
NASHVILLE PREDATORS MIDDLE SCHOOL HOCKEY LEAGUE

Official Rulebook



MSHL SPRING 2026
FORD ICE CENTER

i. Player Eligibility

- a. All team rosters may only include players who meet the criteria outlined below
 - i. Registration
 - 1. Each player must be fully registered and in good standing with the league.
 - ii. USA Hockey
 - 1. Each player must be fully registered and in good standing with USA Hockey.
 - iii. Grade Level
 - 1. Eligible players must be within the following range: Grade 6 – Grade 8 and not exceed the 14U age classification.
- b. The NPAHA may override any of the above rules at their discretion.
- c. Any team using an ineligible player may face forfeiture of games.
- d. Substitute Goalies
 - i. If a team is missing their usual goaltender, the league administrators will appoint a goaltender for them to use as a substitute.
 - 1. Please contact RDICIAULA@NASHVILLEPREDATORS.COM and JBONIECKI@NASHVILLEPREDATORS.COM well in advance to ensure that a goalie can be found in time.

ii. Coaching Eligibility

- a. All coaches must have a valid USA Hockey Coaching Education Program (CEP) level, the BA14MD18 age specific module, and background screening
- b. All coaches must have a valid SafeSport USA certification
- c. All coaches must be an employee of the Nashville Predators and Ford Ice Centers
- d. Volunteers are not allowed in any capacity

iii. Playing Rules

- a. This league will follow all [USA Hockey rules](#) and penalties for the 14U age level including but not limited to:
 - i. Delayed offsides
 - ii. Automatic Icing
 - iii. No icing allowed on penalty kill
 - iv. 1:30 min Minor penalty
 - v. 3:00 min Major penalty
 - vi. 8:00 min Misconduct penalty
 - vii. **No body checking**: competitive contact is allowed
 - viii. **3 Goal Limit** – a single player may not score more than 3 goals in a single game. Once a player reaches the goal limit, any additional goals will be disallowed, and play will resume with a faceoff at center ice.
- b. Regular Season Game Structure
 - i. Three (3) 13-minute stop time periods
 - ii. Regular season games will end in a tie at the end of regulation
- c. Regular Season Points:
 - i. 2 points for a win
 - ii. 1 point for a tie

- iii. 0 points for a loss
 - d. Playoff Seeding Tiebreakers: If two or more teams are tied in points after the regular season, the following tiebreakers in the following order shall be used to determine which team finishes higher for final seeding:
 - i. If two teams are tied, Head-to-Head Competition;
 - ii. If two teams remain tied, Most Wins during the regular season;
 - iii. If two teams remain tied, Goal Differential
 - iv. If teams are still tied, Fewest Penalty Minutes;
 - v. If teams still tied, Coin Flip. If more than two teams are involved in the Coin Flip, the League Staff will determine the method of coin flip to be used.
 - e. Playoff Game Structure
 - i. Three (3) 13-minute stop time periods
 - ii. If tied after regulation, 5-minute stop time 3-on-3 overtime
 - iii. If still tied, 3 round shootout
 - 1. Home team decides order of shootout
 - iv. If still tied, sudden-death shootout
 - 1. Players in the first group of 3 may not shoot again until all other eligible players on their team have had a turn
 - 2. Players with time remaining on their penalty are not eligible for the shootout.
 - 3. Goalies are not eligible.
 - f. Running Clock
 - i. A running clock will be utilized for the duration of the game in the event of a five (5) goal differential at any point in the 3rd period.
 - ii. Stop-time will resume once the score is within one (1) goal.
 - g. Equipment Requirements
 - i. All skaters must wear equipment per USA Hockey guidelines: skates, shin guards, hockey pants, shoulder pads, elbow pads, gloves, neck guard, and helmet.
 - 1. If a player is sent off the ice by an official to get a neck guard and then returns without one (or with improper equipment), the team receives a bench minor.
 - ii. All goalies must wear full goaltending equipment: skates, leg pads, chest protector, blocker, catcher, neck guard, and helmet.

iv. Penalties and Supplementary Discipline

- a. **Penalties** The MSHL follows all of USA Hockey penalties. The rules listed below are in addition to USA Hockey penalties.
- b. **Body Checking:** Body checking is not allowed. If an official deems body contact/checking to be intentional, the player will receive a **minor penalty (1:30 min) and a misconduct (8:00 min)**. Additional time may be applied pending the Official's game report and review from the Ford Ice Center Hockey Department.

