hockey Bylaw 10.

## 16.0 COACHES AND MANAGERS

For more information on the responsibilities of Coaches and Managers please refer to the *USA Hockey Annual Guide*. Please note that many of these items do not apply to adult hockey.

### 16.1 Team Managers

The team manager designated on the *USA Hockey Roster Registration Form (1-T)* should maintain and

be the custodian of all documents necessary for credential review prior to participation in any State, Affiliate, District, Regional, National, or other invitational tournaments as set forth in the *USA Hockey Annual Guide*. The *USA Hockey Roster Registration Form (1-T)* shall be available at all games played by the team.

## **16.2 Coaching Education Required Levels/Modules**

All team coaches shall meet the coaching education levels as set forth in the current *USA Hockey Annual Guide*. The Affiliate requires that all coaches (heads and assistants) have an appropriate level Coaching Education Program certification by December 31 of the calendar year. After December 31, a coach will not be added to the *USA Hockey Roster Registration Form (1-T)* until they complete a clinic and obtain a valid Coaching Education certification. Coaches should carry their Coaching Education Program certification with them to all games and be prepared to show proof of their coaching education level as specified in the *USA Hockey Annual Guide*. The CEP number, level of certification and the date of the last certification for all team coaches should be shown on the score sheet for games played by a team. A rostered coach who fails to meet the USA Hockey coaching education requirements by completing and obtaining a valid Coaching Education Program certification is not eligible to coach after December 31st of the current season.

All team coaches must complete the age-appropriate module that corresponds to the classification listed on the teams *USA Hockey Roster Registration Form (1-T)* prior to being placed on the *USA Hockey Roster Registration Form (1-T)*.

Associations are responsible for ensuring that all coaches have met all the coaching requirements.

## **16.3 List of Certified Coaches and Covered Volunteers**

A local association shall keep a list or database of all teams and other association coaches and volunteers. The list/data base should include the coaches' full name, address and telephone number, coaching certification level, online age module, CEP number, date of certification and current team. Upon request the local association shall furnish such a list and/or database to the Affiliate President or the Affiliate SafeSport Coordinator in which that team participates. For this purpose, a volunteer is one who has regular, routine, or frequent access to or supervision over minor participants (i.e., team managers, bench coaches, team trainers, locker room monitors; this does not include penalty box volunteers or scorekeepers unless they fall under another covered category).

## **16.4 Coaching Ethics Code**

All coaches are responsible for adhering to the *USA Hockey Coaching Ethics Code*.

## **16.5 Background Screening**

The Affiliate, in conjunction with USA Hockey, has implemented a screening policy for coaches, team managers or volunteers aged 18 and over, who have regular, routine, or frequent access to or supervision over minor participants (anyone under the age of majority). This screening is required every two seasons. Any coach or volunteer who refuses to consent to be screened or who fails to execute any documents required for the screening process shall not be approved to coach or volunteer with any team where they have regular, routine or frequent access to or supervision over minor participants and will be removed from any such position. Associations are responsible for ensuring that all Association coaches and volunteers who have regular, routine, or frequent access to or supervision over minor participants have been screened and that the background screening documentation is current. The Associate Registrar shall not approve any team roster if a coach listed on the roster does not have a current background screening.

All USA Hockey Coaches, Officials and Volunteers over the age of 18 must successfully complete criminal background screening. Individuals who have not completed the criminal background screening do not meet the eligibility requirements to participate in USA Hockey. More information may be found at the following USA Hockey link: [www.usahockey.com/backgroundscreen](http://www.usahockey.com/backgroundscreen).

## 16.6 SafeSport Training

SafeSport is the policy of USA Hockey and CAHA whose participants:

- (a) have Regular Contact with, or Authority over, amateur athlete(s) who are minors (e.g., coaches, team managers, chaperones, etc.),
- (b) are responsible for enforcing child abuse and misconduct policies,
- (c) are adults authorized by USA Hockey, an Affiliate or Member Program to have Regular contact with, or Authority over, any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor, including all persons that are in managerial or supervisory roles of a USA Hockey Member Program (including all members of such organization's board of directors and owners and administrators of a USA Hockey Member Program),
- (d) are new and current employees and/or volunteers of USA Hockey, an Affiliate or Member Program, or,
- (e) are hockey players seventeen (17) years of age or older on or before December 31 of that playing season, and that play on a team in a classification that allows Minor Athlete players, shall complete appropriate training as required herein.
- (f) take the training that must be completed by all persons subject to this Policy and that the training is produced and provided by the Center for SafeSport and made available through access via USA Hockey's website. No other training shall satisfy the training requirements hereunder.

SafeSport Training will be valid for twelve (12) months rather than a full membership season. To remain eligible for participation, Adult Participants who are required to complete SafeSport Training must complete the next applicable SafeSport course on an annual basis (every 12 months) following completion of the previous course.

*USA Hockey does not consider persons serving solely in the following roles to have Regular Contact with, or Authority over, any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor(not an exhaustive list): (i) scorekeepers, (ii) penalty box operators, (iii) concession stand workers, (iv) arena entry/ ticket takers, (v) persons who do not otherwise have Regular Contact with, or Authority over, any amateur athlete(s) who is a minor and who are contracted through outside entities for the purpose of performing services (e.g., security, photographers, emergency medical or training persons, etc.) for specific events.*

A person with expired training shall be ineligible to participate as a coach, official, administrator, volunteer, employee or in any role where they have Regular Contact with or Authority over amateur athletes who are minors, until they have completed the requisite SafeSport Training.

Failure to comply with this mandate could lead to discipline against a Coach, Team manager, Locker Room monitor and/or volunteer, up to and including a suspension from position. Local Associations/Clubs face the possibility of a monetary fine or being placed in a "Not in Good Standing" for violations of the SafeSport mandate.

