



STATEWIDE FLORIDA GIRLS HOCKEY LEAGUE

Rules and Regulations

2025-2026 Season

SFGHL Rules & Regulations (2025-2026 Season)

NOTE: Throughout this document, the term “skater” or “skaters” refers to all non-goalkeepers. The term “player” or “players” refers to both skaters and goalkeepers.

SECTION A: TEAM AND ASSOCIATION RULES

1. Annual Application: Annual application for membership by an organization shall be submitted to the SFGHL EXECUTIVE BOARD for consideration. The EXECUTIVE BOARD shall not unreasonably withhold acceptance of teams that meet the SFGHL criteria for membership. Criteria for membership are as follows:

- Each organization must have its own USA HOCKEY Association Code.
- Each organization must be a member in good standing with USA HOCKEY and SAHOF.
- Each organization must agree to abide by the rules and regulations of USA HOCKEY, SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT, SAHOF, and the SFGHL.
- Each organization shall be required to provide an annual application per each team and a non-refundable \$1000 deposit to be included in the scheduling process.
- The annual application shall be due no later than June 16th along with the \$1000 deposit.
- For organizations applying for participation in the SFGHL for the first time, a Certificate of Occupancy for the home rink of said travel organization must be presented to the SFGHL no later than July 1st immediately preceding the upcoming SFGHL season. Payments for League dues are due on posted dates; any organization that does not pay their dues by the due date will have all their organizations team’s games forfeited until payment is received. Any Organization to be found consistently late with their payments will forgo the split payment schedule and will be required to pay their entire league fees before the beginning of the season.

2. Home Ice: Each organization must have a firm commitment for available home ice. Each organization shall assume the responsibility of providing sufficient ice time for their home games that meet the requirements of the SFGHL scheduler.

3. Association Representative: All participating teams must assign an Association Representative. All communication with the SFGHL League office is to be done by your Association Representative.

4. Team Registration: All teams must be registered as Tier II in their appropriate age division. The League reserves the right to schedule games against non-Tier II USA Hockey sanctioned teams if the need arises to provide a competitive schedule with the approval of the teams in the division. The league office must have link to the USA Hockey 1-T roster (approved by the Affiliate Registrar) on file.

5. Multiple Teams: Any organization wishing to have more than one team in any age division must have at least one team of the same age classification participating in the SFGHL ‘A’ Division. Teams playing "Up" in the "A" leagues do not qualify to fulfill this requirement.

- a. Both teams must carry a minimum of 10 players on each of their respective SFGHL rosters through the end of the SFGHL season.

6. SAHOF Registration: It is the sole responsibility of each organization's designated registrar to duly register the roster with the SAHOF ASSOCIATE REGISTRAR at their earliest convenience following the formation of the team, and with any subsequent changes. Approved USA Hockey 1-T Rosters may be changed as necessary through December 31. If a player is added to the USA Hockey 1-T roster prior to the December 31 deadline, but that player is redlined, that player may still be added to an SFGHL team roster after December 31 once that player's status becomes approved on the USA Hockey 1-T roster. Alternatively, if a player is added to the USA Hockey 1-T roster and approved prior to the December 31 deadline but is not added to the SFGHL roster before December 31, that player is still eligible to be added to the SFGHL roster after December 31 provided the player is still on the USA Hockey 1-T roster.

7. Roster Submission: Initial Submission of Roster for SFGHL Season: All teams are required to submit (1) the portal link to their Approved USA Hockey 1-T roster and (2) a completed SFGHL Roster Upload Excel spreadsheet. Both items are due by 11:59pm on the Monday immediately preceding the team's scheduled first game of the SFGHL season.

8. Team Composition: A team roster shall consist of no more than twenty (20) registered players. No player can be on the roster of two Tier I or II teams or any national bound team at one time. (this includes USA Hockey sanctioned juniors). Teams may roster a maximum of 5 total coaches (1 Head Coach + 4 Assistant Coaches) and 2 Team Managers on their SFGHL roster. Each organization will be required to designate one coach (preferably but not necessarily the Hockey Director) to complete ALL age division modules, so they are eligible to fill in for any late notice coach absences during the season. The name of this coach shall be communicated to the SFHL/SFGHL Administrator

9. First Aid: It is recommended that the home rink shall provide a suitable First Aid kit to be kept at the arena for the use of League teams and shall keep an emergency call list available. It is strongly recommended that all teams should maintain a first aid kit to be immediately accessible on the players' bench.

10. Jerseys: Each association shall be responsible for supplying their teams with a set of non-duplicate numbered jerseys. The home team shall wear their lighter colored jerseys; however, the home team must change their jerseys if home and visitors have the same color jerseys. All players shall be dressed uniformly. Teams may agree to switch colors for games. Should the SFGHL deem the jerseys to not be definitively dark or light, the league reserves the right to require the organization to provide an additional or alternate set of jerseys.

10a. STOP Patches: All players are required to have a STOP patch (minimum of 3" in height and width) permanently affixed to the back of all jerseys. The patch should be centered horizontally and should be positioned immediately above the name on the back of the jersey. Should there not be a name bar, or if it does not fit there, then it should be positioned immediately above the jersey number. Wearing the patch in the correct place on the jersey is mandatory effective with the 2025-26 season.

