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| Rule(Situation) | USAH | USAH Juniors | NFHS | NCAA |
| Section 1- Rink |  |  |  |  |
| Goalie Warm-up Area | Extended Privileged area | Extended Privileged area | No Rule | No Rule |
| Player Warm-up Area | No Rule | Confined to own end of ice | Confined to own end of ice | Confined to own end of ice |
| Maximum Non-players on bench | 4 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| Face-Off Circle Hash Mark Distance | 4 Feet | 4 Feet | 4 Feet | Recommended 5’-7” |
| Goal Peg Requirement | Recommended | Recommended | Recommended 10 inches in depth | 8-10 inches in depth |
| No Tobacco/Alcohol on bench | Bench Minor | Warning, Bench Minor | Game Misconduct | Ejection |
| Flexible Pegs | No Rule | Recommended | No Rule | Mandated |
| Section 2- Composition of Teams |  |  |  |  |
| Maximum players in uniform | Maximum 20 total, maximum 18 players | Maximum of 18 players, plus not more than two goalkeepers | Maximum 20, including goalkeepers | Maximum 18 players; 2 or 3 goalkeepers (non exhib. games) |
| Captains and Alternates | Captain + 2 Alternates (max.) | Captain + 2 Alternates (max.) | Max. 3 (any combination) | Captain and Designated Alt |
| Visiting team must wear dark uniforms | No Rule | Required | Required | “Lights” Permitted |
| Logo limitations on uniform | None | Only League and team logos | Yes (logos, flags, memorial patch) | Yes (logo restrictions only) |
| Captain coming off bench to complain | Unsportsmanlike Minor | Unsportsmanlike Minor | (1) - Minor; (2) - Misconduct; (3) - Game Misconduct; (4) - Game Disqualification | Misconduct |
| Captains and Referees meet before game | No Rule | No Rule | Required | Required |
| Rule(Situation) | USAH | USAH Juniors | NFHS | NCAA |
| More than 19 Players + 3 Goalkeepers on the ice in the pre-game | No rule - implied only rostered players may be on the ice | No rule - implied only rostered players may be on the ice | Permitted | Bench Minor |
| Roster correction after game begins | Bench Minor | Not Permitted | Ok if inadvertent- Minor penalty | Not Permitted- Bench Minor |
| Jersey number in addition to back | No rule | Both sleeves and surname | Both sleeves | Front or both sleeves |
| Spare goalkeeper required on bench | No Rule | Required (Fines) | No Rule | Yes, at start of game, or bench minor |
| “Temporary” Goalkeeper | Permitted | Permitted | No rule | No rule |
| Goalkeeper substitution during stoppage | Return at next stoppage | Return at next stoppage | Return at next stoppage | No Rule |
| Not starting with announced lineup | Permitted | Bench Minor | Permitted | Bench Minor |
| Pucks on ice before start of second or third periods | No Rule | No rule | No Rule | Charged with time-out; bench minor if time-out already used |
| Recovery time for injured goalkeeper | No Rule | No extra time allowed | Reasonable amount of time | Reasonable amount of time |
| Team huddles before 2nd or 3rd period | No Rule | No Rule | Minor | Minor |
| Concussion/Unconscious player rule (requires written physician OK to resume play) | No Rule | No Rule | Required | No Rule |
| Stoppage for injured player | Immediate when his team has possession | Immediate when his team has possession | Immediate (regardless of possession) | Immediate when his team has possession |
| Section 3- Equipment |  |  |  |  |
| Hollow end of stick must be covered | Required | Required | Required | No Rule |
| Skates not conforming to rules | Not Permitted to Play | Not Permitted to Play | Warning, then Game Misc | Not Permitted to Play |
| Rule(Situation) | USAH | USAH Juniors | NFHS | NCAA |
| Throat protector – Goalkeeper | Recommended | Recommended | Required | Recommended |
| Throat protector - Player | Not Required | Not Required | Recommended | Not Required |
