

ANNUAL GUIDE

2021-2022

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Montana Hockey

THIS IS MONTANA HOCKEY. The Montana Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) is the Governing Body for the sport of hockey in Montana. As a sanctioned member of USA Hockey, MAHA subscribes to the rules, regulations and philosophy of USA Hockey. As such, its mission is to promote the growth of hockey in Montana and provide the best possible experience for all participants by encouraging, developing, advancing and administering the sport. With a membership of more than 3000 ice hockey players, coaches, and volunteers, the Montana Amateur Hockey Association's primary emphasis is on the support and development of **COMMUNITY-BASED** programs throughout the state of Montana.

MONTANA HOCKEY CORE VALUES

The following core values of USA Hockey are adopted to guide the association's members in their planning, programming and play, both now and in the future.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Foremost of all values is to learn a sense of fair play. Become humble in victory, gracious in defeat. We will foster friendship with teammates and opponents alike.

RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

Treat all others as you would expect to be treated.

INTEGRITY

We seek to foster honesty and fair play beyond mere strict interpretation of the rules and regulations of the game.

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE AT THE INDIVIDUAL, TEAM AND ORGANIZATIONAL LEVELS

Each member of the organization, whether player, volunteer or staff, should seek to perform each aspect of the game to the highest level of his or her ability.

ENJOYMENT

It is important for the hockey experience to be fun, satisfying and rewarding for all participants.

LOYALTY

We aspire to teach loyalty to the ideals and fellow members of the sport of hockey.

TEAMWORK

We value the strength of learning to work together. The use of teamwork is reinforced and rewarded by success in the hockey experience.

Programs and Philosophies

YOUTH HOCKEY

The USA Hockey mission statement for its youth programs is as follows:

- To provide an improved grassroots foundation for the growth and development of USA hockey, designing programs aimed at increased participation, improved skills and a responsible environment for the conduct of youth hockey.

USA Hockey Model Program Recommended Guidelines:

- A safe and healthy environment for all.
- An opportunity for all new players who wish to play hockey.
- Fair and equal opportunity for all to participate in our sport.
- An opportunity to learn the basic skills without an over-emphasis on winning.
- A philosophy which attempts to reduce the number who become disenchanted and drop out.
- An opportunity for those who wish to advance in a more competitive environment to do so.
- Qualified adult leadership.

USA Hockey Recommends:

- Scoring records should be de-emphasized at the age of 11 and under.
- Awards should be inexpensive and based on significant achievement. The most gratifying award any player can receive is the joy that comes from skill development that contributes to team success.
- The recruitment of players on a widespread geographical basis for the establishment of Youth Division Select Teams may be pursued under the guidelines established by USA Hockey's Model Program.
- It is recommended that adult volunteers place a primary emphasis on the formal education of players, and a de-emphasis on excessive competition and a win-at-all-costs attitude in the youth age classifications.
- Sportsmanship at all times should be emphasized.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Administrators Code of Conduct

- Follow the rules and regulations of USA Hockey and your association to ensure that the association's philosophy and objectives are enhanced.
- Support programs that train and educate players, coaches, parents, officials and volunteers.
- Promote and publicize your programs; seek out financial support when possible.
- Communicate with parents by holding parent/player orientation meetings as well as by being available to answer questions and address problems throughout the season.
- Work to provide programs that encompass fairness to the participants and promote fair play and sportsmanship.
- Recruit volunteers, including coaches, who demonstrate qualities conducive to being role models to the youth in our sport.
- Encourage coaches and officials to attend USA Hockey clinics, and advise your board members of the necessity for their training sessions.
- Make every possible attempt to provide everyone, at all skill levels, with a place to play.
- Read and be familiar with the contents of the USA Hockey Annual Guide and Official Playing Rules.
- Develop other administrators to advance to positions in your association, perhaps even your own.

Coaches Code of Conduct

- Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one. Care more about the child than winning the game. Remember, players are involved in hockey for fun and enjoyment.
- Be a positive role model to your players, display emotional maturity and be alert to the physical safety of players.
- Be generous with your praise when it is deserved; be consistent and honest; be fair and just; do not criticize players publicly; learn to be a more effective communicator and coach; don't yell at players.
- Adjust to personal needs and problems of players; be a good listener; never verbally or physically abuse a player or official; give all players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and

- develop self-esteem; teach them the basics.
- Organize practices that are fun and challenging for your players. Familiarize yourself with the rules, techniques and strategies of hockey; encourage all your players to be team players.
- Maintain an open line of communication with your players' parents. Explain the goals and objectives of your association.
- Be concerned with the overall development of your players. Stress good health habits and clean living.
- To play the game is great; to love the game is greater.

On-Ice Officials Code of Conduct

- Act in a professional and businesslike manner at all times and take your role seriously.
- Strive to provide a safe and sportsmanlike environment in which players can properly display their hockey skills.
- Know all playing rules, their interpretations and their proper application.
- Remember that officials are teachers. Set a good example.
- Make your calls with quiet confidence; never with arrogance.
- Control games only to the extent that is necessary to provide a positive and safe experience for all participants.
- Violence must never be tolerated.
- Be fair and impartial at all times.
- Answer all reasonable questions and requests.
- Adopt a **zero tolerance** attitude toward verbal or physical abuse.
- Never use foul or vulgar language when speaking with a player, coach or parent.
- Use honesty and integrity when answering questions.
- Admit your mistakes when you make them.
- Never openly criticize a coach, player or other official.
- Keep your emotions under control.
- Use only USA Hockey-approved officiating techniques and policies.
- Maintain your health through a physical conditioning program.
- Dedicate yourself to personal improvement and maintenance of officiating skills.
- Respect your supervisor and his/her critique of your performance.

Parents Code of Conduct

- Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desires to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.
- Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
- Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit.
- Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- Know and study the rules of the game, and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of the officials only hurts the game.
- Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat, and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice - it is destructive. Work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
- Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.
- If you enjoy the game, learn all you can about hockey and volunteer.

Players Code of Conduct

- Play for FUN.
- Work hard to improve your skills.
- Be a team player - get along with your teammates.
- Learn teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline.
- Be on time for practices and games.
- Learn the rules and play by them. Always be a good sport.
- Respect your coach, your teammates, your parents, opponents and officials.
- Never argue with an official's decision.

Spectators Code of Conduct

- Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials.
- Act appropriately; do not taunt or disturb other fans; enjoy the game together.
- Cheer good plays of all participants; avoid booing opponents.
- Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive.
- Help provide a safe and fun environment; throwing any items on the ice surface can cause injury to players and officials.
- Do not lean over or pound on the glass; the glass surrounding the ice surface is part of the playing area.
- Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
- Be responsible for your own safety - be alert to prevent accidents from flying pucks and other avoidable situations.
- Respect locker rooms as private areas for players, coaches and officials.
- **Be supportive after the game win or lose.** Recognize good effort, teamwork and sportsmanship.

DECLARATION OF SAFETY, FAIR PLAY AND RESPECT

USA Hockey is committed to creating a safe and fair environment for all participants. Respect for the game, the opponents, coaches and officials is a critical part of the environment that is created and it covers several different aspects of sportsmanship and fair play. This initiative will encourage a change in culture as to what is considered to be acceptable/unacceptable body checking and competitive contact at all levels of play.

The following “points of emphasis” is not designed to replace our current rules/definitions, but instead are intended clarify and update the existing rules/definitions to emphasize the key points to more clearly outline what is deemed acceptable and unacceptable behavior. USA Hockey will also provide video examples of these actions deemed “acceptable” and “unacceptable” to further illustrate expected behavior. Please review the materials thoroughly so you can play a positive role in making our game safer.

COMPETITIVE CONTACT

Body “Competitive” Contact – Competitive contact is body contact between two or more skaters who are in the immediate vicinity of the puck and who are in the normal process of playing the puck. These skaters are reasonably allowed to lean into each other provided possession of the puck remains the sole object of the contact. Body “Competitive” Contact is encouraged at all age classifications of play within USA Hockey and provides the foundation for the skills necessary to advance to Body Checking classifications. Acceptable examples of Body “Competitive” Contact Include:

Angling is a legal defensive skill used to direct/control the puck carrier to an area that closes the gap and creates an opening that is too small for the puck carrier.

Physical Engagement is when two players who are in pursuit of the puck are allowed to reasonably lean into each other provided that possession of the puck remains the sole objective of the two players.

Collisions occur when players are allowed to maintain their established position on the ice. A player shall not be penalized if the intention is to play the puck and in so doing causes a collision with an opponent. No player is required to move out of the way of an oncoming player to avoid an impact.

BODY CHECKING

A body check represents intentional physical contact, from the front, diagonally from the front or straight from the side, by a skater to an opponent who is in control of the puck. The opposing player’s objective is to gain possession of the puck with a legal body check and NOT to punish or intimidate an opponent. Legitimate body checking must be done only with the trunk of the body (hips and shoulders) and must be above the opponent’s knees and at or below the opponent’s shoulders. The use of the **hands, forearm, stick or elbow** in delivering a body check is unacceptable and not within the guidelines of a legal body check. The primary focus of a body check is to gain possession of the puck and proper body checking technique starts with **stick on puck**, therefore the stick blade of the player delivering the check must be below the knees.

USA Hockey reminds coaches and players that these requirements are the responsibility of the player delivering the body check. Under no circumstance is it acceptable to deliver a body check to a **vulnerable or defenseless** opponent, an opponent who is not in possession and control of the puck or to use the hands, stick, forearm or elbow in delivering a check to an opponent.

Vulnerable or Defenseless – A skater is considered to be in a vulnerable or defenseless position when the player is unaware, unprepared, or unsuspecting of an impending hit. Infractions that occur as a result of a body check delivered to a vulnerable or defenseless player must be penalized under the Boarding, Charging, Checking from Behind or Head Contact Rules. When done in a dangerous, careless or reckless (unacceptable) manner where the player delivering the check has made no effort to play the puck, the **major plus game misconduct or match penalty** provisions of these rules must be assessed.

When two or more players are **physically engaged** for control of the puck along the boards, they are considered to be **vulnerable and defenseless**. Any body check delivered by a skater to an opponent who is **physically engaged** with another skater is considered dangerous, careless or reckless (unacceptable) and must be penalized accordingly.

Late Avoidable Body Check – Any avoidable check delivered to a player who is no longer in control of the puck. An avoidable check is when the player delivering the check has an opportunity to avoid contact or minimize contact, once it is realized the opponent no longer has control of the puck. The concept of “finishing the check” is an unacceptable action as it is one that is meant to intimidate or punish the opponent with no intent to gain possession of the puck. The responsibility is on the player delivering the check to avoid forceful contact (minimize impact) to a **vulnerable or defenseless** player who is no longer in control of the puck.

BODY CONTACT CATEGORY Non-check hockey does not mean no contact and the Body Contact Category game can be very physical. **USA Hockey strongly encourages legal body “competitive” contact to occur in all age classifications as part of the skill progression that teaches legal body checking.**

When determining whether a body check has occurred, the official must focus on whether the player is attempting to play the puck and whether there is any overt hip, shoulder or forearm action used to initiate contact and separate the opponent from the puck.

Legal **body “competitive” contact** occurs when players are focused on gaining possession of the puck and are simply maintaining legally established body position. This most often occurs when two players are **physically engaged** in front of the goal or along the boards.

Legal **body “competitive” contact** also commonly occurs when a player has established an angle on the opponent and closes the gap to create an opening that is too small for the puck carrier. Additional acceptable forms of **body “competitive” contact** include:

- A skater is entitled to the ice they occupy so long as they maintain their skating speed and body position between an opponent and the loose puck.
- A skater is entitled to stand their ground and is not required to move if an opponent wishes to skate through that area of the ice.
- A skater may block an opponent so long as they are in front of the opponent and moving in the same direction.
- A skater can use their body position to force an opponent to take a less direct route to the puck, so long as they do not use a hand or arm to hold or block the opponent.

BODY CHECKING CATEGORY It is USA Hockey’s intent to create a safe environment for players to be able to develop their skills – including body checking in age appropriate classifications – while also being able to physically compete within the rules. A player delivering a check to a vulnerable or defenseless player, who is not in control of the puck, will be assessed a penalty for roughing. Officials are to pay particular attention to these examples when applying this rule. These are intended as a guide and include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A player who is dangerous, careless or reckless (unacceptable) in delivering a check.
- A player who anticipates an opponent gaining possession or control of the puck but who makes contact with the opponent before possession or control occurs.
- A player who delivers a **late avoidable check** to an opponent who has released a shot or pass and is no longer in control of the puck.
- The use of the hands, forearm, stick or elbow in delivering a body check **OR** making contact with the opponent after the whistle. If contact is made above the shoulders, this action must be penalized as Head Contact. **This includes any contact that occurs as part of a scrum situation after play has been stopped.**

- Two skaters who use competitive contact for position as they skate to a loose puck are within their rights to do so, unless one uses their stick, arm, or skates to obstruct their opponent's ability to skate to the puck.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT A bench minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be assessed to any team whose players or team officials commit the following actions while on the players' bench: (5) Banging the boards with a stick or other object, including skates or arms, at any time, **including after a body check regardless as to whether the check is being penalized.**

SUMMARY

All USA Hockey members must demonstrate awareness and support for the application, spirit and the respect of the rules in order for continued improvement in the game of hockey.

Coaches are expected to teach proper skills and hold their players accountable for illegal and dangerous actions, regardless as to whether they are properly penalized, or not.

Parents are expected to support the decisions of the officials and support the coaches in teaching the proper skills in a safe and positive environment.

Officials shall enforce a strict penalty standard according to the guidelines that have been established.

Players are expected to compete within the playing rules.

Administrators are expected to hold players, coaches, officials and parents accountable for their actions in an effort to promote a safe and positive environment for all participants.

All members of USA Hockey share an equal responsibility to ensure the integrity of the game is upheld. The onus to incorporate change is not only on the officials, but also on administrators, coaches, parents and players, as well.

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

The MAHA Player Development Camp (MTPDC) is held each year following the conclusion of the MAHA hockey season. The camp is open to all players, boys and girls, ages 11 to 17. The objective of the Player Development Camp is to provide players across the state an affordable post-season hockey camp with the best available coaches both on and off the ice. The camp will focus on building and continuing to develop the fundamental hockey skills (skating, passing, shooting, etc...) There are no limitations on skill ability and all players registered with USA Hockey are encouraged to attend.

At the conclusion of the camp, some players may be chosen to advance to a Northern Plains Player Development Camp. If this is the case, players will be selected at the MT PDC and notified post-camp by a representative of the district camp. There may also be other opportunities available such as Multi-District and Regional Player Development Camps and players **MUST** attend the MT PDC in order to be eligible for these additional opportunities.

For more information about the Montana Player Development Camps, please visit MTHOCKEY.COM.

TIER I (AAA) and TIER II (AA) REQUIREMENTS

Montana teams wishing to compete at the USA Hockey Tier 1 or Tier 2 level shall meet the requirements of the Montana Amateur Hockey Association Tier 1 and Tier 2 Rules. The full requirement of these rules and the accompanying documents can be found on the MAHA webpage under the High Performance Tab.

COACHING EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Coaching Education Program establishes levels of achievement for each individual, from the beginner to the highly skilled expert. The objective of the program is to improve the caliber and quality of coaching in amateur hockey.

1. **Purpose:** Educating coaches in pursuit of excellence in hockey.
2. **Mission:** The Coaching Education Program is committed to developing coaches who will be effective instructors and role models through a comprehensive education program at all levels. The Coaching Education Program shall emphasize the teaching of fundamental skills, conceptual development, sportsmanship, and respect for the dignity of the individual athlete.
3. **Values:** The Coaching Education Program embraces the following values to establish the moral and ethical priorities that serve to guide the coaching program:

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| Character | Integrity | Sportsmanship | Commitment |
| Knowledge | Vision | Enjoyment | Leadership |

For youth only, it is mandated by USA Hockey that all coaches and instructors wear hockey helmets during on-ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages and coaching clinics. The responsibility for the enforcement of this USA Hockey policy falls to local associations in Montana. In the case of the coach/instructor helmet requirement we recommend that the association ACE coordinator and coaching director instruct all coaches and instructors on the policy, explaining the origin and purpose of the policy. The association must then enact and enforce the policy. The following enforcement procedure has been approved by USA Hockey:

1. **First Offense** – a verbal reminder of the policy and the penalty for non-compliance.
2. **Second Offense** – a written warning of the policy and sanctions that could occur if the policy is not followed.
3. **Third Offense** – two game suspension. At the option of the local suspending authority, the offending coach may be allowed to practice with the team during this suspension as long as he/she wears a helmet.
4. **Fourth Offense** – As per bylaw 10. (C) Annual Guide. Notification on Helmet Policy violation pending a hearing by the affiliate or suspending authority – disciplinary hearing must be held within 7 days of notification of the violation. Suspension should not be for less than 30 days.

Please be advised that MAHA may sanction the local association for not properly enforcing the USA Hockey and affiliate policies.

The Montana Amateur Hockey Association will conduct background screening on all coaches rostered in Montana. All coaches on the ice and/or bench with players during games must have appropriate coaching credentials for the age division they are coaching and be registered with USA Hockey and rostered with the team they are coaching. All parents and/or volunteers participating on ice during ice hockey practices are required to carry the appropriate coaching credentials for the age divisions they are coaching.

REMINDER of updated rules:

401(b): Any team receiving twelve (12) penalties in a game shall have the head coach ejected for the next game
411(c): Establishment of Progressive suspensions for coaches who receive their 2nd game misconduct for Abuse of Officials in same season – 3 game suspension; and 3rd game misconduct for Abuse of Officials in same season are suspended until hearing is held.

Coach Registration

All ice hockey coaches as well as instructors of USA Hockey programs shall be registered annually as individual Participants of USA Hockey for the current season (before the start of the season) in order to be eligible to coach/instruct in any regular-season activities (practices, clinics, games, tournaments, try-outs, etc.), state, district, regional playoff, national championships or in the USA Hockey Player Development Programs. There will be an annual fee to register the coaches (head and assistants) and instructors. Coaches who also play on a USA Hockey registered team are required to pay this registration fee only once per year. Coaches may register as participants online at usahockey.com or through a local association/member program (refer to Section I Participant Registration).

Note 1: All USA Hockey Coaching Education Program Instructors and National Player Development Camp coaches will be exempt from the annual participant registration fee, but must complete the participant registration process.

Note 2: The head coach and all assistant coaches of each disabled hockey team must complete the required CEP registration and online age-specific module(s) for each level of play. Those volunteers or employees who assist with helping disabled hockey teams (i.e. interpreters, pushers, on-ice mentors, etc.) must be properly registered with USA Hockey but are not required to attend a CEP clinic and otherwise comply with these rules and regulations.

All ice hockey coaches and instructors of registered USA Hockey Youth 18 & Under and below, high school, girls'/women's 19 & under and below, and disabled programs must properly wear an approved ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages and all Coaching Education Program clinics and/or workshops.

(1) Required Coaching Education Program Levels for Ice Hockey

All coaches must have the required certification level by January 1 of the current season, unless earlier deadlines are established by the district and/or affiliate.

All coaches must complete the online age-specific modules PRIOR to participating with their team.

(a) All coaches must enter USA Hockey's Coaching Education Program at Level 1, and must continue their education with a coaching clinic each year until, at a minimum, they achieve Level 4. Coaches of only 8 and Under players should remain at Level 1 until such time as they are coaching any older age level of play.

A coach may attend only one (1) certification clinic per year.

Once Level 4 is achieved, coaches will need to complete 5 credit hours of continuing education within each subsequent three-year period [as outlined in Paragraph (c) below].

(b) In addition to the training in paragraph (a) above, coaches must also complete online age-specific training modules specific to the level of play they are coaching, if they have not already taken that module. This requirement applies to all coaches at all levels, 1 through 5. Coaches may complete more than one age-specific module in any given season.

(c) Effective in the 2021-22 season, coaching certification at Levels 4 and 5 is valid for three (3) seasons, as indicated by the expiration date. Before the expiration of their level, coaches must accumulate 5 credit hours of continuing education by either taking Level 5, or by attending other USA Hockey continuing education clinics. The USA Hockey clinic listings will indicate all continuing education offerings and the credit value of each. The Coaching Education Program retains the responsibility for defining continuing education credit values, including clinic or online course work.

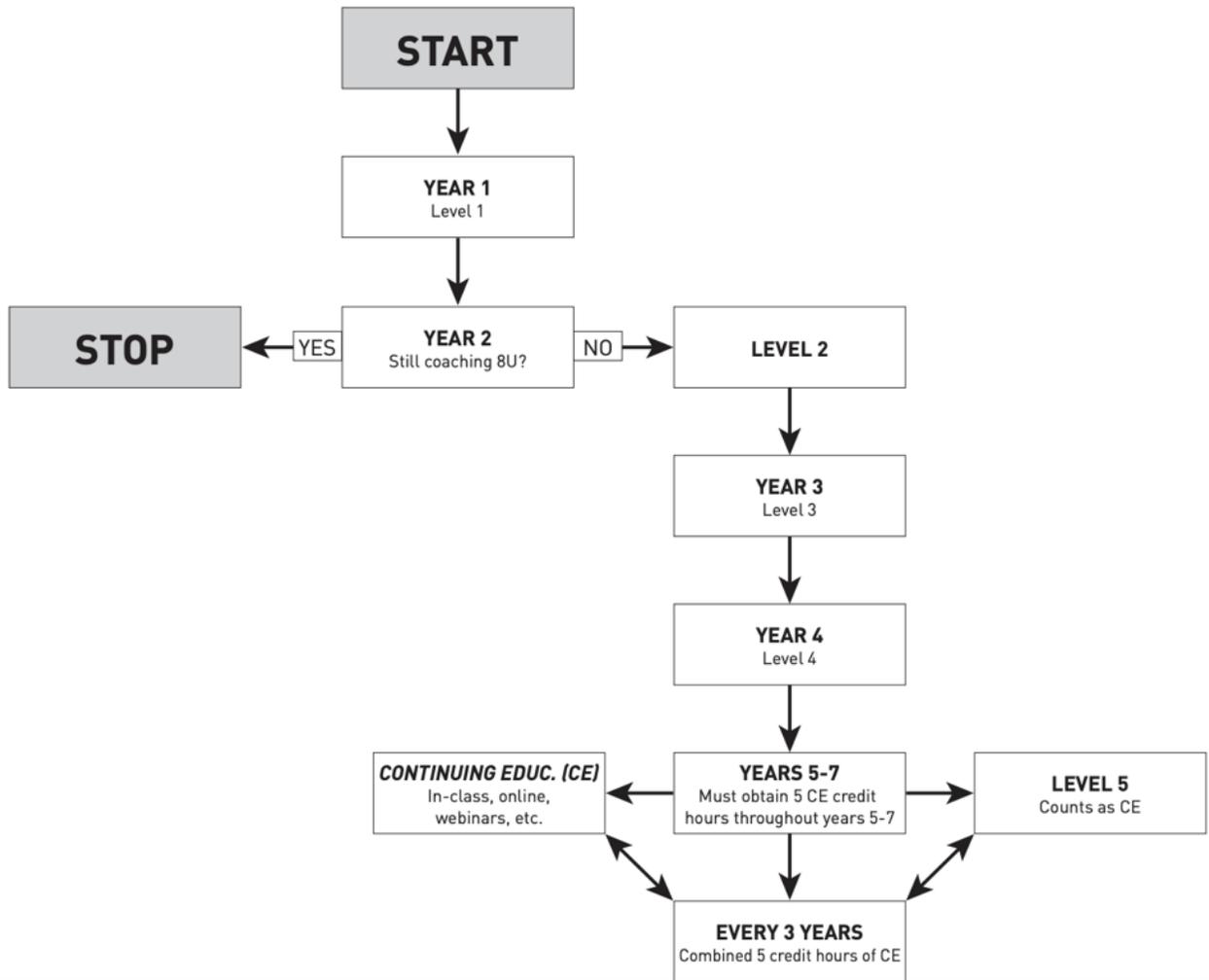
(d) Grandfather Clause

For those coaches who received Level 4 or Level 5 PRIOR TO January 1, 2021, only coaches of Tier I and Tier II teams are required to do continuing education as required in (c) above.

