

AAU Hockey By-laws & Rule Book



‘Sports for All, Forever’

2024-2026

NATIONAL SPORT COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Section 1 National Committee Structure and Procedures

Article 1- National Chair - National Sports Chairs shall be elected by their National Sport Committee at the committee meeting during National Conventions in which National Officers are elected.

1. Terms are four years.
2. National election policies shall apply.
3. National Sport Chairs may be removed for cause by a majority vote of the National Officers, subject to the Right of Appeal to the National Board of Review.
4. The President, with the approval of a majority of the officers, may appoint a person to fill a vacant Sport Chair position. The appointee will serve until the next regular or special meeting of the Sport Committee, at which time an election shall be held to complete the term.

Article 2- Executive Committee Composition - The National Hockey Chair shall appoint members-at-large to serve on the Hockey Executive Committee. The number of members on the Executive Committee, and the criteria for selection to the committee, removal from the committee, and filling vacancies on the committee are at the discretion of the National Chair.

Article 3- National Sport Committee Composition - The committee will consist of the National Sports Chair, members of the Executive Committee who are elected as provided by the sport's operating rules, the elected or appointed Sport Director of each District, or a representative designated by the District Governor, and one appointed representative from each Allied member that registers members in the sport. The President may appoint up to two (2) members-at-large.

Voting - Only members of the Committee are permitted to vote. There shall be no voting by proxy. Each member of the Committee will have one vote. Only representatives from districts which registered a minimum of .5% (a half percent) of the total number of athletes in that sport in the previous year shall be allowed to vote in the National Sport Committee meeting.

Article 4- Other Committee Positions - The National Hockey Chair shall create other committees as he deems appropriate. The number of members on each committee, and the criteria for selection to each committee, removal from any committee, and filling vacancies on any committee shall be at the National Chair's discretion. The National Chair may create committees as the need arises, and may disband committees for which a need no longer exists. The National Chair selects the members to serve on committees, and makes the committee assignments.

Section 2 Sport Committee Meetings

Article 1- National Sport Committee Regular Meetings - Regular Meetings of the National Sport Committee shall be in conjunction with the AAU Convention.

Article 2- Non-Regular Sport Committee Meetings - National Sport Committee may hold a Non-Regular National Sport Committee meeting in odd years' subject to the following provisions:

- a. The meeting is called by the Chair following approval of the National Office.
- b. The National Office has the right to coordinate the meeting and choose the site for the meeting.

Article 3- National Sport Committee Special Meetings - Special meetings of a Committee are scheduled at the request of the Chair or upon written request of at least one half (1/2) of the committee members. Ten (10) days' notice is required and notice shall state the purpose of the meeting

Article 4- National Sport Executive Committee Meetings - The National Chair shall determine the date and location of Executive Committee Meetings.

Article 5- Agenda Additions -

- a. **Sport Committee Meeting Order (Agendas)** - The Regular National Sport Committee meetings, the Non-Regular National Sport Committee meetings, and National Sport Committee Special meetings shall follow meeting order (agenda format) as established by Code (Bylaw 9.5).

Section 3 SPORT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

2024-2026 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 no 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!*

It is REQUIRED 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 practice and controlled scrimmages).

To these ends, AAU Hockey Districts, Leagues and/or events must 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 along with all the other criteria required for registration such as the Parent Conduct form etc.
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. AAU Hockey Leagues regular season for Ice Hockey shall extend from September 1st through March 15th of any given playing year or the date set forth by the league.

7. AAU Spring season for Ice Hockey shall extend from March 16th through May 31st of any given playing year. Teams may voluntarily extend past the May 31st ending date, provided that individual players are permitted to decline.
8. 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.
9. Match Penalty: FOR YOUTH/COACHES/SENIORS EXCEPT JUNIORS
 - a. A MATCH PENALTY shall be assessed to any Player or Team Official who commits one or more of the following actions:
 - i. Deliberately inflicting physical harm, or attempting to do so, to any Game Official, including off-ice officials.
 - ii. Deliberately injuring, or attempting to do so, any opposing Player or Team Official.
 - iii. 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.
 - b. A MATCH PENALTY requires the immediate removal of the assessed Player or Team Official for the balance of the game and a five-minute team penalty shall be assessed.
 - c. Any youth ice hockey MATCH PENALTY issued within any 6U through 18U classification shall be reported to the AAU District Referee-In-Chief within 24 hours of the incident.
 - d. 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 within 24 hours with a written report. Each may choose to provide an initial email notification to: AAU National Hockey Chair Keith Noll slapshot@wwt.net or the Referee-In-Chief for the AAU District where the incident took place.
 - e. 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.
 - f. After notification is made Team official shall forward to the AAU national Chairman all document pertaining to the MATCH PENALTY such as Scoresheet complete with player numbers, Team Coaches,

Referees, Contact information for all parties involved, Referees report and contact info within 48 hours of the Match Penalty

- g. Hearing will be conducted by the appointed AAU individual within 30 days of Match Penalty and the decision of the Hearing official shall be given to all parties within 48 hours. Individual with the Match penalty will remain suspended until the decision is rendered.
- h. The individual with the match will be given DUE-PROCESS as written in the AAU Rule Book.

