



# South Dakota Amateur Hockey Association

## Playing Rules

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## SDAHA-Playing Rules



1. **Governing Rules:** The most current edition of the Official Playing Rules published by USA Hockey shall govern all play within SDAHA other than any exceptions noted within these Playing Rules.
2. **Age Classifications:** SDAHA will follow the Age Classifications as set forth by USA Hockey.
  - a. **Rostering of Girls Players:** Girls rostering as Varsity Players are to roster using 19-U age classifications. Girls rostering as Junior Varsity Players are to roster using 19-U age classifications. Girls Playing at other levels will be rostered at the appropriate Youth Level.
  - b. **Age Waivers:** A waiver permitting a player to participate in a younger age classification shall be permitted only for medical reasons and upon approval by the SDAHA Board of Directors and USA Hockey.
3. **Team Composition:** SDAHA will following the following rules in regard to Team Composition:
  - a. **Registered and Dressed Players:**
    - i. A team may register, as many players, with USA HOCKEY, INC. as permitted by USA HOCKEY, INC., but only 20 may be dressed for any league or tournament game. This rule applies to all age groups engaged in SDAHA league play.
    - ii. The maximum number of players on a team roster is twenty (20). The maximum number of players from that team who can dress as skaters for a single game is eighteen (18). The maximum number of players who can dress as goalies is two (2).
    - iii. Only eligible players/goaltenders and coaches currently registered with USA Hockey are allowed behind the bench.
  - b. **Coaches:**
    - i. Each and every team shall register and roster at least one adult coach. A rostered coach must be present at all scheduled team events. If all the rostered, registered coaches for a team are unable to be at any league game, that association may apply to the SDAHA president to allow them to have a registered and rostered coach from another league team within their association act as a coach for that team. The coach must be CEP level appropriate for the game he/she will be covering.
    - ii. All coaches (head and assistant) present, from each team, are required to sign the designated area of the scoresheet in order to verify the accuracy of the playing roster, as it appears on the scoresheet, for that game. They must include their USA Hockey CEP number, coaching level, and year that level was attained (legibly). The failure to sign the scoresheet or provide the needed details in a legible format by any coach present on the bench during game play shall automatically cause a 1 game suspension to be served during the next regularly scheduled game at the level where the suspension was earned. Subsequent failures to sign shall result in a 2-game suspension for each subsequent failure to sign the scoresheets to be served in the same manner. The SDAHA President or their delegate will notify the Voting Delegate of the Local Association when a failure is determined.
    - iii. Only eligible players/goaltenders and coaches currently registered with USA Hockey are allowed behind the bench.
  - c. **Other Items:**
    - i. SDAHA teams compete in play downs for the USA Hockey National Tournaments. A maximum of eighteen (18) skaters and two (2) goalies may dress for each game. Rostered players in excess of the dressed limit are not allowed on the player's bench.
4. **Team Divisions and Levels:** In these playing rules, the term 'division' references a specific age group (PeeWee, Bantam, Girls 14U, etc.). These divisions can contain multiple 'levels' (A, B, C, Varsity, Jr. Varsity) with A being the top skill level and B and C being developmental skill levels.
  - i. When an Association has one team in any division, that team shall play at the A or Varsity level, unless otherwise indicated in these playing rules. When an Association has two teams in any division, the first team shall play at the A or Varsity level and the second team shall play at the B or Jr. Varsity level, unless otherwise indicated in these playing rules.
  - ii. If an Association has two or more teams playing at the same level within a division (Bantam A, PeeWee C, etc.) the team selection must be conducted to yield two teams of equal ability and skill. Varsity and Jr. Varsity teams using the designated Varsity and Jr. Varsity Division team split options below are not subject to this requirement.
  - iii. No new teams may be added after levels are set. Any Association that drops a team after levels have been set shall drop the team in the lowest level. Games played outside of SDAHA league play must be played with teams registered with USA Hockey.In addition to these playing rules, certain teams playing within the SDAHA leagues will be assigned as follows:
  - a. **PeeWee Division:** Associations may field PeeWee A, PeeWee B, or PeeWee C teams, each comprised of no more than 20 eligible players from their respective rosters. If there are 23 or more teams in the PeeWee division, they shall be divided into three levels: A, B, and C.
    - i. One-third of the teams (rounding down) shall be in an A level as described in the assignment criteria below.
    - ii. One-third of the teams (rounding up) shall be in a C level as described in the assignment criteria below.
    - iii. All remaining teams shall be in a B level.**Assignment Criteria**
    - iv. Associations with three teams shall have one team in each level.