(e) Previous/Expired Certifications

Coaches with any expired certification will retain their previous certification levels provided the certification can be verified. Coaches may re-enter the certification system at that previous level and be subject to the certification guidelines in (a) through (c) above.

2021-22 CEP PROGRESSION GUIDELINES



(2) Evidence of Level

It is the responsibility of the local association to identify those coaches who do not meet the certification requirements. All coaches have until December 31 of the current season, or earlier date as established by the district and/or affiliate, to attend a USA Hockey coaching clinic. All coaches must complete the online age-specific modules PRIOR to participating with their team. Prior to the start of all games throughout the season all coaches are required to indicate their current certification status on the scoresheet, regardless of their certification level. All coaches (except for juniors) must legibly print their USA Hockey Coaching Education Program (CEP) card number, their CEP level (levels 1-5), their online age-specific playing level module and the year their CEP level expires. Beginning January 1 of the current season, prior to the start of each game, all coaches present are required to sign the designated area of the scoresheet in order to verify the accuracy of the player roster, as it appears on the scoresheet, for that game.

(3) Penalty and Enforcement

Any coach not in possession of these certification requirements will be ineligible to coach for the remainder of the season. Districts and/or affiliates are required to uphold this penalty. It will be the responsibility of the local association registering the team to enforce the national policy.

Under Age Coaches

A player age 13 through 17 who is currently properly registered with USA Hockey may serve as a Student Coach.

Qualifications

- Must attend a training session conducted by the local hockey association or audit a Level 1 clinic (not required to pay nor will they receive certification credit).
- Must always be under the supervision of a carded, screened adult coach during all practices, clinics, try-outs and in the locker room.
- May help out at practices, clinics, try-outs only. (May not participate as a player in scrimmages or games when acting as a STUDENT COACH).
- May not act as a head coach or an assistant coach during practices or games.
- May be on the bench during games with an adult. The STUDENT COACH will count as one of the maximum of four Team Officials allowed on the bench.
- Must wear a helmet with full face shield, gloves and skates while on the ice. Must wear helmet during games while on the bench.
- May only work with players at least one full playing age level below the STUDENT COACH (e.g., a Bantam age player may act as a STUDENT COACH at the Pee Wee, Squirt or Mite level).
- The organization that is using the STUDENT COACH must provide a form indicating on the team on which he/she is participating as a STUDENT COACH, and, if applicable, what team he/she is properly registered/rostered as a player. A model form is available on the usahockey.com website.
- Upon reaching the age of 18, the STUDENT COACH must comply with the USA Hockey Screening Program and meet the USA Hockey Coaching Education Program requirements which will qualify him/her to act as an assistant or head coach.

*All Montana coaches are subject to the coaching certification rules and regulations set forth by the USA Hockey Coaching Education Program. The current USA Hockey policies and regulations, including all updates not reflected in the MAHA Annual Guide, will supersede regulations outlined in the MAHA Annual Guide.

Policies

Definitions and Interpretation:

“**Screened, Screening**” – completed and PASSED Background Check program

“**Verified, trained, and/or training**” – completed and PASSED SafeSport Training program

MAHA Background Check Screening POLICY

As stated in the USA Hockey SafeSport handbook, each coach, volunteer or employee who has regular, routine or frequent access to youth participants must have a background screening completed. ALL persons needing the Background Screening are required to register with USA Hockey.

Non-U.S. citizens and/or non-permanent residents will be responsible for any additional fees to undergo an international screening under this process. The Background Screening application must be completed before you begin working with your Member Association.

The screening procedure governing adults age 18 and over, who have routine access to participant members under the age of 18, shall be adhered to by all Associations.

Section 1: Intent

The intent of these rules are to reduce the risk of a Montana Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) - players from physical abuse and misconduct.

Section 2: Uniformity of Standard

All personnel of MAHA, its associations, and related USA Hockey organizations and personnel are subject to this screening standard. This includes but not limited to: coaches, referees, MAHA personnel, Local Association personnel (Board members, appointed personnel), Team Managers, Locker Room monitors; any person that comes in contact with minors within MAHA programs and those persons who billet on a continuing basis.

Section 3: Applicability of Standard

- A. The personnel of all MAHA associated organizations shall be screened pursuant to these screening rules.
- B. For purposes of these screening rules, MAHA associated organizations shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, MAHA (the officers and directors of MAHA and the members of all of its committees), affiliated community hockey associations, other affiliates, teams of affiliates, affiliated girl's/women's programs, all teams or organizations registered with MAHA, USA Hockey, Inc. MAHA festivals and development camps and applicable USA Hockey District personnel.
- C. For purposes of these screening rules only, on-ice officials who reside in Montana and who officiate games for MAHA teams shall be considered personnel of a MAHA associated organization.
- D. For purposes of these screening rules, personnel shall include officers, members of boards of directors, coaches, team managers, referees and coaching or referee instructors, whether or not they receive compensation for their services. Other personnel may be included at the discretion of the MAHA Screening Committee.
- E. For purposes of these screening rules, the personnel required to be screened under these screening rules shall collectively be referred to as members.
- F. For purposes of these screening rules, participation as such members (including participation by other personnel screened who thereby become members) shall collectively be referred to as screened activities.
- G. MAHA and associated organizations may, in their discretion, apply the requirements of these screening rules to other volunteer personnel not carried on rosters or registered by means of a USA Hockey Individual Member Registration form and not specifically mentioned herein.
- H. All persons' subject to these screening rules shall be screened once every year, absent special circumstances requiring more frequent screening. Each year the MAHA Screening Committee may screen such other persons which it shall identify, in its sole discretion. Special circumstances requiring discretionary screening would include, but not be limited to, the situation in which MAHA or a MAHA associated organization becomes aware that a person subject to these rules has recently been convicted of a crime which may render that person ineligible to participate in activities of MAHA and its associated organizations.

- I. A member who does not consent to be subject to the application of these screening rules shall not be allowed to participate in screened activities.

Section 4. Standard for participation of MAHA and its Associated Organizations

- A. A person **shall be** disqualified and prohibited from participating in screened activities, if the member has been convicted of any crime as defined in MCA Section 45, Chapters 5, 8 & 9 and Chapters 3 & 4 as applicable.
- B. A person **may be** disqualified and prohibited from participating in screened activities if:
 1. The member has been convicted (including crimes the record of which has been expunged and pleas of no contest) of any crime of violence against minors, or any crime which indicates the person may pose a risk to the safety and well-being of player under his/her direction or stewardship, including but not limited to all felonies not described in A. above, domestic assault, indecent exposure, and multiple convictions for operating motor vehicles or watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances; or
 2. It is determined that he/she has been adjudged liable for civil penalties or damages involving sexual or physical abuse of children, is subject to any court order involving sexual abuse or physical abuse of a minor, including but not limited to, domestic order for protection has had his/her parental rights terminated for reasons involving sexual or physical abuse of children; or
 3. MAHA or any of its affiliates comes into possession of verified information that he/she has a history with another organization (as a volunteer, employee or otherwise) of complaints of physical or sexual abuse of minors, resigned, been terminated or been asked to resign from a position, whether paid or unpaid, due to complaint(s) of sexual or physical abuse of minors.
- C. Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 4.A. and 4.B. above:
 1. In the event that a person has been convicted of any of the crimes enumerated in Section 4.A., and this conviction was entered more than ten (10) years before the beginning of the current hockey season (on or after September 1), the committee may utilize its discretion whether to disqualify that person under the Policy; and
 2. In the event that a person has been disqualified under Section 4.A. above, that person may apply, in writing, to the Committee for reinstatement when more than ten years have elapsed since the conduct on which the disqualification was based occurred; and
 3. In the event that a person has been disqualified under Section 4.B. above, then that person may apply, in writing, to the Committee for reinstatement when either of the following is true;
 - a) more than three years have elapsed since the conduct on the disqualification was based occurred; or
 - b) more than three years have elapsed since the disqualification was made by the Committee.
 4. In the case of subparagraph 2 or 3 above, the Committee shall review the applicant's criminal record and overall conduct in the relevant period and may exercise its discretion to either reinstate or again disqualify the applicant. The applicant will be required to authorize a release of his or her criminal history as part of the review process. Failure to consent and execute an appropriate request for such release of information shall result in automatic disqualification under these provisions.
 5. Nothing in this Section 4.C. shall prevent the Committee from disqualifying an applicant under either Section 4.A. or 4.B. in the exercise of its discretion after reviewing the record of conduct of the applicant.
 6. Any decision by the Committee pursuant to this Section 4.C. shall be appealable by the applicant as provided in Section 7 below.

Section 5. Screening Procedure

Each person to be screened as provided by these screening rules: (**members**) shall consent to submit information to Protect Youth Sports, a consumer reporting agency, on behalf of MAHA. The screening process is completed through the mthockey.com website and personal information is not physically stored by the MAHA screening committee

MAHA publishes on its website a list of approved coaches, officials and association volunteers who have completed the screening process. This list will not disclose or provide any personal information other than the name of the individual. Any member, coach or official whose name does not appear on this list, may not be eligible to participate in screened activities through Montana Amateur Hockey Association. Any member, coach or official may contact the MAHA Risk Manager to determine the status of such persons screening application and/or to appeal any adverse decision by the Screening Committee, pursuant to Section Seven of this Screening policy. Lists will be updated in a timely manner.

- B. Screening Committee. The Screening Committee shall consist of the MAHA Risk Manager, and the MAHA President. The Screening Committee shall:

1. Receive and review the information provided by the screening agent.
2. If relevant information, as defined by Section 4 of these rules is received concerning a member, promptly review and discuss the information, and determine whether the member is eligible to participate in activities of MAHA or its associated organizations.
3. If the Screening Committee determines that the member is disqualified and prohibited from participating in screened activities, its Chair (MAHA Risk Manager) shall notify in writing the member and the member's affiliate, the appropriate Associate and District Registrars and Supervisor of Officials that the member is not eligible to participate in screened activities.
4. Maintain and update the database to indicate when the criminal background check was made on each member, and all information received.
5. Safeguard all information, so as to comply with all statutory data privacy requirements, the requirement of the screening agent, and the member's personal rights to privacy.
6. Seek better methods of implementation and assist members in implementing these rules, and with the approval of the MAHA Board of Directors, audit affiliates to gather data on compliance with these rules.
7. The Screening Committee may employ persons or companies to assist it in the review of the information received from a screening agent, but such persons or companies shall observe standards of strict confidentiality concerning his, her or its work, and shall reveal the screening information only to the Screening Committee.

Section 6. Awareness Program

MAHA shall incorporate into its various literature and programs, the education/awareness information as developed by the Screening Committee or by USA Hockey or other authoritative sources as pertinent information becomes available.

Section 7. Appeals

- A. Members who are determined to be ineligible to participate in the screened activities may appeal in writing such determination of the Screening Committee within ten (10) days of receipt of the notice of ineligibility. The appeal shall be in writing addressed to the Chair of the Screening Committee, at the address given in the notice of ineligibility. In addition, as part of the appeal process, the Member who has been determined to be ineligible, shall submit to the Screening Committee, within ten (10) days of filing the notice of appeal, an appropriate consent and request for release of criminal history information. Failure to submit the appropriate consent and request for release of criminal history information, within such time period, shall result in an automatic denial of the appeal. The Chair of the Screening Committee, at his or her sole discretion, may require additional information prior to hearing this appeal, including a request for fingerprints and any other information that may assist the Screening Committee in conducting its review of such Member's criminal record. Failure to cooperate with the Screening Committee at any point in this process shall be grounds for denial of the appeal.
- B. The Screening Committee, or a designated subcommittee thereof consisting of not less than three members, shall hear all such appeals within 45 days of the later of receipt of the written appeal or receipt of such Members criminal history record. The appeal shall be heard at a place and time determined by the Screening Committee, and shall otherwise be conducted in accordance with the practices of USA Hockey set forth in the By-laws under Article 10(g). The appealing member shall be given reasonable notice of the time and place of the hearing, and shall be invited to attend. A decision on the appeal shall be given in writing, signed by the Chair of the Screening Committee (in the case of a subcommittee, by the chair of the subcommittee), and shall be rendered within 10 days of the hearing.
- C. A member whose appeal to the Screening Committee results in an adverse ruling may appeal to the Screening Appeals Committee of MAHA within 10 days of the receipt of the adverse ruling by the Screening Committee. The Screening Appeals Committee shall consist of four (4) members, who shall be the MAHA President, and three (3) members appointed by the MAHA President. No MAHA District Director shall serve on the MAHA Screening Appeals Committee. The appeal shall be in writing addressed to the MAHA President. The Screening Appeals Committee shall hear such appeal within 30 days of the receipt of the written appeal. The appeal shall be heard at a place and time determined by the Screening Appeals Committee, and shall otherwise be in accordance with the rules and practices of USA Hockey, as set forth in the By-laws under Article 10(g). A decision on the appeal shall be given in writing, signed by the President of MAHA, and shall be rendered within 10 days of the hearing.

SAFETY POLICY – SAFE SPORT

The safety of its youth participants is of paramount importance to USA Hockey and Montana Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA). This includes not only on-ice safety, but also off-ice safety in any part of USA Hockey's and MAHA's programs.

USA Hockey and MAHA have long had safety systems in place to protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse and other types of abuse and misconduct that can be harmful to youth hockey players. These include, without limitation, physical abuse, sexual abuse, screening, locker room supervision and hazing policies, in addition to codes of conduct applicable to administrators, coaches, officials, parents, players and spectators. USA Hockey has created a Safe Sport Program that includes USA Hockey's various policies aimed at protecting its youth participants from all types of misconduct and abuse.

The USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook includes the Policies that apply to all USA Hockey Member Programs. Those Policies address:

- Sexual abuse
- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Bullying, threats and harassment
- Hazing

In addition to these Policies, the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook includes information about the training MAHA members, employees, volunteers, administrators, coaches, parents and players are required to take. This training includes recognizing and reducing circumstances for potential abuse to occur; the availability and procedures for any person to Report suspected abuse or misconduct (including protections from any retaliation or repercussions for such reporting); the procedures and means by which USA Hockey and MAHA should respond to allegations of abuse and misconduct; and how USA Hockey and MAHA will Monitor and Supervise the SafeSport Program to help ensure its effectiveness.

By combining all of these elements into a comprehensive SafeSport Program, USA Hockey, along with MAHA, intend to create the safest possible environment for youth and adults that are participating in hockey.

A USA Hockey/MAHA member or parent of any member who (1) violates any of the SafeSport policies or (2) fails to consent to, and pass a screening and background check in compliance with the USA Hockey/MAHA Screening and Background Check Program, may be denied eligibility within any USA Hockey/MAHA program and is subject to appropriate disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension, permanent suspension, and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.

The Policy Handbook in its entirety is available for download on the MAHA website (mthockey.com) or the USAHockey.com/safesporttraining website.

SafeSport Director:

The responsibilities of the MAHA SafeSport Director is dependent on the Affiliate.

The SafeSport Director is the Affiliate's gatekeeper for all SafeSport issues. This person is responsible for receiving all association's reports of suspected misconduct or abuse, and then following the appropriate steps for reporting and responding to allegations. The SafeSport Director ensures that SafeSport Training and background screening requirements are met by the Affiliate. The Director provides guidance to Association's on how to handle disciplinary matters.

The MAHA SafeSport Director will:

- Respond to verbal and written reports from members or others regarding allegations of misconduct.
- Communicate to all relevant parties on progress and status of complaints, investigations, hearing procedures, appeals, and final resolutions.
- Track and maintain a filing system for the Affiliate's SafeSport Reports, investigations and outcomes following investigations, hearings or appeals.
- Communicate effectively and efficiently with members and volunteers via telephone and/or e-mail.
- Coordinate, oversee and monitor status of background screening program for coaches, officials and volunteers.

- Be a resource for Affiliate and local programs on how to create and foster a positive SafeSport culture.
- Work to educate participants and parents about the SafeSport Program.
- Understand the complaint reporting procedures and structure within USA Hockey.
- Successfully pass background screen annually and complete SafeSport Training, annually.
- Understanding and ability to maintain confidentiality on sensitive membership information and complaint details.
- Positive attitude and strong work ethic

Local SafeSport Coordinators:

One representative must be named by each MAHA association as their SafeSport Coordinator. Each Association must submit the name of their SafeSport Coordinator on or before October 1st, to the MAHA SafeSport Director. MAHA encourages association's officers, directors, administrators, etc., to take the training material as well.

The responsibilities of a local program's SafeSport Coordinator is dependent on the Affiliate.

The coordinator is responsible for receiving reports of suspected misconduct or abuse, and then following the appropriate steps for reporting and responding to allegations. The Local Coordinator is to report to the MAHA SafeSport Director all received reports as they come in or on a monthly basis.

The local program's SafeSport Coordinator may ensure that their local SafeSport Training and background screening requirements are met by all. This individual provides guidance to their Association on how to handle disciplinary matters.

Local Coordinators may:

- Take calls and respond to verbal and written reports from members or others regarding allegations of misconduct.
- Communicate to all relevant parties on progress and status of complaints, investigations, hearing procedures, appeals, and final resolutions.
- Track and maintain a filing system for the program's SafeSport Reports, investigations and outcomes following investigations, hearings or appeals.
- Communicate effectively and efficiently with members and volunteers via telephone and e-mail.
- Coordinate, oversee and monitor status of background screening program for coaches, officials and volunteers.
- Be a resource for Affiliate and local programs on how to create and foster a positive SafeSport culture.
- Work to educate participants and parents about the SafeSport Program.
- Understand the complaint reporting procedures and structure within USA Hockey.

Qualifications

- Successfully pass background screen and complete SafeSport Training.
- Understanding and ability to maintain confidentiality on sensitive membership information and complaint details.
- Must be objective and compassionate.
- Excellent organizational, communication (oral and written), problem solving, listening and interpersonal skills.

The policy requires that every employee or Volunteer of ANY USA Hockey Member program must report (1) actual or perceived violations of the USA Hockey SafeSport Program, (2) any violations of the policies prohibiting, Sexual Abuse, Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Bullying, Threats and Harassment, and Hazing, and (3) suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse to the appropriate USA hockey representative (your local SafeSport Coordinator, the MAHA SafeSport Director or directly to USA Hockey).

Additionally, in ALL cases involving suspicions or allegations of child physical or sexual abuse, every employee or volunteer of a USA Hockey Member program must report to the appropriate law enforcement authorities before reporting to the SafeSport Director.

SafeSport Training program:

All USA Hockey registered coaches, officials, locker room monitors, employees and volunteers (including association board members) are to take the educational program **EVERY** season. The training is comprised of short video segments that take approximately 90 minutes to complete.

The SafeSport Training and Refresher training are each valid for **ONE** season. If you are taking the SafeSport Training course for the first time, you are required to take the entire course training. For the next two seasons you will be allowed to take the refresher. After the 3rd year of training and refreshers, you are required to take the full course.

PLEASE NOTE, that you will need your USA Hockey Confirmation Number and an email address to access the training. Training can be found: <http://www.usahockey.com/safesporttraining>

LOCKER ROOM POLICIES

USA Hockey requires that all local programs publish their locker room policies to the parents of all minor participants. The policies should be specific to the facilities they regularly use. The local program's policies shall include the program's (a) practices for supervising and monitoring locker rooms and changing areas; (b) permission or lack of permission for parents to be in the locker rooms; (c) prohibited conduct, including at least all forms of abuse and misconduct prohibited by USA Hockey; and (d) specific policies regarding the use of mobile electronic devices and phones and prohibiting the use of a device's recording capabilities.

Locker room Monitors:

"It is the policy of USA Hockey and MAHA that all league, and local hockey programs have at least one screened and verified adult present directly monitoring the locker room during all team(s) events."

This includes practices, games, sanctioned tournaments, etc, to assure that only participants (coaches and players), and approved team personnel are permitted in the locker room and to supervise the conduct of participants in the locker room. The monitor is required to be Screened and Verified.

Any individual meeting with a minor participant and a coach in a locker room, office or any enclosed space, shall require a responsible adult be present (no 1:1 meetings are allowed). Further, responsible adults must personally monitor the locker room environment at all times while participants are present and also make sure the locker room is appropriately secured during times when minor participants are on the ice.

Further, responsible adults must also secure the locker room appropriately during times when minor participants are on the ice. It shall be permissible for a local program or team to prohibit parents from a locker room. However, in doing so the team shall be required to have properly screened and verified adults monitoring and supervising the locker room as required above. With younger players, it is generally appropriate to allow parents to assist the player with getting equipment on and off before and after games or practices and they should be allowed in the locker room to do so.

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras, and video cameras increase the risk for some forms of abuse or misconduct. As a result, the use of a mobile device's recording capabilities in the locker rooms is not permitted at any USA Hockey sanctioned event, provided that it may be acceptable to take photographs or recordings in a locker room in such unique circumstances as a victory celebration, team party, etc., where all persons in the locker room are appropriately dressed and have been advised that photographs or recordings are being taken.

All local programs shall publish locker room policies to the parents of all minor participants that are specific to the facilities they regularly use. The local program's policies shall include the program's (a) practices for supervising and monitoring locker rooms and changing areas; (b) permission or lack of permission for parents to be in the locker rooms; (c) prohibited conduct, including at least all forms of abuse and misconduct prohibited by USA Hockey; and (d) specific policies regarding the use of mobile electronic devices and phones and prohibiting the use of a device's recording capabilities. A form with a sample locker room policy may be found at usahockey.com/safesporttraining.

For every USA Hockey sanctioned team: the coach, team managers and/or Association administrators shall be responsible for compliance with the locker room supervision requirements set out in the USA Hockey SafeSport Policy. Failure by a coach or administrator to take appropriate steps to ensure adherence to the Locker Room Policy, or violation thereof by any participant or parent of a participant is subject to appropriate disciplinary action. It should also be noted that a local program may at its discretion adopt stricter policies than those defined by USA Hockey or MAHA, but in no case may said policy be less strict. Associations found in violations of this policy may be sanctioned in the following manner:

- 1st offense: \$200.00 fine to the team and one game suspension to the head coach.
- 2nd offense: \$400.00 to the club and two game suspension to the head coach.
- 3rd offense: the head coach and an Association representative shall attend a MAHA disciplinary hearing which may result in further sanctions up to and including fines, suspensions and/or post season sanctions.

Co-Ed Locker Rooms

As a team sport in which youth teams can often include both male and female players, special circumstances may exist that can increase the chance of abuse or misconduct. If the team consists of both male and female players, both female and male privacy rights must be given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. It is not acceptable under USA Hockey's Sexual Abuse Policy for persons to be observing the opposite gender while they dress or undress. Where possible, the male and female players should undress/dress in separate locker rooms and then convene in a single dressing room prior to the game or team meeting. Once the game is finished, the players may come to one locker room and then the male and female players proceed to their separate dressing rooms to undress and shower (separately), if available. If separate locker rooms are not available, then the genders may take turns using the locker room to change and then leave while the other gender changes. Where possible, when both male and female players are together in the locker room, there should be at least two adults in the locker room that have been properly screened in compliance with USA Hockey Screening Policy.

Please also refer to USA Hockey's Co-Ed Locker Room Policy set forth in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

Parents in Locker Rooms

Except for players at the younger age groups [6U, 8U], USA Hockey and MAHA discourages parents from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a player needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear, if the player is or may be injured, or a player's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that parents let the coach know beforehand that he or she will be helping the player. It is required that these parents also be screened and verified.

