

## **2016 AAU Ice Hockey Rules & Regulations**

**Amateur Athletic Union:** The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) recognizes that USA Hockey (USAH) is the National Governing Body (NGB) for Ice Hockey. AAU views the standards set by USAH as guidance and/or recommendations. AAU allows its member clubs to amend and/or adapt rules to their own purposes, provided that such adaptations do not compromise safety.

**AAU Hockey:** Any AAU District within the AAU, for the purpose of administering the sport of ice hockey, we begin with the AAU philosophy of *Sports For All, Forever* and we set a course toward the Positive Coaching Alliance principles of *Honoring the Game!*

To these ends, AAU Hockey Districts, Leagues and/or events may adopt these following rules;

1. All Coaches, Managers and Referees shall practice the Positive Coaching Alliance - Dual-Coach principles of *Honoring the Game.*
2. All Coaches, Managers and adult club (team) personnel shall comply with state laws concerning Concussion Awareness training, certification and reporting.
3. All Teams (Clubs) shall be current members of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU).
4. All Players, Coaches, Managers and Referees shall be current members of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) while participating in any AAU licensed event(s).
5. All Players, Coaches, Managers and non-athlete volunteers shall elect the Extended Benefits (AB) membership option, which is available through their AAU membership.
6. Ice Hockey players may only participate on one AAU ice hockey club at a time. However, the District Sport Director may create rules allowing for House Select teams.
7. Individual AAU Ice Hockey leagues may adopt their own rules, provided that said rules do not violate the By-Laws and/or Policies of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) and further provided that said rules do not compromise a safety issue.
8. Individual AAU Ice Hockey tournaments may adopt their own rules, provided that said rules do not violate the By-Laws or Policies of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) or those of an AAU District and further provided that said rules do not compromise safety.

9. National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) playing rules have been adopted for most AAU Hockey leagues and tournaments. However, with the following exceptions:

- A) all classifications designated for players 12 years old and younger (such as 6U, 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U & 12U) shall be non-checking Safe-Rep.
- B) Within all classifications designated for players 8 years old and younger (such as 6U, 7U & 8U) the use of Goal Post Anchors are neither required or recommended.
- C) Most AAU Leagues have adopted a MATCH PENALTY rule (see rule #14).

10. Uniform playing rules for Regional and/or National tournaments shall be established by AAU Hockey at the national level.

11. AAU Hockey Leagues regular season for Ice Hockey shall extend from September 1<sup>st</sup> through March 15<sup>th</sup> of any given playing year or the date set forth by the league.

12. AAU Spring season for Ice Hockey shall extend from March 16<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> of any given playing year. Teams may voluntarily extend past the May 31<sup>st</sup> ending date, provided that individual players are permitted to decline.

13. At the conclusion of any given season, all players are automatically released from their teams at the earliest of; such time that the team ceases to function as a team for purposes of practice, games and/ or tournaments, or beginning of the next season

14. Match Penalty:

A MATCH PENALTY shall be assessed to any Player or Team Official who commits one or more of the following actions:

- (1) Deliberately inflicting physical harm, or attempting to do so, to any Game Official, including off-ice officials.
- (2) Deliberately injuring, or attempting to do so, any opposing Player or Team Official.
- (3) Behaving in any manner that is critically detrimental to the conducting of the game, including spitting at an opponent, spectator, game or team official, or verbally threatening a Game Official, opposing Team Official or opposing Player with physical harm.

A MATCH PENALTY requires the immediate removal of the assessed Player or Team Official for the balance of the game and a five-minute time penalty shall be assessed.

**Any youth ice hockey MATCH PENALTY issued within any 6U through 18U classification shall be reported to the AAU District Referee-In-Chief within 48 hours of the incident.**

**Both the REFEREE issuing a MATCH PENALTY and the Head Coach of the Team with a member receiving such a penalty shall each independently report the penalty. Each may choose to provide an initial email notification to: AAU National Hockey Chair Keith Noll [keithn@aausports.org](mailto:keithn@aausports.org)**

**or the Referee-In-Chief for the AAU District where the incident took place.**

**All Players, Coaches and/or Team Officials receiving a MATCH PENALTY are immediately suspended from all team activities (including Games, Scrimmages and/or Practices) until such time as a hearing is conducted and a final determination is reached.**

- 15. It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for the 2015-16 season that all NON-ATHLETE Adult Personnel (including Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Trainers and Instructors) should properly wear an approved ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions, (including practices, controlled scrimmages)**

**NOTE: Please be aware this will become mandatory for the 2016-17 season.**

**Keith Noll  
AAU National Hockey Chair  
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