

NORTH DAKOTA AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Initially Adopted: July 29, 1954 - Adopted as Amended: September 29, 2023

SECTION I – ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE I: ADMINISTRATION

- A.** These Rules and Regulations are designed and arranged to explain and implement the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION and the BYLAWS of the NDAHA.
- B.** Rules and Regulations may be adopted or amended only at the NDAHA Annual Spring Meeting of the Board of Directors of the NDAHA. Changes to the Rules and Regulations proposed for any other meeting of the Board of Directors requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ (75%) majority vote of the directors present to be placed on the agenda unless the issue was tabled from a previous Annual Spring Meeting from where it can be moved to the agenda by a motion and vote to bring it to the floor. Proposed changes to the Rules and Regulations must be distributed to the Secretary of the NDAHA at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting with dissemination to the Board of Directors at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting date.
- C.** Rules and Regulations may be adopted or amended upon receiving the votes of a majority of the members present of the Board of Directors, provided a quorum has been established.
- D.** Conduct of business will be in compliance with Robert's Rules of Order and the Bylaws of the NDAHA.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP – REGISTRATION – ROSTERS

A. MEMBERSHIP

- 1. MEMBERSHIP:** Membership in the North Dakota Amateur Hockey Association, NDAHA, is defined as a USA Hockey, Inc. registered participant that is a member of a local affiliate organization that is registered and in good standing with the NDAHA and USA Hockey, Inc.
- 2. MEMBERSHIP VOTING REPRESENTATIVES:** Membership Voting Representative is defined as that individual designated by the Local Affiliate Organization to speak for and to cast votes equal to the number of USA Hockey, Inc./NDAHA registered participants in the organization.
- 3. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN THE NDAHA:** Associate membership shall be comprised of a hockey organization not competing in NDAHA competition: any individual, group, association, business, or firm interested in ice hockey and desiring membership in the NDAHA. Membership may be obtained from the Secretary of the NDAHA. An associate member will not be entitled to voting rights on any matters.

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4. **LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP:** All member leagues of the NDAHA must be members in good standing of USA Hockey, Inc. Each independent league (not authorized by or sponsored by the NDAHA) shall file with the Secretary of the NDAHA a copy of its Bylaws certified to by its membership's President and Secretary immediately after adoption by the league.

B. REGISTRATION

1. **TEAM REGISTRATION:** Teams must be registered with both NDAHA and USA Hockey, Inc. before playing their first game. Any team not registered with the ND Associate Registrar before playing their first game will not be eligible for State, Regional, or National Tournament play. The ND Associate Registrar will send the prescribed fees to the ND Treasurer and the USA Hockey, Inc. District Registrar.
2. **PLAYER REGISTRATION:** Each player must be registered with the NDAHA and USA Hockey, Inc. before playing in his/her first game. If a player's registration is not received by the ND Associate Registrar before his/her first game, the player will not be eligible for State, Regional, and National Tournament play. The ND Associate Registrar will send the prescribed fees to the NDAHA Treasurer and USA Hockey, Inc. Late registration of a player will be handled on a case-by-case basis with the ND Associate Registrar and District Directors.
3. **DUAL REGISTRATION:** No player shall be registered with two or more NDAHA or USA Hockey, Inc. teams at the same time regardless of league classification. As allowed by USA Hockey, Inc., a female player may register and play on a Youth team and a Girls/Women's team at the same time to encourage growth and development of the Girls/Women's programs. Any team using a player registered with another NDAHA or USA Hockey, Inc., team, except as provided in city leagues, shall be declared ineligible for State Tournament play. Exceptions to this rule will be under the jurisdiction and decision of the District Directors of the districts involved, with the right of appeal as granted in the NDAHA Bylaws.

C. ROSTERS

1. **TEAM ROSTERS:** The ND Associate Registrar must receive the team's official roster before that team participates in any game. If the official roster is not received by the ND Associate Registrar prior to the first game, the team will not be eligible for State, Regional, or National Tournament play.
2. **PLAYER ROSTERS:** Each player must be rostered on a properly registered NDAHA and USA Hockey, Inc. team before playing in his/her first game. If a player is not on a properly registered team roster before his/her first game, the player will not be eligible for participation in State, Regional, or National Tournament play.
3. **DUAL ROSTERS:** No player shall be registered with two or more NDAHA or USA Hockey, Inc. teams at the same time, regardless of league classification. Any team using a player registered with another NDAHA or USA Hockey, Inc. team, except for community in-house leagues, shall be declared ineligible for State Tournament play. Exception to this rule will be under the jurisdiction and decision of the District Directors of the district involved, with the right of appeal as granted in the NDAHA Bylaws.

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ARTICLE III: ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS

A. For voting, management, control, and operations, the NDAHA shall be divided into four (4) geographical districts. Adjustments to the boundaries or number of districts may be accepted by majority vote of a resolution by the Board of Directors.

B. The current districts and assigned communities are as follows:

<u>NE DISTRICT</u>	<u>SE DISTRICT</u>	<u>NW DISTRICT</u>	<u>SW DISTRICT</u>
Cando	Fargo Angels	Bottineau	Bismarck
Devils Lake	Fargo YHA	Crosby	Dickinson
Grafton	Jamestown	Minot	Hazen-Beulah
Grand Forks	Mayville/Portland	Sidney, MT	Mandan
Langdon	Valley City	Watford City	
Manvel	Wahpeton	Williston	
Northwood	West Fargo		
Park River			
Rugby			

ARTICLE IV: COMMITTEES/SECTIONS

A. The following committees and sections are recommended, but not limited, to be empowered by the NDAHA to conduct the affairs of the Association as described. The NDAHA President shall have the power to appoint the committee members, chairperson and vice-chairperson. Sections shall be empowered by inclusion in the NDAHA Bylaws or by incorporation by resolution of the Board of Directors.

1. COMMITTEES

- **Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation:** To correct, change and update annually.
- **Rules and Regulations:** To correct, change and update annually.
- **Youth League Governance Committee & Girls League Governance Committee:** 11 member committees - League Director, Tournament Committee Chair, four (4) District Directors (one from each district), Four (4) "At Large" members (one from each district), NDAHA President (votes only to break a tie vote of the committee). Conducts team placement for leagues and determines the team seeding and brackets for state tournaments.
- **Nominations Committee:** To investigate and propose candidates for offices.
- **Executive Committee:** See Article VIII, NDAHA Bylaws.
- **Discipline Committee:** To investigate, hold hearings, and determine sanctions as required.
- **Hall of Fame Committee:** Hall of Fame Committee: See NDAHA By-Laws, Article XVI for Committee Structure, Award Qualifications and Nomination Process.

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2. SECTIONS

- Girls/Women's Section: Promote and operate Girls/Women's leagues of the NDAHA.
- Jr Gold: Promote and operate the JR Gold/ NDAHA High School League of the NDAHA.
- Youth Leagues Section: Planning, operations, and coordination of youth "AA," "A" and "B" leagues.

ARTICLE V: CLASS OF PLAY

A. PLAYERS

1. **CITIZENSHIP:** All players participating in NDAHA competition are restricted to United States citizenship, except for a player who is not a US citizen but whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are bona fide residents of the United States, or such player is a foreign exchange student from outside North America and holds an OSP-66 card making him/her eligible to compete providing he has approval of the NDAHA Associate Registrar.
2. **BIRTH CERTIFICATION:** Players must have a copy of his/her birth certificate (or Baptismal certificate, if the individual was baptized prior to age five) for certification or proof of age, unless the player is already on an approved age list used by the NDAHA.
3. **RESIDENCY:** North Dakota is a community-based amateur hockey program. NDAHA issues Association Affiliate Agreements to communities based on Public School Districts and other defining community characteristics. Players are to participate on teams within their local affiliate organization based on the physical property address of their custodial parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the established affiliate boundaries as defined by in the Association Affiliate Agreements which are issued by NDAHA. NDAHA may require a local affiliate to provide supplemental school attendance information of its participants. A participants school of attendance is only applicable to participation in the proper local affiliate organization if specified in the Association Affiliate Agreement issued by NDAHA. It is the primary responsibility of the local affiliates to verify the legal addresses of all its participants, and school of attendance as applicable, prior to accepting that player's registration for the season . The local affiliate shall direct the player to submit a waiver request if they wish to play for a local affiliate other than their proper local affiliate. Waiver requests may be denied if an individual has repeatedly open-enrolled in different school systems without a change in physical address. NDAHA Residency Rules and Player Transfer and Waiver Procedures supersede all conflicting rules enacted by an organization affiliated with NDAHA.
4. **AMATEUR PLAYER:** An amateur player is one who is properly registered with the National Association governing amateur hockey and is not engaged in playing organized professional hockey under contract to a professional club.
5. **REINSTATED AMATEUR:** A reinstated amateur is any player who was under contract to a professional club, and having completed his/her contractual obligations to the professional club, has successfully applied to USA Hockey, Inc. through the NDAHA for reinstatement of amateur status. USA Hockey, Inc. fees are in effect.

