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Empire Amateur Hockey Conference

Bill Gray's Regional Iceplex
2700 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road Rochester, NY 14623
www.empirehockey.org

October 2026

Welcome Players, coaches and families to the 2026/2027 Empire Amateur Hockey Conference (Empire) season. It is your responsibility, as a member of Empire, to know and abide by the rules in the Empire Guidebook. As a reminder, just because an action is not explicitly prohibited in the Guidebook, it may not be in the best interest of hockey. The Empire Guidebook is posted on our website Documents page at www.empirehockey.org. For your convenience, all changes from last season's rules and regulations are shown in bold letters. As always, USA Hockey rules and policies will govern all play in Empire.

Bantam/14U, Peewee/12U and Squirt/10U divisions will have a tournament style end of season Championship Weekend. Midget/18U will continue with the traditional, ladder style Championship Weekend.

Again this season is the mandatory adoption of the Electronic App Gamesheet for scoring and submission of scoresheets. This streamlines the submission of scoresheets, update standings immediately upon Game upload, and collection of stats.

Neck guards are mandatory at all levels (6U to 18U). Use of any noisemakers is prohibited at all levels of play (6U thru 18U). This includes all instruments (including bag pipes, drums etc.), whistles, air horns or any other distracting noisemakers.

We remind teams of fines for both:

- Game Forfeit: Forfeiting team loses their fair play point, receives a 1-0 loss and will be assessed a $300 fine (10u thru 18U). 8U is a $200 fine.
- Failure to have an APPROVED USA Hockey Roster is a $100 fine for the 1st game. The fines, hearings, canceled games and Head Coach suspension will increase if not rectified. As a reminder all players must be listed on your USA Hockey roster, including alternates.

It is important to adhere to the game schedules once they are finalized. Please read the rules on rescheduling and forfeiting carefully.

I would like to remind each Head Coach (or Designee) to fill out the on-line referee evaluation form after EVERY game. Head Coaches, please look on the front page of the website for a link to the "On-Line Referee Evaluation Form". These evaluations are imperative to allow the Rochester Ice Hockey Officials Association (RIHOA) to quickly assess and deal with problems effectively. Please remember Empire has no power to overrule any referee's call.

All Head Coaches are also reminded to report ALL 5/4/3 Minute Major, Game Misconduct, and Match penalties to Empire via the website online form whether they occur in scrimmages, league games or Tournaments. A Minor plus Misconduct (Aggressive Play Penalty) or a 10/8/6 minute Misconduct is NOT reported via the form.

Thank you for volunteering your time with the Empire league, your organization and your players. Good luck to all teams and let's have a great 2026 – 2027 season!

Sincerely,
Tara Colon
President, Empire Amateur Hockey Conference

Empire Amateur Hockey Conference
Tim Horten's Ice Plex 2700 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road, Rochester, NY 14623
www.empirehockey.org

CONFERENCE DIRECTORY

CONFERENCE OFFICERS

President:
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Secretary:
Erin Allen (Edge)
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Alternate
TBD

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Tri-County/Brockport Representative (TCYH)
Chris Mros
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Alternate

Webster Representative (WYH)
Gino Sementa
765-414-4422 gsementadvm@gmail.com

Alternate

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (continued)

Edge Representative
Erin Allen
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Alternate
Lauren LaVigne
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Past President '24 (RYH)	Chris Dito
Past President '23 (Jr Amerks)	Lynn McClenin
Past President '22 (TCYH)	John Pilon
Past President '21 (CKH)	Mollie Lawton
Past President '20 (Batavia)	Justin Rosenbeck
Past President '19 (MCYH)	Jim Yeager
Past President '18 (Geneseo/Livingston)	Karyn Lipome
Past President '17 (RYH)	Jayme Hurwitz
Past President '16 (Webster)	Jeanne Barreca

DIVISION COMMISSIONERS:

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Jeanne Epping (MCYH)
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Web Site Admin.
Jeanne Barreca
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MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

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P.O. Box 501, Canandaigua NY 14424
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Steve Kasmark - President

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Dan Craun - President
craundan18@gmail.com

Rochester Junior Amerks (RJA)
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Robyn MacBride - President
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https://rochesteredge.org/
Philip Oettinger – President
PHILOETT@HOTMAIL.COM

Rochester Ice Hockey Officials Association (RIHOA) Contact & USA Hockey Supervisor
Nick Tochelli NST2@aol.com

AREA ICE RINKS:

David McCarthy Ice Arena (Batavia)
22 Evans Street, Batavia NY 14020
(585) 344-3991

Greater Canandaigua Civic Center (GCCC)
250 North Bloomfield Road, Canandaigua NY 14623
(585) 396-7230

Wilson Ice Arena (Geneseo)
SUNY at Geneseo, Geneseo NY 14454
(585) 245-5356

Scottsville Ice Arena (closed)
1800 Scottsville-Chili Road, Scottsville NY 14546
(585) 889-1810

Lakeshore Ice Arena (MCYH)
123 Ling Road, Rochester NY 14612
(585) 865-2800

Genesee Valley Ice Rink (RJA)
131 Elmwood Ave., Rochester NY 14611
(585) 428-7889

Wegmans Arena (TCYH/MCYH)
SUNY at Brockport, Brockport NY 14420
(585) 395-2244

Tim Horton's Ice Plex - MCC (RYH, Edge)
2700 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Rd, Rochester NY 14623
(585) 424-4625

Rochester Ice Center (RJA)
80 Lyndon Road, Fairport NY 14450
(585) 223-2160

Webster Community Sports Arena (WYH)
865 Publishers Parkway, Webster NY 14580
(585) 787-3530

Paul Louis Arena - PLA (closed)
1 Boy's Club Place, Rochester NY 14608
(585) 325-2216

Village Sports Rink (RYH)
2830 Baird Road, Fairport NY 14450
(585) 381-0090

Empire Amateur Hockey Conference www.empirehockey.org

2026-2027 CALENDAR

Month	Date	Agenda		
May	11	Monthly Meeting	7:00	The IcePlex
June	08	Monthly Meeting	7:00	The IcePlex
July	20	Monthly Meeting	7:00	The IcePlex
August	17	Monthly Meeting	7:00	The IcePlex
September	01	FINAL 8U Team Counts Due to 8U Commissioner via Email		
September	11	Team Count Changes Due 10U to 18U		
September	11	Justification Petitions for Squirt & Peewee Data Due		
September	14	Pre-Scheduling Meeting	7:00	The IcePlex
		FINAL Team Counts Due, Petition Review, Commissioner Training		
September	20	Team Scheduling & Rules Meeting for 10u-18U	10:00	The IcePlex

All teams must have an approved USA Hockey Roster with all coaches, players and managers listed for the team in order to play in games or Jamborees per USA Hockey and NYSAHA rules.

September	23-25	18U Virtual Scheduling Period (by phone/email)	Reconciliation 9/26
September	27-29	18U Virtual Scheduling Period (by phone/email)	Reconciliation 9/30
October	01-03	12U Virtual Scheduling Period (by phone/email)	Reconciliation 10/4
October	05-07	10U White Virtual Scheduling Period (by phone/email)	Reconciliation 10/8
October	09-11	10U Blue Virtual Scheduling Period (by phone/email)	Reconciliation 10/12
October	3-4	RWB/8U Placement Jamboree	Lakeshore Arena
October	13-18	8U Schedules completed by EAHC 8U Scheduler	

8U Teams/Orgs to submit all Tourn Exclusions by 10/4 & Ice by 10/12

October	09 & 16	EAHC Season may begin 10 days after Scheduling ends Conference Fee Statements Mailed 10/15		
October	24	RWB/8U Season may begin		
November	09	Monthly Meeting	7:00	The IcePlex
December	14	Monthly Meeting & Championship Division Plan Finalized	7:00	The IcePlex
December	31	All Coaches certified at the proper CEP level		
January	01	Conference Fees Due		
January	11	Monthly Meeting	7:00	The IcePlex
February	14	EAHC Season Ends for Squirt/10U thru Midget/18U teams		
February	15	Monthly Meeting & **Championship Weekend** Finalized	7:00	The IcePlex
February	24-28	EAHC Championship Weekend for Squirt/10U thru Midget/18U Teams		
February	28	EAHC Season Ends – Mite/RWB/8U Divisions		
March	08	Monthly Meeting	7:00	The IcePlex
April	12	Monthly Meeting – Officer Transition	7:00	The IcePlex

All Monthly Meetings are "Open" to all interested parties. Call or email the EAHC President and Secretary to add any items to the meeting agenda.

EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE BY LAWS

The EAHC By-Laws are published in PDF format on the EAHC website www.empirehockey.org .

EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE OFFICER/CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

YEAR	President	Vice-Pres	Year Off	Secretary	Treasurer	Champ Host	Year Off	Year Off	Year Off
2026-27	**MCYH**	**RYH**	CKH	**Edge**	**Emeritis**	Edge	RJA	RYH	MCYH
2027-28	**RYH**	TBD	Edge	**TCYH**	**Emeritis**	RJA	RYH	MCYH	Geneseo
2028-29	**RYH**	TBD	TCYH	**RJA**	**TBD**	RYH	MCYH	Geneseo	Webster
2029-30	TBD	TBD	RJA	**RYH**	**TBD**	MCYH	Geneseo	Webster	Batavia
2030-31	TBD	TBD	RYH	**MCYH**	**TBD**	Geneseo	Webster	Batavia	CKH
2031-32	TBD	TBD	MCYH	**Geneseo**	**TBD**	Webster	Batavia	CKH	**Edge**
2032-33	TBD	TBD	Geneseo	**Webster**	**TBD**	Batavia	CKH	Edge	TCYH
2033-34	TBD	TBD	**Webster**	**Batavia**	**TBD**	CKH	Edge	TCYH	RJA
2034-35	TBD	TBD	**Batavia**	**CKH**	**TBD**	Edge	TCYH	RJA	RYH

The organization listed in the "CHAMP HOST*" position has the following responsibilities: Championship host must recruit a minimum of 3 volunteers for Sunday championship day 10am-5pm to run trophies, help officers, help commissioners with trophy presentation, help get teams scoresheets completed and to fill in where needed to free up officers.

For 2021-22 thru **2026-27** seasons, each Commissioner will host a Tournament style weekend for the 10u thru 14U divisions. Each age level will be split into multiple divisions of 4-6 teams for an end of season Tournament. Mixture of R/W/B levels will occur if warranted. Championship Weekend ice will be centrally scheduled by the conference scheduler. Midget/18U division will continue to have traditional step ladder Championship Weekend. Deadline for teams to drop out is 1/1 or the team/org will be billed for the Championship Weekend costs. Rationale – we start planning for Championship Weekend in June and cancelling ice with less than 30 days results in the league being billed for the ice.

For 2022-23 thru **2026-27** season, 8U divisions will be placed via a Jamboree event. If teams drop out, the penalties will fall on individual team or org to pay the ice costs for the team that dropped out. Deadline for 8U Teams to drop out of the Jamboree is 9/1.

Midget/18U Checking rule: Implemented for 2022-23 thru **2026-27** seasons. If 18U teams keep the penalty average under 20 minutes per game, then checking will continue, if average team penalties rise above 20 minutes per game, then the league will implement non checking rules for all remaining league games and Championship Weekend.

NOTE: EAHC has decided to follow the West Section convention and change "substitute" to "alternate". The rules for alternates have not changed and all alternates must be added to the USA Hockey Roster before they play or the team be using an illegal player with all penalties as stated in this document.

Beginning in 2025-26 Season, EAHC has mandated use of the electronic scoresheet system by Gamesheet supplied under license from NYSAHA. All references to scoresheet or electronic scoresheet are referring to use of the Gamesheet electronic scoresheet app.

EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE RULES and REGULATIONS

The current USA HOCKEY and NEW YORK STATE AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION rules and regulations shall govern all play in the EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE (referred to as the Conference, Empire or EAHC). Any challenge or protest to these rules shall be directed to the EAHC Board and then to the NYSAHA West Section President.

2026-2027 Rule updates are noted in bold text

SECTION I - ADMINISTRATIVE

A. Player/Team Eligibility

1. All area youth hockey players are eligible to play in the Conference except those players participating on any Tier III or above Travel hockey team for the current season (from August 1 through completion of Conference Championship Games). A player with any prep school, college or junior experience must petition the EAHC Board for acceptance into the Midget**/**18U division. Any exceptions except those noted below are subject to approval by the EAHC Board of Directors.
   a) Any player (skater or goalie) rostered on a Conference Team may play ten games TOTAL (includes league, non-league, scrimmage and tournament games) for a Tier III or above TB (including Girls TB teams), Travel team and/or Select Team. Once a player rostered on a Conference Team plays in their eleventh (11th) game for a Travel**,** Girls TB and/or Select Team, they shall forfeit their Conference eligibility and subject their Conference Team to penalties associated with use of ineligible players.
      - Skaters: Any skater listed on a travel scoresheet is considered to have played in the game unless the name is crossed out (or shown as “Not Playing”).
      - Goalies: If a goalie rostered on a House team sits on the bench as a backup for an entire travel game, it will not count as one of their ten games played provided the scoresheet clearly shows the goalie who played and the backup.
      - Midget/18U Skater Exception: 15U skaters may play a maximum of ten (10) Travel games, 16U skaters may play a maximum of eight (8) Travel games and 18U skaters may play a maximum of five (5) Travel games before becoming ineligible to play for an EAHC team or having to follow the Midget petition rules. The maximum number of games is based on the age of the skater not the Travel team he/she plays on.
   b) For Midget**/**18U only – Players who have participated in more than the allowed number of Travel Tier III or above Travel team games at the 15U/16U/18U Midget level may petition the Conference for assignment to an EAHC Midget team provided they meet the following qualifications:
      - They are not playing, rostered or participating as an alternate on any other USA Hockey Youth or Girls team.
      - They are not playing, rostered or participating as an alternate on any High School Varsity or JV/Club team.
      - No petitions will be considered until after High School tryouts are completed. All petitions require approval or denial by the Empire Board.
      - No player will be eligible to play until rostered on the EAHC 18U team and removed from the Travel 18U/16U/15U team roster.

- EAHC will accept petitions for Midget Travel players with no High School team to play for until 12/1. If space allows, EAHC will consider petitions from players on JV/club teams after 12/1 and until the December EAHC meeting.

The petition shall include:

- Details of the player's current situation
- The player's last team
- The contact information of the player's last coach
- The player's preference of Association (1st, 2nd & 3rd choice)

Upon approval of the petition the Conference shall assign the player to any team within the Conference to preserve competitive balance. No single team shall have more than two (2) Midget (18U/16U/15U) Travel petition player exceptions on their roster. If the player refuses assignment to a team, they may not re-apply until the following season.

c) Any rostered High School Development player is eligible for rostering on an EAHC team. High School Development teams are limited to 10 games (scrimmages) versus travel teams and may not participate in any Travel League.

2. "Select Teams" and "Travel Teams" are not eligible to participate in the Conference. The definition of a "Select Team" or "Travel Team" is a team holding try-outs and players are "cut" based on ability. An "EAHC Team" is defined as the teams in an organization where players are evaluated for playing ability and there are no players "cut" based on ability. EAHC RED Teams may be selected by tryouts with cuts.
3. High School Varsity & JV players are eligible to play in the conference as long as they meet the Conference eligibility rules.

B. Conference Waiver Policy: A USA HOCKEY registered player shall play within the USA Hockey age classifications. Younger players may "play up" if their skill level is appropriate except for 8U or younger players who must play 8U. "Playing down" is not allowed by USA Hockey. Only USA Hockey can grant a waiver for a medical condition documented by a physician. The USA Hockey waiver allows a player to play down one level and is only granted for a valid medical condition. Players with USA Hockey medical waivers for a season may play down in Conference games/Championship Weekend and shall not participate on any High School, JV, travel or select team. The Conference's acceptance of the USA Hockey medical waiver does not grant rights for the player to participate in Tournaments or scrimmages. The organization's EAHC Representative shall declare players who are "playing down" with a USA Hockey issued medical waiver to the Division Commissioner and the Conference Board**.**

C. Determination of Team Levels

1. The Empire Board will decide, based on the number and skill level of the teams declared at an age level in Empire, how many divisions will be formed. Beginning with the 2018-19 season, divisions will be identified by color with Red/White/Blue the division names for RWB, Squirt and Peewee.
   a) If an age level is split into multiple divisions, teams may play cross-over games between divisions. The Empire Board will determine the number of cross-over games without exceeding the Conference game limits.
   b) In age groups with three levels, teams must declare by 8/30 in order to play at the Red or highest level and participate in the Thruway Series.
   c) Based on the results of the regular season games, Commissioners may recommend to the Empire Board 1 or more team(s) move to another division for Championship Weekend.

2. Any division with eight (8) or more teams shall split into two divisions for Championship Weekend**.** Commissioner recommends the split of teams to EAHC Board.
3. In age groups with two or three levels, organizations who wish to have more teams play in the Blue (or lowest) division than in higher divisions must provide justification data by the Empire Calendar petition due date.
   a) The justification data should include a list of all players on the EAHC team(s) at the age level using the current Excel EAHC Justification Form. The list should include players' birth dates, and prior year's team(s), division and level (for example: Squirt/10U White).
   b) If the EAHC Justification Form is not received by the due date, the team(s) will play at the White level.
   c) The President and the Board of Directors will evaluate the Justification data and determine whether to allow the team to play at the Blue/lowest level. Criteria utilized to make this determination include (but is not limited to): the number of new players (i.e. from a Learn to Skate program), the mix of ages on the team (i.e. a minor aged team), and goalie/skater experience. Organizations are encouraged to submit additional data to support their position.

D. Conference Liability: In the event of any injuries, the Empire Amateur Hockey Conference shall be held harmless from any damages or liability. Each participating member organization, player and team staff shall carry their own insurance.

E. If a Commissioner or the Conference Board determines there is a serious competitive imbalance exists in a Division, the conference may:
   1. Reassign team(s) between divisions no later than December 31st.
   2. Reassign player(s) between divisions no later than December 31st.
   3. Revoke a team's Conference Championship Weekend eligibility or ask it to play in a different division/level for Championship Weekend.