Naturally, with our youngest age groups it is necessary for parents to assist the players getting dressed. We encourage parents to teach their players as young as possible how to get dressed so that players will learn as early as possible how to get dressed independently. In circumstances where parents are permitted in the locker room, coaches are permitted to ask that the parents leave for a short time before the game and for a short time after the game so that the coaches may address the players. As players get older, the coach may in his or her discretion prohibit parents from a locker room.

SOCIAL MEDIA, MOBILE AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

As part of USA Hockey's emphasis on participant safety, communications involving our minor participants should be appropriate, productive, and transparent. Effective communication concerning travel, practice or game schedules, and administrative issues among coaches, administrators, players and their families is critical. However, the use of mobile devices, web-based applications, social media, and other forms of electronic communications increases the possibility for improprieties and misunderstandings and also provides potential offenders with unsupervised and potentially inappropriate access to participants. The improper use of mobile and electronic communications can result in misconduct. Adherence to the Social Media, Mobile and Electronic Communications Policy helps reduce these risks.

All electronic communication between coach and player must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Coaches, players and all team personnel must follow common sense guidelines regarding the volume and time of day of any allowed electronic communication. All content between coaches and players should be readily available to share with the public or families of the player or coach. If the player is under the age of 18, any email, text, social media, or similar communication must also copy or include the player's parents.

Social Media

Social media makes it easy to share ideas and experiences. USA Hockey recognizes, however, that social media, mobile and other electronic communications can be especially concerning where minor participants are involved. Coaches are

prohibited from having players joined to their personal Facebook page or any other similar social media application. To facilitate communication, an official organization or team page may be set up and players and parents may join (i.e., “friend”) the official organization or team page and coaches can communicate to players through the site. All electronic communication of any kind between coach and player, including use of social media, must be non-personal in nature and be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team oriented motivational purposes.

Email, Text Messaging and Similar Electronic Communications

Coaches, team managers and players may use email and text messaging to communicate. All email and text message content between coaches/team managers and players must be non-personal in nature and be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Emails and text messages from a coach to any minor participant must include a copy to parents. Where possible, a coach should be provided and use the organization web site email center (the coach’s return email address will contain “@organization.com”) for all communications with the team and players.

Request To Discontinue All Electronic Communications or Imagery with Athlete

Following receipt of a written request by the parents of a minor player that their child not be contacted by any form of electronic communication by coaches or other adults, the local program, team, coaches and administrators shall immediately comply with such request without any repercussions for such request.

Abuse and Misconduct

Social media and other means of electronic communication can be used to commit abuse and misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by any employee, volunteer, independent contractor or other participant of a USA Hockey Member Program will not be tolerated and are considered violations of USA Hockey’s SafeSport Program.

Reporting

Infractions of USA Hockey’s Mobile and Electronic Communications Policy should be reported to the appropriate person as described in Section IV of this Handbook concerning reporting.

A USA Hockey participant or parent of a participant who violates this Social Media, Mobile and Electronic Communications Policy is subject to appropriate disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension, permanent suspension and/or referral to law enforcement authorities

TRAVEL POLICY

Travel to games and tournaments is a significant part of youth hockey participation, and it is also an event that places players in potential situations for abuse and misconduct - particularly during overnight stays. USA Hockey requires that all local programs shall have a travel policy applicable to youth teams that is published and provided to all players, parents, coaches, and other adults traveling with the team. The policy should apply to both local travel as well as out of town events and should have different policies for each. These travel policies shall include:

Local:

1. Make parents responsible for local travel arrangements.
2. Non-parent drivers shall not drive alone with an unrelated minor.
3. Non-parent drivers shall not be alone at any time with an unrelated minor. Drop offs and pick-ups should be coordinated in groups.

Out of town:

1. Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a room with a single player unless the coach is a parent or guardian.

2. Anyone providing team travel assistance must be screened and verified, and possess valid driver's licenses and insurance.
3. Adequate adult chaperone supervision should be provided at all times (recommend one adult for five to eight players).
4. Room monitoring and curfew checks should be made by at least two screened and verified adults.
5. No individual meetings shall take place in players' rooms.
6. Players shall be allowed to make "check in" calls to their parents.
7. Travel itineraries including a list of all adult personnel and contact information shall be provided to parents.
8. Parents will be contacted first, prior to any disciplinary action be taken against a player.
9. No coach or chaperone shall be under the influence of drugs or alcohol while performing their chaperone/coaching duties.
10. In all cases, parents have the right to transport their child and stay with them in their hotel room.
11. Players under the age of 18 years old cannot travel to out of town games/tournaments without adult supervision.

The bulk of this policy is basic common sense. What is listed above should provide a basis for a travel policy but certainly isn't limited to these topics. Your local program can freely make as detailed and as stringent a travel policy as it sees fit. By being aware of, and enforcing these simple travel rules, we can take a giant step towards limiting any occurrences of abuse during a time when our youth players face potential risks.

BILLETING POLICY

It is recognized that some youth hockey players do leave home to play hockey in a location away from their parents. In those circumstances, the organization or team typically arranges for the player to live with a host or "billet" family. Having youth players live outside their homes increases risk for abuse and misconduct to occur. All organizations and teams that arrange for players to live with billet families shall have written policies and procedures in place to govern the arrangement that have been approved by MAHA.

All billeting policies and procedures will meet the following requirements:

- No more than two players should be housed with any one billet family
- All adults living in the household of the billet family shall be screened and verified prior to the player moving in with the family.
- It is strongly recommended that all billet families be two-parent homes. However, single parent billet families may be acceptable, but the organization or team shall take additional reasonable steps to regularly monitor the billeting arrangement and its compliance with the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies.
- Billet families and the player and player's parents shall all sign an agreement with the organization and/or team that they will comply with the rules and regulations for the billeting arrangement and the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies.
- Based upon the requirements of the jurisdiction, the player's parents shall sign and provide a power of attorney and/or guardianship (as necessary by applicable state law) to the billet family adults to allow for them to make emergency medical and schooling decisions.
- Each team shall have a billet coordinator who shall be responsible for overseeing compliance with the Billeting Policy and all other MAHA and/or USA Hockey SafeSport Policies.
- The team shall have a mandatory curfew for all billeted players. The host family may have an earlier curfew.
- Players shall agree to comply with the house rules of the billet families, including curfews, chores/cleaning, telephone usage, etc. Complaints about unusual rules shall be addressed with the team billet coordinator.
- Players shall not stay overnight at any other home except with the permission of the player's parents and advance notification to the billet family and team billet coordinator. Players are not to drive billet family vehicles without automobile liability insurance as required by applicable state law, and documentation and approval of the billet family.
- Players staying with a billet family shall be permitted to make regular check-in phone calls to parents. Team personnel and billets shall allow for any unscheduled check-in phone calls initiated by either the player or parents
- The organization's/team's billeting policy shall include requirements that the billet family maintain appropriate homeowners/renters insurance.

OFFICIATING ABUSE – ZERO Tolerance

All spectators, including parents, grandparents, guardians, siblings, relatives and friends are an important part of any athletic competition, including hockey. Spectators should be in attendance to support the athlete and the team, not to taunt, berate or belittle on-ice or off-ice official(s) assigned to the game.

The officiating ranks are diminishing and the reason most often cited is abuse by spectators, coaches and players. Officiating abuse has a direct impact on the recruitment of new officials and retention of existing officials. The diminishing population has the potential to jeopardize the ability to provide adequate officiating coverage for the increasing number of games in our geographic footprint.

Montana Amateur Hockey Association affiliate of USA Hockey in Montana will not tolerate spectators, coaches players or team administrators who do not conduct themselves in a sportsman like manner while attending or participating in games or events sanctioned by USA Hockey, its Affiliates, Leagues and Clubs.

The following behaviors/actions will not be tolerated and may be penalized under this **Zero Tolerance Policy**, in addition to any other penalties assessed by the game official(s):

- Verbal abuse of official(s).
- Harassing comments, behavior or threats directed or inferred towards on-ice and off-ice official(s).
- Physical abuse of official(s)
- Any issue concerning crowd control which results in summoning of the police.

The process for identifying/documenting the above referenced behavior(s) is as follows:

The USA Hockey Online Game Incident Report shall be used to document and communicate the removal of any person(s) attending a USA Hockey sanctioned game. These Incident Reports are automatically electronically distributed to MAHA (and where applicable, the TSL sanctioned League Commissioner) as soon as they are submitted by the on-ice Official(s).

Violations of this Officiating Abuse – Zero Tolerance policy will be managed as follows:

MAHA OFFICIATING ABUSE SANCTIONS FOR NON-PARTICIPANTS (Spectators and all those not on an approved USA Hockey Roster)

If the non-participant is removed from a sanctioned youth hockey event by an on-ice or off-ice Official (i.e. Referee, League or Affiliate Administrator or Arena personnel), or is otherwise reported for abusive behavior by any person(s) in attendance at the sanctioned event (and substantiated by preponderance of proof), the minimum suspension will be issued for those offenses investigated and adjudicated by MAHA (notwithstanding any other sanctions imposed by local associations or sanctioned Leagues) as listed below.

MAHA maintains a strict **Zero Tolerance Policy** with **NO** appeal available to non-participant(s) removed from an event.

First Offense:

Two week suspension from All “Team Activities and \$150.00 fine payable to MAHA, with the fine issued to the local association of the offending non-participant’s team. Individual will be placed on probation for one year, which commences at the end of the suspension period.

Second Offense:

Four week suspension for ALL “Team Activities and a \$300.00 fine payable to MAHA, with the fine issued to the local association of the offending non-participant’s team. Individual will be placed on probation for two years, which commences at the end of the suspension period.

Third Offense:

Suspended from ALL “Team Activities” indefinitely until individual completes a certified anger management class and provides MAHA a certificate of completion or other documentation satisfactory to MAHA.

Individual will be placed on probation for three years, which commences at the end of the suspension period.

“Team Activities” are defined as games (whether League, non-League or tournament), practices (dry land and ice), and any other team activity that may be considered a part of the usual team experience.

Fines collected by MAHA as a result of the above offenses will be segmented from the General Funds of MAHA and used to fund recruiting, retention and training of officials.

MAHA OFFICIATING ABUSE SANCTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS (Club Administrators, Players & Coaches)

Coaches are well aware of Playing Rule 601, which addresses “*Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct.*” Coaches, in conjunction with their Club, prior to the start of their season, shall conduct a meeting with their players and parents to set appropriate expectations, guidelines and penalties to discourage officiating abuse. Such a policy shall be in writing and issued to all players and parents.

Team personnel (coaches and players) collectively receiving three or more penalties under the Playing Rule 601, which specifically identify as physical or verbal abuse of a game official, shall be subject to MAHA Disciplinary Review, as provided in Rule 410, and such discipline shall include;

- 1) Suspension of coach(s) not to exceed 180 days
- 2) Suspension of player(s) not to exceed 180 days
- 3) Team declared ineligible for post-season play (State and or Nationals)

Abuse Enforcement (Officials)

USA hockey provides its registered Officials specific playing rules to discourage and enforce Officiating Abuse. All Officials within MAHA are compelled to enforce such rules with very little latitude. All MAHA on-ice Officials shall use this policy as defined below:

- 1) In accordance with Rule 601, physical and/or verbal abuse by a participant must be called if it is evident. While we understand that an Official may sometimes believe that providing some latitude is appropriate “game management,” that approach has, in part, created the necessity when “Zero tolerance” must actually mean “ZERO TOLERANCE.” Officials(s) refusing to enforce Rule 601 violations shall be disciplined according to the current MAHA and USA Hockey requirements.
- 2) At the first sign of any inappropriate, hateful or abusive remarks by non-participants, the on-ice Official(s) shall first report the conduct to the head coach of both participating teams and issue a warning. The Official(s) shall also advise the head coach should direct an assistant coach to address their attending non-participants.
- 3) Should hateful or abusive remarks continue after the warning, the on-ice Official(s) shall advise the head coach of the home team to immediately contact arena management to clear the spectators from the arena.
- 4) All warnings and subsequent issues shall be documented by the on-ice Official(s) through the USA Hockey Online Game Incident Report.
- 5) MAHA sanctioned Leagues may impose additional duties of their game Official related to the enforcement of Zero Tolerance, which may be subject to MAHA RIC approval.

CONSUMPTION/USE/ABUSE OF MOOD ALTERING SUBSTANCES

It is the considered judgment of the Board of Directors of USA Hockey that consumption/use/abuse of mood-altering substances is detrimental to a healthy state of mind, body, and spirit in an athletic participant. This is especially true for those participants aspiring to develop their talents in the furtherance of their playing, or coaching, or officiating careers in the sport of ice hockey. Therefore, with the best interests of its participants in mind, USA Hockey prohibits use by any participant of mood altering substances during active participation in its programs, and, upon discover of any violation, shall take action to remove the participant from participation in its programs for a reasonable period of time. Further, USA Hockey hereby recommends that each and all of its teams, associations, programs, and affiliates adopt a reasonable enforcement procedure thereafter, in order to maintain the health of our athlete participants, the integrity of our programs, and the eligibility of all of our competitors for national, international, and collegiate competition.

For purposes of this policy, the words **mood altering substances** shall include the following:

1. Intoxicating beverages, including, but not limited to, alcohol.
2. Non-prescription or prescribed controlled substances when used to an excess in violation of doctors orders, or to produce the state of intoxication in the participant.

Further, a participant shall include players, coaches, referees, and all persons involved in the conduct of an ice hockey contest.

CONCUSSION POLICY

On May 4,2017, Governor Bullock signed into law legislation addressing sports-related concussions and required protocols for certain youth organizations. House Bill 487 requires that all youth sports coaches, employees and volunteers participate in the concussion awareness program, as well as provide the educational materials to athletes.

To comply with these regulations, MAHA has formally adopted the USA Hockey Concussion Management Program and associated educational materials as its concussion management program. These educational materials include the Concussion Management Program handout, USA Hockey Concussion Poster and some other concussion related information. All parents and guardians are to download the materials and review them with their player.

Each season, players and parents shall acknowledge that they have received and reviewed these materials prior to the start of the season.

As part of this legislation coaches are required to remove any youth athlete suspected of having sustained a concussion from all hockey activities immediately. The athlete may only return to practice or competition when the organization receives written authorization from a licensed healthcare provider. The association must retain the release for the entire time the athlete is registered with the organization, or until the athlete reaches 18. MAHA affiliated clubs, associations, coaches and administrators each have a responsibility in dealing with, reporting and retaining records of players with concussion symptoms.

Concussion can cause serious and long-term damage to young players if not treated properly. We urge you to review the materials and become familiar with the symptoms of concussions. Concussion awareness is part of our coaching education program, but many times a player's symptoms may not show until after the player has left the arena for home. Parents also need to be aware of how to identify the symptoms and learn what to do in the case you suspect a player has sustained a concussion.

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury. Concussion may be caused by a blow to the head, neck or body. There is no such thing as a mild concussion. You can't see a concussion. Signs and symptoms of a concussion can appear right away. However, they may not appear until hours or days after the injury has occurred. If your child reports any symptoms of a concussion or a coach, official, teammate or parent observes any symptoms; seek immediate medical attention.

****Further concussion materials and concussion forms can be found on the MAHA website.****

USA HOCKEY STANDARDS OF PLAY

Through the standard of rules enforcement, our game will continue to allow the opportunity for improved skill development and a more positive hockey environment for all participants. The mission of USA Hockey is clear; through this new initiative a greater emphasis will be placed on skating, puck possession and the proper use of the body to establish position and a competitive advantage.

The goal of the enforcement standard is to reduce restraining infractions in the game and not to remove legal body checking or body contact. A hard body check or using body contact/position (non-checking classifications) to gain a competitive advantage over the opponent should not be penalized as long as it is performed within the rules.

The principles of this new enforcement standard include the following:

- The use of the stick will be limited to only playing the puck.
- The stick will not be allowed to in any way impede a player's progress.
- The use of a free hand/arm will not be allowed to grab or impede a player's progress.
- Players who use their physical skills and/or anticipation and have a positional advantage shall not lose that advantage as a result of illegal acts by the opponent.
- Players will be held accountable for acts of an intimidating or dangerous nature.

Enforcement Standard--These penalties are to be called with very strict enforcement:

HOOKING

- A player cannot use his/her stick against an opponent's body (puck carrier or non-puck carrier) to gain a positional advantage. Examples include:
- Tugs or pulls on the body, arms or hands of the opponent which allows for the space between the players to diminish
- Placing the stick in front of the opponent's body and locking on impeding the opponent's progress or causing a loss of balance.
- Stick on the hand/arm that takes away the ability for the opponent to pass or shoot the puck with a normal amount of force

TRIPPING

- A player cannot use his/her stick on the legs or feet of an opponent in a manner that would cause a loss of balance or for them to trip or fall. Examples include:
- Placing the stick in front of the opponent's legs for the purpose of impeding progress, even if on the ice, with no effort to legally play the puck
- Placing the stick between the legs of the opponent (can opener/corkscrew) that causes a loss of balance or impedes the progress of the opponent.

HOLDING

- A player cannot wrap his/her arms around an opponent or use a free hand to clutch, grab or hold the stick, jersey or body on the opponent in a manner that impedes their progress. Examples include:
- Wrapping one or both arms around the opponent along the boards in a manner that pins them against the boards and prevents them from playing the puck or skating
- Grabbing the opponent's body, stick or sweater with one or both hands
- Using a free arm/hand to restrain or impede the opponent's progress

INTERFERENCE

- The use of the body (pick or block) to impede the progress of an opponent with no effort to play the puck, maintain normal foot speed or established skating lane. Examples include:
- Intentionally playing the body of an opponent who does not have possession or possession and control of the puck.
- Using the body to establish a pick or block that prevents an opponent from being able to chase a puck carrier
- Reducing foot speed or changing an established skating lane for the purpose of impeding an opponent from being able to chase a puck carrier
- Allowed Actions
- A player is entitled to the ice he/she occupies as long as they are able to maintain their own foot speed and body position between opponent and puck
- Players are allowed to compete for body position using their strength and balance in front of the goal or along the boards.

SLASHING

- The use of the stick will be limited to only playing the puck. Any stick contact, as a result of a slashing motion, to the hands/ arms or body of the opponent will be strictly penalized. In addition, hard slashes to the upper portion of the stick (just below the hands) of an opponent, with no attempt to legally play the puck, shall also be penalized.

OTHER INFRACTIONS

- In addition to the above-mentioned enforcement standards, all other infractions, including contact to the head, checking from behind, cross checking, high sticking and roughing (including late avoidable check) shall be penalized to a strict enforcement standard.
- Note: These standards were enforced at the start of the 2006-07 season

Discipline

DISCIPLINARY/DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

MAHA shall establish a standing discipline committee to hear disciplinary actions and proceedings pursuant to USA Hockey Bylaw 10 as well as for miscellaneous disciplinary actions that are required for disputes arising within the state that do not involve playing rules issues.

The Disciplinary/Dispute Resolutions Committee will consist of the MAHA Vice President, SafeSport Director and at least two (2) other individuals that are deemed to be impartial, fair and reasonable people. The MAHA President shall also serve as an ex-officio member of this Committee if not otherwise appointed to the committee but shall not vote nor shall his/her presence be counted for purposes of determining a quorum when serving in an ex-officio capacity. The MAHA Vice President shall be chairperson of the Disciplinary/Dispute Resolutions Committee. The chairperson shall be responsible for determining when and if legal counsel is needed for any actions of the Disciplinary/Dispute Resolutions Committee. If it is determined that such legal counsel is necessary, the MAHA legal counsel shall serve on the Disciplinary/Dispute Resolutions Committee in a non-voting capacity.

The purpose of the Disciplinary/Dispute Resolutions Committee is to resolve disputes and appeals within the Montana Affiliate in accordance with CAHA and USA Hockey Bylaws, Rules and Regulations involving players, officials, parents and other spectators. The Disciplinary/Dispute Resolutions Committee may select other interested persons to participate in disciplinary or dispute resolution meetings but such other parties shall be non-voting members of the Committee.

This Committee shall have the responsibility and duty to initiate disciplinary proceedings in any matter of significant concern to the Affiliate or as to any matter between Affiliates of USA Hockey under guidelines and rules established by the Committee and ratified, adopted or approved by the Board of Directors.

MAHA Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Standing Committee:

(a) In the event a controversy or dispute arises regarding the construction, interpretation, or application of the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, decisions of the Board of Directors of MAHA or USA Hockey, or decisions of the Member Associations, Leagues, Clubs, Agents or appointees of MAHA or USA Hockey, the dispute shall first be submitted to the MAHA Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Standing Committee for resolution.

(b) Any party that is suspended, otherwise disciplined or subject to an Administrative Action by a Disciplinary Authority of a Member Association or League may, after a hearing or failure to have a hearing in accordance with the Unified Procedure, appeal such action to the MAHA Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Standing Committee in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10 E. Appeals.

(c) On appeal, the MAHA Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Standing Committee may affirm, reverse, or modify (including increase or decrease the term of a suspension) any decision in its sole discretion and as it deems proper under the circumstances.

(d) Discipline or dispute hearings of Member Associations or Leagues shall be subject to review by the MAHA Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Committee. The MAHA Disciplinary/Dispute Resolution Committee may affirm, reverse, or modify (including increase or decrease the term of a suspension) any decision in its sole discretion and as it deems proper under the circumstances.

****See Appendix for USA Bylaw 10 information or refer to the USA Hockey Annual Guide for the complete Bylaw 10 language.****

Operating Procedures

MONTANA AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

MAHA MEETINGS:

Each association will elect a MAHA Representative to sit on the MAHA Board of Directors. The MAHA Representative will act as the voice for their association membership and will vote on any motions presented to the MAHA Board. MAHA Representatives will be responsible for distributing all information and Montana Hockey news, rules, regulations and meeting minutes to their association. A fine of \$250.00 will be assessed each association that does not provide representation at a mandatory MAHA meeting. Mandatory MAHA meetings shall be given notice as laid out in this guide in By-Law 2.7. If a MAHA meeting is not deemed mandatory local association representation is not required but highly encouraged.

The Executive Committee is allowed to spent up to \$500 without the entire MAHA Board approval. With the notification of the expense and the purpose of the expense at the next Board meeting.

PROBATIONARY ASSOCIATIONS:

All new associations will operate under a three-year probationary period. On completion of the three-year probationary period MAHA will review the probationary member's status and participation in MAHA and then make a determination on full MAHA membership, an extended probationary period or revocation of membership. If prior to the end of the three-year probationary period the association does not meet all the requirements and follow all MAHA rules and regulations their affiliation can be revoked.

Probationary MAHA Associations will be nonvoting and will be required to:

- Follow all MAHA and USA Hockey rules and regulations.
- Register all their players and coaches with MAHA and USA Hockey.
- Participate in monthly MAHA meetings.
- Attend the MAHA Annual Meeting and Fall MAHA Meeting.

Probationary MAHA Associations will be allowed to participate in the following:

- The MAHA Grant program for half the amount full MAHA members would receive.
- Probationary members can only participate in the Grow-The-Game Grant and Rental/Goalie Equipment Grant.
- MAHA Probationary members will be invited to all MAHA Player Development Camps and activities.

COACHING CREDENTIAL/SCREENING:

All Montana coaches participating on the bench during a game MUST HAVE the appropriate level coaching credential for the age division he/she is coaching and be listed on the official USA Hockey team roster. Coaches must have Safe Sport training, background screenings and appropriate modules must be completed before being on the ice. This includes practices, games, tournaments. All volunteer parents participating during any on-ice team function MUST HAVE appropriate level coaching credential for the age division he/she is coaching/assisting. Associations will be fined and possibly sanctioned, for any coaches participating in game play that do not have the appropriate credentials after December 31 of the calendar year. **All USA Hockey registered/rostered coach/manager personnel and additional persons selected by associations must be Background screened and SafeSport Certified.** All Team Membership Applications submitted to Montana Registrar must contain only coaches and team managers that have been screened and verified from the updated list on the MAHA website for screened applicants.