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6. **PLAY IN LOWER AGE GROUP:** No player may play down from one class to a lower age class without the written permission of the Northern Plains District Registrar and the ND Associate Registrar. All directors and all community representatives will be notified of an approval.
7. **HIGH SCHOOL PLAYER:** High School and Bantam players are eligible to be rostered by December 15th of the playing season, even if they have been rostered, dressed, and/or played as a high school varsity or junior varsity player prior to this date.
8. **PLAY AT TWO LEVELS:** The cut-off date to request the use of the same player at two different levels of play is December 01 or prior to playing the first NDAHA league game of the current playing season. The player may not register on more than one team that will participate in games leading to a national championship.
9. **PLAYER TRANSFER AND WAIVER PROCEDURE:** No player residing in the boundaries of an NDAHA approved local affiliate, or who would normally play for that organization under standard team eligibility rules, may play for another organization without the prior review of both organizations and the approval of both District Directors and the Associate Registrar. The deadline for submission of waiver requests to the local affiliate is July 31st of each playing season for any player that has played hockey in a prior year. The waiver process begins when the parent or guardian of the player initiates the waiver request with the association based on their physical address (or special affiliate boundaries). Transfer of a player from one organization to another must be made by review of the two organizations. The local and receiving organization will review and issue comments on the transfer waiver and forward to the District Directors of the district(s) involved and Associate Registrar request within 15 days after submission by the parent. Approval of the District Directors of the district(s) involved and the Associate Registrar is required before the player transfer waiver is official. An approved player transfer waiver is mandatory prior to a player submitting their season registration to the alternative organization. Only player transfer waiver requests which demonstrate extenuating circumstances will be reviewed. Player transfer waivers are reviewed or denied at the sole discretion of the appropriate District Directors and Associate Registrar. Any player transfer request which is denied may only be repealed and will only be reviewed by the District Directors and Associate Registrar, based on material new information. Transfers of players will not be permitted after January 20th of the current playing season. Approvals of transfer requests are only valid for the current playing season.
10. **AUTOMATIC WAIVERS:** An individual player may receive an automatic waiver from one organization to another in the event a given organization does not have a team at that USA Hockey Age Classification for that player to play. Automatic waivers will be processed following the Player Transfer and Waiver Procedures and the approval of the District Director(s) and Associate Registrar is mandatory. In the case of combined community teams, or participation with an alternate affiliate organization the prior year(s) with no change in physical address or enrollment or other reason for the initial waiver, individual waiver requests may not be required and an overall document listing the participants may be prepared and submitted to the District Director(s) and Associate Registrar for approval.
11. **INELIGIBLE PLAYER:** The playing of an ineligible player automatically disqualifies the

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entire team for which he/she played as an ineligible player.

B. TEAMS

1. **OUTLAWED TEAMS:** No member of the NDAHA may play any team outlawed by USA Hockey, Inc. or the NDAHA, or play any teams using players outlawed by USA Hockey, Inc. or the NDAHA.
2. **ALL STAR TEAMS:** Selection and use of a player for All Star Team play is permitted upon completion of the schedule of play for the NDAHA registered team, which is defined as midnight of the final day of that player's age category state tournament.
3. **DISQUALIFIED TEAMS:** Any team found to have an ineligible player that participates in any North Dakota sanctioned competition will be suspended from further league and state tournament play for the current playing season. This suspension may be reviewed by the cognizant District Director to determine if the severity is appropriate, and a less severe penalty may be imposed if the facts so dictate.

ARTICLE VI: CLASS OF PLAY

A. GENERAL

1. **COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS:** North Dakota is a community-based amateur hockey program.
2. **CLASSIFICATION OF PLAY:** A four-tier classification of play may be instituted in the Youth League Division of the NDAHA. These classes will be designated as Class "AA", "A", Class "B1", and Class "B". Further division for purposes of creating tournament pools and bracketing of State Tournaments will occur at NDAHA Winter Meeting depending on game results and league standings as of the date of the Winter Meeting into AA, A, B1, B and various pools within the A, B1, and B classifications.

All affiliates shall submit in writing their intended class of play and number of teams they intend to offer at each class of play prior to July 15 immediately preceding the start of the NDAHA league season.

NDAHA League Governance Committee will annually review requests to field AA teams and forwarded to the NDAHA Board of Directors for approval, which may also include denial of a AA league if such formation is detrimental to NDAHA league governance and competitive balance.

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3. **NEW TEAMS:** Teams not previously registered with the NDAHA and that comply with all the rules and regulations for membership in the NDAHA will be placed into a league of play by the Governance Committee unless the organization requests a higher level of play.
4. **MOVE FROM CLASS OF PLAY:** Youth League Governance Committee, which is Chaired by the Youth League Director & Girls League Governance Committee, which is Chaired by Girls League Director. Each committee is comprised of a District Director within each district of NDAHA, the State Tournament Chair, an at-large representative from each district, and the NDAHA President. The committees will provide oversight of the affiliate level of play for teams entered into NDAHA leagues. If an organization wishes to move from its present level of play to a different level of play, that organization must present in writing its petition to move to the appropriate NDAHA Youth or Girls League Director. If received by the appropriate NDAHA League Director by July 1st of each year it will be acted on by the appropriate League Governance Committee by August 15 that same year.
5. **INADEQUATE NUMBERS:** In the event an organization does not have adequate numbers to fill out a team, that organization may use players from a lower age classification to fill out a team to a maximum of fourteen (14) players including goaltenders without the player(s) from the lower age classification losing his/her eligibility to continue in league and state tournament play at the lower age level. This rule can only be used by organizations that only have one team at each level. The District Directors/Section Directors involved and the ND Associate Registrar must approve the request. Requests are to be submitted to the appropriate District Directors/Section Directors and the ND Associate Registrar.
6. **COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES:** Organizations having more than one team in Youth Leagues shall follow current high school boundaries defined in their Association Affiliate Agreement to determine their player residency boundaries. Local affiliate boundaries in metropolitan areas will be defined by school district boundaries or high school attendance areas to preserve community based programs; however, open enrollment may not be considered for purposes of defining affiliate boundaries. Certain affiliate associations may have boundaries defined which combine school districts such that these associations can fill team(s) while also serving the purpose of providing an opportunity for players to participate at a specified level of play. A local affiliate organization requesting a number of teams different than the number of high schools in the city shall provide an application, reasons, and proposed team boundaries for consideration at the Spring Annual Meeting of the NDAHA. A majority of votes allowed by the teams in the class of play affected will be required for acceptance of the application and the plan. Organizations having teams participating in a class of play and wishing to also participate in another class shall use the same boundary plans and requirements for these teams as used in the original class.

A local affiliate that is required to field one or more A teams based on the number of high schools in their community may request that the League Governance Committee consider the affiliates AA team as having fulfilled an A team requirement.

Any association registering two or more teams at the same playing level shall select those teams on a competitive basis with players equally drafted or by following high school boundaries. The District Directors and/or League Director reserves the right to evaluate the makeup of those teams, their selection and/or competitive level upon request.

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B. AGE CATEGORIES

North Dakotas' cut-off date of June 1st is different than that established by USA Hockey, Inc. of January 1st. For compliance to USA Hockey, Inc. National Festivals and National Tournaments, the players and teams advancing must comply with the proper age category using the January 1st cut-off date established by the USA Hockey, Inc. Board of Directors.

