



RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOCKEY FEDERATION

SECTION 2

REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULING POLICIES

ADOPTED JULY 24, 2025



SECTION 2 – REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULING POLICIES

2.1 TEAM REGISTRATION.

- a. The commitment of Member Teams or Guest Teams to RMHF activities shall be made in writing to the RMHF President prior to the September Board Meeting, or as otherwise prescribed by the RMHF Board of Directors.
- b. By participating in RMHF activities, all Members and Guest Programs agree to abide by and act in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and Playing Rules of USA Hockey and CAHA.
- c. RMHF considers the parents and guardians of players to be members of their respective associations and programs, as well as RMHF. Parents and guardians are subject to fines and/or suspensions for violations of USA Hockey, CAHA and/or RMHF Rules and Regulations.
- d. RMHF requires each Member and Guest Program to have its membership and participants follow and support the SafeSport Program. All 18U players must complete SafeSport certification as appropriate.
- e. At least one registrant from each Member's and Guest Program's organization is required to sign up through the CAHA Electronic Scoring System.
- f. The designated USA Hockey Associate Registrar shall certify, and the team Roster Manager shall place on file with the RMHF Secretary, a copy of the USA player registration for each team prior to the start of League play. Roster changes shall be made in accordance with the rules of the CAHA and USA Hockey. Failure to do so may prohibit the start of League play and/or possible forfeiture of games.
- g. RMHF will follow CAHA recommended American Development Model Policies for the U8, U10 and U12 age levels. RMHF reserves the right to set any additional requirements and/or rules regarding these levels as necessary and as voted on by the RMHF Board of Directors and/or Members. Should any requirements and/or rules be added, the most up-to-date version will be added to the RMHF website.
- h. Rules and regulations regarding the registration, number of games, period length and any other such conditions for the U16 and U18 levels, will be addressed and approved by the RMHF Board of Directors and/or Members at the beginning of each season.

2.2 **TEAM AGE GROUPS AND DECLARATIONS.** It is the responsibility of the RMHF Board of Directors to maintain the competitive integrity of each age and division level within the RMHF. RMHF will be made up of the following levels;

a. Age Groups

- (i) The League will be structured with a 3 level make-up at 10U, 12U and 14U. The levels are:
 - AA
 - o 14U AA is considered Tier II. Tier II is scheduled by RMHF but organized by CAHA
 - A
 - B
- (ii) 15U, 16U and 18U will be structured with a 2 level make-up. The levels are:
 - AA
 - o 16U AA and 18U AA are considered Tier II. Tier II is scheduled by RMHF but organized by CAHA.
 - o There is no 15U at the Tier Level for RMHF
 - A

b. Declarations

- (i) Prior to the playing season, Members and Guest Programs are required to declare the level within an age group where their teams will be in the current season. The declaring levels will be Presidents or Governors for non-tier Competitive-A and B levels.
- (ii) Preliminary declarations will be conducted in July of the current season.
- (iii) Final declarations will be conducted in August and September of the current season.
- (iv) AA 10U and 12U will not have a Platinum, Gold and Silver Divisions, unless the RMHF Board of Directors deem the circumstances necessary for competitive balance.

2.3 **LEAGUE FEES.**

- a. At the beginning of each season the RMHF Board of Directors will decide RMHF fees for Members, Member Teams, Guest Programs and/or Guest Teams for the current season (collectively, “**RMHF League Fees**”).
- b. Based on applicable declarations for the current season, the RMHF Treasurer or other designee will send invoices to Members and Guest Programs by November 1 of the current season. RMHF League Fees are due and payable by December 31st of the current season.

- c. Failure to pay RMHF League Fees within **sixty (60) days** may result in an additional fine assessment against such Member or Guest Program of up to twenty percent (20%) of the past due amount. Failure to pay RMHF League Fees may also result in a 1-0 forfeit of all scheduled games for the offending Member association or Guest Program, whether such games have been played or not. For Members, failure to pay RMHF League Fees may also be grounds for termination of Membership.
- d. Unless otherwise approved by the RMHF Board of Directors, there will be no refunds of RMHF League Fees.