- v. Established Associations with one team shall be assigned to the A or B level using rules 4, a, i to 4, a, iii above.
- vi. Developing Associations with one team shall be assigned to the C level.
- vii. Associations with two teams shall be divided by ordering established Associations largest to smallest by the total number of registered hockey players in the Association, with the exception of Sioux Falls, whose total registration numbers shall be divided in half.
  - 1. One team from Associations with the largest registration numbers, second largest registration numbers, third largest registration numbers, and so on shall be added to the teams from rule 4, a, iv in the A level until rule 4, a, i is met.
  - 2. One team from each Association with a developing program shall be placed in the C level.
  - 3. One team from each Association with the smallest registration numbers, second smallest registration numbers, third smallest registration numbers, and so on shall be added to teams from rule 4, a, iv and 4, a, vi in the C level until rule 4, a, ii is met.
  - 4. All remaining teams shall be added to teams from rule 4, a, iv to comprise the B level.
- viii. Associations may only petition to move a team up from level C to B or from level B to A.
- b. **Bantam Division:** Associations may field Bantam teams, each comprised of no more than 20 eligible players from their respective rosters. If there are 22 or fewer teams in the Bantam Division, they shall be divided into two levels: A and B. If there are 22 or fewer teams in the Bantam Division, and an Association has multiple Bantam teams, the Association's teams shall be assigned as follows:
  - One Bantam Team: Bantam A
  - Two Bantam Teams: Bantam A and Bantam B
  - Three Bantam Teams: Bantam A, Bantam B, and either Bantam A or B (determined by Association)
  - Four Bantam Teams: Two Bantam A, Two Bantam B
  - Five Bantam Teams: Two Bantam A, Two Bantam B, and either Bantam A or B (determined by Association)
  - Six Bantam Teams: Three Bantam A, Three Bantam B
  - i. If there are 22 or fewer teams in the Bantam Division, additional Bantam teams would follow the same pattern.
  - ii. If there are 23 or more teams in the Bantam Division, they shall be divided into three levels: A, B, and C; teams shall be assigned using the PeeWee Division assignment criteria above.
  - iii. The number of registered skaters an Association would use as the guide to determine the number of Bantam teams are as follows:
    - 1-25 SDAHA Registered Bantam Skaters = at least one Bantam team
    - 26-38 SDAHA Registered Bantam Skaters = at least two Bantam teams
    - 39-51 SDAHA Registered Bantam Skaters = at least three Bantam teams
    - 52-64 SDAHA Registered Bantam Skaters = at least four Bantam teams
    - 65-77 SDAHA Registered Bantam Skaters = at least five Bantam teams
    - 78-90 SDAHA Registered Bantam Skaters = at least six Bantam teams
    - Additional SDAHA Registered Bantam skaters would follow the same pattern.
  - iv. For the purposes of these playing rules, "SDAHA Registered Bantam Skaters" means any skater registered with USA Hockey that would otherwise be rostered at the Bantam level by the SDAHA Association, if the skater is playing in any capacity within the Association, excluding any skater participating in a Tier 1 program. An Association may petition the SDAHA Executive Committee to field fewer than the required number of teams, based on demonstrated circumstances (limited facilities, in-house registrations, etc.). The SDAHA Executive Committee may accept, reject, or modify the petition to determine the most appropriate number of teams. Each petition must have annual approval.
- c. **Varsity and Jr. Varsity Division:** Associations may field Varsity and Jr. Varsity teams, each comprised of players rostered in accordance with SDAHA and USA Hockey rules. The number of registered skaters an Association would use as the guide to determine the number of Varsity and Jr. Varsity teams are as follows:
  - 1-25 SDAHA Registered V/JV Skaters = at least one Varsity team
  - 26-50 SDAHA Registered V/JV Skaters = at least one Varsity team and at least one Jr. Varsity team
  - 51-75 SDAHA Registered V/JV Skaters = at least two Varsity teams and at least one Jr. Varsity team
  - 76-100 SDAHA Registered V/JV Skaters = at least two Varsity teams and at least two Jr. Varsity teams
  - 101-125 SDAHA Registered V/JV Skaters = at least three Varsity teams and at least two Jr. Varsity teams
  - 126-150 SDAHA Registered V/JV Skaters = at least three Varsity teams and at least three Jr. Varsity teams
  - Additional SDAHA Registered V/JV Skaters would follow the same pattern. The "Freeze 10" rule would still apply to ensure fair competition at the Jr. Varsity level.
  - i. For the purposes of these playing rules, "SDAHA Registered V/JV Skaters" means any skater registered with USA Hockey that would otherwise be rostered at the Varsity or Jr. Varsity level by the SDAHA Association, if the skater is playing in any capacity within the Association, excluding any skater participating in a Tier 1 program. An Association may petition the SDAHA Executive Committee to field fewer than the required number of teams, based on demonstrated circumstances