10.b Jersey Number 0/00: A team may have only one player on its roster with the number 0 or 00.

11. Fine for Failure to Play: Any SFGHL team that does not show up to play in a scheduled league game, without prior approval by the league, will have their association assessed a \$1,000.00 fine per occurrence. If the fine is not paid in its entirety within 30 days the fined association will not be allowed to participate in the SFGHL at any level the following year until the fine is paid. In addition, the Head Coach

will be suspended for three SFGHL games. If there are not enough games to serve the suspension during the current SFGHL season, the suspension will carry over to the following season.

12. No Refunds: Each organization shall be required to pay the established registration fees to SFGHL on the due dates. There will be no refunds issued for teams that drop out after the schedule making process has begun on June 16, 2025.

13. Schedule changes: SFGHL Leagues Games take precedent over all other games including tournaments. For the 2025-26 season, teams WILL NOT be permitted to request a rescheduling of any games. There will be no refunds from the league for missed games. Simply electing to forfeit a game is not permissible and will result in the team being subject to Section A, Rule 11 above.

14. 'AAA'/Alliance Player Restrictions: No full-time AAA or tournament team Alliance players may participate in the SFGHL at the A or AA Level.

a) Exceptions to Rule: A 10U AAA or tournament team Alliance player may be permitted in the 12U age category.

SECTION B: PLAYER AND COACH RULES

The SFGHL will play by USA Hockey and SAHOF Rules and Regulations.

1. USA Hockey Registration: All Players and Coaches must be registered with USA Hockey.

2. Coaches' Qualifications: All coaches must be in good standing and be listed as a Coach (Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Coach, etc.) on the Approved USA Hockey 1-T roster to perform the functions of a coach for SFGHL games including but not limited to occupying the players' bench during SFGHL games. After December 31st of the current season, coaches whose CEP has expired (per the 1-T roster) will be removed from the SFGHL roster and will no longer be permitted to perform any coaching functions during SFGHL games.

3. Suspensions: In any situation where USA HOCKEY/SFGHL rules or disciplinary rulings provide for a participant (Player or Coach) to be suspended for one (1) or more games for actions occurring during an SFGHL game (before, during or after the game), the suspension is to be applied and served at the next scheduled SFGHL league game(s). The suspension is not eligible to be served during non-SFGHL league games. The participant is only suspended for the SFGHL game and is eligible to participate in all other USA Hockey activities. If the suspension is not able to be served in its entirety during the SFGHL season, the suspension shall carry-over to the SAHOF State Championships (beginning with the 2026-27 season). If the player's team does not qualify for the SAHOF State Championships (beginning with the 2026-27 season), the suspension shall then carry over to the next SFGHL season.

NOTE: Supplemental Discipline resulting from actions that occurred across multiple games, must be served during SFGHL games if all contributing acts occurred during SFGHL games. If any of the contributing acts occurred during a non-SFGHL game, then the suspension shall be served during the player's next eligible USA Hockey sanctioned game(s) for that player's team.

All suspensions to be served during SFGHL games should appear on the official SFGHL scoresheets, and while we will make every effort to keep the suspensions current and listed on the scoresheets, it remains the ultimate responsibility of the coaches & managers to comply with the suspension and not play any player (or allow a coach to participate) that is to be serving a suspension. It is also the head coach's responsibility to cross off any suspended players and coaches from the roster on the scoresheet as proof of serving the suspension.

Any team personnel that are suspended during an SFGHL game, are prohibited from being added to any other SFGHL roster while the suspension is being served.

If a player or coach receives a suspension in the first game of the day during SFGHL league play, it will not appear on the second scoresheet. It is the coach's responsibility to report and not play that player in the next game.

Any player or coach that knowingly participates in a game that he/she should be serving a suspension will result in:

- a) forfeiture of the game.
- b) the player or coach will still be required to serve the suspension in a subsequent SFGHL game PLUS will be assessed an additional one game suspension for violation of the rule.
- c) The Head Coach of the team for the game in which the suspended player or coach participates will be assessed a 1-game SFGHL suspension for a first offense, a 5-game SFGHL suspension for a second offense, and a 1-calendar year suspension for a third offense. The progression of suspensions for this specific rule (B.3.c.) is cumulative across all SFGHL seasons.

Rule 410 | Supplementary Discipline (a) In addition to the suspensions imposed by the on-ice officials, The SFGHL reserves the right, at its discretion and after the game has been completed, to investigate any incident that occurs in connection with any game. Any incident that occurs prior to, during, or after the game is subject to review regardless of whether the action was penalized by the Referee and is open to supplementary discipline of players, coaches, managers, and spectators. Video may be submitted or requested to support any potential supplementary discipline to aid in assessing the incident in accordance with the SAHOF Video Review Policy.

In the rare instance where a player or coach suspension was not reported in a timely manner to the league, and is later pointed out to the SFGHL, that suspension must still be served in the immediately next game of that player or coach. However, the SFGHL reserves the right to select a different game in which to serve the suspension should it be deemed that the reporting delay may result in an inappropriate serving of the suspension at the discretion of the SFGHL Commissioner.

If any parent or spectator violates the USA Hockey Zero Tolerance policy before, during or after an SFGHL league game, for a first offense, that parent/spectator will be subject to a MINIMUM suspension of 4 SFGHL league games or in the case of 8U, a two jamboree suspension. This suspension must be served during SFGHL league games only.