PARENT EDUCATION:

All Montana associations will hold mandatory Parent Education Seminars. Each association will set their own curriculum and monitor parent participation however the USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy and USA Hockey Codes of Conducts shall be presented at all Parent Education Seminars. Parents must attend a parent education seminar at least every two years and documentation of their attendance shall be kept on file with the local Risk Manager.

6U/8U PROGRAMS:

All associations in Montana must incorporate (if numbers allow) into their local program the American Development Module for 8U and 6U age groups. MAHA strongly encourages skill development for all players. This is particularly critical at the 8U and 6U level so that players are provided with the foundation to enjoy and have success in the game.

1. 8U are generally organized into levels based on age, skill and number of players. As a guideline, 8U should be divided into two levels: 6U - the younger, beginner and less skilled players; and 8 & Under - the older, experienced, more skilled players.
2. The focus for 8U and 6U is to teach and develop the basic skills of skating, puck handling, shooting and passing. Cross-ice, half-ice and small area games are the standard of play to maximize ice utilization, increase puck touches and increase the competition and fun. The American Development Model (ADM) provides blueprints for player development.
3. At the 6U level – all games shall be played cross or half ice.
4. At the 8U level – the standard playing surface for all games is cross- or half-ice.
5. Local hockey associations are in the best position to design programs so their players can develop and have fun. This should be based on the principles of the ADM, the number of players in their program, the skill of their players, the availability of ice and their coaching staff.
6. Jamborees may be conducted and are recommended at the 8U and 6U level. A jamboree is defined as a low-key full participation event where players have an enjoyable and learning experience in a non-competitive environment. The format for a Jamboree shall be as follows: a. Approval to conduct a Jamboree must be obtained from the MAHA TSL Commissioner at least thirty (30) days in advance. b. Information referring to the event must state “Jamboree”, not tournament. c. Team fees can cover only costs for ice time, officials, medical attendants and participant awards. d. There can be no gate fee. e. No score may be kept, no winners, no losers, no standings. This will generally require a predetermined round-robin format to be followed. f. No statistics may be kept, such as shots, saves, goals, assists, time of possession, etc. g. The use of Blue Pucks is required. h. Participation awards, if given, shall be the same for all participants. No team awards or trophies.
7. 8U and 6U tournaments shall be played cross ice or half ice. As per USA Hockey Rules and Regulations, all tournaments held in the state of Montana must be sanctioned through the State Registrar.

TEAM, PLAYER AND COACH REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

USA Hockey and MAHA require all coaches, players and teams to be properly registered before any games are played including tournament games, exhibition games with out-of-town teams and Treasure State League games. Coaches must have Safe Sport training, background screenings and appropriate module(s) must be completed before being on the ice. This includes practices, games, tournaments. Teams, coaches and associations who violate these mandates are subject to suspensions, fines and removal from all MAHA and USA Hockey sanctioned activities.

Players

ALL players must have submitted the following documents to the local association Registrar or team manager prior to any game or on ice practice:

1. USA Hockey current player registration bar coded form
2. Completed Consent to treat form
3. Completed Player's code of conduct form
4. Certified Birth certificate for new players

Coaches

ALL Coaches must have submitted the following documents to the local association Registrar or team manager prior to any personal contact with any under age (under 18) players including in the locker room, on-ice practices, off-ice practices or games:

1. Current Coaching information, a printout from the USA Hockey online certification list
2. Current USA Hockey bar coded Registration form
3. Completed USA Hockey Coaches' code of conduct form
4. Completed consent to treat form
5. Completed the MAHA Screening Process
6. SafeSport certification

REMINDER of updated rules for players and coaches:

401(b): Any player who incurs four (4) penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct..Any team receiving twelve (12) penalties in a game shall have the head coach ejected for the next game

411(c): Establishment of Progressive suspensions for coaches who receive their 2nd game misconduct for Abuse of Officials in same season – 3 game suspension; and 3rd game misconduct for Abuse of Officials in same season are suspended until hearing is held.

Team Managers

All Team Managers must submit to the Local Registrar the following for all teams before they participate in any games: List of all players on the team and what level they are playing at

1. A USA Hockey bar coded registration, player's code of conduct, consent to treat form, coach's code of conduct form and proof of screening for every player and coach for each individual team respectively
2. A copy of USA Hockey registration, code of conduct and consent to treat form should be kept in each team's binder for all players and coaches as well as a copy of each coach's coaching card.
3. Completed the MAHA Screening Process
4. SafeSport certification

Team manager will forward a list of locker room monitors to their respective Safe Sport coordinator and Board, they will also keep this list with their team paperwork.

Local Registrars

All Local Registrars will use the USA Hockey **Portal** to enter all the data required for players, coaches and team managers and send that data to the Montana State Registrar. When the properly stamped rosters are received back from the Montana State Registrar, the local registrar will make sure each team manager has a copy of these approved roster which must be in the Team Binder and available for inspection for each and every game whether it is a league, exhibition or tournament game. Team rosters need to be entered into their Portal no less than 5 days before league game play begins. This will give the State Registrar time to certify and Commissioners to verify all credentials are complete.

Local Tournament Directors

All Local Tournament Directors are required to inspect and verify every team roster prior to letting that team play any games in that local tournament, once they have received an official sanction from the Montana State Registrar for their local tournament. (See USA Hockey Rule X E. 8)

All Local Tournaments must submit in tournament rules for approval of sanction. These rules cannot supersede USA Hockey playing rules and any violation of USA Hockey playing rules shall be enforced. Rules that are submitted in for sanction and approved must be followed during the course of play of the tournament. Tournament directors or members associated with the tournament do not have the authority to overturn these rules or USA Hockey playing rules.

Local Associations and Boards of Directors

All local Associations and Boards of Directors must assign someone in their organization to make sure all players, coaches and teams are properly rostered prior to any games being played whether exhibition, tournament, or League games. If the designated person in the organization is the Local Registrar, then the Board needs to assure that the Registrar is properly trained and has the authority to prevent any player, coach or team from participating in any game or on-ice practice.

All Local Associations must assign someone in the organization to make sure every coach has the proper level of coaching education for the kids they are coaching and have been properly screened prior to having any contact with under age players. That person in the organization charged with this responsibility (may be the Coaching Director)

should have access to coaching cards and the State screening data as well as the authority to prevent coaches from having contact with underage players prior to a verification of proper screening. (See USA Hockey Policy D. Screening and MAHA Sexual and Physical Abuse Screening Policy)

In addition, all Local Associations will have a list of locker room monitors for all their teams. Their Safe Sport Coordinator will also have this list, which is sent then to the MAHA Safesport Director. The Director will certify that persons on the locker room monitor list are background checked, SafeSport certified and permitted to be in the locker rooms. See the locker room policy information on page 10/11 of this guide for more information.

Penalties for registration violations:

- -1st Offense: Association fined \$500
- -2nd Offense: Disciplinary Committee decides
- - Registrar needs to attend meeting/class, failure to do so, \$500 fine & probation

The following are the official youth ice hockey player and team classifications of USA Hockey.

YOUTH:

1. High School/Big Sky-High School
2. 16U *if applicable
3. 14U
4. 12U
5. 10U
6. 8U/6U

GIRLS:

1. 19U
2. 16U * if applicable
3. 14U
4. 12U
5. 10U *if applicable

DUES FOR PLAYERS/TEAMS – subject to change at any time

- USA Hockey - \$47.00 per player.
- MAHA - \$13.00 per player youth. (8U no MAHA fee)
- MAHA - \$10.00 per player adult.

TOURNAMENT SANCTIONS:

As per USA Hockey Rules and Regulations, all tournaments held in the state of Montana must be sanctioned through the State Registrar. Tournament sanction requests must be done online. Application can be found on the Northern Plains District webpage at <https://www.npdistrict.com/page/show/1961072-host-a-tournament>

• **Definition of a Tournament:**

Ice hockey competition, other than normally scheduled league or exhibition games, where three or more legally registered teams compete within a specified time frame for the purpose of declaring a champion. This shall include gatherings consisting of three or more teams, except Association Exchanges (limited to 2 associations), even though there are no winners declared. Contact your local association registrar for sanction forms and fees.

• **Tournament Rules:**

Tournament rules must be in accordance with USA Hockey playing rules. On submission and approval of tournament playing rules these rules cannot superseded USA Hockey playing rules and any violation of USA Hockey playing rules shall be enforced. Rules that are approved for sanction must be followed during the course of play of the tournament. Tournament directors or members associated with the tournament do not have the authority to overturn these rules or USA Hockey playing rules.

VOLUNTEER EXPENSES & REIMBURSEMENT:

Montana Amateur Hockey Association does not pay compensation to any employees with the exception of the wages paid to the MAHA Registrar. The MAHA Registrar is considered an independent contractor who receives a 1099 from MAHA. Montana Amateur Hockey Association volunteers who are not otherwise reimbursed from either local associations or through USA Hockey programs and committees, shall be reimbursed for expenses of travel incurred to attend meetings as necessary for the promotion of hockey in the state of Montana at various events as authorized by the provisions of this Annual Guide, the Bylaws and the approval of the Board of Directors. All requests for reimbursement shall be submitted with an expense reimbursement form (as set out in the appendix) together with copies of receipts or other verification of the expense. Expenses shall be directed to the treasurer for Montana Amateur Hockey Association and are subject to final approval by the President of MAHA if necessary. Reimbursement shall be allowed for actual expenses incurred for hotel, airline and taxi, bus fare, etc.

Meals are reimbursed at the standard rate dictated on https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates/per-diem-rates-lookup/?action=perdiems_report&state=MT&fiscal_year=2019&zip=&city= and receipts are not necessary. Mileage shall be allowed for volunteers using their own vehicle for traveling to and from these events the current IRS business rate allowable for miles traveled www.irs.gov. Miles are calculated from city to city by Google Maps, not door to door.

Reimbursement under this paragraph does not apply to volunteers who are not affiliated with or representing MAHA and who assist MAHA or the Treasure State League in other capacities, for example, evaluators or other personnel appearing or attending for player development camps or for referees and coaches representing MAHA at state tournaments or with respect to select teams and player development programs.

MAHA Hotel Policy: For the purposes of MAHA events and functions a hotel rate will be established by MAHA. If individuals choose to stay at a hotel or other lodging accommodation that has a lodging rate higher than that of the MAHA established rate the individual will only be reimbursed for the MAHA rate, all other expenses will be at the individuals' expense.

TREASURE STATE LEAGUE

The Montana Amateur Hockey Association sponsors the Treasure State League made up of, High School/Big Sky High School, 16U, 14U, 12U, 10U, 14U Girls, and 19U Girls teams. Montana associations wanting to host state tournaments must bid on the MAHA Treasure State League Tournaments. Bids are compiled by the MAHA Tournament Director and approved by the MAHA Board. Team tournament entry fees are based on association estimates of expenses incurred to facilitate the tournament.

Teams must play through the Treasure State League and be in good standing with MAHA to participate in a MAHA Treasure State League Tournament. Teams from outside of Montana may participate in any age division. Teams must submit a \$400.00 league bond at the Annual MAHA Treasure State League Ice Scheduling Meeting (\$600.00 for non-Montana teams).

TEAM COMMITMENTS SHALL BE RECEIVED BY THE LEAGUE COMMISSIONER ON THE FIRDAY TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE MAHA SCHEDULING MEETING. AS OF THIS DATE ALL TEAM COMMITMENTS ARE LOCKED IN PLACE. AFTER THIS DATE, AN ASSOCIATION THAT WITHDRAWS ITS COMMITMENT OF ANY TEAM WILL LOSE THE TEAM BOND FOR THAT TEAM. IF AN ASSOCIATION WISHES TO ADD A TEAM AFTER THE COMMITMENT DATE A NON-REFUNDABLE \$200 FEE WILL BE ADDED TO THE BOND FOR THAT TEAM.

ALL TEAMS MUST SUBMIT TEAM COMMITMENT FORMS TO THE LEAGUE COMMISSIONER AND MAHA TREASURER VIA MAIL OR EMAIL. ALL TEAM BONDS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE MAHA TREASURE AT THE ICE SCHEDULING MEETING. TEAMS NOT SUBMITTING APPROPRIATE COMMITMENT FORM AND/OR BOND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN GAMES UNTIL THIS IS TURNED IN. PLEASE NOTE, ONE CHECK MAY BE WRITTEN FROM EACH ASSOCIATION.

TIER II TEAM COMMITMENTS

Associations may commit any Tier II team or teams by filling out a team commitment form and meeting all the requirements of the MAHA Tier 1 and Tier II Rules and forwarding the documentation onto the MAHA High Performance/Player Development Committee. MAHA will not recognize any Tier 1 or Tier II team for league play or national championships, unless such Tier 1 or Tier II unless the requirements of the MAHA Tier 1 and Tier II Rules are met. This commitment is irrevocable and appropriate sanctions will be placed upon the team and the local association for any non-compliance with respect to participation in these post-season tournaments. In the event there are more than three Tier 1 or Tier II teams that commit to the post-season tournament requirements as set forth above, MAHA will, through the Treasure State League, establish a league and an appropriate schedule leading up to a state tournament. In the event there are three or fewer teams in any age division that submit the required commitments for post-season tournaments as set forth above, then the League Commissioner of MAHA will establish a time, date and location for an appropriate playoff to determine which team will advance. All costs for this playoff event must be apportioned among those teams competing in the tournament. The final decision of the League Commissioner as to the location, time and venue will be final and non-appealable. In the event a league is established to determine an appropriate Tier 1 or Tier II champion, the various age division rules as hereinafter set forth will apply for all league play in the Tier 1 or Tier II age division as well.

MAHA STATE BOARD AND TSL COMMISSIONERS, ON A YEARLY BASIS WILL DETERMINE LEAGUE AND TOURNAMENT FORMATS DUE TO THE EVER-CHANGING LANDSCAPE AND NUMBERS OF MONTANA AFFLIATE PARTICIPATION

WEATHER CALL FOR TRAVEL

1. Suspension of travel to TSL games will be based on Information from the Montana Department of Transportation Travel Condition website (roadreport.mdt.mt.gov). If roads are declared “Closed” or “Emergency Travel Only” along the primary route to the host location the game will be officially “postponed.
2. If there is a postponement *before* 1 FEB, every attempt will be made to make up the game or games using every possible venue. If the games are not made up the “Host” team will be given a 1-0 win in the standings. All players will be given credit for playing in the game(s).
3. If there is a postponement *after* 1 FEB, every attempt will be made to make up the game or games using every possible venue. Due to the short time remaining in the season, if the games are not made up a 1-1 Tie will be recorded in the standings. All players will be given credit for playing in the game(s)
4. League Commissioners have the authority to issue a “forfeit” if one team makes no effort to make up the postponed game(s).

WEATHER CALL FOR OUTDOOR RINKS

If the temperature at an outdoor rink is going to be 0 Degree F. or colder, MAHA activities will be postponed and every effort made to reschedule or relocate to an indoor facility. This decision will be made as soon as possible to prevent unnecessary travel or hardship. No team will be penalized for a rink condition cancellation.

COVID CANCELATION POLICY

Covid policy(ies), MAHA and local, can be found on the TSL tab of the MAHA website.

TREASURE STATE LEAGUE DISCIPLINE

Age Group League Commissioners are authorized to impose forfeits, fines and suspensions within the guidelines of the MAHA and USA Hockey Annual Guides and the Official Rules of Hockey. If a decision by an Age Group Commissioner is appealed, it is first appealed to the Treasure State League Commissioner. If further appeal is sought, it will be forwarded to the President of MAHA. His/her decision is final.

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS:

5 min warm up, 17 min period, 1 min break, 17 min period, ice make, 17 min period = 2 hours

Game Play:

1. Any time there is a 7 goal differential the clock will be set to run-time (clock will be stopped to remove injured player from ice). If the differential becomes less than 7, the clock will be reset to stop-time.
2. Ice to be groomed a minimum of every 2nd period.
3. The host ice is required to fulfill the league game length requirements or they must forfeit the game and will be fined a minimum of \$250.00.
4. USA Hockey rules apply as minimums. Penalties given may not be less than those specified by USA Hockey.
5. Rulings made by referees on the ice are final. Age group directors or other game or association officials may not overrule referee decisions.
6. Protests must be lodged with appropriate local officials within 24 hours of their respective incidents and reported in writing to the Treasure State League Age Division Commissioner within 48 hours. The Treasure State League Age Division Commissioner rulings may be appealed to the Montana Amateur Hockey Association Board of Directors. In such cases, decisions of the Board will be final and may not be further appealed. Rule interpretations of game officials are not proper matters for protest.
7. **Penalty Box Attendants** will be the responsibility of the Home AND Visiting team. This includes all sanctioned festivals, games and tournaments. Examples: Missoula vs Miles City; Missoula will cover their penalty box, Miles City will cover their penalty box
8. **Regular Season Tie Breaker.** If a game is tied after regulation time expires the following format will be used to break the tie: A five-minute stop time overtime with 3 skaters and a goalie per team. If no goal is scored, a 3 player, penalty shot format, shoot out will break the tie. All players shall be used before a shooter can be chosen to shoot again. Winning team will receive 2 points in the standings and, losing team 1 point.
9. **Fair Play Points.** In an effort to reduce bad behavior/discipline issues, if a team has 16 penalty minutes or less with NO misconduct penalties, they will receive one additional point in the standings. This point is awarded win or lose.
10. **UPDATED RULE 401(b): Any player who incurs four (4) penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct. Any team receiving twelve (12) penalties in a game shall have the head coach ejected for the next game.**

Referee: Three or four man referee system.

Coaching Credentials: Coaches must follow USA Hockey Coaching Certification guidelines and will obtain the appropriate coaching credential for the age team they are coaching before December 31 **of the current season.** Any coach that is not properly certified will result in the association being fined \$15.00 per coach per game after December 31 and that coach being suspended from further Treasure State League game play. Coaching waivers may be granted to Level 3 coaches who could not attend a Level 4 coaching clinic, and will be coaching a 16U or 18U team at a district tournament. Approval for waiver must be granted by MAHA Coach In Chief.

League Play: In the event there are more than eight High School teams rostered in any given year, the Treasure State League Commissions will make every effort to divide the state into two divisions, one for the East and one for the West. Teams will be placed within the division based upon their geographic locations with every effort made to minimize the expense of travel and the cost associated with such travel. All MAHA and USA Hockey rules for tournament play, seeding and tournament formats will be applied as appropriate under the tournament administration and playing rules.

Scheduling: Treasure State League Schedule will consist of approximately 20 games (2 home and 2 away games) and MAHA Treasure State League Tournament (number of games to be determined by number of teams participating in each division). MAHA will use USA hockey policy of: 4 hours from finish of MAHA League game, until start of next

MAHA League game on same day or 12 hours from finish of MAHA League game until start of next MAHA League game on consecutive days. MAHA games are allowed during association/invitational tournaments if both teams agree. Scheduling will be done at the MAHA Ice Scheduling meeting.

ALL TEAMS MUST SUBMIT LEAGUE BOND AND TEAM COMMITMENT FORM TO THE MAHA TREASURER AT THE ICE SCHEDULING MEETING. TEAMS NOT SUBMITTING APPROPRIATE COMMITMENT FORM AND/OR BOND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN GAMES UNTIL THIS IS TURNED IN.

Rescheduling:

ALL TEAMS have until November 1 to make changes to the schedule. These changes will be made by the coach or manager of both teams involved. Age Commissioners will then be notified of game change. After November 1, the schedule will be set unless approved by Age Division Commissioner.

Forfeits:

Unless otherwise specified, forfeit of a game for any reason will disqualify the team from the MAHA Treasure State League. Forfeiting team's association will be fined \$500.00 payable within 30 days. If fine is not paid within 30 days, the association will be in bad standing with MAHA and USA Hockey. All teams from associations in bad standing with MAHA will be excluded from any further Treasure State League game play. Teams will also forfeit their league bond. Written appeals will be directed to the Age Group Commissioner with the final decision being that of the Treasure State League Commissioner within 10 days of forfeited game. Games will be counted as a win to the non-forfeiting team.

Ice Fees:

The home team is responsible for Ice Fees and Referees fees unless other arrangements are decided in advance.

Score Sheets:

The Hard Copy (paper copy) is the official record of the game. Game score sheets are not considered valid unless the following items are completed on the sheet. The SCOREKEEPER is ultimately responsible for making sure game sheets are filled out properly and is last to sign the game sheet. Both coaches should verify that the game sheet has been filled out properly. Coaches are required to show their coaching education card before the start of each game. If a coach does not have his card, it shall be noted on the game score sheet. Game sheets will be tracked by League Commissioners and coaches without credentials will be reported to MAHA Coach In Chief. All persons on the bench (limit 4) **MUST HAVE PROPER CREDENTIALS** for that team. All associations will be using USA Hockey game score sheets and must be filled out appropriately. All white copies of the scoresheet are to be mailed to the age specific commissioner, no later than the Monday after game play.

1. Signed by both coaches. – Coaches sign scoresheets **BEFORE** game play, this signature approves the roster of players listed on sheet, not the end of game play
2. Signed by referee – after game play, the signatures approve the end of game play
3. Signed by scorekeeper
4. Dated with the correct date. (PLEASE SPELL OUT THE MONTH TO AVOID CONFUSION i.e. September 2013)
5. Division
6. Start and finish times
7. Game number

Each association is required to **ELECTRONICALLY** send game score sheets to the Division Commissioner immediately after games are played. Original score sheets will be mailed to commissioner on the Monday after games are played. The "home" game team is responsible for turning game score sheet in to association

Rostering:

Each coach should have in his possession:

- A copy of the official USA Hockey Team Roster electronically stamped by State Registrar.

- Players that are not on the official USA Hockey Roster are not allowed to play.
- MAHA encourages and promotes the advancement of youth hockey players by allowing players to compete (subject to USA Hockey rules) on both Treasure State League teams and Junior teams. This player movement shall be allowed only through December 31 of each year. After December 31, any youth player participating in the Treasure State League, who dresses out for, sits on the bench, or otherwise participates in any way in a Junior game shall be disallowed from participating in any Treasure State League games (including tournaments) from that point forward. MAHA recognizes that the integrity of its local youth hockey programs and teams is important and institutes this policy to ensure consistency in league play and to avoid stacking players by local youth associations and also to avoid the drafting of local youth players into junior programs late in the season.
- Any Treasure State League games, in which an ineligible player under these rules should participate after December 31, shall be deemed forfeited for purposes of determining the team standings and win/loss record for that year. A game forfeited under these circumstances shall not prevent the team and remaining eligible players from participating in post season Treasure State League tournaments.
- All league team rosters are final as of December 31, Changes or additions are allowed only at the commissioner discretion and with a written request.
- Players must play at least 50% of league games to be eligible to play in a League tournament.
- Only teams participating in the Treasure State League or predetermined play-off games and registered/rostered through the Montana Amateur Hockey Association may advance to the Northern Plains District Tournaments.
- Varsity and Junior Varsity High School teams must roster as high school house/rec. Midget teams are not allowed to participate in the High School league.

Player Waiver:

Any player may request a waiver to the Treasure State League (Age Division Commissioner) in the event he or she fails to meet the minimum number of league games to be eligible for post season play in league tournaments. Such waiver shall be granted only upon showing of undue hardship, sickness, or medical condition, any of which must actually have caused the player to miss the games in question. The final decision as to eligibility shall rest with the League Commissioner after appropriate investigation of the facts and circumstances.

Spectator Fees:

Each association has the right to charge a nominal admission fee to MAHA games. It would be appropriate to notify the incoming team that a fee will be assessed. Assessing an admission fee for the players or coaches is not allowed.

League Bond:

Each association shall submit a \$500.00 League Bond for each team that is playing in the treasure State League. Teams that are not registered/rostered with the Montana Amateur Hockey Association will not be allowed to participate in the Treasure State League High School-Varsity division. The League bond, and a MAHA Treasure State League Commitment form is required to attend the MAHA Treasure State League Ice Scheduling Meeting. Four hundred (\$400) dollars of the bond will be used as a deposit towards the MAHA State Tournament.

