



Southern Conference Rules and Regulations



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Southern Conference Rules and Regulations

The Northern New York State Hockey League (NNYSHL), or “League” is subject to all the rules, regulations and policies of the New York State Amateur Hockey Associations, Inc. (NYSAHA) and U.S.A. Hockey Inc. (USAH) The following rules and regulations may further restrict those rules.

1. **Board of Directors:** Shall be comprised of the executive board of the NNYSHL, plus all association league reps for that season. Any decisions not specifically outlined in these rules are at the discretion of the Board of Directors (BOD).
2. **Season:** The Board of Directors shall determine the exact date of the season for all divisions, as designated by NYSAHA Guidebook.
 - a. Each team must meet ALL league commitments. Any team and/or association may be disqualified or suspended from the League by the Board, pending the outcome of a hearing, for not meeting league commitment(s).
 - b. The Playoff Festival weekend takes precedence over any other commitments and associations should make every effort to avoid conflicting play during these times. Playoff Festival schedule/locations will be determined by BOD, on an as needed basis.
 - c. Any team that does not make the necessary schedule accommodations to play all required games will have failed to meet the requirements to be eligible for the end of season games.

Key Dates

- Registration opens: Late Summer
- Season start: October 1st, every season
- Home games solidified: December 1st, every season
- MyHockeyRankings release: the second MyHockeyRankings ranking released in February
- Playoffs: the first weekend following the 12U New York State Tournament, generally the first full weekend in March

League Fees

League fees will be announced separately by the NNYSHL BOD prior to the start of each season, along with the applicable due date.

Action Items

- Ensure all home league games are added to the NNYSHL website no later than December 1st, every season, so schedules stay accurate.

3. League Membership:

- a. These rules apply to NNYSHL Southern Conference only.
- b. Organizations must be members in good standing with USAH and NYSAHA to participate in the League.
- c. Individual participants and teams in the league shall be properly registered with USA Hockey before the start of the league season.



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- d. Participants and teams will adhere to the classifications of USA Hockey. The classifications of a player shall be determined by his/her age at midnight on December 31st prior to or during the current playing season.

4. Team Declarations:

- a. Team Declaration: Each Association shall inform the League of their intention to register a team and the division in which they will play by October 1st. Late declarations will be handled on a case-by-case basis and are subject to approval from the Board of Directors. Final management and coordination of divisions will be subject to the BOD.
- b. Declarations will be considered official when a roster is approved, and all team information has been entered on [Northern New York State Hockey League \(nnyshl.com\)](http://nnyshl.com)
- c. General Information
 - i. All Players, coaches and manager must be properly rostered per USA Hockey and NYSAHA rules prior to participation in any team events. Any team(s) which begin league play and which have not registered with USAH and have not submitted a roster to the NYSAHA North Section registrar may be forced to forfeit all league games prior to proper registration.
 - ii. No roster may include players that are rostered in more than one association. As the League no longer uses division designations, all rostered players are expected to play league games with their own team. This League exists solely to provide opportunities for Local League players. Players rostered on a Tournament Bound Team are welcome to also participate in the League, provided their entire team is playing in the League; the League expressly encourages players to play only for their primary team whenever possible.
 - iii. Cross-rostering players is generally discouraged. The League exists for the benefit of the kids, and associations are expected to use their discretion within the spirit of fair competition and the best interests of the League before cross-rostering any player. If an organization is facing a genuine roster numbers issue and cannot field a team without cross-rostering players from within the same organization, the organization should raise the issue with the League on an ad-hoc, case-by-case basis for review and approval by the BOD.
 - iv. *Exception: Goaltenders may be cross rostered across multiple age and skill levels with pre-approval from the BOD.
 - v. *Exception: Due to limited availability of girls teams, a girl may be rostered in more than one association if one of the teams is a girl's team.
 - vi. Any violation of roster rules may result in the team being removed from the league.
- d. Roster Changes:
 - i. Player movement and roster changes cannot be made after December 1st unless approved by the BOD.
 - ii. All changes will be final as of December 31st of the current playing season. No player changes on rosters will be allowed for any team after December 31st.