| Required Protective Equipment – Player | Helmet/Facemask  Skates  Mouthguard (12&U and Older)  Player Personally responsible for all other recommended protective equipment | Helmet/Facemask  Skates  Mouthguard  Player Personally responsible for all other recommended protective equipment | Helmet/Facemask  Skates  Gloves  Padded Hockey Pants Protective Cup /Pelvic Protector Shin Guards Elbow Pads  Shoulder Pads  Tooth and Mouth Protector 1st Offense - Misconduct Return – Game Misconduct | Helmet/Facemask  Skates  Mouthguard  Player personally responsible for all other protective equipment.  1st offense - Not permitted to participate. 2nd offense – Misconduct . 3rd offense – Game Misconduct |
| Player’s helmet comes off during play | Immediate whistle | Player must immediately replace helmet or return to his bench without participating in play- Minor Penalty shall be assessed if he participates in play | Immediate stoppage. Cannot return until play resumes | Immediate stoppage |
| HECC-approved helmet | Required | Required | Required | Players- Required  Goalie- Recommeded |
| Wearing helmet on players’ and penalty bench | Required. Violation - Misc | Required. Violation - Misc | Required. Violation - Misc | Required. Violation – Bench Minor |
| Helmet chinstrap length restriction | Implied | Implied | Implied | Two Fingers |
| Torn, ripped, unzipped pants | No Rule | No Rule | Not Permitted | Not Permitted |
| Mouthguard - non-clear color | Required | Required | Required | Recommended |
| Goalkeeper Glove Falls Off-During Play | Play Stopped if vulnerable and imminent scoring opportunity | Play Stopped if vulnerable and imminent scoring opportunity | Play Stopped Immediately | No Rule |
| Rule(Situation) | USAH | USAH Juniors | NFHS | NCAA |
| Warning prior to equipment violation | Yes (except stick) | Yes (except stick) | Yes | No |
| Casts / splints | OK if adequately covered and physician approved | OK if adequately covered and physician approved | OK if adequately covered and physician approved | No Rule |
| Wearing exposed jewelry | Not permitted | Not permitted | (1) Misc. (2) Game Misc | (1) Misc. (2) Game Misc |
| Equipment request limitation | Anything in Section 3 which has specifications | Anything in Section 3 which has specifications | Sticks Goalkeeper Equipment (No measurement – Refer to S/A) | Sticks, Skates, Goalkeeper Equipment |
| Location of logos on puck | No rule | No Rule | No rule | Limited position |
| Electronic Equipment – Dispute Ruling | Bench Minor | Bench Minor | No Rule | No Rule |
| Electronic Equipment - player on the ice | Bench Minor | Bench Minor | Misconduct | No Rule |
| Section 4- Penalties |  |  |  |  |
| Bench minor penalty defined | Yes | Yes | No rule (Captain’s Choice of players on the ice notation on penalties) | Yes |
| Who serves “Bench Minor” (NFHS equivalent) | Player on ice at infraction | Player on ice at infraction | Player on ice at infraction | Any non-penalized player |
| Coincident minor penalty rule | Equal number of minors offset | Equal number of minors offset unless teams are at full strength | Equal number of minors offset | Equal number of minors offset unless teams at full strength |
| Minor penalty termination when scored upon | First minor being served | First minor being served | First minor being served | Minor causing short-handed at time of goal |
| Player/GK ejected after second Major | Yes (plus 2 game suspension) | Game Misconduct | Yes | No |
| Game suspension for Game Misconduct | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| 2nd Misconduct by Player in Game | Game Misconduct | Game Ejection | No Rule | No Rule |
| Rule(Situation) | USAH | USAH Juniors | NFHS | NCAA |
| 5-penalty maximum/game (player/GK) | Yes (Game Misc.) | No Rule | Yes (Game Misc.) | No |
| 15-penalty maximum/game (coach) | Yes (Next game suspension) | No Rule | No | No |
| Progressive suspension | Yes (Fighting and aggressive major penalties) | Yes (Match/Gross Misconduct) | Yes (Disqualification Penalty) | Yes (Disqualification & Game Misconduct Penalties) |
| Match penalty provision | Yes | Yes | No | No |
| Match (DQ) penalty to non-player | Applies | Applies | Applies | No Rule |
