



Governing Rules 2025 - 2026

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SECTION I - REGISTRATION:

1. USA HOCKEY and MINNESOTA HOCKEY REQUIREMENTS

- A. All teams in all divisions will be registered with Minnesota Hockey and USA Hockey.
- B. Coaches and managers may only participate in team activities upon completion of SafeSport and a successful, clear background check.
- C. Teams must be registered through the affiliate where 80% or more of its players reside.
Exception: In cases where two or more affiliates enter into an agreement to combine their players in an age division for the purpose of forming teams in one or more competitive classifications, the 80% criterion shall not apply if such an agreement has been pre-approved by the cognizant District Director(s) and the USA Hockey Minnesota District Registrar.

2. DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS

A. Roster verification of Mites, 8U, Squirt, 10U, PeeWee, 12U, Bantam, 15U and Jr. Gold teams will occur at a time and place to be determined by the Minnesota Hockey Registrar for District 1. Teams must comply with USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey requirements.

1. All waiver release forms for any affected players listed on the Player Roster.

B. Any team found to have an ineligible player that participates in any Minnesota Hockey sanctioned on ice activity will be suspended from Minnesota Hockey District, Region and State Tournament play for the current season. This suspension may be reviewed by the cognizant District Director to determine if the severity of the suspension is appropriate, and a less severe penalty may be imposed if the facts so dictate.

C. A player will be declared ineligible if he/she participates in any Minnesota Hockey sanctioned on-ice activity as part of a team/group from outside the player's local affiliate without a properly signed waiver. An example of this is participating in a Minnesota Hockey sanctioned tryout for a team outside the player's local affiliate.

SECTION II - OPERATING RULES - POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

1. PARTICIPATION POLICY BOUNDARIES

District 1 Hockey League team and player eligibility will be determined by the applicable association's Minnesota Hockey's affiliate agreement

2. WAIVER POLICY

Waivers will follow the Minnesota Hockey Waiver policy

3. GAME DEFINED POLICY

A. For the purposes of these Governing Rules, "game" is defined as any league game, USA Hockey sanctioned tournament game, scrimmage game, or league playoff game.

B. With regard to penalties or suspensions defined in terms of games, other on-ice activities, such as controlled scrimmages, do not count as games.

C. Associations or individual teams may adopt a more restrictive definition of "game" for the purpose of penalizing participants.

4. INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

A. All regularly scheduled league games will be played as originally scheduled, except under the following circumstances:

1. The arena for which the game was scheduled to be played has been closed.
2. In the event that the weather is such that it might be hazardous to travel, the game may be officially postponed. If the Head Coaches from **BOTH** teams wish to postpone a league game due to inclement weather, **BOTH** Head Coaches must contact the District Director for approval at least two and one half (2 ½) hours prior to the game time. The District Director will notify the referees. Any disputes regarding postponed league games must be discussed with the District Director.

The Home team is responsible to reschedule the make-up game.

B. The District 1 rescheduling procedure must be followed, with the exception that the \$ 25.00 rescheduling fee will be waived.

C. ALL rescheduled games **MUST** have the approval of the District Director.

5. DISTRICT LEAGUE GAME RESCHEDULING POLICY

A. All rescheduled league games **MUST** be rescheduled using the form on the District 1 website. The District Director must approve the reschedule. The requesting team/association will pay. A first time reschedule fee of \$25.00 invoiced by District 1 at the end of the season. The requesting team must supply the ice time for the rescheduled game.

* NOTE - if the rescheduled game date is prior to the original game date, the rescheduling **MUST BE RECEIVED 14 DAYS BEFORE THE RESCHEDULED DATE.**

The ice time vacated will remain the property of the team to which it originally belonged.

B. If rescheduling a league game cannot be mutually agreed upon by **BOTH** teams, the team requesting the change **MUST** play the originally scheduled game or forfeit the game.