- (limited facilities, in-house registrations, etc.). The SDAHA Executive Committee may accept, reject, or modify the petition to determine the most appropriate number of teams. Each petition must have annual approval.
- ii. Once the number of Varsity/Jr. Varsity teams is established, An Association may present a plan, to be approved by the SDAHA Executive Committee, to split players into teams of equal number (or as close to equal in number as possible) using a geographic basis. Geographic team split options include: a line dividing the municipality to produce teams of equal number; by combining zip codes within the municipality to produce teams of equal number; by combining school districts within the municipality to produce teams of equal number; or other approaches based on geography that result in an equal number of players (or as close to equal in number as possible) on each team.  
*(Section 4, a & 4, b & 4, c was all updated on 09/16/2023)*
  - d. **Junior Gold League:** SDAHA has implemented a “Junior Gold” League level as an additional option for Varsity and Jr Varsity players. The League will be operated in any season if the following requirements are met subject to the following conditions:
    - i. There must be a minimum of 4 teams to establish this level.
    - ii. These teams must save stand-alone rosters of players not on the Local Association’s Varsity or Jr. Varsity team rosters.
    - iii. Associations must field both a Varsity and Jr. Varsity team before fielding a Junior Gold team.
    - iv. If an association has more than one Junior Gold team, they must be divided evenly.
    - v. A season end tournament/jamboree may be established for these teams, including any Jr. Varsity teams that finish below eighth place in the Jr. Varsity standings.
  - e. **Other Items:**
    - i. **Freeze 10 Rule (Varsity Only):**
      - i. **First Half of the Season:** Throughout the season, the varsity coach will “freeze” 10 varsity only players for each Jr. Varsity regular season league game. These may be different players for each game but must always be a total of 10 players. This rule shall remain in effect during the first 50% of a team’s League games during the regular season. The names of these frozen players will be clearly designated on the JV score sheets for those games and they may not play the Jr. Varsity games where they are locked. For situations where two Jr Varsity games may be played on the same day during the first half of the season, coaches could lock different players for each game.
      - ii. **Second Half of the Season:** Once a Varsity Team has played 50% of their League games during the regular season, each Varsity Coach will freeze the same 10 Varsity only Players for all remaining Jr. Varsity games during the remainder of the regular season and for the Jr Varsity State Tournament. Coaches can no longer add or remove players from the “Frozen” list. The names of these frozen players will be submitted to the SDAHA President or their designee at the Halfway point of the season. The names of these frozen players will be clearly designated on the JV score sheets for those remaining games and they may not play in any Jr. Varsity games after this point.
      - iii. **Exception:** For both Girls and Boys Varsity teams, to the extent these rules would cause a Jr. Varsity team to play with less than 11 players, the Freeze 10 rule does not apply and that team shall freeze whatever number of players are in excess of the 11 players. The frozen players can change during the first half of the season, but once the halfway point of the season is reached, the same number of players and the same players will be locked for the remainder of the regular season and for the Junior Varsity State Tournament. Example: A local association has 17 players. Once the halfway point the season is reached, the same 6 players will be locked for the remainder of the season and for the JV State Tournament. *(Section Updated 05/09/2020)*
      - a. **Season Ending Injury Exception for Teams Locking fewer than 10 Players:** For any team playing under the Freeze 10 exception where it: 1) includes a player who receives a season ending injury and 2) wishes to change one of their locked players because of the season ending injury; a one-time change because of the season ending injury is allowed. This exception only allows the injured player to be added to the list of frozen players and a previously frozen player to be allowed now to participate at the JV level. The revised list of frozen players will then be locked for the remainder of the regular season and for the Junior Varsity State Tournament. A change to the list of frozen players must be submitted to the SDAHA President or their designee prior to any games being played with an altered frozen list of players. Documentation from a medical professional indicating the player can no longer participate through the date of the Junior Varsity State Tournament must also be submitted to validate the injury. Violations of this exception will be subject to the “Violations of the Freeze 10 Rule” language found below.
    - ii. **Violations of the Freeze 10 Rule:** Violations of the Freeze 10 Rule include 1) Not listing all Frozen Players on the back of the Scoresheet and 2) having a locked player participate in the game as a player in any manner. If any of these violations of the Freeze 10 Rule are found after a game has been played, the following suspensions will be imposed.
      - a. Head coaches on the bench during the violation will be assessed a two-game suspension at the Junior Varsity Level and a two-game suspension at the Varsity Level if they are listed as a Varsity Coach.
      - b. The Locked Player who participated in the game will be assessed a two-game suspension to be served at the Varsity Level.
      - c. Second Violations of the rule by a coach will result in a season suspension for the head coach. Second violations by a player will result in a season suspension for the player. After a second violation, a conference call is to be held