If a person acting in the role as a Penalty Box Attendant violates the USA Hockey Zero Tolerance policy for parents or spectators before, during or after an SFGHL league game and as a result is

ejected from the game by the officials, for a first offense, that parent/spectator will be subject to a MINIMUM suspension of 6 SFGHL league games and will be permanently banned from acting in the role of a Penalty Box Attendant for all future SFGHL games.

The parent, spectator or Penalty Box Attendant is not permitted to enter the facility from 60 minutes before the game until 60 minutes after the game. Until the suspension is served in its entirety, the suspended parent, spectator or Penalty Box Attendant is banned from all SFGHL league games in all divisions. Based on the severity of the offense, the SFGHL reserves the right to increase the length of the suspension as it deems appropriate.

In the case of a suspension to a Penalty Box Attendant, the Head Coach for that team will also be suspended for the next 2 SFGHL games of that team once the suspension to the Penalty Box Attendant has been officially assessed by way of communication from the SAHOF Discipline Coordinator. The suspension to the Head Coach must be served during SFGHL league games only.

At the discretion of the SFGHL Executive Committee, in cases of a parent/spectator violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy that results in a suspension, the team of the parent/spectator that was ejected may be subject to the requirement of having a 3rd party security firm in attendance for all remaining games of the SFGHL schedule for that team. The security firm would be hired by the SFGHL, and the offending team would be responsible for paying all charges for the paid security.

4. Carry-over Suspension:

(a) If an SFGHL suspension carries beyond the last game of the SFGHL regular season, the unserved game(s) will then be served at the start of the following fall season.

(b) Players cannot serve SFGHL suspensions while rostered on Spring and Summer teams.

Note: Match Penalty rulings on acts committed during SFGHL games that carry-over beyond the end of the SFGHL season, may carry over into the Spring and Summer season based on the ruling results of the disciplinary hearing.

5. Multiple Game Misconducts: Any Coach or Player that receives 2 game misconducts over the course of the SFGHL season automatically receives an additional 3 game suspension.

6. Rule 411 | Progressive Suspensions:

(a) Any player who receives their third major penalty during the same season for any combination of aggressive infractions listed below shall receive an additional three-game suspension. For any player who receives their fourth major penalty in this category, the player shall receive an additional five-game suspension. Any player who receives their fifth major penalty in this category during the same season shall be suspended until a hearing is conducted by the proper authorities (USA Hockey Affiliate). These designated game suspensions shall be in addition to any other suspensions imposed through the official playing rules.

The aggressive infractions that fit into this category are: Rule 603 Boarding; Rule 604 Body Checking (Body Contact categories); Rule 606 Butt-Ending; Rule 607 Charging; Rule 608 Checking from Behind; Rule 609 Cross-Checking; Rule 611 Elbowing; Rule 619 Head-Butting; Rule 620 Head Contact; Rule 621 High Stick; Rule 627 Kicking; Rule 628 Kneeing; Rule 634 Slashing; Rule

635 Spearing; Rule 639 Tripping/Clipping/Leg Checking; Rule 640 Unnecessary Roughness (Roughing)

(b) Any team that receives three major penalties in the same game shall have its Head Coach suspended for the next game of that team. For any subsequent game where that team receives three or more major penalties in the same game, the Head Coach shall serve a three-game suspension. For a third game with three or more major penalties by the same team during the same season, the Head Coach shall be suspended indefinitely until a hearing has been conducted by the proper authorities (USA Hockey Affiliate).

(c) Any player who receives a second major penalty for fighting with the same team during the same season shall receive a three-game suspension. For a third fighting major with the same team in the same season, the player shall be suspended until a hearing is conducted by the proper authorities under Rule 410 Supplementary Discipline.

7. Players' Equipment: Neck Laceration Protectors are now mandatory, per USA Hockey rules. The enforcement procedure shall be the same as a mouthguard.

8. False Registration: Any player, parent or coach who willingly gives materially false information in connection with a player's registration for a team shall be suspended for the current season. The same shall apply to any player who signs his parents' name to his contract.

9. Player Removal: Team Management may remove a player from a team's roster for any reason. Once a player is removed from the team's roster, that player shall not rejoin the team during the current season. Such a removal must be reported to (1) the SAHOF ASSOCIATE REGISTRAR so that a certified updated USA HOCKEY roster can be obtained and (2) the SFGHL Commissioner via the REMOVE A PLAYER form in the Team Manager Secured Area on the SFGHL on SAHOF site. This rule is effective with the first regularly scheduled game (weekend series) for each team. The league reserves the right to allow the player to rejoin the team if the player was removed for an injury subject to USA Hockey roster rules. Prior to removing the player from the SFGHL roster, the team MUST obtain prior approval if the removal is due to injury and they plan to add the player back upon the player's recovery from injury. Player MUST be added back to the roster prior to December 31.

10. Age Eligibility: Eligibility for play in an age bracket will be based on the year of birth as provided in USA Hockey guidelines. Players are not permitted to play down an age division in the League.

11. Zamboni Rules: While ice is being resurfaced, no player shall step onto the ice until after the Zamboni has left the ice and the Zamboni exit doors have been closed.