C. A team may make up to two reschedule requests in one season.

6. ROSTER POLICY

A. Must be USA Hockey approved

1. Team Officials on the bench **MUST** be registered on the team's USA Hockey Team Roster Form for the current hockey season to be considered a "Team Official". **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

2. Team Officials on the bench must have been screened and approved by USA Hockey. A violation of this rule may result in the Team Official being suspended for the season and postseason and the Association being fined \$500.

3. Team managers **MAY NOT** be on the bench. Team managers **MUST** be listed on team rosters and must have been screened and approved by USA Hockey.

7. SQUIRTS POLICY

A. In keeping with the player development goals, **MINNESOTA HOCKEY LIMITS THE NUMBER OF GAMES / SCRIMMAGES PLAYED BY SQUIRTS TO THIRTY-FIVE (35) PER SEASON.**

Each game of a tournament and each game of the District 1 Festival counts as one game.

8. MITES/U8 POLICY

A. Minnesota Hockey and District 1 strongly encourage the skill level development of all players, especially at the Mite level. Therefore, Minnesota Hockey does not permit Mite Tournaments. Mite level players shall play within their District. However, the District Director may, for convenience or to maintain continuity, permit a team to play in their "natural hockey community" as defined by the District Director. The District Director's decision is final.

The focus for Mites is to teach and develop the basic skills of skating, puck handling, shooting and passing. Cross-ice, half-ice and small area games (Red, White and Blue) are recommended to maximize ice utilization, increase puck touches and increase the competition and fun. The American Development Model (ADM) provides the overall blueprint for player development.

At the Mini-Mite (6 and under) level – all scrimmages shall be played cross or half ice.

At the Mite (8 and under) level – all scrimmages during the first half of the season (before January 15.) shall be played cross or half- ice. During the second half of the season there shall be no more than ten (10) full ice scrimmages, unless approved by the District Director. The Director's decision is final.

B. Lighter weight (blue) pucks **SHALL** be used in Mite scrimmages and jamborees.

C. Mite teams may play **ONLY** 3on3 (Pond Hockey) scrimmages, up to 15 scrimmages total.

D. With the exception of Jamborees as noted above, a mite scrimmage is defined as competing against another team for an ice-hour.

E. All Mite scrimmages are NOT "official" scrimmages," and therefore **NO SCORE** will be kept or posted anywhere after the completion of the scrimmage.

F. Any Mite team wanting to play another mite team from outside District 1 MUST obtain approval from the District 1 Director prior to playing.

G. Mite Jamboree Tournaments may be 5 on 5.

H. Failure to comply with the District 1 Governing Rules will prompt disciplinary action by the District 1 Disciplinary Committee.

9. TOURNAMENT POLICY

A. Teams from District 1 can only play in Minnesota Hockey or USA Hockey sanctioned tournaments.

B. Teams wishing to play in tournaments outside Minnesota Hockey jurisdiction (i.e., out of state), **MUST** obtain a travel permit from the District Director.

C. Teams wishing to play in tournaments outside USA Hockey jurisdiction (i.e. Canada), **MUST** obtain a travel permit from the USA Hockey, Minnesota District Registrar.

10. OFFICIALS POLICY

A. All Officials in all divisions will be registered with Minnesota Hockey and USA Hockey. Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike and non-vindictive manner at all times. The actions of an Official must be above reproach. Actions such as “baiting” or inciting players or coaches is strictly prohibited. On-Ice Officials are ambassadors of the game and shall always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

B. Any violation of the above code must be communicated in writing to the District Director and Supervisor of Officials. If the violation is substantiated, the offending official must appear before the official’s board for disciplinary action. The result of the hearing must be communicated to the District Board in writing.

11. CONDUCT POLICY

A. Racial and/or harassing conduct of any kind will not be tolerated.

B. Each team is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. Coaches should advise their parents and other fans of the conduct rules.