F. An objection to any decision of a Commissioner by any participating organization or team is appealed to the Conference Board of Directors.

SECTION II - TEAM ROSTER REQUIREMENTS

A. All individual participants (players, coaches and manager) shall register with USA Hockey before the start of the EAHC season. All participants on teams must adhere to the proper registration requirements of USAH and NYSAHA, and as further outlined in this section. **All players must appear on the USA Hockey roster in order to play; "pending" (i.e. submitted for approval) status is not sufficient to be eligible play in a game.**
   1. A player shall be rostered on only one (1) EAHC team during a given season. A player may be removed from one roster and moved to another within the same organization provided both Division Commissioners are notified, the player movement occurs before 12/31 and all applicable USA Hockey, NYSAHA and EAHC rules are followed for eligibility. Each player is limited to one movement within EAHC per season.
   2. Girls may be dual rostered on EAHC teams and non-TB All Girls teams without being subject to the ten-game travel rule. Girls' games must be played against all girls' teams. **Girls rostered on an All Girls Tier 2 TB team (all Girls Team declared as Tier 2 TB and not playing in a Youth/Boys travel league) may also play (no game limit) for an EAHC team provided all USA Hockey, NYSAHA, West Section and EAHC rules for eligibility are met. Girls Tier 2 TB teams who wish to play in EAHC should submit a petition for the EAHC Board to consider.**

3. Age classifications set by USA HOCKEY shall be strictly adhered to. Overage players are NEVER to be used and will result in a game forfeit and head coach hearing.
4. All teams must follow NYSAHA regulations for birthdate verification. Birthdate verification is required for all players by NYSAHA and players can't be added to a USA Hockey Roster and play in a game without verification**.**
5. The recommended minimum number of players on a team roster should be eleven (11). EAHC suggests minimum rosters of 13 players for Squirt/10U, 15 players for Peewee/12U and Bantam/14U and 17 players for Midget/18U when possible.
6. The maximum number of players on a USA Hockey and EAHC roster is twenty (20) with no more than eighteen (18) skaters and the remainder goalies.
7. If an organization has the same number of Goalies (or more) as teams at a USA Hockey age level, a Goalie must be rostered on each team by 12/15.

B. All EAHC teams (RWB/Mite/6U & 8U thru Midget/18U) must submit an approved USA Hockey Roster to their Commissioner at the Pre-Season Jamboree, Scheduling Meeting or the end of the Scheduling period (whichever occurs 1st) and a signed EAHC Guidebook/Head Coach Form. 6U teams must submit a roster by the first Jamboree. The current version of the EAHC Guidebook form is posted on the EAHC website Documents page. All players (including alternates), coaches and the team manager(s) must be listed on the USA Hockey Roster prior to playing in a game; **"pending" (i.e. submitted) is not sufficient to play/coach in a game.** (Note: this is the USAH and NYSAHA rule and EAHC will be compliant per West Section direction). The preferred format for roster submission is the electronic link to the roster. No team may play a scrimmage or league game or Jamboree without a certified USA Hockey roster. Redlined coaches and players may not participate in the league until the reason for the redline is resolved and they are re-added.
   1. USA Hockey Rosters for a team shall include only the players eligible to play on the EAHC team. If the roster includes extra players, a reason must be provided to the Commissioner (for example: Team who has Travel players or players participating on another EAHC team who are ineligible to play in EAHC games. The Commissioner will be supplied with a list of the ineligible players for EAHC games).
   2. USA Hockey Rosters must include all team staff with a designated Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and a Manager. All team staff must adhere to USAH and NYSAHA regulations for Registration, Coaching Certification, Modules, SafeSport and Screening. Only rostered coaches are allowed on the bench; **"pending" (i.e submitted) is not sufficient to coach in a game**. It is the responsibility of each Organization to ensure every team staff member is rostered, trained, screened and credentialed properly for their age group per USAH rules. Coaches found not qualified are not allowed to coach. Every team must have a minimum of two (2) coaches and a manager listed on the roster. Commissioners will examine USA Hockey rosters for compliance.
   3. Player signatures on USA Hockey rosters or scoresheets are NOT REQUIRED.

C. All ineligible player questions and challenges to a team's roster shall be submitted in writing to the Division Commissioner for investigation and then forwarded by the Division Commissioner to the EAHC Board for discussion and possible penalty (forfeit, coach suspension) at the next Board Meeting.
   1. <u>An Ineligible Player</u> shall include a player who is not properly registered with USA Hockey, on suspension, not properly rostered on the team's USA Hockey Roster prior to playing for the team or who otherwise does not adhere to the EAHC (including violations of the alternate rules), NYSAHA or USA Hockey rules for player eligibility.

2. Penalty for the use of an ineligible player: 1st violation is an automatic forfeit of game, 2nd violation is a forfeit and 1 game suspension for the head coach and 3rd violation is forfeit and Head Coach is suspended pending board hearing.
3. **Players who use a different jersey must be fixed on the scoresheet and/or a note by the scorekeeper placed on the scoresheet. Fines may be imposed for violations of this rule.**

D. Roster Changes: The Division Commissioner must be notified by email at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to adding or deleting a player from the team roster. The Division Commissioner may waive the 48 hour rule. The Commissioner may impose a fine on a team when an otherwise eligible new player is added and no notification is made before the player participates in a game. Players (including alternates) must be added to the USA Hockey Roster before playing in a game for the team.
   1. Failure to add a player or coach to the USA Hockey Roster before playing/coaching in a game shall result in penalties associated with an ineligible player; **"pending" (i.e. submitted) does not make a player/coach eligible to play in a game.**

SECTION III – ALTERNATES (formerly referred to as SUBSISTUTES)

A. Teams may use alternate players provided they meet the following requirements:
   1. Alternate players may only play for an EAHC team rostered in the same organization. Alternates from non-EAHC teams rostered in the same organization require Commissioner Approval if allowed under the rules in this section. Players with USA Hockey Medical waivers are not eligible to be alternates. The coaches involved in a game are NOT permitted to allow alternates required to be approved by the Commissioner or otherwise not allowed by USA Hockey, NYSAHA or EAHC.
   2. <u>All alternates must be added to a Team's USA Hockey Roster before playing</u>**; <u>"pending" is not sufficient for an alternate to be eligible to play in a game</u>**.
   3. All penalty minutes incurred as an alternate count toward the player's total penalty minute totals on his/her rostered team.
   4. Definitions: A player is any member of a team rostered in EAHC. A goalie plays the goalie position during the game. A skater plays forward or defense.
   5. All alternates utilized in a game must be listed on the score sheet. **The team will notify their Commissioner of all alternates so they can be marked as Affiliated once they are added to the team's USA Hockey Roster. Commissioners will verify all alternates meet the EAHC Alternate Rules and mark them as affiliated. The Team Manager has the responsibility to mark the Alternate/Affiliated player as "Playing" on the Gamesheet Scoring app when they are needed to play. Failure to identify otherwise legal players as alternates to their Commissioner is a scoresheet fine issue.**
   6. Violations of the alternate rules are considered use of an ineligible player.
   7. Teams are not required to utilize alternates. A game must be played as long as 6 players are available. Game reschedules are not permitted provided six players are available. It is the head coach's responsibility to determine players eligible to use as alternates and have them added to the Team's USA Hockey Roster before the game starts. EAHC highly suggests alternate players (goalies and if roster is small enough, skaters) are added to the Team's USA Hockey roster BEFORE the season begins. The designation of PLAYER should be used as the player's position on the USA Hockey Roster to make it easy for the Commissioner to determine which players are "full-time" and which are potential alternates. If skaters use up their alternate eligibility (**limit of 3**)

then the Head Coach should request the organization's Registrar remove them and replace them with new skaters.

a) If six players are not available for a Championship Weekend game, then the game is forfeited.
b) A game is rescheduled if the team needing alternates can't field 6 players or is missing a Goalie. The organization of the team short players covers the cost of the reschedule.
c) 18U Only: If either team has 9 or less skaters and a goalie available, the game will be played as non-checking. Approved for 2024-25 & 2025-26 & 2026-27.

8. Alternates should come from lower level EAHC teams unless the situation is extraordinary. Alternates MUST play up as per USA Hockey rules, not down.
   a) A player who is playing up is NOT eligible to be an Alternate on a lower level team even if age eligible (for example: a Squirt/10U aged player playing on a Peewee/12U team may not alternate on a Squirt/10U team despite his/her age eligibility).
   b) RWB/Mite/8U players are NEVER allowed to alternate on Squirt/10U teams per USAH rules.

