



Revised: February 28, 2008

**TEXAS AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
2008 TEXAS CUP STATE HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT
RULES AND PROCEDURES**

1. Team Check-in procedure: PLEASE CHECK IN 1.5 HOURS PRIOR TO FIRST GAME

Prior to each player's first game, every player must check in at the check in desk and sign their respective USA Hockey roster. In the event that a player's first game is not the team's first game, they must check in with the Tournament Director to be eligible for the remainder of the tournament. For the player's first game only, a picture ID of the individual player must be presented. Any player playing a game who did not check in with the Tournament Director will be asked to leave the bench area and provide the Tournament Director with proper identification. The team of such player will be assessed an automatic 2 minute bench minor penalty. Once the player is officially checked in, they can then return to the bench area. **Bottom line is all players must be officially checked in with the Tournament Director before they play in a game. Another player or coach will not be allowed to check in another player, so make sure you come to the tournament with all necessary Academic Eligibility and other required documentation.**

Academic Eligibility

Documentation verifying the academic eligibility for the most recent grading period for every player on each team must be submitted to the tournament director prior to the start of the tournament. This verification may be in either of the following forms:

- A copy of the player's most recent report card, which covers the preceding grading period.
- A signed statement by a school official, (i.e. principal, vice principal, or counselor) stating the current academic eligibility status of the player.

Any player for which the above verifiable documentation is unavailable for any reason will be ineligible and not allowed to participate in the tournament until such documentation is provided. No team may allow a player to participate in the tournament without the above verification.

Any protest filed by a team concerning the academic eligibility of a player must be filed with the Tournament Director as soon as a potential violation becomes evident. The academic eligibility protest must be specific and only against a prospective opposing team. This means the protest cannot be a blanket protest against the entire team. The filed protest must be specific as to a specific player on a specific team. If a protest has been filed, then the head coach of the team against which the protest has been filed will be notified prior to the start of the game. The coach then has the option of playing the player if in fact the coach is 100% sure of the player's academic eligibility status or not dressing the player for the game if doubts exist as to the player's academic eligibility. In the event of a protest, the academic eligibility verification documentation submitted by the team will be reviewed in order to determine eligibility. If the

Tournament Director determines the academic eligibility documentation is inadequate to make a final ruling, then any team with an academic protest filed against a player on such team must submit proof of eligibility to the Tournament Director no later than Wednesday of the week following the completion of the tournament. This proof may be one of two forms:

- A copy of the player's most recent report card, which covers the preceding grading period.
- A signed statement by a school official, (i.e. principal, vice principal, or counselor) stating the current academic eligibility status of the player.

If a team cannot provide this documentation of academic eligibility for a player for which a protest has been filed by Wednesday of the week following the completion of the tournament, then such team will forfeit its position in the standings and all teams will advance one place in the final standings.

The Tournament Director will retain the above documentation until the completion of the tournament. It will be the responsibility of the team representative to reclaim the documentation at the conclusion of the tournament.

In addition, all teams must complete and submit the Texas Cup Academic Eligibility Form. This form must list all players on the team's official USA Hockey roster and signify the eligibility status of each player. This form must be signed by both the team representative and head coach in order for the team to be eligible to participate in the Texas Cup tournament.

2. **Coaches Code of Conduct and Responsibilities**

All coaches are representatives of their team, individual school district as well as their respective league/association. In order to ensure that all coaches perceive their position and responsibilities in the same way, the following code of conduct and responsibilities have been developed.

1. Code of Conduct

- a) Always conduct themselves in a manner that does not reflect badly on either them as individuals, their school district, or their league.
- b) Do not engage in any activity which is, or may be viewed as, being detrimental to any player, team, school district, or their league.
- c) Conduct themselves in a positive and sportsmanlike manner at all times.
- d) Strive to provide a safe and positive environment at all times and promote fair play and sportsmanlike behavior among all players, coaches, referees and parents.
- e) Abusive verbal confrontations with coaches, referees, or parents will not be tolerated.
- f) The use of profanity by a coach or referee in front of players will not be tolerated.
- g) Any type of physical abuse towards a player, coach, referee, parent or spectator will not be tolerated.
- h) Any coach found to be in violation of this code of conduct is subject to review by their respective league for disciplinary action. The league may issue game suspensions or termination of coaching privileges as deemed necessary.