2.4 **PLAYER ROSTERING.**

- a. Players shall be prohibited from being rostered on more than one (1) team within the RMHF during any RMHF season and may not roster on any other youth team in another Colorado league or on any team in an independent Colorado association or program, except as otherwise provided below.
- b. Conditions under which a player may be permitted to be rostered on more than one (1) team during a RMHF season shall be limited to the following:
 - (i) Players shall be permitted to be rostered on a High School team.
 - (ii) Female hockey players, according to the USA Hockey rules, are allowed to be rostered on a non-RMHF girls-only team as well as a RMHF co-ed team.
 - (iii) Goaltenders shall be permitted to be rostered on more than one (1) team within their association or program for the purpose of ensuring that every team in the association or program has a backup goaltender. Additional Backup Goaltender rules are set forth in Section 2.6.
 - (iv) Non-League tournament play is permitted; provided, however, a player cannot exist on two rosters at the same time. If a player has been granted the ability to play on a tournament team, the player must be released from the current team for the duration of that tournament. The player is not permitted to play for both teams at the same time if the tournament happens to be within the same geographic area. After the tournament, the player must be released from the tournament team and added back on the current team roster.
- c. If a team is unable to reach a minimum number of nine (9) players (8 skaters and 1 goaltender) due to injury, illness or absence, the team may only increase their roster by up to four (4) players from an equal or lower level team within their association or program, to only be allowed to reach the minimum number of players as stated above to play the game.
 - (i) Every multiple/double rostered player must be listed on both teams' rosters and in the electronic scoring system. Multiple/double rostered players must be listed with a DR (for double roster) after their last name on the supported team. For example: John Doe that plays on the 10U B team and is Double Rostered on the

10UA team should be listed as John Doe (DR) on the 10U A team's roster and only as John Doe on the 10U B team's roster.

- (ii) Any association or program wishing to place a player on more than one roster must submit the information to the RMHF Board of Directors at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the player's first RMHF game.
- d. At no time should any roster be above twenty (20) active players.

2.5 **BACKUP GOALTENDER.**

- a. It is recommended that all teams have two goaltenders on their official team roster. In the event that a team is unable to roster two regular goaltenders, the use of a "backup" is authorized according to the following rules:
 - (i) The backup must be a rostered player of the same association or program, listed on the official USA Hockey Player (Team) Roster, and must be clearly identified on the roster as the backup goaltender.
 - (ii) Use of the backup in any game is limited to only those situations in which the team's regular goaltender is unable to participate in that game.
 - (iii) If a team's regular rostered goaltender is injured and unable to continue during a game and the backup goaltender is unavailable to complete the game, a period of no more than five (5) minutes shall be allocated by the official to properly dress a replacement to complete the game.
- b. The league Admin or other designee shall have the authority to investigate the circumstances that require the use of a backup goaltender. In the event the league Admin determines that the backup was used in an effort to gain a competitive advantage, the league shall have the authority to invalidate a game in which the backup was used. The league Admin shall also have the authority to suspend the responsible coach. The decision of the league Admin shall be subject to appeal to the RMHF Board of Directors.
- c. In the event that a team's rostered goalies are injured or ill and cannot play in a scheduled game, the game shall take place as scheduled. The team with the injured or ill goalie(s) may play a goalie that is rostered on another team within the association or program playing at the same level or below.
- d. In the event that a team's regular and backup goaltenders are unable to participate in a RMHF Playoff game, the team coach or manager may request permission to use a replacement goalie from within the team's association or program until either the regular or backup is able to participate. The permission to allow such must be approved by the league Admin.
- e. The use of any backup who does not meet the rules and guidelines herein shall cause the game in question to be forfeited to the opposing team and shall cause the potential suspension of the head coach by the league Admin.

- f. The backup can be a regular goaltender of an “A” or “B” team in the same age classification. A “AA” team goaltender cannot serve as a backup goaltender of an “A” or “B” team at the same age classification. An “A” team goaltender cannot serve as a backup goaltender of a “B” team at the same age classification. The backup can be a regular goaltender of any team in a lower age classification. The backup cannot be a regular goaltender or any other member of a team in a higher age classification.

2.6 **PLAYERS PLAYING UP AN AGE GROUP.** For full season rostering, if an association or program feels that an under aged player has the ability greater than his/her age group, such player can only play at the highest level within that association or program. For example, if a 10U player is good enough to play 12U and that organization's highest level 12U is AA, the 10U player must play on that team. This rule shall apply for 8U through 14U age divisions.