B. Use of alternate SKATERS is only allowed when a team has less than ten skaters (less than twelve for Midget/18U, Bantam/14U) available at the start of the game**.** At the Midget/18U & Bantam/14U level, each player suspended decreases the number of alternates allowed by one per suspension up to two (example: a team with two players suspended may obtain alternates to get to ten skaters).
   1. 8U thru 12U: Teams may only utilize alternate skaters to bring their game roster to ten skaters**.** For example, if a team has 8 skaters available, they may add up to two skaters from a lower level team to bring their number of skaters to ten.
   2. Skaters may only alternate three (3) times per season (including Championship Weekend). No changes to Championship Weekend Schedule will be made to accommodate alternates.
   3. Skater alternates, if needed, are obtained:
      a) From a lower level EAHC team within their organization. Example: Squirt/10U White team asks the Squirt/10U Blue team for available skaters to alternate.
      b) Horizontal skater alternates are allowed at the Squirt/10U thru Midget/18U levels <u>with approval by the Commissioner</u> and verification no lower level alternates are available. Skaters may alternate up to 3 times.
      c) Use of Travel players as Skater Alternates is prohibited.
      d) <u>Exception:</u> Squirt/10U Blue skaters may alternate on Squirt/10U Blue teams as RWB/8U players are ineligible. No Commissioner approval required.
      e) <u>Exception:</u> Squirt/10U Red players may only alternate on Peewee/12U White & Red teams. Peewee/12U Blue teams may only obtain alternates from Squirt/10U White/Blue teams.

C. Use of an alternate GOALIE is only permitted if the team has no Goalie available.
   1. If a team has a player who can play Goalie, he/she may not skate out so the team can obtain an alternate Goalie unless the team has less than 10 skaters available.
   2. Goalies may alternate as Goalies an unlimited number of times per season.
   3. Teams with extended Goalie issues (example: an injury or parent move) should consult with their Empire Rep and other EAHC Coaches within their organization and develop a bi-weekly or monthly plan for use of Goalie alternates for their Commissioner to approve in advance. *Pre-season issues should be discussed at the EAHC board level and orgs should have a list of eligible goalies and their plan to be approved.*

4. Teams needing a Goalie alternate must follow the precedence below. Commissioner Pre-Approval is required unless explicitly waived below. Also, proof of Goalie unavailability is required (example: if a Coach is asking for Commissioner Approval of a horizontal alternate goalie in (b) below, then proof of the unavailable goalie status in (a) is required, same rule applies for (c) for eligible goalies in (a) and (b)).
   a) From a lower level EAHC team within their organization. Example: the Squirt/10U White team asks the Squirt/10U Blue goalie to alternate. PW/12U team asks the Squirt/10U White or Blue goalie to alternate. No Commissioner approval required.
   b) Horizontal alternates from EAHC teams within the organization. Example: if an organization has two EAHC Peewee/12U teams, then if the Squirt/10U White & Blue goalies are unavailable due to conflicts, then the Division Commissioner may approve a Peewee/12U team to use the other Peewee/12U team's goalie.
      1. Exception: Squirt/10U Blue goalies may alternate on Squirt/10U Blue teams as RWB/8U players are ineligible. No Commissioner approval required.
   c) Lower level non TB Travel Team (Tier II or lower) from the same organization (examples: Peewee/12U uses a Squirt/10U or 9U Travel or Squirt Red goalie, Midget/18U team uses a Bantam/14U Travel goalie). 13U Travel Goalies may NOT be used as alternates for a Bantam/14U EAHC team. 15U/16U/18U Travel Goalies may NOT be used as alternates on EAHC 18U/Midget teams.
   d) TB Travel or Girls TB Team (Tier II or lower). Examples in c) above continue to apply to this rule.

SECTION IV – OFFICIAL SCORE SHEETS

A. The Conference score sheet is the official record and conclusive evidence of the circumstances of each game.
   1. There are absolutely no changes allowed on any goal scoring or penalty calls once they are assessed. Alterations of the score sheet can only be made with the referees in attendance and prior to them signing the score sheet.
   2. Suspended players shall be listed on the score sheet. There shall be a written indication on the score sheet when a player was serving a suspension.
      a) It is the Conference's recommendation all suspended players attend games when they are serving suspensions.
      b) USA Hockey mandates all suspensions for coaches and players begin 45 minutes before a game starts and end 30 minutes after the game so coaches and players are not allowed in the locker room before/after games, on or near the bench, in the penalty box or timekeepers area.
   3. All players and coaches on the Team's USA Hockey Roster must be listed on the scoresheet for a game. Coaches not present must be crossed off. Players (full-time or alternates) must be crossed off if not playing or suspended.

B. The original score sheet (white copy) shall be completed electronically and e-mailed to the Division Commissioner and both teams by the electronic Scoring App. Each team's Head Coach (or his/her designated representative) SHALL submit a completed Referee Evaluation using the EAHC website online form.
   1. If a score sheet is submitted incomplete, a fine against the offending organization will be assessed.

2. ~~**Score sheets shall be submitted by email with 24 hours, mailed within seventy-two (72) hours and received within 1 week after the completion of the game or a fine will be assessed against the offending organization.**~~
3. Score sheets and reports of games involving a Match Penalty or Game Misconduct shall be reported to the Division Commissioner within 24 hours & before the next game.
4. Score sheets shall be signed by the Head Coaches. Assistant coaches must be listed on the scoresheet. The scorekeeper shall fill in their name.
5. ~~**All coaches (head and assistant) shall write their certification numbers and expiration date on the score sheet next to their signature before the game begins.**~~
6. Player Signature on scoresheets removed effective with the 2019-20 Season.
7. If the Referees need extra time to write the explanation of a Game Misconduct or Match Penalty on the score sheet, they may take the Electronic scoresheet to the Ref room to complete their comments~~. a copy of the score sheet will be made available to both coaches in a reasonable amount of time after the game.~~

C. Fair Play Standings Point: In any regular season game where a team's Penalty Minutes do not exceed the following thresholds, the team is awarded a "Fair Play Point" in the standings. Both teams involved in the game are awarded a Fair Play Point if they both stay below the threshold. If only one team is below, then only the team below the threshold is awarded the standings point. The Fair Play Point is in addition to points awarded for win or tie. A team is not awarded a Fair Play Point in a game where a player or coach receives a Game Misconduct or Match Penalty regardless of the team's penalty minute total. In addition, any game where a coach/bench receives an Unsportsmanlike Conduct Minor, the team will not receive a Fair Play Point regardless of team penalty minute total. The Fair Play Point is equal to 1 point.

Fair Play Point Penalty Thresholds:

Squirt/10U: 5 minutes	PeeWee/12U: 9 minutes
Bantam/14U: 13 minutes	Midget/18U: 15 minutes

SECTION V – ASSESSMENT OF FINES

A. Fines are incurred for the following:
1. Any violation of the administrative rules not affecting the outcome of the game (late/missing/incomplete/unreadable score sheets, missing coach signatures, inaccurate uniform numbers, etc.)
   $25.00 first offense per team
   $35.00 each offense per team thereafter
2. Violations of administrative rules hampering the effective operations of the Conference are: late/missing waivers, team rosters, etc.
   $15.00 each occurrence
3. Protested games: $15.00 each occurrence
4. Game Forfeited: $300.00 per game not played paid by organization of team who forfeited the game ($200 for 8U)
5. Rosters must be approved by 10/1 - $100 fine per team if not approved by 10/1 with uniform #s. 2nd Notice Cancel games & Suspended until Received

B. Commissioners with recurring issues (ex: scoresheets, referee evaluations and missing paper work) which may result in a fine to a Team should: first warn the team via email, copy the applicable Empire Representative on the second, then impose the fine for the third offense. Commissioners shall notify the Conference President of any fine(s) assessed with

supporting documentation. The Conference President shall provide written notification of said fine(s) to the offending organization, Commissioner, and Conference Treasurer.

C. All fines shall be paid by member organizations before the conclusion of the regular season in order for a team to participate in the Conference Championship Weekend.

SECTION VI – GAME PENALTIES

A. Penalty minutes in the Midget/18U Division shall be:
   Minor: Two minutes (2 minutes)
   Major: Five (5) minutes.
   Misconduct: Ten minutes (10 minutes)

   Penalty minutes in the Bantam/14U Divisions shall be:
   Minor: One and 1/2 minutes (1.5 minutes)
   Major: Four (4) minutes.
   Misconduct: Eight minutes (8 minutes)

   Penalty minutes in the Squirt/10U & Peewee/12U Division shall be:
   Minor: One (1) minute
   Major: Three (3) minutes
   Misconduct: Six (6) minutes

   Game or Match Penalty: When a player or coach is assessed a Game or Match Penalty, the Misconduct number of minutes in additional penalty time for their age group shall be added to the player's or coach's accumulated penalty minutes by the Commissioner.

