



NEW JERSEY YOUTH HOCKEY LEAGUE

ANNUAL GUIDEBOOK

2024-2025

April 3, 2023



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OFFICIATING FEES	
Effective the 2023-2024 season through the 2026-2027 season	
8U (Mite)	\$35 per official
10U (Squirt)	\$60 per official
12U (Pee Wee)	\$75 per official
14U (Bantam) (including 130)	\$90 per official
16U and 18U (Midget) (including 150)	\$110 per official
If only one official appears, the official receives 2 times usual rate at 10U level and higher	

SCHEDULE OF FEES, FINES AND DUE DATES			
<p>Below is a consolidated list of potential fees, fines and due dates listed in the Constitution and Bylaws and Rules and Regulations. Please refer to the related rule for specific information as other sanctions may also be applicable. This table is only meant as a guide to applicable fees, fines and due dates and does not contain the entire Bylaw or Rule.</p>			
FEES			
Bylaw/Rule Reference	Description	Amount	Due Date
Bylaw Art. III	Annual League membership	\$650	August 15
Bylaw Art. III	Annual per-team fee	\$475 or \$325	August 15
Bylaw Art. IV	Escrow account contribution and capital contribution – new Associations only	\$1,000 and \$550	15 days of the conferring of probationary status
Bylaw Art. IV	Scheduling partner – per team fees	\$475 or \$325	August 15
Rule 73	Request for protest or appeal	\$250	Review rule for due date



DUE DATES		
Bylaw/Article Reference	Description	Due Date
Bylaw Art. III	Membership – naming Voting Delegate	May 1
Bylaw Art. III	Membership – Association leaving the league notice	February 1
Bylaw Art. III	Membership – Association dormancy notice	February 1
Bylaw Art. III	Membership – annual fees	August 15
Bylaw Art. III	Membership – Organizational Questionnaire form submitted	May 1
Bylaw Art. III	Membership – change of Association name, logo, colors, home rink	30 days prior to Winter meeting
Bylaw Art. IV	New Membership/Scheduling Partner – submission of application to be considered for membership	February 1
Bylaw Art. IV	New Membership/Scheduling Partner - sharing new member applications with the body	10 days before New Membership Review meeting
Bylaw Art. IX	Meetings – submission of the name of the voting delegate for Annual Meeting	Not later than 7 days prior to the meeting
Bylaw Art. X	Rules and Regulations – rule proposal submission	February 28
Rule 6	Team Classification – team declarations	May 1
Rule 14	Team Registration and Rostering – probationary team rosters submitted	July 15 or 10 days after USAH Registry is available, whichever is sooner
Rule 18	Team Registration and Rostering – player movement from Tier I to Tier II	September 16 or October 16
Rule 19	Team Registration and Rostering – player movement from AA to A and A to B	September 16 or October 16
Rule 20	Team Registration and Rostering – Junior player to Tier II roster	September 16
Rule 89	Coaches, Managers and Other Team Officials – coach removed from roster if incomplete credentials	January 1



FINES		
Bylaw/Rule Reference	Description	Amount
Bylaw Art. IX	Absence of Voting Delegate at Meetings	\$200-\$500 per occurrence
Rule 6	Team Classification – Withdrawing team after commencement of scheduling	\$1,000 per team
Rule 11	Team Registration and Rostering – team roster not uploaded – game forfeited	\$1,000 per forfeited game
Rule 24	Team Registration and Rostering – Failure to move goaltender prior to the game start time in ScorekeeperWEB	\$50 per occurrence
Rule 25	Team Registration and Rostering – failure to move player prior to the game start time in ScorekeeperWEB	\$50 per occurrence
Rule 28	Team Registration and Rostering – use of an ineligible player	\$1,000 and forfeit per game
Rule 34	League Schedule – late entry of team schedules and rosters into ScorekeeperWEB	\$200 per occurrence
Rule 34	League Schedule – changes to the published schedule made without AVP approval	\$100 to initiating team per occurrence
Rule 36	League Schedule – changes to a scheduled game – lack of notification to opposing team and AVP	\$1,000 fine and forfeit of game
Rule 38	League Schedule – team refusing to complete the official schedule	\$1,000 per game not played
Rule 40	League Schedule – team fails to appear for scheduled game	\$1,000 per game
Rule 57	Penalties – failure to notify Commissioner of Match penalty	\$500 to the offending Association
Rule 58	Penalties – failure to notify Commissioner of fighting penalty	\$500 to the offending Association
Rule 66	Penalties – use of an ineligible player	\$1,000 and forfeit per game
Rule 74	Score sheets – game results not uploaded within 24 hours	\$100 per game
Rule 85	Officials – spectator ejection	\$500 to the offending Association for each ejection



Rule 87	Coaches, Managers, and Other Team Officials – failure of the coaching director, head coach or manager to attend the annual coach and manager meeting	\$100 per occurrence
Rule 96	Playoffs – use of an ineligible player	\$1,000 and forfeit of game
Rule 102	Playoffs – failure of a team to participate in playoffs or AAHA Tournaments	\$5,000 per team
Rule 103	Playoffs – forfeit of a playoff game	\$2,500 per game
Rule 111	Payment and Assessment of Fines – forfeits	\$1,000 per game



MISSION

The NJYHL is a group of youth hockey associations that are committed to serving the needs of our players and families above all other considerations. Our athletes are our bottom line.

The NJYHL is the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association (AAHA) sanctioned Tier II league operating in the state of New Jersey. Our member teams have a clear and well-established path to compete at AAHA and National tournaments.

The NJYHL is a non-profit, grassroots league that minimizes our overhead cost and invests our members' league fees back into our players through jamborees, league playoffs, and other events. We seek to keep youth hockey affordable for as many families as possible while still offering a high-quality experience.

The NJYHL has been in continuous existence for over forty years. Our knowledge and experience, along with the well-established and respectful rapport among our member associations, allow us to operate efficiently.

The NJYHL is run by volunteers who understand the hockey landscape locally and nationally. Many league and member association leaders also hold positions in the Atlantic District and with USA Hockey, and as such they have many opportunities to speak with a wide range of hockey professionals, understand current best practices within our sport, and plan for upcoming changes.

The NJYHL is a New Jersey-based league. We offer our membership good competition within a reasonable travel distance.

The NJYHL makes decisions by consensus and every member association – and by extension, every family – has a voice. We share a respectful understanding that each member association has different needs, strengths, and challenges and we are committed to working together to do what is best for our league, our member associations, and ultimately our players and families.

The NJYHL believes that our member associations should have flexibility and autonomy so they can best serve the needs of their players and families. We seek to provide our **teams with** a robust league schedule while leaving room for them to take advantage of other opportunities such as supplemental leagues and tournaments of their choosing.



The NJYHL is inclusive. We welcome new members, promote the growth of our sport across the state, and understand that the strength of our league depends on the success of our member associations.

The NJYHL views our players as individuals with needs, interests, obligations, and talents that transcend hockey. We understand that our student-athletes need time away from the rink to focus on academics, strengthen relationships with family and friends, and explore other sports and non-athletic interests.

The NJYHL believes that rankings and tournament eligibility should be decided on the ice. We play a balanced schedule that ensures a level playing field among our teams.



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Article I: Name

The name of the corporation (hereinafter called the “Corporation” or the “League”) is New Jersey Youth Hockey League (NJYHL), a New Jersey nonprofit corporation.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of the Corporation is:

To be organized and to operate in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (“Code”); to operate an amateur ice hockey Association exclusively for the purpose of supporting and developing amateur ice hockey athletes by:

- A. Developing and encouraging sportsmanship between all players for the betterment of their physical and social well-being.
- B. Encouraging and improving the standard of amateur ice hockey.
- C. Conducting ice hockey competition in an organized setting to provide an avenue for member teams to advance to USA Hockey Affiliate and National Championships.
- D. Associating with other ice hockey associations.
- E. Any and all acts in furtherance of the foregoing purposes.
- F. To foster the support and development of ice hockey athletes for national and international competition.

Said Corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to Associations that qualify as exempt Associations under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any federal future tax code.

Article III: Membership

Any Association registered with USA Hockey shall be entitled to membership upon meeting the requirements as set forth in these Bylaws.

Membership shall entitle each Association to have one “Voting Delegate” on the Board of Directors (hereinafter, the “Board”). Voting Delegates should be an Association President or Coaching Director, or other decision-makers from the Association. If the Voting Delegate is unable to attend a meeting, Associations may designate an alternate Voting Delegate to attend with advance notice to the Secretary. The Voting Delegate must be named by May 1st on the



Annual Contact List Update form and will serve in that capacity until the next annual meeting. No individual serving in more than one capacity shall be entitled to more than one vote.