C. If a spectator conduct becomes so abusive that, in the referee(s) opinion, it is distracting from the game or inciting the players, the referee(s) may stop play and:

1. Ask the coach(s) to control their spectators.
2. Ask the coach(s) to request specified individuals to leave the arena.
3. Use of artificial noisemakers will be considered abusive conduct. Possession of a device that could be deemed detrimental to the players or to the conduct of the game, such as laser will be considered abusive conduct and shall be reported to local law enforcement officials.

D. Failure of a coach to cooperate with a referee’s request within two (2) minutes, a **bench minor** will be assessed and a warning will be given from the referee that after an additional two (2) minutes, the game will be suspended. This situation will be immediately reported to the Supervisor of Officials, who will then inform the District Director for possible disciplinary action.

E. Spectators standing by the boards behind the goalkeeper are not allowed to deliberately distract the goalkeeper. The referees may request anyone in violation of this rule to move or leave the

arena. In an appropriate case, the referee may declare the game to be forfeited to the team of the goalkeeper being distracted.

F. Coaches, managers, minor officials or players exuding the scent of alcohol, or while using any tobacco products, shall not be allowed in the player's bench area or the penalty box area.

G. Coaches, players, managers or spectators may not enter the referees' room without an invitation before, during or after a game. The following penalties will be assessed for violation of this rule.

1. **Coaches and Players** - Game Misconduct Penalty.

a. The incident will be reported to the District Director for possible additional league action and/or suspension.

2. **Managers and Spectators** - the referee(s) will report the circumstances to the Supervisor of Officials who will notify the District Director.

a. A mandatory hearing will be held with the team head coach and a representative of their association's governing board to discuss possible disciplinary action.

3. The offending team will lose its Fair Play point.

12. DISTRICT 1 RACIAL POLICY

POLICY: It is the policy of District 1 to handle all racial incidents in a consistent and well-defined manner.

PURPOSE: To maintain a healthy and positive environment for all hockey players, regardless of race, color or creed.

PROCEDURE:

- A.** All District Organizations, parents, players and referees will be informed of this policy.
- B.** All hockey players who are involved in a racial incident or are the focus of racial slurs must be encouraged to inform their coaches or parents immediately after such an incident has occurred, whether it is on or off the ice.
- C.** If during a hockey game a player notifies the coach of a racial slur, the coach must **IMMEDIATELY** communicate the incident to the officials.
- D.** Upon notification, the officials must inform the opposing team and coaches that such an incident has occurred and warn them that such behavior will result in a game misconduct penalty(ies) against the responsible player or players.
- E.** If at any time with or without notification the official(s) overhear a racial slur or comment during a game, they **MUST** call a **GAME MISCONDUCT** penalty against the responsible player(s).
- F.** The officials **MUST** note the incident on the game score sheet, after the game has been completed.
 - a. The District Director will maintain the score sheets as a record of such incidents.

- G. The District Director will investigate **ALL** racial incidents that are reported. The details of the incident should be reported to the Director as soon as possible. If appropriate, the Director shall call a Disciplinary Hearing for the purpose of collecting information, documenting the incident and correcting the behavior through appropriate actions.
- H. If there is a persistent record of a particular team or organization in such racial incidents, the District Director shall inform the President of the respective organization, as to this problem.
- I. The District Director shall inform the organization that any further incidents will result in additional disciplinary action.
- K. Disciplinary action could take the form of:
 1. Forfeiting games.
 2. Elimination from post-season play.
 3. Expulsion from the District.

13. COACHES RESPONSIBILITIES

A. COACHES CERTIFICATION

ALL Coaches must be certified in accordance with the current season's USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey certification and age-appropriate training requirements.

B. The head coach PLUS the team manager must attend the District's Coaches/Managers /Presidents meeting prior to the league season beginning. Any lack of attendance will result in a two league-game suspension of the head coach.

The Head Coach should be in attendance at all of the team practices and games. If it is determined that the Head Coach listed on the team's roster is missing from the majority of the team's functions, District 1 will advise the association that they must replace the Head Coach with someone else that is appropriately certified. The team could be dropped from the league for failure to comply.