| Maximum Disqualifications per player per game | No Limit | No Limit | One | No Limit |
| Goalkeeper must remain in Privileged Area throughout Penalty Shot attempt | Not Required | Not Required | Not Required | Required |
| Who takes Penalty Shot if player selected is injured or ejected | Teammate on the ice at the time of infraction | Teammate on the ice at the time of infraction | Any teammate on the ice at time of infraction | Any teammate not then serving a penalty |
| Goalkeeper must serve his own major and/or misconduct penalties | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Requires the recording of any delayed penalty nullified by a goal being scored | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Section 5- Officials | 3 |  |  |  |
| Approved Systems | RR, RLL or 2R-2L (not RRL) | RR, RLL or 2R-2L (not RRL) | RR, RRL, or 2R-2L | 2R-2L |
| Adjustment when one official is unable to continue | (4 to 3) 2R-2L to RLL  (3 to 2) RLL to RL or 2R  (2 to 1) 2R - Emergency Official Rule |  | (4 to 3) 2R-2L to RRL  (3 to 2) RRL to 2R  (2 to 1) 2R to R | (4 to 3) if R: 2R-2L to RLL  (4 to 3) if L: 2R-2L to RRL  (3 to 2) RRL – Conference Rule |
| Linesman report unobserved MINOR pen. to Ref. | “Injury Potential” minors only | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Rule(Situation) | USAH | USAH Juniors | NFHS | NCAA |
| Face-offs - Start of periods and after goals (who conducts) | Referee | Referee(Start of Periods)  Linesman(After Goals) | Referee; Linesman option in RRL | Referee in 2R-2L; Linesman in RRL |
| HECC approved hockey helmet required | No | No | Yes | No |
| Access to Rule Book during game | Not Required | Not Required | Required | Required |
| Half-shield facemask required for Officials | Yes | Yes | Yes | No |
| Section 6- Playing Rules |  |  |  |  |
| Awarded goal for certain Penalty Shot situations if goalkeeper is not on the ice:  - Fall on or pick up puck in crease  - Thrown stick (Defending Zone)  - Fouled from behind (breakaway) - GK leaves any portion of stick in crease | Awarded goal (all situations) if preventing obvious/imminent goal | Awarded goal allowed in certain situations where a goal is imminent | Awarded goal allowed in certain situations where a goal is imminent | Awarded goal allowed in certain situations where a goal is imminent |
| Verbally abusing Official after game – player | Misconduct or Game Misconduct | Misconduct | Disqualification | Disqualification |
| Foul language on players’ bench – player | Misconduct or Bench Minor | Misconduct or Bench Minor | Minor + Misconduct | Misconduct |
| Continuing altercation | Misconduct or Game Misconduct | Misconduct, Game Ejection or Game Misconduct | Disqualification | Disqualification |
| Touching/Holding Game Official – player | Misconduct or Game Misconduct | Misconduct, Game Ejection or Game Misconduct | Disqualification | Disqualification |
| Banging boards with stick – player | Misconduct or Game Misconduct | Bench Minor | Minor | Minor |
| Obscene Gesture – player | Game Misconduct | Game Ejection or Game Misconduct | Minor + Game Misconduct or DQ | Misconduct or Game Misconduct |
| Uses language that is offensive, hateful or discriminatory in nature | Game Misconduct | Game Misconduct | Minor + Game Misconduct or DQ | Misconduct or Game Misconduct |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Rule(Situation) | USAH | USAH Juniors | NFHS | NCAA |
| “Detrimental Conduct” – player or Team Official | Match | Gross Misconduct | No Rule | No Rule |
| Verbal abuse to Game Official after game by Team Official | (1) Bench Minor, (2) Game Misc.; Match if threat | (1) Bench Minor, (2) Game Misc.; Match if threat | Disqualification | Supplementary Discipline |
| Obscene Gesture by Team Official | Game Misconduct | Game Ejection or Game Misconduct | Minor + Game Misconduct | Bench Minor |
| Thrown object onto the ice | Bench Minor | Bench Minor | Minor | Player: Minor + Game Misc. Coach: Bench Minor + Game Misconduct |