ALL TEAMS MUST SUBMIT LEAGUE BOND AND TEAM COMMITMENT FORM TO THE MAHA TREASURER AT THE ICE SCHEDULING MEETING. TEAMS NOT SUBMITTING APPROPRIATE COMMITMENT FORM AND/OR BOND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN GAMES UNTIL THIS IS TURNED IN.

BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL/16U if applicable

GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS

5 min warm up, 17 min period, 1 min break, 17 min period, ice make, 17 min period = 2 hours

League Format:

The Big Sky-High School league is intended to be a developmental age classification. The goal is to develop those players who may be unable to participate at the TSL High School level in the Treasure State High School league, whether due to age or skill level. The Big Sky-High School league will provide a format for associations to schedule games for these players in a non-competitive format. The Treasure State League will schedule a year-end state championship for Big Sky-High School league teams. In addition, an association may not enter a Big Sky-High School league in the Treasure State league unless it has also entered a TSL High School team in the High School league. If an association has insufficient numbers or skilled players to support a TSL High School team, the association may petition the League Commissioner for a waiver to allow a Big Sky-High School league to compete (without a TSL High School team) and the decision of the League Commissioner with respect to allowing or disallowing such a Big Sky-High School league shall be final.

Game Play:

1. Any time there is a 7-goal differential the clock will be set to run-time (clock will be stopped to remove injured player from ice). If the differential becomes less than 7, the clock will be reset to stop-time.
2. Ice to be groomed a minimum of every 2nd period.
3. The host ice is required to fulfill the league game length requirements or they must forfeit the game and will be fined a minimum of \$250.00.
4. USA Hockey rules apply as minimums. Penalties given may not be less than those specified by USA Hockey.
5. Rulings made by referees on the ice are final. Age group directors or other game or association officials may not overrule referee decisions.
6. Protests must be lodged with appropriate local officials within 24 hours of their respective incidents and reported in writing to the Treasure State League Age Division Commissioner within 48 hours. The Treasure State League Age Division Commissioner rulings may be appealed to the Montana Amateur Hockey Association Board of Directors. In such cases, decisions of the Board will be final and may not be further appealed. Rule interpretations of game officials are not proper matters for protest.
7. **Penalty Box Attendants** will be the responsibility of the Home AND Visiting team. This includes all sanctioned festivals, games and tournaments. Examples: Missoula vs Miles City; Missoula will cover their penalty box, Miles City will cover their penalty box
8. **Regular Season Tie Breaker.** If a game is tied after regulation time expires the following format will be used to break the tie: A five-minute stop time overtime with 3 skaters and a goalie per team. If no goal is scored, a 3 player, penalty shot format, shoot out will break the tie. Winning team will receive 2 points in the standings and, losing team 1 point.
9. **Fair Play Points.** In an effort to reduce bad behavior/discipline issues, if a team has 16 penalty minutes or less with NO misconduct penalties, they will receive one additional point in the standings. This point is awarded win or lose.
10. **UPDATED RULE 401(b): Any player who incurs four (4) penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct. Any team receiving twelve (12) penalties in a game shall have the head coach ejected for the next game.**

Referee: Three or four-man referee system.

Coaching Credentials: Coaches must follow USA Hockey Coaching Certification guidelines and will obtain the appropriate coaching credential for the age team they are coaching before December 31 **of the current season.** Any coach that is not properly certified will result in the association being fined \$15.00 per coach per game after December 31 and that coach being suspended from further Treasure State League game play. Coaching waivers may be granted to Level 3 coaches who could not attend a Level 4 coaching clinic, and will be coaching a 16U or 18U team at a district tournament. Approval for waiver must be granted by MAHA Coach In Chief.

Tag Up Rule:

The USA Hockey Tag Up Offsides rule WILL BE used.

Tournament:

Treasure State League will schedule a year-end state championship for the Big Sky High School league. This league will play for the Montana Cup.

Scheduling:

Treasure State League Schedule will consist of approximately 20 games (2 home and 2 away games) (number of games to be determined by number of teams participating in each division). MAHA will use USA hockey policy of: 4 hours from finish of MAHA League game, until start of next MAHA League game on same day or 12 hours from finish of MAHA League game until start of next MAHA League game on consecutive days. No MAHA games allowed during association/invitational tournaments. Scheduling will be done at the MAHA Ice Scheduling meeting.

ALL TEAMS MUST SUBMIT LEAGUE BOND AND TEAM COMMITMENT FORM TO THE MAHA TREASURER AT THE ICE SCHEDULING MEETING. TEAMS NOT SUBMITTING APPROPRIATE COMMITMENT FORM AND/OR BOND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN GAMES UNTIL THIS IS TURNED IN.

Rescheduling: ALL TEAMS have until November 1 to make changes to the schedule. These changes will be made by the coach or manager of both teams involved. Age Commissioners will then be notified of game change. After November 1, the schedule will be set unless approved by Age Division Commissioner.

Forfeits:

Unless otherwise specified, forfeit of a game for any reason will disqualify the team from the MAHA Treasure State League. Forfeiting team's association will be fined \$500.00, payable within 30 days. If fine is not paid within 30 days, the association will be in bad standing with MAHA and USA Hockey. All teams from associations in bad standing with MAHA will be excluded from any further Treasure State League game play. Teams will also forfeit their league bond. Written appeals will be directed to the Age Group Commissioner with the final decision being that of the Treasure State League Commissioner within 10 days of forfeited game. Games will be counted as a win to the non-forfeiting team.

Ice Fees:

The home team is responsible for Ice Fees and Referees fees unless other arrangements are decided in advance.

Score Sheets:

The hard copy (paper copy) is the official record of the game. Game score sheets are not considered valid unless the following items are completed on the sheet. The SCOREKEEPER is ultimately responsible for making sure game sheets are filled out properly and is last to sign the game sheet. Both coaches should verify that the game sheet has been filled out properly. Coaches are required to show their coaching education card before the start of each game. If a coach does not have his card, it shall be noted on the game score sheet. Game sheets will be tracked by League Commissioners and coaches without credentials will be reported to MAHA Coach In Chief. All persons on the bench (limit 4) MUST HAVE PROPER CREDENTIALS for that team. All associations will be using USA Hockey game score sheets and must be filled out appropriately. All white copies of the scoresheet are to be mailed to the age specific commissioner, no later than the Monday after game play

1. Signed by both coaches.
2. Signed by referee
3. Signed by scorekeeper
4. Dated with the correct date. (PLEASE SPELL OUT THE MONTH TO AVOID CONFUSION i.e.: September 1, 2011)
5. Division

6. Start and finish times
7. Game number

Each association is required to ELECTRONICALLY send game score sheets to the Division Commissioner immediately after games are played. Original score sheets will be mailed to commissioner on the Monday after games are played. The "home" game team is responsible for turning game score sheet in to association

Rostering: Each coach should have in his possession:

- A copy of the official USA Hockey Team Roster electronically stamped by State Registrar.
- Players that are not on the official USA Hockey Roster are not allowed to play.
- MAHA encourages and promotes the advancement of youth hockey players by allowing players to compete (subject to USA Hockey rules) on both Treasure State League teams and Junior teams. This player movement shall be allowed only through December 31 of each year. After December 31, any youth player participating in the Treasure State League, who dresses out for, sits on the bench, or otherwise participates in any way in a Junior game shall be disallowed from participating in any Treasure State League games (including tournaments) from that point forward. MAHA recognizes that the integrity of its local youth hockey programs and teams is important and institutes this policy to ensure consistency in league play and to avoid stacking players by local youth associations and also to avoid the drafting of local youth players into junior programs late in the season.
- Any Treasure State League games, in which an ineligible player under these rules should participate after December 31, shall be deemed forfeited for purposes of determining the team standings and win/loss record for that year. A game forfeited under these circumstances shall not prevent the team and remaining eligible players from participating in post season Treasure State League tournaments.
- All league team rosters are final as of December 31, Changes or additions are allowed only at the commissioner discretion and with a written request.
- Players must play at least 50% of league games to be eligible to play in a League tournament.
- Only teams participating in the Treasure State League or predetermined play-off games and registered/rostered through the Montana Amateur Hockey Association may advance to the Northern Plains District Tournaments.
- Varsity and Junior Varsity High School teams must roster as high school house/rec. Midget teams are not allowed to participate in the High School league.

Spectator Fees: Each association has the right to charge a nominal admission fee to MAHA games. It would be appropriate to notify the incoming team that a fee will be assessed. Assessing an admission fee for the players or coaches is not allowed.

League Bond: Each association shall submit a \$500.00 League Bond for each team that is playing in the treasure State League. Teams that are not registered/rostered with the Montana Amateur Hockey Association will not be allowed to participate in the Treasure State League High School-Varsity division. The League bond, and a MAHA Treasure State League Commitment form is required to attend the MAHA Treasure State League Ice Scheduling Meeting. Four hundred (\$400) dollars of the bond will be used as a deposit towards the MAHA State Tournament.

ALL TEAMS MUST SUBMIT LEAGUE BOND AND TEAM COMMITMENT FORM TO THE MAHA TREASURER AT THE ICE SCHEDULING MEETING. TEAMS NOT SUBMITTING APPROPRIATE COMMITMENT FORM AND/OR BOND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN GAMES UNTIL THIS IS TURNED IN.

14U DIVISION

GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS

5 min warm up, 16 min period, 1 min break, 16 min period, ice make, 16 min period = 2 hours

UPDATED RULE 402: PENALTY MINUTES

MINOR: 1:30 MINUTES ; 2:00 IF RUNTIME

MAJOR: 4:00 MINUTES ; 5:00 IF RUNTIME

MISCONDUCT: 8:00 MINUTES ; 10:00 IF RUNTIME

League Format:

The MAHA 14U Leagues will consist of two leagues, an “A” and “B” Leagues. Associations will declare at least one week prior to the scheduling meeting which level they intend to commit to. Once this commitment is made it is final. The season will be 16 games, with a separate “A” and “B” State Tournament

Game Play:

1. Any time there is a 7 goal differential the clock will be set to run-time (clock will be stopped to remove injured player from ice). If the differential becomes less than 7, the clock will be reset to stop-time.
2. Ice to be groomed a minimum of every 2nd period.
3. The host ice is required to fulfill the league game length requirements or they must forfeit the game and will be fined a minimum of \$250.00.
4. USA Hockey rules apply as minimums. Penalties given may not be less than those specified by USA Hockey.
5. Rulings made by referees on the ice are final. Age group directors or other game or association officials may not overrule referee decisions.
6. Protests must be lodged with appropriate local officials within 24 hours of their respective incidents and reported in writing to the Treasure State League Age Division Commissioner within 48 hours. The Treasure State League Age Division Commissioner rulings may be appealed to the Montana Amateur Hockey Association Board of Directors. In such cases, decisions of the Board will be final and may not be further appealed. Rule interpretations of game officials are not proper matters for protest.
7. **Penalty Box Attendants will be the responsibility of the Home AND Visiting team. This includes all sanctioned festivals, games and tournaments. Examples: Missoula vs Miles City; Missoula will cover their penalty box, Miles City will cover their penalty box**
8. **Fair Play Points.** In an effort to reduce bad behavior/discipline issues, if a team has 16 penalty minutes or less with NO misconduct penalties, they will receive one additional point in the standings. This point is awarded win or lose.
9. **UPDATED RULE 401(b): Any player who incurs four (4) penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct. Any team receiving twelve (12) penalties in a game shall have the head coach ejected for the next game.**

Referee: Three man referee system.

Coaching Credentials: Coaches must follow USA Hockey Coaching Certification guidelines and will obtain the appropriate coaching credential for the age team they are coaching before December 31 of the current season.

Scheduling: Treasure State League Schedule will consist of approximately 16-20 games (2 home and 2 away games) and MAHA Treasure State League Tournament (number of games to be determined by number of teams participating in each division). MAHA will use USA hockey policy of: 4 hours from finish of MAHA League game, until start of next MAHA League game on same day or 12 hours from finish of MAHA League game until start of next MAHA League game on consecutive days. MAHA games are allowed during association/invitational tournaments if both teams agree. Scheduling will be done at the MAHA Ice Scheduling meeting.

ALL TEAMS MUST SUBMIT LEAGUE BOND AND TEAM COMMITMENT FORM TO THE MAHA TREASURER AT THE ICE SCHEDULING MEETING. TEAMS NOT SUBMITTING APPROPRIATE COMMITMENT FORM AND/OR BOND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN GAMES UNTIL THIS IS TURNED IN.

Rescheduling:

ALL TEAMS have until November 1 to make changes to the schedule. These changes will be made by the coach or manager of both teams involved. Age Commissioners will then be notified of game change. After November 1, the schedule will be set unless approved by Age Division Commissioner.

Forfeits:

Unless otherwise specified, forfeit of a game for any reason will disqualify the team from the MAHA Treasure State League and MAHA State Tournament. Forfeiting team's association will be fined \$500.00, payable within 30 days. If fine is not paid within 30 days, the association will be in bad standing with MAHA and USA Hockey. All teams from associations in bad standing with MAHA will be excluded from any further Treasure State League game play. Teams will also forfeit their league bond. Written appeals will be directed to the Age Group Commissioner with the final decision being that of the Treasure State League Commissioner within 10 days of forfeited game. Games will be counted as a win to the non-forfeiting team.

League Tie or Unequal Games:

For seeding purposes, league ties will be determined by the same rules as the tournament rules. If after the final regular season games an unequal number of games have been played by teams, league standings will be determined by dividing the points received by the number of games played.

Ice Fees:

The home team is responsible for Ice Fees and Referees fees unless other arrangements are decided in advance.

Score Sheets:

The hard copy (paper copy) is the official record of the game. Game score sheets are not considered valid unless the following items are completed on the sheet. The SCOREKEEPER is ultimately responsible for making sure game sheets are filled out properly and is last to sign the game sheet. Both coaches should verify that the game sheet has been filled out properly. Coaches are required to show their coaching education card before the start of each game. If a coach does not have his card, it shall be noted on the game score sheet. Game sheets will be tracked by League Commissioners and coaches without credentials will be reported to MAHA Coach In Chief. All persons on the bench (limit 4) MUST HAVE PROPER CREDENTIALS for that team. All associations will be using USA Hockey game score sheets and must be filled out appropriately.

1. Signed by both coaches.
2. Signed by referee
3. Signed by scorekeeper
4. Dated with the correct date. (PLEASE SPELL OUT THE MONTH TO AVOID CONFUSION i.e.: September 1, 2013)
5. Division
6. Start and finish times
7. Game number

Each association is required to ELECTRONICALLY send game score sheets to the Division Commissioner immediately after games are played. Original score sheets will be mailed to commissioner on the Monday after games are played. The "home" game team is responsible for turning game score sheet in to association

Rostering:

Each coach should have in his possession:

- A copy of the official USA Hockey Team Roster electronically stamped by State Registrar.
- Players that are not on the official USA Hockey Roster are not allowed to play.
- MAHA encourages and promotes the advancement of youth hockey players by allowing players to compete (subject to USA Hockey rules) on both Treasure State League teams and Junior teams. This player movement shall be allowed only through December 31 of each year. After December 31, any youth player participating in the Treasure

State League, who dresses out for, sits on the bench, or otherwise participates in any way in a Junior game shall be disallowed from participating in any Treasure State League games (including tournaments) from that point forward. MAHA recognizes that the integrity of its local youth hockey programs and teams is important and institutes this policy to ensure consistency in league play and to avoid stacking players by local youth associations and also to avoid the drafting of local youth players into junior programs late in the season.

- Any Treasure State League games, in which an ineligible player under these rules should participate after December 31, shall be deemed forfeited for purposes of determining the team standings and win/loss record for that year. A game forfeited under these circumstances shall not prevent the team and remaining eligible players from participating in post season Treasure State League tournaments.
- All league team rosters are final as of December 31, Changes or additions are allowed only at the commissioner discretion and with a written request.
- Players must play at least 75% of league games to be eligible to play in a League tournament.

Player Waiver:

Any player may request a waiver to the Treasure State League (Age Division Commissioner) in the event he or she fails to meet the minimum number of league games to be eligible for post season play in league tournaments. Such waiver shall be granted only upon showing of undue hardship, sickness, or medical condition, any of which must actually have caused the player to miss the games in question. The final decision as to eligibility shall rest with the League Commissioner after appropriate investigation of the facts and circumstances.

Spectator Fees: Each association has the right to charge a nominal admission fee to MAHA games. It would be appropriate to notify the incoming team that a fee will be assessed. Assessing an admission fee for the players or coaches is not allowed.

League Bond: Each association shall submit a \$500.00 League Bond for each team that is playing in the treasure State League. Teams that are not registered/rostered with the Montana Amateur Hockey Association will not be allowed to participate in the Treasure State League High School-Varsity division. The League bond, and a MAHA Treasure State League Commitment form is required to attend the MAHA Treasure State League Ice Scheduling Meeting. Four hundred (\$400) dollars of the bond will be used as a deposit towards the MAHA State Tournament.

ALL TEAMS MUST SUBMIT LEAGUE BOND AND TEAM COMMITMENT FORM TO THE MAHA TREASURER AT THE ICE SCHEDULING MEETING. TEAMS NOT SUBMITTING APPROPRIATE COMMITMENT FORM AND/OR BOND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN GAMES UNTIL THIS IS TURNED IN.

12U DIVISION

GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS

WITH ICE CUT:

5 min warm up, 15 min period, 1 min break, 15 min period, ice make, 15 min period = 1.5 hours

WITHOUT ICE CUT:

5 min warm up, 15 min period, 1 min break, 15 min period, 5 min break, 15 min period = 1.25 hours

UPDATED RULE 402: PENALTY MINUTES

MINOR: 1:30 MINUTES ; 2:00 IF RUNTIME

MAJOR: 4:00 MINUTES ; 5:00 IF RUNTIME

MISCONDUCT: 8:00 MINUTES ; 10:00 IF RUNTIME

League Format: The MAHA 12U Leagues will consist of two leagues, an “A” and “B” Leagues. Associations will declare at least one week prior to the scheduling meeting which level they intend to commit to. Once this commitment is made it is final. The season will be 16 games, with a separate “A” and “B” State Tournament. Regional and Festival style scheduling is highly encouraged. If during the regular season, a “B” team consistently wins by a lopsided margin, the

league commissioner has the option of moving that team to the “A” League State Tournament. The date for the League Commissioner to make this determination will be February 1st. The TSL Commissioner must make approval of this decision. If there is a clear disparity of team ability within the “B” Division, the League Commissioner has the option of creating a “C” Division State Tournament played at the same time and location as the “B” Division Tournament. The TSL Commissioner must also make approval of this decision. This will be done to encourage retention and fair fun play. The TSL Commissioner must make approval of this decision. The tournament formats set out in this Annual Guide shall be applied based upon the number of teams and the decision of the League Commissioner.

Game Play:

1. Any time there is a 7-goal differential the clock will be set to run-time (clock will be stopped to remove injured player from ice). If the differential becomes less than 7, the clock will be reset to stop-time.
2. Ice to be groomed a minimum of every 2nd period.
3. The host ice is required to fulfill the league game length requirements or they must forfeit the game and will be fined a minimum of \$250.00.
4. USA Hockey rules apply as minimums. Penalties given may not be less than those specified by USA Hockey
5. Rulings made by referees on the ice are final. Age group directors or other game or association officials may not overrule referee decisions.
6. Protests must be lodged with appropriate local officials within 24 hours of their respective incidents and reported in writing to the Treasure State League Age Division Commissioner within 48 hours. The Treasure State League Age Division Commissioner rulings may be appealed to the Montana Amateur Hockey Association Board of Directors. In such cases, decisions of the Board will be final and may not be further appealed. Rule interpretations of game officials are not proper matters for protest.
7. Penalty Box Attendants will be the responsibility of the Home AND Visiting team. This includes all sanctioned festivals, games and tournaments. Examples: Missoula vs Miles City; Missoula will cover their penalty box, Miles City will cover their penalty box
8. **UPDATED RULE 401(b): Any player who incurs four (4) penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct. Any team receiving twelve (12) penalties in a game shall have the head coach ejected for the next game.**

Referee: Two man referee system with the option to use a three man system.

Coaching Credentials:

Coaches must follow USA Hockey Coaching Certification guidelines and will obtain the appropriate coaching credential for the age team they are coaching before December 31 of the current season.

Scheduling:

Treasure State League Schedule will consist of approximately 16-20 games (2 home and 2 away games) and MAHA Treasure State League Tournament (number of games to be determined by number of teams participating in each division). If there are 4 or less teams in a division, a 12 game season is authorized. MAHA will follow the policy of: 2 hours from finish of MAHA League game, until start of next MAHA League game on same day and 12 hours from finish of MAHA League game until start of next MAHA League game on consecutive days for 10U and 12U. MAHA games are allowed during association/invitational tournaments if both teams agree. Scheduling will be done at the MAHA Hockey Summit.

Scheduling meeting.

ALL TEAMS MUST SUBMIT LEAGUE BOND AND TEAM COMMITMENT FORM TO THE MAHA TREASURER AT THE ICE SCHEDULING MEETING. TEAMS NOT SUBMITTING APPROPRIATE COMMITMENT FORM AND/OR BOND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN GAMES UNTIL THIS IS TURNED IN.

Rescheduling:

ALL TEAMS have until November 1 to make changes to the schedule. These changes will be made by the coach or manager of both teams involved. Age Commissioners will then be notified of game change. After November 1, the schedule will be set unless approved by Age Division Commissioner.

Forfeits:

Unless otherwise specified, forfeit of a game for any reason will disqualify the team from the MAHA Treasure State League and MAHA State Tournament. Forfeiting team's association will be fined \$500.00, payable within 30 days. If fine is not paid within 30 days, the association will be in bad standing with MAHA and USA Hockey. All teams from associations in bad standing with MAHA will be excluded from any further Treasure State League game play. Teams will also forfeit their league bond. Written appeals will be directed to the Age Group Commissioner with the final decision being that of the Treasure State League Commissioner within 10 days of forfeited game. Games will be counted as a win to the non-forfeiting team.

League Tie or Unequal Games:

For seeding purposes, league ties will be determined by the same rules as the tournament rules. If after the final regular season games an unequal number of games have been played by teams, league standings will be determined by dividing the points received by the number of games played.

Ice Fees:

The home team is responsible for Ice Fees and Referees fees unless other arrangements are decided in advance.

Score Sheets:

Game score sheets are not considered valid unless the following items are completed on the sheet. The SCOREKEEPER is ultimately responsible for making sure game sheets are filled out properly and is last to sign the game sheet. Both coaches should verify that the game sheet has been filled out properly. Coaches are required to show their coaching education card before the start of each game. If a coach does not have his card, it shall be noted on the game score sheet. Game sheets will be tracked by League Commissioners and coaches without credentials will be reported to MAHA Coach In Chief. All persons on the bench (limit 4) MUST HAVE PROPER CREDENTIALS for that team. All associations will be using USA Hockey game score sheets and must be filled out appropriately.

