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Article 1: NAME AND AREA OF OPERATION

SECTION 1: This organization will be known as “**District 4 Hockey**”

SECTION 2: The area of operation will be Southwestern Minnesota. District 4 hockey is comprised of the following hockey associations of Minnesota Hockey:

Fairmont, Luverne, Redwood Falls, Windom, Worthington, New Ulm/ Sleepy Eye and Marshall. Affiliate of District 4 Hockey is Lakes area.

Article 2: 2024-2025 District 4 Officers

District Director

Mike Pigman

131 Torgerson Ln.
Jackson, MN 56143
(507-841-1790

hockey@tristategc.net

Secretary

Katie Widboom

kawidbo19@gmail.com
(507) 227-5281

Tournament Director

Ryan Stelter

(507) 829-2215
Stelter22@outlook.com

Coach in Chief

Dylan VanBrocklin

(307) 251-8819
d.vanbrocklin@icloud.com

President

Treasurer

Debbi Gettler

d4treasurer@tristategc.net
(507) 849-7429

Hockey Director

Dylan VanBrocklin

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Supervisor of Officials

Scott Kuhl

(507) 993-5951
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Girl's Coordinator

Chris Foley
(507) 828-0146
cfoleyewater@gmail.com

HP 15 (Boys) GM

Geoff Torzewski
(218) 260-7653
gtorzewski32@gmail.com

HP 14 (Boys) GM

Open Position

District 4 Registrar

Todd Elmer
tjelmer@comcast.net

ARTICLE 3: 2024-2025 DISTRICT 4 PLAYOFFS, MN HOCKEY REGIONAL, STATE TOURNAMENT SITES:

All End of the Year, District Playoff, Regional, and State Tournament Locations will be posted on the Website.

District Tournament Locations:

<https://mnhdistrict4.pucksystems2.com/>

Regional and State Tournament Locations:

<https://www.minnesotahockey.org/tournaments>

ARTICLE 4: OPERATING PROCEDURES

SECTION A: TEAM REGISTRATION

1. All teams in all divisions will be registered with Minnesota Hockey and USA Hockey.
2. All league games will be played and governed by District 4 Hockey playing rules, Minnesota Hockey, and USA Hockey Rules.
 - a. All Teams playing league games outside of district 4 will be governed by that District and follow all rules for that district.
3. All hockey associations within District 4 must update and complete the Affiliate Agreement, as found in Minnesota Hockey handbook, when directed by the District Director. The league registration fees for each member team in District 4 will be as follows: (Includes Lakes Area association)
 - a. District 4 Fee per Association \$ 200.00
 - b. District 4 Web Fee per Association \$ 150.00
 - c. District 4 Officials Fee per Association \$ 50.00
 - d. District 4 fee per Registered Team \$ 10.00
 - e. League team fees 12U, 15U, Peewee, Bantam \$ 50.00
 - f. Arbiter Fee \$ 250.00
 - g. Gamesheet Fee per Team \$ 150.00
 - h. Any league games played prior to payment of fees/dues will be forfeited if not paid in full before January 1, of each current season.**
 - i. Any fines or bills that are not paid to the District means that the Association will **NOT** participate in District, Regional, or State Playoffs.
 - j. All teams will indicate at time of registration, of their intention to participate in District 4 Playoffs. When a team, (who has indicated at the beginning of the season of their intent to play in the playoffs, if they qualify) qualifies for a District Playoff Position, fails to participate in the District Playoff, will be subject of very strong disciplinary action. Teams subject to this review will be allowed to state their reason(s) in person or writing as to why participation did not occur. District 4 Grievance Committee will assess any disciplinary action based upon review of all information presented.