| Non-physical interference with On-Ice Officials | Misconduct | Bench Minor or Misconduct | Misconduct | Misconduct or Game Misconduct |
| Touching/Holding Game Official by Team Official | Game Misconduct | Misconduct, Game Ejection or Game Misconduct | Disqualification | Disqualification |
| Physically harming Game Official by Team Official | Match | Gross Misconduct | Disqualification | Supplementary Discipline |
| Attempt to Injure (Opponent or Team Official) | Match | Gross Misconduct | Disqualification | Disqualification |
| Boarding | Minor + misconduct, Major + game misconduct. or Match | Minor, Major, Major + Game Misconduct | Major, Major + misconduct or DQ | Minor, Major, Major + Game Misconduct or DQ |
| Body Checking (Body Contact Classifications) | Minor, Major or Major + Game Misconduct | N/A | Minor, Major or DQ | Minor, Major or DQ |
| Goalkeeper playing with a broken stick | Not permitted - Minor | Not permitted - Minor | Not permitted - Minor | OK until next stoppage |
| Butt-Ending | Major + Game Misconduct or Match | Minor + Misconduct, Major + Game Misconduct, or Match | Disqualification | Disqualification |
| Charging | Minor + misconduct, Major + game misconduct. or Match | Minor, Major, Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Major or DQ | Minor, Major, Major + Game Misconduct or DQ |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Rule(Situation) | USAH | USAH Juniors | NFHS | NCAA |
| Checking from Behind | Minor + Misconduct, Major + Game Misconduct, or Match; 5+GM or Match req’d if head-first into boards or goal | Minor penalty, Minor + Misconduct, Major + Game Misconduct penalty, or  Match | Major - Open ice Major + misconduct or DQ if into boards or goal | Minor, Major; Major + Game Misconduct or DQ req’d if into boards or goal |
| Contact to the Head / Head Contact | Minor + misconduct, Major + game misconduct. or Match | Minor, Major, Major + Game Misconduct, or Match | Minor, Major or DQ (Indirect) Major or DQ (Direct) | (Direct) Major + Game Misc. or DQ |
| Cross-Checking | Minor, Major or Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Major, Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Major of DQ | Minor, Major, Major + Game Misconduct or DQ |
| Elbowing | Minor, Major, Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Major, Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Major of DQ | Minor, Major, Major + Game Misconduct or DQ |
| Players must be stationary for face-off | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Player/Line change at stoppage | 5 seconds each for visitor and home team | 5 seconds each for visitor and home team | 5 seconds each for visitor and home team | 5 seconds for the visitor and 8 seconds for the home team |
| Player change after accidental goal dislodged by defending team | Permitted | Not Permitted | Permitted | Not Permitted |
| Player change after team shoots puck over glass and out of play | Permitted | Not Permitted | Permitted | Not Permitted |
| Player change after team ices the puck | Permitted | Not Permitted | Permitted | Not Permitted |
| Face-off location | Only at 9 face-off spots | Only at 9 face-off spots | Only at 9 face-off spots | Only at 9 face-off spots |
| Face-off location after non-coincident penalty | Last play or Neutral Zone spot | Offending team’s defending zone | Offending team’s defending zone | Offending team’s defending zone |
| Face-off location for carrying /throwing or illegal hand passing puck | Neutral zone or last play | Neutral zone or closest dot | Defending zone | One zone closer to own goal |
| Face-off location for playing puck above shoulders | Defending zone (offending team) | Defending zone (offending team) | Defending zone (offending team) | One zone closer to own goal |
| Rule(Situation) | USAH | USAH Juniors | NFHS | NCAA |
| Face-offs procedure – who places stick first? | Attacking center first (Visiting team center ice) | Defending center first (Visiting team center ice) | Attacking center first (Visiting team center ice) | Defending center first (Visiting team center ice) |