**ELIGIBLE PLAYERS MUST HAVE BEEN BORN ON OR AFTER THE DATE BELOW:
(For the 2021-2022 Season)**

<u>YOUTH</u>		<u>GIRLS</u>	
Jr Gold	June 1, 2005	High School	June 1, 2005
Bantam	June 1, 2008	15 & Under	June 1, 2007
Pee Wee	June 1, 2010	12 & Under	June 1, 2010
Squirt	June 1, 2012	10 & Under	June 1, 2012
Mite	June 1, 2014	8 & Under	June 1, 2014
Mini-Mite	June 1, 2016	6 & Under	June 1, 2016

High School Class – No player may be eighteen (18) prior to July 1st of the commencing year except for a player who has not completed his/her eighth consecutive semester of high school. For players of any age, including home-schooled students, their eligibility ends after their graduation or their receiving a graduation certification.

Girls High School – No player may be nineteen (19) prior to January 1st of the current playing season.

ARTICLE VII: FEES

The combined registration fee needed to finance NDAHA shall be the total cost of the USA Hockey, Inc. registration, the North Dakota Affiliate registration, and any other fees approved by the NDAHA Board of Directors. The total registration fee is due to the Associate Registrar of the NDAHA by the deadline dates approved for the playing season except for those fees paid by online registration, which appropriate share shall be returned to the NDAHA by USA Hockey, Inc.

ARTICLE VIII: TRAVEL PERMITS

Travel permits are required for any team playing outside the Northern Plains District or outside the continental United States. Permits may be obtained by contacting the ND Associate Registrar.

ARTICLE IX: TIER I ORGANIZATIONS AND TEAMS

Tier I Committee: The NDAHA President shall establish and appoint a Tier I Committee comprised of a minimum of four NDAHA District Directors. The NDAHA President shall appoint the Tier 1 Committee Chairperson.

1. Authority: The Tier I Committee shall have responsibility for all matters pertaining to Tier

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Member Associations, Tier I Organizations, Tier I Teams and Tier I Hockey, subject to the NDAHA Board of Directors review, direction, change and approval. This shall include, but is not limited to, recommending the following: granting or terminating of authority to organize and/or operate a Tier I organization, club or association and/or field a Tier I Team; the total number of Tier I Teams permitted in any age division; and, establishing guidelines which shall be used to carry out the purpose of the Committee.

2. General Intent: The general intent of Tier I Hockey in North Dakota is to provide an opportunity for the best North Dakota youth players to develop and compete at the highest level of hockey available in North America at their ages by and through USA Hockey and NDAHA. Tier I Hockey in North Dakota is limited to those youth players who have the desire and ability to play at a higher level and wish to continue to develop as players by playing Tier I Hockey. Tier I Hockey is not intended to place pressure on any Youth Player to play Tier I Hockey.

3. Guidelines For Determining The Number of Teams: Guidelines for determining the number of Tier I Teams shall include, but not be limited to the following: a. The number of rostered players in an age division; b. The number of rostered players in the age division who will play Tier I hockey; c. Not more than three (3) Tier I Organizations in the state of North Dakota (Including the NDAHA Player Development Program). An organization will field a minimum of two teams and no more than four (4) Tier I Youth Teams - One 18u team, one 16u team, one 15U team, one 14U team and three (3) Girls Tier 1 teams – One 19U Team, one 16U team and one 14U team. d. No Tier I Organization shall have more than one (1) team at an age level. The one team being Major Tier I. No Organization may have a Pee wee, Squirt or Mite age team. e. No Player may play on any 18U or 16U Tier I Team unless that player is of at least High School age (under USA Hockey age classifications) for the upcoming season. There may be no more than six out of district players rostered on any Tier I Team.

4. Tier I Organizations:

a. General: A Tier I Organization is an organization duly organized and operating in accordance with the By-Laws, Rules, Regulations and Policies of NDAHA and authorized annually by NDAHA to field, govern and control Tier I Teams organized by that Tier I Organization in the State of North Dakota on a season by season term and which authorization expires annually at the end of the authorized season (September 1 through August 31).

b. Limitation: Tier I Organizations must be an entirely separate and distinct entity and operation apart from a Tier II Organization (the exception being the NDAHA Player Development Program). A Tier I Organization or Tier I Team cannot be part of or affiliated with a Tier II Team or Tier II Organization and no person shall be an Officer, Director, Hockey Director, Coach, Coaching Director, Manager, etc. of a Tier I Organization and hold any of the above positions in a Tier II Organization (the exception being the NDAHA Player Development Program). Nothing herein shall be interpreted to preclude an Independent Contractor who is offering his/her services to the public at large from offering and providing his/her services as a skating or skills instructor to any Tier I or Tier II Team. The Independent Contractor shall not be an employee, full-time instructor or representative of either organization nor participate in any manner, directly or indirectly, with the evaluation of players, recruiting or offering Players the opportunity to play for the Organizations which hire the Independent Contractor.

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c. Responsibility: Each Tier I Organization shall govern, control and be fully responsible for its organization, the actions, inactions and/or infractions of its teams, players, coaches, managers, parents, and personnel. This responsibility shall include debts incurred by or in the name of the Tier I Organization or any of its Tier 1 teams.

5. Tier I Season: The Tier I Organization playing season shall commence on August 1st of each year and end on the last day of the Nationals Tournament of each year unless otherwise unanimously approved by the Tier I Committee.

6. Tier 1 Team Authorization Procedure:

a. Application: New Tier I Team Organizations and any existing Tier I Organization that has met all of the Tier I Organization requisites for the previous season ("Existing Tier I Organization) shall complete and deliver to the Tier I Chairperson, no later than March 15th of each year, the NDAHA Tier 1 application along with an application fee of \$100 to NDAHA. Each application shall comply fully with the requirements set forth in the paragraphs below. No new or existing Tier I Organization shall have authority to operate or otherwise participate in Tier I Hockey in any capacity unless it has received its authorization in writing. The Tier I Committee and Tier I Chairperson shall recommend to the NDAHA Board of Directors the acceptance or denial of the application. The recommendation shall be in writing and shall clearly state all reasons. An appeal by an existing Tier 1 organization from such a denial may be taken to the NDAHA Board of Directors at the next meeting thereof, or at a special meeting called for the purpose of hearing the appeal, but only if a reasonable time is afforded the denied Tier 1 organization to prepare its appeal.

b. Notification: Existing or new Tier I Organizations will be notified in writing of the acceptance or denial of its application by May 15th by the Tier I Chairperson, or his/her designee.

c. Minimum Requirements: Every authorized new or existing Tier I Organization shall comply with the minimum requirements set forth in this Article, NDAHA and USA Hockey By-laws, Policies, Rules and Regulations, which include, but shall not be limited to, the following: *A Tier I Organization must have at least two Major Youth teams. No Tier I Organization may apply for or have more than one Major team at any given High School age level authorized by NDAHA. *No Tier 1 authorization will be given for any Peewee, Squirt or Mite teams.

*A list of Officers and Directors and the names of the Coaches for each team with written proof that each Coach has obtained the appropriate Coaching Certification level and has complied with NDAHA's Screening requirements or has the ability to and will obtain those must be submitted by August 1st or by the first game.

*Financial information demonstrating that the Tier I Organization is financially solvent and stable with the ability to finance the next season can be requested at any time from the Tier 1 Committee or NDAHA board. If an organization is forced to stop operations in the middle of the season, each player will be refunded their pro-rata share of fees.

*Documentation demonstrating that the Tier I Organization can procure sufficient ice to support an appropriate number of home games and practices consistent with the size of its program, its season and this Article.

* A Fact Sheet as defined in Paragraph **8a** below.

*Written By-laws, Rules and Regulations along with Internal Revenue Service 501 c.3 tax exemption status under the Internal Revenue Code.

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*All Tier I games played in North Dakota must be officiated by properly registered USA Hockey and NDAHA officials. The one referee/two linesman officiating system is strongly recommended for all Tier 1 games.

*All team owners, directors of hockey operations, directors and managers of a Tier 1 Hockey Association must be legal residents of the State of North Dakota.

7. Team Selection Process: a. Each Tier Organization shall institute procedures to select the best Players available. Guidelines for team selection process shall include, but not be limited to the following:

*Each Tier I Organization shall hold open tryouts. Tryouts may not be announced or advertised until the Tier I Organization has received written notification of acceptance of its application for the ensuing season by the Tier I Chairperson.

*Personal invitations for tryouts are permissible but tryouts must be announced publicly through a general publication or individual mailing to all players at each level, inviting any player who wishes to tryout. This announcement shall take place at least thirty (30) days prior to any tryouts. "Publication" defined as newspapers, mailing lists, etc.

