

5.0 Discipline

5.1 Disciplinary Committee – The AAHA Board of Directors shall annually appoint one (1) AAHA Disciplinary Committee (DC). They will operate in Phoenix, Arizona to be chaired by the AAHA appointed Chair. The Committee, through its Chair, is **directly solely** responsible to the Board of Directors of AAHA in performing its functions. The DC will be comprised of no less than members of 3 Member Organizations. It is advisable to have additional committee members without Member Organization affiliations.

5.1.1 DC decisions may be made by as few as three (3) of the members if there are abstentions, absences, or conflicts of interest. DC actions and decisions are based on a simple majority vote. In situations in which a tie vote is possible, a vote by the Chair will be reserved and occur only as a tiebreaker. The Chair may note conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest and excuse him/herself or request another member of the **FV DC** to excuse him/herself from the proceedings in which the conflicts or appearance of conflict is thought to occur. The Chair, as necessary to compensate for abstaining or absent members and conflict of interest exclusions for the time being, will appoint members. The Vice-Chair will serve as Chair should the appointed Chair be absent, or in a conflict situation. The DC will notify the Member Organization to which the player(s) belong in writing via email of the action taken by the DC within three (3) business days after the meeting.

5.1.2 The general business of the DC is to be conducted in open session, **telephonic or digital technology such as Zoom.** **g**General business conduct by telephonic communications is to be available to the public upon request. Any hearing involving a discipline or other similar action of a confidential or quasi-confidential or personal nature shall be conducted in a closed session with those present being members of the DC and:

1. The person against whom an action is being considered (including a parent or designated guardian **who must be present with a minor** and/or coach for players); and/or
2. Designated representative(s) of the team or Member Organization against whom an action is directed: and/or
3. The aggrieved people, including parents or designated guardians **who must be present with a minor** and/or coach for players, team or Member Organization involved: and/or
4. Individuals providing testimony in such proceeding shall appear in the proceeding alone and be excused

after providing testimony. Any discovery or allegation by an individual shall be presented in writing to the DC. Accusations in writing must be presented 48 hours following the incident with sources of the accusation identified in documentation. The Chair will only enter evidence and testimony into the record if sources are identified and content deemed pertinent to the Hearing. The Chair may accept documentation at a later date based on hearing schedule and discovery.

5.1.3 The deliberations of the DC in session will be duly recorded and a written copy of same will be provided to the AAHA President no later than the next regular meeting of the AAHA Board of Directors.

5.1.4 ~~USA Hockey rules notwithstanding, AAHA has determined that the running of the 30-day time limit for holding a required hearing shall commence upon a receipt by the DC of the officially transmitted written incident report. An official hearing may occur after the expiration of the 30-day time frame for the convenience of the DC and/or penalized individual so long as the initial scheduling occurs within the stated 30-day time frame.~~

A player or team official incurring a match penalty shall be suspended from participating in any USA Hockey games and practices until the case/hearing has been conducted and any additional suspension has been determined by the AAHA Disciplinary Committee. A hearing shall be offered (including any further disciplinary action) within 30 days of the incident ("30-day period") together with a decision in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10D (Suspension Hearings/Domestic Competition Playing Rules). If extenuating circumstances prevent conducting of the hearing within the 30-day period, the player or team official shall be automatically reinstated after the 30-day period. The failure to offer the hearing shall not prohibit the AAHA Disciplinary Committee from conducting the hearing after the 30-day period and imposing further disciplinary action.

5.1.5 DC actions can be initiated by:

1. Notice to the Chair of an infraction of USAH or AAHA rules that require match penalty, by a referee or an appropriate designated tournament official, in writing, or verbally followed by an annotated score sheet or other appropriate written notice
2. A request from the AAHA President

5.1.6 The DC will respond/act on any such notification at its next regularly scheduled meeting or as soon thereafter as all pertinent materials and persons involved in the issue at hand can be assembled.