| Hand pass permitted | Defending zone only | Defending zone only | Defending zone only | Not Permitted |
| Hand pass by face-off player | No Rule | Not Permitted- Center ejected | No Rule | Not Permitted- Minor Penalty |
| Face-off location for closing hand on puck (non-hand pass or delay of game) | Last Play – no territorial advantage | Last Play – no territorial advantage | Defending end zone | Last Play – no territorial advantage |
| Immediate whistle for hand pass directly on goal | No | No | Yes | No |
| Face-off for interference from bench | Last play (cannot gain ice advantage) | Last play (cannot gain ice advantage) | Last play | Offending team end zone spot |
| Face-off location for puck shot by attacking player attempting to score and leaving rink | In attacking zone if it deflects off the cross bar | In attacking zone if it deflects off the cross bar | Zone where shot occurred | Attacking zone |
| Goalkeeper freezes puck on ice when out of crease, puck in front of goal line (in Priv. Area) | No penalty | No Penalty | No penalty | Minor(Interpretation) |
| Goalkeeper shoots puck out of rink over glass | Minor - Always | Minor - Always | Minor – If deliberate | Minor – If deliberate |
| Goalkeeper checks opponent in Priv. Area | No rule | No Rule | No rule | Minor or Major |
| Instigating Fisticuffs | Minor | Minor + Game Misconduct | No special rule | Minor |
| Fisticuffs, including player struck during altercation who continues by retaliating | Minor, Double Minor, or Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Double Minor, Major Misconduct (Tier I & II)  Major Game Ejection (Tier III) | Disqualification | Disqualification |
| Subsequent player enters altercation (fight) | First in - Game Misconduct; Others - no automatic penalty | Referee’s discretion- Game Misconduct | Disqualification | No Automatic Penalty |
| Rule(Situation) | USAH | USAH Juniors | NFHS | NCAA |
| Deliberately removing helmet/facemask prior to or during altercation | Game Misconduct | Game Misconduct (Tier III) | No rule | No rule |
| Own helmet/facemask comes off head during altercation | Game Misconduct | No Rule | No rule | No rule |
| High Stick definition | Above normal shoulder height of checking player | Above normal shoulder height of checking player | Above 4 feet | Above 4 feet |
| Goal scored from Puck striking portion of stick below HS definition, but part of stick is above | No Goal | Goal is allowed | Goal is allowed | Goal is allowed |
| Immediate whistle for HS puck directly on goal | No | Yes | Yes | No |
| Goalkeeper play puck with high stick | No | No | No | Permitted |
| Grabbing Facemask | Major + Game Misconduct or Match | Minor, Major, Major + Game Misconduct  Major + Game Misconduct (If done during altercation) | Major, Major + Misconduct or Disqualification | Major, Major + Misconduct or Disqualification |
| Head-Butting | Major + Game Misconduct. or Match | Minor + Misconduct, Major + Game Misconduct, or Match | Major, Major + Misconduct or DQ | Major + Game Misconduct. or DQ |
| High Sticking | Minor, Major or Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Major or Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Major or DQ | Minor, Major, Major + Game Misconduct or DQ |
| Hooking | Minor, Major or Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Major or Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Major or DQ | Minor |
| Interference | Minor Penalty | Minor Penalty | Minor, Major or DQ | Minor |
| Directing puck into goal with skate | Disallowed | Goal unless distinct kicking motion | Disallowed | Goal unless distinct kicking motion |
| Attacking player in crease when goal scored (goalkeeper is in the crease) | No goal |  | Allowed – No goal if interfering with the goalkeeper | Allowed – No goal if interfering with the goalkeeper |
| Rule(Situation) | USAH | USAH Juniors | NFHS | NCAA |
| Kicking | Major + Game Misconduct (Push-Off) or Match (Kick) | Major + Game Misconduct (Push-Off) or Match (Kick) | Disqualification | Disqualification |