C. Make a note of date, time and location of **ALL** your league games and show up on time with your team ready to play.

1. FAILURE OF A TEAM TO SHOW UP FOR A GAME, WITHOUT JUST CAUSE, WILL RESULT IN THE COACH AND POSSIBLY THE ASSOCIATION BEING DISCIPLINED BY DISTRICT 1 DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE. THE DISCIPLINARY ACTION COULD BE AS SEVERE AS THE COACH BEING BANNED FROM COACHING AND THE ASSOCIATION BEING FINED. ANY REASON YOU FEEL IS JUST CAUSE TO NOT PLAY A SCHEDULED GAME MUST BE APPROVED, IN ADVANCE, BY THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR. IF NOT APPROVED BY THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR, THE GAME MUST BE RESCHEDULED.

D. Only players and team coaches that are listed on the USA Hockey Player Roster Form or a replacement team official, approved by the District Director, are allowed on the bench during any Minnesota Hockey/USA Hockey sanctioned competition. Violation of this rule will result in a suspension and a hearing before the District's Disciplinary Committee. The Committee may recommend the team involved not be allowed to participate in post-season play.

E. The Head Coach **MUST** notify both District Director and District Head Coach within **24 hours** after the game, when any **Game Misconduct** or **Match Penalty** is assessed to anyone associated with their team. This includes in state and out-of-state tournaments. The Head Coach may have the team manager communicate this electronically or verbally, but it is the Head Coaches responsibility to ensure it is done. It is also the Head Coaches responsibility to understand the additional penalties that are associated with these major penalties as outlined in USA Hockey Playing Rules 404 and 405. Failure to notify the District Director will result in the head coach being suspended one (1) game for the first violation, three (3) games for the second violation, and five (5) games for every other violation; these are in addition to any penalties assessed by USA Hockey. After the third violation, the coach will be brought before the District Disciplinary committee for possible further penalties.

F. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU DO NOT PLAY AN UNREGISTERED TEAM. Ask to see their registration. PLAYING A NON-REGISTERED ASSOCIATION OR TEAM WILL FORFEIT YOUR TEAM OR ASSOCIATION'S ELIGIBILITY IN MINNESOTA HOCKEY SANCTIONED PLAY.

G. ALL DISTRICT 1 TEAMS MUST BE REGISTERED PRIOR TO THE START OF THE DISTRICT 1 LEAGUE GAME SEASON.

H. Coaches, assistant coaches or managers shall not verbally abuse the opposing players, coaches, assistant coaches, managers, referees, minor officials or league officials. Any unsportsmanlike conduct will be grounds for suspension by the District 1 Disciplinary Committee.

I. Coaches, **DO NOT** argue with a referee on the ice, before or after a game. The coaches, manager, players or parents are not to go into the referees' room to argue. The Head Coach is responsible for the conduct of the players' parents. If you have a situation where you feel one of the parents from your team will confront the referees on their way out of the arena, make sure you control the situation and do not let it happen. If this sort of conduct is reported to the district office, your team may face disciplinary action.

J. At the conclusion of a game, at least one coach from each team must leave the ice with his/her team and accompany the team to their locker room.

K. All coaches involved in on-ice activities, practices and scrimmages must wear a HECC-approved hockey helmet. The chin strap must be buckled at all times. Compliance rests on the local associations and the local District. Failure to comply shall result in up to a mandatory 30-day suspension by the District Discipline Committee

14. MOOD ALTERING DRUGS POLICY

The use, consumption or possession of mood-altering chemicals, regardless of quantity, is expressly prohibited during the entire playing season. Included are:

- (1) Beverages containing alcohol,
- (2) Tobacco (including chewing tobacco),
- (3) Controlled substances defined by law as drugs (including marijuana), and
- (4) Buying, selling or giving away controlled substances. It is not a violation for a player to be in possession of a controlled substance specifically prescribed for the player's own use by the player's physician.