*The announcement must contain a minimum of at least the following information:

1. Organization name 2. Level of tryout and Coaches name, if known 3. Contacts with phone numbers 4. Dates, Location, and Times of tryout 5. Brief statement about the program 6. A Tier I invitation 7.

Each Tier I Organization shall provide a Fact Sheet that shall be provided to anyone who makes an inquiry.

8. No player shall be solicited nor shall the possibility of playing Tier I Hockey be discussed with any Player, prior to the conclusion of the USA Hockey National Tournaments. except for an existing Tier I Player for the Tier I Organization for which that Player played during the existing season and then only by that Tier I Organization.

9. If a new prospective Player initiates contact the Tier I Organization will advise it cannot discuss the matter and will advise the individual/individuals of the date after which contact is permitted.

10. Submission to Tier I Chairperson: The signed Player Card and Parental Acknowledgment form must be submitted to the Tier I Chairperson by the dates set out in these Rules or as designated by the Tier I Chairperson.

11. Rosters: USA Hockey Rosters must be submitted to the Tier I Chairperson by the dates set out in these Rules or designated by the Tier I Chairperson.

12. Player Commitment: Any player who signs a Fact Sheet is committed to that Tier I Organization and Tier I Team for the ensuing Playing Season and cannot play for another USA Hockey/NDAHA registered Tier 1 team during the same season. Any player who signs a Fact Sheet for any Tier I Organization shall not be recruited by or on behalf of any other Tier I Team or Organization and cannot be removed from that Tier I Organization Team's roster without the approval of the Tier 1 Committee. Recruiting violation or tampering shall be referred to the Tier 1 Committee for their review and any recommendations to the NDAHA Disciplinary Director.

13. Roster- Return: USA Hockey rosters for Tier I Teams must be submitted to the NDAHA Registrar by September 15 (or before playing the first game) of the ensuing Playing Season (the exception to this rule is the NDAHA Player Development Program).

8. Commitment Date: No Player shall be required to commit to play on a Tier I Team or sign a roster or pay monies more than actual ice time cost prior to August 1st.

8a. Fact Sheet: Tier 1 Teams and Tier I Organizations shall furnish each Player and his/her parent(s), in writing, before any tryout and prior to signing a Player Card, a Fact Sheet, providing full disclosure about Tier I Hockey by the Tier I Organization indicating all costs, (which shall, at a minimum, fund raising requirements, any additional funds or monies due from the player) number of games and

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practices, amount of travel, any "rules" of the Tier I Organization/Team, and the actual costs of playing for the Tier I Team and Tier I Organization. Any organization that stops operations in the middle of the season will pay each player a pro-rata share of any monies paid. Parents/Legal Guardians and players need to sign the fact sheet and return to their Tier 1 organization by September 1.

9. Final Approval: The NDAHA Board of Directors has final approval of all recommendations and decisions by the NDAHA Tier 1 Committee.

ARTICLE X: GAME OFFICIALS

A. Two (2) USA Hockey, Inc. registered referees or one (1) registered referee and two (2) registered linesmen will be required for all league games and tournament games. Whichever system is selected for a state tournament must be used throughout the entire tournament. Selection of tournament referee systems will be made by the tournament committee at the winter meeting.

B. There will be four (4) state sponsored referee seminars before the end of October (one in each District) to be rotated within the district. The NDAHA will pay the administrative fee of \$300.00 per state sponsored referee seminar to the NDHOA. Any community wanting to sponsor its own additional referee seminar must be responsible for all cost and administration of the seminar. Coordination with District and NDAHA Referee-in-Chief is mandatory. Deadline date for any official to be certified shall be November 30th of the playing year.

C. A list of approved officials and their level shall be sent to the League Coordinators, Tournament Officials, Team Representatives, and the District Referee-in-Chief by December 1st of the playing year. Referees that are certified must wear the certification patch and carry the identification card at all USA Hockey, Inc. games. All USA Hockey Officials will comply with the USA Hockey Screening Policy.

D. All on-ice referees shall be USA Hockey, Inc. certified for the current playing season and shall be classified as follows:

Level 4: Eligible to referee all classifications

Level 3: Eligible to referee at Junior C and below classifications

Level 2: Eligible to referee at age 14 and below classifications

Level 1: Eligible to referee at age 12 and below classifications

Level 1, 2, and 3 officials working like age games or above must be paired with a minimum of one (1) senior level 3 official and be approved by the District Supervisor of Officials.

E. Only USA Hockey, Inc. Level 3 or higher certified shall be used in and for State Tournament play and shall be assigned by the State RIC with input from the nominations given by the District Supervisor of Officials.

F. Any official that wants to attend a National Camp or apply to work a National Tournament must have an evaluation to be considered as eligible. Contact the State RIC.

ARTICLE XI: COACHES

A. Background Screening and SafeSport Training

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1. NDAHA adopted a background screening policy to reduce the risk of players becoming victim to sexual or physical abuse. To carry out this policy, coaches are required to consent to a background check every other year. All USA Hockey coaches will comply with the USA Hockey Screening Policy. Failure to comply with the policy will result in the forfeiture of coaching privileges in programs, at sites, or events under USA Hockey's governance.
2. All coaches of youth or girl's hockey teams shall complete the **Safe Sport** Training program prior to that person's participation (on-ice or off-ice) in a USA Hockey program. All coaches shall be required to complete the proper **Safe Sport** training program every ~~two seasons~~ **season** (any training taken after April 1 shall be considered effective for the next playing season). New coaches shall take the training prior to participation (on-ice or off-ice) in their first year of registration and every ~~other~~ season thereafter. Upon completion of the initial training course, a coach may satisfy the training requirement by completing the **Safe Sport** "refresher" course.

B. Coaching Education Required Levels for Ice Hockey

All coaches must have the required certification level by December 31 of the current season.

1. Each coach will enter the USA Hockey Coaching Certification Program at Level 1 and will continue their education by attending a coaching clinic each year until he or she receives Level 4 certification.

*8U EXCEPTION: Coaches of 8U or younger players may remain at Level 1 or their current level (a coach who only works with 8U players is allowed to coach with expired certification).

2. In addition to coaching certification clinics, each coach must also complete online age-specific modules specific to the level of play he or she is coaching. This requirement applies to coaches at all levels, 1 through 5. Coaches may complete more than one age-specific module in any given season. Once an online age-specific module is completed, it does not have to be completed again as long as the coach continues to coach at the same age-level.

3. Coaching certification at Levels 1, 2, and 3 is valid for one (1) season, as indicated by the expiration date in in the coaching education database/coaching profile.

4. Once Level 4 or 5 coaching certification is obtained, each coach is required to complete Continuing Education requirements as defined in the Coaching Education Timeline. Coaches who received their Level 4 certification prior to January 1, 2021 are grandfathered in under the "old Level 4 rules" and are not required to complete Continuing Education.

**All coaches of Tier I and Tier II teams are required to complete the Continuing Education requirements regardless of when they received their Level 4 or 5 certification.

FAQ's-

1. A coach may attend only one (1) certification clinic per year.
2. A coach whose certification has expired should re-enter the program at the next level when he or she resumes coaching responsibilities. (Ex- A coach with expired Level 2 certification would need to attend a Level 3 clinic if he or she resumes coaching).

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C. Coaching Education Timeline Requirements

Year 1: Level 1 clinic + age-specific component.

Year 2: Level 2 clinic + age-specific component if not previously taken for current age level.

Year 3: Level 3 clinic + age-specific component if not previously taken for current age level.

Year 4: Level 4 clinic + age-specific component if not previously taken for current age level.

*After obtaining Level 4 or 5 certification, each coach will be required to complete 5 hours of Continuing Education during each successive 3-year period. The Continuing Education will be offered and tracked by the USA Hockey Coaching Section. Continuing Education opportunities will include, but not be limited to, High Performance Coaching Clinics, Level 5 Coaching Symposium, online or in-person specialty clinics, goaltending coaching clinics, etc.

**A coach shall obtain Level 5 certification at any time after achieving Level 4 certification. He or she is still subject to Continuing Education Requirements, as well as all other coaching requirements as defined by USA Hockey and NDAHA.