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with the Discipline Committee to collect input regarding the violation situations, the coach, and/or the player. The Committee may opt to withhold the season suspension depending on the circumstances. If the coach or the player were allowed to continue in the current SDAHA season, it would only be after an automatic 3 game suspension served at the Varsity Level.

- ii. **Play Up Petitions:** No petition is required to play up a level but notification must be made to the SDAHA President and Scheduler, before August 15th for Varsity and Junior Varsity levels and decided before September 1st of each year. Petitions regarding all other level teams must be made before September 15th and decided before October 1st of each year.
  - iii. **Play Down Petitions:** Petitions to the SDAHA Board of Directors to play teams at a level lower than required must be made no later than August 15<sup>th</sup> for Varsity and Junior Varsity levels and decided before September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Petitions regarding all other teams must be made before September 1st and decided before September 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Petitions for teams to play at a lower level must be supported by a documented history of inability to compete at the league level where playing rules dictate the team shall play. Any team playing at a lower level as a result of a successful play down petition becomes ineligible to compete in the State Tournament.
  - iv. **SDAHA Association Members in their first 5 Years:** New SDAHA Association Members will be reviewed regarding their historical levels of play. Those that are determined to be new associations and have not participated at any equivalent divisions/levels outside of SDAHA may play any teams at lower levels within a division only for a maximum of their first 5 years as members of SDAHA. Those associations who are determined to have participated at an equivalent level outside of SDAHA will be allowed to play at the lowest level for a maximum of 5 combined years. Combined years of play at a level will be the equivalent level while being a member or playing within any other sanctioned group and years playing at an equivalent division/level within SDAHA. After 5 years, or earlier if the SDAHA Board determines it is necessary, each level must follow the outline determined in the SDAHA Playing Rules.
5. **Dual Rostering:** A player participating on more than one SDAHA or USA Hockey, Inc. team roster (dual rostering) is not allowed except for the following cases:
- a. **Female Participants:** Except for the exceptions listed below, girls may be rostered on only one league team:
    - i. **High School Teams/Girls 14U:** For all SDAHA Sanctioned games, a player may be rostered on both a Varsity and Junior Varsity or Girls U14 team.
      - i. In addition, pending approval by the USA Hockey registrar, two or more associations may join together to form one 14U team when the numbers are not adequate to have their own team in each association.
      - ii. For all other games (pickup games and invitational tournaments), only USA Hockey team rosters (Jr. Gold A and B, Girls 19U, 15U, etc.) and rostering procedures shall be used.
    - ii. **Girls 12U:** Girls 12 and under may be rostered on a Girls 12U team and dual rostered on a mite or squirt team or a Girls Varsity/GJV team.
6. **Officials:** Referee System: The following referee systems will be used:
- a. **Youth Varsity and Junior Varsity:** Youth JV/Varsity will utilize the 4-official system for all games, as long as 2 qualified referees are available. If the scheduler has a lack of officials able to work or qualified to work, the 3-official system will be used. JV will utilize the 3-official system when there is not a Varsity game linked to that game.
  - b. **Girls Varsity, Girls Junior Varsity, Girls 14U:** Girls Varsity, Girls Jr. Varsity, and Girls 14-U will use a two-referee system. *(Section Updated 04/09/2022)*
  - c. **Bantams:** The one referee and two linesman system will be used for Bantams. *(Section Updated 04/09/2022)*
  - d. **Peewees and Squirt/U10:** Peewee and Squirt/U10 levels will use a two-referee system.
  - e. If, for whatever reason, there are no officials in attendance at the time a game should be beginning, the steps outlined in USA Hockey Rules will be followed: Coaches of two teams will agree on a referee and linesman, or they shall appoint a player from each team (home team/referee, away team/linesman). At the time the scheduled officials appear, they shall assume those responsibilities. If the referee is in attendance, but the linesmen are absent, the referee shall have the authority to appoint a linesman if he deems necessary, or at the request of either coach.
  - f. **Minor Officials:** Minor officials (timekeeper/scorekeeper/announcer and 2 penalty box keepers) shall be provided by the home team for each SDAHA league game..
7. **Equipment**
- a. **Helmets:** All helmets will be uniform same color for teams at the 12U, 14U, and Varsity/JV levels.
  - b. **Jerseys:** All jerseys must conform to the USA Hockey, Inc. numbering specifications. (USA Hockey, Inc. Rule 203(d)), i.e. 10-inch for varsity, 8 inch for bantam, 6 inch for peewee and below. Additionally, 4-inch numbers are required on both sleeves for varsity and bantam, and 3 inch numbers are required for peewee and below. All jerseys for a team must be of uniform color. The home team shall wear light jerseys; the visiting team shall wear dark jerseys unless other arrangements have been agreed upon by both teams prior to the game. *(Section Updated 04/15/2023)*