1. Signed by both coaches.
2. Signed by referee
3. Signed by scorekeeper
4. Dated with the correct date. (PLEASE SPELL OUT THE MONTH TO AVOID CONFUSION i.e.: September 1, 2011)
5. Division
6. Start and finish times
7. Game number

Each association is required to ELECTRONICALLY send game score sheets to the Division Commissioner immediately after games are played. Original score sheets will be mailed to commissioner on the Monday after games are played. The "home" game team is responsible for turning game score sheet in to association

Rostering:

Each coach should have in his possession:

- A copy of the official USA Hockey Team Roster electronically stamped by State Registrar.
- Players that are not on the official USA Hockey Roster are not allowed to play.
- MAHA encourages and promotes the advancement of youth hockey players by allowing players to compete (subject to USA Hockey rules) on both Treasure State League teams and Junior teams. This player movement shall be allowed only through December 31 of each year. After December 31, any youth player participating in the Treasure State League, who dresses out for, sits on the bench, or otherwise participates in any way in a Junior game shall be disallowed from participating in any Treasure State League games (including tournaments) from that point forward. MAHA recognizes that the integrity of its local youth hockey programs and teams is important and institutes this policy to ensure consistency in league play and to avoid stacking players by local youth associations and also to avoid the drafting of local youth players into junior programs late in the season.
- Any Treasure State League games, in which an ineligible player under these rules should participate after December 31, shall be deemed forfeited for purposes of determining the team standings and win/loss record for that year. A

game forfeited under these circumstances shall not prevent the team and remaining eligible players from participating in post season Treasure State League tournaments.

- All league team rosters are final as of December 31, Changes or additions are allowed only at the commissioner discretion and with a written request.
- Players must play at least 75% of league games to be eligible to play in a League tournament.

Player Waiver:

Any player may request a waiver to the Treasure State League (Age Division Commissioner) in the event he or she fails to meet the minimum number of league games to be eligible for post season play in league tournaments. Such waiver shall be granted only upon showing of undue hardship, sickness, or medical condition, any of which must actually have caused the player to miss the games in question. The final decision as to eligibility shall rest with the League Commissioner after appropriate investigation of the facts and circumstances.

Spectator Fees:

Each association has the right to charge a nominal admission fee to MAHA games. It would be appropriate to notify the incoming team that a fee will be assessed. Assessing an admission fee for the players or coaches is not allowed.

League Bond: Each association shall submit a \$500.00 League Bond for each team that is playing in the treasure State League. Teams that are not registered/rostered with the Montana Amateur Hockey Association will not be allowed to participate in the Treasure State League High School-Varsity division. The League bond, and a MAHA Treasure State League Commitment form is required to attend the MAHA Treasure State League Ice Scheduling Meeting. Four hundred (\$400) dollars of the bond will be used as a deposit towards the MAHA State Tournament.

10U DIVISION – HALF ICE

GAME REQUIREMENTS - RUNNING CLOCK

- 4 min warm up, 33 min half, 2 min break, 33 min half = 1.15 hours
- Game will be played 4 on 4 plus a goalie
- 1- official (if a younger official is used, it is recommended that a mentor is there to assist)

UPDATED RULE 402: PENALTY MINUTES

MINOR: 2:00 RUNTIME

MAJOR: 5:00 RUNTIME

MISCONDUCT: 10:00 RUNTIME

League Format:

1. MAHA is *recommending* that teams have 10-12 players and 1 goalie per team. Maximum of two coaches per team on bench during game.
2. The league will be structured with an A/B format.
3. Associations with multiple teams within the same division shall ensure each team is equally competitive taking into account both age and skill. Association name and color shall be used to distinguish each team.
4. Teams will play 16 league games. It is *recommended* that these are played in a festival format, with game play on one weekend per month, with each team playing 4 games in a weekend.
5. MAHA Committee shall structure schedule in advance based on number of teams, geographical location, concurrent travel for associations with multiple teams in same division, and equal spacing of league games throughout the season.
6. Each facility will add a center dot. The dot will be centered from the goal line and red line and center from side board to side board.

Game Play- Penalties:

1. Minor penalties will be 2 minute in length. When the penalty is called, the whistle will sound stopping play. The offending player will report to either the penalty box, or their player bench. (depending on the facility) The ensuing faceoff will take place at the nearest faceoff dot.
2. During the 2 minutes, the player assessed the penalty will not be allowed to participate. The game will continue 4 on 3 for the 2 minutes unless a goal is scored. Then 4 on 4 play will resume.
3. Major penalties will be 5 minutes in length. If a goal is scored, the team will still be shorthanded until the full 5 minute penalty is served.
4. If a 2nd penalty is called to the team that is short-handed, the opposing team will add a player and they will play 5 on 3. When the first penalty expires, they will play 5 on 4 until a whistle, and then play will resume 4 on 3.
5. Teams will never play with less than 3 players on the ice. So if there are more penalties called, they will stack.
6. Frozen pucks and pucks out of play will result in faceoff at the nearest faceoff dot.
7. **UPDATED RULE 401(b): Any player who incurs four (4) penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct. Any team receiving twelve (12) penalties in a game shall have the head coach ejected for the next game.**

Referee: 1- official (if a younger official is used, it is recommended that a mentor is there to assist)

Coaching Credentials: Coaches must follow USA Hockey Coaching Certification guidelines and will obtain the appropriate coaching credential for the age team they are coaching before December 31 of the current season.

Scheduling: MAHA will follow the policy of: 2 hours from finish of MAHA League game, until start of next MAHA League game on same day and 12 hours from finish of MAHA League game until start of next MAHA League game on consecutive days for 10U and 12U. MAHA games are allowed during association/invitational tournaments if both teams agree. Scheduling will be done at the MAHA Hockey Summit.

ALL TEAMS MUST SUBMIT LEAGUE BOND AND TEAM COMMITMENT FORM TO THE MAHA TREASURER AT THE ICE SCHEDULING MEETING.

Rescheduling:

ALL TEAMS have until November 1 to make changes to the schedule. These changes will be made by the coach or manager of both teams involved. Age Commissioners will then be notified of game change. After November 1, the schedule will be set unless approved by Age Division Commissioner.

Forfeits:

Unless otherwise specified, forfeit of a game for any reason will disqualify the team from the MAHA Treasure State League and MAHA State Tournament. Forfeiting team's association will be fined \$500.00, payable within 30 days. If fine is not paid within 30 days, the association will be in bad standing with MAHA and USA Hockey. All teams from associations in bad standing with MAHA will be excluded from any further Treasure State League game play. Teams will also forfeit their league bond. Written appeals will be directed to the Age Group Commissioner with the final decision being that of the Treasure State League Commissioner within 10 days of forfeited game. Games will be counted as a win to the non-forfeiting team.

League Tie or Unequal Games:

For seeding purposes, league ties will be determined by the same rules as the tournament rules. If after the final regular season games an unequal number of games have been played by teams, league standings will be determined by dividing the points received by the number of games played.

Ice Fees:

The home team is responsible for Ice Fees and Referees fees unless other arrangements are decided in advance.

Score Sheets:

Game score sheets are not considered valid unless the following items are completed on the sheet. The SCOREKEEPER is ultimately responsible for making sure game sheets are filled out properly and is last to sign the game sheet. Both coaches should verify that the game sheet has been filled out properly. Coaches are required to show their coaching education card before the start of each game. If a coach does not have his card, it shall be noted on the game score sheet. Game sheets will be tracked by League Commissioners and coaches without credentials will be reported to MAHA Coach In Chief. All persons on the bench (limit 4) MUST HAVE PROPER CREDENTIALS for that team. All associations will be using USA Hockey game score sheets and must be filled out appropriately.

1. Signed by both coaches.
2. Signed by referee
3. Signed by scorekeeper
4. **Dated with the correct date. (PLEASE SPELL OUT THE MONTH TO AVOID CONFUSION i.e.: September 1, 2011)**
5. Division
6. Start and finish times
7. Game number

Each association is required to ELECTRONICALLY send game score sheets to the Division Commissioner immediately after games are played. Original score sheets will be mailed to commissioner on the Monday after games are played. The "home" game team is responsible for turning game score sheet in to association

Rostering:

Each coach should have in his possession:

- A copy of the official USA Hockey Team Roster electronically stamped by State Registrar.
- Players that are not on the official USA Hockey Roster are not allowed to play.
- MAHA encourages and promotes the advancement of youth hockey players by allowing players to compete (subject to USA Hockey rules) on both Treasure State League teams and Junior teams. This player movement shall be allowed only through December 31 of each year. After December 31, any youth player participating in the Treasure State League, who dresses out for, sits on the bench, or otherwise participates in any way in a Junior game shall be disallowed from participating in any Treasure State League games (including tournaments) from that point forward. MAHA recognizes that the integrity of its local youth hockey programs and teams is important and institutes this policy to ensure consistency in league play and to avoid stacking players by local youth associations and also to avoid the drafting of local youth players into junior programs late in the season.
- Any Treasure State League games, in which an ineligible player under these rules should participate after December 31, shall be deemed forfeited for purposes of determining the team standings and win/loss record for that year. A game forfeited under these circumstances shall not prevent the team and remaining eligible players from participating in post season Treasure State League tournaments.
- All league team rosters are final as of December 31, Changes or additions are allowed only at the commissioner discretion and with a written request.
- Players must play at least 50% of league games to be eligible to play in a League tournament.

Player Waiver:

Any player may request a waiver to the Treasure State League (Age Division Commissioner) in the event he or she fails to meet the minimum number of league games to be eligible for post season play in league tournaments. Such waiver shall be granted only upon showing of undue hardship, sickness, or medical condition, any of which must actually have caused the player to miss the games in question. The final decision as to eligibility shall rest with the League Commissioner after appropriate investigation of the facts and circumstances.

Spectator Fees:

Each association has the right to charge a nominal admission fee to MAHA games. It would be appropriate to notify the incoming team that a fee will be assessed. Assessing an admission fee for the players or coaches is not allowed.

League Bond: Each association shall submit a \$500.00 League Bond for each team that is playing in the treasure State League. Teams that are not registered/rostered with the Montana Amateur Hockey Association will not be allowed to participate in the Treasure State League High School-Varsity division. The League bond, and a MAHA Treasure State League Commitment form is required to attend the MAHA Treasure State League Ice Scheduling Meeting. Four hundred (\$400) dollars of the bond will be used as a deposit towards the MAHA State Tournament.

ALL TEAMS MUST SUBMIT LEAGUE BOND AND TEAM COMMITMENT FORM TO THE MAHA TREASURER AT THE ICE SCHEDULING MEETING. TEAMS NOT SUBMITTING APPROPRIATE COMMITMENT FORM AND/OR BOND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN GAMES UNTIL THIS IS TURNED IN.

10-U Commonly Asked Questions

- **Can MAHA Squirt teams participate in full-ice tournaments?**
Yes. It will be up to each individual organization to decide.

- **Will we use Blue or Black pucks?**
Black pucks will be used

- **Will we use full size nets, or intermediate nets?**
Yes

- **What is the minimum number of games that a player needs to participate in the State Tournament?**
A player must participate in 50% of the league games

- **What equipment needs to be provided?**
 1. Black Pucks
 2. Divider boards
 3. Two ways to keep score (example: flip scoreboards)
 4. Intermediate nets with pegs
 5. Center red dot on playing surface

14U GIRLS DIVISION

The goals of the MAHA 14U Girls Division are to encourage growth of Girls' hockey, foster camaraderie between girls and teams in the Treasure State League, and to cultivate a love of the game.

GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS:

WITH ICE CUT:

5 min warm up, 16 min period, 1 min break, 16 min period, ice make, 15 min period = 1.25 hours

WITHOUT ICE CUT:

5 min warm up, 16 min period, 1 min break, 16 min period, 5 min break, 16 min period = 1.50 hours

UPDATED RULE 402: PENALTY MINUTES

MINOR: 1:30 MINUTES ; 2:00 IF RUNTIME

MAJOR: 4:00 MINUTES ; 5:00 IF RUNTIME

MISCONDUCT: 8:00 MINUTES ; 10:00 IF RUNTIME

League Format: The MAHA 14U Girls League will consist of one league with all teams playing each other at least once during the season if at all possible. The tournament formats set out in this Annual Guide shall be applied based upon the number of teams and the decision of the League Commissioner.

Scheduling:

Treasure State League schedule will consist of 8 games plus MAHA Treasure State League Tournament

Minimum rest time: 2 hours from Finish of MAHA League game, until start of next MAHA League game on same day or 12 hours from Finish of MAHA League Game until next start on consecutive days for 14U Girls games.

ALL TEAMS MUST SUBMIT LEAGUE BOND AND TEAM COMMITMENT FORM AT THE ICE SCHEDULING MEETING.

Rescheduling:

ALL TEAMS have until November 15 to make changes to the schedule. These changes will be made by the coach or manager of both teams involved. Commissioner will then be notified of game change. After November 15, the schedule will be set unless approved by Girls Commissioner.

Forfeits:

Unless otherwise specified, forfeit of a game for any reason will disqualify the team from the MAHA Treasure State League and MAHA State Tournament. Forfeiting team's association will be fined \$500.00, payable within 30 days. If fine is not paid within 30 days, the association will be in bad standing with MAHA and USA Hockey. All teams from associations in bad standing with MAHA will be excluded from any further Treasure State League game play. Teams will also forfeit their league bond. Written appeals will be directed to the Age Group Commissioner with the final decision being that of the Treasure State League Commissioner within 10 days of forfeited game. Games will be counted as a win to the non-forfeiting team.

League Tie:

For seeding purposes, league ties will be determined by the same rules as the tournament rules.

Ice Fees:

The home team is responsible for Ice Fees and Referees fees unless other arrangements are decided in advance.

Game Play:

1. Any time there is a 7 goal differential the clock will be set to run-time (clock will be stopped to remove injured player from ice). If the differential becomes less than 7, the clock will be reset to stop-time.
2. The host ice is required to fulfill the league game length requirements or they must forfeit the game and will be fined a minimum of \$250.00.
3. **Girls (both 14U and 19U) play with the Delayed Offsides (Touch-up) rule.**
4. USA Hockey rules apply as minimums. Penalties given may not be less than those specified by USA Hockey.
5. Ice-make after second period is at the discretion of the host association and will be waived with both coaches consent.
6. Rulings made by referees on the ice are final. 14U Girls Commissioner or other game or association officials may not overrule referee decisions.
7. Protests must be lodged with appropriate local officials within 24 hours of their respective incidents and reported in writing to the Treasure State League 14U Girls Commissioner within 48 hours. The Treasure State League 14U Girls Commissioner rulings may be appealed to the Montana Amateur Hockey Association Board of Directors. In such cases, decisions of the Board will be final and may not be further appealed. Rule interpretations of game officials are not proper matters for protest.
8. **Penalty Box Attendants** will be the responsibility of the Home AND Visiting team. This includes all sanctioned festivals, games and tournaments. Examples: Missoula vs Miles City; Missoula will cover their penalty box, Miles City will cover their penalty box
9. **UPDATED RULE 401(b): Any player who incurs four (4) penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct. Any team receiving twelve (12) penalties in a game shall have the head coach ejected for the next game.**

Referee: Two man referee system with three man system for State Championship and Runner-Up games.

Coaching Credentials:

Coaches must follow USA Hockey Coaching Certification guidelines and will obtain the appropriate coaching credential for the age team they are coaching before December 31 of the current season.

Score Sheets:

Game score sheets are not considered valid unless the following items are completed on the sheet. The SCOREKEEPER is ultimately responsible for making sure game sheets are filled out properly and is last to sign the game sheet. Both coaches should verify that the game sheet has been filled out properly.

Game sheets will be tracked by 14U Girls Commissioner and coaches without credentials will be reported to MAHA Coach In Chief. All persons on the bench (limit 4) MUST HAVE PROPER CREDENTIALS for that team. All associations will be using USA Hockey game score sheets and must be filled out appropriately.

1. Signed by both coaches.
2. Signed by referee
3. Signed by scorekeeper
4. Signed by timekeeper
5. Dated with the correct date. (PLEASE SPELL OUT THE MONTH TO AVOID CONFUSION i.e.: September 1, 2011)
6. Division
7. Start and finish times
8. Game number

Each association is required to ELECTRONICALLY send game score sheets to the Division Commissioner immediately after games are played. Original score sheets will be mailed to commissioner on the Monday after games are played. The "home" game team is responsible for turning game score sheet in to association

Rostering:

1. Each coach should have in his possession a copy of the official USA Hockey Team Roster electronically stamped by State Registrar.
2. Players that are not on the official USA Hockey Roster are not allowed to play.
3. A player may be rostered on multiple Division teams for Treasure State League play but must meet the game requirements on each team in order to qualify for State in each Division.
4. All league team rosters are final as of December 31. Changes or additions are allowed only at the commissioner discretion and with a written request.
5. A new player may play down one year in her first season only and this is the only team she is rostered on. (i.e. birth year 2000 girl may play 14U in the 2015-2016 season), Team Manager shall submit her proof of age and eligibility to the Commissioner prior to requesting her name on the team roster for approval.

Any TSL games in which an ineligible player under these rules should participate after December 31 shall be deemed forfeited for purposes of determining the team standings and win/loss record for that year. A game forfeited under these circumstances shall not prevent the team and eligible players from participating in post season TSL tournaments.

Players must play in at least 6 League games (75% of the team's 8-game minimum) to be eligible to play in a League Tournament. Only teams participating in the TSL or predetermined play-off games and registered/rostered through MAHA may advance to the Northern Plains District Tournaments.

Player Waiver:

Any player may request a waiver to the Treasure State League (Age Division Commissioner) in the event he or she fails to meet the minimum number of league games to be eligible for post season play in league tournaments. Such waiver shall be granted only upon showing of undue hardship, sickness, or medical condition, any of which must actually have caused the player to miss the games in question. The final decision as to eligibility shall rest with the League Commissioner after appropriate investigation of the facts and circumstances.

Spectator Fees:

Each association has the right to charge a nominal admission fee to MAHA games. It would be appropriate to notify the incoming team that a fee will be assessed. Assessing an admission fee for the players or coaches is not allowed.

League Bond: Each association shall submit a \$500.00 League Bond for each team that is playing in the treasure State League. Teams that are not registered/rostered with the Montana Amateur Hockey Association will not be allowed to participate in the Treasure State League High School-Varsity division. The League bond, and a MAHA Treasure State League Commitment form is required to attend the MAHA Treasure State League Ice Scheduling Meeting. Four hundred (\$400) dollars of the bond will be used as a deposit towards the MAHA State Tournament.

19U GIRLS DIVISION

The goals of the MAHA 19U Girls League are to encourage growth of Girls' hockey, foster camaraderie between girls and teams in the Treasure State League (TSL), and to cultivate a love of the game.

GAME LENGTH REQUIREMENTS

5 min warm up, 17 min period, 1 min break, 17 min period, ice make, 17 min period = 2 hours

League Format:

The MAHA 19U Girls League will consist of one league with all teams playing each other at least once during the season if at all possible. An East / West league is possible if enough teams participate. The tournament formats set out in this Annual Guide shall be applied based upon the number of teams and the decision of the League Commissioner.

Scheduling:

Treasure State League schedule will consist of 8 league games plus MAHA TSL State Tournament.

Minimum rest time: 4 hours from Finish of MAHA League game, until start of next MAHA League game on same day or 12 hours from Finish of MAHA League Game until next start on consecutive days for 19U Girls games. To facilitate travel and scheduling, a 3 hr / 10 hr format can be approved with mutual consent of both coaches 48 hours in advance.

ALL TEAMS MUST SUBMIT LEAGUE BOND AND TEAM COMMITMENT FORM AT THE ICE SCHEDULING MEETING.

Rescheduling:

ALL TEAMS have until November 15 to make changes to the schedule. These changes will be made by the coach or manager of both teams involved. 19U Girls Commissioner will then be notified of game change. After November 15, the schedule will be set unless approved by 19U Girls Commissioner.

Forfeits:

Unless otherwise specified, forfeit of a game for any reason will disqualify the team from the MAHA Treasure State League and MAHA State Tournament. Forfeiting team's association will be fined \$500.00, payable within 30 days. If fine is not paid within 30 days, the association will be in bad standing with MAHA and USA Hockey. All teams from associations in bad standing with MAHA will be excluded from any further Treasure State League play. Teams will also forfeit their league bond. Written appeals will be directed to the 19U Girls Commissioner with the final decision being that of the Treasure State League Commissioner within 10 days of forfeited game. Games will be counted as a win to the non-forfeiting team.

League Tie:

For seeding purposes, league ties will be determined by the same rules as the tournament rules.

Ice Fees:

The home team is responsible for Ice Fees and Referees fees unless other arrangements are decided in advance.

Game Play:

1. Anytime there is a 7 goal differential, the clock will be set to run-time (clock may be stopped to remove injured player from ice). If the differential becomes less than 7, the clock will be reset to stop time.
2. Ice to be groomed ~~a minimum of every~~ after 2nd period.
3. The host ice is required to fulfill the league game length requirements or they must forfeit the game and will be fined a minimum of \$250.00.
4. USA Hockey rules apply as minimums. Penalties given may not be less than those specified by USA Hockey.
5. Rulings made by referees on the ice are final. Age group directors or other game or association officials may not overrule referee decisions.
6. Protests must be lodged with appropriate local officials within 24 hours of their respective incidents and reported in writing to the Treasure State League 19U Girls Commissioner within 48 hours. The Treasure State League 19U Girls Commissioner rulings may be appealed to the MAHA Board of Directors. In such cases, decisions of the Board will be final and may not be further appealed. Rule interpretations of game officials are not proper matters for protest.
7. **Penalty Box Attendants** will be the responsibility of the Home AND Visiting team. This includes all sanctioned festivals, games and tournaments. Examples: Missoula vs Miles City; Missoula will cover their penalty box, Miles City will cover their penalty box
8. **UPDATED RULE 401(b): Any player who incurs four (4) penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct. Any team receiving twelve (12) penalties in a game shall have the head coach ejected for the next game.**

Referee:

Two man referee system with three man system for State Tournament games.

Coaching Credentials:

Coaches must follow USA Hockey Coaching Certification guidelines and will obtain the appropriate coaching credential for the age team they are coaching before December 31 **of the current season.**

Score Sheets:

Game score sheets are not considered valid unless the following teams are completed on the sheet. The SCOREKEEPER is ultimately responsible for making sure game sheets are filled out properly and is last to sign the game sheet. Both coaches should verify that the game sheet has been filled out properly.

Game sheets will be tracked by 19U Girls Commissioner and coaches without credentials will be reported to MAHA Coach in Chief. All persons on the bench (Limit 4) **MUST HAVE PROPER CREDENTIALS** for that team. All associations will be using USA Hockey game score sheets and must be filled out properly:

1. Signed by both coaches;
2. Signed by referee;
3. Signed by scorekeeper;
4. Signed by timekeeper;
5. Dated with the correct date (PLEASE SPELL OUT THE MONTH TO AVOID CONFUSION i.e.: September 1, 2015);
6. Division;
7. Start and finish times;
8. Game number; and,
9. Each association is required to mail their game score sheets to the MAHA Treasure State League 19U Girls Commissioner within one week after game is played. The “home” game team is responsible for turning game score sheet into association.

Rostering:

1. Each coach should have in his/her possession:
 - a. Copy of the official USA Hockey Team Roster signed by State Registrar.
2. Players not on the official USA Hockey Roster are not allowed to play.
3. A player may be rostered on multiple Division teams for Treasure State League play but must meet the game requirements on each team in order to qualify for State in each Division.
4. All league team rosters are final as of December 31. Changes or additions are allowed only at the commissioner discretion and with a written request.

Any TSL games in which an ineligible player under these rules should participate after December 31 shall be deemed forfeited for purposes of determining the team standings and win/loss record for that year. A game forfeited under these circumstances shall not prevent the team and eligible players from participating in post season TSL tournaments.

Players must play in at least 4 League games (75% of the team's 8-game minimum) to be eligible to play in a League Tournament. Only teams participating in the TSL or predetermined play-off games and registered/rostered through MAHA may advance to the Northern Plains District Tournaments.

Player Waiver:

Any player may request a waiver to the Treasure State League 19U Girls Commissioner in the event she fails to meet the minimum number of league games to be eligible for post season play in league tournaments. Such waiver shall be granted only upon showing of undue hardship, sickness, or medical condition, any of which must actually have caused the player to miss the games in question. The final decision as to eligibility shall rest with the League Commissioner after appropriate investigation of the facts and circumstances.