Section B: Coaches

1. All coaches must follow USA Hockey coaching certification requirements.
2. All coaches must complete SafeSport, Background Screening before taking the ice. Age-appropriate Module along with CEP certification must be completed by Dec. 31 of the current season. Failure to adhere to Safe Sport and Minnesota Hockey Background Screening Policy as outlined in the MN Hockey Handbook are:
 - a) 1st Violation Warning**
 - b) 2nd Violation 30 days suspension.**

3. There will be no uncertified coaches on the bench at any time, at any level after December 31 of the current season.
4. All certified coaches must be registered on the team roster that they are coaching. Coaches must submit a Concussion certification form prior to being rostered.
5. All coaches and certifications numbers will be listed on the scoresheet, the head coach on the bench must sign gamesheet prior to the start of the game to verify the rosters.
6. Each coach is required to wear a HECC approved helmet during practice, with a chin strap.
 - a) **No Warning's 1st Violation 30 days suspension from all team activities.**
7. Any association from District 4 who has a coach ejected from any game will pay:
 - a) 1st Offense \$500.00 fine to District 4 and be suspended for 3 games or one week which ever is longer.
 - b) 2nd Offense \$1000.00 Fine, with District Hearing and a one year Suspension.
 - c) 3rd Offense District Hearing and no longer able to coach within district 4.

Section C: League Games

1. All league games must be completed by the first Sunday of February (including any makeup games).
2. The League game count will be determined prior to the season by the district 4 league committee. Any game between two teams will be considered a league game, unless prior approval by the district director.
3. All league games will be played as per original schedule listed with District 4.
 - a. Games may be rescheduled prior to October 31 of each season in which league games may be changed at no charge by filling out the district 4 rescheduling form. (listed on website)
 - b. Any game changes after October 31 of the season MUST be rescheduled using the District 4 Game Rescheduling Form and paying the required fee.
 - c. Games can be rescheduled, with no fee, due to inclement weather or severe team illness with district director approval.
 - d. District 4 League Director will be the final decision.
 - e. Rescheduling a league game will be \$250.00, paid by the team that wants to reschedule. Submit Rescheduling form and Associations/teams will be invoiced electronically.
4. **Cancelling Games:** Any team that cancels or is a "no show" without director approval will be fined \$300.00 per cancelled game. The fine will be paid to District 4 within 7 days of the date of the

cancelled game. District 4 will direct \$200.00 of the cancellation fee to the other team/association involved in the cancelled game. The remaining \$100.00 will be retained by District 4. In case of double forfeit, both teams/associations will be fined \$200.00. Exception to this would be inclement weather or severe team illness approved by district director.

- a. **A team that cancels or is a, “no show” for a league game also becomes ineligible for District Playoffs.**
 - b. This includes the cancellation of non-league games between district 4 teams.
 - c. No “Fair Play Points” will be awarded to either team for cancelled games as no game was played. A fair play point will be awarded to the non-forfeiting team.
 - d. It is mandatory that all league games be played. If a team refuses to play another team, the non-forfeiting team will be awarded 2 points. Any team refusing to play a league game for reasons other than those listed above will be barred from participating in league play for the following season; and excluded from the District playoff/end of the year events, pending review by the executive board of district 4.
 - e. In the event of a “no show” the team which cancels the event will pay all officials and ice costs.
5. **Hazardous Travel:** If weather conditions seem hazardous for highway travel and a coach questions the feasibility of traveling within the District 4 area, the following procedures should be followed:
- a. The traveling coach must call the District 4 Director Mike Pigman 507-841-1790.
 - b. The call **MUST** be made by a coach or team manager, **NOT a parent.**

The District Director will retrieve information on travel advisories and make a decision on the game in question. If it is decided that the game should be played, but isn't, the game will be recorded as a forfeit. The traveling team will be fined for not playing a league game may not be eligible for any post season play.

SECTION D: PLAYING RULES

1. The **HOME TEAM** will wear white jerseys and be responsible for a change in jersey color in case of color conflict.
2. The **HOME TEAM** will provide the visiting team with warm up pucks. All District 4 Tournament sites will provide warm up pucks for all games.
3. The Uniform of 12U/PeeWee/Bantam/15U may display a District 4 patch.
4. All players, including goalkeepers, are **required** to wear a colored (non-clear) internal mouthpiece, which covers all remaining teeth of one jaw, customarily the upper, and tethered to the mask or helmet.