## 17.0 PLAY UP POLICY (AGE 14 AND UNDER)

**17.1** The Carolina Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA) Board of Directors recognizes that in rare and specific cases it can be appropriate and even beneficial to a player's development for them to play up in the next age classification. A fine balance needs to be struck, however, to avoid placing the desire of a player above the legitimate opportunity for that participant to be successful in an older age classification. In some cases, based on the skill, size and maturity of a player, it may be desirable to utilize this option; in other cases, it may be best for the player to remain in their appropriate age classification. Playing up or moving up to an older age classification team shall encompass all team activities with the older team,

including but not limited to tryouts, practices, and games.

- 17.2** All players, male and female, requesting to play up during the USA Hockey season in an association must have played for that association during the previous Fall/Winter season. For example, a male or female player requesting to play up during the 2017-2018 USA Hockey season must have played for that association during the 2016-2017 Fall/Winter season. "Played," for all Travel, Tier II, and Tier I category teams, shall be defined as being approved on a team roster for that association in the previous Fall/Winter season. Male and female players that register in a new association are restricted to playing in their appropriate age classification during their first season with that association. The Fall/Winter season shall be defined the same as the USA Hockey rostering season.

Exception – 16.2 shall be waived for female players aged 9 and older moving from an association that forms youth teams only into an association that forms girl's teams. This limited exception is intended to provide a female player that has participated in a youth association only the experience of playing on a girls' team. A play up in this situation must receive prior approval from CAHA, shall not exceed one age classification and will not be allowed if the association forms an age-appropriate girls' team. A completed Play-Up Request & Acknowledgement of Risk and Liability Form shall be required for all female players in this play up situation prior to roster approval.

- 17.3** Players and parents should acknowledge that approval to play up in a specific season does not necessitate the need to continue in a play up situation or guarantee approval to play up in future seasons. The player or goaltender requesting a play up must meet the criteria for each year of eligibility. At some point it may be necessary to play for three years in one age classification if the player's past youth participation did not align with USA Hockey age classifications.

- 17.4** There is an increased risk of injury for players playing outside of their designated age classification. However, CAHA allows movement in certain situations if specific conditions are met. You should carefully consider the increased risks involved and follow the criteria below when making a request to move a player into an older age classification.

Players may request to play up in an older age classification under the following criteria:

- (a) Age 8 or younger - A male or female player aged 8 or younger is permitted to move up to a 10U or Girls 10U team in an internal house program only and must meet all criteria described within this policy to be eligible to move up. No player aged 8 or younger be approved on a 10U or Girls 10U team roster in any registration category, including but not limited to: Tier II, Travel, House/Rec, and Invitational Tournament.
- (b) **Exception to 17.4(a)** CAHA recognizes that in some extremely rare cases, there may be a player in the affiliate whose skill level significantly surpasses the top 3% of the players in the association. In such cases each association may move up 1 player if the youth association's USA Hockey registered and claimed travel, tier I or Tier II (not house rec) roster count from the previous year is <300, and, up to 2 if the association is >300 per the pilot program described below. Each player who plays up must remain for the entire season or if they do not remain, they cannot be replaced. All criteria described within this policy must be followed to be eligible to play up.
- (c) Players aged 13 and under are permitted to move up an age classification in internal no-check house programs only and must meet all criteria described within this policy to be eligible to move up. Players aged 13 and under shall not be allowed to move up an age classification on teams that require an approved team roster except as provided in 17.6, 17.7 and 17.8.
- (d) 12U - Allowing players to move from a non-body checking age classification into a body checking age classification represents the greatest risk and shall not be allowed.
- (e) Players aged 14 are permitted to play up an age classification and must meet all criteria described within this policy to be eligible to move up.
- (f) A player will not be permitted to move up more than one year in age. This requirement applies

to all movements allowed under a., b., c, d and e. For example, in internal House programs only a first year 10U cannot be moved to the 12U age classification. However, a second year 10U may advance to 12U if the remaining criteria are met. This shall apply to 8U, 10U and 14U age classifications. A second year 14U can be moved into the 16U if all other criteria are met, however, a first year 14U must remain in the 14U age classification.

- (g) Male and female players in a play up situation may not participate in games above the next age classification. For example, a 14-year-old rostered on a 16U Youth or Girls 16U team may play games against other 16U Youth or Girls 16U teams only. A 14-year-old playing on a 16U Youth or Girls 16U team may not participate in games played against 18U Youth or 19U Girls teams.
- (h) An impartial evaluation of the player's skills, the ability to contribute to the older team as well as the player's maturity level compared to players in the older age classification must be made by a panel of neutral coaches before a decision is approved to grant the play up request.
- (i) The move up player or goaltender should be projected to be among the top 25% of all players or goaltenders on the next age classification team.
- (j) A completed Play-Up Request & Acknowledgement of Risk and Liability Form for all players in a play up situation must be submitted with the team roster to receive roster approval from the Associate Registrar.

**17.5** Consideration should be given as to how the play up will impact the two teams involved. The number of players within each age classification should be considered. The request should be denied if the play up will displace an age-appropriate player that would otherwise have played as determined by the team selection process.

**17.6** Based on USA Hockey recommendations, each team should include two goaltenders. Unfortunately, there is often a shortage or surplus of goaltenders at a particular age classification. The possibility exists that an age classification may not have enough goaltenders to field a team. CAHA will allow goaltender movement to address these situations. If after exhausting all possibilities to obtain a goaltender from within the age classification, a goaltender from a lower age classification may be moved up provided the age-appropriate team is not left without an experienced goaltender. All goaltenders will be required to fill out a Play-Up Request & Acknowledgement of Risk and Liability Form. This will be done solely to acknowledge the risk of playing with older players and the criteria for players to be "projected to be among the top players" will be excluded, however, 19.2 shall apply. Any association that moves up goaltenders to address shortages must submit to CAHA their planned growth initiatives to avoid goaltender shortages in the future. Goaltender movement excludes 8U playing up to 10U and 12U playing up to 14U teams.