All member Associations shall be assessed the appropriate fees necessary to operate the League. Each member Association shall maintain an escrow balance of \$1,000. Membership shall be automatically renewed each year. Any Association wishing to leave the League shall notify the League in writing prior to February 1st. That Association is excluded from voting at the NJYHL Annual Meeting. Upon receipt of the request, all remaining escrow funds will be refunded to the Association. Any existing member Association may, with prior Executive Board approval, withdraw from League participation for up to two seasons with written notification to the League prior to February 1st. Membership dormancy begins the first day of the next season following the February 1st notification. During this period of dormancy, all rights accorded to the Association as a league member are suspended. The NJYHL retains the escrow until such time the Association notifies the League in writing that they are leaving the League. The Board may impose any conditions for reactivation it deems appropriate. The Association starting a dormancy period is not eligible to vote at the upcoming Annual meeting.

The following schedule of payments covers all fees due to the League for the upcoming season (season is defined herein). Additional charges might be incurred for optional purchases of materials or fines/penalties incurred during the season. No additional fees will be assessed for playoffs or Affiliate Tournaments.

Payments due August 15th:

- Annual league membership fee – all Associations - \$650 per Association
- Team fees – for all teams 10U and higher - \$475 per team
- Team fees – for all teams 8U - \$325 per team

Each member will submit an annual “Organizational Questionnaire” by May 1st of each year and shall provide notice to the NJYHL Executive Board of the occurrence of any event constituting a change in control as promptly as practical.

Any Association having an outstanding balance (team fees, fines, etc.) for thirty (30) days or more following publication of the Treasurer’s report or who fails to have a representative at fifty percent (50%) or more of the League’s Board meetings will be considered on probation for the remainder of the current season. An Association placed on probation will result in the loss of eligibility for NJYHL playoffs, AAHA Affiliate Championships and USA Hockey National Championship for that year and is ineligible to vote at any NJYHL Board Meeting. This may be appealed to the Executive Board (defined herein) in accordance with USA Hockey rules governing Appeals.



A member Association may not change its name, logo, home rink and/or team colors unless it is approved by a simple majority vote of the Board at the Winter Meeting. Notice to make a change should be sent to the Executive Vice President in writing 30 days prior to the Winter meeting.

There can be only one NJYHL member Association per home rink facility. Home rink facility is defined as the rink where a current NJYHL member Association plays a majority of its games. The only exception to this rule will be with the express written consent of the current NJYHL member Association playing at the facility in question agreeing to share the home rink facility with another NJYHL member Association. If a current NJYHL member is displaced by an applicant to the NJYHL, that applicant must wait three years from the date of displacement before applying for membership to the NJYHL. If one NJYHL member is displaced by another NJYHL member requesting to change its home rink affiliation, the NJYHL member displacing the other NJYHL member shall be suspended from the NJYHL for a period of no less than three years from the date of the displacement.

At the start of each playing season, the League shall publish the Constitution and Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations of the League (otherwise known as the NJYHL Guidebook).

Each member Association must submit a USA Hockey roster for each of its teams in accordance with the Rules and Regulations. All teams within an Association that participate in the NJYHL must be USA Hockey registered, and it is recommended that any Association teams that do not participate in the NJYHL also register with USA Hockey. The Executive Board will have the right to request evidence that any Association fielding a team(s) outside of the USA Hockey umbrella is following the requirements set forth in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

Any member Association shall be subject to forfeiture of its membership for, but not limited to, the following:

- A. Failure to comply with the Constitution and Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations of the League, USA Hockey, or the USA Hockey affiliate having jurisdiction over the member Association.
- B. Failure to meet its League obligations.
- C. Actions deemed detrimental to hockey and/or the League.

Any officer or member Association may petition the Board to expel an alleged offending member Association at the Annual Meeting or at any regular meeting after the Annual Meeting but prior to the commencement of the playing season. However, before the Board may act on such petition, the alleged offending member shall be given written notification via email at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting at which the petition shall be acted upon. The alleged offending member Association shall have the right to be heard at such meeting and to present any evidence



or information it deems pertinent. A two-thirds majority vote of the Board present at the NJYHL Board Meeting shall be required for the expulsion of a member Association under this provision.

At the start of each season, all member Associations and their coaches, managers, governing bodies, etc. must follow all USA Hockey requirements including background screening, Safe Sport certification, etc.

Article IV: New Membership/Scheduling Partner

Any new Association that wishes to apply for membership must apply in writing to the President and copy the Executive Vice President no later than February 1st and must supply the following information:

- A. Number of teams currently fielded
- B. Number of players in current Association
- C. Age of Association
- D. Origin of new players to Association (i.e., in house, clinics, etc.)
- E. Completed Organizational Questionnaire
- F. If not already owned by the requesting new member Association, a letter of proof of home ice from the rink owner being claimed as the home rink

This information will be sent to existing member Associations ten (10) days prior to the New Membership review meeting. At this Meeting, the previously submitted written application for membership is considered final and must be accompanied by an oral presentation to the Board petitioning for membership to the NJYHL. NJYHL EVP shall set the New Membership Review meeting date for the membership to review and vote on all prospective new members.

The following are the conditions for membership consideration:

- A. The Association must be registered with USA Hockey.
- B. The Association must enter the NJYHL with two or more teams competing in at least two age levels in addition to an established feeder program.
- C. Acceptance of a new member into probationary status shall occur by an affirmative vote of a majority of the existing members present that are eligible to vote at the meeting date set by the EVP.



- D. Membership in the NJYHL shall commence on the date of acceptance by the Board and upon receipt of the escrow account contribution and the capital contribution. Payments due from new members to the NJYHL within 15 days of the conferring of probationary member status:
- Escrow account contribution - \$1,000
 - Capital contribution - \$550
- E. Once accepted as a member, the Association will continue as a probationary member until the following Annual Board Meeting at which time a vote shall be taken to:
- Accept the Association as a permanent member
 - continue the probationary status for another year
 - terminate the membership
- F. A probationary member's engagement with the League may be terminated for cause by due process during the season. Termination requires a majority vote of the Associations present at a regularly scheduled NJYHL Board Meeting.
- G. While a probationary member, the Association will have full voting rights, except on votes concerning membership status, and be subject to the same rules and regulations as regular members.
- H. A probationary member may roster no more than two (2) players per team who were rostered with other NJYHL teams the previous season and have a release if necessary. Failure to comply with the rostering and player movement rules as stated in the Constitution and Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations may result in loss of eligibility for membership in the League.
- I. A probationary member will not be permitted to field National bound (14U, 16U 18U) AA teams while on probation unless they were granted Approved Tier II status by the AAHA prior to becoming a probationary member.
- J. All probationary members cannot retain independent Tier II status in the AAHA. By accepting membership in the NJYHL, the Association must withdraw its independent Tier II status in the AAHA.

The NJYHL Executive Board may, at its sole discretion, include an Association in its league as a scheduling partner if a written request is submitted to the Administrative Vice President by February 1st. A scheduling partner must:

- A. Be a member of USA Hockey
- B. Participate with a minimum of three 10U and higher teams
- C. The teams and skill levels must be declared during the formal team declaration process
- D. Have its home rink be within a 90-minute driving radius from the geographic center of New Jersey (located in Mercer County, 5 miles SE of Trenton)
- E. Comply with the same player movement rules as a probationary member
- F. Pay all annual team fees (but are exempt from NJYHL Association membership fees).



- G. A scheduling partner Association shall not advance to post-season play outside of the NJYHL playoffs.
- H. A scheduling partner must re-apply annually to the NJYHL.

Article V: Officers

The officers of this Association shall be the Commissioner, President, Executive Vice President, Administrative Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Registrar. The officers shall comprise the Executive Board and shall be responsible for conducting the day-to-day operation of the League. Each officer shall have one vote, except the President, who shall only vote in the event of a tie.

An officer may not serve as a representative of any member Association. They shall be elected to office by the member Associations by a simple majority vote. The election shall take place at the annual meeting. Nominations from the floor are to be submitted no later than March 25th to the Nominating Committee Chairperson.

- A. Elections in even-numbered years are for the positions of Commissioner, Executive Vice President, Administrative Vice-President, and Treasurer.
- B. Elections in odd-numbered years are for the positions of President, Secretary, and Registrar.

The term of office shall be for two years. All officers may serve successive terms if elected by the majority of the members who are eligible to vote. In the event an officer is unable to complete a full two-year term, a replacement will be appointed by the President with the majority approval of the Executive Board.

If the President is unable to complete a full two-year term, a replacement will be appointed with a simple majority approval of the Executive Board.

Any officer may be removed at any time by an affirmative vote of a three-quarters majority of the member Associations present at a regular NJYHL Board Meeting wherein notice of such is placed on the agenda three weeks in advance.

