



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association Policy & Guidelines

Standardized Discipline Policy for Match Penalties

Section: Playing Rules

Approved: July 8, 2021

At the 2021 Annual Congress, USA Hockey adopted a Standardized Discipline Policy addressing Match Penalties (“USA Hockey SDP”). The USA Hockey SDP established suspension range recommendations for match penalties to serve as a means to create consistency in the application of suspensions involving players or team officials assessed match penalties. Any match penalty assessed under USA Hockey Playing Rule 601(f.1) (physical Assault of Official) is excluded from the USA Hockey SDP. The USA Hockey SDP sets forth a procedure that may be adopted by the Affiliate in each instance when a match penalty is assessed.

MAHA adopts the USA Hockey SDP to the extent that it does not conflict with MAHA Bylaws and Rules and Regulations. To the extent there is a conflict, the MAHA Bylaw, Rule or Regulation applies. Under MAHA Bylaw 6, MAHA District Councils act as the disciplinary action committee for the designated District and the Chair of each District assists the MAHA Executive Committee, Officers and Board of Directors in any and all matters concerning his/her home District, including the administration of disciplinary hearings under USA Hockey Bylaw 10 and MAHA Bylaws and Rules/Regulations.

When a match penalty is assessed, the official(s) will submit the incident report to the Chair of the affected District. The Chair of the affected District will review the report and make a preliminary determination of one of the following:

1.) The incident report is accurate, and the proper application of the rule(s) has been implemented. The action warrants the suspension as outlined in the policy. The offending party is then notified of this finding and offered the opportunity to accept the suspension or reject the decision and request a hearing. If a hearing is requested, the hearing shall be offered in accordance with Playing Rule 405(c) and with USA Hockey Bylaw 10D (Suspension Hearings/Domestic Competition Playing Rules). If the offending party requests a hearing under this section, the hearing body may, as a result of that hearing, reduce the suspension, maintain the suspension or increase the suspension imposed.

-or-

2.) The incident report was determined to be inaccurate (mis-application of the rule(s) or wrong player identified), in which case the matter shall be turned over to the proper authorities as determined by the Chair or other designated representative for further review.

-or-

3.) The incident report is accurate, and the proper application of the rule(s) has been implemented. However, the action and/or history warrants further disciplinary review. The proper authorities as determined by the Chair or other designated representative shall notify the offending party that a hearing shall be conducted in accordance with Playing Rule 405(c) and USA Hockey Bylaw 10D (Suspension Hearings/Domestic Competition Playing Rules).

MAHA adopts this Policy with the intention to create consistency in assessing discipline related to Match Penalties and provide an efficient manner to handle discipline related to Match Penalties. MAHA expects the Chair of each District to follow this Policy and work with the MAHA Executive Committee and other District Chairs to provide consistent outcomes related to Match Penalty discipline. If a particular player or team official is a repeat offender in the MAHA disciplinary system or the conduct alleged to have occurred results in injury to another participant or is otherwise serious, MAHA expects that the Chair or other designated representative will set the matter to a hearing and not provide the option of an agreed upon suspension without a hearing.

USA Hockey Standardized Discipline Policy – Match Penalties

USA Hockey has established suspension range recommendations for match penalties. These suspension ranges shall serve as a means 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.

(Note) Any match penalty assessed under Rule 601(f.1) (Physical Assault of Official) is excluded from this policy. Original jurisdiction in any hearing resulting from a match penalty assessed under Rule 601(f.1) (Physical Assault of Official) shall reside with the Affiliate and is governed by USA Hockey's "Resolutions of Disputes, Arbitration and Suspensions" section of the current USA Hockey Annual Guide.

When a match penalty has been assessed, the official(s) will submit the required incident report to the proper authorities as determined by the Affiliate. The proper authorities as determined by the Affiliate will designate an individual who shall review the report and make a preliminary determination of one of the following:

1.) The incident report is accurate and the proper application of the rule(s) has been implemented. The action warrants the suspension as outlined in the policy. The offending party is then notified of this finding and offered the opportunity to accept the suspension or reject the decision and request a hearing. If a hearing is requested, the hearing shall be offered in accordance with Playing Rule 405(c) and with Bylaw 10D (Suspension Hearings/Domestic Competition Playing Rules).

(Note) If the offending party requests a hearing under this section, the hearing body may, as a result of that hearing, reduce the suspension, maintain the suspension or increase the suspension imposed.

-or-

2.) The incident report was determined to be inaccurate (mis-application of the rule(s) or wrong player identified), in which case the matter shall be turned over to the proper authorities as determined by the Affiliate for further review.

-or-

3.) The incident report is accurate and the proper application of the rule(s) has been implemented. However, the action and/or history warrants further disciplinary review. The proper authorities as determined by the Affiliate shall notify the offending party that a hearing shall be conducted in accordance with Playing Rule 405(c) and Bylaw 10D (Suspension Hearings/Domestic Competition Playing Rules).

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 the purpose of this policy, there shall be three levels of standardized suspension. 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(f) Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct (*This includes all match penalties assessed under this rule except 601(f.1) Physical Assault of an Official*)

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

Level 2 – Match penalties 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)