



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association Policy & Guidelines

Policy Regarding Penalty Minutes for Major, Minor, Misconducts & Match Penalties

Section: Playing Rules

Approved: July 8, 2021

At the 2021 Annual Congress, USA Hockey adopted changes to USA Hockey Playing Rules 402- Minor Penalties, 403 Major Penalties, 404 Misconduct Penalties, and 405 Match Penalties to address the pro-ration of penalty minutes based on period lengths.

Playing Rule 402 was amended to address the pro-rated length of minor penalties based on the length of a period. The length of minor penalties shall be pro-rated for the following period lengths for those classifications below the 14 & under classification:

- 12 minutes or less – 1:00 minor penalty
- More than 12 but less than 17 minutes – 1:30 minor penalty
- 17-20 minutes – 2:00 minor penalty
- All minor and bench minor penalties in Adult classifications shall be 2:00 minutes in length.

Playing Rule 403 addresses Major Penalties and was amended to provide that MAHA, as a USA Hockey Affiliate, is authorized to reduce the length of major penalties for games under its jurisdiction according to the following period lengths (except for adults):

- 12 minutes or less – 3:00 major penalty
- More than 12 but less than 17 minutes – 4:00 major penalty
- 17-20 minutes – 5:00 minor penalty

Playing Rule 404 addresses Misconduct Penalties and was amended to provide that MAHA, as a USA Hockey Affiliate, is authorized to reduce the length of misconduct penalties for games under its jurisdiction according to the following period lengths (except for adults):

- 12 minutes or less – 6:00 misconduct penalty
- More than 12 but less than 17 minutes – 8:00 misconduct penalty
- 17-20 minutes – 10:00 misconduct penalty

Playing Rule 405 addresses Match Penalties and was amended to provide that MAHA, as a USA Hockey Affiliate, is authorized to reduce the length of major penalties for games under its jurisdiction according to the following period lengths (except for adults):

- 12 minutes or less – 3:00 match penalty
- More than 12 but less than 17 minutes – 4:00 match penalty
- 17-20 minutes – 5:00 match penalty

Playing Rule 402, 403, 404 & 405 permits MAHA, as a USA Hockey Affiliate, to grant exceptions to the pro-rated schedule for minor penalties for the 14 & under age classification and older, only. MAHA hereby adopts this pro-rated schedule for the following classifications only: All Youth & Girl's age classifications from 10U thru 19U, and High School.

Rule 401 Penalties

- (a) Penalties shall be actual playing time and shall be divided into the following classes:
- (1) Minor/Bench Minor Penalties
 - (2) Major Penalties
 - (3) Misconduct Penalties
 - (4) Match Penalties
 - (5) Penalty Shot

(Note 1) When play is not actually in progress and an offense is committed by any player or Team Official, the same penalty shall apply as though play were actually in progress.

(Note 2) Should a player commit multiple infractions on the same play, either before or after the Referee has stopped play, the offending player shall serve the penalties consecutively.

- (b) Any player, except in Adult age classifications, who receives four penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty. Any Adult player who receives five penalties in the same game shall be immediately ejected for the remainder of the game with no further suspension.

Any Head Coach whose team, except in Adult age classifications, receives twelve (12) or more penalties during one game shall be suspended for the next scheduled game of that team.

- (c) For any Team Official or Player serving a suspension for a prior game misconduct violation or disciplinary suspension, the suspension will commence 45 minutes prior to the start of each game and conclude 30 minutes following the conclusion of each game.

The Team Official or Player serving the suspension shall be prohibited from:

- (1) Having any interaction, involvement or communication "in person," electronically or otherwise with the team
- (2) Being present in the locker room
- (3) Being on or near the bench of their team

Any violation of this Rule may result in supplementary discipline and may subject such Team Official or Player to further disciplinary proceedings.

Rule 402 Minor Penalties

(Note) Affiliates are authorized to grant exceptions to the pro-rated schedule for minor penalties for the 14 & under age classification and older.

The length of minor penalties shall be pro-rated for the following period lengths:

- *12 minutes or less – 1:00 minor penalty*
- *More than 12 but less than 17 minutes – 1:30 minor penalty*
- *17-20 minutes – 2:00 minor penalty*

All minor and bench minor penalties in the Adult classifications shall be 2:00 in length.