The Officer positions are:

- A. Commissioner: The Commissioner shall have the full authority to conduct the on-ice activities of the League. The Commissioner shall have the power to suspend any member Association, team, player, or team official for conduct detrimental to hockey, either on or off the ice. The Commissioner shall have the full authority to assign penalties/sanctions in



accordance with violations of the Constitution and Bylaws or the Rules and Regulations of the League. The Commissioner shall rule on any unresolved conflicts which prevent the completion of the League schedule.

- B. President: The President shall preside at all the meetings of the League. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of the Association. The President may vote on any matter to determine the outcome of any motion.
- C. Executive Vice-President-Master Scheduler: The Executive Vice-President-Master Scheduler shall act as an assistant to the President. The Executive Vice-President-Master Scheduler shall be responsible for the interpretation of the League Constitution and Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations, recommending any changes, additions and/or deletions as needed. The Executive Vice-President-Master Scheduler shall be responsible for publishing annual the Constitution and Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and other pertinent League information. The Executive Vice President is responsible for the planning and conducting of an annual informational meeting of all League team representatives.
- D. Administrative Vice-President: The Administrative Vice-President shall be responsible for all activities related to the scheduling of League games. The Administrative Vice President shall supervise changes to the league schedule and shall publish/distribute the master schedule and all changes to that schedule. The Administrative Vice President shall also act as the chairperson for the NJYHL Playoffs and is an ex-officio member of the Competition Committee.
- C. Secretary: The Secretary shall give or cause notice to be given of all meetings. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all proceedings of the meetings of this Association, maintain an attendance record for each meeting, distribute minutes of the meetings to the membership, and maintain an up-to-date directory of all members. The Secretary shall maintain a permanent file of the Association's correspondence and shall prepare outgoing correspondence as requested. The Secretary shall perform other duties as may be designated by the President.
- D. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds and securities of the Association and shall keep full and accurate accounts or receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the League. The Treasurer shall deposit all sums of money and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the League in such depositories as may be designated by the Board. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the Association as may be ordered by the Board or the President, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements. The Treasurer shall render a full



accounting of the financial condition of the Association at all regular meetings or whenever



requested to do so by the Board. At the Annual Meeting, the Treasurer shall present an Annual Report (income statement and balance sheet) of the financial condition of the League.

- E. Registrar: The Registrar shall maintain the official rosters of the member teams as required by the League Constitution and Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations. The Registrar also acts as the liaison with the AAHA Risk Manager and is responsible for providing excess injury insurance information to the membership.

Article VI: Board

The Board shall be comprised of the officers of the League and one Voting Delegate from each member Association.

The Board shall be empowered to elect officers of the League. The Board shall also be empowered to enact the Constitution and Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations necessary for the accomplishment of the purposes of the League and to enable the officers to conduct the activities of the League.

Article VII: Appointed Positions

The President and the Commissioner shall appoint the following non-voting positions with the concurrence of a majority of the Executive Board members for a term of one year which is renewable annually with a majority concurrence of the Executive Board:

- A. Referee-in-Chief: The Referee in Chief is responsible for supervising and evaluating league officials and assignors. The RIC may appoint assistants to aid in carrying out the duties. These assistants will report to the Referee-in-Chief. Prior to the start of the League season, the Referee-in-Chief shall participate in a meeting for team coaches for the purpose of reviewing League Rules and Regulations.
- B. League Statistician: The League Statistician shall be responsible for all game-related statistics and corrections as needed. The duties shall include the monitoring of penalties/suspensions of players and coaches, as well as the assessment of fines for late submission of game statistics. This may be a compensated position that is supervised by the Commissioner and the Administrative Vice President.
- C. Master Scheduler: Shall assist the Administrative Vice President in creating the league schedule and running the playoffs. This may be a compensated position that is supervised by the Administrative Vice President.



- D. Communications/Webmaster: Shall be responsible for coordinating the marketing and public relations for the league and for the maintenance and update of the NJYHL website and social media channels. This position may be externally contracted and report to the Executive Board.
- E. Coach-In-Chief: The Coach in Chief handles all tasks relating to coaching as designated by the President and Commissioner. The Coach-in Chief is responsible for the support and training of all Association Coaches. The curriculum shall be developed in cooperation with the AAHA Coach-in-Chief.
- F. Appointee-at-Large: The Appointee-at-Large shall assist the Executive Board with any special projects and assigned tournaments.
- G. SafeSport Coordinator: Serving as NJYHL's initial contact for members reporting suspected abuse, misconduct, or other violations, compiling information on disciplinary issues within NJYHL and, when appropriate, reporting such information to USA Hockey.
- H. Association Representatives: Are responsible for representing the "in the field" concerns of the membership. There shall be a minimum of two representatives representing geographically located members (i.e. North and South). These appointees are engaged in the day-to-day operations of their Associations so they can share relevant information and experience as a member of the Executive Board. They shall be the representatives of geographically adjacent member Associations. The Association Representatives shall participate in all meetings and will also be responsible for assisting at NJYHL events.

Article VIII: Committees

The President, with the advice of the Executive Board, shall appoint the following committees:

- A. Nominating
- B. Rules and Regulations
- C. Competition Committee
- D. and any other additional standing committees as are necessary for the purpose and programs of the Association.

The duties of such committees shall be set forth by the President.

Each standing committee shall submit a report at the Annual Meeting and may submit a report at a regular meeting to keep the Board informed of the activities related to the Association. The Secretary shall publish a membership list for each committee.



The Rules and Regulations Committee will do an annual review of the League Constitution and Bylaws and Rules and Regulations to determine if changes are needed. The committee will be headed by the Executive Vice President. The Executive Vice President will present all rule proposals to the Board at the scheduled league meeting in March. Rule changes will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

The Competition Committee shall have two co-chairs appointed by the Administrative Vice President, who serves as an ex-officio member of the Committee. The committee is comprised of coaching directors from 35% of the membership, which includes a balanced representation of Association members. The committee will review team declarations, confirm they are accurate, and share those findings with the Administrative Vice President and Master Scheduler. The Committee will review team performance from prior seasons, as well as pre-season performance to determine team placement.

Article IX: Meetings

The Secretary shall notify the membership in advance of all meetings. A quorum of a majority of the members must be present to conduct a meeting.

All voting meetings must be done in person, with a hybrid (virtual) option available. Non-voting meetings can be conducted virtually. Only the Voting Delegate (previously defined in Article III) may vote. Only members in good standing shall be entitled to vote. To be in good standing, a member Association shall not be indebted to the League, on Probation (other than new probationary members), or be under suspension by the League at the time of the meeting. The Secretary shall maintain a list of those eligible to vote at each meeting.

- A. Regularly scheduled Board meetings of the League shall be held at a time and place designated by the Executive Board. A calendar of dates of meetings for the year shall be published in June prior to each playing season.
- B. The NJYHL will hold three (3) meetings each year – one at the start of the season (Opening Meeting), one mid-season (Winter Meeting), and one at the end of the season (Annual Meeting). Changes to the meeting schedule may be made at the discretion of the Executive Board until 30 days prior to the scheduled meeting except in the case of extenuating circumstances. A detailed agenda for each meeting will be shared with all member Associations no later than five days prior to the meeting.

Failure to have a Voting Delegate at a regularly scheduled meeting will result in the following penalties:

- First Offense - \$200.00 fine



- Second Offense - \$300.00 fine
- Third Offense - \$500.00 fine and the offending Association is ineligible to vote for the remainder of the season. The Association may be subject to review and sanctions imposed by the Executive Board.

With the approval of the Executive Board, under extreme circumstances, an Association may have someone other than a Voting delegate represent that club at a regular NJYHL Board Meeting with advance notice sent to the Secretary.

- C. Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting of the League shall be held after the end of the playing season at a time and place designated by the Secretary and approved by the Executive Board. The date, time, and location of the Annual Meeting will be shared with member Associations at least 90 days in advance. Care will be taken to ensure that the Annual Meeting is not scheduled such that it conflicts with AAHA tryout dates.

Each Association's President must submit their designated Voting Delegate to the Secretary not later than seven days prior to the annual meeting unless that voting representative is their Voting Delegate due to the impact rule changes may have on an Association.

There will be a fine of \$500 assessed against any member Association failing to have a voting delegate in attendance at the Annual Meeting.

The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to:

1. Vote on any proposed amendments, additions, and/or deletions to the Constitution and Bylaws and/or Rules and Regulations.
2. Conduct the election of the officers of the NJYHL and Zone Directors for the AAHA Board of Directors
3. Receive and review the annual reports of the Treasurer and the standing committees.
4. Conduct any other business of the Association as needed

- D. Special Meetings/Seminars: The President and/or Secretary may call special meetings as deemed necessary. Notice as to the purpose of the meeting shall be given to the membership in advance. There will be a fine, to be announced in advance, assessed



against any member of the Association failing to have a delegate or alternate in attendance at a special meeting.