2. Responsibilities

- a) All coaches must be registered by the USA Hockey Association in order to coach in the TAHAHSS and obtain and maintain the proper USA Hockey Coaching Certification required for the high school level and pass a background screen.

- b) All coaches must be familiar with all rules, guidelines and procedures contained in this rule book, as well as all USA Hockey rules and guidelines pertaining to high school hockey and their respective league/association rules.
- c) As provided, coaches should make every effort to attend all coaching clinics.
- d) Conduct organized practice sessions for their team during the season.
- e) Ensure all players wear proper and required equipment for all practices and games.
- f) Stay abreast of any and all rule or policy changes implemented throughout the season.
- g) Maintain an open line of communication with the players and parents of their team and ensure all are kept informed of all procedures, circumstances, and/or rule or policy changes that may affect them.
- h) Coaches must make sure they fulfill their commitment to the team, which means attending all games and practices. On the rare occasion a coach misses an occasional game or practice, provisions for the assistant coach or other qualified adult coach must be made and that person must have an IMR card and understand their responsibilities. The substitute coach must possess the proper USA Hockey registration and certification a required by USA Hockey for high school level.
- i) In the event all coaches for a specific team are suspended or otherwise unavailable to coach their team for a specific game, then a substitute adult coach with a minimum of a USA Hockey Level 3 coaching certification may be used for that game. If the team is unable to locate a coach with this minimum level certification, then they must forfeit the game. Under no circumstance will a team be allowed to play without at least one adult USA Hockey Level 3 or above certified coach present.

3. Player's Code of Conduct and Responsibilities

- Play for fun.
- Work hard to improve your skills.
- Be a team player – get along with your teammates.
- Be a disciplined player and always exercise good sportsmanship.
- Be on time for games and practices.
- Learn the rules and play by them.
- Respect your coach, your teammates, your parents, opponents, and officials.
- Never argue with an official's decision.
- Maintain academic eligibility at your school.
- Be respectful of the ice rink facility, locker rooms and all other common areas of the facility at all times.
- Do not use foul language or obscene gestures.
- Never do anything that may be construed as "taunting" or otherwise unsportsmanlike to other players, coaches, referees, or spectators.

4. Parents and Spectators Code of Conduct

All parents and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a proper, respectful, and sportsmanlike manner while attending games. Obnoxious behavior, verbal abuse of players, coaches or referees, or the use of profanity will not be tolerated. The referee has the authority to eject the offending parent or spectator from the facility. If the person refuses to comply, the proper law enforcement agency will be summoned. Re-admittance of that individual to any future league game(s) is subject to the approval of the respective league's Board of Directors.

1. Display good sportsmanship. Always respect players, coaches and officials.
2. Act appropriately; do not taunt or disturb other fans; enjoy the game together.
3. Noise makers, bells, air horns or other loud and obtrusive noise making devices are not allowed at games and will be confiscated by security if used by any parent, fan or other spectator.
4. Cheer good plays of all participants; avoid booing opponents, coaches or referees.
5. Cheer in a positive manner and encourage fair play; profanity and objectionable cheers or gestures are offensive and will be cause for removal from the game and facility.
6. Help provide a safe and fun environment; throwing any items on the ice surface can cause injury to players and officials.
7. Do not lean over or pound on the glass; the glass surrounding the ice surface is part of the playing area.
8. Support the referees and coaches by trusting their judgment and integrity.
9. Be responsible for your own safety – be alert to prevent accidents from flying pucks and other avoidable situations.
10. Respect locker rooms as private areas for players, coaches and officials. Parents and other spectators are not allowed in these areas before, during or after a game.
11. Be supportive after the game – win or lose. Recognize good effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

5. Locker Room Procedures

The assignment of locker rooms for each game will be posted in each rink. Keys will be available at the front desk for all locker rooms. A team representative from each team will be required to check the locker room prior to accepting it for cleanliness and overall condition. The team will be directly responsible for any and all damage to the locker room while a team is assigned to that locker room.