D. Evidence of Level

1. It is the responsibility of the local association to identify those coaches who do not meet the certification requirements. Each coach must complete the following requirements by the date listed-

- Coaching certification- must be completed prior to December 31
- Online age-specific coaching module- must be completed prior to 1st ice session
- SafeSport- must be completed prior to 1st team activity (on-ice or off-ice)
- Background Check- must be completed prior to 1st team activity (on-ice or off-ice)
- USA Hockey Registration- must be completed prior to 1st team activity (on-ice or off-ice)

2. 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 score sheet to verify the accuracy of the playing roster, as it appears on the score sheet, for that game.

E. Penalty and Enforcement

1. All coaches must have current certification completed by December 31 of the current playing season. Any coach not completing this requirement 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.

2. Each coach is required to complete the appropriate online age-specific module prior to the first on-ice session of the season. Any coach who needs to complete online age-specific modules after December 31 of the current season is able to do so, but the cost to register for the module will be an increased amount. A coach who has not completed an online age-specific module is ineligible for any team activities (on-ice or off-ice) until the module is completed and the USA Hockey database has

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updated to show completion.

F. Coaching Certification Clinics

1. USA Hockey currently offers in-person and virtual coaching certification clinics. It is the choice of each coach as to whether he or she attends an in-person or virtual clinic. Any coach who decides to attend a virtual clinic is allowed to register for and attend a virtual clinic being hosted anywhere in the country as long as the dates and times fit the schedule of the coach.

G. Clinic Registration (In-Person and Virtual)

1. All in-person and virtual certification clinics require pre-registration by using the USA Hockey website located at www.usahockey.com. All clinics are posted on this website and coaches must register for all clinics online and pay with a credit card.

H. Temporary Coaching Cards

1. The District Coach-in-Chief will have all final decisions regarding the approval of temporary coaching certification. Temporary coaching certification will only be considered if a local association has lost a coach due to termination, medical reasons, military commitment, etc. Requesting temporary certification because a coach simply could not attend a clinic will not be reason enough to receive such certification.

I. Coach Discipline

1. Any coach receiving a game misconduct penalty will be immediately suspended for the following periods: (within the same season)
 - a. First Offense – current game and the next scheduled game
 - b. Second Offense – same as first offense plus 7-day suspension from all team functions
 - c. Third Offense – same as first offense plus 15-day suspension from all team functions
 - d. Fourth Offense – coaching certification will be revoked and the suspension will carry over to the next season and recertification would require a discipline hearing with NDAHA.

SECTION II – GENERAL PLAYING RULES

ARTICLE I: GENERAL PLAYING RULES

A. PLAYING RULES – The USA Hockey, Inc. Official Playing Rules will be the official Playing Rules used by the NDAHA for all league and tournament games and all games involving an affiliate team played within the jurisdiction of NDAHA.

- a. The playing rules are amended to apply the progressive suspensions per playing rule 411 (a) to all types of game misconduct penalties assessed to any player or coach.
- b. NDAHA reserves the right to review any game incident involving any coach, player, on- ice or off-ice official, or spectator, whether initially penalized or not, for purposes of applying supplemental discipline per USA Hockey Playing Rule 410 which may include suspensions, or other such actions permitted by the NDAHA rule or bylaws.
- c. Local affiliates may enact progressive suspensions policies no less strict than these listed herein.

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- d. It is the responsibility of the local affiliate to record all game misconducts and apply the suspensions.

B. NON-RESIDENT TEAMS – Out of state and Canadian teams playing in leagues under the jurisdiction of the NDAHA shall comply with all regulations of USA Hockey, Inc. and the NDAHA.

C. SUSPENSION – Suspension used in these Rules and Regulations means that the individual player, coach, team representative, entire team, or local affiliate organization would be prohibited from participating in the hockey activities governed by the suspending authority. The suspending authority will determine the exact penalty, length, and extent of the suspension. Any individual or organization that has been suspended shall have the right to appeal the suspension to the next higher authority. If appeals are made to NDAHA or USA Hockey, Inc., the procedure to follow is outlined in the USA Hockey, Inc. Annual Guide, Bylaw 10: Resolutions of Disputes, Arbitration, and Suspensions.

D. FORFEITURE – A penalty described by a refusal of players to obey the decision of the referee, failure to send the official record of a league game to the District or Regional Secretary within five (5) days of the game date, or failure to obey the Rules and Regulations of the NDAHA. Forfeiture as used in these Rules and Regulations means the team or Local Affiliate Organization will be charged with the loss of the game or games involved with the infraction of the rules. The game score will automatically be set at: Winner 1 – Loser 0. Any team assessed a forfeiture shall have the right to appeal the forfeiture to the next higher authority, according to the Bylaws of the NDAHA.

E. DISPUTES, PROTESTS, AND APPEALS – Any team, league, or local affiliate organization may protest a ruling, a decision, or some act causing a disagreement or may appeal a ruling or decision of a controversy, argument, or dispute, per the NDAHA Bylaws.

F. PARENT/SPECTATOR CONDUCT

1. During an NDAHA community affiliate game, league game, invitational tournament, or state tournament the Game Officials, NDAHA District Directors, Section Directors, Executive Directors, designated district personnel or the tournament director shall have the authority to take actions as necessary to control spectator conduct.

2. Examples of this inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include but are not limited to:

- a) Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.
- b) Taunting of players, coaches, officials, or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence or act.
- c) Throwing any object in the spectators viewing area, player's bench, penalty box or on the ice, especially if it creates a safety hazard.

3. Violators will incur a minimum mandatory 3-game suspension from that team's games and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body.

4. The NDAHA Game Official or Representative that takes action to control spectator conduct will file an "Incident Report" detailing their version of the occurrence with the NDAHA Discipline Committee.

- a) The Committee will forward the report to the spectator's affiliate for the affiliate to investigate.

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b) Upon completion of the spectator's affiliate investigation (that should include talking to the accused spectator) the investigating affiliate will report back to the NDAHA Discipline Committee for final approval of the minimum 3-game suspension or any additional imposed suspension.

5. ANY SPECTATOR ASKED TO LEAVE A RINK BY A GAME OFFICIAL, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NDAHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, RINK PERSONNEL OR TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR WILL AUTOMATICALLY MISS A MINIMUM OF THAT TEAMS NEXT THREE GAMES THAT WERE SCHEDULED BEFORE THE INCIDENT.

G. PERIOD & PENALTY LENGTHS FOR NDAHA GAMES - All NDAHA games shall consist of the following period and penalty lengths unless specifically approved by the NDAHA:

1. **Junior Gold:** 17 Minute Periods / 2 Minute Minors / 5 Minute Majors / 10 Minute Misconducts
2. **Bantam & 15U:** 17 Minute Periods / 2 Minute Minors / 5 Minute Majors / 10 Minute Misconducts
3. **PeeWee & 12U:** 15 Minute Periods / 1:30 Minute Minors / 5 Minute Majors / 10 Minute Misconducts

ARTICLE II: LEAGUES

A. GENERAL – The NDAHA shall be the governing body of the leagues sanctioned in these Rules and Regulations.

B. OBJECTIVES – The leagues established by the NDAHA shall have as their purpose:

1. to foster, encourage, and improve all organized hockey played under its jurisdiction,
2. to promote sportsmanship and leadership within the state,
3. to maintain and increase the interest in the game of hockey, and
4. to provide and regulate competition for hockey teams within the state

C. MEMBERSHIP – Membership in the leagues described is open to any hockey team in North Dakota that complies with all the requirements of the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the NDAHA, and is approved for membership by the NDAHA Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III: SANCTIONED LEAGUES

A. YOUTH LEAGUES

1. **AGE CLASSIFICATIONS:** For purposes of classification of play, there shall be two (2) age categories, Pee Wee and Bantam.

2. **CLASS OF PLAY:** For purposes of competitive classification for NDAHA League play, there shall be divisions within each age category for balanced games. They will include A, B1, and B and may or may not include AA in accordance with annual review defined in Section I, Article V.A.2.

2a. **AA CLASSIFICATION - PEEWEE AND BANTAM:** The Pee wee and/or Bantam AA leagues require two or more teams, each league with two teams shall play at least three (3)

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home and three (3) away games with each team in the league. Each league with three or more teams must play at least two (2) home and two (2) away games with each team in the league. An Affiliate fielding only one AA team at an age classification shall also field at least one A team. An Affiliate fielding two (or more) AA teams at an age classification need not field an A team. Teams must also play in a AA state tournament on the appropriate league classification weekend. Teams shall be guaranteed a minimum of two games in the AA state tournament and must play all additional games needed to determine a tournament champion. All other NDAHA state tournament rules apply.

