



PITTSBURGH AMATEUR HOCKEY LEAGUE RULES

2020-2021 SEASON

GAME PLAY SECTION

VII. GAMES

1. CONTROL OF THE GAME:

- A. The referee may do anything in his power to control the game, including the premature termination. In such instances the PAHL Rules Committee will decide whether the game shall be canceled, suspended, forfeited, or considered complete.
- B. In addition to suspensions imposed under USAH rules, the PAHL Rules Committee or the PAHL Discipline Committee, at their discretion, may investigate any incident that occurs in connection with any game. They may assess additional penalties and/or suspensions for any offense committed before, during or after a game, by a team, team player, team official, or parent, whether or not such offense has been penalized by a referee.

2. COACHES:

- A. The Head Coach or acting Head Coach will initial the score sheet prior to the start of the game to acknowledge a correct roster, documented player game misconducts, and game curfew time.
- B. All coaches who are present on the bench for a registered PAHL team must have completed the required USAH coaching certification as required by USAH, as well as the age specific USAH training module, Act 33/34 screening by the approved USAH vendor, and completion of the USAH Safe Sport module.
- C. All coaches participating with the team on the ice or bench must be on the team's USAH roster.
- D. After a PAHL game, it is the responsibility of the head coach to review the game score sheet to determine if any player has received a game misconduct, had five (5) or more penalties, or the team was in excess of fifteen (15) penalties during the game, the goals and penalties are recorded correctly, and then by signing the score sheet acknowledges that he/she has done so.
- E. Contact the Discipline Director within 48 hours of a game for any and all game misconducts.
- F. The Head Coach shall be responsible for the eligibility of his/her players.

3. REFEREES:

- A. Only duly registered officials holding USAH Referee cards shall be authorized to serve as referees or linesmen in any PAHL league game.
- B. USAH on-ice officials are required to file reporting on game misconducts and match penalties with USAH. The PAHL Discipline Director will access those reports and will request additional reporting from the referees if necessary.
- C. The name of any parent or fan and their association, whose conduct is inappropriate or contradictory to the guidelines of USAH and the PAHL shall be noted on the score sheet and any additional information must be included as necessary.
- D. A referee or linesman for a PAHL regular season game or a PAHL playoff game must satisfy the following requirements.
 - i. CANNOT be a parent, step parent, brother, sister, or live in the same household of a player, or of any team in the same skill level of an age division.
 - ii. CANNOT be a coach of either team.
 - iii. CANNOT be a player in the same age division.
 - iv. CANNOT be a coach in the same skill level of an age division
 - 1. Violation of the above rule must be reported to the PAHL Discipline Committee for consideration.
 - 2. These rules may be waived by the mutual agreement of the coaches prior to the start of the game and must be written and signed by both coaches on the score sheet.
 - 3. Failure to sign the agreement will result in a forfeiture of the game by the offending team.
- E. A minimum of two officials are required for all 18U youth, 16U youth, 14U youth, and girls 19U through 14U games. If only one official shows up and the second does not arrive within 15

minutes of the start time, the game must be rescheduled. The teams are not permitted to scrimmage in place of the scheduled game. If the teams engage in an unauthorized scrimmage, both head coaches will be suspended.

- F. An association, at their discretion, may choose to schedule 3 officials for a game, and if done, will follow the USAH rule of one (1) referee and two (2) linesmen.

4. EMT:

- A. An EMT (see rule V.4.) is to be present at all PAHL games. At multiple ice surface facilities, there must be an EMT at each ice surface if there are separate games being played simultaneously.
- B. EMTs are to sign the score sheet indicating their presence prior to the start of the game.
- C. EMTs must be on a player's bench, in a penalty box, or scorer's area.
- D. If an EMT is not present for a game, the game must be canceled and rescheduled. The home association will receive a \$100.00 fine for each offense.
- E. The EMT must have at their disposal a suitable first aid kit or trauma bag.
- F. Coaches cannot serve as both EMT and coach in the same game.
- G. If an EMT must leave the immediate game area temporarily to attend to a player, the game may continue.

5. PARENTS / SPECTATORS:

- A. Parents must at all times before, after, and during the game, conduct themselves according to the USAH "Spectator Code of Conduct" and "Zero Tolerance Policy".
- B. Failure to follow proper code of conduct will result in disciplinary action.