| Kick shot (skate kicks stick blade) | No Rule | No Rule | Misconduct | Misconduct |
| Kneeing | Minor, Major or Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Major or Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Major or DQ | Minor, Major, Major + Game Misconduct or DQ |
| Player leaves players’ bench or penalty bench during altercation | Major + Game Misconduct | Major + Game Misconduct(1st)  Game Misconduct | Disqualification | Disqualification |
| Extra player prevents breakaway | Penalty Shot/Optional Minor | Penalty Shot/Optional Minor | Penalty Shot + Misconduct | Bench Minor, Misconduct, and Penalty Shot |
| Delayed off-sides permitted | Yes (14U and older) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Immediate whistle for puck shot on goal during delayed off-sides | Yes | No | No | No |
| Stoppage of play for icing violation | Immediate when puck crosses goal line | Hybrid | Immediate when puck crosses goal line | Hybrid |
| Icing error | End zone spot where occurred | End zone spot where occurred | End zone spot where occurred | Center spot unless unduly penalizing either team |
| Off-side error | Neutral zone spot | Neutral zone spot | Neutral zone spot | Center spot |
| Carrying puck behind net more than once per period (not being checked) | No Rule | No Rule | No Rule | Minor |
| Additional puck on ice | Stop only if interferes with play | Stop only if interferes with play | Stop only if interferes with play | Stop at change of possession |
| Team refuses to start play when ordered to do so by Referee | (1) 15 seconds, (2) Bench minor, (3) 15 seconds, (4) Suspend game | (1) 15 seconds, (2) Bench minor, (3) 15 seconds, (4) Suspend game and assess a Gross Misconduct to team official responsible | (1) Warn, (2) 3-min. to comply, (3) Major if comply or forfeit if no comply | (1) Warn, (2) Minor, (3) Major, (4) Forfeit |
| Slashing | Minor, Major or Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Major or Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Major or DQ | Minor, Major, Major + Game Misconduct or DQ |
| Rule(Situation) | USAH | USAH Juniors | NFHS | NCAA |
| Slew-footing | Minor, Major or Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Major, Major + Game Misconduct, or Match | Minor, Major or DQ | Major + Game Misc. or DQ |
| Spearing | Major + Game Misconduct or Match | Minor + Misconduct, Major + Game Misconduct or Match | Disqualification | Major + Game Misconduct or Disqualification |
| Thrown stick | At puck in Def. Zone: Pen. Shot, Otherwise: minor | At puck in Def. Zone: Pen. Shot, Otherwise: minor | Preventing a goal: Pen. Shot Otherwise: minor | Preventing a goal: Pen. Shot Otherwise: minor |
| “Mercy Rule” (ending game early) | No | No | Permitted | No |
| Time of period | 20 minutes maximum | 20 minutes maximum | 15 (up to 17 min. by State) | 20 minutes (15-18 minute Intermission) |
| Time-out permitted | Before conclusion of line change procedure | Before conclusion of line change procedure | Anytime during a stoppage | Anytime during a stoppage |
| Max. period length, sudden-death overtime | 10 min. (no resurface) | 5 min. (no resurface) | 8 min. (no resurface) | 5 min. (no resurface) |
| Teams change ends for first overtime | No | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Video review | No rule | No Rule | By State Assoc. adoption only | Yes |
| Tripping/Clipping/Leg Checking | Minor, Major or Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Major or Major + Game Misconduct | Minor, Major or DQ | Minor, Major, Major + Game Misconduct or DQ |
| Unnecessary Roughness | Minor or Double Minor | Minor, Double Minor | Minor, Major or Disqualification | Minor |
| Unnecessary Roughness – avoidable check to vulnerable player or after whistle | Minor, Major or Major + GM | Minor, Major, Major + Game Ejection | Minor, Major or DQ | Minor, Major, Major + |
| Diving Rule (Embellishment) | No Rule | Minor | Minor | Minor |