**17.7** In small market youth (male or co-ed) associations where the number of registered players within the geography of the association at an age classification do not equal one team, it may be necessary to consolidate age classifications to create teams. When that occurs, upon notification to the CAHA Board of Directors, the team will carry the name of the oldest age classification and those players that are part of the younger age group will be required to fill out a Play-Up Request & Acknowledgement of Risk and Liability Form. This will be done solely to acknowledge the risk of playing with older players and the criteria for players to be "projected to be among the top players" will be excluded, however 17.2 shall apply. The notification to CAHA must include the registration statistics for the consolidated age classifications, full information on the selection process, and the association's planned growth initiatives to avoid consolidation in the future. Consolidation of teams excludes 8U /10U and 12U /14U consolidated teams.

**17.8** The Member Association must specifically reserve the right to reverse any decision allowing a player to play up at any time. If a player that has moved up is experiencing difficulty, as determined by the association and/or the player's coach, the association may reverse the decision by allowing the participant to play up. In this case every attempt should be made to place the player on a similar team within the player's proper age classification. Parents and players should carefully consider this outcome prior to making a request to play up.

**17.9** Nothing in USA Hockey's or CAHA rules require an Association to allow any player(s) to play up.

**17.10** Middle School students are not eligible to play up on a High School team under any circumstances.

**17.11** CAHA will not accept or consider requests for waivers or exceptions to this Play Up Policy.

## **18.0 GIRLS HOCKEY**

**18.1** To encourage the growth of Girls hockey programs, CAHA allows the rostering of combined age groups limited to all-girls Travel/Rec (non-National Bound) teams. These teams may be formed to play other all-girl Travel/Rec (non-National Bound) teams with the same combined age groups.

**18.2** The age groups that may be combined for all-Girls Travel/Rec (non-National Bound) teams include 8U and 10U, 10U and 12U, 12U and 14U, or 14U and 16U.

**18.3** Under no circumstances are more than 2 consecutive age groups combined to form teams.

**18.4** Like the CAHA Play-up policy, teams may use USA Hockey 1-T rosters when combining these teams and will use the highest age group as their designated age group. However, the approval process described in the Play-Up policy is not required for these teams.

**18.5** Girls will be allowed to be dual rostered on a Travel/Rec non-National Bound all-girls Travel/Rec team roster and a non-National bound Youth Travel/Rec team.

**18.6** The Carolina Girls Hockey League (CGHL) is the only designated girls-only league that operates within the CAHA affiliate and therefore is exclusively under CAHA jurisdiction. CAHA reserves the right to address all league policies, including allowing teams to play up a division, so that the leagues are administered consistent with the American Development Model (ADM), USA Hockey rules, and CAHA rules and policies. CAHA will serve as the exclusive administrator of the league. This includes scheduling, rules, membership, placing teams in divisions, and any other action that a league may take. The CGHL is an open league and therefore any Member Organization with a non-National Bound team is eligible to participate as long as they qualify under CAHA eligibility rules.

## **19.0 SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION PROCESS**

**19.1** The following procedures contained herein shall determine the method of advancement for CAHA teams to the Southeastern District and/or USA Hockey National Championship Tournaments.

**19.2** In the event there is only one applicant for this tournament within a respective state at an age classification designated in 3.1, that team shall bypass the CAHA State Tournament and advance directly to the USA Hockey National Championship Tournament.

**19.3** In the event there are no applicants for this tournament within a respective state at an age classification designated in 3.1, there will be no representative from that state in the USA Hockey National Championship Tournament at that age classification.

**19.4** The CAHA State Tournament shall be under the control and supervision of the CAHA Tournament Committee. Complete tournament bulletins containing dates, pairings and method of pairings, rules and qualifications shall be prepared by the CAHA Tournament Committee and distributed to all Member Associations no later than 90 days prior to the first day of the tournament.

**19.5** The tournament format will be based on the number of applicant teams for that division.

**19.6** The deadline for applications to participate in this tournament is 21 days after the release of the tournament registration information. The fee schedule will be based on the number of applicant teams for a division and full payment of fees will be due no later than 30 days after the registration period has closed. In the event an applicant does not remit full payment of fees by the due date, that team will be withdrawn from the tournament. All teams registered for the tournament have until the payment due date to withdraw their registration in writing to the Tournament Committee and receive a full refund with no penalty.

**19.7** Any Association whose team applies to participate in the CAHA State Tournament and fails to withdraw their registration in writing to the Tournament Committee after the payment due date will be considered withdrawn from the tournament. Any Association whose team fails to fully participate therein shall not be permitted to enter ANY team in the CAHA State Tournament at any age classification in the succeeding playing season and shall be referred to the Disciplinary/Disputes Resolution Committee for additional disciplinary action.

**19.8 OUT-OF-AFFILIATE PLAYERS**

CAHA limits the number of out-of-affiliate players as per the chart. More details are contained in the Youth Tier I, Youth Tier II, and Girls/Women’s sections.

CAHA Out-of-Affiliate Player Policy		
Level & Age Group	Maximum Number of Out-of-Affiliate Players	Maximum % that the number of Out-of-Affiliate Players can be on a roster
Tier I 13U/14U	2	
Tier I 15O	6	30%
Tier I 16U/18U/19U	10	49%
All Tier II	2	
Travel/Rec	2	

**19.8 YOUTH TIER I**

**19.9** Approved Tier I teams in tournament bound age classifications are required to participate in the Southeastern District Tier I Tournament. Should more than one (1) Tier I team exist in any tournament bound age classification, CAHA shall determine the method for advancement to the Southeastern District Tournament on or before November 1 of the current season.

