



NYSAHA – North Section

NYSAHA North Section Tournament Bound ADMINISTRATIVE RULES and REGULATIONS 2025-2026

ESTABLISHED
2017



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NYSAHA NORTH SECTION TOURNAMENT BOUND HOCKEY ADMINISTRATIVE RULES and REGULATIONS EST 2017

All teams declared Tournament Bound in the North Section are subject to all rules, regulations and policies of the New York State Amateur Hockey Associations, Inc. (N.Y.S.A.H.A.) and U.S.A. Hockey Inc. The following rules and regulations may further restrict those rules.

- 1) **Board of Directors:** Shall be comprised of the elected or appointed officers of the NYSAHA North Section Board of Directors. Including North Section 4 Area Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Referee in Chief, Tournament Coordinator and Registrar. Any decisions not specifically outlined in these rules are at the discretion of the Board of Directors (BOD). Any vote by the Board of Directors will pass by simple majority and the North Section President will serve as the appeal authority.
- 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 Q-game commitments. Any team and/or an association may be disqualified or suspended from Tournament bound status by the Board, pending the outcome of a hearing, for not completing all Q-games
 - B. Playdowns take precedence over any other commitments and no association shall schedule other conflicting play during these times. NYSAHA North Section playdown schedule/locations will be determined by the NYSAHA North Section Tournament Coordinator, on an as needed basis.
- 3) **League Membership:**
 - A. All organizations must be members in good standing with USAH and NYSAHA to participate.
 - B. These rules apply to NYS Tournament Bound teams only.
 - C. All individual participants and teams in the league shall be properly registered with USA Hockey before the start of the league season.
 - 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. **Youth Team Declaration:** Each Association shall inform the Section President or their designee of the intention to register a team and the division in which they will play. It is encouraged that associations declare tournament bound teams as early as possible. The following dates are the latest dates in which a team can declare Tournament bound without approval of the North Section BOD.

Tier I/Tier II 13O/15O/16U/18U	September 1 st
Tier III 16U/18U	September 15 th
Tier I/Tier II 12U/14U	October 1 st
Tier III 12U/14U	November 1 st

Any team, not declared by midnight of the declaration date, that wishes to be considered for TB status must submit a written request to the North Section President or North Section BOD. The request will only be reviewed if submitted by the association president. Requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the BOD to determine each team's eligibility for TB status.
 - B. **Girls Team Declaration:** Girls teams will declare based on the procedure outlined in the NYSAHA Guidebook Section 10 D & E. NYSAHA will provide an electronic declaration form that must be submitted digitally prior to August 30th. Teams that form after August 30th may only compete at the Tier II National Tournament Bound level. Teams that form after August 30th should notify the Section President or their designee of their intent to go tournament-bound. This notification must occur prior to November 1st and will be subject to approval by the North Section BOD. All girl's declarations submitted prior to the Fall Section Meeting will be approved by a vote of the membership at that meeting.
 - C. **All divisions and classification:** For a team declaration to be official, a roster must be submitted to the North Section Registrar for approval no later than the above declaration date. If the roster is not submitted, the team will be removed from Tournament Bound Status. Final management and coordination of divisions will be subject to the NYSAHA North Section BOD



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5) Rosters:

A. General Information

- 1) All Players, coaches, managers and locker room monitor 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 North Section registrar shall forfeit all league games prior to proper registration.
- 2) As per NYSAHA: Each Section shall establish a credentials committee that will certify each team that advances from their respective Section to the State Tournament. Each Section committee must conduct an initial roster certification no later than the second weekend in December to ensure that all team rosters are accurate. Credential books must be completed prior to first Q game and be available for review upon request. A final certification form, credential sheet and certified roster, shall be completed and forwarded to the State Tournament Director no less than 7 days prior to the start of the respective State Tournament.

B. Roster Changes:

- 1) Player movement and roster changes cannot be made after December 31st of the current playing season for the 12U-14U/G12U-G19U. 16U and 18U levels will adhere to the current NYSAHA and North Section rules on rostering at this level. Rosters for all Midget teams {Tier I, Tier II and Tier III} will freeze on the Sunday prior to the start of NYSPHSAA winter sports season. If only one team declares rosters will freeze December 31st.
- 2) 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.
- 3) The NYSAHA North Section District Registrar must be notified via the USAH Registration Portal at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to adding a new player or deleting a current player from the team roster. Associations are responsible for verifying roster changes have been made prior to the start of any Q-Game. Failure to do so may result in a forfeit.

C. Final Rosters:

A roster must be submitted to the NYSAHA North Section District Registrar no later than the declaration date above. All rosters will be linked to the league website.