SECTION C: LEAGUE PLAY

1. Game Rules: All SFGHL games will be played under the rules of USA Hockey and SAHOF. In addition, the SFGHL may modify or supplement USA Hockey rules with local rules applicable to SFHL games as appropriate.

2. Age classifications: League play may be scheduled for teams entered in the following classifications:
• 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 19U NO MINOR OR MAJOR CLASSIFICATIONS will be recognized.

3. League Composition: The SFGHL may restrict the number of teams in any one division or classification.

4. Player Rosters: USA HOCKEY Tier II rules for the registration of players and teams strictly apply. No team may dress any player for an SFHL League game that is not on BOTH OF that teams:

- a) official approved USA Hockey 1-T roster AND
- b) official SFGHL league roster on SFGHLHockey.com

Any team found to have violated this rule shall forfeit all games played with the ineligible player(s) and the Head Coach will be subject to league disciplinary measures.

Any organization that has 2 teams in the same age category (e.g. 12U) AND division (e.g. 'A') is prohibited from moving players between the rosters of the 2 teams. For example, if an organization has 2 teams in 12U A, no player can move between those 2 rosters. If any organization has 2 teams in same age category but different divisions, player movement between A to AA would be permitted.

ADDING & REMOVING OF PLAYERS- The process for adding a player or coach to your roster is outlined below. ALL STEPS must be completed for a player or coach prior to participating in any SFHL league games.

- i. Provide the necessary documentation to your association registrar to have the player added to your USA Hockey 1-T official roster. Your association registrar will then submit the request to the SAHOF Registrar for processing. This submission **MUST** be received by the SAHOF registrar by 4PM on Thursday for this player or coach addition request to take effect for the immediately upcoming weekend of games. Coaches or managers must have completed their Safe Sport certification, background screening and age-appropriate module prior to being added to the roster and must adhere to the requirements stipulated in the coaching credentials section.
- ii. Go to the Team Manager Secured Area on the SFGHL on SAHOF. There you will click on the Add a Player or Coach link for the league that your team plays in. This submission must be electronically stamped by 9:00PM Thursday for this player or coach addition request to take effect for the immediately upcoming weekend of games.
- iii. Check your SFGHL League roster on Friday afternoon after 2:00pm ET on SFHLHockey.com. If the request has not been processed (i.e. you do not see the requested player or coach on your SFGHL League roster), then immediately contact the league commissioner to ensure that the request was received on time and is in process. This communication should be done via email.
- iv. If either of the deadlines in 1) or 2) above is missed, that player or coach is not eligible to play or coach for the immediately upcoming weekend.

In the event of a challenge by a team related to the playing of a non-rostered player, the following actions should be followed: The team officials should inform the opposing team's head coach and scorekeeper of the challenge. Whenever possible the challenge should be communicated

before the game. The challenge should be noted on the scoresheet. The player in question will be allowed to participate in the game.

After the game weekend, the team making the challenge is responsible for submitting, in writing, a formal complaint to the Commissioner along with a copy of the scoresheet. The Commissioner, in consultation with the EXECUTIVE BOARD, will make a ruling. If the ruling is made that the player was ineligible, the game will be declared a forfeit. The team making the challenge has until the immediate next Tuesday at 11:59pm to submit the complaint.

5. Scoresheet Rosters: Both Managers are responsible for bringing to ALL games the pre-printed Scoresheets from the online SFGHL League schedule. SCORESHEETS THAT HAVE LABELS ON THEM WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED OFFICIAL AND GAME RESULTS WILL BE POSTED 0-0 TIES WITH NO POINTS BEING AWARDED TO BOTH TEAMS. The manager or coach is responsible for counting how many players the other team has on the ice. In the event there are more players on the ice than on the roster you should make the referee aware of it immediately before the start of the game. Any players that are not present should be scratched.

Skaters, goalies and coaches should not be written in on the scoresheet. If a person does not appear on the pre-printed scoresheet, that person is not eligible to participate in the game in any capacity. However, if there is a dispute as to whether that person should be on the scoresheet, then the team's head coach may write the individual in on the scoresheet and that individual shall be permitted to participate in the game only if that person is on the approved USA Hockey 1-T roster of that team. By doing so, they understand and accept the consequences detailed below should it be determined that individual is NOT eligible to participate in the game. The only allowable change permitted to the scoresheet is a player(s) number(s). (In the case where a rostered player forgets, tears or bloodies his jersey, the player may participate by using a substitute jersey of matching color with a number that does not duplicate another player's number on the roster. If the number is different from the one printed on the roster for that player, the officials should be notified, and the number should be changed on the official scoresheet to match the jersey now being worn by that player. Taped numbers on the jersey are prohibited.

If a player is written in on the scoresheet and is determined to be ineligible, the game will be declared a forfeit, the Head Coach of that team for that game will be suspended for 1 game. A second violation of this rule will result in a 3-game suspension for the Head Coach. If the 2nd violation occurs in the 2nd game on the same day of an SFGHL weekend, that will be taken into consideration with respect to the severity of discipline levied.