16. Player Tampering Rule:

1. Tryouts for All Current AAU Rostered Youth Teams and Age Groups. No AAU Fall Rostered team or new team who wish to form in the spring season in an active age classification, may recruit or solicit players, offer contracts, hold tryouts, conditioning skate, or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment or player evaluation until March 15th or the current AAU and League Playoffs Conclude. Violations of this rule will result in the Head coach of that team being suspended or removed and the Players attending would be ineligible to roster with that team.

Exception: New teams forming for a new age group that may begin in the fall.

Example, at the current age of 7U, new players would currently be classified as 6U and there is no 6u classification, may hold tryouts beginning March 1.

2. Players 18 under may only roster on one team per Fall Season. Players wishing to change teams will need to supply a Release form provided by the league/AAU. The release form will give the players name, team the player is leaving and team player is moving to. League/AAU representative signature for approval. Player is not allowed to Practice or Play any league games until transfer is approved.

3. All Rosters will be final and no further roster changes can occur after 12/31 of the Current playing year, this date maybe extended based on the length of the season

Rule # 17 Equipment:

Requiring the use of Neck Laceration protection for players in all age classifications, other than adults, in games and practices, as well as for on-ice officials under the age of 18, effective Aug. 1, 2025. For clarity, the requirement includes players in the youth, girls and junior age classifications. All skaters and goalkeepers in all age classifications properly wear an internal mouthpiece, a HECC approved helmet and a HECC approved full face mask for all games and practices. Additionally, it is recommended that all protective equipment be designed specifically for ice hockey. The following protective equipment is also recommended for all players: gloves, shin pads, shoulder pads, elbow pads, hip pads or padded hockey pants, protective cup, tendon pads plus all head protective equipment. The college hockey programs follow NCAA rules and are exempt from this rule.

Section 4 Match Penalties and Other Violations

601(e) A match penalty shall be assessed to any player or team official who commits the following actions:

- (1) Applies deliberate physical force or attempts to inflict physical harm to any game official, including off-ice officials.
- (2) Behaving in any manner that is critically detrimental to the conducting of the game, including but not limited to spitting at an opponent, spectator, game or team official, or verbally threatening or intimidating a Game Official, opposing Team Official or opposing player with physical contact or harm.
- (3) Uses language that is hateful or discriminatory in nature anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game.

(Note) The officials are required to immediately file a game report and the offending player/team official is suspended until their case has been dealt with by the proper authorities.

If the incident was reported to, but not heard by the official(s), the officials are required to notify the coach of the offending team and submit an incident report to the Proper Authorities immediately following the game outlining what was reported to them.

(Note 2) Any match penalty assessed under this rule must be reported via written game report by the officials no later than 24 hours following the game. The official(s) should also provide a verbal report to the league Director of the AAU hockey director of the state within 48 hours.

602(a) Attempt to injure or recklessly endanger and opponent; A match penalty shall be assessed to any player or team official who recklessly endangers or attempts to injure any opposing player or team official. In all cases when a match penalty is assessed, a game report shall be filed with the proper authorities for further disciplinary action.

(Note) All incidents of attempt to inflict physical harm to game officials should be penalized under Rule 601(e.1).

603(c) Boarding; A match penalty for reckless endangerment may also be assessed for boarding.

604(e) Body Checking; A match penalty for reckless endangerment may also be assessed for body checking in a Competitive Contact category or non-check Adult classification.

608(c) Checking from Behind; A match penalty shall be assessed for checking from behind in all instances when a player recklessly endangers an opponent from behind with excessive force while the opponent is in a vulnerable or defenseless position.

609(c) Cross Checking; A match penalty for reckless endangerment may also be assessed for crosschecking.

Any additional Penalties listed in Section 6 of USA Hockey Rulebook that includes a Match Penalty.