Article X: Rules and Regulations

The rules and regulations of USA Hockey and the USA Hockey affiliate having jurisdiction over a member Association shall apply to the League except as specifically amended by the League.

The Rules and Regulations governing the on-ice and off-ice activities of its members are published in an attachment to the Constitution and Bylaws.

All rules and regulations adopted by the League shall have the same force and effect as the Constitution and Bylaws of the League and shall be enforced by League and game officials where applicable.

Additions, deletions or amendments to the Rules and Regulations must be made at the Annual NJYHL Board Meeting. A simple majority vote of the eligible member Associations in attendance is required to effect changes in the Rules and Regulations. For a rule to be considered at the Annual NJYHL Board Meeting, it shall be proposed to the Executive Board (to the attention of the Executive Vice President) in writing by February 28th. Under special circumstances, an addition, deletion or amendment to the Rules and Regulations may be proposed at any other meeting. The Executive Board has the final say if the special circumstances warrant a vote by the Board on the proposed special circumstance. If it does, a two-thirds majority vote of the eligible member Associations in attendance is required to effect the change.

Article XI: Tampering and Player Movement Between Member Associations

The League, as a matter of policy, frowns upon the direct solicitation and/or contact of players, especially those solicitations carrying tangible and intangible inducements to change Associations. All officers and individuals associated with the League or one of its member Associations shall respect the integrity and role of each other member Association and shall not perform any activity that would demean and be injurious to another member Association, thereby weakening the entire League. The League will follow the Tampering Rules set forth by the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association and USA Hockey and notwithstanding the foregoing no player may change Associations after being added to the Approved USA Hockey roster and playing one League game without the mutual consent of both Associations involved.



Article XII: Parliamentary Authority

The rules as contained in “Robert’s Rules of Order -- Revised” shall govern the League and the Board in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws.

Article XIII: Dissolution of the League

The method of distribution of assets upon dissolution will be set forth in the by-laws of the Corporation. On dissolution, after payments of all debts, no part of the remaining assets may be distributed to any trustee, member, or officer of the Corporation. Upon the dissolution, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future tax code or shall be distributed to the federal government or top state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Association is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such Association or Associations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.



RULES AND REGULATIONS

Team Classification

1. Classification is determined by the birth year of the player in which the team is registered. The birth-year classifications can be found in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.
2. A 10U player is permitted to play “up” to 12U, and 14U-16U player is permitted to play 'up' in the next age division if the player starts the season there in accordance with AAHA rules. 12U players are not permitted to play “up” to 14U at any time in accordance with AAHA rules. 8U players are not permitted to play up at any time unless in accordance with AAHA roster waiver rules. However, once the player plays more than three (3) League games in that classification, the player cannot be moved down to their birth year classification. If a player is playing in the correct age classification, the player can be moved 'up' to the next age classification only after being evaluated by the Association’s Hockey/Coaching Director. Additional information regarding player movement is listed herein under Team Registration and Rostering.
3. The League will operate Tier II playing divisions at the 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, 13O, 14U,15O, 16U and 18U levels as appropriate. The “AA”, “A” and “B” divisions will be competitive with teams able to qualify for NJYHL Playoffs, Affiliate Playoffs, and National Championships as appropriate. At the 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, 13O, 14U “A” and “B” levels the league may conduct a jamboree or pre-season schedule and place teams in appropriate divisions based on skill and geography. It is understood that 13O and 15O are not official competition levels at Tier II. Teams fielded at these levels are considered 14U and 16U respectively. Teams declared at 13O and 15O will not advance to post-season play beyond NJYHL playoffs.
4. There must be a minimum of four teams in a division for league competition.
5. Any Association may field teams in the “AA”, “A” or “B” divisions of an age classification. Any Association that declares three (3) or more teams in the NJYHL at any single age classification level must declare one of those teams at the “AA” or “A” level and the remaining teams should be placed at their level of competitiveness - either “AA”, “A” or “B”.
6. Member Associations must make team commitments electronically in May. Declarations will



be considered final on May 1st. Any team withdrawing once regular season scheduling has commenced for that competition level is subject to a \$1,000 fine.

7. The Competition Committee reserves the right to question the viability of any team once the final declarations have been made. Upon request, Associations may need to submit one or more of the following: rosters, signed player contracts, previous team affiliations (as applicable), or any other documentation which provides proof of viability/sustainability. Should the documentation fail to provide sufficient evidence of viability, the Competition Committee has the right to recommend denial of the declaration to the Executive Board. An Association may appeal the placement of any team(s) to the Executive Board. A detailed explanation must be included with the appeal request. Dates for submission of team placement appeals will be published annually by the Competition Committee.
8. Each coach and Association are responsible to check the age of each player on their team to confirm they are not over-aged.

Team Registration and Rostering

9. All teams must submit a USA Hockey Team roster to the Affiliate Registrar for approval before playing any games. Any changes made in the USA Hockey roster before the December 31 cut-off date must be sent to the Affiliate Registrar as a supplemental roster. The USA Hockey roster plus all changes made will be considered the final roster as of December 31. No player changes may be made to the rosters after December 31 of the current playing season for any reason whatsoever.
10. All players, coaches, managers, and volunteers must be properly registered and rostered with USA Hockey for the current season, which may include a valid SafeSport certification, background screening, and current CEP level (for coaches) for the team to compete in the NJYHL. Appropriate fines shall be assessed at the discretion of the NJYHL Commissioner for any missing or incomplete documentation.
11. Each Association must submit each team's Approved USA Hockey roster URL in ScorekeeperWEB before each team's first League game. If the Association fails to upload the URL of the team's approved USA Hockey roster in ScorekeeperWEB, each game played by that team will be declared a forfeit until such roster is uploaded. In addition, there shall be a fine of \$1,000 assessed for each game forfeited.
12. A maximum of twenty (20) players (with a maximum of 18 skaters) are permitted on each



team roster in accordance with USA Hockey registration rules.

13. The USA Hockey roster for all teams must show a minimum of ten (10) players for 10U and 12U and twelve (12) players for 14U, 16U, and 18U. At least one, and no more than two, of these players must be a goaltender. This may be waived by written appeal to the Commissioner.
14. Rosters for teams of probationary Associations must be received by the NJYHL and AAHA Registrars by July 15 of the current playing season or within 10 calendar days of the availability of the USA Hockey registry system, whichever comes first. Rosters must comply with the guidelines under By-Law IV, Section G.
15. The NJYHL recommends that all member Associations have each player and their parent or guardian execute, as a part of its player contract, an agreement that clearly states that the parent or guardian is aware of and understands the specific obligation of that player to the Association.
16. A player cannot compete in the league if the player is also rostered on a Tier I youth team at the same time. Special circumstances will be reviewed on an individual basis by the Commissioner.
17. An Association may move one player per age level who is rostered on a Tier I youth team prior to October 16th (10U, 12U, 13U, 14U) or September 16th (15U, 16U, 18U) to a Tier II youth team. If an Association wishes to move more than one player per level or a player at any level after the above-referenced dates, they must receive prior approval from the Commissioner before the player can be moved. At no point can a player be rostered on a Tier I roster and an NJYHL roster at the same time. If an NJYHL rostered player plays more than four (4) games in a season at Tier I, that player is no longer eligible to participate in NJYHL games or advance to post-season play with the NJYHL team.
18. An Association may move one player per age level within their Association who is rostered on a Tier II youth "AA" team prior to October 16th (10U, 12U, 14U) or September 16th (16U, 18U) to a Tier II youth "A" team. If an Association wishes to move more than one player per level or a player at any level after the above dates, it requires the approval of the Commissioner before the player can be moved. The same rule shall apply to move an "A" level player to a "B" level team.
19. A 16U/18U rostered player may play on a Junior or Tier I team for a maximum of four (4) games in a season. The player must be dropped from the NJYHL team's approved USA Hockey roster to be added to the Junior or Tier I team roster. If the NJYHL rostered player



plays more than four (4) games in a season with the Junior or Tier I team, that player becomes ineligible for continued participation on the NJYHL roster and must be removed. This ineligibility also applies to NJYHL post-season play, including playoffs and advancement to AAHA Districts or Nationals with the NJYHL team. If the player participates in less than four (4) Junior or Tier I games, they will be considered a member of the team where they are rostered as of 12/31.

