

Suspension and Review Committee

The primary function of the committee is to deal with on-ice issues concerning the adjudication of Match Penalties. It is not a place to re-referee a game. The hockey clubs are responsible, through their Rules and Ethics Committee and president to review all penalties and behavior of their members. The club will be responsible for following ALL USA hockey and AHAI rules and enforcing them at all times. The Suspension committee will be available for consultation with the president or chairman of the club's R&E.

If a Match penalty is assessed the participant is immediately suspended pending an investigation by the club and the AHAI committee which, in cooperation, will decide on the consequence or schedule a hearing to hear evidence.

If the president, upon an investigation by their club, believes a severe penalty by an opposing team was committed but not called; the president may request a "410" investigation into the matter. The president is responsible for determining if the incident rises to the level of a 410.

The AHAI committee will not respond to requests from fans, parents, players or coaches. The committee may initiate an investigation if a serious on-ice incident comes to its attention.

An example of the correspondence that AHAI will send to the club in these situations and a copy of the USA Match penalty guidelines is attached.

Chairman-Jack Weinberg 847 835-2500

Administration- Jack Raslawski 847 624-1248

Standardized Discipline Policy – Match Penalties

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

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

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

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

– or –

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

– or –

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

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

For the purpose of this policy, there shall be three levels of standardized suspension. They are:

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

Rule 305(b) Dangerous Equipment

Rule 601(e) Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct (This includes all match penalties assessed under this rule except 601(e.1) Physical Assault of an Official)

Rule 602(a) Attempt to Injure or Recklessly Endanger an Opponent

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

Rule 603(c) Boarding

Rule 606(b) Butt-Ending

Rule 607(e) Charging

Rule 608(c) Checking from Behind

Rule 619(b) Head Butting

Rule 620(c) Head Contact

Rule 634(d) Slashing (Swinging Stick During Altercation)

Rule 635(b) Spearing

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

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

Rule 604(e) Body Checking- Competitive Contact Category

Rule 609(c) Cross-Checking

Rule 611(c) Elbowing

Rule 615(c) Fighting (Helmet Removal)

Rule 621(c) High Sticks

Rule 622(c) Holding an Opponent

Rule 623(c) Hooking

Rule 627(b) Kicking Opponent or Puck

Rule 628(c) Kneeing

Rule 633(a or b) Refusing to Start Play

Rule 634(c) Slashing

Rule 639(c) Tripping/Clipping/Leg Checking/Slew Footing

Rule 640(e) Unnecessary Roughness (Roughing)

Draft template for Responses from Clubs who have received a Match penalty Game Report

(Date)

To: AHAI Suspension Committee

From: (Club Rules and Ethics Committee Chair)

Re: (Name of Player, Coach, Parent) Match Penalty Investigation

Per the request of the AHAI Suspension Committee, the (Name of Club) convened its Rules and Ethics Committee to investigate the Match Penalty that was assessed to (Team Name and Player) on (date of Incident) in a game verse (Opponent) at (Rink where the Game was played).

1. Please find attached the following items:
 - A. Original Incident Report.
 - B. A copy of the game score sheet.
 - C. The schedule of upcoming games for the next 30 days.
 - D. A list of all game misconduct, match penalties, and off ice rules and ethics violations by (Name of Player, Coach, Parent).
 - E. A dated memorandum for each meeting with anybody who the Club's Rules and Ethics representatives Committee interviewed regarding the incident. Please indicate the names of all the participants in these meetings. Please make sure that there are always two fully screened and Safe Sport completed members of the Club's Rules and Ethics Committee in attendance at any meeting (be it in person, on the telephone or by video). Please remember that any player who is not yet 18 is required to have at least one parent in attendance. If the player is 18, please ask the player for

permission to include a parent(s). The parent(s) should be instructed that they are there to listen and not to interfere.

F. Please indicate here if you are providing video.

G. Any other items you deem appropriate to your investigation.

H. Any items that the (Player, Coach, Parent) provided to the committee. We have seen people provide a letter of apology etc. to be given to the other team.

2. A brief description of your findings regarding the incident with particular emphasis on the match penalty recipient's version of events. This should be very specific as to whether or not the recipient was forthcoming regarding the incident. It is also good to note whether or not they feel any remorse for the situation if that is the case. It is common for players to be nervous and be down about the situation. We recommend the tone of these interviews to be gentler for players. We ask that you explain the process and potential suspension guidelines. Please also explain the appeal process. There is a common misconception that it is an automatic 30-day suspension. The 30-day suspension language refers to the maximum suspension amount if the match penalty recipient appeals the initial suspension and the AHAJ suspension committee is unable to convene the suspension committee within 30-days of the incident. In that case there is no further action, and the recipient may return. The AHAJ Suspension committee always asks for expedient action from the recipients club to try to come to a determination without the need for a further hearing. However, the recipient can always appeal this determination if they choose.

3. Our Rules and Ethics Committee (please list committee members in attendance) met (date) and has the following recommendations for the consequences to (Name) for the Match Penalty.

a. Number of games or length of time of the suspension (player, coach, parent)

b. Determination of whether and/or when the (player/coach) can return to practice and other team activities.

c. Any other recommendations for other conditions (community service, apology letter to affected parties) etc.

4. In the event that there is no agreement between the AHAI Suspension Committee and the recipients club regarding length of suspension, then a hearing can be requested with the suspension committee. The hearing will be to determine the final suspension. If the hearing does not occur within 30 days of the initial incident, then the recipient will have been deemed to have served the match penalty suspension. If the recipient wants to appeal the suspension, then they can appeal the suspension directly to AHAI.