B. Suspensions are incurred for the following:
   1. USA Hockey Game Misconduct: A one (1) game suspension for all players, coaches and team officials in all Divisions is mandated by USA Hockey. USA Hockey mandated suspensions shall be served in the next game (Conference, Tournament or scrimmage) already appearing on the team's schedule at the time of the infraction which warranted the suspension. ~~Score sheets for the original penalty and game where the suspension was served shall be submitted to commissioners within 72 hours.~~ The team incurring the Game Misconduct must fill out the Report an Infraction Form on the EAHC website indicating the date the suspension will be served.
   2. USA Hockey Match Penalty: Two (2) game suspension minimum. The offending player/team official is suspended from and shall not participate in any and all Conference and USA Hockey games/functions and team practices *until a hearing is held or a mandated suspension is fulfilled. EAHC will follow the procedures and policies on hearings and mandated suspensions determined by the NYSAHA West Section President. Parent (if player) or Coach contact information should be communicated to the Division Commissioner and EAHC President as soon as possible after the Match Penalty to facilitate a decision.* The hearing, if needed, shall be held within thirty (30) days. Any player/team official who receives a Match Penalty is automatically placed on a one-year probationary period regardless of the outcome of the hearing. The team incurring the Match Penalty must fill out the Report an Infraction Form on the EAHC website indicating the dates of the next 5 games on the teams schedule.
   3. USA Hockey Progressive Suspensions: See USA Hockey Rule 411 for details. <u>All Major, Game Misconduct, and Match Penalties must be reported to EAHC via the EAHC website form regardless of whether they occur in an EAHC regular season or Championship Weekend game, scrimmage or Tournament game.</u>

4. EAHC Suspensions: All EAHC suspensions, other than those occurring from a USA Hockey Rule, shall be served in Conference games.
   a) Any coach who receives three (3) Game Misconducts (excluding USA Hockey suspensions for a head coach whose team receives 12 penalties in one game) or player who receives three (3) Major Penalties during any given season shall forfeit their eligibility for the remainder of the season and Championship Weekend. A player or coach may appeal this suspension within thirty (30) days. *See also USA Hockey Rule 411 Progressive Suspensions for mandatory suspensions for coaches and players.*

C. Suspension Procedures
   1. Any EAHC suspension carried over from the previous season shall use the first scheduled Conference Game of the new season as the first game served. In addition, all remaining carry-over games shall be served in immediately succeeding games until the suspension is satisfied**.** A player is eligible to participate in any scrimmages or tournaments prior to the first scheduled Conference Game.
   2. Player or coach failure to serve a suspension shall result in the offending Team's Head Coach serving an additional suspension equal to the number of game suspensions not served in the correct game(s). Egregious violations, as identified by the Division Commissioner, can result in the player and Head Coach being brought before the Conference Disciplinary Committee.
   3. It is the responsibility of the player's Head Coach to enforce the suspension and indicate the player is serving the suspension on the game score sheet.
      a) The appearance of the player's name on the score sheet without the statement he or she is sitting a suspension is conclusive evidence the player did play in the game.
      b) If the suspension is served in a non-Conference game, the completed score sheet shall be submitted to the Division Commissioner within 72 hours or the suspension shall not be counted as served.
   4. Player, Coach or Team Official Game Misconduct/Match Penalty Procedures
      a) If the player, coach or team official is on more than one team, they shall serve the suspension on the team where they were assessed the Game Misconduct.
      b) The Division Commissioner shall be made aware of all Game Misconducts by email and by reporting the Game Misconduct via the website form.
      c) Players will be escorted from the bench to the locker room by a properly SafeSport Trained/Screened Team Official over the age of 18 and then out of the building. Player may stay inside the locker room until the end of the game but may not sit in the stands after dressing. Team officials who receive a Game Misconduct must be escorted out of the building. Failure to follow these procedures will result in a one game suspension to the Head Coach.

D. <u>EAHC Penalty Minute Suspensions</u>: Accumulated penalties and misconducts exceeding thirty (30) minutes for Squirt/10U level, forty (40) minutes for Peewee/12U level, sixty (60) minutes for Bantam/14U level, and eighty (80) minutes for Midget/18U level shall require an automatic suspension for a minimum of two (2) Conference regular season or Championship Weekend games. The player is not suspended until after the game in which the player goes over the limit ends.
   1. Penalty minutes include minor penalties, major penalties and Misconduct / Game Misconduct / Match Penalties.

2. Once a player or coach has exceeded the accumulated penalty minutes noted above for their respective age division, additional penalties subsequently accumulated in fifteen (15) minute increments thereafter (20 minutes for Bantam/14U & Midget/18U) including Championship Weekend games, shall result in the player or coach automatically receiving an additional two (2) game suspension and the player or coach must attend a hearing before the EAHC Disciplinary Committee. Each subsequent penalty minute increment will incur an additional two (2) game suspension.
   a) Hearings shall be held within thirty (30) days of the date the Conference was notified of the accumulated penalty minutes.
3. The Commissioner, at his/her discretion, may notify the coach when a player or coach has amassed the first twenty (20) minutes at the Squirt/10U level, thirty (30) minutes at the Peewee/12U level, forty (40) minutes at the Bantam/14U level, and fifty (50) minutes at the Midget/18U level.
4. Head Coaches are responsible for keeping track of a player's penalty minutes and reporting Majors, Game Misconducts and Match Penalties using the EAHC Form.

E. <u>EAHC Aggressive Play Policy:</u>
1. Purpose: This policy is intended to provide additional support to the USA Hockey, NYSAHA and EAHC playing rules, regulations, point of emphasis and to draw attention to the dangerous and/or reckless behavior of participants. This policy will hopefully result in modifications to dangerous behaviors so additional supplementary discipline and suspensions are not required.
2. Definitions: For the purpose of the policy, the following shall be defined as an "Aggressive Play Penalty":
   a) Any Major Penalty including those resulting in a Game Misconduct and/or Match Penalty. Note: Game Misconducts or Match Penalties NOT the result of a Major Penalty are not considered Aggressive Play Penalties.
   b) Minor Penalties imposed for checking from behind, boarding, charging & kneeing.
   c) Any penalty (minor, major or misconduct) the referee states to the scorekeeper or writes up as "intent to injure" or "head contact".
3. Implementation:
   a) Any player who incurs Aggressive Play penalties during EAHC games in any combination shall be suspended as follows:
      1. 4th Aggressive Play Penalty: 1 Game Suspension
      2. 5th Aggressive Play Penalty: 1 Game Suspension
      3. 6th Aggressive Play Penalty: 1 Game Suspension plus an EAHC Hearing
      4. 7th, 8th, etc Aggressive Play Penalty: 1 Game Suspension
   b) All suspensions shall be served in EAHC regular season or Championship Weekend games.
   c) Aggressive Play suspensions are served in addition to any other suspensions incurred for the infractions. Game suspensions imposed for violating the Aggressive Play Policy are not counted as Game Misconducts
   d) Players required to attend a Hearing will appear before the EAHC Disciplinary Committee. The hearing shall occur within a time frame not to exceed thirty (30) days from the sixth (or higher) infraction. The hearing purpose is to review with the player, Head Coach and the parents of the player the accumulated penalties and EAHC's concern about potential injury.
   e) The Head Coach for each player who appears before the EAHC Disciplinary Committee shall also be required to appear. The Head Coach is expected to explain

the steps he or she is taking, both with the team and the player, to reduce the incidence of aggressive play penalties. The EAHC Disciplinary Committee can impose supplementary discipline on the Head Coach and/or player.

f) The Head Coach is responsible for tracking Aggressive Play penalties and ensuring Conference suspensions are served in the next Conference game. The Commissioner, at his/her discretion, may notify the team officials when a player has amassed the first three Aggressive Play penalties. Team officials are encouraged to seek advice on their player's status from their Commissioner.

F. EAHC Disciplinary Committee

1. The Conference's Disciplinary Committee has the authority to act under USA HOCKEY Rule 410 entitled "Supplementary Discipline".
2. The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of a minimum of three EAHC Board members per West Section Guidelines. It also includes one member of the executive board who acts as the Chairperson and casts the tie-breaking vote if necessary. The executive board member shall not come from the organization with the infraction. The member org with the infraction may sit in on the deliberations but casts no vote.
3. Disciplinary Committee hearings shall be held as needed.
4. Coaches of players requiring a Disciplinary Committee hearing shall notify their respective Commissioner of the need for the hearing.
5. If a referee issues a Match Penalty, a hearing by the Conference's Disciplinary Committee is required provided West Section assigns the hearing to EAHC. Hearings may not be held by the individual organizations for Match Penalties per West Section Guidelines.
6. Players or team officials requiring a hearing shall be notified by email or telephone of the date and time of the hearing by the Conference President or Commissioner.
7. Players or team officials requiring a hearing have the right to attend and / or have representative(s) of their choice.
   a) If the Player or Team Official cannot attend the scheduled hearing due to extenuating circumstances, the Conference shall make an attempt to reschedule the hearing within thirty (30) days of the infraction so the offending player / team official can be heard and present witnesses.
8. If a player or team official can not appear at their scheduled hearing, the hearing shall still occur and they shall be notified of the Committee's decision by mail and/or telephone. Failure to appear shall not factor into the Committee's decision.
9. Any appearance before the Disciplinary Committee by a player or coach shall result in a mandatory one-year Conference probationary period. During the probationary period prior incidents shall be considered when determining discipline or eligibility.
10. The Conference can make a request to the West Section President to extend any suspensions to all USA Hockey activities.
11. Any decision reached by the EAHC Disciplinary Committee may be appealed to the West Section President of the New York State Amateur Hockey Association (NYSAHA). Any appeal shall be placed within ten (10) days of the receipt of the written decision of the EAHC Disciplinary Committee.
12. A written report of any and all hearings and disciplinary action(s) shall be sent to the West Section President for review and record keeping purposes.