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- c. Mouthpiece:- All players are required to wear colored mouthpieces.

### 8. Game Play

- a. Warm-up and Starting Times: In SDAHA play, warm-ups times shall be as follows:

- a. 5 minutes for JV, Bantams, G14U, Peewee, and Squirts *(Section Updated 04/09/2022)*
- b. 8 minutes for Varsity levels. *(Section Updated 04/09/2022)*
- iii. Initial resurfacing for the Varsity level will be done AFTER warm-ups and prior to the start of the game.
- iv. All YJV games will immediately precede their youth varsity game and GJV games will immediately precede their girls varsity game when being played on the same day, in the same arena.
- v. Teams shall be dressed and prepared to take the ice at the start of warm-ups. No team shall take the Ice for warm-ups until so notified by the on-ice officials. The on-ice officials shall start each game at the scheduled starting time or as soon thereafter a possible if the game cannot start at the scheduled time by reason of an unavoidable delay, (examples: an injury in a preceding game, mechanical problems, etc).
- vi. The listed game start time on the schedule is when the puck should be dropped for the first play of the game. No special events (such as senior day, mite scrimmages, special programs, etc.) may delay the start of any game or the start of any period. Special events should be scheduled around the league schedule.
- vii. The home team shall provide a minimum of twenty (20) pucks for the visiting team to use for warm-ups.
- viii. No league game may start after 5:00 pm on Sunday unless agreed upon by both towns.
- ix. No league games may start before 6:00 pm on Friday unless mutually agreed upon by both local associations.

- b. Period Length:

- i. The Youth Varsity/Jr. Varsity and Girls Varsity/Jr Varsity will have 17-minute stop time periods.
- ii. The Squirt/U10 Level will have 12-minute stop time periods.
- iii. All levels except the Youth Varsity/Jr. Varsity, Girls Varsity/Jr Varsity, and Squirt/U10 will have 15-minute stop time periods.