6. NUMBER OF PLAYERS:

- A. Each PAHL team must have the proper minimum number of players dressed and on the ice before the opening face-off, under penalty of forfeiture. The teams cannot waive this rule. A fine of \$100 will be assessed if a violation occurs.
- B. A PAHL game may be played without a team goaltender.
- C. A minimum of nine (9) players are required to play a PAHL game with the exception of the 18U / 16U youth and girls 19U age classifications where a minimum of eight (8) players are required.
- D. The opening face-off shall not be delayed by more than fifteen (15) minutes by reason of insufficient players (to be defined as players on the ice/bench). The game must be played according to the scheduled start and curfew times, unless the rink schedule permits a change before the puck is dropped. Once the puck is dropped the curfew cannot be adjusted.
- E. An insufficient number of players or inappropriate USAH level coach will be classified as a no show subject to the appropriate costs and fines.

7. TEAM DOCUMENTS:

- A. Each PAHL team coach and/or manager must have in their possession at every PAHL scheduled game the following documents.
 - i. A USAH "Player Roster Form" that has been certified by the Mid Am Hockey Registrar to be true and correct.
 - ii. Evidence of completion of required USAH Coaching Education Program (CEP) clinics and Age Specific Training Modules. Evidence of Act 33/34 screening and Safe Sport compliance as required by USAH for each coach and manager. A current USAH roster showing these requirements is sufficient as evidence of completion.
 - iii. Other USAH or PAHL documents pertinent to players and coaches eligibility.
 - iv. PAHL "Risk Acknowledgement and Liability Waiver" form for any player that is playing up at an age level that is one year in age above USAH's recommended guidelines.
- B. Birth certificate copies shall be kept on file by the association registrar and not in the team book as per USAH.

- C. Documentation will be available, upon request, to a team official of the opposing team prior to the game.
- D. Any challenge by an opposing team, of a player or coach's eligibility, shall be noted on the score sheet, and signed by the team official.
- E. The PAHL Rules Committee will review and investigate challenges of eligibility; for final determination of penalties, including forfeitures and suspensions when found valid.
- F. A verification of coach and team manager USAH required credentials will be completed by the PAHL.

8. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS:

- A. All PAHL member association team players, at all levels, are required to properly wear protective equipment at all practices, warm-ups, and games as required by USAH rules with the following additions.
 - i. All players are required to wear an internal mouthpiece.
 - ii. An unaltered neck guard of a commercial type specifically designed as a slash guard. Socks, rags, handkerchiefs, etc., tied around player's throat, are not adequate throat protection.
 - iii. In addition, goalkeepers are required to wear a "gobbler style" throat protector and neck guard.
 - iv. Only a player who is recuperating from a facial and/or mouth injury, or who has permanent vision impairment, as certified by a doctor's certificate, may wear special face and/or mouth protection.
- B. All uniforms on a team, including the goalkeeper's, shall be of the same color and shall be numbered (no duplicate numbers).
- C. In case of similar colors, the home team must make the change. Coaches are to cooperate in the choice of colors. Home teams should get their choice but must accommodate visiting teams that have only one color jersey.
- D. All PAHL players must wear a "stop patch" on the back of their jersey for all PAHL games.
 - i. "STOP" stands for the "Safety Towards Other Players" Program.
 - ii. A player is not able to play in any game that the "stop patch" is missing.
 - iii. The scorekeeper will not start the game clock until the player without a "stop patch" leaves the ice.
 - iv. Curfew times will not be changed.
 - v. Stop patches are not required for Mite R, W & B.
 - vi. The "STOP patch" must be placed in the center back of the jersey, right above the number, and below any name plate affixed to the jersey. Existing jerseys that have the "STOP" incorrectly placed should be changed if possible, short of making players buy new jerseys or incurring significant costs. All new jerseys purchased going forward from the 1617 season must have the "STOP" in the correct location.



- E. Goal pins shall be used in games for all divisions, squire through midget, including girls.
- F. No players, coaches, managers, or other personnel on the bench, in the penalty box or in the scorekeeper's area will be permitted to utilize or adorn any device (electronic or not) for audio, video or photographic purposes. **Playing appropriate music before, after, and during game breaks, is a permitted exception.**