3. GEOGRAPHY OF PLAY: League play shall be by district, region, or statewide based on the number of teams in each division of play. The Youth League Governance Committee will recommend to the NDAHA Board of Directors the makeup of each league of play. Youth League Governance will take into account the guidelines below in the makeup of the leagues.

a. League Play will not consist of more than 24 total league games.

b. Youth League Governance guidelines to determine league make up of play:

- Level of Play
- Total amount of league games
- Geography of Play

4. LEAGUE GAME SCHEDULE PROTOCOL:

a. League game schedulers schedules will be comprised first of games within the respective regions or districts format utilized for the season.

b. In the event of an unequal number of teams between region or districts the Governance Committee will designate cross region or district games as outlined in the district travel schedule, which will be recorded as league games to ensure as equal (within two (2) league games) as possible number of league games for all league teams.

c. The League Governance Committee may assign a BYE or 4-Point game under exceptional circumstances to achieve a season league game count parity of within 2 games for all teams.

d. The across district travel schedule as defined by year, will be used until a scheduling situation requires a team to schedule a team from an alternate District. Cross Region or District play may, but does not have to be, a home and away series and will be organized to complete the necessary games for league play with a variety of teams in cross Region or District play.

e. The League Governance Committee will approve cross region or cross district games by November 15 or prior to a team's first league game.

f. Any altering or canceling of submitted league games will be coordinated through the league directors, and the make-up time and date must be in place and agreed to by both game partners before the game can be canceled or rescheduled.

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1. REGIONS:

NORTH REGION

Bottineau
Cando
Crosby
Devils Lake
Grafton
Grand Forks Youth Hockey
Langdon
Northwood
Park River
Rugby
Manvel
Minot
Sidney, MT
Watford City
Williston

SOUTH REGION

Bismarck
Dickinson
Fargo Angels
Fargo Youth Hockey
Hazen/Beulah
JVC Prowl
Mandan
Mayville/Portland
Wahpeton
West Fargo

2. DISTRICTS:

NE DISTRICT

Cando
Devils Lake
Grafton

Langdon
Manvel
Northwood
Park River
Rugby

SE DISTRICT

Fargo Angels
Fargo Youth Hockey
Jamestown
Hazen/Beulah
Grand Forks
Mayville/Portland
Valley City
Wahpeton
West Fargo

NW DISTRICT

Bottineau
Crosby
Minot
Sidney, MT
Watford City
Williston

SW DISTRICT

Bismarck
Dickinson

Mandan

3. **MEMBERSHIP:** Membership in the Youth League is open to any Pee Wee or Bantam amateur hockey team in North Dakota through application to the NDAHA at its fall Board of Directors meeting. Teams which are members of the league shall be considered Class "A" and Class "B" teams and shall be governed according to national criteria for such matters as numbers of players on teams, rules for play and Bylaws for the NDAHA.
4. **LEAGUE MEETINGS:** League meetings for the Youth League of the NDAHA shall be held in conjunction with the meetings of the NDAHA, or as called by the Youth League Director of the NDAHA or the President of the NDAHA
5. **LEAGUE OFFICIALS:** Each League/Division of the NDAHA shall have one or more League Secretaries for the collection of results of league games. Home teams are required to electronic/quick score all league games and send the game sheet to the League Secretary within five (5) days from completion of the game. The League Secretaries shall be appointed by the Youth League Section Director. League Secretaries duties include; collecting game schedules and game scores, answering questions within the leagues they oversee, keeping league standings current, collecting scoresheets, etc.
6. **DUTIES:** The District Directors shall have the duty of overseeing league games played in

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their districts in cooperation with the NDAHA Youth League Director.

7. **STANDINGS:** League secretaries shall have the duty of compiling standings for each league once a week, if games are played. They will ensure these standings are posted weekly on the NDAHA website, if games are played. The standings compiled shall be used to determine state tournament seeding, and shall be submitted to the appropriate NDAHA Governance Committee.
8. **GAME SCHEDULING:** Teams approved for inclusion in the Youth League shall schedule a home and away game with each team assigned to its region or district. This requirement can be met if the games are played in a neutral site agreeable to both teams. Each team shall send a copy of its scheduled games to the League Secretary by November 15th with the requirement that the schedule reflects completion of their league schedule by two (2) weeks prior to their league state tournament. Any team failing to submit their schedule by November 15 may be subject to a \$250.00 fine. The maximum fine per affiliate will be \$1000.00.
9. **SCHEDULE COMPLIANCE:** Only teams which have completed their home and away games shall be eligible to play in their appropriate NDAHA state tournament. The appropriate League Director shall notify a team that it will not be eligible for their state tournament when the team is not in compliance with its home and away game requirements. The Executive Committee, regarding team eligibility, shall exercise strict enforcement for state tournament play when league requirements have not been met.
10. **LEAGUE RULES:** All games shall be played in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the NDAHA, and the following rules governing play:
 - a. League standings shall be determined using a point system. Three (3) points shall be awarded for a regulation time win, two (2) points for an overtime win, one (1) point awarded for a tie or overtime loss, and zero (0) points for a regulation time loss.
 - b. No league games are to be played before the team roster has been submitted to the NDAHA Associate Registrar. Non-compliance will result in game forfeiture(s) by the offending team.
 - c. In the event of cancellation of a league game, such as due to inclement weather, the teams shall notify the League Director and make up the game prior to the end of the league season. If they are not able to make up the game, then by the agreement of both teams and the League Director the game played, or the game to be played, may be counted as a four (4) point game.
 - d. League games tied at the end of regulation play shall play one (1) overtime period of five (5) minutes, consisting of 3 on 3 Hockey. If still tied after the overtime, the teams will be awarded a tie.
 - e. Home teams shall keep an official game sheet on an NDAHA approved form, and shall submit copies of the game sheet to the visiting team officials after the game, and to the respective League Secretary within five (5) days. Failure of the home team to send the official record of the league game to the respective league secretary within the prescribed five (5) days shall result in the forfeiture of the game by the home team.
 - f. In the event of a tie by one or more teams in the season final standings, the following tie-breaking formula shall be used in succession until one formula determines the position of ALL tied teams:
 - a. Head to head competition between all tied teams.

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- b. Largest goal differential among tied teams.
- c. Fewest goals allowed in league play.
- d. Flip of a coin by a League official in the presence of the Tournament Committee.

- g. Exceptions for the age requirements of officials for a league game may be made by the District Referee-in-Chief if he/she has worked with the younger official and notifies the State Referee-in-Chief prior to allowing their officiating of any games.

- h. Host communities shall provide warm-up pucks for league games

11. **STATE TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY:** Teams will be seeded into tournament brackets by the League Governance Committee. All teams in good standing in league play will be eligible to play in the state tournaments. No non-NDAHA out of state team will be allowed to play in a North Dakota State Championship without the prior approval of the NDAHA Board of Directors.

B. Jr Gold (NDAHSHL)

1. Attendance at the fall meeting by a Jr Gold team representative, or by a proxy, is mandatory for a team to participate in league play for the season. Teams shall be required to submit a \$500.00 check to the NDAHA to be cashed and used as a season performance bond. Each team performance bond will be deposited and held until a team informs the Jr Gold Director that they will no longer roster a Jr Gold team after the current season. After notification by the Jr Gold Director the NDAHA Treasurer will return the \$500.00 performance bond to the team at the end of that team's final season, provided there were no recorded issues of noncompliance to league rules during that season.
2. Teams wanting to enter the NDAHSHL for the first time shall apply in writing to the NDAHA Executive Committee, through the Secretary. This request shall provide reasons and proposed boundaries as well as team membership. Any such team must have a representative at the fall meeting.
3. High school registration and attendance is mandatory for all NDAHSHL team members. All teams will provide a player list, on school stationery signed by an appropriate school administrator, to the High School Director. This list will be submitted no later than December 15th of the playing season.
4. Any high school player receiving a penalty for fighting will receive a suspension for the next two (2) scheduled games. A second fighting penalty during the season will result in suspension of the next four (4) scheduled games. A third offense will result in a suspension until review by the High School Committee.
5. If mutually agreed upon by the communities involved and by the High School Director, NDAHSHL teams may play one four (4) point game or two (2) point games alternating communities each year. A record of which team travels will be kept by the High School Director.
6. NDAHSHL team representatives will hold a meeting at or before NDAHA annual and fall meetings.
7. New teams entering the league will be added to the bottom of the Harold Holien State Tournament rotation schedule. Teams, with the approval of the league, may switch years for hosting the tournament. The deadline for any switch in hosting the tournament will be the NDAHA Affiliate Spring Meeting. After hosting the tournament, the host will be added to the bottom of the rotation schedule. Any host team that is unable to switch or declines its date on the rotation will be added to the bottom of the rotation schedule. Any team that drops out of the High School League will be removed from the rotation. If a team reenters at a later date,