6) Game Rules for Tournament Bound Teams:

- A. All games will be played per rules outlined in the USA Hockey rule book.
- B. All game count requirements as per USA Hockey and NYSAHA Rules must be met to qualify for State and National Tournament play.
- C. Games will begin to count for 12U-14U/Girls 12U-19U on September 1st of the current season and for Midgets 16U/18U on August 15th.
- D. In order to be eligible for a State tournament, a team must complete its entire league schedule. If a tournament bound team fails to complete its league schedule the association will be fined the cost of the State tournament fee for the classification they compete in. The association may also lose their tournament bound status for the next season at the discretion of the State or Section BOD. North Section BOD has the authority to review on a case-by-case basis.
- E. All suspensions, imposed for incidents during a Q-game, must be served in Q-games and/or the NYSAHA Tournament. Suspensions imposed in non-Q-games shall be served in the next schedule game for the team even if that game is a Q-game. Refer to USA Hockey rule book for further information.

7) Game Schedule:

- A. Each home team will be responsible for entering their game schedules online. All teams will verify their games for accuracy. Officials will be scheduled based the online schedule. Any changes within 7 days of the original scheduled date, including changes to time, location, date or qualifying game status **MUST** be communicated directly to the RIC to ensure proper coverage by qualified officials. **ALL GAMES MUST BE SCHEDULED AND ONLINE BY 12/1. MIDGET 16U/18U GAMES MUST BE SCHEDULED AND ONLINE BY OCTOBER 1ST.**
- B. Games listed in the official master schedule shall be reviewed by each member team or association to assure that schedule is accurate.



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8) 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 North Section 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 credential review, tournaments, playdowns and championships. (Required forms can be obtained from the organization registrar instructions on putting the credential book together can be found on the NYSAHA Website.)
- B. Required documents for Credentials shall comply with USAH and NYSAHA requirements for TB teams. Consult the current season guide book(s) for the complete list of requirements.
- C. Credential books need to be completed prior to league play.
- D. Player names on game sheets must match names as listed on the approved roster.
- E. Association name, Team name and Team ID# as shown on the roster must be included on each game sheet. Refer to the documents section of the North Section website or the NNYS Hockey League website for information on properly completing the game sheets.
- F. All teams must comply with NYSAHA requirements for the use of the GameSheet app to score all Q-Games.

9) 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 refereeing 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.
- C. Providing the proper playing time for each age group as defined in these rules.
 - 1) Any Association unable to provide the required ice times should bring the problem to the North Section Board of Directors
 - 2) In order to aid in the completion of games, all teams will be limited to
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - 1) The North Section holds each member team/association responsible for policing the conduct of the coach, player, spectator, and parents at sanctioned events (games/practices).
 - 2) If the member team/association fails to act, the North Section reserves the right to have any person who causes a disturbance removed from the playing area.
 - 3) 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.
 - 4) 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. 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:
 - 1) Knowledge of proper usage of the clock
 - 2) Proper procedure for keeping the scoresheet.
 - 3) Asking the referees to clarify any confusion with game procedures and penalties.
 - 4) To provide a qualified scorekeeper and timekeeper, penalty box supervisor and all needed facilities including an extra stopwatch, whistle and first aid kit.
- F. Score Reporting
 - 1) Each HOME TEAM ONLY will report the final score of the game using website protocol **within 24 hours**. Each team will submit the name of the person responsible for score reporting to the North Section to gain access to the website.
 - 2) Any score discrepancies must be reported to the association league rep.



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10) Game Requirements:

In order for a Q-Game to be considered valid and recorded in our standings, it must meet the following:

All games will be 3-15-minute periods No Exceptions. No Overtime shall be played. Games shall start on fresh ice No ice resurfacing is allowed in Q games. Teams must book enough ice time to complete 3-15 min periods games must run full time to be valid.

- A. All Divisions
 - (3) 15 minute periods
- B. Penalty times per NYSAHA Rules
 - 1.5-minute minor, 4-minute major, 8-minute misconduct
- C. One minute break between each period
- D. For all age classifications except 16U and 18U regular season league games must be **completed by 21 days prior to the start of the State Tournament for the appropriate classification. 16U and 18U must complete all regular season league games by the Sunday prior to the start of NYSPHSAA winter sports season. No Exceptions Refer to section 6D above.**
- E. If any division has only 2 teams declared they must complete a home and home series. For all divisions other than 16U/18U these games must be completed 28 days prior to the start of the State Tournament for the appropriate classification. For Midget 16U/18U these games must be completed by the Sunday one full week prior to the start of NYSPHSAA winter sports season. If the teams are tied in points at the conclusion of the home and home series a third full length game will be scheduled and completed prior to the dates listed in E above. If the teams are tied at the end of regulation of the third game there will be a 5-minute sudden victory overtime and then a shootout as outlined in the USA Hockey National Tournament Guidebook.
- F. Advancing teams must meet their 10/20, 10/14 or 8/10 game counts by the end on the weekend 2 weeks prior to respective State Tournament.
- G. Any classification split into (2) divisions must complete regular season Q-games by the Sunday (5) weeks prior to the State tournament for that classification. This is required to facilitate a playdown as outlined in section 11/B/2.