Spectator Fees:

Each association has the right to charge a nominal admission fee to MAHA games. It would be appropriate to notify the incoming team an admission fee will be assessed. Assessing an admission fee for the players or coaches is not allowed.

League Bond: Each association shall submit a \$500.00 League Bond for each team that is playing in the treasure State League. Teams that are not registered/rostered with the Montana Amateur Hockey Association will not be allowed to participate in the Treasure State League High School-Varsity division. The League bond, and a MAHA Treasure State League Commitment form is required to attend the MAHA Treasure State League Ice Scheduling Meeting. Four hundred (\$400) dollars of the bond will be used as a deposit towards the MAHA State Tournament.

AGE DIVISION COMMISSIONER DUTIES

1. Work with the associations (MAHA Representative) to ensure teams are selected and committed in a timely manner.
2. After associations have committed teams to the Treasure State League, before deadline, work with the Treasure State League Commissioner to formulate game pairings.
3. Attend Pre-Ice Scheduling meeting the Friday before the MAHA Treasure State League Ice Scheduling Meeting.
 - Overview of team placement
 - Discussion of scheduling issues
 - Prepare game pairing sheets to be passed out at the ice scheduling meeting
4. Attend Ice Scheduling meeting and oversee scheduling of games in division.
5. Mediate any problems/issues that arise in division. Make sure the games are played according to schedule, any rescheduling is done properly, and any missed games are made-up in a timely manner. Consult TSL Commissioner for direction in these areas if necessary.
6. Gather and compile game score sheets and publish schedule and standings on the MAHA website and/or Pointstreak system. Check game score sheets for accuracy.
7. Prepare final league standings and submit to MAHA Tournament Director for tournament seeding.
8. Confirm eligibility of all teams participating in the TSL division tournaments.
 - Coaches must have current USAH Certification and age modules for division coaching, current SafeSport and MAHA Background checks
 - Teams must have in their possession: Certified Roster, Code of Conducts
 - Compile rosters, league standings, and any waivers in a binder to be available for review upon request by any coach or manager
9. Attend your division tournament as the Tournament Director/-MAHA-Representative or provide a designated person to do so. If DIVISION HAS SPLIT TOURNAMENTS, COMMISSIONER WILL APPOINT A PERSON TO FILL IN THESE DUTIES.
10. Participate in league management meetings as required.

Tournaments

MAHA TREASURE STATE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT BIDDING PROCESS

1. Bidding Process

- a) MAHA Tournament Application Forms must be completed and submitted to the MAHA Tournament Director Prior to deadline.

2. Selection Process

- a) The Tournament Director will review all applications. Only completed applications will be considered.
- b) If more than one Association qualifies to host the same tournament the following will be used to eliminate one or more associations:
 - Is the Association in good standing with MAHA? (all fees paid)
 - Did the Association host a MAHA tournament last season?
 - Did the Association host *this age division tournament last season? *Refers to the birth year(s) and not necessarily the age division

3. Awarding Process

- At the annual scheduling meeting the Tournament Director will present a summary report of all bids received and a recommendation on awarding the tournaments.
- If, after the above selection process is used, there is still more than one Association qualifying to host a tournament, the applications will be reviewed by the MAHA Board of Directors. Some things to be considered at this point would be the hours that the rink is available, team entry fees, and/or spectator entry fees. (Physical location is NOT a factor! All Associations are members and should have the opportunity to host a State Tournament).
- The MAHA Board will make a motion to approve the final selection of all Tournaments.

The Hosting Association is responsible for:

- Completing, paying and submitting a Tournament Sanction Application and tournament rules to **State Registrar**. A copy of the approved sanction application needs to be mailed to the MAHA Tournament Director.
- Sending a Completed Tournament Bracket and Tournament Budget to the MAHA Tournament Director. This Budget is ONLY for income and expenses related directly to the tournament, team entry fees, MAHA reimbursements, expenses for ice time, referees, awards, etc. These brackets and budgets will be included with next year's Tournament Application Forms to help Associations with their bidding process.

TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION/PLAYING INFORMATION

SANCTION:

All MAHA Treasure State League Tournaments must be USA Hockey Sanctioned. Associations must request a sanction form from their local registrar and submit a completed form with sanction fee back to local registrar. Local association registrar will then forward sanction form to MAHA Registrar.

TEAM FEES:

Each team must mail a team entry check to the host association 14 days prior to the tournament date. Host Tournament Director will notify teams where to mail check. Any bond that has been posted by an appropriate team who is participating in the tournament will be applied to their tournament entry fee and the Host Associations will be reimbursed by MAHA for that portion of the fee. Host Associations are responsible for mailing completed reimbursement form to the MAHA Treasurer for team league bond reimbursement (include all teams participating). Bond Payments will not be sent until the form is received.

SPECTATOR FEES:

Host associations may charge a spectator fee for games played during a state tournament. Hosts may only charge the fee listed on the bid accepted by the MAHA Board.

TEAM CREDENTIALS:

All MAHA State Tournament Directors are required to check team credentials prior to team play. Teams must have in their possession: USA Hockey Consent to Treat form, USA Hockey Certified Player Roster form (stamped by Montana State Registrar). For those teams proceeding on to a district or national championship, there may be additional credential requirements for those tournaments, set out in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:

MAHA Age Division Commissioners are required to participate at their age division state tournaments as Tournament Director and MAHA Representative. They may designate an individual from the host association or a MAHA official to act as Tournament Director.

TOURNAMENT GAME SCHEDULING:

All games must be scheduled to accommodate the MAHA Game rules: 4 hours from finish of MAHA League game, until start of next MAHA League game on same day or 12 hours from finish of MAHA League game until start of next MAHA League game on consecutive days for 12U and above. All MAHA State Tournament Schedules must be approved by the MAHA Age Division Commissioner and MAHA Tournament Director prior to start of the tournament. It is highly recommended that the first games scheduled for any tournament, the closest teams (including home team) to the tournament location play first, no matter if it is A or B divisions.

STATE TOURNAMENTS, EXCESSIVE HOST TEAM DISPLAYS:

Associations hosting Treasure State League State tournaments shall make every effort to ensure that all teams participating have equal opportunity to promotions displays and activities involving the introduction of teams, players and other pre-game displays. Excessive behavior and promotional activity by a host association that by design creates the perception of an unequal playing field or otherwise intimidates an opposing team shall not be allowed unless the other team has an equal opportunity to participate in such activity. Nothing in this shall prevent such behavior at non Treasure State League events.

AWARDS:

Awards will be provided by TSL (MAHA) for 1st and 2nd place at State Tournaments. High School and all Girls divisions will receive a plaque style trophy for 1st and 2nd places. A Championship banner will be also awarded to each respective division with the exception of the 6U/8U. 6U/8U is a recreational age group and awards and banners will not be provided at this level.

TOURNAMENT SHIRTS:

All host associations may provide t-shirts/sweatshirts for purchase during the tournaments. The MAHA logo should be incorporated into the t-shirt design. The MAHA logo can be found on the Montana Amateur Hockey Association website. The logo may be altered slightly to enhance the t-shirt design. All rights to this design are otherwise reserved. Once a design has been determined submit a proof to the MAHA Tournament Director for approval.

PROGRAMS:

Each Host Association must provide a tournament program that includes: Game Schedules, Team Names, and Tournament Rules.

REFEREES:

Fees and Travel Stipends - High School, JV, 16U, 14U and Bantam

16U/14U – 3 man - \$55 referee & \$40 each linesman.

19U Girls – 3 man - \$55 referee & \$40 each linesman

14U Girls – 2 man – local officials rate will be used

High School/Big Sky High School - 4 man- \$75 each referee & \$50 each linesman.

Travel will be paid per mile round trip based on 50% of the current IRS allowable fee. All submissions would be paid upon review within 30 days.

A meal stipend will be issued for up to \$25 for a full day. This will be divided accordingly depending on time of arrival/departure. (Breakfast \$5, Lunch \$6, Dinner \$14).

Fees and Travel Stipends - 12U and below

Local rates will be used for officials fees – This rate should be stated in the bid proposal from the tournament bidders.

Four-man referee system for High School and JV.

Three –man system used for 16U, 14U, Girls 19U

Two man referee system for 14U Girls, 10U and 12U with the option to use a three man system.

Dependent on tournament size and location and with the direction of the State Referee in Chief, associations are responsible for scheduling referees and must bring in a minimum of 3 outside referees for High School, 2 outside referees for 19U Girls, 16U and 14U Boys/Girls to referee ALL tournament games however, local linesmen is strongly encouraged. The host associations are responsible for paying ALL expenses for referees. All Referees are REQUIRED to hold a current USA Hockey Certification.

Officials Eligible for State Tournaments - All officials in the State of Montana would be eligible to officiate in a state tournament based on demonstrated and documented ability and dedication. Officials nominated for tournament selection must have been evaluated in written form at least twice (in the format of the tournament they are seeking selection) during the current season by the State Evaluators. Locale and placement of tournaments would not have a bearing on selection. **All officials from the host area will be eligible to apply for referee positions in the tournament.** All efforts will be made to ensure no more than one official chosen to serve as Referee will be selected from any one of the cities participating in the tournament. Local officials may supplement the traveling officials as linesman. No official may referee a team from their hometown. Every effort possible will be made to ensure no official refereed a game that may have a bearing on a home team placement in tournament standings. *Semi-final and championship games would be scheduled based on performance during the tournament. The quantity of officials brought in from out of town for a tournament will be determined based on availability of local, qualified referee and linesman as determined by the State Supervisor of officials based on the number of teams participating in the tournament, and the length of the tournament.*

10U TOURNAMENT RULES:

1. Tournament will be played under USA Hockey rules unless otherwise specified.
 2. Depending upon the number of teams participating, the tournament formats to be used for these events are set out in this Annual Guide. Host Associations must follow these formats as appropriate. For any seeding purposes or any other determinations as to the placement of teams, the Treasure State League Commissioner will make the final determinations.
 3. No two teams will wear the same color jerseys in a game. Please bring alternate jerseys if available. If there is a conflict, jersey colors will be worked out by tournament officials.
 4. Game times will consist of three 15-minute stop periods. There will be a 1 (one) minute break between the 1st & 2nd periods. If the ice is groomed between the 2nd and 3rd period, there will be a 10-minute ice make between the 2nd & 3rd period. If the ice is NOT groomed, there will be a 5-minute break between the 2nd & 3rd period. There will be a five-minute warm-up before each game. All games will begin with a groomed sheet of ice.
 5. Games must run on time - please refer to USA Hockey Rules 632 and 635. If at any time there is a 7-goal differential the clock will be set to run-time (clock may be stopped to remove an injured player from the ice). If the differential becomes less than 7, the clock will be reset to stop-time again.
 6. **For Penalties** the player shall be ruled off the ice according to League penalty time rules. Any player who incurs four penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct. Any team receiving twelve (12) penalties in a game shall have the head coach ejected for the next game. A match penalty will result in disqualification from the tournament for that individual.
 7. Tie Breakers: During pool:
 - 1) Most points-2 for a win, 0 for a loss, 1 for a tie
 - 2) Head to head, if possible, in some age brackets this may not apply.
 - 3) Total Goals against
 - 4) Total Goals for
 - 5) Penalty minutes.
 - 6) Coin toss.
- For overtime in elimination and championship games:
- 1) 2 five minute stop time golden goal (sudden death) periods. Teams will switch ends after the first overtime period. They will not switch at the end of regulation.
 - 2) Five player shoot-out.
 - 3) Sudden death shoot-out, (using players not used in the five man shoot.) Meaning if one of the next two shooters scores, the game is over. Visiting team shoots first.
8. The tournament rules committee will handle all protests. Protests must be in writing and submitted within 15 minutes of completion of game. A \$25 fee will accompany all protests. If protest is upheld, fee will be returned. The MAHA Age Division Commissioner/Tournament Director shall establish the committee prior to tournament game play.

9. SPORTSMANSHIP: Fighting, Abusive Behavior, or unsportsmanlike conduct by players, team officials, or spectators will not be tolerated, either on or off the ice, and will be grounds for removal from the tournament. The USA Hockey Zero Tolerance policy is in effect. The Referees shall have the option of ending any game should they feel that the player or game officials are endangered. In such a case, the Tournament Director and tournament rules committee will determine the outcome of the game. Any fans using profanity while watching games will be asked to leave.
10. All Referees are REQUIRED to hold USA Hockey Certification. A two or three-man referee system may be used. All team officials must be listed on the score sheet by name and telephone number. Team officials on the players bench must be at least 18 years old and hold the appropriate coaching card.
11. A player may be rostered only once in a Division for Treasure State League play. A skater may be rostered twice for Treasure State League play if he or she is rostered on teams in two divisions, and only if he or she skates up when not skating in his or her own age Division.
12. A credentials meeting to be scheduled by the Tournament Director is required BEFORE GAMES START- each team packet needs to include an **official** team roster (approved by State Registrar), and for each player: a copy of USA Hockey registration, code of conduct and consent to treat.
13. The 4/12 hour between games rule may be waived if necessary with prior approval from the state tournament director.

12U TOURNAMENT RULES:

1. Tournament will be played under USA Hockey rules unless otherwise specified.
2. Depending upon the number of teams participating, the tournament formats to be used for these events are set out in this Annual Guide. Host Associations must follow these formats as appropriate. For any seeding purposes or any other determinations as to the placement of teams, the Treasure State League Commissioner will make the final determinations.
3. No two teams will wear the same color jerseys in a game. Please bring alternate jerseys if available. If there is a conflict, jersey colors will be worked out by tournament officials.
4. Game times will consist of three 15-minute stop periods. There will be a 1 (one) minute break between the 1st & 2nd periods. If the ice is groomed between the 2nd and 3rd period, there will be a 10-minute ice make between the 2nd & 3rd period. **If the ice is groomed after every 2 periods, there will be a 10-minute break and the teams will leave the ice. If this way is chosen, the first game of the day will always start on a fresh groomed sheet of ice. If the tournament decides to groom after every two periods, it will start and finish that way, it will not go back and forth. All teams will be notified of which option is taken prior to start of tournament.**
5. Games must run on time, please refer to USA Hockey Rules 632 and 635. If at any time there is a 7-goal differential the clock will be set to run-time (clock may be stopped to remove an injured player from the ice). If the differential becomes less than 7, the clock will be reset to stop-time again.
6. **For Penalties** the player shall be ruled off the ice according to League penalty time rules. Any player who incurs four penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct. Any team receiving twelve (12) penalties in a game shall have the head coach ejected for the next game. A match penalty will result in disqualification from the tournament for that individual.
7. Tie Breakers: During pool
 - 1) Most points-2 for a win, 0 for a loss, 1 for a tie
 - 2) Head to head, if possible, in some age brackets this may not apply.
 - 3) Total Goals against
 - 4) Total Goals for
 - 5) Penalty minutes.
 - 6) Coin toss.

For overtime in elimination and championship games:

 - 1) 2 five minute stop time golden goal (sudden death) periods. Teams will switch ends after the first overtime period. They will not switch at the end of regulation.
 - 2) Five player shoot-out.
 - 3) Sudden death shoot-out, (using players not used in the five-man shoot.) Meaning, if one of the next two shooters scores, the game is over. Visiting team shoots first.
8. The tournament rules committee will handle all protests. Protests must be in writing and submitted within 15 minutes of completion of game. A \$25 fee will accompany all protests. If protest is upheld, fee will be returned.

The MAHA Age Division Commissioner/Tournament Director shall establish the committee prior to tournament game play.

9. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Fighting, Abusive Behavior, or unsportsmanlike conduct by players, team officials, or spectators will not be tolerated, either on or off the ice, and will be grounds for removal from the tournament. The USA Hockey Zero Tolerance policy is in effect. The Referees shall have the option of ending any game should they feel that the player or game officials are endangered. In such a case, the Tournament Director and Tournament Rules Committee will determine the outcome of the game. Any fans using profanity while watching games will be asked to leave.
10. All Referees are **REQUIRED** to hold USA Hockey Certification. A two or three-man referee system may be used. All team officials must be listed on the score sheet by name and telephone number. Team officials on the players bench must be at least 18 years old and hold the appropriate coaching card.
11. A player may be rostered only once in a Division for Treasure State League play. A skater may be rostered twice for Treasure State League play if he or she is rostered on teams in two divisions, and only if he or she skates up when not skating in his or her own age Division.
12. A credentials meeting to be scheduled by the Tournament Director is required **BEFORE GAMES START**- each team packet needs to include an **official** team roster (approved by State Registrar), and for each player: a copy of USA Hockey registration, along with the player and coach code of conducts.
13. If necessary, the four/twelve hour between games rule may be waived with permission from the state tournament director.

14U & 19U GIRLS TOURNAMENT RULES:

1. Tournament will be played under USA Hockey rules unless otherwise specified.
 2. Depending upon the number of teams participating, the tournament formats to be used for these events are set out in this Annual Guide. Host Associations must follow these formats as appropriate. For any seeding purposes or any other determinations as to the placement of teams, the Treasure State League Commissioner will make the final determinations.
 3. No two teams will wear the same color jerseys in a game. Please bring alternate jerseys if available. If there is a conflict, jersey colors will be worked out by tournament officials.
 4. **14U GIRLS:** Game times will consist of three 15-minute stop periods. There will be a 1 (one) minute break between the 1st & 2nd periods. If the ice is groomed between the 2nd and 3rd period, there will be a 10-minute ice break. If the ice is **NOT** groomed, there will be a 5-minute break between the 2nd & 3rd period. There will be a five-minute warm-up before each game. All games will begin with a groomed sheet of ice.
19U GIRLS: Game times will consist of three 17-minute stop periods. There will be a 1 (one) minute break between the 1st & 2nd periods. There will be a 10-minute ice make between the 2nd & 3rd period. There will be a five-minute warm-up before each game. All games will begin with a groomed sheet of ice.
 5. Games must run on time - please refer to USA Hockey Rules 632 and 635. If at any time there is a 7goal differential the clock will be set to run-time (clock may be stopped to remove an injured player from the ice). If the differential becomes less than 7, the clock will be reset to stop-time again.
 6. **For Penalties** the player shall be ruled off the ice according to League penalty time rules. Any player who incurs four penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct. Any team receiving twelve (12) penalties in a game shall have the head coach ejected for the next game. A match penalty will result in disqualification from the tournament for that individual.
 7. Tie Breakers: During pool:
 - 1) Most points-2 for a win, 0 for a loss, 1 for a tie
 - 2) Head to head, if possible, in some age brackets this may not apply.
 - 3) Total Goals against
 - 4) Total Goals for
 - 5) Penalty minutes.
 - 6) Coin toss.
- For overtime in elimination and championship games:
- 1) 2 five minute stop time golden goal (sudden death) periods. Teams will switch ends after the first overtime period. They will not switch at the end of regulation.
 - 2) Five player shoot-out.
 - 3) Sudden death shoot-out, (using players not used in the five man shoot.) Meaning if one of the next two shooters scores, the game is over. Visiting team shoots first.

8. The tournament rules committee will handle all protests. Protests must be in writing and submitted within 15 minutes of completion of game. A \$25 fee will accompany all protests. If protest is upheld, fee will be returned. The MAHA Age Division Commissioner/Tournament Director shall establish the committee prior to tournament game play.
9. SPORTSMANSHIP: Fighting, Abusive Behavior, or unsportsmanlike conduct by players, team officials, or spectators will not be tolerated, either on or off the ice, and will be grounds for removal from the tournament. The USA Hockey Zero Tolerance policy is in effect. The Referees shall have the option of ending any game should they feel that the player or game officials are endangered. In such a case, the Tournament Director and tournament rules committee will determine the outcome of the game. Any fans using profanity while watching games will be asked to leave.
10. All Referees are REQUIRED to hold USA Hockey Certification. A two (14U Girls) or three-man (19U Girls) referee system is used. All team officials must be listed on the score sheet by name and telephone number. Team officials on the players bench must be at least 18 years old and hold the appropriate coaching card.
11. A player may be rostered only once in a Division for Treasure State League play. A skater may be rostered twice for Treasure State League play if he or she is rostered on teams in two divisions, and only if he or she skates up when not skating in his or her own age Division.
12. A credentials meeting to be scheduled by the Tournament Director is required BEFORE GAMES START- each team packet needs to include an **official** team roster (approved by State Registrar), and for each player: a copy of USA Hockey registration, code of conduct and consent to treat.
13. The 4/12 hour between games rule may be waived if necessary with prior approval from the state tournament director.

14U TOURNAMENT RULES:

1. Tournament will be played under USA Hockey rules unless otherwise specified.
2. Depending upon the number of teams participating, the tournament formats to be used for these events are set out in this Annual Guide. Host Associations must follow these formats as appropriate. For any seeding purposes or any other determinations as to the placement of teams, the Treasure State League Commissioner will make the final determinations.
3. No two teams will wear the same color jerseys. Please bring alternate jerseys if available. If there is a conflict, jersey colors will be worked out by tournament officials.
4. Game times will consist of three 16-minute stop periods. There will be a 1 (one) minute break between the 1st & 2nd periods. There will be a 10-minute ice make between the 2nd & 3rd period. (Games should begin with a groomed sheet of ice). There will be a five-minute warm-up before each game.
5. Games must run on time - please refer to USA Hockey Rules 632 and 635. If at any time there is a 7-goal differential the clock will be set to run-time (clock may be stopped to remove an injured player from the ice). If the differential becomes less than 7, the clock will be reset to stop-time again.
6. **For Penalties** the player shall be ruled off the ice according to League penalty time rules. Any player who incurs four penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct. Any team receiving twelve (12) penalties in a game shall have the head coach ejected for the next game. A match penalty will result in disqualification from the tournament for that individual.
7. Tie Breakers: During pool
 - 1) Most points-2 for a win, 0 for a loss, 1 for a tie
 - 2) Head to head, if possible, in some age brackets this may not apply.
 - 3) Total Goals against
 - 4) Total Goals for
 - 5) Penalty minutes.
 - 6) Coin toss.

For overtime in elimination and championship games:

 - 1) 2 five minute stop time golden goal (sudden death) periods. Teams will switch ends after the first overtime period. They will not switch at the end of regulation.
 - 2) Five player shoot-out.
 - 3) Sudden death shoot-out, (using players not used in the five man shoot.) Meaning, if one of the next two shooters scores, the game is over. Visiting team shoots first.
8. The tournament rules committee will handle all protests. Protests must be in writing and submitted within 15 minutes of completion of game. A \$25 fee will accompany all protests. If protest is upheld, fee will be returned.

The MAHA Age Division Commissioner/Tournament Director shall establish the committee prior to tournament game play.

9. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Fighting, Abusive Behavior, or unsportsmanlike conduct by players, team officials, or spectators will not be tolerated, either on or off the ice, and will be grounds for removal from the tournament. The USA Hockey Zero Tolerance policy is in effect. The Referees shall have the option of ending any game should they feel that the player or game officials are endangered. In such a case, the Tournament Director and Tournament Rules Committee will determine the outcome of the game. Any fans using profanity while watching games will be asked to leave.
10. All Referees are **REQUIRED** to hold USA Hockey Certification. A three-man referee system is required for all games. All team officials must be listed on the score sheet by name and telephone number. Team officials on the players bench must be at least 18 years old and hold the appropriate coaching card.
11. A credentials meeting to be scheduled by the Tournament Director is required **BEFORE GAMES START**- each team packet needs to include an **official** team roster (approved by State Registrar), and for each player: a copy of USA Hockey registration, code of conduct and consent to treat.
12. If necessary, the four/twelve hour between games rule may be waived with permission from the state tournament director.