- For a "MINOR PENALTY," any player, other than a goalkeeper, shall be ruled off the ice for the designated minor penalty time during which time no substitute shall be permitted.
- For a "BENCH MINOR" penalty one player shall be ruled off the ice for the designated minor penalty time, during which time no substitute shall be permitted. Any non-penalized player of the team who was on the ice at the time of the infraction, except the goalkeeper, may be designated to serve the penalty by the Manager or Coach through the playing captain, and such player shall promptly take their place on the penalty bench.
- If the opposing team scores a goal while a team is short-handed (below the on ice numerical strength of its opponent at the time of the goal) by one or more minor penalties, one of such penalties shall automatically terminate. The penalty that terminates automatically is the first minor or bench minor penalty (non-coincidental) then being served by the "short-handed" team. This rule shall not apply when a goal is scored on a penalty shot or an awarded goal.
- When the minor penalties of two players of the same team terminate at the same time, the captain of that team shall designate which player will return to the ice first.
- When a player receives a major penalty and a minor penalty at the same time, the major penalty shall be served first by the penalized player. However, if the major or match penalty is assessed under the coincidental major or match

penalty rules, the minor penalty will be recorded and served first.

- (f) When an equal number of minor penalties (coincidental) are assessed to players from both teams, the penalized players shall take their place on the penalty bench and immediate substitution will take place for an equal number of minor penalties. The penalized players shall not leave the penalty bench until the first stoppage of play following the expiration of their penalties. Additional minor penalties assessed at the same stoppage that are not considered coincidental minor penalties shall be served in the normal manner.

Coincidental minor penalties shall not be taken into account for the purpose of a delayed penalty under Rule 408 (Delayed Penalties).

Rule 403 Major Penalties

(Note) (Except for Adults) Affiliates or governing bodies are authorized to reduce the length of major penalties for games under their jurisdiction according to the following period lengths:

- 12 minutes or less – 3:00 major penalty
- More than 12 but less than 17 minutes – 4:00 major penalty
- 17-20 minutes – 5:00 major penalty

- (a) For a "MAJOR PENALTY," any player, except the goalkeeper, shall be ruled off the ice for five minutes, or the designated major penalty time, during which time no on-ice substitute shall be permitted.
- (b) For the second major penalty in the same game to the same player or goalkeeper, the game misconduct penalty assessed shall cause the player or goalkeeper to be suspended for their team's next two games. This two-game suspension is in addition to any other required suspensions incurred during the same incident.
- (c) When an equal number of major penalties (coincidental), are assessed to players from both teams, the penalized players shall take their place on the penalty bench and immediate substitution will take place for an equal number of major penalties. The penalized players shall not leave

the penalty bench until the first stoppage of play following the expiration of their penalties. Additional minor or major penalties assessed at the same stoppage that are not considered coincidental penalties shall be served in the normal manner.

The coincidental penalty rule shall also apply in all situations where penalties of equal duration (minor or major penalties) are assessed to both teams.

Coincidental major penalties shall not be taken into account for the purpose of a delayed penalty under Rule 408 (Delayed Penalties).

- (d) ***(For all Youth, High School and Girls' Age Classifications)*** When a player is assessed a major plus game misconduct penalty, unless immediate substitution is permitted under the coincidental major penalty Rule 403(c), the penalized team shall immediately place an additional or substitute player on the penalty bench and such player may not be changed.

(For Adult Classifications) When a player is assessed a major plus game misconduct penalty, unless immediate substitution is permitted under the coincidental major penalty Rule 403(c), the penalized team shall not be required to place an additional or substitute player on the penalty bench for the purpose of serving short-handed penalty time. When the major penalty expires, the penalized team may regain even-strength by adding a player from the team bench.

Rule 404 Misconduct Penalties

(Note) (Except for Adults) Affiliates or governing bodies are authorized to reduce the length of misconduct penalties for games under their jurisdiction according to the following period lengths:

- ***12 minutes or less – 6:00 misconduct penalty***
- ***More than 12 but less than 17 minutes – 8:00 misconduct penalty***
- ***17-20 minutes – 10:00 misconduct penalty***

- (a) A "MISCONDUCT" penalty involves the removal of a player, other than a goalkeeper, from the game for a period of 10 minutes, or the designated misconduct penalty time, with immediate substitution taking place on ice. A player

whose misconduct penalty has expired shall remain on the penalty bench until the next stoppage of play.

Unless immediate substitution is permitted under the coincidental minor penalty rule 402(f), when a player receives a minor penalty plus a misconduct or game misconduct penalty at the same time, the penalized team shall immediately place an additional non-penalized player, other than a goalkeeper, on the penalty bench and such player may not be changed.