11) Game/Playdown Format:

- A. Tier I, II, and III 16U/18U
 - 1) Teams will play (2) games against all teams that have declared to be tournament bound. Standings will determine the team or teams to represent the Northern Section in the state tournament. Rosters will freeze on the Sunday prior to the start of NYSPHSAA winter sports season.
 - 2) Any level with (1) team declared by their deadline will have until Dec. 31 to change their rosters.
- B. Tier I, II, and III 12U/14U; Girls Tier I and II 12U/14U/16U/19U
 - 1) **Tier III ONLY** – Any team declaring Tournament bound status that has (8) or more players on the roster that were not registered with that association the previous season must have the roster approved by the North Section BOD prior to league play. If the North Section BOD becomes aware of a roster in violation of this rule, that associations president will be contacted by a representative of the North Section BOD. At that time the president will be required to submit a written request to the North Section BOD for approval before TB status is official.
 - 2) If (9) or more teams declare to be tournament bound, the teams will be divided into two divisions based on geography for league play. Teams must play two games against each team in their division. The top (2) teams from each division will play in a (4) team playdown to determine the teams to represent the North Section in the state tournament. Format of the playdown will be determined by the North Section BOD on an as needed basis.
 - 3) If less than (9) teams declare to be tournament bound, each team will play (2) games against each tournament bound team. The standings will determine the team or teams to represent the Northern Section in the state tournament. The number of teams advancing may be dependent on other considerations at the state level. No playdown will be played.
- C. North Section representation in State Tournaments in determined by NYSAHA (refer to NYSAHA Guidebook).



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12) Q-Game Completion Requirements:

- A. It is strongly recommended that all tournament bound teams complete their entire Q-game schedule. **Any team not completing their entire Q game schedule, due to a voluntary forfeit, will have their Tournament Bound Status revoked per NYSAHA guidebook** and are subject to the requirement below.

If a team chooses to voluntarily forfeit any Q-game the following requirement must be adhered to:

- 1) A written request must be submitted by the association president to any North Section BOD member in writing 7 days prior to the scheduled game date.
- 2) The North section BOD will review the request to confirm that the game is statistically insignificant and reply in writing to the association president.
- 3) Any team, or the team's association, that requests and is granted a voluntary forfeit will be required to submit a \$500.00 fee to the North Section treasurer. This fee will be used to reimburse any expenses incurred by the non-forfeiting team. These funds will be held in an account managed by the North Section and any excess funds will be used for player development or Grow the Game programs in the North Section, at the discretion of the North Section BOD.

B. Postponement of games

1) Delays, weather conditions

If unavoidable delays occur and games are postponed due to hazardous driving conditions, they must be rescheduled as soon as possible. The home team is responsible for notifying the opposing team of the available date(s) and time(s) for the rescheduled game. The home team should contact the opponent and a rescheduled date and time must be made within seven days of postponement. If the game is not rescheduled in this time frame both teams will submit their entire schedule to the North Section BOD. The game does not have to be played within seven days.

2) Rescheduling of games

- a. A re-scheduled game MUST be re-scheduled within 7 days of the original game date and must be completed by the end of the regular season as defined in section 10E/G.
- b. If the teams cannot agree to a date and time to play the game after a cancellation or unavoidable delay, both teams will be required to submit schedules to the North Section BOD, and the game will be scheduled at their discretion. If ice has to be purchased the teams will split the cost.

13) Scoring/Tie-Breakers

- A. NYSAHA has modified their district/state championship tiebreaking rules to fall in line with USAH. Teams that qualify for the NY District/State championships should be aware that the games played during the championships will be played based on those rules and may be different than the tiebreakers used by the North Section. The NYSAHA North Section Playdown (if necessary) will be played, as outlined in the NYSAHA guide book.

Note: NYSAHA North Section BOD will not apply or advise on any tiebreakers until the season is over and a tie actually exists between two or more teams in a division.

- B. A two-point scoring system for standings to will be used for all qualifying games: (As determined at the end of regulation time, no OT in League Q-games)
1. Win – 2 points
 2. Tie – 1 point
 3. Loss – 0 points
- C. Tie Breaking Policy (at the conclusion of regular season play)– The League will utilize the tie breaking policy recommended by NYSAHA which is detailed in the USA Hockey Tournament Guidebook (the guidebook can be found on the NYSAHA website –www.nysaha.com). See exception in section 10 F for 2 team divisions.



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14) **Protests**

- A. A protest may only be lodged by an Association's President. No protest may be lodged by a coach, manager or parent regardless of their position.
- B. 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 are not allowed.
- C. The Association President shall notify the NYSAHA North Section BOD of the impending protest within 24 hours of the completion of the game.
- D. 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. Do not be vague in any statements.
- E. Both parties will be notified of the decision of the NYSAHA North Section BOD within 10 days.

15) **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 NYSAHA North Section BOD reserves the right to change and modify these rules at any time to promote the best interest of hockey in our Section