**19.10** When there is more than one (1) Tier I Youth team in any tournament bound age classification (13O, 14U, 15O, 16U, 18U) in the affiliate, each Tier I Youth team must play a minimum number of home and home (unless the teams agree otherwise) games each season against each of the other Tier I teams in their age classification in the affiliate. Beginning in the 2026-27 season, the requirement is 2 games. These games must be completed by January 1 and are required to qualify for the CAHA Tier I Youth State Tournament or the Southeastern District Tier I Youth Tournament. Any exceptions to this policy must be appealed in writing to the CAHA Tournament Committee by January 1.

**19.11** Any Tier I association whose team qualifies for the Southeastern District Tier I Tournament and fails to fully participate therein, or which qualified for the subsequent USA Hockey National Championship Tournament and fails to fully participate therein shall not be permitted to register ANY Tier I teams in the succeeding playing season and shall be referred to the Disciplinary/Disputes Resolution Committee for additional disciplinary action.

**19.12** CAHA limits the rostering of out-of-affiliate players for Tier I as follows:

Tier I 16U and 18U Teams shall be limited to no more than ten (10) of out-of-affiliate players per Tier I 16U or 18U team. The percentage of out-of-affiliate players cannot exceed 49% of the team’s roster. An out-of-affiliate player is defined as 1) an un-emancipated minor whose parents’ or guardian’s primary residence is outside of the states of North Carolina or South Carolina, 2) a player who has reached the age of majority with legal residence (more than 50% of the calendar year) outside of the states of North Carolina or South Carolina. Additionally, no player may create a residence for the purpose of playing hockey. Temporary or limited guardianships are not permitted or recognized by CAHA as residence in the

states of North Carolina or South Carolina.

Tier I 15O Teams: shall be limited to no more than six (6) of out-of-affiliate players per Tier I 15O team. The percentage of out-of-affiliate players cannot exceed 30% of the team's roster. Tier I 13O and 14U teams: shall be limited to no more than 2 out-of-affiliate players per team. An out-of-affiliate player is defined as an un-emancipated minor whose parents' or guardian's primary residence is outside of the states of North Carolina or South Carolina. Additionally, no player may create a residence for the purpose of playing hockey. Temporary or limited guardianships are not permitted or recognized by CAHA as residence in the states of North Carolina or South Carolina.

### **19.13 YOUTH TIER II**

**19.14** The CAHA State Championship Tournament will be the sole path to the USA Hockey National Championship Tournament for 14U, 16U and 18U teams.

**19.15** When there is more than one (1) Tier II Youth team in any tournament bound age classification (14U, 16U, 18U) in a state, each Tier II Youth team must play a minimum number of home and home (unless the teams agree otherwise) games each season against each of the other Tier II teams in their age classification in their state. Beginning in the 2026-27 season, the requirement is 2 games. These games must be completed by January 15 and are required to qualify for the CAHA Tier II Youth State Tournament. Exceptions to this policy must be appealed in writing to the CAHA Tournament Committee by January 15.

**19.16** Associations will notify CAHA with the name of the teams in each Tier II age group (14U, 16U, 18U) that are subject to this policy within 2 weeks of the first date of Tier II tryouts. The National Bound teams that are subject to this policy will be communicated to all Tier II Associations no later than 1 week after the deadline. Per 19.9, these teams are required to play 2 games per season against other National Bound teams in their state. If a team does not play the required games, they will not be eligible for the CAHA Tier II State Tournament. Teams are expected to comply with the requirement, and no circumstance will be accepted that excludes teams. Games lost to situations like bad weather or equipment failure at a rink are expected to be rescheduled as a priority for all team's schedules.

**19.17** All Tier II teams properly registered in North Carolina or South Carolina at the age classifications designated in 3.1 may enter the CAHA State Championship Tournament.

**19.18** Each Association is allowed a maximum of two (2) Tournament entries per age group for the Youth Tier II State Tournament.

**19.19** CAHA limits the rostering of out-of-affiliate players for Tier II to 2 players per team for each age group.

**19.20** The tournament will be divided into divisions based on state and age classification. A team's state affiliation will be determined by the state in which the team is registered. Additionally, 80% of the rostered players on a registered Tier II team must legally reside in the state of registration. Legally residing is defined as 1) an un-emancipated minor whose parents' or guardian's primary residence is inside the state of registration, 2) a player who has reached the age of majority with legal residence (more than 50% of the calendar year) inside the state of registration. Additionally, no player may create a residence for the purpose of playing hockey. Temporary or limited guardianships are not permitted or recognized by CAHA as residence in the states of North Carolina or South Carolina. Any exception must be approved by the CAHA Board of Directors. Exceptions will be allowed only for teams who roster players residing on a state border where the closest proximity to a Tier II team crosses the state line. This determination will be based on the roster of the current USA Hockey season.

### **19.21 GIRLS'/WOMEN'S**

**19.22** Girls'/Women's teams in tournament bound age classifications are required to participate in the Southeastern District Girls'/Women's Tournament. Should more than one (1) team exist in any Girls'/Women's tournament bound age classification, CAHA shall determine the method for advancement to the Southeastern District Girls'/Women's Tournament on or before November 1 of the current season.