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- they will be added to the bottom of the tournament rotation schedule.
8. NDAHSHL and Harold Holien State Tournament will play twenty (20) minute periods. The local organization has the right to adjust the time from twenty (20) minutes to seventeen (17) minutes if there is a conflict in scheduling of ice time. If twenty (20) minute periods are played then the ice must be resurfaced after each period, excluding overtime.
 9. All JR Gold / High School hockey games will use a three (3) man refereeing system.
 10. The NDAHSHL shall use the tag up offside rule for league and tournament games.
 11. Inadequate numbers – Teams in the NDAHSHL with inadequate numbers may use players from a lower age group to fill out a team to a maximum of sixteen (16) players including goaltenders without the player(s) from the lower age classification losing his/her eligibility to continue in league and state tournament play at the lower age level providing the Section Director and the ND Associate Registrar approve the request.
 12. NDAHSHL game schedules will be completed at least one (1) week prior to their league state tournament.

C. NORTH DAKOTA AMATEUR GIRL'S HOCKEY LEAGUE (NDAGHL)

All rules of the NDAHA listed above that apply to the other leagues also apply to the state Girls/Women League. The following rules apply specifically to the Girls/Women League.

1. Attendance at the fall meeting by a NDAGHL team representative, or by a proxy, is mandatory for a team to participate in league play for the season.
2. Teams wanting to enter the league for the first time shall notify in writing to the Girls/Women Director. This request shall provide reasons and proposed boundaries as well as team membership.
3. No team shall be admitted to the league for league play or state tournament play after December 15th of the playing season.
4. NDAGHL representatives will hold a meeting at or before the NDAHA annual meeting.
5. NDAGHL will be split into two (2) districts, East and West. Teams shall schedule a home and away game with each team in their district.
6. High school registration and attendance is mandatory for all high school league girls playing in the NDAGHL. All teams will provide a player list on school stationary signed by an appropriate school administrator to the NDAGHL Director. This will be submitted no later than December 15th of the playing season.
7. The state tournament for the Girls/Women will be as follows: 12U, 14U & 16U will be played the second full weekend of March. Girls High School will be played the first full weekend in March. One (1) tournament will be held for each division until there are sixteen (16) teams in a division. At that time that division will split into "A1" and "A2".
8. NDAGHL game schedules will be completed by one (1) week prior to their league state tournament.
9. In the event of a tie by one or more teams in the season final standings, the following tie breaking formulas shall be used in succession until one formula determines the position of ALL tied teams:
 - a. Head to head competition among tied teams.
 - b. Largest goal differential among tied teams.

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- c. Fewest goals allowed in league play.
- d. Flip of a coin by a league official in the presence of the Tournament Committee.

10. Inadequate numbers – Girls High School level teams in the NDAGHL with inadequate numbers may use players from a lower age group to fill out a team to a maximum of sixteen (16) players including goaltenders without the player(s) from the lower age classification losing her eligibility to continue in league and state tournament play at the lower age level providing the Section Director and the ND Associate Registrar approve the request.

ARTICLE IV: TOURNAMENTS

A. ADMINISTRATION

1. The state tournaments shall be under the supervision of the NDAHA Board of Directors and the Governance Committees, in cooperation with the tournament site managers and local tournament committees, who will oversee arrangements.
2. The NDAHA Board of Directors and the Governance Committees, in all matters pertaining to state tournament play, have the power to adjust matters at any time which seems to be in the best interest of hockey.

B. TOURNAMENTS

1. All teams participating in invitational and/or state tournaments must be registered and rostered with USA Hockey, Inc.
2. All players and coaches participating in invitational and/or state tournaments must be properly registered for the current year with USA Hockey, Inc.
3. Affiliates hosting invitational and/or state tournaments are required to check for proper and current registration credentials prior to a team playing its first game. Any team unable to produce proper registration credentials shall not be allowed to participate in the tournament.
4. Any affiliate allowing an unregistered team, player, or coach to participate in invitational and/or state tournaments will not be allowed to sanction another tournament for one year.

C. STATE SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

- a. The following State Tournaments are sanctioned by NDAHA. Jr Gold/NDAHASHL Harold Holien State Tournament

- b. Bantam Level Class AA, A, B1, and B. Classes A, B1 and B may be subdivided into

Bantam Level Class AA, A, B1, and B. Classes A, B1 and B may be subdivided into Gold, Silver, or Bronze pools as approved by the NDAHA Board of Directors at the NDAHA Winter meeting to maximize competitive balance.

Pee Wee Level Class AA, A, B1, and B. Classes A, B1 and B may be subdivided into Gold, Silver, or Bronze pools as approved by the NDAHA Board of Directors at the NDAHA Winter meeting to maximize competitive balance.

Girls High School, “14U A” “14U B”, “12U A” and “12U B”, each of which may be combined at the discretion of the Girls Section Director and Girls Governance

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Committee and approved by the NDAHA Board of Directors prior to the start of the NDAHA League season.

1. All tournament sites for the following season will be finalized at the spring meeting of the NDAHA, with tentative host sites also determined at this time for the subsequent season.
2. The state Pee Wee and Girls High School tournaments, for all classes of play, will be held the first weekend in March.
3. The state Bantam and Girls 12 U, 14U tournaments, for all classes of play, will be held on the second weekend in March.
4. The NDAHSHL Harold Holien State Tournament will be held on Thursday through Saturday the first weekend in March.
5. The state tournaments shall be no larger than sixteen (16) teams and at the tournament committee's discretion may hold two (2) tournaments per division. The tournament committee may issue first round byes in order to schedule all games, and make bracketing and pairings more equitable or declare that two tournaments shall be held.
6. The first weekend in March is considered a full weekend when the 1st of the month falls on a Saturday, or earlier, i.e. the 1st of March falling on a Sunday would not be considered the first weekend of March.
7. No Invitational Tournament may be held in the same week as an NDAHA State Tournament, and within 150 miles of a tournament or event sponsored by NDAHA or the Northern Plains District, or a USA Hockey District, Regional, or National Tournament or event. Exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis and subject to approval by the NDAHA Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled NDAHA meeting.
8. The A and B1 state tournaments may be hosted at the same tournament site on the respective tournament weekend for that level of play. In order for the affiliate to be eligible to host the A and B1 class of play tournaments the site must be able to accommodate the number of games in relation to ice sheets available for play needed and provide an adequate number of hotel rooms within thirty (30) miles of the tournament site. Affiliates located within (45) forty-five miles of each other may choose to "co-host" A and B1 tournaments if necessary to help ensure adequate ice facilities and hotel rooms. **Preference will be given to affiliate(s) that propose to host the combined tournaments.**
9. A state tournament team entry fee will be recommended by the Tournament Committee and approved by the NDAHA Board of Directors at the spring meeting for the following season. The amount shall not exceed \$300.00. This fee must be paid by all participating teams. The NDAHA Treasurer will invoice prior to December 1st each affiliate, for the number of league teams they declared for that season. A portion of the fee will used for NDAHA State Tournament expenses and the remaining will be given to the host communities. One half of this amount will be paid to the host affiliate 5 (five) days after the Winter Meeting of NDAHA, where the Governance Committee will have determined the number of teams attending each state tournament. The balance remaining will be paid to the host affiliate after successful submission of their tournament report to the Tournament Committee Chair showing

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that they met the NDAHA minimum criteria for hosting the tournament. This report will be submitted within 15 (fifteen) days after the end of the tournament.

10. Spectator admission fees will be recommended by the Governance Committee's and approved by the NDAHA Board of Directors at the spring meeting for the following season. No team or group fees will be allowed.