If a coach is on the bench for an SFGHL game and is either

(a) written in on the scoresheet or (

b) not on the scoresheet whatsoever, and is determined to be ineligible, then either:

i) if the official Head Coach for the team is present at the game, then the Head Coach of that team will be suspended for 1 game, and the coach that was written in will be suspended for 1 game from the team he/she is rostered on. A second violation of this rule will result in a 3-game suspension for all parties. OR

ii) if the official Head Coach for the team is NOT present at the game, then team's Official Head Coach will be suspended for 1 game, the Head Coach of that team for that game will be suspended for 1 game, and the coach that was written in will be suspended for 1 game from the team he/she is rostered on. A second violation of this rule will result in a 3-game suspension for all parties.

A 3rd violation of either (i) or (ii) will result in a disciplinary hearing with the SAHOF Discipline Committee. Additionally, If the coach who was written in on the scoresheet is not on any SFGHL roster, then a disciplinary hearing will be conducted with the violating organization to determine any sanctions to be levied against the organization. Note: The SFGHL reserves the right to levy a \$250 fine in lieu of a suspension, dependent upon the circumstances of the violation.

6. Game Results: BOTH teams are responsible for reporting the results of the weekend league games to the SFHL/SFGHL office by the Monday Night following the weekend games. Please use the phone app GENIUS SCAN to scan and submit all scoresheets as a PDF file. All scoresheets should be scanned and emailed to gameresults@sahofhockey.org . Do NOT send JPG or PNG files.

Coaches must sign scoresheets BEFORE the start of the game. This signature verifies that all players listed and not "scratched" are present for play in that game. If it is found that a player appearing on the scoresheet and not scratched was not present for the game and the Coach signed the scoresheet, and the action was deemed intentional, the Head Coach of that team will be assessed a one game suspension to be served in the next SFHL game from the date of suspension. This is an SFGHL suspension and can only be served during an SFHL game.

All SFGHL games, 10U through 19U age divisions, and both 'A' and 'AA' divisions, will be subject to a 7-goal maximum differential for posting and tie-breaker purposes.

7. Player Statistics: Only penalties and games played will be posted to the SFGHL online game reporting system. The cumulative season statistics (PIM and GP only) will only be made available at the end of the season for purposes of preparing the Team Binder for USA Hockey National Championships. NO INDIVIDUAL SCORING OR GOALTENDING STATS WILL BE RECORDED, TRACKED or POSTED.

8. Start Times:

a) It is requested that players be at the rink thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled start time for their respective game. Games may be started as many as 15 minutes prior to their scheduled time. Referees have the latitude to issue delay of game penalties and teams will forfeit the option to warm-up if they are not ready to take the ice immediately after it has been resurfaced.

b) No game may start less than one hour after the conclusion of either team's previous game. For scheduling purposes, this means that no game will be scheduled less than 135 minutes (140 minutes for 16U and 19U) from the start time of either team's previous game.

9. Game Lengths: The length of periods, time-outs, penalties and the number and arrangement of games in a league weekend are determined by the playing rules for each division of play. (See Addendum-1)

10. Exiting Playing Surface: At the conclusion of games played at facilities where both teams exit the playing surface through one common exit gate/door, the home team shall return to their players' bench following the handshake to allow the visiting team to exit the playing surface first. The on-ice officials

shall then instruct the home team to exit once the visiting team has completely exited the playing surface and cleared the exit gate/door. If an altercation occurs at the common entry/exit door resulting directly from both teams exiting at the same time, regardless of who is at fault, the Head Coach of the Home Team will receive a one game suspension for allowing his/her team to exit while the visiting team was still exiting the playing surface. Note: The SFGHL reserves the right to levy a \$250 fine in lieu of a suspension, dependent upon the circumstances of the violation.

10a. Post-Game Conduct: The spirit of this rule is to prevent injuries to all participants once players and coaches begin to come off the bench at the end of the game. The presence of that many individuals on the ice can present a dangerous situation if an altercation were to occur. Given that, after the game has ended but before the players have lined up for the handshake line, and players and coaches have begun to leave the benches and enter the playing surface,

- if any player that was on the ice when the final buzzer sounded to indicate the end of the 3rd period makes intentional physical contact with an opposition participant regardless of whether a penalty or penalties are assessed and the contact is NOT a continuance of a play or altercation from before the end of the period, that player or team official will be subject to being assessed an automatic 1 Game Suspension (under Supplemental Discipline) in addition to any penalties assessed.
- if any player that was NOT on the ice when the final buzzer sounded to indicate the end of the 3rd period makes intentional physical contact with an opposition participant regardless of whether a penalty or penalties are assessed that player or team official will be subject to being assessed an automatic 2 Game Suspension (under Supplemental Discipline) in addition to any penalties assessed.
- Once the players have lined up for the handshake line, if any player makes intentional physical contact with an opposition participant regardless of whether a penalty or penalties are assessed that player or team official will be subject to being assessed an automatic 3 Game Suspension (under Supplemental Discipline) in addition to any penalties assessed.
- Any player who commits excessive taunting or unsportsmanlike conduct towards an opponent after the final buzzer has sounded that is deemed to have initiated a physical altercation will be subject to an automatic 1 Game Suspension (under Supplemental Discipline) in addition to any penalties assessed.

11. Curfew: Games shall not start before 7:00 AM or after 10PM. In the event a host team cannot accommodate all scheduled games in accordance with the above curfew and the visiting team is unwilling to play during the curfew, the overall game schedule shall be reduced by the number of games required to meet the curfew guidelines.