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5. **League Rules/Game Schedule/Playdowns:**

- a. All games will be played according to the rules outlined in the USA Hockey rule book.
- b. Suspensions imposed in league or non-league games shall be served in the next scheduled game for the team even if that game is a league game. Refer to the USA Hockey rule book for further information.
- c. The HOME team is responsible for adding each league game to the schedule on the NNYSHL website before it is played, and for entering the final score following the game's conclusion. The NNYSHL website maintains all Southern Conference schedules and standings; instructions for adding and scoring games are available under Resources on the website.
- d. All regular season games must be completed by the third full weekend in February, unless the NNYSHL BOD approves an extension due to weather or scheduling conflicts.
- e. The season concludes with festival-style playoff tournaments, held the first weekend following the 12U New York State Tournament, generally the first full weekend in March. These tournaments represent the League's final official event for each team.
- f. Following the second MyHockeyRankings release in February, the League will use those rankings to guide competitive placement for playoffs. Each team will be grouped into a festival-style playoff tournament of four or five teams (depending on participation at each age level), with the goal of including every team. Final grouping decisions rest with the NNYSHL BOD.
- g. Players must participate in at least 50% of their team's regular season games to be eligible for the Playoff Festival Weekend.
- h. Each participating team must maintain an active MyHockeyRankings.com profile throughout the season and submit scores promptly and accurately to preserve eligibility for playoff seeding.

6. **Record Keeping Responsibilities:**

- a. Each registered team shall have a team manager. Each association shall appoint a League Representative. Contact information for the League Representative and team manager shall be provided to the NNYSHL at the time of team declaration. The team manager, who may also be a head coach or assistant coach, shall be responsible for all record keeping of the team and shall have access to all documents necessary for the season.
- b. Player names on game sheets must match names as listed on the approved roster. The league is making a concerted effort to leverage GameSheet to maintain scoring obligations.
- c. Association name, team name and team ID# as shown on the roster must be included on each game sheet.
- d. Score sheets for League games should be kept by all participants until the season concludes.
- e. The HOME TEAM ONLY will report the final score of the game using website protocol following game completion. Any score discrepancies must be reported to the association League rep.

7. **Home Team Responsibilities:**

- a. Supplying a suitable ice surface with proper equipment and gender equitable locker rooms for the game of ice hockey.
- b. Provide USA Hockey registered referees from an independent Referee Organization. Every home team shall arrange for the referees. Relatives of participants, coaches or team members should not be officiating these games. It is also advised that younger referees are accompanied by a senior referee over the age of 21. Organizations are to communicate this with their assignor. The number of and level of referees are at the discretion of the area assignor.
- c. Providing the proper playing time for each age group as defined in these rules.



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- i. Any Association unable to provide the required ice times should bring the problem to the NNYSHL BOD
- ii. In order to aid in the completion of games, all teams will be limited to:
 - 1. A three (3) minute on ice warm-up immediately following the exit of the Zamboni. The referee will call delay of game on any team not ready to play three (3) minutes after the ice has been resurfaced. The offending team then has two (2) minutes before a second delay of game is called. If the team is not ready after two (2) more minutes, the game is forfeited.
 - 2. Each team will be granted (1) one minute time-out per game
- d. To maintain order and good behavior of the spectators and rink personnel.
 - i. The League holds each member team/association responsible for policing the conduct of the coach, player, spectator, and parents at sanctioned events (games/practices).
 - ii. If the member team/association fails to act, the League reserves the right to have any person who causes a disturbance removed from the playing area.
 - iii. Parents or spectators who interfere with any game or become rowdy, obnoxious, abusive or exercises unsportsmanlike conduct in any way may be ejected from the arena and may be barred from further participation with the League.
 - iv. The referee may hold up the game until such person(s) are removed. Incidents of this nature will be noted by the referee on the official scoresheet and referred to the disciplinary panel for any necessary action.
 - v. from competition. In ice arenas where referees go through a public area to the locker room, a team official should accompany them.
- e. To supply competent Off-Ice-Officials (18 years old minimum)- Including but not limited to timekeeper, scorekeeper, and a penalty box attendant for each box. (See USAHOCKEY Off-Ice Officials Guidebook for more information). Away team has the option to supply a penalty box supervisor and a scorekeeper, and these officials are to be in place before the start of any game. The Off-Ice-Officials responsibilities include:
 - i. Knowledge of proper usage of the clock
 - ii. Proper procedure for keeping the scoresheet.
 - iii. Asking the referees to clarify any confusion with game procedures and penalties.
 - iv. To provide a qualified scorekeeper and timekeeper, penalty box supervisor and all needed facilities including an extra stopwatch, whistle and first aid kit.