9. GAME TIME:

- A. PAHL league games will be played using USAH “stop time” rules.
- B. When one team has a lead of seven (7) or more goals there will be a “running clock”.
 - i. The clock will run continuously except when a goal is scored, a penalty is called, the puck leaves the playing area, or a player is injured.
 - ii. Penalties occurring with a “running clock” will also be on “running time” and will be consistent with USAH rules. There is no 3 minute penalty during the “running clock” time.
 - iii. The game will return to “stop time” whenever the goal differential is six (6) goals or less.
 - iv. The “running clock” will not start prior to the second period even if the seven (7) goal lead is attained in the first period.
 - v. A maximum goal differential of seven (7) will be the largest goal differential that can be displayed on the scoreboard.
- C. It is the responsibility of the home association to abide by all curfew times and to insure that each official game score sheet has a curfew time written in its proper space.
- D. Prior to the start of the game, the official timekeeper must notify both coaches of the curfew time and have both coaches initial the score sheet.
- E. The official timekeeper and on ice officials are the only people that have the authority to curfew a PAHL league game (coaches cannot curfew a game).
- F. Time outs are not permitted in PAHL regular season games.
- G. Overtime is not permitted in PAHL regular season games.

10. HANDSHAKE AND EXITING THE ICE:

COVID-19 RULE ADJUSTMENT FOR 2021 SEASON: The Handshake is waived for this season. In it's place both teams will line up on their respective blue lines for a celebratory stick tap.

- A. The handshake will take place after the game.
- B. If an incident occurs during the handshake, both players and coaches may be issued a game misconduct by the referee. If a player is involved in a second incident during the PAHL season, the player(s) and involved coach(s) will receive a 3 game suspension.
- C. The referees are the only parties permitted to waive the handshake and send teams directly to the locker rooms. Refusal by the coaching staff to shake hands will result in a one (next) game suspension to the head coach.

11. SCORE SHEET:

- A. The coach and/or manager have the ultimate responsibility for the complete and accurate records of the team.
- B. The score sheet shall be initialed prior to the game by each head coach, the official scorekeeper, and the EMT.
- C. After a PAHL league game, the score sheet is to be verified and signed by all referees, linesmen, coaches and the official scorekeeper, and a copy retained by each PAHL association's statistician.
- D. Any match penalties, game misconduct and/or suspensions, and the serving of which, is to be noted on the top of the score sheet.
- E. Record the name of any parent or spectator, their association, and the type of offense as indicated and requested by an on ice official.
- F. The HOME team has the ultimate responsibility that the score sheet is filled out in an accurate, legible, and complete manner according to PAHL and USAH rules.
 - i. Date of game.
 - ii. Age group.
 - iii. Level and division.
 - iv. Complete team names, both home and visitor (home team on the left side of the score sheet and visitor on the right side of the score sheet).
 - v. Game number.
 - vi. Curfew time.

- vii. Coach and manager names and phone numbers.
- viii. On ice officials.
- G. Upon completion of a PAHL league game, the home team is responsible for forwarding game results to the appropriate Division Statistician.
 - i. The white (top) copy of the game score sheet must be scanned and emailed to the division statistician by Monday, 6:00 pm, following the weekend the game was played. The scan must clearly show both rosters and all scoring and penalty sections. If the score sheet document is not legible the team will be notified and the sheet will need to be resubmitted.
 - ii. The white (top) copy of the score sheet must be retained by the home association, filed and sorted, and available to the PAHL if requested during the season.
 - iii. Failure to scan and email score sheets as required will result in a \$10.00 per score sheet fine assessed to the home team association.
- H. Score sheet must be submitted in a legible, complete, and accurate manner. If not, the PAHL member association home team will be assessed a fine as defined by the PAHL Fine Schedule, payable to the PAHL.
- I. The PAHL Discipline Director must be notified within 48 hours of any game misconducts or match penalties. This is the responsibility of the team whose player received the penalty.

12. SPORTS ENGINE GAME SCORING:

- A. All games must be scored through the Sports Engine game scoring system. The scorekeeper will need to score the game on a personal electronic device. (there is no physical terminal at the rink on which to score the game)
- B. The Sports Engine game scoring will create the record of the game, subject to final verification from the paper score sheets. The paper score sheets will still remain the final record of game results for PAHL league games.
- C. A fine of \$25.00 will be assessed to the home association for any game not scored to Sports Engine within 48 hours from the game.

13. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL:

- A. Any spectator, as well as any game participant including players, all coaches, found to be under the influence of alcohol, narcotic drugs, or illegal drugs of any kind, shall be ejected from the game and shall face a hearing before the PAHL Discipline Committee within 30 days.
- B. Prior to the hearing the violator shall not participate or be involved with the team in any way including practices, exhibition games, tournament games, or PAHL games.

14. 8U RED, WHITE & BLUE HOCKEY:

- A. Guidelines for the 8U Red, White & Blue hockey are in Section X.