- c. Resurfacing:

- i. When the players leave the ice, the clock should be set at 15 minutes for resurfacing.
- ii. Play is to resume at the end of the 15 minutes. When players return to the ice there shall be NO warm-up time.
- iii. G14U, Peewee, and Squirt/U10 games shall be started on clean ice and shall not be resurfaced during the course of the game. *(Section Updated 04/09/2022)*
- iv. Bantam and Jr. Varsity games shall be started on clean ice and need only be resurfaced between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods. *(Section Updated 04/09/2022)*
- v. If the ice is not resurfaced between periods, a 5-minute rest period shall be allowed.
- vi. All varsity games shall start on clean ice, following warm-ups, which shall also be resurfaced between the periods but not between the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> period and the start of an overtime period.
- vii. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the on-ice officials shall have the discretion to direct that the ice be resurfaced between periods if they shall deem the same necessary for the safety of the participants.

- d. Running Time: Any time there is a 6 goal differential, running time shall be implemented and continue until the goal differential drops to 4, at which time stop time will resume. When running time is in effect, the clock shall not stop except for a stoppage in play due to rink problems, injury, the scoring of a goal, a penalty or for any other cause as directed by the referee. In the event of a rink problem, injury, or for any other cause as directed by the referee, the clock shall resume running as soon as the cause of the stoppage has been corrected or removed from the ice. In the case of a goal or a penalty, the clock shall stop only long enough to record the goal or penalty. In the event of any question, the referee's direction shall be final. EXCEPTION: Running Time shall not be used at the Squirt/U10 Development Level.

- e. Delayed Offsides: At the Varsity and Jr. Varsity levels, a delayed offside will be allowed. The offending player(s) will be permitted to negate the offside by "tagging up" with the blue line. In the case of a non-intentional offside, the defending team will be allowed to play the puck. All offensive players must exit the zone and can reenter only after the last player to exit the offensive zone has touched the blue line with skates or the puck has been moved to center ice.

- f. Tie Games: State games, other than Squirt/U10 games, that end in a tie at the end of regulation time will be decided after a five minute rest period, with the use of one 10-minute overtime sudden death period. During overtime, goalies will remain in the same as at the end of regulation. The first team to score will be declared the winner. If neither team scores during the overtime period, the game will be declared a tie. EXCEPTION: Squirt/U10 games can end in a tie at the end of regulation time.

- g. Termination of Game: The referee will have the right to terminate a game, if he/she feels the conditions of the game, crowd or other circumstances warrant such action per USA Hockey Rules.

- h. Timekeeping:

- i. Time on the score clock shall be kept on descending time.
- ii. Time on the score sheets for goals and penalties shall be kept by recording the same time as shown the score clock.

- i. Penalties: Minor Penalties shall be assessed as follow:

- i. Squirt/U10 level shall be for the duration of 1 minute.



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- ii. Pee wee/U12, Bantam/U14, and Girls 14U levels shall be for the duration of 1 minute 30 seconds
- iii. Varsity and Junior Varsities levels shall be for the duration of 2 minutes.

### 9. **Scheduling Games:**

- a. SDAHA will use a block scheduling concept, having two or more games in each arena each day and avoiding isolated games. Bantams will be scheduled in blocks with youth varsity if possible.
- b. All changes to the SDAHA issued schedule for Bantams, Pee wees, Squirts/U10, and Girls 14U after October 1 each season must be approved by all associations involved and the SDAHA scheduler.
- c. All Varsity and Junior Varsity level changes after September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year must be approved by all associations involved and the SDAHA Scheduler.
- d. League teams may not schedule more than three blocked weekends between the start of the Level's first weekend of play to that level's state tournament weekend prior to the anticipated league schedule being issued for that level. "Blocked" weekends mean a team does not want to schedule any SDAHA league games on those weekends. For Associations dual/triple rostering 14U/Junior Varsity/Varsity players, only two weekends per team will be allowed to be blocked prior to the schedule being issued.
  - i. Blocked weekends for 14U/Junior Varsity/Varsity are due to the SDAHA Scheduler by September 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - ii. Blocked weekends for all other levels are due to the SDAHA Scheduler by September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- e. Adding or dropping teams and times of games must be completed by October 1<sup>st</sup> and the League Game Schedule and Times will be completed by November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- f. Rescheduling of games delayed due to weather shall be done promptly by the teams involved. If they are unable to come to an agreement quickly on rescheduling, the SDAHA president will make the decision. If possible, at least 48 hours notice shall be provided to the official's scheduler.