20. Any player who starts the season rostered on a Junior team cannot be moved to an NJYHL roster without prior written permission from the Commissioner. Prior to September 16th, the Association must submit a written request to the Commissioner requesting permission to add the player to their roster. This request must include an explanation that describes the purpose of the roster move. At no point can a player be on a Junior roster and an NJYHL roster at the same time.
21. At the 130 and 150 levels, teams will be permitted to roster up to two (2) overaged players. In other words, a 130 roster can include up to two (2) 14-year-olds, and a 150 roster can include up to two (2) 16-year-olds.
22. A player may not be rostered on more than one team in the NJYHL.
23. All Member Associations are required to enter their top Tier II team, up to and including any "AA" team(s), at every level in this League. If an Association desires to place its "A" and/or "B" teams in the NJYHL, it must also place all "AA" teams in the NJYHL. The NJYHL must be the primary league for each individual team participating in the League with its pathway to AAHA post-season play via the NJYHL. This rule is not intended to restrict participation in any other leagues, showcases, tournaments, non-league games, or supplemental scheduling partnerships.
24. Goaltender movement
 - A. Goaltenders shall not be permitted to play down a level. Under certain circumstances with the express consent of the Commissioner, a goaltender may be permitted to play down. A possible forfeit may apply with no fine.
 - B. All goaltending moves must be submitted on the Goaltending Coverage form found on the NJYHL website prior to the game being played.
 - C. All approved goaltender roster moves must be made in the electronic scoring system PRIOR to the game being played. Failure to do so may result in a \$50 fine per occurrence.
 - D. Guidance
 1. A goaltender may be used from the same age division or immediately below in the same Association (except AA).



2. A goaltender may be used from any other NJYHL team, including the opposing team, at the same level or the age group immediately below.
 3. 13O Level. A substitute goaltender may be used from a 14U (except 14U-AA) team. If there is no age-appropriate goaltender available, the substitute must come from the 12U Level.
25. Player movement
- A. Players shall not be permitted to play down a level. Under certain circumstances, with the express consent of the Commissioner, a player may be permitted to play down. A possible forfeit may apply with no fine.
 - B. All player moves must be submitted on the Player Substitution form found on the NJYHL website and approved by the Commissioner prior to the game being played.
 - C. All approved roster moves must be made in ScorekeeperWEB PRIOR to the game being played. Failure to do so will result in a \$50.00 fine to the offending team for each offense.
 - D. No moves are permitted after December 31st of the playing season. Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the Commissioner. Goaltenders are exempt from this rule.
26. All players are free to try out for any team or Association 48 hours after either the AAHA Affiliate Tournament (for players at the 8U, 10U and 12U levels) or USA Hockey's National Youth Tournament (for players at the 14U, 16U and 18U levels) in accordance with AAHA posted tryout dates. After a player commitment contract is signed, there will be no player movement without a written release from that Association. Any player/family who signs an Association registration form and/or makes a financial commitment to an Association must play with that Association for the balance of the season in the absence of extenuating circumstances such as a relocation. The League Registrar must verify the release. No release will be considered granted until after the League Registrar verifies it.
27. A player who obtains a written release from an Association (which requires honoring the financial commitment to the initially contracted Association) may accept a roster spot with a new Association and immediately begin participating in NJYHL games. Should a player not be able to obtain a release from the initial Association, the player shall have the right to appeal to the Executive Board, whose decision shall be binding. As a matter of course, the NJYHL is not a party to a player contract and cannot alter the financial obligations stated in that player contract.



28. Only those players whose names appear on an approved USA Hockey roster URL that has been uploaded in ScorekeeperWEB, may participate in League games. The first offense of this rule shall result in the forfeit of the game and a fine of \$1,000 assessed to the offending team. A second offense of this rule shall result in the immediate suspension of that team from league play for the remainder of the season. All games scheduled with that team, played or unplayed, shall be declared forfeits. Other teams in the division will have the option of whether to honor any remaining scheduled games with the offending team. Each forfeit carries a fine of \$1,000.
29. There shall be no appeal of forfeitures that are awarded because of registration and/or rostering violations.

League Schedule

30. The regular season will begin and end at the discretion of the Administrative Vice President with the approval of the Executive and will comply with AAHA Affiliate Tournament constraints.
31. The League schedule for 14U-AA, 16U and 18U will start no earlier than August 15th and no later than September 1st. It is anticipated that these levels will participate in an abbreviated season to avoid conflict with the New Jersey High School season. Teams have the option of playing a longer season if the schedule can be arranged.
32. Official League games may be played earlier than the official start of the League season between mutually consenting teams, provided that these teams have been properly registered and rostered according to League rules and are following AAHA 6U/8U Guidelines for the 8U level.
33. The following shall be performed under the supervision of the Administrative Vice President-Master Scheduler:
 - A. Scheduling of League Games
 - B. The method of scheduling and the number of league games to be played in each division.
 - C. The setting up of divisions for scheduling purposes.
 - D. During the 2024-2025 season there should be no more than a total of 30 required Preseason-Regular Season Games involving NJYHL-MAHA Teams.
34. All League games (including 8U games) must be scheduled (and/or subsequently



rescheduled) by the Association's designated master scheduler. Once games are scheduled, Associations are responsible for entering their home games and rosters into



- ScorekeeperWEB. The Administrative Vice President will provide appropriate usernames and passwords.
- A. Schedules and rosters for each team not input into the system prior to the established deadlines will be subject to a \$200 fine.
 - B. As a matter of policy, once the schedules are uploaded, League games should be honored as scheduled and changes limited to unusual or extraordinary circumstances.
 - C. Any changes after the date published by the Administrative Vice President will result in a \$100 administrative fine to the initiating team.
35. Associations must be prepared with adequate ice times to accommodate the League schedule. Games must be played at reasonable hours of the day and are subject to the approval of the Administrative Vice President. Games shall not start prior to 7:00 am and not later than 9:00 pm. This may be waived if both teams mutually consent.
36. Any team wishing to change a scheduled game may do so only with the consent of the scheduled opponent and Administrative Vice President.
- A. All changes must be made at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled game except in the event of extraordinary circumstances. Extraordinary circumstances are considered automobile accidents, hazardous road conditions, loss of ice due to equipment failure at the rink, etc. In these cases, the game may be postponed at any time up to game time. (Failure to appear at the appropriate time as shown on the League Master Schedule is not an extraordinary circumstance.) A game being changed due to extraordinary circumstances must be rescheduled within seven (7) days of the event by the Association's master scheduler.
 - B. The home team shall notify the Administrative Vice President of this change, allowing sufficient time for the rescheduling of officials and to avoid undue financial losses or unnecessary travel on the part of the other team. If the home team fails to properly notify the Administrative Vice President prior to the date the game was originally scheduled, the game shall be considered a forfeit for the home team and a fine of \$1,000 will be assessed to the home team.
 - C. Any arbitration of last-minute cancellations will be handled by the Commissioner.
37. It is the policy of the League that the entire schedule be played. If in the opinion of the Administrative Vice President, final League standings may be severely affected by unplayed games, the AVP may decide what additional course of action will be taken to allow for an equitable determination of League winners or playoff contenders. The Administrative Vice President may seek an opinion from the Competition Committee.



38. Any team refusing to complete the official League schedule as maintained by the Administrative Vice President will forfeit its right to represent the NJYHL in Affiliate Tournament play.
 - A. The team will be fined \$1,000 for each game involved, in addition to any other fines which may be imposed. There shall be no appeal of this rule.
 - B. The team and the member Association it represents will be suspended from League play for one year. This suspension may be appealed to the Board for review.

39. Any team acting as an NJYHL representative to Affiliate and/or USA Hockey tournaments must have completed its full schedule of League games. The Commissioner, under extenuating circumstances, may waive this rule. If an Affiliate-bound team is involved in a forfeit and is not the offending team, the forfeit stands.

40. When any team, home or away, fails to appear for a scheduled League game (or appears with fewer than the minimum number of players as set forth herein) and where there are no extraordinary circumstances (defined herein), a forfeit win shall be awarded the non-offending team and the offending team shall be subject to a fine of \$1,000. Money from this fine may be used to cover expenses incurred by the non-offending team at the discretion of the Commissioner.
 - A. If the non-offending team prefers to play the game, it may be rescheduled at the convenience of the non-offending team and at the expense (ice time and officials) of the offending team. This amount must be received by the non-offending team prior to the start of the game. If it is not, the game will remain a forfeit and the non-offending team shall no longer be responsible to play the game.
 - B. Games awarded to a team by forfeit may be appealed by the penalized team to the Executive Board. The Executive Board will adjudge the matter within seven (7) days and its decision shall be final. There is no fee for this appeal.