5. **Goalies are required to wear throat protector/guard this includes a dangler and neck laceration protection**
6. **All players must wear neck laceration protection as specified under USA Hockey**
7. One time out allowed in league games.
8. A one-minute rest period will be allocated between periods which have no resurface.
9. **When one team holds at least a six (6) goal lead after the first period, there will be running time on the clock until the game ends or if the lead becomes less than six (6) goals.**
10. There will be no overtime in league games.
11. Occasionally, District 4 is unable to secure enough teams at a certain level to support a viable league within D-4. When that happens an Association may be required to participate in a league sponsored by another District. If that happens, the participating team will play by that district's rules, and it shall be the Associations responsibility to familiarize, and notify ALL necessary individuals of the leagues rules and requirements.
12. Mites and mini-mites, mites are considered 8 years old and younger. Mini-mites are considered 6 years old and younger. Mini-Mites must play all games cross ice. Mites may play cross ice, or half ice, this must be determined by the two teams when the game is scheduled.
13. The oldest Mite team within each association may play up to 6 Full Ice games with the District Directors prior approval after Jan. 15 2025.

Section E: Statistics

1. All Games played in District 4, will utilize Game Sheet Inc. for all games including tournaments and scrimmages.

SECTION F: TOURNAMENTS

1. No invitational tournaments/jamborees in District 4 will be sanctioned on the weekend of District Playoffs, or End of the Year Events for 8U and 10U.
2. No invitational tournaments within the District will compete at the same level with another invitational tournament on the same weekend. To avoid this all tournament dates will be turned into the District Tournament Director no earlier than March 15th and no later than June 1. Dates will be awarded on a first come first serve.

3. Any invitational tournaments that have not been approved and have been advertised will be subject to a fine. As well, any dates that have been instructed to be changed and do not get changed are subject to fines and/or subject to not being approved for sanctioning.
4. All District 4 Playoff Tournament/ end of the year event entry fees will be determined each season.
5. Teams will be seeded for district play by the District 4 Standings.
6. District 4 Playoffs will be as follows:
 - a. Set by the District Director, can be any of the following or combination of,
 - i. Round Robin, bracketed, double elimination, playoff series
 - ii. Utilize play-in games
 - iii. Decisions on format will be based on size of league and strength of league.

SECTION G: DISCIPLINE AND SANCTIONS

1. Authorized disciplinary actions taken by the District 4 Board will be in accordance with the USA Hockey Playing Rules.
2. The District 4 Director will be notified of players or coaches receiving fighting, game misconduct, and match penalties. A written report, date marked within 72 hours of the infraction and will be emailed to the District 4 Director.
3. Game reports will be sent by the Supervisor of Officials of D4, and to the District Director. The District Director will notify the respective association president.
4. Any game scheduler who assigns incompletely registered officials for games is subject to serious liability and sanctions from USA Hockey, MN Hockey, and District 4 as he/she jeopardizes the insurance coverage of the officials for both teams involved.
5. A \$500 fine will be imposed by the District Director for the following; but not limited to; failure to pay league fees and dues by December 1, failure to submit background checks by the designated time set by the director, failure to complete Safe Sport, failure to properly register teams, non-attendance at mandatory District 4 meetings, and other required submittals as determined by the District 4 rules.
6. Association rosters will not be approved unless each association is in good standing, Including a current Affiliate Agreement, and Safe Sport agreement submitted.

Sub-Section A: Match Penalty Proceedings

1. Match Penalties may have a disciplinary hearing to determine if further suspension is needed. The District retains the option to hold a hearing within 30-days of the offense. This is known as the “discovery” phase.
2. During the discovery phase players, coaches, or team officials are not allowed to participate in any team activities including practice until either the 30-days period has lapsed or a hearing has convened.
3. Details about hearings come from the District 4 Director.