HIGH SCHOOL/BIG SKY TOURNAMENT PLAYOFF RULES:

1. Games will be played under USA Hockey rules unless otherwise specified.
2. In the event an East West division is established by the Treasure State League, for purposes of High School Varsity league play, the #1 seeded team from the East Division and the #1 seeded team from the West Division, after league play, will automatically advance to the state tournament. The remaining teams in each division will participate in a High School divisional playoff tournament to determine the additional four teams that will advance to the state tournament. The top four teams in the High School divisional state tournament will advance to the state High School championship tournament. A total of 6 teams will then participate in the state championship tournament.
3. No two teams will wear the same color jerseys in a game. Please bring alternate jerseys if available. If there is a conflict, jersey colors will be worked out by tournament officials.
4. Game times will consist of three 18-minute stop periods. There will be a 1 (one) minute break between the 1st & 2nd periods. There will be a 10-minute ice make between the 2nd & 3rd period. (Games should begin with a groomed sheet of ice). There will be a five-minute warm-up before each game.
5. Games must run on time - please refer to USA Hockey Rules 632 and 635. If at any time there is a 7-goal differential the clock will be set to run-time (clock may be stopped to remove an injured player from the ice). If the differential becomes less than 7, the clock will be reset to stop-time again.
6. **For Penalties** the player shall be ruled off the ice according to League penalty time rules. Any player who incurs four penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct. Any team receiving twelve (12) penalties in a game shall have the head coach ejected for the next game. A match penalty will result in disqualification from the tournament for that individual.
7. Tie Breakers: During pool:
 - 1) Most points-2 for a win, 0 for a loss, 1 for a tie
 - 2) Head to head, if possible, in some age brackets this may not apply.
 - 3) Total Goals against
 - 4) Total Goals for
 - 5) Penalty minutes.
 - 6) Coin toss.For overtime in elimination and championship games:
 - 1) 2 five minute stop time golden goal (sudden death) periods. Teams will switch ends after the first overtime period. They will not switch at the end of regulation.
 - 2) Five player shoot-out.
 - 3) Sudden death shoot-out, using players not used in the five man shoot. Meaning, if one of the next two shooters scores, the game is over. Visiting team shoots first.
8. The rules committee will handle all protests. Protests must be in writing and submitted within 15 minutes of completion of game. A \$25 fee will accompany all protests. If protest is upheld, fee will be returned. The MAHA Age Division Commissioner/Tournament Director shall establish the committee prior to tournament game play.

9. SPORTSMANSHIP: Fighting, Abusive Behavior, or unsportsmanlike conduct by players, team officials, or spectators will not be tolerated, either on or off the ice, and will be grounds for removal from the tournament. The USA Hockey Zero Tolerance policy is in effect. The Referees shall have the option of ending any game should they feel that the player or game officials are endangered. In such a case, the Tournament Director and Tournament Rules Committee will determine the outcome of the game. Any fans using profanity while watching games will be asked to leave.
10. All Referees are REQUIRED to hold USA Hockey Certification. A four-man referee system is required. The referee must not be from an association that is playing in that game, unless unforeseen circumstances arise. All team officials must be listed on the score sheet by name and telephone number. Team officials on the players bench must be at least 18 years old and hold the appropriate coaching card.
11. A credentials meeting to be scheduled by the Tournament Director is required BEFORE GAMES START- each team packet needs to include an **official** team roster (approved by State Registrar), and for each player: a copy of USA Hockey registration, code of conduct and consent to treat.
12. The 4/12 hour between games rule may be waived if necessary, but must be approved by the state tournament director.

HIGH SCHOOL/BIG SKY TOURNAMENT RULES:

1. Tournament will be played under USA Hockey rules unless otherwise specified.
2. In the event the High School season format involves eight teams or less, there will be one state championship tournament with all teams participating. In the event a divisional format is necessary due to the number of teams participating, then divisional play will be required and the state tournament will be limited to a maximum of six teams, determined under the High School Varsity play off rules.
3. No two teams will wear the same color jerseys in a game. Please bring alternate jerseys if available. If there is a conflict, jersey colors will be worked out by tournament officials.
4. Game times will consist of three 17-minute stop periods. There will be a 1 (one) minute break between the 1st & 2nd periods. There will be a 10-minute ice make between the 2nd & 3rd period. (Games should begin with a groomed sheet of ice). There will be a five-minute warm-up before each game.
5. Games must run on time - please refer to USA Hockey Rules 632 and 635. If at any time there is a 7-goal differential the clock will be set to run-time (clock may be stopped to remove an injured player from the ice). If the differential becomes less than 7, the clock will be reset to stop-time again.
6. **For Penalties** the player shall be ruled off the ice according to League penalty time rules. Any player who incurs four penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct. Any team receiving twelve (12) penalties in a game shall have the head coach ejected for the next game. A match penalty will result in disqualification from the tournament for that individual.
7. Tie Breakers: During pool:
 - 1) Most points-2 for a win, 0 for a loss, 1 for a tie
 - 2) Head to head, if possible, in some age brackets this may not apply.
 - 3) Total Goals against
 - 4) Total Goals for
 - 5) Penalty minutes.
 - 6) Coin toss.

For overtime in elimination and championship games:

 - 1) 2 five minute stop time golden goal (sudden death) periods. Teams will switch ends after the first overtime period. They will not switch at the end of regulation.
 - 2) Five player shoot-out.
 - 3) Sudden death shoot-out, using players not used in the five man shoot. Meaning, if one of the next two shooters scores, the game is over. Visiting team shoots first.
8. The tournament rules committee will handle all protests. Protests must be in writing and submitted within 15 minutes of completion of game. A \$25 fee will accompany all protests. If protest is upheld, fee will be returned. The MAHA Age Division Commissioner/Tournament Director shall establish the committee prior to tournament game play.
9. SPORTSMANSHIP: Fighting, Abusive Behavior, or unsportsmanlike conduct by players, team officials, or spectators will not be tolerated, either on or off the ice, and will be grounds for removal from the tournament. The USA Hockey Zero Tolerance policy is in effect. The Referees shall have the option of ending any game should they feel that the player or game officials are endangered. In such a case, the Tournament Director

and Tournament Rules Committee will determine the outcome of the game. Any fans using profanity while watching games will be asked to leave.

10. All Referees are REQUIRED to hold USA Hockey Certification. A four-man referee system is required. The referee must not be from an association that is playing in that game, unless unforeseen circumstances arise. All team officials must be listed on the score sheet by name and telephone number. Team officials on the players bench must be at least 18 years old and hold the appropriate coaching card.
11. A credentials meeting to be scheduled by the Tournament Director is required BEFORE GAMES START- each team packet needs to include an **official** team roster (approved by State Registrar), and for each player: a copy of USA Hockey registration, code of conduct and consent to treat.
12. The 4/12 hour between games rule may be waived, if necessary, but must be approved by the state tournament director.

POOL PLAY TOURNAMENT FORMATS

4 TEAM

| | |
|-----------|------------------------|
| POOL PLAY | CHAMPIONSHIPS |
| 1 vs 4 | 1st place vs 2nd place |
| 2 vs 3 | |
| 1 vs 3 | |
| 2 vs 4 | |
| 1 vs 2 | CONSOLATION |
| 3 vs 4 | 3rd place vs 4th place |

Pool play games may occur in any order with two exceptions, the 1st seeded team should play the 4th seeded team and 2nd seeded team should play the 3rd seeded team. These two games may be reversed in order but should be the first two games of the tournament.

Every team will get four games. As you can see, only eight game slots are required. This format could start Saturday morning and be done by Sunday at noon.

5 TEAM

| | | |
|-----------|--------|------------------------|
| POOL PLAY | | |
| 1 vs 5 | 2 vs 3 | |
| 3 vs 1 | 4 vs 5 | Championship |
| 5 vs 3 | 1 vs 2 | 1st place vs 2nd place |
| 2 vs 5 | 3 vs 4 | |
| 4 vs 2 | 4 vs 1 | Consolation |
| | | 3rd place vs 4th place |

These games may occur in any order as time and travel distance permits, with two exceptions: the 1st seeded teams first game should be against the 5th seeded team and the 2nd seeded teams first game should be against the 4th seeded team.

No team will be required to play back to back games. The above pool play listing does not show that, you will have to make these adjustments on your own according to your game slots and rink time. Remember the 4hr. /12hr. Rule.

6 TEAM

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Red Pool | Blue Pool | Cross-over Games |
| 1 | 2 | 1st place Red vs. 2nd place Blue |
| 4 | 3 | 1st place Blue vs. 2nd place Red |
| 6 | 5 | |
| | | Championship |
| Red Pool Games | Blue Pool Games | Winners of cross-over games |
| 1 vs 6 | 2 vs 5 | |
| 1 vs 4 | 2 vs 3 | 3rd Place |
| 4 vs 6 | 3 vs 5 | Losers of cross-over games |
| | | Consolation |
| | | 3rd place Red vs 3rd place Blue |

Pool games may be played in any order as time and travel distance permits, with two exceptions, the 1st seeded team should play the 6th seeded team as their first game and the 2nd seeded team should play the 5th seeded team as their first game.

No team will have to play back to back games. You will need to adjust your games slots accordingly to insure this does not happen.

Every team is provided with three games minimum according to MAHA rules, hence the third games as shown above.

7 TEAM

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---|
| Red Pool | Blue Pool | Cross-over Games |
| 1 | 2 | 1st place Red vs. 2nd place Blue |
| 4 | 3 | 1st place Blue vs. 2nd place Red |
| 7 | 5 | |
| | 6 | |
| | | Championship |
| Red Pool Games | Blue Pool Games | Winners of cross-over games |
| 1 vs 7 | 2 vs 6 | |
| 7 vs 4 | 5 vs 3 | 3rd Place |
| 4 vs 1 | 6 vs 5 | Losers of cross-over games |
| | 3 vs 2 | |
| | 2 vs 5 | Consolation |
| | 3 vs 6 | 4 th place blue vs 3 rd Place Red. (loser is 7 th place) |
| | | Winner plays 3 rd Place Blue for 5 th & 6 th place |

Pool games may be played in any order as time and travel distance permits, with two exceptions, the 1st seeded team should play the 7th seeded team as their first game and the 2nd seeded team should play the 6th seeded team as their first game. **No** team will have to play back to back games. You will need to adjust your games slots accordingly to insure this does not happen. Every team is provided with three games minimum according to MAHA rules, hence the third games as shown above.

8 TEAM

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| Red Pool | Blue Pool |
| 1 | 2 |
| 4 | 3 |
| 6 | 5 |
| 8 | 7 |

Cross-over Games
 1st place Red vs. 2nd place Blue
 1st place Blue vs. 2nd place Red

Championship
 Winners of cross-over games

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Red Pool Games | Blue Pool Games |
| 1 vs. 8 | 2 vs. 7 |
| 4 vs. 6 | 3 vs. 5 |
| 6 vs. 1 | 5 vs. 2 |
| 8 vs. 4 | 7 vs. 3 |
| 1 vs. 4 | 2 vs. 3 |
| 6 vs. 8 | 5 vs. 7 |

Consolation
 Losers of cross-over games

Pool games may be played in any order as time and travel distance permits, with two exceptions. The first two games in each pool should occur as designated above with respect to opponents, they can, however occur in any order.

No team will have to play back to back games. You will need to adjust your games slots accordingly to insure this does not happen.

9 TEAM

Round 1:

| <u>Red Pool</u> | <u>Blue Pool</u> | <u>White Pool</u> |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Seeds 1, 6, 9 | Seeds 2, 5, 8 | Seeds 3, 4, 7 |
| 1 vs 9 | 2 vs 8 | 3 vs 7 |
| 6 vs 9 | 5 vs 8 | 4 vs 7 |
| 6 vs 1 | 5 vs 2 | 4 vs 3 |

Round 2:

| <u>A Pool</u> | <u>B Pool</u> | <u>C Pool</u> |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Seeds R1, B2, W3 | Seeds B1, W2, R3 | Seeds W1, R2, B3 |
| R1 vs B2 | B1 vs W2 | W1 vs R2 |
| 3 vs B2 | R3 vs W2 | B3 vs R2 |
| W3 vs R1 | R3 vs B1 | B3 vs W1 |

Consolation

3rd in points in Pool Play vs 3rd in Points in Pool Play

Championship

1st in points in Pool Play vs 2nd in Points in Pool Play

Pool games may be played in any order as time and travel distance permits, with two exceptions, the 1st seeded team should play the 9th seeded team as their first game and the 2nd seeded team should play the 8th seeded team as their first game.

No team will have to play back to back games. You will need to adjust your games slots accordingly to insure this does not happen

10 TEAM

Red Pool

1
4
6
8
10

Blue Pool

2
3
5
7
9

Each team will play four preliminary games, against each team in their pool. This will require 20 game slots before the championship rounds. After Pool Play is completed, teams will be ranked one through five in each bracket. For the semi-finals, Red 1 will play Blue 2, and Blue 1 will play Red 2. Winners will play for the championship; losers will play for third place. This format will need 24 total game slots.

Cross-over Games

1st place Red vs. 2nd place Blue
1st place Blue vs. 2nd place Red

Championship

Winners of cross-over games

3rd Place

Losers of cross-over games.

*This many teams may require a tournament to start on a Wednesday or Thursday.

*If there is a tie in regular season standings, use the state tournament pool tie breaker format.

Pool games may be played in any order as time and travel distance permits, with two exceptions. The top seeded team should play #10 as their first game and #2 should play #9 as their first game. These two games can occur in any order. **No** team will have to play back-to-back games, so schedule accordingly.

Administrative Contacts

MONTANA AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President

Traver McLeod
travermt@gmail.com

Vice President

Jason Kindseth
jandkinmt@msn.com

Treasurer

Karen Young
karenandtodd@msn.com

Secretary

Connie Murphree
mcamurphree@msn.com

USA HOCKEY VOLUNTEERS

Registrar

Chandra Picicci
Billings
406-855-2516
maha00registrar@gmail.com

Coach in Chief

Pete Kamman
Bozeman, MT
406-600-6537
petekamman@gmail.com

Referee in Chief

Jason Manning
406-490-2277
mthockeyman12@gmail.com

Grow the Game

Russ Barnett
406-942-0039
lineman70@live.com

Safe Sport Director/Risk Manager

Kari Riley
406-945-4291
mahasafesport@yahoo.com

Youth GDC

Ryan Riley
406-945-2866
mtpdriley@gmail.com

ADM Director

Brian Stinson
406-839-6228
Brianstinson4@gmail.com

Girls GDC

Lisa Prescott
406-570-5196
lisa.b.prescott@gmail.com

TREASURE STATE LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS

LEAGUE COMMISSIONER

Todd Young
toddyoung831@yahoo.com
406-861-1800

10U Commissioner

Angela Toldness
angtoad@yahoo.com

14U Commissioner

Danny Blowers
Cell: 406 370-1434
luv2fshmt@yahoo.com

12U Commissioner
Colleen Schiele
colleen.schiele@yahoo.com

High School Commissioner/Big Sky High School
Carin Barnett
406-942-0039
3mtmom@nemont.net

GIRLS Commissioner
Chris Herring
conradgrain@hotmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & SECTION DIRECTORS

Youth Player Development

Mike Wilkinson
406-570-6638
Mwilkie8@gmail.com

Girls Player Development

Annie Petschauer
651-341-9625
ampetschauer@gmail.com

Adult Section

Barry Brownlee
rbbrownlee@gmail.com

Tournament Director

Kate Leonberger
mslahockey@gmail.com

Billings Rep

Bozeman Rep

Dave Weaver
814-312-3606
dweaver@bozemanhockey.com

Butte Rep

Matt Enrooth
406-533-9094
mcenrooth@gmail.com

Great Falls Rep

Brian Elliott
406-781-3016
elliott.brian26@gmail.com

Havre Rep

Barry Brownlee
678-697-4192
rbbrownlee@gmail.com

Helena Rep

Al Swanson
406-439-6397
al@alswanson.com

Hi-Line (Glasgow) Rep

Russ Barnett
406-942-0039
Lineman70@live.com

Kalispell Rep

Dustin Zuffelato
406-897-4008
dzuff9@yahoo.com

Miles City Rep

Rick Lang
406-853-1394
rlanginmt@yahoo.com

Missoula Rep

Grace Hoene
612-384-5108
grace@glaciericerink.com

Whitefish Rep

Ryan Ulvin
406-261-7210
ryanulvin@hotmail.com

Kari Riley (see above)

ADDENDUMS

A. USA Hockey Bylaw 10

B. CO2 Recommendations

All forms can be found on our website under the publications tab.

ADDENDUM A

USA Hockey Bylaw 10

Hearings shall be conducted according to the rules of USA Hockey and as set out in its Annual Guide. A summary of the USA Hockey Bylaw 10 Procedures for Suspension and Discipline of Members follows. **This is a summary only.** and specific reference should be made to Bylaw 10 of the USA Hockey Annual Guide for any specific information.

Main Principles of USA Hockey Disciplinary Procedures

A. Hearings

In nearly all cases a suspension should not be imposed until *after* a party has been afforded a right to a hearing pursuant to Bylaw 10.c.

Hearings under Bylaw 10.C have certain requirements:

1. **Hearing Committee:** The hearing committee must be at least 3 reasonably disinterested and impartial persons;
2. **Offer of Hearing:** The hearing committee must offer to hold a hearing within 30 days of (i) the demand for hearing or (ii) notification of completion of an appropriate investigation into the facts giving rise to the suspension (but should not be longer than 60 days after receipt of demand for a hearing);
3. **Notice of Hearing:** The hearing committee must provide at least 7 days' notice of the hearing;
4. **Suspension Remains in Effect:** Any existing suspension remains in effect until the decision of the hearing committee is rendered;
5. **Location:** The hearing must be in a location that is accessible to the suspended party and the parties proposing the suspension;
6. **Hearing Requirements:** A fair hearing is required, including:
 - a) Reasonable notice of the grounds for the proposed suspension, but any grounds supported by the evidence presented may be considered in reaching a decision;
 - b) Notice of the possible consequences of an adverse finding;
 - c) A reasonable opportunity to present their case and argument;
 - d) The ability to have counsel present (provided that, the hearing committee may set the rules for such participation); and
 - e) The appeal procedure when a decision is rendered;
7. **Hearing Rules:** The hearing committee may decide the level of formality for the hearing, may hear any evidence it believes is relevant, may place limits on time, evidence and documentation, may have witnesses and/or written statements and may establish other hearing rules so long as each party is treated substantially equal.
8. **Burden of Proof:** The party proposing the suspension must establish the facts and the violation of rules or bylaws by a preponderance of evidence (*i.e.*, more likely true than not true).
9. **Decision Deadlines:** The hearing committee must use reasonable efforts to render a decision within 5 business days of the hearing, and prepare and deliver a written decision within 15 business days of the hearing.
10. **Decision Contents:** The written decision must contain (i) findings of material facts (*i.e.*, the committee finds that the following occurred), (ii) conclusions (*i.e.*, based upon the facts above, the committee concludes that the person violated Bylaw **), and (iii) the order of the committee (based upon the conclusions above, the committee hereby orders the following suspension . . .).
11. **Scope of Suspension:** Any suspension imposed is only valid with respect to the jurisdiction of the suspending authority (*e.g.*, a local program may only suspend within its program and an affiliate may only suspend a party from participation within their affiliate) provided that a local association may request that the affiliate honor the suspension throughout the affiliate, and an affiliate may request that USA Hockey honor the suspension throughout USA Hockey's jurisdiction.

B. Suspension Prior to Hearing.

1. There are *very few situations* that allow USA Hockey, or any Affiliate, local league or organization,

- Council, Committee or Section, to suspend a Member without providing a hearing *prior* to the suspension.
2. The *limited circumstances* where a suspension may be imposed prior to a hearing are:
 - a) Playing Rules Suspensions (suspensions where a playing rule expressly permits the suspension – if the suspension is a result of a Match Penalty, a playing rule hearing is required pursuant to Bylaw 10.D);
 - b) Officiating Suspensions (a state association or USA Hockey league or local supervisor may suspend a referee for up to 10 days, and a state association or Affiliate may suspend a referee pursuant to the summary suspension procedures below);
 - c) Assault of a Game Official (an immediate suspension occurs if a match penalty is assessed under Rule 601(g)1 or 601(j)1, with a playing rule hearing under Bylaw 10.D); and
 - d) Summary Suspensions (are permitted “ . . . only in those cases where a participant has been assaulted, or subject to physical or sexual abuse as described in the policies of USA Hockey, or other violations of USA Hockey policies as set out in the Annual Guide, or the affiliates’ comparable policies, that have been reviewed, and approved by USA Hockey . . .”).
 1. Although the language allowing Summary Suspensions for “violations of USA Hockey policies as set out in the Annual Guide, or the affiliates’ comparable policies”, may be interpreted broadly, it is intended that situations calling for suspension prior to a hearing are the exception rather than the rule and hence they should not be overused.
 2. An Affiliate or local league or organization may not issue a Summary Suspension unless the Affiliate’s bylaws, rules or regulations provide for such a suspension.
 3. USA Hockey Bylaw 10.C (2) (d) requires only 7 days’ notice prior to a hearing. Only extreme cases should rise to the level where a suspension cannot wait for 7 days to conduct a hearing. Although a party may try to delay a hearing, a suspending party would be within their authority to impose a suspension if the notified party did not appear at a properly called hearing (they would then have a right to appeal).
 4. If a Summary Suspension is imposed, the suspended party must be provided a written notice of their right to request a hearing. If the party requests a hearing in writing within 7 days of the notice, they must be provided a hearing pursuant to the provisions of Bylaw 10.C.

C. Appeals

1. Any person suspended may appeal that suspension after the hearing or failure to have a hearing.
2. The Appeal Authority for Playing Rules Suspensions and suspensions for violations of Bylaws or rules of local, league, affiliate or district organizations is either (a) the entire Board of a state association, (b) the entire Board of an Affiliate, or (c) a designated committee of a state association or Affiliate.
3. The Appeal Authority for suspensions of referees by a state association or local supervisor is the Affiliate, and the Appeal Authority for suspensions of a referee by an Affiliate is a committee comprised of the District RIC, the Affiliate President and a third person named by those two people.
4. The Appeal Authority for Council decisions is the USA Hockey Executive Committee.
5. The Appeal Authority for suspensions involving Juniors is the Junior Council.
6. The Executive Committee of USA Hockey may allow an appeal of a suspension if there is shown to be a gross abuse of discretion.
7. Any suspension shall be in force and effect until it expires or the Appeal Authority modifies it.
8. Appeals must be handled pursuant to certain procedures:
 - a) The Appealing Party must provide a written Notice of Appeal to the suspending Authority and Appeal Authority within 10 days from receipt of the decision from the hearing body or the date of the failure to have a hearing, and if the Notice of Appeal is not delivered within the ten (10) day period, the suspension is final;
 - b) The Appealing Party must submit a Statement of Appeal, describing why the suspension should be overruled or reversed, within 30 days of the date of the decision appealed from. The Suspending Authority shall have 20 days from receipt of the Statement of Appeal to respond;
 - c) The Appeal Authority may hold a hearing or may choose to consider the appeal on the written submissions of the parties. The Appeal Authority may establish other hearing rules so long as each

- party is treated substantially equal.
- d) Only the evidence and theories explicitly presented to the Suspending Authority may be presented or considered in appeal;
 - e) The Appeal Authority must use every reasonable effort to decide the appeal within 10 days from the submissions to it, but not to exceed 15 days; and
 - f) The Appeal Authority may affirm, reverse or modify (including increase or decrease) any decision as it deems proper under the circumstances.

State associations must abide by the procedures set forth in Bylaw 10 when imposing suspensions or other discipline. The association should have a committee, or persons that could be named to serve on a committee, in order to ensure that there are at least 3 reasonably disinterested and impartial persons hearing each matter.

ADDENDUM B

It is the recommendation from the MAHA Board that all local associations look to put policies and procedures in place for the monitoring of Carbon Monoxide within their rinks. The MAHA Board recommends that the rules found in the Minnesota Department of Health Summary of Ice Arena Rules be a guideline for Montana ice rinks to follow. This information can be found on the MAHA website under the Safety tab.