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8. Game Requirements:

- a. For a League Game to be considered valid and recorded in our standings, it must meet the following (No Exceptions): No Overtime shall be played. Games shall start on fresh ice. Ice resurfacing is generally not allowed during intermissions.
- b. For games 14U and older, periods must be at least 15 minutes in length and 45 minutes total, teams may agree on longer periods prior to games.
 - i. All penalties shall be two minutes for minor penalties, five minutes for all major and match penalties and ten minutes for all misconduct.
- c. For games 12U and younger, periods must be at least 12 minutes in length and 36 minutes total, teams may agree on longer periods prior to games and all penalties shall be as follows:
 - i. If the total length of all three periods is 36 minutes:
 - 1. One minute minor penalty, three-minute major penalty and six-minute misconduct penalty
 - ii. If the total length of all three periods is greater than 36 minutes but less than 51 minutes:
 - 1. 1:30 minute minor penalty, four-minute major penalty and eight-minute misconduct penalty
 - iii. If the total length of three periods is 51 minutes or greater:
 - 1. Two-minute minor penalty, five-minute major penalty & ten-minute misconduct penalty

9. League Play/Divisions: The Southern Conference will remove the division format from its scheduling.

- a. Teams will aim to play ten (10) games against any teams that have declared for their NNYSHL Southern Conference in their age group. A team may count games against the same opponent up to three (3) times toward their ten (10) game total.
 - i. The League regular season opens on October 1st and closes following the third weekend in February.
 - ii. Teams may play games earlier than the official start date of the season or later than the close date with NNYSHL BOD approval.
- b. The My Hockey Rankings release, the second ranking released in February, will determine team placement for the end of season Playoff Festival.
- c. Invitational Tournament games can count as a League game as long as both teams agree to use the game and the length meets League requirements.
- d. The NNYSHL BOD reserves the right to adjust divisions at any time during the season to ensure competition balance and create the best experience possible for all teams involved.



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10. **Scoring/Tie-Breakers:**

- a. Standings will be determined by each team's My Hockey Rankings (MHR) number following the close of the season. Note: NNYSHL BOD will not apply or advise on any Playoff Festival groupings until the season is over, and a tie actually exists between two or more teams in a division.

11. **Discipline/Protests:**

- a. The NNYSHL Southern Conference as a policy will defer to the NYSAHA disciplinary rulings or organizational disciplinary decisions. The league does reserve the right to assign additional discipline if deemed necessary by the NNYSHL BOD.
- b. A protest may only be lodged by an Association's President in writing. No protest may be lodged by a coach, manager or parent regardless of their position.
- c. The official USA Hockey playing rules shall be used. No Protests shall be permitted on the playing rules or for referee calls or penalties assessed before, during or after the game.
- d. The Association President shall notify the NNYSHL BOD of the impending protest within 24 hours of the completion of the game.
- e. All the facts of the incidents, including why the protest is being filed and the desired outcome need to be stated precisely in the protest in writing. Do not be vague in any statements.
- f. Both parties will be notified of the decision of the BOD within ten (10) days.

Disclaimer: In order to preserve, as far as possible, the integrity of amateur hockey and the League, any recourse to the courts or legal action by a member or individual before and/or during all the rights of the Bylaws and Rules & Regulations of this corporation have been exhausted, shall be considered ungentlemanly conduct entailing the immediate suspension and disqualification of any such member or individual(s). Refer to USA Hockey, Inc., Bylaws, Suspensions and Resolution of Disputes for additional information. The NNYSHL BOD reserves the right to change and modify these rules at any time to promote the best interest of hockey in our Section.