12. Incomplete Game: If any game must be suspended after it has started, the following rules will apply.

- a) If the game has started but is stopped before the 1st period is completed, then the game will be rescheduled and will be re started from the beginning of the game. Player eligibility will be determined by the team's rosters as of the date of the rescheduled game date.
- b) If the game has started but is stopped after the 1st period is completed, but before the puck has been dropped to start the 3rd period, then the game will be suspended, and when

rescheduled will be picked up from where the game left off. Player eligibility will be determined by the team's rosters as of the date of the original game date. Players that were on the roster as of the original game date, but were not present for the game, may participate in the continuation of the game. Players that have been added to the team's roster after the original game date are not eligible to participate in the continuation of the game. The only exception would be if none of the team's goalies on the date of the original game are still on the roster. In this instance, the team would be permitted to add their current rostered goalie(s) as of the date of the rescheduled game to participate in the game without penalty. The SFGHL reserves the right to declare the game complete and official if resumption and completion of the game is not possible due to circumstances such as travel, time remaining until the end of the season, etc.

c) If the game has started but is stopped after the puck has been dropped to start the 3rd period, then the game is considered officially complete and the result at the time of the game being stopped will be the official result of the game.

13. Game Officials: The hosting rink is required to furnish all on ice and off ice officials including timekeeper and/or scorekeeper for all games. Both teams should provide a minor off ice official to handle the duties in the penalty box. All minor off ice officials, including penalty box workers, scorekeepers and timekeepers are to be reminded that coaching is not permitted from that area. Additionally, penalty box workers/attendants should not go on the ice for post-game handshakes., They are not Team Officials, and should not enter the playing surface unless required to do so to exit the penalty box, in which case, they must proceed directly off the playing surface at the conclusion of the game.

Any Penalty Box Attendant (PBA) that acts in any manner that violates the Parent or Spectator Codes of Conduct will be subject to a MINIMUM suspension of 6 games and permanent revocation of PBA privileges regardless of whether they were ejected from the game.

Every effort will be made to schedule not less than two (2) on ice officials for 10U, 12U, 14U 16U & 19U games per current USA Hockey rules. The two (2) on ice officials rule will be applicable for both 'A' and 'AA' divisions. In the event an official cannot be present, both coaches must agree to play the game with the number of officials present and record and sign the scoresheet.

14. Travel Rule (Inclement Weather): All League games on the SFGHL master schedule are to be played as scheduled. In the event inclement weather is imminent, the association representatives for the organizations affected should be in contact with each other and with the various state agencies and media sources as necessary to gather information to make the most prudent decision. In the interest of the safety of the players, coaches, families, and officials, it is best to err on the side of caution. Every effort must be made to reschedule the games as soon as possible. The SFGHL Commissioner will provide guidance and assistance as needed to reschedule the game.

15. Audible Devices: the creation of any type of sound or loud noise making device that could be mistaken for a referee's whistle during play in at an SFGHL game, including but not limited to air horns, noise makers, microphones with speakers, whistles, screaming that sounds like a whistle, etc. are strictly prohibited from use during play at all SFGHL games. Any individual found to use this type of device during play during an SFGHL game is subject to immediate removal from the facility, as well as additional sanctions as determined by the SFGHL and SAHOF. Further, the organization with which the individual is associated may also be subject to sanctions from the SFGHL and SAHOF.

16. Team Formation – 2025/26 Season: In the inaugural SFGHL season, the league will have the following rules regarding team composition:

- 8U – open for all 8U girls’ players only (2017, 2018, 2019 birth years)
- 10U – 2015 & 2016 birth year (max 4 – 2017 players can “play up”)
- 12U – 2013 & 2014 birth year (roster can be made up of 12U eligible players and maximum 50% of roster can be 10U players)
- 14U – 2011 & 2012 birth year (roster can be made up of 14U eligible players and maximum 50% of roster can be 12U players)
- 16U – 2009 & 2010 birth year (roster can be made up of 16U eligible players and maximum 50% of roster can be 14U aged players)
- 19U – 2006, 2007 & 2008 birth year (roster can be made up of 19U eligible players and maximum 50% of roster can be 16U aged players)
- Double rostering a player between two age levels will be permitted under the guidelines above to assist organizations in fielding a team. (Example: a rostered 10U player may be rostered to a 12U team)

Note: National bound teams in 14U, 16U & 19U must still adhere to USA hockey rules and regulations regarding roster composition. It is up to the organization to monitor and ensure their USA Hockey 1-T roster is compliant and meets all rules and regulations for participation in USA Hockey National Championships. The SFGHL is NOT responsible for ensuring roster compliance for teams that have declared as National Bound.

16b. Exceptions To Roster: In the inaugural SFGHL season, teams/organizations may file for a hardship exemption. This requires the organization’s director to petition the SFGHL executive committee for an exception for a player to be rostered that under current rules would not be permitted to do so. The petition would be reviewed and decisioned by the SFGHL executive committee:

17. Emergency Goalie: An Emergency Goalie is a goaltender that can play a limited number of games as a substitute only in the instance that a team's rostered goalie(s) is/are not available to play. For clarity, an Emergency Goalie MUST be the only goalie on the SFGHL roster that is physically able to play in the specific game for which they are rostered as the Emergency Goalie. They must be the goalie that starts the game. An Emergency Goalie cannot enter a game once the game has begun.

a) The Emergency Goaltender MUST be from the same age classification or younger as the team seeking the emergency goalie.

b) A goaltender from the same age classification can be from a different level (e.g. 'A' or 'AA') or below as the team she will be the Emergency Goalie for OR can be from a lower age classification at one higher skill level 'A' or 'AA' (e.g. a 14U AA goalie can be an Emergency Goalie for a 16UA, 16UAA or a 14UA team).

c) 'AAA' / Tier I / Full season Alliance goalies cannot be an Emergency Goalie in the SFGHL.