2.7 **PLAYER TRANSFERS.**

- a. Members shall encourage players to register with the Member association whose rink is closest to the player’s full-time residence, in an effort to develop and maintain competitive balance.
- b. Prior to a transfer of any Member player, the player must obtain a letter from the Hockey Director or other authorized officer of the Member association from which a player is currently a member, clearly stating that such player has no outstanding financial obligations to his/her current Member team or association. All transfers shall be completed by the start of the first RMHF game of a season. A copy of any transfer letter may be requested by the league Admin.
- c. Once a player registers and attends a Member association’s tryout to be placed on a team, this player/family has made a financial commitment to this Member association’s season fees. The Member association’s Hockey Director or other authorized officer may grant a financial release only after all agreed upon fees are paid in full.
- d. For purposes of these Rules and Regulations, a “**Division**” is defined as 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U
- e. **Youth Player Transfer Rule.**
 - (i) An RMHF Member association may only accept up to ten (10) transfer players at each Division that were a part of the RMHF or Western Colorado Hockey League (WCHL) Member association the previous season. By way of example, the Youth Player Transfer Rule would allow up to ten (10) transfer players at 10U (including graduating 8U players), ten (10) transfer players at 12U, and twelve (12) transfer players at 14U A and B levels that played for another RMHF or WCHL member association.
 - (ii) Of the ten (10) / twelve (12) potential transfers at a Division, a Member association may only accept up to **three (3)** players from a small RMHF or

WCHL Member association. Organizations labeled as a small organization are those who have player membership under 449 players registered in their program.

- (iii) Of the ten (10) / twelve (12) potential transfers at a Division, a Member association may only accept up to five (5) players from a large RMHF or WCHL Member association. Organizations labeled as a large organization are those who have player membership over 450 players registered in their program. Non Full season High school leagues such as the CPHL, HPHL or any other HS Affiliate that has registered teams do not count towards the total number of players registered in the program.
- (iv) Of the ten (10) / twelve (12) potential transfers, No Rec AA Roster shall have more than 25% of their players be new to the Member rostering the team. If a Member Association has two top level Rec AA teams in a division such team shall only be allowed 2 players that are new to the member.
- (v) Member Associations who do not field a REC AA which refers to 10U and 12U only. For those teams in a particular division, the above 25% rule applies to the highest ranked team within the Member Association at that particular level. (THIS WAS DISCUSSED BUT NOT FINALIZED NOR VOTED ON. NEED FURTHER DISCUSSION)

f. Girls Transfer Rule

- (i) An RMHF Member association may only accept a maximum of two (2) female players from any single RMHF Member Association, and a total of four (4) female transfer players per age division. By way of example, the player transfer rule would allow up to four (4) transfer players at 10U (including 8U players), and four (4) players at 12U.
- (ii) Of the four (4) potential transfers at the 10U and 12U Divisions, a Member association may only accept up to two (2) players from any other particular RMHF Member association.
- (iii) There shall be no formal distinction between AA, A, or B designations within the RMHF Girls Divisions. Member programs may field multiple teams within a single age division; however, these teams shall be considered part of the same competitive classification for the purposes of league administration and governance. It is understood that programs may internally tier teams based on skill level or developmental objectives.
- (v) In the event a Member Association is unable to field a girls team at a specific age level, special consideration may be granted to facilitate player placement within another RMHF Member Association. Such cases will be reviewed by the RMHF

Board of Directors and may warrant exemptions from standard transfer limits, subject to approval and in alignment with the best interests of player development and participation.

- (vi) Female players participating in co-ed (youth) divisions shall be subject to the RMHF Youth Transfer Rules or the RMHF Girls Transfer Rules, depending on their primary placement.

- (b) In cases where a female player transfers and intends to participate in both a co-ed (youth) team and a girls team, she shall be counted against both the Youth Transfer Rule and the Girls Transfer Rule for the receiving association.

- (c) Female players transferring from a CRHL (Colorado Recreational Hockey League) program to an RMHF youth or girls division shall not count against either the RMHF Youth or Girls transfer limits.

- (iv) Exceptions to the Youth and Girls Player Transfer Rule are as follows:

- (a) Current season 8U players do not apply.

- (b) 16U and/or 18U players do not apply.

- (c) CRHL/CGHL level transfers do not apply.

- (d) Non-Member team transfers do not apply

- (e) Out-of-state transfers do not apply.

- (g) The Player Transfer Rule does not apply for a 140/130 Tier 1 Player or Junior-player desiring to be rostered on any RMHF team

- f. No player movement, roster additions or deletions will be permitted after December 31 of the current RMHF season except as approved in accordance with paragraph 2.6 for Backup Goaltenders.