**19.23** When there is more than one (1) Tier I or Tier II Girls' team in any tournament bound age classification (14U, 16U, 19U) in the affiliate, each Tier I Girls' and Tier II Girls' team must play a minimum number of home and home (unless the teams agree otherwise) games each season against each of the other Tier I Girls' or Tier II Girls' teams in their age classification in the affiliate. Beginning in the 2026-27 season, the requirement is 2 games. Tier I Girls' games must be completed by January 1 and are required to qualify for the CAHA Tier I Girls' State Tournament or the Southeastern Tier I Girls' Tournament. Girls' Tier II games must be completed by January 15 and are required to qualify for the CAHA Tier II Girls' State Tournament or the Southeastern Tier II Girls' Tournament. Any exceptions to this policy must be appealed in writing to the CAHA Tournament Committee by January 1 for Girls' Tier I teams and January 15 for Girls' Tier II teams.

**19.24** Associations will notify CAHA with the name of the teams in each Tier II age group (14U, 16U, 19U) that are subject to this policy within 2 weeks of the first date of Tier II tryouts. The National Bound teams that are subject to this policy will be communicated to all Tier II Associations no later than 1 week after the deadline. Per These teams are required to play 2 games per season against other National Bound teams in the affiliate. If a team does not play the required games, they will not be eligible for the CAHA Tier II State Tournament. Teams are expected to comply with the requirement, and no circumstance will be accepted that excludes teams. Games lost to situations like bad weather or equipment failure at a rink are expected to be rescheduled as a priority for all team's schedules.

**19.25** Any association whose Girls'/Women's team qualifies for the Southeastern District Girls'/Women's Tournament and fails to fully participate therein, or which qualified for the subsequent USA Hockey National Championship Tournament and fails to fully participate therein shall not be permitted to register ANY Girls'/Women's teams in the succeeding playing season and shall be referred to the Disciplinary/Disputes Resolution Committee for additional disciplinary action.

**19.26** Each Association is allowed a maximum of two (2) Tournament entries per age group for the Girls Tier II State Tournament.

**19.27** CAHA limits the rostering of out-of-affiliate players as follows:

**Women's Teams:** Shall be limited to no more than 30% of out of affiliate players per Women's team. Out of affiliate player is defined as a player with legal residence (more than 50% of the calendar year) outside of the states of North Carolina or South Carolina. Additionally, no player may create a residence for the purpose of playing hockey.

**Girls Tier I 16U and 19U Teams:** Shall be limited to no more than ten (10) of out of affiliate players per Girls Tier I 19U or 16U team. The percentage of out-of-affiliate players cannot exceed 49% of a team's roster. An out-of-affiliate player is defined as 1) an un-emancipated minor whose parents' or guardian's primary residence is outside of the states of North Carolina or South Carolina, 2) a player who has reached the age of majority with legal residence (more than 50% of the calendar year) outside of the states of North Carolina or South Carolina. Additionally, no player may create a residence for the purpose of playing hockey. Temporary or limited guardianships are not permitted or recognized by CAHA as residence in the states of North Carolina or South Carolina.

**Girls Tier I 14U Teams and all Girls Tier II Teams:** Shall be limited to no more than 2 of out of affiliate players per Girls Tier II Team. An out-of-affiliate player is defined as 1) an un-emancipated minor whose parents' or guardian's primary residence is outside of the states of North Carolina or South Carolina, 2) a player who has reached the age of majority with legal residence (more than 50% of the calendar year) outside of the states of North Carolina or South Carolina. Additionally, no player may create a residence for the purpose of playing hockey. Temporary or limited guardianships are not permitted or recognized by CAHA as residence in the states of North Carolina or South Carolina.

## **19.28 HIGH SCHOOL**

### **19.29 NORTH CAROLINA: TBD**

**19.30 SOUTH CAROLINA:** the CAHA State High School Tournament will be the sole path to the USA Hockey National Championship. The CAHA Tournament Committee will oversee the South Carolina High School State High School State Tournament to ensure compliance with USA Hockey State and National Championship rules.

**19.31** High school teams competing for a USA Hockey Championship must comply with all USA Hockey and CAHA regulations regarding high school rosters and high school player eligibility.

**19.32** Teams interested in competing to represent South Carolina at the USA Hockey High School Varsity National Championship Tournament must register with CAHA to compete in the CAHA State High School Tournament. The CAHA Tournament Committee will provide the timeline consistent with 19.18.

**19.33** Teams choosing not to pursue the National Championship shall be identified as non-tournament bound teams.

### **19.34 Rules for National Bound High School Teams:**

1. All players must be full time South Carolina high school students (grades 9-12).
2. Eligibility is not to exceed eight (8) consecutive semesters starting with a player's freshman year.
3. High school students graduating mid-year are no longer full-time students and therefore, are not eligible to play on a high school hockey team, effective on their last day of attending classes full-time.
4. Players must be 19 years old or under as of December 31.
5. A limit of thirty (30) players at any one time may be rostered to a high school team. A maximum of 20 players, of which not more than 18 are skaters, shall be permitted to play in a game.
6. No billeted player competing on a Junior, Tier I, or Tier II team may be rostered on a high school team.
7. Each team must have competed as a team unit in at least (10) games.
8. Each player must have played in at least five games with their team during the regular season.
9. South Carolina high school teams shall follow all USA Hockey rules pertaining to high school competition as currently adopted or hereafter amended.
10. High school players may participate in both a high school tournament bound team and their Youth/Girls' Tier I or Youth/Girls' Tier II team.

**19.35** The CAHA Tournament Committee shall organize an end of season tournament for all declared tournament bound high school teams for the purpose of identifying a representative to the USA Hockey High School Varsity National Championship Tournament. Should only one (1) non-tournament bound team exist within a playing season, that team's season shall end at the completion of regular season games.