SECTION VII – GAME RULES

A. If a team is late for a scheduled game, there shall be a ten (10) minute waiting period from the scheduled starting time of the game. If, at the end of the waiting period a team does not have enough players to start, the game shall be forfeited and the remainder of the ice time used for a practice by both teams.
   1. A team may not start a game until they have at least six (6) players.
B. Games may be postponed due to hazardous conditions, rink or other emergencies, gross illness or other acts of God, which reasonably prevent the playing of the game. The decision is made by the Head Coach with notification to the Commissioner and opposing coach, and is not a forfeit situation for either team. Every effort should be made to play games as scheduled and only postponed if emergency officials have closed roads or the rink has issues. Team officials should consult the Alternate rules in cases when less than 11 players or a goalie are not available.
C. The Commissioner shall be notified of all postponed or rescheduled games or the home team will be fined.
   1. Postponed games shall be rescheduled within a reasonable time determined by the Commissioner.
   2. The home team is responsible for negotiating the time and date of a postponed or rescheduled game with the away team. The home team shall offer non-conflicting, reasonable options and the opposing team is required to accept one. The Commissioner determines if the options offered are reasonable.
D. All regularly scheduled conference games shall be played as scheduled at the September/October Scheduling Meeting. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of the game by the team attempting to make the change unless agreed to by BOTH Head Coaches and the Commissioner.
   1. Once scheduled, all EAHC regular season and Championship Weekend games hold precedence over any non-conference or tournament games.
   2. All Commissioners (8U thru 18U) shall maintain the master schedule on the EAHC website for their division. This is the schedule all teams follow.
   3. If the home team makes a change to the game schedule; they shall notify the Commissioner and visiting team as soon as possible. If a home team does not notify the Commissioner and the visiting team, they shall forfeit the game.
   4. A score sheet shall be turned in for a forfeited game. The Commissioner makes the final decision and shall notify both teams. The game will be recorded as 1-0 loss for the team forfeiting the game and this team will receive no Fair Play Point. The other team will receive their Fair Play Point. The forfeiting team will incur a $300 fine if the forfeit was due to a game not played.
   5. Squirt/10U and Peewee/12U divisions play a 16 game schedule. The Bantam/14U division play an 18 game schedule. The Midget/18U division play a **16** game schedule **(for 2025-26 & 2026-27 seasons, adjusted by # of teams each season).**
E. The following rule defines a “completed game” in case of injured players(s) or other unforeseen circumstances (beyond the Conference’s control) which delay play of game. Teams must utilize all scheduled ice time even if they do not expect to complete the game. A coach refusing to continue to obtain a win or tie may be assessed a Match Penalty for removing his team from the ice or a forfeit by EAHC.
   1. During a regular season or Championship Weekend game, two (2) full stop clock periods shall be finished before a game is considered complete.

2. If the above requirements are not met, the game shall be rescheduled at a later date. At the Commissioner's discretion, the game may be re-played in its entirety (preferred) or resumed at the clock time reached when the curfew expired (utilized late in the season when options are limited).

F. Game Duration (Zamboni time to resurface ice is not included)
   1. Squirt/10U Blue level games shall consist of three (3) eleven (11) minute stop clock periods with a curfew time of no less than sixty (60) minutes.
   2. Squirt/10U White level games shall consist of three (3) twelve (12) minute stop clock periods with a curfew time of no less than sixty (60) minutes.
   3. Peewee/12U level games shall consist of three (3) twelve (12) minute stop clock periods with a curfew time of no less than sixty (60) minutes.
   4. Bantam/14U level games shall consist of three (3) fourteen (14) minute stop clock periods with a curfew time of no less than seventy (70) minutes.
   5. Midget/18U level games shall consist of three (3) fifteen (15) minute stop clock periods with a curfew time of no less than eighty (80) minutes.

G. Game Curfews
   1. The curfew time (finish time) shall be noted on all game score sheets and location of the curfew clock and/or other "official" timepiece shall be identified prior to the start of the game and announced to the coaches and referees.
   2. A curfew time shall not be changed after the start of the game. It is the responsibility of the timekeeper to blow the horn at curfew time. If there are reports of a curfew clock manipulation, the Division Commissioner shall investigate and recommend to the EAHC Board changes to the game score if needed.
   3. A game cannot be protested because of curfew time expiration.
   4. During Championship Weekend games only, both teams shall follow the guidelines set forth by the Division Commissioner and the rink personnel of the arena if there is any dispute concerning a game curfew.
   5. There shall be no time-outs allowed during any Conference game.

H. Double Shifting: EAHC promotes the USA Hockey fair play policy. It is EAHC's intent to have all players receive an equal amount of ice time. All violations of this rule shall be referred by the Division Commissioner to the member organization for action.

I. Game Protests
   1. All protests regarding the application of Conference Rules shall be submitted in writing to the Division Commissioner. USA Hockey Rules may not be protested. Judgment calls on the part of the referee(s) may not be protested. No changes can be made to a referee call once the call is made during the game. Per USA Hockey rules, the Conference may not change a referee's call or the suspension(s) affiliated with any call.
   2. Protests regarding regular season game actions shall be submitted to the Commissioner within seventy-two (72) hours following a game. The Commissioner investigates and forwards to the EAHC board for action.
   3. A copy of the score sheet, supporting documentation, and a written explanation of the protest shall accompany all protests of games.
   4. All protests of games shall be subject to a fine.

J. Game Procedures
   1. The home team shall supply a minimum of two (2) referees with current USA HOCKEY registration for each game.
      a) If two referees are not available, the game shall be played with one referee.
      b) If no referees are in attendance:

1. The game shall be rescheduled at the Bantam/14U level and above and the ice used as practice time by both teams.
2. At the RWB/8U, Squirt/10U and Peewee/12U levels a rostered coach or assistant coach may be appointed as referees. Preferred is one from each team. A helmet, skates and whistle are required for certified coaches serving as referees.

c) If there is a question whether the referees are USA HOCKEY registered, the game shall be played and the issue noted on the score sheet. The Division Commissioner shall determine whether the referee(s) are USA HOCKEY registered. If the referee is not USA HOCKEY registered, the home team shall forfeit the game.

d) The Conference recommends independent referees are used at the RWB/8U and Squirt/10U levels.

e) The Conference requires independent referees are used at the Pee Wee/12U level and above.

f) The Conference requires the use of an independent referee organization for all Championship Weekend games.

2. A responsible adult from each team shall staff the penalty box for each team who is over eighteen years of age. No players may staff the penalty box.
3. The home team for each game shall provide a qualified scorekeeper, timekeeper, score sheet and game pucks. Before the game starts, either team and/or the Commissioner may require the away team supply the scorekeeper.
4. All players on the same team will be in matching and numbered uniforms. Teams shall submit uniform colors prior to the start of the season. The home team is responsible for resolving any jersey color conflicts using the following resolution order: (1) the home team wears an alternate jersey, (2) the away team wears an alternate jersey, or (3) the home team wear pinneys. Teams are required to bring BOTH their primary and alternate jerseys (if available) to ALL games.
5. Both the home and away teams must list their entire roster on the scoresheet and clearly indicate those players participating by crossing out or otherwise indicating players not participating. Game sheet rosters should have the correct uniform numbers. The Head Coaches signature indicates he has checked the roster including any alternates. Scoresheet fines may be imposed for failure to comply.

K. Parents or spectators who interfere with any game or become rowdy or abusive in any way may be ejected from the arena.

1. The referee may hold up a game until the person(s) are removed or follow USA Hockey Guidelines for removal of spectators.
2. Incidents will be noted by the referee on the score sheet and brought to the attention of the respective organization immediately for necessary action.
3. Use of noisemakers is prohibited during Conference regular season and Championship Weekend **games**. Examples of prohibited noisemakers include (but are not limited to): whistles, air horns, pennies in jars, vocal noises, megaphones, any instruments (ex: bagpipes, cowbells, drums…) etc.

L. A player whose equipment becomes dislodged during play may not resume play until the equipment is properly replaced**.**

1. Mouth protection pieces are mandatory for all levels. All mouthpieces shall be colored (non-clear). RWB/8U and Squirt/10U will be asked to leave the ice until the proper equipment is obtained. Peewee/12U and above are governed by USA Hockey rules enforced by the referees**.**
2. Throat/neck protection guards are REQUIRED for all levels of play per USA Hockey. Players will be asked by referees to leave the ice until the proper equipment is obtained.

Referees will follow a USA Hockey defined procedure for warnings and assessing Misconducts for Illegal Equipment.

M. Mercy Rule (all DIVISIONS)
   1. Running clock with a 7 or more goal advantage in 3rd period
   2. Return to stop clock if gap narrows to less than 7 goals
   3. Only show 7 goal differential on clock, record all goals on scoresheet.

N. Empire Review Policy:
   1. The Empire Review Policy can be initiated by the Division Commissioner, Organizational Official, or Executive Board Member within 72 hours of the incident. It can be a Game Misconduct, a fight, or a no call by a referee.
   2. The video is reviewed by multiple neutral people comprised of 2 Empire Reps from organizations not involved in the incident and the division Commissioner (other than the submitters), i.e. a subset of our Disciplinary Committee who has the time to do the reviews. The players penalty history is reviewed. If the reviewers believe there is enough evidence of an issue (usually reckless or dangerous conduct) or evidence of a history, then the player/coach is notified he/she will be summoned in for a hearing. The rep of the organization gathers the contact info and gives it to the President to schedule the hearing. Sometimes after the review, a decision is made to take no action other than to watch for further incidents. Review to be completed within 7 days of receipt. Findings will be communicated to the board via email once complete.
   3. Hearings are similar to our existing hearings. Player/coach automatically gets a 1 year probation. Player/coach is given a written notification of the outcome. The outcome can be anything from the 1 year of probation to a lengthy suspension. The hearing is supposed to be both educational in addition to the possibility of punitive action.
   4. Response to Submitter: Thank you for submitting, then either they will be watching for further incidents or the player/coach was brought in for a hearing. Generally the outcome of the hearing is not disclosed since in most case, the player is a minor and in the case of adults, there are privacy laws. Note often if it is a parent upset over an injury, just knowing that someone has reviewed it helps to calm them down.