- g. Any player rostered on a “AA” team shall not be permitted to move to an “A” or “B” team in the same Division once the player has participated in five (5) League games on that “AA” team.

- h. Any player rostered on an “A” or “B” team may move to a higher-level roster (“AA” if an “A” or “B” player, or “A” team if a “B” player) within the same Division before December 31 of the current RMHF season. A player is only permitted to play up if the higher-level team is short players due to injury, illness, suspension, etc.

- i. Any player listed on the roster of an “A” team shall not be permitted to move to a “B” team in the same division.

- j. All player movement after a player has played in five (5) League games from any lower competitive level to a higher-level competitive team must be approved in advance by the RMHF Board of Directors. All requests for such a movement must be made in writing from the Member association to the RMHF President and must clearly state the reason for such request.
- k. A Junior or Tier I player desiring to be rostered on a RMHF team can only be rostered at Tier II, subject to prior approval of the RMHF Board of Directors.
- l. Per CAHA Policies and Procedures 10.1.1.8 adopted March 30th, 2025: A coach that transfers from one Rec Member to another Rec Member shall not be allowed any players to transfer to the new team with the new member that he/she will be coaching. The CAHA Board will consider direct family members or other extenuating circumstances.
- m. Participation in any RMHF activities involving unapproved player movement may result in a game forfeiture for the offending team.

2.8 **TEAM CONDUCT.**

- a. Each team shall be accompanied to all RMHF activities by an adult coach and/or manager who is registered with USA Hockey and CAHA, as appropriate.
- b. Team Coaches and Managers (collectively, “**Team Officials**”) shall be responsible for the conduct of their teams before, during, and after RMHF activities, including on- and off-ice behavior and with respect to the use of locker rooms. Incidents of damage or other conduct prohibited by these Rules and Regulations, the rules and regulations of CAHA or USA Hockey should be brought to the attention of the league Admin. Team Officials shall be held responsible for damages or other loss caused by their team.
- c. Team Officials for each team shall take action to insure that spectators are not abusive to officials, players, other team officials, or other spectators. Failure to do so can result in team suspension and/or game forfeiture.
- d. The home team manager shall be responsible for ensuring that the Electronic Scoring System lists all registered players of the home and competing teams and indicate the players status if absent or suspended. Home teams shall wear a jersey which is primarily white in color. Visiting teams shall wear a jersey which is primarily dark in color.

2.9 **GAME SCHEDULING.** RMHF shall have the authority to determine the season dates, length of season, number of games per competitive division and the method by which games are scheduled for all Divisions and levels.

- a. The RMHF Schedule, when published, is considered a commitment by the participating teams to make every reasonable effort to play the entire schedule.
- b. RMHF will permit teams to reschedule games only by mutual consent of both participating organizations. Both organizations must send an email confirming their agreement to the game change to the RMHF electronic scheduling system administrator

or league Admin. A manager, coach, team, Member or Guest Program may not change a scheduled game, as posted on an electronic scheduling system, without the consent of the opposing team. A team attempting to do so risks having the game declared a forfeit loss by the league Admin.

- c. Games listed on the electronic scheduling system shall be reviewed by each participating organization to ensure that the schedule is accurate. The schedule as posted on the electronic scheduling system shall be considered to be the schedule of record in all disputes. It is the responsibility of organization schedulers to maintain its accuracy. Discrepancies must be reported to the association schedulers within seven (7) days after it is posted on the web site.

2.10 **REFEREES.** The home team shall provide a minimum of two (2) officials for all Divisions except Tier II games. Tier II games at the 14U, 16U and 18U levels shall be officiated with a minimum of three (3) officials.

- a. If a home team does not have the proper number of official referees on hand at a game, the game can still be played as long as there is a mutual agreement between the home team and visiting team. If no agreement is reached and one team asserts it does not intend to play under these circumstances, the home team will be required to reschedule the game prior to the end of the regular season, and will be required to pay for the rescheduled ice and referees. Problems in rescheduling the game must be brought immediately to the attention of the league Admin to make a determination whether completion of the game is necessary with respect to league standings. If the game starts with fewer than the required number of officials pursuant to mutual agreement between the home team and visiting team, the game will be played to its conclusion and there will be no protests or appeals.
- b. To the extent practicable, referees and linesmen who are immediate relatives to players shall not officiate in games in which their relative plays.