No other replacement for the penalized player shall be permitted to enter the game except from the penalty bench upon expiration of the penalty.

For violation of this rule a bench minor penalty for illegal substitution shall be imposed.

For the second misconduct penalty assessed to the same player during the same game, a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to that player in lieu of the second misconduct penalty.

- (b) A “GAME MISCONDUCT” penalty involves the suspension of a player or Team Official for the balance of the game with immediate substitution taking place on ice.

A player or Team Official incurring a game misconduct penalty shall also be suspended for the team’s next game (the game already appearing on the schedule of that team at the time of the infraction), except that when such penalty is imposed under Rule 403(b) (Second Major in Game) there shall be a minimum two-game suspension.

(Note) In all cases where a game misconduct penalty is assessed, the incident shall be reported to the proper authorities who shall have full power to impose further suspensions.

(Note 2) For all game misconduct penalties regardless of when imposed, a total of 10 minutes shall be charged in the records against an offending player.

- (c) Any Team Official or player who is assessed a game misconduct penalty may not remain near the bench of their team, nor in any way attempt to direct the play of their team, for the balance of the game in which the game misconduct penalty has been issued.

Rule 405 Match Penalties

(Note) (Except for Adults) Affiliates or governing bodies are authorized to reduce the length of match penalties for games under their jurisdiction according to the following period lengths:

- *12 minutes or less – 3:00 match penalty*
- *More than 12 but less than 17 minutes – 4:00 match penalty*
- *17-20 minutes – 5:00 match penalty*

- (a) A “MATCH” penalty involves the immediate removal of a player or Team Official for the balance of the game and a five-minute time penalty, or the designated match penalty time, shall be assessed.

(Note) For all “MATCH” penalties, regardless of when imposed, or prescribed additional penalties, a total of 10 minutes shall be charged in the records against the offending player or Team Official.

(For all Youth, High School and Girls’ Age Classifications)

Unless immediate substitution is permitted under the coincidental major penalty Rule 403(c), the penalized team shall immediately place a substitute player on the penalty bench and such player shall not be changed.

(For Adult Classifications) Unless immediate substitution is permitted under the coincidental major penalty Rule 403(c), the penalized team shall not be required to place an additional or substitute player on the penalty bench for the purposes of serving short-handed penalty time. When the match penalty expires, the penalized team may regain even-strength by adding a player from the team bench.

- (b) When coincidental match penalties have been imposed or when any combination of coincidental major and match penalties have been assessed to a player or players of both teams, Rule 403(c) covering coincidental major penalties will be applicable with respect to player substitutions.
- (c) A player or Team Official incurring a match penalty shall be suspended from participating in all USA Hockey games and practices until their case has been dealt with by the proper authorities. Appropriate discipline will be determined

using the USA Hockey Standardized Discipline Policy (see Preface).

If a hearing is requested by either party (the offending player/team official or the proper authorities), it shall be offered to be held within 30 days of the incident ("30-day period") together with a decision in accordance with Bylaw 10D (Suspension Hearings/Domestic Competition Playing Rules). If extenuating circumstances prevent the proper authorities from conducting the hearing within the 30-day period, the player or Team Official shall be automatically reinstated after the 30-day period. The failure to offer the hearing shall not prohibit the hearing body from conducting the hearing after the 30-day period and imposing further disciplinary action.

If the proper authorities decide to suspend the offending player or coach as a result of a match penalty, the minimum suspension must be one complete game. All additional suspensions, after a hearing, must include the next game appearing on the offending team's game schedule.

(Note) The Referee is required to file an incident report for all match penalties and the surrounding circumstances no later than 24 hours following the game in which they occur.

- (d) Any Team Official or player who is assessed a match penalty may not remain near the bench of their team, nor in any way attempt to direct the play of their team for the balance of the game in which the match penalty has been issued.
- (e) Original jurisdiction in any hearing resulting from a match penalty assessed under Rule 601(e.1) (Physical Assault of Officials) shall reside with the Affiliate.

Rule 406 Penalty Shot

- (a) If the offense for which the penalty shot was awarded was such as would normally incur a minor or bench minor penalty, the non-offending team may, prior to the penalty shot, elect that the minor or bench minor penalty be assessed to the offending player or team in lieu of the penalty shot. If the penalty shot is selected, the offending team shall not be reduced in on-ice strength as a result of the infraction.