A. PENALTIES

1. **First Violation:**

Penalty – After confirmation of the first violation, the player shall be suspended for the next two (2) consecutive games or two (2) weeks of a season, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted for a player who becomes a participant in a treatment program.

2. **Second Violation:**

Penalty – After confirmation of a second violation, the player shall be suspended for the next six (6) consecutive games. No exception is permitted for a player who becomes a participant in a treatment program.

3. **Third Violation:**

Penalty –a. After confirmation of a third or subsequent violation, the player shall be suspended for the next twelve (12) consecutive games.

b. If after the third or subsequent violation, the player on his or her own volition becomes a participant in a chemical dependency program or treatment program, the player may be certified for reinstatement in Minnesota Hockey activities after a period of six (6) weeks. Such verification must be issued by a director or counselor of that chemical dependency treatment center

15. MINNESOTA HOCKEY TOURNAMENT WORK FORCE REQUIREMENTS POLICY

A. When District 1 plays host to a Minnesota Hockey Regional or State Tournament each District Association is **REQUIRED** to supply a work force to staff a scheduled shift(s) during that tournament.

B. The following is a list of workers required for each game from the assigned District association:

- 1 - Scorekeeper/Announcer
- 1 - Timekeeper
- 1 - Penalty box attendant

NOTE - ALL WORKERS MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD!!!

For every shift assigned to it, the Association must provide and identify to the District Director an onsite volunteer coordinator from the Association for the shift. The volunteer coordinator will be responsible for the Association's volunteers during the shift and must have a contact list with phone numbers of volunteers and alternates. Shifts begin no later than 1 hour before the first game of the shift and conclude at the completion of the final game of the shift unless otherwise specified by the District Director.

SECTION III-SafeSport Program

The safety of its participants is of paramount importance to USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey. This includes not only on-ice safety, but also off-ice safety in any part of Minnesota Hockey's programs. The USA Hockey SafeSport Program is intended to protect all participants, not just players, from any type of misconduct or abuse.

By pulling together existing USAH off-ice safety policies related behavior and hockey environment management, constructing a supervision and monitoring structure, creating a reporting, investigatory, and response system, production of education and awareness training materials, and enhancing participant screening, USAH has taken giant steps towards improving off-ice safety.

USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey have a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for abuse and misconduct. Through the USA Hockey SafeSport Program, USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey are committed to creating the safest possible environment for participation in hockey.

Disciplinary action for failure of completion of Safesport Program will be:

- 1) Suspension of the coach from all hockey activities, on ice and off. Until Safesport module has been completed, and the coach has been rerostered.
- 2) A second offense will be the immediate termination of the coach for the remainder of the season, by the District Director.

SECTION IV – GRIEVANCES

Definition: A grievance is an allegation that the rights of a party or parties relative to that party's membership in an area organization or in the District or participation in an organization's or the District's programs have been violated.

1. All such grievances shall be presented to the District 1 grievance Committee for resolution.
2. The Grievance Committee shall consist of the District President, Vice President, Secretary, Referee-in-Chief and one representative, or their assigns, of each member Association. The Vice President shall act as Chairperson for this committee.

Voting members: Association representatives present at this meeting (one per association) excluding representatives from any Association(s) involved in the grievance.

Non-voting members: District President, Vice President, Referee-in-Chief, District Head Coach and Secretary.
3. A quorum must be present to conduct any business of this Committee. A simple majority vote will be used.
4. In case of a tie vote, the President shall cast the tie-breaking vote.
5. The Secretary shall take minutes of the meeting and report the outcome and findings of the committee to all parties involved in the grievance and to the District 1 Board of Directors at the first succeeding District meeting.
 - A. Any person, team or association that wishes to file a grievance must:
 1. First attempt to resolve the issue at the local association(s) level.
 2. Present to the District Director a written request for a Grievance Hearing, outlining why they feel a Grievance Hearing is warranted.
 3. Upon review by the District Director, a decision to call a meeting of the Grievance Committee for the purpose of hearing the grievance may be made. At that time, all parties involved in the grievance shall be given notice of the date, time and place of the hearing.