Regular League Games

41. The home team is responsible for providing sufficient ice time and the necessary facilities for playing the game. Ice time shall be assigned as follows per division:

Level	Period Length	Recommended Ice Slot Length
6U/8U	Refer to AAHA Guidelines	60 minutes
10U	15 minutes stop time	75 minutes
12U	15 minutes stop time	90 minutes
14U	16 minutes stop time	90 minutes
16U/18U*	17 minutes stop time	90 minutes

*Updated to align with USA Hockey rule change

42. League games may not be played on an undersized rink.
43. To expedite the game, there must be a 3-minute warm-up period before the game and a one-minute rest between each period.
44. To be an official League game, two full periods must be played. The third period may be shortened if necessary to complete the game during the assigned ice slot; however, it must be played stop time. Running time is not allowed under this circumstance. The reason for shortening the game must be beyond the control of the team involved. The officials shall determine the time of the shortened period. As a rule of thumb, the time length of the period shall be one-half of the time remaining in the ice slot. Once the period has begun, the time cannot be changed.
45. Running time is required after two periods when there is an 8-goal differential. If at the end of the second period, or at any time in the third period, one team shall reach a ten (10) goal advantage in the score, the game shall be considered ended.



46. If a game is suspended for any reason and must be resumed to be considered a complete game, it is resumed from the point it was left off (i.e., Period 2 – 10:15 on the clock) with the same roster.
47. If, in the opinion of the Commissioner, based on the official's report, a player, coach or another team official intentionally causes a game to be suspended prior to the completion of the second period or intentionally causes a game not to be completed, the Commissioner may declare the game a forfeit to the opposing team with no fine.
48. At the 12U, 13O, 15O, 14U, 16U, and 18U levels - if an NJYHL game is tied at the end of regulation (unless the game has been shortened by the NJYHL rule), the teams will play one three-minute 3v3 sudden death overtime. The winning team receives one (1) additional point for two (2) points total for an OT win. The losing team receives one (1) point for an OT loss. Teams take a one-minute rest and do not switch ends. This OT format is recommended for non-league games.
49. All players must wear matching uniforms properly numbered. Uniform numbers must match the list on the scoresheet and in the ScorekeeperWEB system. It is the responsibility of the home team to avoid conflict in jersey color.
50. Players must wear all equipment as specified by USA Hockey. Any player on the team bench or penalty box areas must always wear a helmet with a full face cage or bubble.
51. In accordance with USA Hockey rule 201, a team must start a game with a minimum of six (6) players. Any time that a team has been reduced to less than four players, the game shall be declared a forfeit.
 - A. A maximum of 20 players, of which not more than 18 are skaters, shall be permitted to play in a game.
 - B. Each team shall designate a Head Coach on the score sheet prior to the start of the game. The Head Coach shall be in control of and responsible for the actions of all team personnel, including players.
 - C. A team may have up to four properly rostered coaches on the bench.
 - D. Only players in uniform and properly rostered coaches may occupy the bench.
 - E. If at any time during the game, through penalties, illness or any other reason, there are no coaches on the bench to be in control of and responsible for the team, the game shall continue provided there is adult supervision on the bench. If no adult supervision is available, the referee shall suspend the game and submit a report.



F. The forfeit may be appealed to the Commissioner in the event of extraordinary circumstances (defined herein).

- 52. It is the responsibility of the home team to provide knowledgeable timekeepers and scorekeepers. The visiting team is entitled to have a representative at the scorer’s table.
- 53. It is recommended that all non-league games played between NJYHL teams follow the same rules and regulations as agreed in League games.

Penalties

The penalties listed in the USA Hockey Rules shall apply except as specifically amended by the League in these rules.

- 54. The following are the penalty times in minutes for each type of infraction according to division. The USA Hockey Progressive penalty rule also applies to the below as applicable:

PENALTY TYPE	6U/8U	10U/12U/14U	16U/18U	
Minor Penalty	See AAHA Guidelines For Details	1:30 min.	2:00 min.	
Major Penalty		4:00 min.	5:00 min.	
Misconduct Penalty		8:00 min.	10:00 min.	Not posted on game clock
Game Misconduct		8:00 min.	10:00 min.	Removal from game
Match Penalty		8:00 min.	10:00 min.	Removal from game

- 55. Any head coach whose team incurs 12 penalties or a player who receives 4 penalties in any game will result in the head coach/player being suspended from the next scheduled game. The head coach does not receive a Game Misconduct on the scoresheet and does not leave the bench. A player who receives 4 penalties receives a Game Misconduct penalty on the score sheet and must leave the bench at that time. The player’s Game Misconduct is counted as one of the possible 12 penalties for the head coach.
- 56. The Head coach of a team receiving 12 or more penalties in a single game during the season:
 - A. First and Second Infraction: 1 game suspension
 - B. Third infraction: Additional 3 game suspension.
 - C. After the third infraction, if the team receives 12 penalties in a game, the Commissioner will review for further disciplinary action.



57. If a player, coach or other team official receives a Match Penalty, they are automatically suspended from all USA Hockey activities for 30 days or until the appropriate authority has made a ruling. They are also assessed an automatic minimum 3-game suspension. Upon assessment of a Match Penalty, the offending team must complete the online Suspension form as soon as possible following the end of the game. It is the offending team’s responsibility to notify the Commissioner. Failure to notify the Commissioner will result in a (30) day suspension from play for the player/coach/team official and a \$500.00 fine for the offending Association.
58. Any player receiving a fighting penalty (automatic game misconduct) shall receive the following suspension. The USA Hockey Progressive penalty rule also applies where applicable:

Level	First Infraction	Second Infraction	Third Infraction
6U/8U	To be reviewed and ruled upon by Commissioner		
10U/12U	1 game suspension	3 game suspension and automatic review by Commissioner	Suspension for the balance of the season
14U/16U/18U	2 game suspension	5 game suspension and automatic review by Commissioner	Suspension for the balance of the season

Upon assessment of a Fighting Penalty, the offending team must complete the online Suspension form as soon as possible following the end of the game and must notify the Commissioner. Failure to notify the Commissioner will result in a (30) day suspension from play for the player/coach/team official and a \$500.00 fine for the Association.



59. The penalty for a “third” (3rd) man in” is the same as a fight and has the same progressive penalties as the fighting penalties. A prior 3rd man in penalty will enhance a subsequent fighting penalty. The penalty will be the same as a second or third or subsequent fighting penalty.
60. Any player, coach, or other team officials who use hurtful language are subject to discipline in accordance with AAHA and USA Hockey rules. During a game, any coach or other team official who leaves the bench and goes on the ice for any reason, except in the case of an injured player, shall be ejected from the game and shall receive a three (3) game suspension.
61. Any coach or other team official who, in the opinion of the official, is detected encouraging his players to violent action or condoning such actions shall be ejected from the game and shall be suspended for a minimum of five (5) games.
62. Any coach, player, or other team official placing his hands on or otherwise touching an official is subject to discipline in accordance with AAHA and USA Hockey rules.
63. When a player, coach or other team official receives a game misconduct or match penalty in an NJYHL game, that suspension must be served in the immediate subsequent League game(s). This is independent of any USA Hockey suspension incurred, although they may be served concurrently. If the next scheduled game is non-league, the USA Hockey penalty must be served in that game with the League suspension being served in the next League game.
64. If the penalty is assessed at the end of the playing season, the suspension shall follow the player, coach, or other team officials into the start of the next season. It is the Association’s and the player’s responsibility to be transparent about serving this suspension. Rules regarding the playing of an ineligible player will apply if the player participates in a game in the following season without properly serving the suspension.
65. The League Statistician and the USA Hockey Officiating Incident Reporting system will monitor all penalties requiring suspensions. All penalties accrued in non-league games which require suspension must be reported to the Commissioner. Penalties accrued in non-league games which require a suspension of more than three (3) games must also be reported to the Commissioner. This reporting should be through the online form.



66. Any coach that uses an ineligible player (one who is not properly rostered, over-aged, or under suspension) in a game will result in the following maximum additional penalties being assessed:
 - Coach - ten (10) game suspension
 - Player - five (5) game suspension
 - The offending Association will be fined \$1,000 per game.
 - The offending team will forfeit each game in which the ineligible player participated
67. Any player serving a suspension must not be in the playing area (Bench, Penalty Box, and Scorekeeper Area).
68. Any coach or team official who is ejected from a game or who is serving a suspension may not be in the area of the player's locker room or bench or in any way coach the team during a game while under suspension or ejection.
69. A coach receiving additional Game Misconducts in a League or non-League game in the same season will receive:
 - a second (2nd) Game Misconduct – 3 League games
 - a third (3rd) Game Misconduct – 5 League game
70. Any coach that receives three (3) or more game misconducts in a season, for whatever reason, is also subject to supplemental discipline assessed by the Commissioner. The Commissioner has the discretion to modify suspensions under these rules.
71. The Commissioner shall have the power to suspend any member Association, team, player or team official for conduct detrimental to hockey, either on or off the ice. The president and coaching director of the Association shall be notified by the league of suspensions that involve any player or coach in their Association.
72. Only the Commissioner can reduce or increase a suspension. Game officials do not assess suspensions.