- 5.1.7 Scheduled meetings of the DC: - It is anticipated that the DC will not need to have a regularly posted schedule for hearings on match penalties. Even though the rules of USA Hockey provide a thirty (30) day window for scheduling hearings, the DC will make every attempt to schedule the hearing in a timely manner. In most cases when a match penalty occurs, a hearing will be scheduled within fourteen (14) days of when the match penalty is reported to the Disciplinary Chair. The AAHA President, Board of Directors, or Chair may call an ad hoc meeting for specific issues at any other time during the full calendar year.
- 5.1.8 Appeal Procedures – Any person or team that considers himself/herself aggrieved by sanctions imposed by the DC may appeal that decision to the AAHA Board of Directors. The AAHA President must receive written appeals of a decision or action of the DC within fifteen (15) days of notification of the decision of the DC (or on Monday following the fifteenth (15th) day if that day is Friday) for consideration. Such appeal must be accompanied by all written documentation from the original proceeding. A check or money order in the amount of \$250 shall accompany the appeal. Check or money order is to be made out to AAHA. The AAHA Executive Committee will determine whether the appeal will be presented to the Appeal Committee (made up of three disinterested Directors on the AAHA Board) and/or the full Board for reconsideration, and will be responsible for all appeal proceedings and actions. The Appeal Committee shall render its decision within a reasonable period thereafter.
- 5.1.9 DC actions and decisions will be based on USA Hockey published rules and regulations, AAHA Hockey rules and regulations, specific tournament rules and regulations, and generally accepted policies for implementation of all such rules and regulations.
- 5.1.10 The Appeal Committee may affirm or vacate the original penalty imposed by the DC and/or the Member Organization Board
- 5.1.11 A person or team that wins their appeal will be refunded the \$250 appeal fee. A win is considered when the appeal reduces the suspension in any amount of games or time.
- 5.2 Penalty Enforcement
- 5.2.1 The Member Organizations, teams, coaches and other team officials are responsible for ensuring that all game misconducts incurred are served at the next game in accordance with USA Hockey and if applicable, league or tournament rules. This includes any games that are played outside the AAHA boundaries.

- 5.2.2 Match Penalties – Match penalties shall be reported by the referee in a written report to the Local Area Officiating Supervisor who shall report to the Referee-In-Chief, AAHA President, and to the AAHA Disciplinary Committee (DC). Any player or team official receiving such a penalty shall be suspended from any further USA Hockey sanctioned games or practices until the AAHA DC determines the appropriate penalty disposition for the infraction.
- 5.2.3 All match penalties must be referred to the AAHA DC for referral and advice. In no circumstances will the penalized player/coach be allowed on the ice, on the bench, in the locker room, or to practice with the team during the suspension period. Therefore, any suspension will be “total” during the suspension period. All Member Organizations should advise their coaching staffs of USA Hockey playing rule 405C, the circumvention of which will be dealt with severely by the AAHA DC.
- 5.2.4 Any suspension imposed by the local organization, team or league shall be served separate and apart from any suspension assessed by the AAHA Disciplinary Committee.

The chart below is a guideline only for the committee when deciding what suspensions to assess.

Rule	Infraction	No of Months	No of Games
601(e)(3)	Uses language that is offensive, hateful or discriminatory in nature anywhere in the rink before, during or after the game	1-3 Note 1,2	3-10 Notes 1,2
601(f)(1)	Attempt to injure official	6-12 Note 1	N/A
601(f)(2)	Attempt to injure Team Official	6-12 Notes 1,2	N/A
601(f)(3)	Conduct detrimental to the game	1-3 Notes 1,2	3-10 Notes 1,2
602(a)	Attempt to injure an opponent	1-2 Notes 1,2	3-10 Notes 1,2
602(a)	Deliberate injury to an opponent	1-4 Notes 1,2	5-10 Notes 1,2
603 (c)	Boarding	1-4 Notes 1,2	5-10 Notes 1,2
606(b)	Butt Ending	1-4 Notes 1,2	3-10 Notes 1,2
607 (e)	Charging	1-2 Notes 1,2	3-10 Notes 1,2

608(c)	Checking from Behind	1-4 Notes 1,2	3-10 Notes 1,2
615(c)	Deliberately removing helmet during altercation	1-2 Notes 1,2	3-10 Notes 1,2
619(b)	Head Butting (602a)	1-2 Notes 1,2	5-12 Notes 1,2
620(c)	Head Contact (602a)	1-2 Notes 1,2	5-12 Notes 1,2
622(c)	Holding/Grabbing Facemask (602a)	1-2 Notes 1,2	3-10 Notes 1,2
627(b)	Kicking an opponent	1-4 Notes 1,2	5-12 Notes 1,2
633(a)(b)	Coaches refusing to start play or come on ice	1-3 Notes 1,2	5-10 Notes 1,2
634(c)	Slashing/swing stick during altercation (602a)	1-3 Notes 1,2	3-12 Notes 1,2
635(b)	Spearing (603a)	1-2 Notes 1,2	3-10 Notes 1,2
End of Year	Any Match Penalty that is not successfully appealed that cannot be served in its entirety in the hockey season (August 1-July 31) in which it was assessed will carry forward to the following season for completion or implementation regardless of any change in USA affiliate by the penalized player		
Note 1	One (1) year probation beginning at date of infraction		
Note 2	Credit is awarded for time served		
Other	Hearing will be heard after proper notification, with or without the presences of the accused. If requested by the DC, referee attendance is mandatory. However, every effort will be made to resolve the issue based on the referee's statement.		