SECTION V - SUSPENSIONS - APPEALS - COURT ACTIONS

1. Authority: The power to suspend any person shall be with the local governing body in accordance with their rules and regulations. Whoever is vested with this authority shall conduct a hearing. All parties involved in the incident and witnesses shall be given the opportunity to give their version of the facts. Automatic suspensions involving violations of USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey playing rules do not require a hearing.

2. Disputed Case: If a decision is viewed to be a violation of existing rules, that decision may be appealed. In all appeals, the appealing party is required to establish the merits of the appeal.

3. Appeals: Any person, team, league or local associations may appeal a disputed case to the District Director for a period of ten (10) days, only after a hearing and a decision was rendered or a hearing refused within its own league or association. The District Director shall hold a hearing within twelve (12) days of receipt of the appeal: the appeal must be in writing. Any decision of the District Director may be appealed for a period of ten (10) days following the District Director's decision. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Maroon Vice President, who will issue a ruling within twelve (12) days. Any decision of the Divisional Vice President may be appealed for a period of ten (10) days to the Minnesota Hockey Grievance Committee which must hold a hearing within twelve (12) days of receipt of a written appeal. The decision of the Minnesota Hockey Grievance Committee shall be final.

A. The Minnesota Hockey Grievance Committee shall, at its option, use any of the following procedures in making its determination, to wit:

1. Hold preliminary fact-finding meetings involving two (2) or more of the Grievance Committee members.

2. Use the mail or conference calls as procedures, involving the full committee, to render either preliminary or final determinations of grievance.

3. Hold a hearing in situations where the facts of the case are in dispute.

4. Hearing Representation: Only two (2) representatives of each person, team league or local association making an appeal, in addition to two (2) league officials, if any, shall be permitted to appear before the District Director, at a Grievance committee fact finding meeting or Grievance Committee meeting. Said representative(s) may, without a personal appearance, appear before the Grievance Committee, or any sub-division thereof, through written statements and letters only.

5. Suspension: Players, Team or League Officials and Others: The power to suspend any person shall be with the local governing body in accordance with their rules and regulations. Whoever is vested with this authority shall conduct a hearing in situations where the facts of the case are in dispute. All parties involved in the incident and witnesses shall be given the opportunity to give their version of the facts. Automatic suspensions involving violations of USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey playing rules do not require a hearing.

6. Court Actions: Any recourse to the courts of any jurisdiction by any member or individual before all rights and remedies available under the Articles and By-Laws of Minnesota Hockey have been exhausted, shall be deemed conduct detrimental to the best interests of hockey and a violation of the Articles and By-Laws of Minnesota Hockey,

and here to fore grounds for suspension and or expulsion pursuant to the provisions of this Article.

6. **Referees:** The procedure for suspension of a referee shall be the same as above. In the case of referees, the local governing body shall be the District Director.

SECTION VI - DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

1. A disciplinary action as defined by District policy and or Minnesota Hockey and USA Hockey rules shall be referred to the District 1 Disciplinary Committee.

- a. The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of the District President, Secretary, Referee-in-Chief, Head Coach and one representative, or their assigns, of each member Association. The Vice President shall act as Chairperson for this Committee.

Voting members: Association representatives present at this Hearing (one per association) excluding representatives from any association(s) involved in the disciplinary action.

Non-voting members: District President, Vice President, Secretary, Referee-in-Chief, District Head Coach.

2. The committee shall meet at the call of the District President or District Director whenever a Disciplinary Hearing is warranted under Minnesota Hockey or USA Hockey rules or when deemed necessary by the District1 Board of Directors.

3. A quorum must be present to conduct any business of this Committee. A simple majority vote will be used.

4. In case of a tie vote, the President shall cast the tie-breaking vote.

5. The Secretary shall take minutes of the meeting and report the outcome and findings of the committee to all parties involved in the disciplinary action and to the District 1 Board of Directors at the first succeeding District meeting. The findings will not be made public.