Protests and Appeals

73. The right of protest or appeal is granted to any player, coach or team official who receives a suspension involving more than three (3) games. The right of appeal is also granted to any Association or individual who is suspended under the Rule regarding Conduct detrimental to hockey. This appeal must be submitted in writing to the Commissioner and President within seventy-two (72) hours of notification of suspension. A copy of the score sheet must be included with the appeal if a game was involved. Protests regarding the use of an ineligible player may be made upon discovery and are not subject to the 72-hour rule. The review by the Executive Board will be performed within five (5) calendar days after receipt of the appeal. The filing must be accompanied by a \$250 fee, which shall be refunded if the decision is overturned. The decision of the Executive Board shall be final. Decisions by the Commissioner may only be overturned by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board members.

Score Sheets

74. It is the responsibility of the home team to maintain an official record of each game. Teams should use the score sheet provided by the League at the beginning of the season. The score sheet will be the official record and must be signed by the referees. The game must also be uploaded to Scorekeeper WEB system within 24 hours of the game or before the next League game for both teams on the scoresheet, whichever is sooner, using the username and password provided by the League. The game identifying information including level, game number, date and location are required to be filled in where designated on the score sheet.
75. Any game not uploaded within 24 hours or before the next League game for both teams on the scoresheet is played will be subject to a \$100 fine. Any team consistently delinquent in sending in a game score sheet may receive an additional penalty at the discretion of the Administrative Vice President with concurrence from the Commissioner.
76. Prior to the start of the game, the Official Scorer shall obtain on the scoresheet the signatures of the Head Coach along with the CEP card number, CEP level and the year the CEP level was attained for each coach. Upon the immediate conclusion of the game, the Official Scorer shall also prepare the Official Scoresheet for signature by the Referee and initial by both head coaches and forward it to the proper NJYHL authorities.



Officials

The Referee in Chief or his designees shall assign on-ice game officials for all League games in accordance with the following rules:

77. All officials must be completely registered by USA Hockey and must complete all credentialing requirements including Safe Sport training and background screening. A two-person officiating system shall be used at all age levels, except at Playoffs, where a four-person system may be used.
78. Assignments and Assignors:
 - A. An official may not be assigned to a game where the official is related to a coach, player or manager of either team.
 - B. An official shall not accept an assignment to officiate a game where the official is related to a coach, player or manager on either team. Any official who accepts such an assignment shall forfeit the game fee and shall also be fined the equivalent game fee amount. This shall not apply if the official is serving as an emergency fill-in for an originally assigned official who fails to appear for the game. When there are no officials present, the game shall be postponed.
 - C. Any Officiating Assignor who also coaches in the NJYHL cannot assign any NJYHL games for the team or level they coach unless approved by the Referee in Chief in advance.
 - D. An Officiating Assignor who is a coach for a team that is different from the Association they assign for shall not assign officials for games at the level coached.
 - E. An Official under the age of 21 may be assigned to officiate a 16U or 18U level game if approved in advance by the League Referee in Chief. It is strongly recommended that officials be at least 2 age levels older than the level they are officiating (e.g., 14U officials may officiate 10U games).
 - F. If an official does not report for an assigned game, the Referee in Chief and/or his appointees must be notified within 24 hours of the game time. The Referee in Chief is authorized at his discretion to withhold further officiating assignments from that official.
 - G. All NJYHL Officiating Assignors are required to use the league-designated online scheduling tool to schedule league games. Failure to do so may result in the assignor being replaced by the NJYHL Referee in Chief. Officiating Assignors are required to attend a meeting before the start of the League season if the NJYHL chooses to schedule one in order to be eligible to assign games for the NJYHL. The NJYHL Referee in Chief and the Executive Board will establish policies to address conflicts of interest.



- H. Officiating Assignors must perform a minimum of three evaluations each month of new Level 1 and Level 2 officials.
 - I. It is expected that the local Officiating Assignor will provide supervising assistance at the facility where NJYHL playoffs are held.
 - J. All assignors must attend a meeting conducted by the Referee in Chief before the start of the League season each year. Policies and rules of the League shall be reviewed at this meeting.
79. The home team shall pay officials for regular season games. The NJYHL shall pay the Officials assigned to work NJYHL playoffs.
80. If only one official is available for a game, the official is to be paid 2 times the usual rate assuming the game is played.
81. It shall be the official's decision at the rink if the ice or conditions are not suitable to play the game. No game shall be played when any portion of the ice surface has been compromised or when significant rutting, gouges or depressions exist. No game shall be played on a rink with loose or missing boards or glass. In the event that the ice surface or rink is not suitable to play a League game, the Association shall notify the NJYHL and reschedule the game. If these conditions are discovered during the course of a game, the game shall be stopped to attempt to repair the problem. If the problem cannot be repaired at that time, the game will be stopped and finished at a later date upon rescheduling with the League. It is the official's responsibility to determine that the ice surface and rink are safe and suitable for games both before and during each game.
82. The officials must print their names and then sign the game score sheet at the end of each game. If a computer is used to score the game, the referees should type their names in the referee box to attest that statistics are entered properly. No changes may be made to the score sheet once it is signed. Before signing the score sheet, the official shall review all penalties to ensure that they have been recorded correctly and that any penalty requiring suspension is clearly indicated as such.
83. If it is necessary to submit an incident report, it must be submitted electronically using the USA Hockey Officiating Incident Report system. The report must be completed by both game officials and submitted in accordance with USA Hockey rules and requirements. The report should clearly state the facts. The score sheet is given to the home team for distribution. The official does not receive a copy of the score sheet.



84. Association President or Coaching Director shall report to the Referee in Chief if any game official fails to fulfill their duties properly.
85. Spectators at all League games are expected to act with decorum and show good sportsmanship. While crowd control is the responsibility of the home team, if an official feels that the actions of the spectators are having a disruptive influence on the progress of the game, the official shall advise the home team to warn the spectators involved to discontinue their disruptive behavior or they will be cleared from the rink. If, in the judgment of the game officials, the spectators have not responded positively to the warning, the officials may then order the rink cleared of any fans they so designate. The official is required to record the name of any spectator on the score sheet. The official will not continue the game until the spectator has been identified by the offending team's coach. The Commissioner will assess a \$500 fine to the offending team for each spectator ejection. The Commissioner also has the right to suspend the related player for a parent/guardian ejection.

Coaches, Managers and Other Team Officials

86. All coaches, managers and other team officials (including locker room attendants) must adhere to the USA Hockey Coaching Education program requirements, Safe Sport certification requirements, and background screening requirements as appropriate to be added to a USA Hockey team roster and/or to have more than incidental contact with the team.
87. All Association hockey/coaching directors, coaches and managers are required to attend a meeting before the start of the League season if the NJYHL chooses to schedule one.
 - A. Coaching Director and/or Coaches Meeting: The purpose of this meeting, conducted by the Coach in Chief, is to review League policies and Rules and Regulations. The League will also use this meeting as an opportunity to have the Referee in Chief update coaches on any rule changes and how those changes will be called on the ice. Failure of an Association/team to be represented at the Coaching Director Meeting will result in an automatic fine of \$100.
 - B. Team Managers: The purpose of this meeting, conducted by the Executive Vice President with the Executive Board, is to review League policies and Rules and Regulations. The League may also use this meeting to train new team managers on the use of ScorekeeperWEB. Failure of an Association/team to be represented at the Manager's



meeting will result in an automatic fine of \$100 per team.

88. It is expected that Coaches and Managers are knowledgeable of the League's Bylaws and Rules and Regulations. Coaches are directly responsible for the implementation of all policies and procedures of the League with their respective teams. If there are any questions or problems, it is the coach or manager's responsibility to contact their Association's Voting Delegate who, in turn, will contact the appropriate League officer if clarification is needed.
89. Coaches should make every effort to develop and expand their knowledge of the game and their roles as coaches. All coaches are required to attend the USA Hockey Coaching Education Clinics and complete the online age-appropriate module at the level they are rostered to coach before December 31st. Any coach with incomplete credentials must be removed from the roster on January 1st.
90. All coaches, managers and their representatives are expected to act courteously at all times and encourage their players to do likewise.
91. It is recommended that each coach/manager hold a parent's meeting for their team at the start of the season for the purpose of reviewing the League policies and Rules and Regulations so that parents have an understanding of them.
92. Any NJYHL coach who may also coach a non-NJYHL team (Tier I, high school or junior) who would do anything to keep their players from participating with their NJYHL teams when a reasonable conflict does not exist would be considered committing "actions deemed detrimental to hockey and/or the league" and would be subject to suspension from coaching in NJYHL.