SECTION VIII – REGULAR SEASON STANDINGS TIE BREAKER

If a tie results between two or more teams after completion of the regular season games, the following format shall be used as tie breaker for the divisional final standings and to determine the Championship Weekend game seeding. All tiebreaker scenarios are cumulative throughout the regular season. (If more than two teams are tied, start with #2 and then start over at #1 when only two teams are left.)

1. Head to head record against each other in the regular season (does NOT apply if more than two teams are tied)
2. The team with the most wins
3. The team with the least amount of losses
4. The team with the least goals against
5. The teams with the least amount of “accumulated penalty minutes”
6. A coin flip

SECTION IX - CHANGES TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

All requests for Conference rule changes shall be submitted in writing to the Division Commissioner. The EAHC Board shall review the proposed changes.

Any situation not specifically covered in the aforementioned rules and deemed not in the best interest of the Conference, or amateur hockey in general, shall be dealt with by the Board of Directors at the next scheduled Board Meeting.

EAHC CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND RULES AND PROCEDURES

Apply to 18U Division in Championship Weekend

GAME RULES

All current USA HOCKEY and EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE rules and regulations shall apply during the Championship Weekend games.

A. All Championship Weekend games shall be played as scheduled. No rescheduling shall be permitted without the consent of the Conference President and Division Commissioner. The EAHC "Matrix" shall be used for scheduling all games.
B. All regular season division game curfews plus a minimum of 5 minutes shall apply. The game ends when either the curfew clock ends or three periods have been played, whichever occurs first. If the game is tied when ended, a shootout proceeds per the rules below on Championship Weekend Tie Breakers. All games within a given round must have the same curfew time. Example: The Bantam division has a quarterfinal and a semifinal round. The Commissioner schedules all quarterfinal games so they have the same curfew time with a minimum of a 75 minute curfew (regular season curfew of 70 + 5 minutes).
C. NO time outs allowed.
D. Referees will be given a list of the 5 shooters if the game is a tie after regulation.
E. The higher seeded team is considered the HOME TEAM in all Championship Weekend games (#1 is highest seed, #16 is lowest seed).

PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP GAME TIE BREAKERS

Method #1: The Five Round Shoot-Out (if tied after regulation)

A. A shoot-out shall consist of one (1) player from each team (per round) shooting on the opposing goal tender. The home team shall have the choice of whether they shoot first or last. Teams shall alternate shots which will comprise one (1) round. The team with the most goals after five (5) rounds shall be declared the winner.
   All shooters shall be declared ~~**before the game has started**~~ as indicated above.

Method #2: The Sudden Death (Per Round) Shoot-Out

If, after conducting the "Five Round Shoot-Out" noted above, the score is still tied, the following shoot-out procedure shall be used to break the tie:

A. The same players from the Method # 1 shoot-out from each team (in the same sequence noted above) shall shoot on the opposing team's goal tender. The home team shall have a choice of whether they shoot first or last. At the conclusion of one (1) round, the team scoring a goal wins. If both teams score and/or the score is still tied a second round shall be conducted. The process shall continue, with subsequent rounds, as necessary, rotating each of the shoot-out players from both teams in sequence, until the tie is broken.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RULES

All current USA HOCKEY and EMPIRE AMATEUR HOCKEY CONFERENCE rules and regulations shall apply during the Division Championship games.

A. All Divisional Championship games shall be played as scheduled. No rescheduling shall be permitted without the consent of the Conference President.
B. All Championship games shall have no curfews.
C. There shall be one (1) time-out per team during a championship game.
D. Referees will be given a list of 5 shooters if the game is a tie after regulation and sudden death overtime.
E. There shall be a five (5) minute sudden death 4v4 OVERTIME PERIOD used should there be a tie at the end of regulation play. If at the conclusion of the overtime period the score is still tied, the methods outlined below shall be used.
F. Two (2) referees shall be used in ALL Championship games. Referees for Championship games shall be scheduled through RIHOA.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME TIE BREAKERS

Method #1: The Five Round Shoot Out

A. A shoot-out shall consist of one (1) player from each team (per round) shooting on the opposing goal tender. The home team shall have the choice of whether they shoot first or last. Teams shall alternate shots which will comprise one (1) round. The team with the most goals after five (5) rounds shall be declared the winner.
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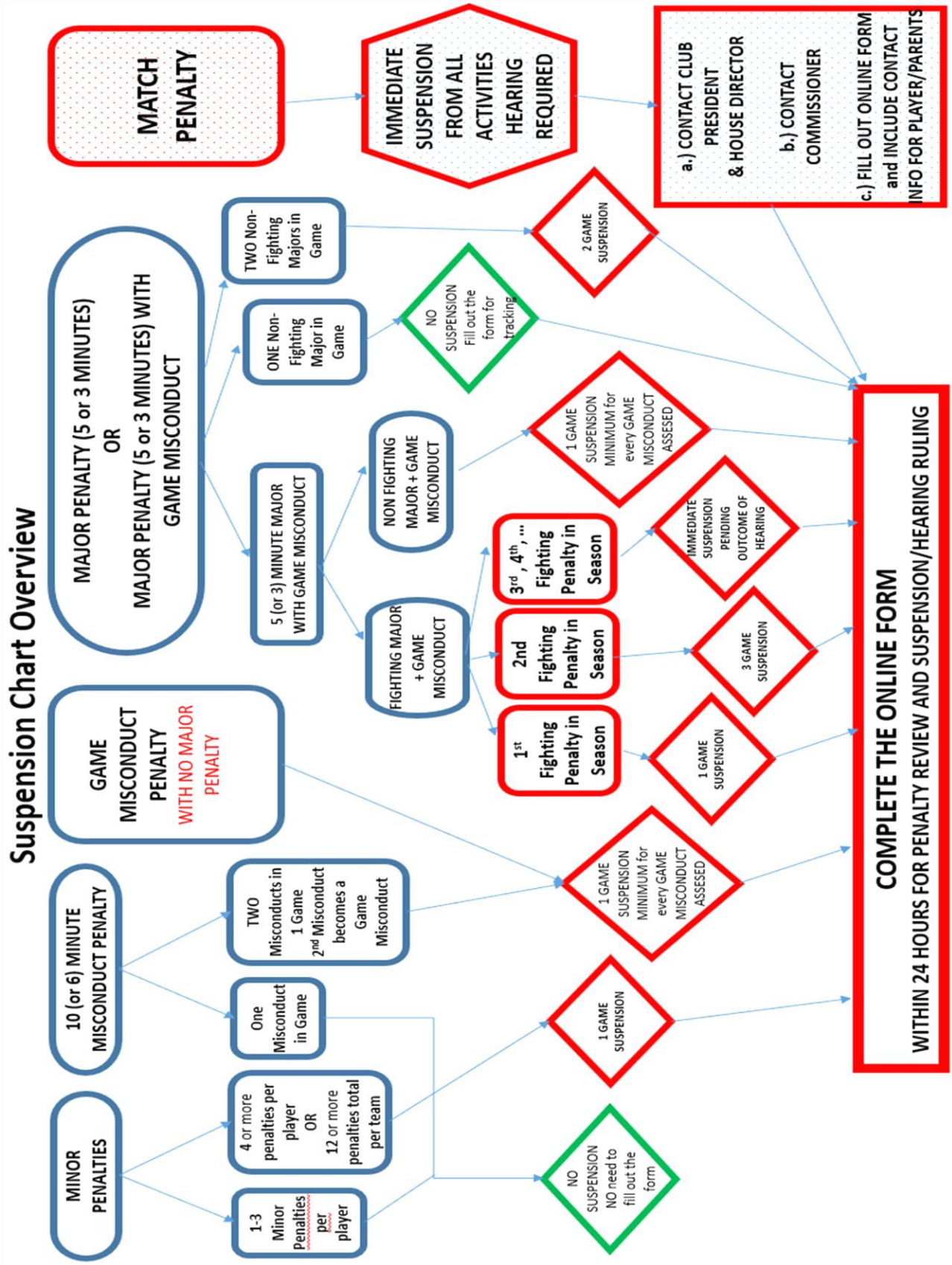
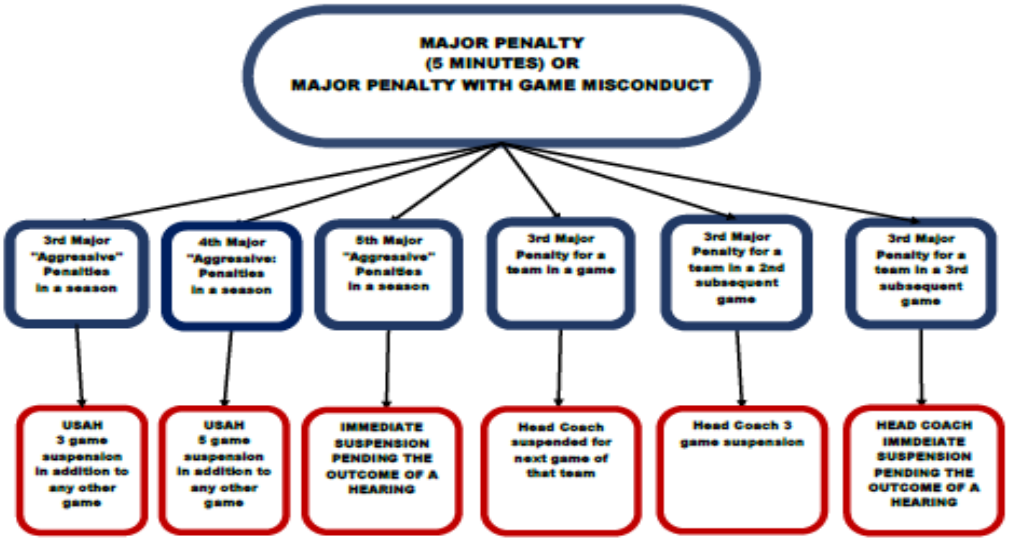
QUESTIONS/PROTESTS