### 10. **Game Misconducts/Suspensions**

- a. **Three Penalty Rule:** Under SDAHA league play, a game disqualification shall be automatically assessed when a player receives a third penalty during a single game. Enforcing this penalty is the joint responsibility of the referees, the scorekeeper, the coach, and the player. The official scorer will notify the referee when a player has received their third penalty under this rule. The referee will then notify the head coach of the offending team, and that player shall immediately leave the game and go to their locker room. If it is determined during a game that a team allowed a player to continue to participate after receiving their third penalty, the player must leave the game immediately and go to the locker room. Both the player and head coach are assessed a one league game suspension. Suspensions will follow the same guidelines as set forth for game misconduct penalties. If it is determined after a game is completed that a team allowed a player to continue to participate after receiving their third penalty, the player and head coach are still assessed a one league game suspension. No forfeit of game results from violation of this rule. The game disqualification shall not count as an additional penalty for the player or team, and no penalty minutes will be added to a player's statistics.
- b. **Game Misconducts**
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> game misconduct - 1 (USA Hockey) game suspension with notice sent to local president.
  - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> game misconduct - 2 game automatic suspensions (1 USA Hockey, 1 SDAHA) with notice sent to local president.
  - iii. 3<sup>rd</sup> game misconduct - season suspension. A conference call is held with the Discipline Committee to collect input from the coach and player, and to review the player's prior misconducts. The Committee may opt to withhold the season suspension depending on the severity of the prior game misconducts. If the player were allowed to continue play in the SDAHA, it would only be after an automatic 3 game suspension.
  - iv. 4<sup>th</sup> game misconduct - Season suspension. Notice of suspension sent to local president.
- c. **Suspensions:** If a player or coach receives a game misconduct penalty and is required to serve an additional game suspension under USA Hockey or SDAHA rules, the following general rules apply:
  - i. When a suspension occurs, it must be served in the next, already scheduled, USA Hockey sanctioned game, whether it be league or non-league. If the player/coach does not serve their suspension in the appropriate game immediately following the game in which their penalty occurred, the player will serve the suspension and the coach goes before the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee for possible further disciplinary action.
  - ii. Suspensions can only be served only in previously scheduled games. A pickup game cannot be inserted in the schedule to allow a player or coach to serve a suspension.
  - iii. All suspensions should be noted on the game score sheet when the suspension is being served. If the suspension is not noted on the score sheet, the coach and the player (if the suspension involves a player) will need to serve an additional game suspension.
- iv. **Suspensions at Varsity/JV/Jr Gold Levels:**
  - a. If a suspension occurs in a JV/Jr. Gold B game, the suspension must be served in the next JV/Jr. Gold B game.
  - b. If a varsity/Jr. Gold A game is scheduled before the JV/Jr. Gold B suspension can be served, the player or coach may not participate in that varsity/Jr. Gold A game. The player or coach may not participate in varsity/Jr. Gold A games until





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his JV/Jr. Gold B suspension is served; however, this number of varsity/Jr. Gold A games cannot exceed the number of JV/Jr. Gold B games the player/coach has been suspended. For example, if the player/coach has a one game JV/Jr. gold B suspension, the varsity/Jr. Gold A suspension cannot exceed one game.

- c. If a suspension occurs in a varsity/Jr. Gold A game, the suspension must be served in the next varsity/Jr. Gold A game.
- d. If a JV/Jr. Gold B game is scheduled before the varsity/Jr. Gold A suspension can be served, the player or coach may not participate in the JV/Jr. Gold B game. The player or coach may not participate in JV/Jr. Gold B games until his varsity /Jr. Gold A suspension is served; however, this number of JV/Jr. Gold B games cannot exceed the number of varsity/Jr. Gold A games the player/coach has been suspended. For example, if the player/coach has a one game suspension, the JV/Jr. Gold B suspension cannot exceed one game.

