



NASHVILLE PREDATORS MIDDLE SCHOOL HOCKEY LEAGUE

OFFICIAL RULEBOOK

2024 SEASON

1. 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 5 – Grade 8.
- b. Any team using an ineligible player may face forfeiture of games.
- c. 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 nszymula@nashvillepredators.com and dcuce@nashvillepredators.com well in advance to ensure that a goalie can be found in time.

2. Coaching Eligibility

- a. All coaches must have a valid USA Hockey certification and complete the appropriate age specific modules 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 Center

3. Playing Rules

- a. This league will follow all USA Hockey rules and penalties for the 14U age level including but not limited to:
 - i. Automatic offsides
 - ii. Automatic Icing
 - iii. No icing allowed on penalty kill
 - iv. 1:30 minor penalties
 - v. No body checking; competitive contact is allowed
- b. Regular Season Game Structure
 - i. 3 12-minute stop time periods
 - ii. Regular season games will end in ties at the end of regulation
 - iii. Each team receives one (1) 60-second timeout per game.
- c. Playoff Game Structure
 - i. 3 12-minute stop time periods
 - ii. If tied after regulation, 5 minute stop time 3-on-3 overtime
 - iii. If still tied, 3 round shootout
 - iv. If still tied, single round shootout
 - v. Each team receives one (1) 60-second timeout per game.

4. Penalties and Supplementary Discipline

- a. The MSHL follows all of USA Hockey penalties. The rules listed below are in addition to USA Hockey penalties.

- i. *Body Checking* Body checking is not allowed. If an official deems body contact/checking to be intentional, the player will automatically be ejected, a game misconduct will be assessed. Additional disciplinary action may be applied pending the Official's game report and review from the Ford Ice Center Hockey Department.
- ii. *Penalties Per Game* Any player committing three (3) penalties in one (1) game will be removed from the game, but will be allowed to return to the next game. This penalty limit helps players avoid a game misconduct (4 penalties in one game) and the subsequent suspension under USA Hockey's rulebook. Note: A 2 and 10 penalty counts as 2 penalties.
- iii. *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.
- iv. *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.
- v. *Match Penalties* A match penalty will result in an indefinite suspension pending a hearing with the disciplinary board.
- vi. *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 a review.

5. Officials

- a. All game reports including Misconducts and Official Reports must be completed submitted to Nick Szymula and Dominick Cuce no longer than 24 hours after the completion of a game.

6. League Schedule & Standings

- a. Games
 - i. Each team will play 9 regular season games, followed by anywhere from 1-3 postseason games (based on team performance)
- b. Playoff Tournament
 - i. The top 8 teams will compete in a single elimination bracket as follows below:
 - 1. Quarterfinals:
 - a. #1 vs. #8 in Game A
 - b. #2 vs. #7 in Game B
 - c. #3 vs. #6 in Game C
 - d. #4 vs. #5 in Game D
 - 2. Teams are reseeded for the semifinals:
 - a. #1 vs. #4 in Game E
 - b. #2 vs. #3 in Game F
 - 3. Winners of semifinals advance to the championship:
 - a. Winner of Game E vs. Winner of Game F

- ii. The bottom 2 teams will play one consolation game
- c. Standings
 - i. Teams will earn 2 points for a win
 - ii. Teams will earn 1 point for a tie
 - iii. Teams will earn 0 points for a loss
 - iv. Standings Tiebreakers
 - 1. Points
 - 2. Head to Head
 - 3. Goal Differential
 - 4. Fewest Penalty Minutes
 - 5. Fewest Goals Allowed