Sub-Section B: CONDUCT

1. Racial or ethnic slurs and/or harassing conduct of any kind will not be tolerated.
2. Each team is responsible for the conduct of its spectators. Coaches should advise their parents and other fans of conduct rules.
3. If spectator conduct becomes so abusive that, in the referee(s) opinion, it is distracting from the game or inciting the players, the referee(s) **will** stop play and:
 - a. Ask the coach(es) to control their spectators and/or:
 - b. Ask the coach(es) to request specified individuals to leave the arena.
 - c. Disruptive use of artificial noise makers will be considered abusive conduct and are not allowed.
 - d. Possession of a device that could be detrimental to the players or to the conduct of the game, such as laser pointers, will be considered abusive conduct and reported to local law enforcement officials. During MH playoffs or invitational tournaments, the District Director, designated district personnel or the tournament director shall have the authority to take actions as necessary to control spectator conduct.
4. District 4 Hockey requests all home team (managers) monitor parent/spectator conduct and submit off ice incidents to the District Director by email at hockey@tristategc.net
5. **Any spectator removed will be subject to the following penalties: If a parent/ guardian is ejected or removed from a facility due to their conduct both their player and the parent/ guardian will be subject to the following penalties.**
 - a. 1st Offense \$500.00 fine to the association from District 4 and be suspended for 3 games or one week.
 - b. 2nd Offense \$1000.00 Fine to the association from District 4, along with hearing with the district 4 board and a one year Suspension.
 - c. 3rd Offense District 4 Hearing and up to permanent district 4 ban from participation within the district.

Section H: GRIEVANCE

1. The grievance Committee of District 4 will be members of the District 4 Board. All grievances must be in writing and postmarked or time stamped within 72 hours of the reported incident. The complainant will submit their grievance to the District Director.
2. If two teams are involved in the incident, they will then have 7 days in which to submit any information requested by the Grievance Committee and any information that either team feels is pertinent to the handling and resolving of the grievance. Any grievance not submitted within the 72-hour time frame WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. If the Grievance Committee's decision will affect the League Standings the district director must be notified immediately.

Section I: Appeals

1. Refer to Minnesota Hockey Handbook By-laws, Article 6

Section J: Pre-Season Meetings

1. There will be a Pre-Season Coaches and Managers Meetings before each season.
2. **Each team will be required to have one manager, and one coach attend per team. A \$200.00 fine will be assessed to programs for not having managers or coaches attend.**

APPENDIX B: District 4 Playing Rules Short Summary

	<u>Bantam/ 14U</u>	<u>Peewee/12U</u>	<u>Squirts/ 10U</u>	<u>Mites/Girls 8U</u>
Games	No Game Limit	No Game Limit	35 Game Limit (includes tournaments and scrimmages) Unlimited cross/half ice.	Unlimited Cross and Half ice, All full ice games must be approved by the district director, and a maximum game count of 6 full ice games. After Jan. 15 th .
Game Length	3 – 15 min stop	3 – 15 min stop	3 – 12 min stop	3 – 12 min Stop
Penalties	2 min Minor 5 min Major 10 min Misconduct	1.5 min Minor 5 min Major 10 min Misconduct	1 min Minor 5 min Major 10 min Misconduct	At the Mite/Girls 8U level, the player receiving a penalty will be removed from the ice until their next shift. No penalty.
Time Outs	one	One	One	None
Fairplay Points	14 minutes and under (see MN hockey rule Section viii, subsection N)	12 minutes and under (see MN hockey rule Section viii, subsection N)	10 minutes and under (see MN hockey rule Section viii, subsection N)	None
Overtime (league games)	No	No	No	No
Ice Cut between 2nd & 3rd period	Yes	No	No	No

Mites/Girls 8U (follow mite guidance in MH handbook)	Out of town scrimmages are considered games	Split practices with out of town teams are considered games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini-Mites (6 yrs old and under) • must play cross-ice 	Mites (8 yrs old and under) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unlimited cross-ice/ half- ice. To be determined at the time the game is scheduled.
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