- d. **Supplemental Discipline:** Players receiving a major penalty in a game where a game misconduct should have been assessed by the referee per USA Hockey rule, but wasn't, will be assessed a game misconduct penalty by the Discipline Committee Chairperson. Likewise, any referee's description of a USA Hockey rule violated that automatically carries a Match Penalty, and a Match was not called, will be referred to the Discipline Committee for further action.
- e. **Misconduct Received in Non-League Play:** Locals having players or coaches receiving a game misconduct during non-league games or tournaments must submit a copy to SDAHA of the score sheet in which the infraction occurred and a copy of the score sheet (signed by the referee) in which the game suspension was served. The non-league major and match penalties are cumulative with any league suspensions. If the non-league penalty is not reported to SDAHA prior to the next scheduled league game, the head coach shall receive an SDAHA game misconduct to be served in the next scheduled league game for the local association not reporting the penalty, plus the local will be assessed a \$200 fine. For the second and subsequent offenses during a season, the local's fine goes up \$200 for each occurrence.
- f. **Ejected Players:** Players ejected from the ice surface during any hockey contest, league or non-league, should be accompanied by an adult to the locker room. Any on ice official, at their discretion, can mandate the accompaniment of a player by an adult. The on-ice official may temporarily suspend play until this requirement is met. The adult may be a coach, team manager, league official or a parent of the same team. The accompanying adult should remain with the player in the locker room or other appropriate area until the game's end or until the player leaves the ice arena and grounds. If a team fails to comply with the requirement of the on ice official, the head coach of the offending team shall receive a SDAHA game misconduct to be served the next scheduled league game.

### 11. Video Review Policies:

- a. The SDAHA Video Review Committee (VRC) is hereby authorized to take disciplinary action under the authority of USA Hockey Playing Rule 410(a).
- b. The VRC shall be comprised of members appointed by the SDAHA President that shall include the SDAHA Disciplinary Committee Chair and SDAHA Referee-in-Chief. The Referee-in-Chief will nominate up to 4 officials to serve on the committee each season. All video reviews will also involve on-ice officials from the game in question. *(Section Updated 04/15/2023)*
- c. Requests for video review must be submitted to the SDAHA Disciplinary Committee Chair by an Association President by Noon CDT on Tuesday following the incident. The submitting association will complete a form including, date, level of play, period incident occurred, what USAH rule was violated, what USAH rule should have been enforced. Video will be 30 seconds long and include 10-15 seconds before the incident and 10-15 seconds after. Video will be unedited footage only. The offending team will be notified of a submitted video by Noon CDT Wednesday following the incident, the video will also be shared with them. *(Section Updated 04/15/2023)*
- d. The VRC should notify the President of the association of any player being considered for supplemental discipline. A form will be submitted to both associations with the committee's decision by 3:00 PM CDT on Thursday following the review. This form will include reasons, with rule reference, as to why the committee made their decision. *(Section Updated 04/15/2023)*
- e. The VRC may impose a suspension of up to 3 games or schedule a hearing before the Disciplinary Committee if a submitted video depicts a clear and definitive infraction regardless of whether or not the infraction was penalized by an on-ice official.
- f. Discipline imposed by the VRC may be considered if the offending player comes before the Discipline Committee for future incidents and past disciplinary actions may be considered in VRC decisions.
- g. VRC decisions are subject to appeal to the SDAHA Disciplinary Committee under USA Hockey By-law 10.
- h. A fee of \$100 per video review request shall be assessed to the submitting association and will be allocated to the SDAHA referee fund. *(Section Updated 04/15/2023)*

### 12. Rink Safety:

- a. **Four-Foot Rule:** Spectators near the rink boards and glass are not permitted to 1) hit, strike, or slap the glass, 2) hang on the rink boards and glass, or 3) hang over/reach over the rink boards and glass onto the playing surface. Play may be temporarily suspended to ensure enforcement of this rule. It will be the responsibility of the on-ice officials and rink management to enforce this rule.
- b. **Spectator Safety Rules:**
  - i. Spectators shall not be permitted on the ice before, during or after a game unless adequate safety precautions are taken, e.g., a carpet or mat is provided to walk on the ice.



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- ii. Spectators shall not be permitted in the vicinity of any dressing room at any time players are coming to, going from or in the dressing room.
  - iii. It shall be the responsibility of rink management to enforce these rules.
  - c. **Air Quality:** Each local association shall be responsible for establishing its own procedures to monitor the air quality in its home arena.
13. **League Champions:** In the event two teams are tied in points at the end of the season, the league champion will be determined using the tie breaker rules outlines in SDAHA State Tournament Rules.