Match Penalty Options:

- 603(c) Boarding
- 604(e) Body checking in Competitive Contact category
- 606(b) Butt-ending
- 607(e) Charging
- 608(c) Checking from behind
- 609(c) Cross-checking
- 611(c) Elbowing
- 615(c) Deliberately removing helmet during altercation
- 619(b) Head-butting
- 620(c) Head Contact
- 621(c) High-sticking
- 622(c) Holding/grabbing facemask
- 623(c) Hooking
- 628(c) Kneeing
- 634(c) Slashing

635(b) Spearing
639(c) Tripping/Clipping/Leg Checking/Slew Footing
640(h) Avoidable check (Late Hit)
640(h) Avoidable contact after whistle
640(h) Body check with no effort to gain possession of puck
640(h) Body check delivered to opponent who is physically engaged
640(h) Goalkeeper delivering body check Match Penalty (only)
305(b) Taped hand, cutting opponent
601(e.1) Applies physical force or attempts to inflict physical harm to a game official
601(e.2) Conduct critically detrimental to the game
601(e.3) Hateful/Discriminatory Language
602(a) Attempt to injure or recklessly endanger an opponent or team official
615(c) Removing helmet prior to or during an altercation
627(b) Kicking opponent
633(a,b) Suspended game—refusal to start play

Section 5 National Appeal Process: APPEAL PROCESS MONETARY CHARGE

For all Major ICE HOCKEY penalties that require a suspension hearing by the AAU Discipline Chairman, the suspended player shall be given due process as well as a line of APPEAL Process.

1.-NO COST- Ice Hockey Discipline Chairman shall convene a hearing and render a decision to the suspended player

2.- \$250.00-National Appeals must be in writing and must be submitted within 10 days of the date of the Decision being appealed. An appeal fee of \$250.00 (cashier's check or money order only) must be submitted with the appeal. The notice of appeal shall be delivered to and received by the National Office of the AAU within the appropriate time. The appeal fee will be refunded at the Chair's discretion.

b. Appeals can be dismissed for lack of reasonable cause, referred to one or more hearing officers, or scheduled for hearing before the Board. In each case the Chair may issue evidentiary orders and set deadlines appropriate to the case.Fee must be paid before hearing.

3. The National Chairman of Ice Hockey AAU may choose to forward this appeal to the National AAU Sports Compliance Chairman for a final decision.

4. If in the event at each appeal step the decision is overturned in the suspended individuals favor, the appeal fee shall be return to the individual.

5.State Appeals will be handled by the State Affiliate Disciplinary Committee within the guidelines of the National Discipline Committee.After exhausting the States Appeal process, the individual (s) may appeal to the National Chairman following the procedures above.

Section 5 : TOURNAMENTS

All tournament operators shall file for a Tournament License to operate along with its Playing Format, Rules, Tie Breakers Format. Playing Format shall include any change of playing format for the Semi's & Final games. This shall be submitted with application and approved by the State Chairman for ICE HOCKEY. The Chairman shall review and if compliant shall approve and send the Tournament Application to AAU for issue.

1. All rosters shall have Players full name, AAU Membership #, Jersey #, Position, so they can be verified at checkin.
2. Only players on a verified roster are eligible to participate in any games.
3. Any team that plays a non-verified Player or Bench person shall forfeit that game

4. Teams shall provide tournament operator a final roster 1 week (7 days) before the start of the tournament for verification.
5. If a team plays a non-verified player or Bench personnel, they will forfeit that game, Head Coach will be Suspended indefinitely pending a hearing by their State Hearing committee or the National Hearing Committee.
6. Individual AAU Ice Hockey tournaments may adopt their own rules, provided that said rules do not violate the By-Laws and/or Policies of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) or those of an AAU District and further provided that said rules do not compromise safety and further provided that said rules do not compromise a safety issue.
7. 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:
 - i. 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.
 - j. 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.
 - k. Most AAU Leagues have adopted a MATCH PENALTY rule (see rules #14).
8. Uniform playing rules for Regional and/or National tournaments shall be established by AAU Hockey at the national level.

USA Hockey Rule Book can be found at: [2021-25 USAH Playing Rules.pdf \(sportngin.com\)](https://cdn3.sportngin.com/attachments/document/0042/5371/Junior_Rulebook_2125_FINAL.pdf)

Section 6

AAU JUNIOR HOCKEY

Junior Hockey is an entity of AAU and has its own set rules for the game. The following are the links to the rules & the Management of AAU Junior Hockey

Rules are basically USAH Junior Rules which can be found at:

https://cdn3.sportngin.com/attachments/document/0042/5371/Junior_Rulebook_2125_FINAL.pdf

and

https://cdn3.sportngin.com/attachments/document/0045/5627/Players_Rights_Rules_Resp_update_21-22.pdf#_ga=2.87873246.759314170.1644777085-88732969.1644777050

All sections regarding Tier II Junior Hockey apply to the UHU and WSHL

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dd_0m6ao9js