



# Vermont State Amateur Hockey Association

www.vermonthockey.org

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## GAME MANAGEMENT POLICY

The only legitimate time a game can end before time runs out is if there is a physical problem with rink conditions, i.e., the ice melts or the lights go out or a gate will not close safely, etc. or if one team has been reduced to fewer than the minimum number of players, i.e., four (4), either by penalties or other reason. In the case of a team not being able to put four (4) players on the ice that team shall immediately forfeit the game, and the game will end.

Any time a team is removed from a game, a match penalty is automatically assessed to the person responsible for the decision. This means the coach or team official making the decision will be automatically suspended from all games and practices. A hearing shall be conducted in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10D.

### USA Hockey Rule 633: Refusing to Start Play

*(a) With both teams on the ice, after the game has started, a team for any reason refuses to play after being ordered to do so by the Referee, the Referee shall warn the Captain and allow the team 15 seconds to resume play.*

*A bench minor penalty for delay of game shall be assessed to the offending team who still refuses to start play and if the same team refuses to continue play, the Referee shall suspend the game and assess a match penalty to the responsible Team Official(s).*

*(b) A bench minor penalty for delay of game shall be assessed to the offending team if prior to the start of the game or start of a period, one team fails to go onto the ice promptly when ordered to do so by the Referee.*

*A match penalty shall be assessed to the responsible Team Official(s), and the game suspended, if the same team fails to go onto the ice and start play within five minutes.*

In the case of a game that has become so rough that a coach has concerns about his/her players' safety, running time can be used, but players must remain on the ice, choosing, if they desire, not to become involved in any play.

**Pulling a team off the ice is a very serious matter and always will result in a suspension of some length of time.**