A. Any questions regarding the Championship Weekend games should be referred to the Division Commissioner or the Conference President. All disputes shall be received, in writing, within one (1) hour of the completion of the game to be considered. See, Section VII - GAME RULES, paragraph F.
B. All questions or protests SHALL be made by the head coach.
C. All protest or disputes not upheld shall be subject to a fine.

EAHC SUSPENSION SUMMARY



RULE 411 PROGRESSIVE SUSPENSIONS



NOTE: "Aggressive" infractions are penalties in accordance with:
Rule 603 - Boarding
Rule 604 - Body Checking (Body Contact categories)
Rule 606 - Butt-Ending
Rule 607 - Charging
Rule 608 - Checking from Behind
Rule 609 - Cross-Checking
Rule 611 - Elbowing
Rule 619 - Head-Butting
Rule 620 - Head Contact
Rule 621 - High Stick
Rule 622 - holding and Opponent (Grabbing Facemask)
Rule 627 - Kicking
Rule 628 - Kneeing
Rule 634 - Slashing
Rule 635 - Spearing
Rule 639 - Tripping/Clipping/Leg Checking/Slew Footing
Rule 640 - Unnecessary Roughness (Roughing)
- Progresive penalties for Fighting under Rule 615 (f) are depicted on the Basic Discipline sheet

FOR ALL MAJOR PENALTIES
AND
MAJOR PENALTIES WITH GAME MISCONDUCT
THE ONLINE REPORT FORM MUST BE
SUBMITTED WITHIN 24 HOURS
FOR PENALTY REVIEW
AND
SUSPENSION RULING

EAHC Suspensions

Aggressive Play:

- Definition:
  - Any 5 (or 4 or 3) minute Major Penalty
  - Any Minor penalty for: Checking from Behind, Boarding, Charging, Head Contact, **Kneeing,** Intent to Injure
- Suspension:
  - 1 game suspension for 4th & 5th Aggressive Play penalty in EAHC games
  - 6th Aggressive Play penalty results in a 1 game suspension and a Hearing
  - 7th, 8th, 9th, etc. result in a one game suspension

Penalty Minutes:

- Any player who exceeds the following Penalty Minute limits:

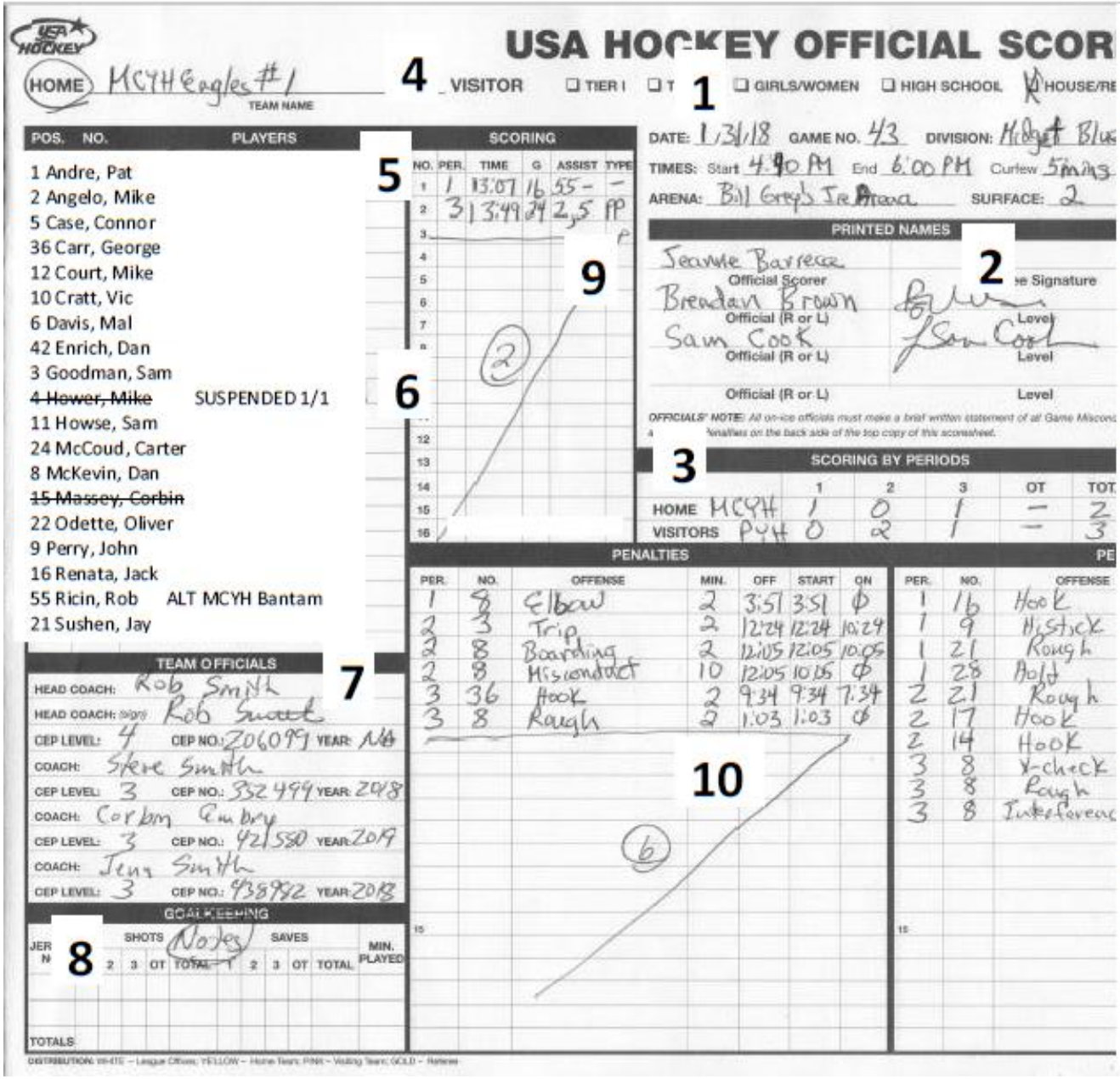
Squirt/10U:	30 minutes	Peewee/12U:	40 minutes
Bantam/14U:	60 minutes	Midget/18U:	80 minutes

- Suspension: 2 EAHC Games
  - 2 additional game suspension after the initial suspension if the player incurs 15 more minutes (20 for Bantam/14U and Midget/18U**)**

Season Ending Suspension:

- Any Coach who incurs Three Game Misconducts (does not include 12+ penalty/game suspensions)
- Any player who incurs Three 5 (or 4 or 3) Minute Major Penalties

EAHC SAMPLE SCORE SHEET



1 – Print Date, Game #, Division & Level/Color, Start & End Time, Time left on Curfew Clock, Arena and Rink.

2 – Print scorekeeper name. Referees sign/print per supervisor directions

3 – Print Home Team on top, Visitor Below, fill in goals per period & total.

4 - Print Team Full Name and Number

5 – **Players:** Print all player #s and Names legibly in Alphabetical Order. NO Player signatures required. Players not playing should be crossed out. Note any suspensions (see #6). List any alternates with "ALT" & team

7 – **Team Officials:** List <u>all</u> Coaches on the bench with CEP Info filled out. Head Coach must print and sign name.

8 – **Goalkeeping:** Use for any notes about suspended players or protests.

9 – **Scoring:** List the period, clock time, player who scored & any player assists as reported by referees

10 – **Penalties:** List the period, player #, offense as reported by the referee, penalty minutes, off time, start time of penalty & time when player returned to ice. Note Boarding plus Misconduct which uses <u>two</u> lines.

All scoresheets must be completely filled out and legible to avoid fines. **Home team must mail the scoresheet white copy to commissioner within 72 hours & sent electronically within 24 hours.**

Online forms at www.empirehockey.org :

a.) BOTH teams MUST fill out an online referee evaluation.

b.) Game Misconducts, Match Penalties & 5 minute Majors must be reported using the online form