- 19.36** Completion Dates: Any National Bound High School end of season Tournament must be completed not less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the first day of the national championships.
- 19.37** Any tournament bound high school which qualifies for the USA Hockey National Championship Tournament and fails to fully participate therein shall not be permitted to declare tournament bound status in the next two (2) succeeding playing seasons and shall be referred to the Disciplinary/Disputes Resolution Committee for additional disciplinary action.

## **20.0 PLAYING RULES AND GAMES**

### **20.1 Playing Rules**

The Official USA Hockey Playing Rules shall be used for all games played within the Affiliate. Each member association agrees to abide by USA Hockey Playing Rules, Regulations, Policies and Declarations.

### **20.2 USA Hockey Officials**

All games played within the Affiliate shall be officiated by properly registered USA Hockey officials. Assignment of officials shall be consistent with the USA Hockey officiating assignment guidelines, as set forth in the Assignment Guidelines on the USA Hockey website.

### **20.3 Scoresheets**

All team coaches, managers, and players in attendance at a game must be listed on the certified USA Hockey Roster Registration Form (1-T) and listed on the paper or electronic game sheet. The name and CEP number for all listed coaches must also be shown on the game score sheet. To assist officials in the submission of reports through the USA Hockey Game Reporting Tool, teams using a paper scoresheet shall add a roster sticker to the paper scoresheet with the names and the USA Hockey registration confirmation number of all players and coaches participating in games for that team.

Upon the immediate conclusion of the game, the Official Scorer shall also prepare the Official Scoresheet for signature by the Referee and forward it to the proper authorities. The term “proper authorities” as applied under these rules is defined as the governing body of the team or teams involved, as determined by the Affiliate.

### **20.4 Game Reports**

Game officials shall submit written game reports to document all major penalties, game misconduct and match penalties, as mandated by USA Hockey Playing Rules. For any other incident not involving a game-suspending penalty which an official believes should be brought to the attention of the proper authorities, game reports shall be submitted to the proper authorities and shall be rendered within the reporting periods using accepted game report formats. Game officials within CAHA shall utilize the USA Hockey Game Reporting Tool for reporting match penalties, game misconduct penalties and any penalty that falls under USA Hockey Rules.

### **20.5 Non-USA Hockey Registered Teams**

Teams registered within the Affiliate should not play games against teams under suspension by the Affiliate or USA Hockey. A team registered within the Affiliate should not play non-USA Hockey teams without a Special Event Sanction Form approved by the appropriate USA Hockey Southeastern District Associate Registrar. A team registered within the Affiliate may play non-USA Hockey teams in a tournament registered with USA Hockey or when traveling outside of the United States on a Travel Permit issued by the USA Hockey Registrar.

### **20.6 Minor Penalties (USA Hockey Rule 402)**

The length of minor penalties for all Youth/Girls’ and High School games shall be pro-rated as follows:

- a) For 12U and below, games with period lengths of 12 minutes or less, the length of minor penalties

shall be 1:00 minute.

- b) For 12U and below, games with period lengths of more than 12 minutes but less than 17 minutes, the length of minor penalties shall be 1:30 minutes.
- c) For all Youth/Girls' games played at 14U and older and High School games, the length of minor penalties shall be 2 minutes.

The length of minor penalties for any Adult game remains at 2 minutes.

### **20.7 Major Penalties (USA Hockey Rule 403)**

- (a) The length of major penalties for all Youth/Girls' and High School games will be 5:00 minutes.
- (b) For the first MAJOR penalty in any one game, any player, except for the goalkeeper, will be ruled off the ice for five minutes during which time no substitute shall be permitted.
- (c) For the second MAJOR penalty in the same game to the same player or goalkeeper, the game misconduct penalty assessed shall cause the player or goalkeeper to be suspended for their team's next two games. This two-game suspension is in addition to any other required suspensions incurred during the same incident.

### **20.8 Misconduct Penalties (USA Hockey Rule 404)**

- (a) A MISCONDUCT penalty involves the removal of a player, other than a goalkeeper, from the game for a period of 10 minutes with immediate substitution taking place on ice. A player whose misconduct penalty has expired shall remain on the bench until the next stoppage of play.
- (b) For the second MISCONDUCT penalty assessed to the same player, during the same game, a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to that player in lieu of the second misconduct penalty.
- (c) A GAME MISCONDUCT penalty involves the suspension of a player or Team Official for the balance of the game with immediate substitution taking place on ice.
- (d) A player or Team Official incurring a game misconduct penalty shall also be suspended for his team's next game (the game already appearing on the schedule of that team at the time of the infraction), except that when such a penalty is imposed under Rule 403(b) (Second Major in Game) there shall be a minimum two-game suspension.

### **20.9 Match Penalties (USA Hockey Rule 405)**

A MATCH penalty involves the immediate removal of a player or Team Official for the balance of the game, and a five minute time penalty shall be assessed. A player or Team Official incurring a match penalty shall be suspended from participating in any USA Hockey games and practices until his case has been dealt with by the proper authorities.

## **21.0 SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS**

*Please refer to the SE District website for more information (<https://www.sedistrict.org/>)*

### **21.1 Tournament Approval**

All teams, associations or organizations hosting tournaments within the Affiliate must obtain approval for any tournaments from the appropriate USA Hockey Southeastern District Associate Registrar. To obtain approval for a tournament, the team, association, or organization must submit to the Southeastern District Associate Registrar a tournament application and any required fee. Full-ice 6U/8U tournament play is not authorized within the Affiliate and the Southeastern District Associate Registrar should not sanction tournaments within the Affiliate with full-ice 6U/8U games. Upon receipt of the tournament permit the tournament personnel may then promote or advertise the tournament as a USA Hockey and Affiliate sanctioned tournament.