- d) The Emergency Goalie MUST be from the same organization as the team she will be the Emergency Goalie for. If an Emergency Goalie is not available from within the same organization, an Emergency Goalie may be recruited from another organization and currently playing in the SFGHL provided the team has prior authorization from the coach or hockey director of the other organization to ask one of their goalies and proper authorization from the coach or hockey director to borrow one of their goalies should they agree to play. If the emergency goaltender is recruited from outside the SFGHL, then the commissioner of the SFGHL must approve this Emergency Goalie based on the level she is currently playing. In addition, the opponent in the game must also agree to allow an Emergency Goalie from another organization or from outside the SFGHL to play in the game with the knowledge that if they agree to it, the game will count in the standings. Approval from the opposing coach is NOT required if the Emergency Goalie is from the same organization.
- e) A team may only use an emergency goalie for a maximum of 4 SFGHL League games (the SFGHL reserves the right to make an exception to this rule due to extenuating circumstances such as injury).
- f) A specific goalie may only act as an Emergency Goalie for a maximum of 4 SFGHL League games.
- g) The Emergency Goalie will not be added to the USAH roster of the team that requires the Emergency Goalie.
- h) In all instances, SFGHL MUST Be notified by the ADD A PLAYER deadline of the Thursday at 4PM prior to the games. SFGHL may make exceptions to this deadline under certain circumstances, including but not limited to injury.
- i) The Emergency Goalie must be a currently registered member of USA Hockey, must currently reside in the state of Florida (or meet the residence requirements of the SFGHL) AND must be currently playing on a team or in a program registered with USA Hockey in the state of Florida. A goalie who is rostered on a team outside the state of Florida whose level cannot be objectively determined, is ineligible to be an EMERGENCY GOALIE.
- j) If a team is requesting an Emergency Goalie because one goalie on the roster is serving a suspension, the request shall be denied. The team will be required to dress a player as a goalie.

18. Determination of Champions or Place Positions: League champions may be recognized as per the direction of the SFGHL EXECUTIVE BOARD. The team within the specific age group with the highest total points at the end of the season will be designated as Champion of that age level. In cases where the age group/level has been split into divisions, the winner of each division will be designated the Division Champion, and a League Champion will not be awarded.

Teams will receive the following points based on game play:

- 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss

In the event of a tie in the standings, the following tie breaker rules listed below will apply in this order until a team or teams is/are placed. If at any point during the tie-breaking process one or more teams is placed, and two or more teams remain tied, the Tie-Breaker process starts back at Tiebreaker #1 to place the remaining tied teams.

1. Most Points
2. Total Game Points (Win=2, Tie=1, Loss=0) Earned in Games among Tied Teams (Head-to-Head). All tied teams must have played each other an equal number of teams.
3. Total Wins in Games among Tied Teams (Head-to-Head). All tied teams must have played each other an equal number of teams.
4. Least Goals Allowed in Games among Tied Teams (all tied teams must have played each other an equal number of teams)
5. Most Goals Scored in Games among Tied Teams (all tied teams must have played each other an equal number of teams)
6. Most Total Wins
7. Least Total Goals Allowed
8. Most Total Goals Scored
9. Highest win percentage (calculated as wins divided by games played) in games vs. the top 3 ranked teams in the division excluding teams that are involved in the tiebreaker. Games played for all tied teams must be equal. If Games Played are not equal, then the number of games the team with the least amount of games played will be the games played number used, and all other teams will calculate based on the number of games from the start of the season until they reach that number of games played.
10. Highest win percentage (calculated as wins divided by games played) in games vs. the top 4 ranked teams in the division excluding teams that are involved in the tiebreaker. Use same logic as in 9 above for games played.
11. Highest win percentage (calculated as wins divided by games played) in games vs. the top 5 ranked teams in the division excluding teams that are involved in the tiebreaker. Use same logic as in 9 above for games played. See Section C.6 for goal differential maximums.

SECTION D: SUPPLEMENTARY DISCIPLINE, GRIEVANCES, PROTESTS,

1. Grievances: Any grievances or protests involving officiating, procedures, rules and regulations at League games shall be handled according to these guidelines:

Grievances or protests are to be written and submitted by the ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE ONLY to the Commissioner of SFGHL within 48 hours of perceived infraction.

Grievances or protest involving judgment calls by the Referees are not allowed and will not be considered notwithstanding the SAHOF Video Review policy.

2. Investigations: The Commissioner shall be responsible for investigating and reporting on incidents which may call for the assessment of supplementary discipline under the USA HOCKEY rule book and/or the SFGHL Rules & Regulations and shall make recommendations on supplemental disciplinary actions to the EXECUTIVE BOARD.