Method of Determining a Winner

93. The following method is used for determining the winner of a League Division Championship:

A. The team in each division accruing the greatest number of points will be declared the champions. Points are awarded as follows:

Win	Tie	Loss	OT win	OT Loss
2 points	1 point	0 points	1 point (tie) + 1 point (OT win)	1 point (OT loss)

B. If two or more teams are tied in total points, the standings will be determined using the following criteria:

1. Team having the most wins in all league games.
2. Team having accrued the most points among the tied teams (head-to-head).
3. Team having the most wins among the tied teams.
4. Team with the fewest goals against among the tied teams.
5. Team having the fewest goals against in all league games.

If one tiebreaker establishes a position for one or more teams, each team is placed in its applicable position. Once a team or teams are placed, any remaining tied teams shall start the tie-breaking process at step 1.

Playoffs

94. The dates for NJYHL Playoffs for each age classification will be announced in June. The method of determining playoff teams will be announced in September.

95. Only players on the USA Hockey roster, including any official roster changes, may participate in the playoffs. It is the Association's responsibility to confirm that all players and coaches on their team(s) advancing to NJYHL Playoffs and/or AAHA Affiliate tournaments meet all rostering requirements, including SafeSport, background screening, CEP completion, the USA Hockey 10/20 eligibility rule, etc. as published by the NJYHL, the AAHA and USA Hockey. It is also the Association's responsibility to confirm that their Approved USA Hockey roster matches the NJYHL on-line scorekeeping roster prior to



advancement into Playoffs or AAHA Affiliate Tournaments. Any deviations discovered at time of advancement may cause the team to be declared ineligible to advance and may be subject to possible fines at the discretion of the Commissioner.

96. To be eligible to participate in NJYHL Playoffs, each player must participate in a minimum of 50% of the League games scheduled for the team. Any player rostered after the end of League play is ineligible for post-season play. In the event of an injury or other extraordinary circumstances, the Executive Board reserves the right to waive this rule. It is the responsibility of the individual teams to ensure that all their players are eligible. If a team uses an ineligible player in a playoff game, that game will be declared a forfeit and a fine of \$1,000 will be assessed.
97. All teams participating in the League must not schedule other games during the period designated for the Playoffs. It is expected that all teams that are eligible to participate in the playoffs shall do so.
98. All teams participating in Playoffs are permitted to have two goaltenders on the bench. If the team only has one goaltender rostered, the team may, with prior approval from the Commissioner, designate an “emergency backup” goaltender that will be on the bench and can only play in the event the rostered goaltender is sick or injured. That “emergency back- up” goaltender must be from an equal-level or lower-level team. A goaltender from a higher-level team cannot play down.
99. Each team participating in the NJYHL Playoffs will play under a format set up by the Administrative Vice President. All games in that format are required to be played.
100. Overtime Format: All games will be played to a winner. If the game is tied following regulation play, the tied teams shall receive a one-minute rest period. Teams will change ends at the end of regulation time and after each overtime period. There will be a first goal wins overtime under the following format:
 - A. The teams will play a five (5) minute period at 3-on-3. If at the end of the overtime period, a tie still exists, the two teams will continue playing five (5) minute 3-on-3 overtime periods until there is a winner.
 - B. Any skater on the team may be used. Changing on the fly is permitted. There will be a one-minute break at the end of every third overtime period.
 - C. Any unexpired penalty incurred in the third period will carry over into the overtime period as a 4-on-3 (5-on-3 if there is more than one penalty carrying over).



- D. If a penalty is assessed in the overtime periods, the non-offending team will add a player (4-on-3). If a second penalty is assessed before the first has expired, then the non-offending team will add a fifth player (5-on-3).
- E. If the non-offending team does not score during the power play – then the on-ice strength will continue at 4-on-4 (5-on-5 if two penalties had been assessed) until a stoppage of play when the teams will resume play at 3-on-3.
- F. If coincidental penalties are called – the teams will continue to skate at 3-on-3.

101. Playoffs are the responsibility of the Administrative Vice-President and designees. This includes but is not limited to planning, contracting for the necessary ice requirements, coordinating all aspects of the Playoffs, and soliciting volunteers to help in their operation.

102. Failure of a team to participate in the NJYHL Playoffs and/or Affiliate Tournaments in the current season will result in a \$5,000 fine and will be subject to a disciplinary hearing with the Executive Board to assess if additional penalties should be applied. The Executive Board, in extenuating circumstances, may waive any additional penalties. Fine assessments may not be appealed.

103. Any team which forfeits a Playoff game shall be assessed a fine of \$2,500.

104. The Playoffs will be subsidized by the League through a fee charged to each team as part of its League expenses.

105. Awards will be presented to the Champion at all levels. Awards at 2nd or 3rd place are at the discretion of the Administrative Vice President. Each player participating in the Playoffs will receive a souvenir remembrance.

AAHA Affiliate Tournament and USA Hockey National Championship

106. The Executive Board, at its sole discretion, has the right to advance or remove any NJYHL team from eligibility for the Affiliate Tournament or Nationals if extraordinary or extenuating circumstances exist.

107. The Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association (AAHA) designates the number of teams at each level that will compete in the Affiliate or National-Bound tournament. The NJYHL uses its playoff final standings to designate those teams that are eligible to advance to the Affiliate



Tournament based on the tournament brackets provided by the AAHA.

108. Affiliate/National Tournament representatives must submit their team credentials to the Affiliate Registrar for review to be declared eligible to compete. In the case where a team is declared ineligible, the next team in the standings will act as the representative. Team credentials shall include, but are not limited to, the following:
- A. Approved USA Hockey roster which has all player birth dates verified.
 - B. All non-US citizen transfer forms approved by USA Hockey and reflected on the Approved USA Hockey roster.
 - C. Sufficient score sheets to verify that the team has played twenty (20) USA Hockey games.
 - D. Sufficient score sheets to verify that each player has participated in a minimum of ten (10) games.
 - E. Each coach and manager must have the appropriate completed certifications, including current CEP, SafeSport and background screening.
 - F. Each coach, manager and player must have completed USA Hockey Consent to Treat forms completed and ready for presentation.
 - G. Completed AAHA Affiliate Credentialing form (to be provided by the Affiliate Registrar)

Payment and Assessment of Fines

109. Each Association shall have a standing escrow account of \$1,000 against which all fines incurred shall be assessed.
110. The League Treasurer at each League NJYHL Board Meeting shall announce fines incurred.
111. A fine of \$1,000 shall be assessed for any forfeit incurred unless another amount is specifically stated, or it is stated that no fine shall apply.
112. Any Association not submitting funds by the designated date will be considered suspended until funds are received, and any games scheduled during that period will be considered forfeits.
113. The escrow balance must be maintained at \$1,000. All money used for payments must be replaced within thirty days to maintain voting rights.
114. The Commissioner, at his discretion, may assess fines as appropriate for all instances not covered in these Rules and Regulations up to a \$1,000 maximum per fine.



Code of Ethics

115. All Associations are responsible for the actions of their team members, team officials and their fans. All individuals associated with the NJYHL or one of its member Associations shall conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times. Improper conduct is defined as behavior deemed detrimental to the philosophy and objectives of the League, as well as any action which produces results detrimental to any team or individual players in the League. Repeated instances of improper conduct shall be dealt with by the Executive Board, which may include suspension of the player from the next game as a result of parental behavior.
116. All players, coaches, other team personnel, and parents/guardians of players in the NJYHL are subject to the USA Hockey/AAHA Zero Tolerance Physical Abuse Policy. Any person that attempts to cause physical injury or makes the threat thereof to any individual associated with the NJYHL or its member Associations shall be subject, and his/her child (children) shall be subject, to immediate suspension from NJYHL play and/or other League involvement for up to one year at the discretion of the Commissioner. A second instance of an attempt to threaten or cause physical injury shall result in up to a three-year suspension for the player(s) and the parent/guardian from any involvement with the NJYHL.
117. To create an atmosphere demonstrative of proper spectatorship, good sportsmanship, proper conduct, it is the policy of the NJYHL to ban all noise-making devices at League games. This includes but is not limited to, cowbells, whistles and clickers. This policy would also include the banning of any sound music system during a team's called time out, after a goal is scored or after a stoppage of play. The use of any music system during warm-ups or between periods is at the discretion of the officials.
118. All individuals associated with the NJYHL or one of its member Associations are expected to uphold the value of honesty and good sportsmanship and have respect for the integrity and role of the other member Associations as well as their own Association.