- c. **Penalties Per Game** Any player committing four (4) penalties in one (1) game will be removed from the game and issued a Game Misconduct penalty, resulting in them missing the next game. Note: A 1:30 and 8 penalty counts as two (2) penalties.
- d. **Fighting** There is a ZERO tolerance rule for fighting. If any player fights, (punch/punches thrown with gloves on or off) that player will be suspended for the remainder of the season. Additional time may be applied pending the Official's game report and review from the Ford Ice Center Hockey Department.
- e. **Game Misconducts** Any player receiving a game misconduct is ejected from the game and must also miss at least one additional game. Pending review, that player may face additional discipline depending on the severity of the incident as determined by League staff.
- f. **Match Penalties** A match penalty will result in an indefinite suspension pending a hearing with the disciplinary board.
- g. **Official/Scorekeeper Abuse** Ford Ice Center enforces a zero-tolerance policy for abuse of officials and scorekeepers. Abuse includes verbal, physical, or other. Abuse of officials will result in an immediate and indefinite suspension, pending review.
- h. **Suspensions:** Any player who receives a suspension is ineligible to participate in games until the suspension has been fully served. The player remains eligible to attend practices; however, they may not be present in the locker room or on the bench during any games in which they are serving the suspension. No refunds will be issued for games missed as a result of a suspension.

v. **League Schedule**

- a. Games
 - i. Each team will play 11 regular season games, followed by at one (1) guaranteed postseason games with the potential for three (3).
- b. Playoff Tournament
 - i. Round 1
 - 1. The top 8 teams will compete in a single elimination bracket as follows below:
 - a. Quarterfinals:
 - V. #1 vs. #8 in Game A
 - VI. #2 vs. #7 in Game B
 - VII. #3 vs. #6 in Game C
 - VIII. #4 vs. #5 in Game D
 - b. Teams are reseeded for the semifinals:
 - V. #1 vs. #4 in Game E
 - VI. #2 vs. #3 in Game F
 - c. Winners of semifinals advance to the championship:
 - V. Winner of Game E vs. Winner of Game F
 - 2. The bottom four (4) teams will play one consolation game
 - V. #9 vs #10
 - VI. #11 vs #12



Parent Code of Conduct

- Parents MAY NOT coach their child(ren) during practices and games OR shout at their child(ren) on the ice, in the dressing room, or during team activities.
- Parents MAY NOT shout at or direct profanity or signals toward any game official, coach, player or parent. See USA Hockey Zero Tolerance policy for possible penalties for such infractions.
- Parents MAY NOT confront a coach for any disputed decision for a MINIMUM of twenty-four (24) hours after the end of the game or practice involved. After the 24-Hour Cooling Off Period, the parent(s) may contact the Coach who will schedule a time to talk over the phone or in person based on the availability of the coach and parent.
- Parents MAY NOT confront, question or hassle any game official.
- Parents MUST stay off the ice during all games and practices and MUST refrain from speaking with their players until the conclusion of the ice time.
- Parents are not permitted on the bench or in the penalty box in any capacity. Only hired and approved MSHL staff members are authorized to be in the bench or scorekeeping areas.

Player Code of Conduct

- Participants WILL NOT lash out at any official, no matter what the call is. The coaching staff will handle all matters pertaining to officiating.
- Participants WILL NOT endanger the safety, welfare or well-being of other participants, engage in fighting, hazing, "locker boxing", malicious horseplay, or photography/video in the locker room. Any of these activities will result in consequences determined by the coach.
- Participants WILL NOT swear or use abusive language on the bench, in the rink, or at any team function or insult, disrespect or demean an opponent, teammate, game official, administrator or spectator at any time.
- Participants WILL NOT commit thefts or vandalism of any sort.
- Participants WILL NOT bully other players. Players who are found continuously breaking this violation will be removed from the league without a refund.

This document represents the official rules and structure of the Middle School Hockey League. All participants are expected to adhere to the policies outlined herein. Rules are subject to change with appropriate notice by the NPAHA Staff.