The Commissioner shall use their best efforts to gather and report on each situation in a fair and consistent fashion and complete the review and recommendation process within one week. The EXECUTIVE BOARD will act upon the recommendation of the Commissioner.

The EXECUTIVE BOARD may assist the commissioner with their investigations and in preparing the recommendation. The EXECUTIVE BOARD shall have 72 hours to review the recommendation of the Commissioner and cast their vote in favor of or against the stated recommendation. Supplementary discipline shall only be assessed upon a majority vote of the EXECUTIVE BOARD. In the case of a tie, the commissioner shall cast the deciding vote.

The SAHOF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE will handle any appeals of this process through the USA HOCKEY BY-LAWS SECTION 10.

3. Forfeits: Any game that is determined to be a forfeit will be recorded with an official score of 7-0 in favor of the non-forfeiting team. Any team that forfeits an SFGHL game (except for a forfeit resulting from Section B.3 or Section C.4.) will also forfeit any eligibility to participate in the SAHOF State Championships.

Addendum 1 – Game Time Formats Game time will be as follows:

All 10U, 12U and 14U, 16U and 19U games have a 1:15 game slot.

10U: 3 - 13-minute stop time periods, one time out allowed per team.

12U: 3 - 13-minute stop time periods, one time out allowed per team.

14U: 3 - 14-minute stop time periods, one time out allowed per team.

16U: 3 - 14-minute stop time periods, one time out allowed per team.

19U: 3 - 14-minute stop time periods, one time out allowed per team.

In the event where the time remaining in the ice slot and the time remaining in the 3rd period is equal, the game will revert to running time; once the game has gone to running time under this rule, NO timeouts will be permitted.

At any time during the 3rd period, if a team is ahead by 5 goals or more, the game will revert to running time and time-outs will not be permitted. If the score differential returns to 4 goals or less, the game returns to stop time and any remaining time-outs will be reinstated.

In any game that has gone to running time for any reason, during the last minute of the 3rd period, when the score is less than a 3-goal differential (2 or 1 or tied), the clock shall revert to stop time while this score differential condition exists. If a game reverts to stop time because of this provision, time-outs are NOT reinstated.

All USA Hockey guidelines concerning penalties apply:

Minor penalties-all minor penalties will be 1:30 in length for all divisions.

Major penalties- all major penalties will be 5:00 in length for all divisions. Misconduct penalties- all major penalties will be 10:00 in length for all divisions.

Addendum 2 - Revised 2019. – Geographical Boundaries

PER SAHOF RULES & REGULATIONS:

At the Annual Meeting of SAHOF conducted May 7, 2011 the Board of Directors approved the designations of Geographical Districts for the purpose of establishing “community” based Tier II teams. The SAHOF Board approved revisions to the Geographical Districts on May 3, 2019.

The current geographical boundaries are defined on the Geographical District Map on the SAHOF website. A direct link to the map is shown below.

A player’s geographical placement is dependent upon where she lives, registers with USA Hockey and attends school. Note: Throughout this section, the term “geographic area” refers to geographical placement and “designated geographic organization” refers to the closest SAHOF organization to the players geographical placement.

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1tU70E6AVNBLw9qqGELNaZbm-DSbJEZYS&ll=27.918697973630593%2C81.39598175000002&z=7>

Geographic Exceptions: The following exceptions are in place for the 2025-26 SFGHL season.

Each A and AA team is allowed three (3) “out of geographic area” players for participation in the SFGHL. These players must fall under the exception categories listed below.

Note: National bound teams must be compliant and meet all rules and regulations for participation in USA Hockey National Championships. Please refer to SAHOF and USA Hockey guidelines for eligibility compliance regarding team composition. The SFGHL is NOT responsible for ensuring roster compliance for teams that have declared as National Bound.

Out Of Geographic Area Exceptions:

- a) **Grandfather Clause:** For the 2025-26 season, this clause refers to a player that played the previous season outside their geographic region. To qualify, the player or organization must submit a copy of a USA Hockey 1-T roster for verification and a completed waiver form to the SFGHL Board of Directors for approval. The waiver of the “outgoing player” must have a unanimous vote to be approved. This rule is subject to review prior to the start of every season.
- b) **Geographic Organization Waiver:** For the 2025-26 season, this clause refers to a player that is requesting to play out of geographic area. To consider approval for playing out of geographic area, the player must submit a completed waiver form with the approval of release from the designated geographic organization. **Ex:** A player whose geographic area is Ft. Myers would need an approval of release from the local organization to play in Jacksonville.
- c) Non-Florida Residents that reside within 60 miles of the home rink of the SAHOF member organization with which they are to be rostered are eligible to participate in the SFGHL and do not require a waiver or SFGHL Board of Directors approval.

- d) Non-Florida Residents that reside more than 60 miles of the home rink of the SAHOF member organization with which they are to be rostered with require SFGHL Board of Directors approval to be eligible to participate in the SFGHL. A player may be required to submit a completed waiver form with the approval of release from the designated geographic organization.
- e) **Exceeding Three (3) Players:** To consider approval for exceeding the limit for “out of geographic area” players, the organization must submit a request in writing with an explanation for the reason(s) for the request. The player must submit a completed waiver form with the approval of release from the designated geographic organization. Final decision to approve or deny the request will be the responsibility of the SFGHL Executive Committee.