### **21.2 USA Hockey Registration**

All players and teams participating in any sanctioned tournament must be properly registered with USA Hockey or otherwise authorized by the Southeastern District Associate Registrar to participate in the

tournament.

### 21.3 Non USA Hockey Tournaments

Teams or associations registered within the Affiliate should not host, play in, or otherwise participate in any non-USA Hockey sanctioned tournament. This rule does not apply to tournament games in Canada or other international events authorized by travel permit or other USA Hockey authorization.

### 21.4 Tournament Discipline Committee

All sanctioned tournaments played within the Affiliate must appoint a tournament discipline committee. For any match penalties assessed during such tournament the tournament discipline committee shall notify the Affiliate Vice President of the player or coach’s home District/ Affiliate of the penalty and shall furnish the Affiliate Vice President with a complete copy of the score sheet, the Referee Game Report(s) and a report of the finding and sanction imposed by the tournament discipline committee. For players and coaches registered within the CAHA, such notice shall be furnished to the Affiliate Vice President, League Commissioner, and the association/club president.

### 21.5 Jurisdiction of Tournament Discipline Committee

The authority of a tournament discipline committee is limited to suspension of the player, coach, or team official for those tournament games. Participant’s home affiliate has original authority for all match penalties.

## 22.0 ADM GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY AGE GROUP

CAHA believes our Associations should strive to deliver USA Hockey’s ADM Best Practices in structuring their seasons for Tier I AAA, Tier II AA/A, Travel A/B, House Select B, House Select and House competitive levels. Associations should work toward increasing the value of the hockey experience for the family, especially in travel costs and lost school days. The key principles for all age groups is to align with ADM best practices for practice to game ratios, maximizing skill development, increasing value to families, and playing more games locally while minimizing overall travel costs. For House programs currently at a 1:1 practice to game ratio so any movement towards a 2:1 practice to game ratio will increase overall skill development. Recommended guidelines for games or game days and geographic boundaries are designed to increase retention, improve family value, and increase skill development.

6U	24x36 Nets	Cross-Ice Games	Blue Pucks	House only + Jamborees
8U	36x48 Nets	Cross-Ice Games	Blue Pucks	House only + Jamborees
10U	48x72 Nets	Half-Ice Games	Black Pucks	Travel A Hockey starts
12U & Older	48x72 Nets	Full-Ice Games	Black Pucks	Travel Hockey Available

AGE CLASSIFICATION AND COMPETITIVE LEVEL	TARGET # PRACTICES (50-60 mins)	GAME DAYS OR GAMES - RECOMMENDED FOR ALL AGES	TARGET PRACTICE TO GAME RATIO	RECOMMENDED MAXIMUM TRIPS OUTSIDE OF CAHA
<b>6U / 8U</b>				
6U / 8U	50-60	16-20	3:1	0
8U Development	60-75	20-25	3:1	0
<b>10U</b>				
10U House	50-60	20-25 Game Days (25-50% Half ice)	2:1	0
10U Select and B	50-60	20-25 Game Days (25-50% Half ice)	2:1	1
10U A	75-80	20-25 Game Days	3:1	2
<b>12U</b>				

12U House	60-70	30-35 Game Days	2:1	0
12U Select and B	60-70	30-35 Game Days	2:1	1
12U A	80-90	30-35 Game Days	3:1	2
12U AA	80-90	30-35 Game Days	3:1	3
12U AAA	80-90	30-35 Game Days	3:1	No limit
12U Girls	80-90	30-35 Game Days	3:1	No limit
<b>14U</b>				
14U House	80-100	40-50 Games	2:1	0
14U Select and B	80-100	40-50 Games	2:1	No limit
14U A	120-130	40-50 Games	3:1	No limit
14U AA	120-130	40-50 Games	3:1	No limit
14U AAA	120-130	40-50 Games	3:1	No limit
14U Girls	120-130	40-50 Games	3:1	No limit
<b>16U/18U</b>				
16U/18U House	80-100	50-60 Games	2:1	0
16U/18U	80-100	50-60 Games	2:1	No limit
16U/18U A	120-130	50-60 Games	3:1	No limit
16U/18U AA	120-130	50-60 Games	3:1	No limit
16U/18U AAA	120-130	50-60 Games	3:1	No limit
16U/18U Girls	120-130	50-60 Games	3:1	No limit

- 22.1 6U AND 8U DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES:** The key principles for 6U and 8U are to focus on fun, engagement, active practices, and age- appropriate training which includes station-based practices to teach skills and concepts. This is where “Hockey for Life” begins, and fun should not be underestimated. If it is not consistently fun at this age, the novelty of the sport will wear off and players may eventually quit. House teams may be formed but standings and scores are not kept. 8U Player Development programs may be offered that include skill development sessions and 8U Player Development teams. These programs and teams must be open to all players via open registration.
- 22.2** 6U and 8U teams may not be formed using tryouts, invitation only or targeted recruiting.
- 22.3** Per ADM guidelines, it is recommended that 6U & 8U House programs be set up in a 3:1 practice to game ratio where practices are 50-60 minutes in length. Where this is not possible, the recommendation is a maximum of 20 game days and the balance in practices to attain a 1.5:1 or 2:1 practice to game ratio.

AGE GROUP	LEVEL	# PRACTICES 2:1 OR 3:1 RATIO	GAME DAYS	OFF-ICE	GEOGRAPHY
6U & 8U	House Only	50-60	16-20	1 per week	8U Scramble Jamborees within CAHA
8U Development	Open Signups	60-75	20-25	1 per week	8U Scramble Jamborees within CAHA. Team Jamborees with travel permit to GA, TN, VA, MD, DC only.

