

TAHA State and Local Match Penalty Guideline

1. **State Match Penalty Committee.** TAHA hereby establishes a State Match Penalty Committee, the purpose of which is to oversee proper adjudication of all Match Penalties assessed to players, coaches, team officials or parents who are participants in teams, leagues or programs that are registered with USA Hockey through TAHA. The State Match Penalty Committee shall be comprised of three members, appointed as follows:
 - Two persons who are members in good standing of a TAHA Member Association, appointed by the TAHA President, one of whom shall be designated as the State Match Penalty Committee Chairman; and
 - The USA Hockey State Supervisor of Officials, provided, however, that the State Supervisor may appoint any other USA Hockey registered official as his designee to participate in his place in connection with any matter referred to the State Match Penalty Committee.

2. **Local Match Penalty Committees.** TAHA hereby additionally establishes Local Match Penalty Committees. The number of such committees shall be at the discretion of the TAHA President, with the intent that a Local Match Penalty Committee shall exist for each geographic area over which TAHA has jurisdiction (e.g. Dallas, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Midland, and OKC). The Local Match Penalty Committees shall be comprised of three members, appointed as follows:
 - Two persons who are members in good standing of a TAHA Member Association, reside or are associated with teams or programs in the same geographic area of their particular Local Match Penalty Committee, and who are appointed by the State Match Penalty Committee Chairman, one of whom shall be designated as the Local Match Penalty Committee Chairman; and
 - The USA Hockey State Supervisor of Officials, provided, however, that the State Supervisor may appoint any other USA Hockey registered official as his designee to participate in his place in connection with any matter referred to the Local Match Penalty Committee.
 - Notwithstanding the above provisions of this Paragraph 2, any League made up of teams registered with USA Hockey that has established procedures for handling match penalties at the local level may apply to TAHA to have its procedures utilized in place of procedures set forth herein for Local Match Penalty Committees. Such application shall be considered and ruled upon by the TAHA Board of Directors and, if approved, match penalties shall be handled under such League procedures instead of the Local Match Penalty Committee established by this policy for the relevant geographic area. Decisions of such committees shall be subject to the same appeal procedures as set forth in this policy for decisions of Local Match Penalty Committees.

3. **Conduct of Committee Functions.** Each member of all committees established shall each have one vote with respect to any matter brought before the committee for decision. The chairman of each committee shall have responsibility to ensure that the committee properly discharges its duties and responsibilities, and shall report to the person who appointed him to his position.

4. **Jurisdiction of State Match Penalty Committee.** The State Match Penalty Committee shall have original jurisdiction over all match penalties that are assessed for verbal threats, physical threats, physical harm, or physical assaults made or committed against on-ice officials. This specifically includes match penalties assessed under USA Hockey Rules 601(g)(1) & (3) and 601(j)(1) & (3). Appeals of any decision of the State Match Penalty Committee shall be submitted in written form to the TAHA President.

5. **Jurisdiction of Local Match Penalty Committees.** The Local Match Penalty Committee shall have jurisdiction over all match penalties that the State Match Penalty Committee does not have original jurisdiction. Appeals taken from any decision of a Local Match Penalty Committee shall be submitted first to the State Match Penalty Committee, which shall have the right to affirm or reverse the decision of the Local Match Penalty Committee. If the matter is affirmed by the State Match Penalty Committee, then an appeal of the decision shall be submitted to the TAHA President. If the original decision is rejected by the State Match Penalty Committee, then the matter is remanded to the Local Match Penalty Committee along with guidance and further instructions for further deliberation and decision.

6. **Compliance with USA Hockey By-Laws.** Hearings and proceedings conducted by any committee created by TAHA for match penalties shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures established in USA Hockey By-Law 10(D). For purposes of By-Law 10(D)(1), the committees appointed by this provision shall be the “Hearing Committee” for the matters as to which each has original jurisdiction.
7. **Conflict of Interest.** In the event that any member of any committee has a conflict of interest between the association, team, or program they represent and the matter at hand, such member shall excuse himself or herself from participating on such committee and the appropriate Committee Chairman shall appoint a replacement committee member for such matter only. Such replacement committee member shall be a TAHA member in good standing and not in conflict with the matter at hand.

10. RESOLUTIONS OF DISPUTES, ARBITRATION AND SUSPENSIONS

D. Suspension Hearings/Domestic Competition (Playing Rules)

This Bylaw 10.D applies to alleged violations of USA Hockey’s playing rules, and applies only with respect to Domestic Competition.

(1) Hearing Committee

The suspending authority shall appoint a hearing committee, which is recommended to be a minimum of three (3) persons and reasonably disinterested and impartial.

(2) Hearing Procedure

The Party shall be afforded the following:

(a) Reasonable Notice of Grounds

Reasonable notice of the grounds for the proposed suspension, along with a copy of the score sheet and/or referee report, shall be considered reasonable notice but any grounds supported by the evidence presented may be considered in reaching a decision;

(b) Reasonable Opportunity to Present

The reasonable opportunity to present their case and argument in accordance with the suspending authority’s rules, but not necessarily the right to cross examine witnesses (which shall only be permitted if so decided by the hearing committee).

(c) See Documents

The opportunity to see scoresheets and the referee’s report, if any.

(d) Advised of Appeal Procedure

The appeal procedure when a decision is rendered.

(3) Conduct of Hearing

The hearing committee may, in its discretion, hold a formal or informal hearing, hear any evidence it believes is relevant to the issue(s) before it, place limits on time, evidence and documentation, have witnesses or written statements, and establish other hearing rules. The Rules of Evidence in Judicial Proceedings shall not apply to this hearing.

(4) Burden of Proof

The burden of proof shall be on the party proposing the suspension by a preponderance of the evidence (i.e., more likely true than not true).

(5) Decision

The hearing committee will use reasonable efforts to render its decision to the parties to the hearing within five (5) business days of the close of the hearing.

(6) Scope of Suspension

Except as set out in these Bylaws, any suspension invoked after the hearing shall be in effect only for the program governed by the suspending authority subject to the state association or Affiliate Association’s authority to review, affirm, extend or modify the action taken. If the suspension is imposed by a state or Affiliate association and the state or Affiliate association wishes to extend the suspension beyond its jurisdictional, geographical territory, it shall advise the Executive Director of USA Hockey of the suspension by providing a copy of the written notice of suspension and requesting that USA Hockey, its Districts, Affiliates, and Members honor the suspension imposed. Thereafter, the Executive Director of USA Hockey shall promptly notify each of its Districts and Affiliates of the suspension which shall honor the suspension.