D. STATE TOURNAMENT ROTATION

1. The Pee wee & Bantam "A", "B1", "B Gold", "B Silver", "B Bronze", Girls "12U", "14U", and Girls High School tournament sites shall be rotated in a clockwise direction. The members within the district shall determine the specific location of these tournaments within the district. If a district does not want to host a scheduled tournament they will forfeit their opportunity and the tournament will rotate to the next scheduled district.
2. Tournament Rotation Schedule: SW (SOUTHWEST), SE (SOUTHEAST), NW (NORTHWEST), NE (NORTHEAST).

<u>PEE WEE</u>	<u>A & B1</u>	<u>B Gold</u>	<u>B Silver</u>	<u>B Bronze</u>
2015	SE	NE	NW	SW
2016	SW	SE	NE	NW
2017	NW	SW	SE	NE
2018	NE	NW	SW	SE
2019	SE	NE	NW	SW
2020	SW	SE	NE	NW
2021	NW	SW	SE	NE
2022	NE	NW	SW	SE
2023	SE	NE	NW	SW
2024	SW	SE	NE	NW

<u>BANTAM</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B1</u>	<u>B2</u>	<u>B3</u>
2015	NW	SW	SE	NE
2016	NE	NW	SW	SE
2017	SE	NE	NW	SW
2018	SW	SE	NE	NW
2019	NW	SW	SE	NE
2020	NE	NW	SW	SE
2021	SE	NE	NW	SW
2022	SW	SE	NE	NW
2023	NW	SW	SE	NE
2024	NE	NW	SW	SE

<u>GIRLS</u>	<u>12U</u>	<u>14U/16U</u>	<u>GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL</u>	<u>HIGH SCHOOL</u>
2017	SW	SW	NE	GF STALLIONS
2018	NW	NW	SE	WATFORD CITY

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2019	NE	NE	SW	LANGDON
2020	SE	SE	NW	CROSBY
2021	SW	SW	NE	RICHLAND
2022	NW	NW	SE	GF STALLIONS
2023	NE	NE	SW	WATFORD CITY
2024	SE	SE	NW	LANGDON

E. TOURNAMENT MANAGERS

The Tournament Manager will be required to administer the tournament rules in accordance with the Basic Tournament Rules. The tournament rules will be in the NDAHA State Tournament Handbook. These rules will be in accordance with the Bylaws of NDAHA and the rules of USA Hockey, Inc. The NDAHA State Tournament Committee Chair will be required to send these rules to each tournament team at least ten (10) days prior to the start of the State Pee Wee, Bantam, Girls, and High School Tournaments. The NDAHA State Tournament Chair will also provide each Tournament Manager a copy of the NDAHA Bylaws and Rules and Regulations.

F. BASIC TOURNAMENT RULES

1. The Tournament Manager and Governance Committees will oversee tournament arrangements and team bracketing. The Tournament Manager will have the authority to handle all issues regarding rules and regulations during the tournament days, both on and off the ice, in accordance with the NDAHA Bylaws and USA Hockey, Inc. rules.
2. Age Classifications shall be as established by the NDAHA Board of Directors.
3. Players in the state Pee Wee, Bantam, Girls/Women's and Jr Gold tournaments must be registered in accordance with Section 1, Article II of these rules and regulations.
4. All teams will be properly uniformed.
5. A registered Pee Wee, Bantam, Girls/Women's or High School player may not play in more than one (1) NDAHA tournament. That is any one player regardless of age eligibility cannot play in Pee Wee, Bantam and NDAHSHL tournament. (For exceptions see Section 1, Article VI Class of Play, A.5. Inadequate Numbers; Section II, Article III Sanctioned Leagues, B.11.; & Section II, Article III Sanctioned Leagues, C.10.).
6. The Tournament Manager will provide another copy of these rules to each coach upon arrival to the state tournament.
7. The NDAHA, through the Treasurer, will provide monies for the cost of the NDAHA State Tournament trophies. Standardized trophies will be provided for each state tournament for first, second, third, and consolation winner places. In tournaments of six (6) teams or less, trophies will be provided for first, second, and third place winners only. Existing traveling trophies will be presented. Individual gold medals will be provided for the individuals of the championship team. Individual silver medals will be provided for the individuals of the second place team.
8. Tournament Seeding: Seeding of teams shall be determined by the standings of the team in regional or district leagues after finishing the mandatory league play.
9. Teams shall be guaranteed two (2) games in state tournaments.

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- Tournament formats shall provide the opportunity for all teams to enter the consolation bracket after their first loss in the championship bracket.
- No teams shall play three (3) games in one day in state tournament competition regardless of bracketing.
- Scheduling at state tournaments must allow at least a two (2) hour break between games for the same team, prohibiting back-to-back games for the same team.
- During tournament play, if one of the teams involved has a score lead of six (6) goals or greater over its opponent during the third period of the game, the game officials, either the referee or the Tournament Manager, must invoke a running/non-stop clock. The clock will be stopped only by the referee. If during the period the goal spread becomes four (4) goals; the stop clock will be resumed.

10. Tie Tournament Games

If the ice-sheet has been played on for one (1) period the following procedures will take place:

1. A five (5) minute rest period will be allowed.
 2. The teams shall not change ends.
 3. A ten (10) minute period shall be played. The game shall be terminated upon a goal being scored.
 4. If no goal is scored, the ice shall be resurfaced and teams will not change ends.
 5. Teams will repeat ten (10) minute periods until the tie is broken. Ice will be resurfaced every two (2) periods.
11. Parent/Spectator Tournament Behavior – Any parent/spectator identified by a game official to be removed from the building will have violated the NDAHA Parent/Spectator Rule. The parent/spectator will be out of the facility for the rest of that game, and the next three (3) scheduled games for that team. Violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body (Tournament Chair, Arena Manager, Affiliate Organization).
12. Player/Coach/Spectator Tournament Behavior - Any player/coach/spectator removed from the ice/arena by a game official due to a penalty or penalties during a game shall not be allowed back on the ice/arena after the game has been concluded.

G. CITY LEAGUES

Where a league exists within a city the team representing the city may be formed of players from any of the league teams, providing all the teams and players are registered properly by the required dates and the twenty (20) player squad to represent the city in regional and state play is declared by January 20th of the tournament year.

H. INVITATIONAL PLAY

USA Hockey, Inc. must sanction invitational tournaments in North Dakota. A completed application with the dates of the tournament for each age group must be submitted to the NDAHA Associate Registrar at least sixty (60) days prior to the start of the tournament.

I. TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS AND PLAYOFF FORMAT

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1. Formats:

- “A” Division – The tournament play structure will be based on the total number of teams registered in the “A” classification.
- “B1” Division – The tournament play structure will be based on the total number of teams registered in the “B1” classification. Tournament seeding and bracketing will be determined at the winter meeting of the tournament committee.
- “B” Division – The tournament play structure will be based on the total number of teams registered in the “B” classification.

J. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

Officials shall be selected from the host community, then from the host district. The remainder of the officials must come from outside the host district.

An on-ice official is limited to working three (3) games in any tournament day. Not more than two (2) consecutive games may be officiated in a row.

K. COMPENSATION FOR STATE TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS (paid by host)

1. GAME FEES:

- Peewee & Girls 12U: Two (2) person system - \$40.00 per game. 1-2 system – \$50.00 referee/\$40.00 linesman.
- Girls 14/16U: Two (2) person system - \$50.00 per game. 1-2 system - \$60.00 referee/\$50.00 linesman.
- Girls High School: Two (2) person system \$55.00 per game. 1-2 system - \$65.00 referee/\$55.00 linesman.
- Bantam: Two (2) man system - \$60.00 per game. 1-2 system - \$65.00 referee/\$55.00 linesman.
- Jr Gold: 1-2-man system - \$75.00 referee/\$55.00 linesman; Four (4) man system 65.00 referee/\$55.00 linesman.

2. EXPENSES:

1. Mileage will be paid both ways at the full federal IRS mileage rate. When carpooling the riders will receive \$0.50 per mile both ways. Out of town is defined as more than 20 miles from the arena.
2. Lodging will be provided for ½ room per day for out of town officials provided by the host community. 100% of the room rate for single or odd number officials from out of town. (i.e. two (2) officials per room or if family along ½ of room rate paid or three (3) officials from out of town two (2) share and one (1) has room alone 100% paid).
3. Per Diem of \$30.00 per day for out of town officials, \$15.00 per day for in town officials that live less than 20 miles from the arena(s). No per diem for in town resident officials. The Supervisor of Officials will submit the referee expenses to the Tournament Manager. Fees for the officials must be paid before they leave the arena after their last game.