- 22.4** CAHA would like to refocus our efforts on the core American Development Model (ADM) developmental principles of 8U hockey. "At its core, Red, White and Blue Hockey is high-performance training at 8U. It is playing cross-ice games and conducting station-based practices and is designed to get the best out of each player. In this environment, a player’s activity level skyrockets because their engagement level increases, which leads to an increased skill set and love of the game. Drills are designed to focus on multiple skills and situations, increasing time with the puck and situational repetition. The goalies are also more involved in the drills because they get more shots to stop. It has been proven that kids who begin their hockey training in this environment develop a better foundation of skills and hockey instincts and enjoy the game more. It is because of this emphasis on fun and development that we are asking associations, teams, coaches, and parents to include station-based practices and cross-ice games at the 8U level. Doing so is an important part of the development process at this age." Policy statement adopted from the USA Hockey ADM Handbook for 8U Hockey.

**22.5** Member Associations must adopt the ADM principles of player development for 6U and 8U hockey.

- a) All 6U practices are station-based, fun and keep the players moving all the time. Touches and repetitions are to be maximized. Games are 5 versus 5 cross-ice, use 12x36 or 24x36 nets and blue pucks and do not use goaltenders. All 6U games must be played using a cross-ice format.
- b) All 8U practices are station-based, focused on skill development, are fun, keep the players moving all the time and introduce hockey sense concepts like puck support. Touches and repetitions are to be maximized. Games are 4 versus 4 cross-ice, use 36x48 nets and blue pucks, and players try the goaltender position but do not specialize as goaltenders at this age. Infrequently, Associations may play games in the half-ice format. In every case where the half-ice format is used, the teams play 5 versus 5 (each team has 5 skaters and a goalie).
- c) 6U and 8U teams may not be formed using tryouts, invitation only or targeted recruiting. No 6U teams may be formed for any reason outside of House programs.
- d) Association House programs may offer an open registration “8U Development” program that may include additional skill development sessions and the formation of teams that play other Association’s 8U Development teams. Players on 8U teams are not “selected” as an All-Star or Select team – it must be an open registration for all players who wish to participate (20.2 c.).
- e) The use of Advanced, Intermediate, Beginner levels are encouraged to have players play with players of similar skill. 8U teams may be formed to play in House leagues. No standings are kept. Team rosters should be 9-12 players.
- f) The goaltending focus at 8U is to have goalie equipment available to try the position and eventually convert to full-time goalies. However, all goalies should play out and not play goalie full-time at this age. Players should rotate playing the position on a regular basis, preferably using goalie quick change gear.

**22.6** 8U cross-ice scramble or team Jamborees may be held by any Member Association, in partnership with CAHA or separately. These Jamborees must be open to all players or teams in CAHA, use 36 x 48 nets, blue pucks, rotating goalies, no scorekeeping and no winners or losers. We encourage the use of Student Referees to help with referee development.

**22.7** **8U Development Teams** – as stated in 20.2 d., House Associations may offer a supplemental 8U Development program to form 8U Development teams. When these programs are offered, the following will apply:

- a) No 6U teams may be formed outside of House programs. 6U players may play on 8U Development teams.
- b) 8U teams cannot be formed until September 15. Registration may be taken before September 15th, but the teams cannot be formed until September 15.
- c) 8U Development teams may not be formed using tryouts, invitation only or targeted recruiting.
- d) 8U Development team players must play in a USA Hockey House program to participate in a supplemental 8U Development program.
- e) If the House program offers an 8U Development team option, any travel-only program operating in the same geography cannot offer an 8U Development team program.
- f) If there is no 8U House program available within 20 miles of the rink where a travel-only program rents 50% or more of their ice hours, the travel-only program may offer a House 8U program with the optional add-on of an 8U Developmental team. An 8U House program must be formed before an 8U Development team option can be offered. These programs must follow all the rules for 8U Development Programs. This option must have the approval of the CAHA Board of Directors.

## 22.8 8U Travel Permits

Any 8U team that wants to leave the CAHA geography to attend a tournament, exhibition game, 8U Jamboree, or any other reason outside of CAHA, they must follow these guidelines.

- a) Submit a travel permit. It is recommended to submit 30 days before the first day of the event. Please do not financially commit to any event before receiving approval.
- b) The tournament or 8U Jamboree that a team attends must be cross-ice (preferred) or half-ice and be USA Hockey sanctioned. The size of the rink that the tournament is played on can be no larger than half of the ice surface of that specific rink and no larger than a single rink 135' x 50'.
- c) Teams must have an official USA Hockey Official Team Roster for each event.
- d) Any 8U team from CAHA may travel outside for any reason (exhibition games, practices, tournaments, jamborees, etc.) of CAHA 2 times per full season (August to March)
- e) No 6U or 8U player may travel outside of CAHA more than two (2) times per full season for any reason.
- f) Teams/Associations that violate this rule will be referred to CAHA Disciplinary Committee and be subject to the following disciplinary action:
  - o First Offense by any team in an Association – \$500 fine payable by the Association to CAHA.
  - o Second Offense by any team in the same Association – \$1000 fine payable by the Association to CAHA. The Association will be referred to the CAHA Disciplinary Committee for review.

**21.9 10U Development Guidelines:** The key principles at 10U are to follow age-appropriate concepts and skills so players enjoy the experience and develop both as hockey players and young kids. The focus is on fun, engagement, active practices, age-appropriate training, and basic hockey knowledge. To increase retention and the value to families, we look to achieve 3:1 practice to game ratios, increase local play, and reduce travel.

**21.10 10U Games:** The goal is to have 50% of all 10U games be in the Half-Ice format. It is recommended that all 10U House, 10U House Select, and 10U B play a minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) of the team's overall games using a half-ice format. The remaining games may be full-ice games.