

PAHL TEAM MANAGER UPDATE

2122.005



2021-25 USA HOCKEY PLAYING RULE CHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

The USAH Rule Book is updated every 4 seasons. This summer was the most recent update. Rule changes will take effect for the 2021-22 season and run through the end of the 2024-25 season.

The 2021-25 USA Hockey Playing Rules and related resources can be found at <https://www.usahockey.com/rulesandresources>.

Below is a summary of key changes. Refer to the rulebook for all other changes, which are highlighted in the book in gray.

MAXIMUM PENALTIES (rule 401, page 33)

Changes the 5/15 rule to 4/12. Players will be assessed a game misconduct after achieving 4 penalties in the same game. A coach will be assessed a game suspension after the team achieves 12 or more penalties in the same game.

SERVING A SUSPENSION (rule 401, page 33)

Rule 401(c) was added to define what a player or team official who is suspended cannot do starting 45 minutes before and continuing for 30 minutes after a game.

MINOR PENALTIES (rule 402, page 34)

Establishes a shorter minor penalty length to 1 minute for games with periods of 12 minutes or less, 1 ½ minutes for games with periods more than 12 but less than 17 minutes, and 2 minutes for games with periods 17 minutes or more.

NOTE: There was also an “option for Districts to waive this change for ages 14U and up.” The Mid Am District has approved the waiver so for PAHL game play all 12U and 10U games will use a 1 minute minor penalty length, and all other age divisions will continue to use a 2 minute minor penalty length.

MAJOR PENALTIES, MISCONDUCTS, MATCH (rules 403, 404, 405, pages 35-38)

Option for Districts to reduce the length of these penalties along the same lines as the Minor Penalty reductions.

The Mid Am District has authorized the continuation of the same penalty lengths for these infractions as past seasons, so for PAHL game play for all age groups the lengths of these penalties will remain the same. (I.E. Major penalties will be 5 minutes in duration. Misconduct penalties will be 10 minutes in duration. Match Penalties will continue to be assessed as 10 minutes on the score sheet.)

FACE OFF LOCATION AFTER A PENALTY CALL (rule 409, page 43, rule 612(b), page 68)

Establishes the face off to occur in the defending zone when a team is short-handed as a result of the penalties called.

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COACH PROGRESSIVE PENALTY (rule 411, page 45)

A progressive penalty was added for a coach who gets a second penalty under Rule 601 in the same season. This rule adds an additional 3 game suspension in additions to the penalty received under 601, resulting in a 4 or more game suspension.

ABUSE OF OFFICIALS / OTHER MISCONDUCTS (rule 601, page 57)

601(b)(5) adds a bench minor penalty for banging the boards after a body check. 601(c) provides additional categories for the misconduct penalty when a player bangs the boards or glass (not in protest of an official's call). 601(d)(3) defines banging the boards or glass in protest to an official's call as a game misconduct.

HATEFUL LANGUAGE (rule 601, page 60)

Rule 601(e)(3) defines hateful and discriminatory language as a match penalty. Calling someone a retard or a homophobic term is defined by the officials as hateful language.

RECKLESSLY ENDANGER (rule 602, page 60)

Changes in rule 602 introduces the term "Reckless Endangers". This term will replace "injures" and/or "attempts to injure" in many of the playing rules. This will change the criteria of a major and a game misconduct in many of the rules to "Recklessly Endangers". This the official does not need to establish an injury occurred to call a major and a game.

BODY CHECKING (rule 604, page 61)

Rule 604 defines the change of the goal of a body check to "gain possession of the puck", not to "separate the player from the puck". Changes in terms in the glossary have defined when a player is eligible to be body checked based on the level of involvement with the puck.

1st level – contact with the puck – player not eligible to be body checked

2nd level – possession of the puck – player not eligible to be body checked

3rd level – control of the puck – player is eligible to be body checked

Further definitions of "Competitive Contact" and "Body Checking" in this rule and the glossary.

ICING (rule 624, page 79)

Change in rule 624(b)(1) eliminates all youth levels to this rule exemption icing. This rule in the past has been played at the younger age groups. This rule now only gives the exemption to high school and adult.

OFFSIDES (rule 630, page 84)

Change in rule 630(d) eliminates all youth levels to this rule. Immediate offsides will be called for all youth age groups. High School and adult will continue to play tag up offsides as defined by the rule.