6. Non-players on the bench

USA Hockey rules allow for only four (4) non-players on the bench. These four (4) non-players must be team officials, i.e. coaches or the team manager, must be listed on the official USA Hockey team roster, and must possess a USA Hockey IMR card.

7. U.S.A. Hockey rules will be enforced for all games. All teams should note the following:

1. A zero tolerance rule for abuse of officials will be enforced.
2. Any player receiving a 5-minute major penalty for Fisticuffs (fighting) shall automatically receive a game misconduct penalty in accordance with Rule 613-E.
3. Any player penalized for Fisticuffs (fighting) will automatically be assessed an additional two (2) game suspension, which means a player receiving a fighting penalty will be immediately ejected from the game in progress and will serve an additional two (2) game suspension.
4. The third man (or other skater(s)) in on an altercation resulting in one or more fighting penalties being assessed shall also receive a 5-minute major penalty, a game misconduct and a two (2) game suspension.
5. The third man (or other skater(s)) in on an altercation that does not result in any fighting penalties being assessed shall receive a game misconduct penalty for that game only (immediate suspension from that game only with no additional game suspension).

6. Any player receiving five (5) penalties in the same game (minor, major, misconduct, or any combination of these) shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty in accordance with Rule 404-D.
7. Any player receiving two (2) major penalties in the same game shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty. The game misconduct penalty shall be in lieu of any required game misconduct penalty for the major penalty infraction and the player shall be suspended for the next two (2) games of that team. This suspension is in addition to any other suspensions incurred during the same incident.
8. Any Head Coach whose team receives fifteen (15) or more penalties during one game (minor, major, misconduct or any combination of these) shall be suspended for the next game of that team in accordance with rule 404-D.
9. Any player or coach receiving a match penalty will be disqualified from further tournament play and all USA Hockey sanctioned activities. NO EXCEPTIONS.

8. Home Team:

Unless otherwise modified by the TAHAHSS Directors, the teams are seeded on the playoff bracket 1 through 8. For each game the higher seeded team will be considered the home team and wear the light colored jersey. The lower seeded team will be considered the visiting team and wear the dark colored jersey.

9. Game Format:

1. All teams will play three (3) games
2. Three twelve (12) minute stop clock periods, with one (1) minute rest between periods.
3. National Anthem played prior to first game of each day
4. First game, entire team introduced, all subsequent games, just the starting lineup, except for the championship and 3rd place games where the entire roster will be introduced. After a 5-minute warm-up period, the teams should line up on their respective blue line for the National Anthem and player introductions.
5. 1 hour and 30 minute game slots
6. Ice cut after every two periods
7. Tie Games: 15-minute stop-clock sudden death overtime period played 5-on-5.
8. If game is tied after 15-minute sudden death overtime, a 5-player shootout shall be played
 - a. The "shootout" will consist of individual round(s) of five shooters per team.
 - b. Any player that is serving a penalty at the end of the 15-minute overtime period will not be allowed to participate in the shootout rotation.
 - c. The first round will be a complete round of 5 shooters. Prior to each shoot, the coach will be responsible to let the scorekeeper know who the next shooter is.
 - d. If the game is still tied after the first 5-player shootout round, then a sudden death shootout will commence. Once a player has participated in the shootout, they can not shoot again until all other eligible players on the bench have taken a shot.
 - e. The sudden death shootout will continue with 1 player from each team taking a shot. If after a shot rotation in the sudden death shootout, i.e. one player from each team has taken a shot, one team has scored and the other team has not, the game will be concluded and the winner determined.
 - f. If the score remains tied after a shot rotation in the sudden death shootout, the sudden death shootout will continue until a winner is determined.

10. Mercy Rule

If at any time during a game the goal differential between teams reaches six (6), the game clock will immediately go to running time and will not stop for any reason, other than at the direction of the on-ice officials, until the game ends or the goal differential becomes less than six (6). Thus, the clock will not stop for goals scored, penalties, injuries, or for any other reason while the mercy rule is in effect (clock will stop for timeouts), unless ordered to be stopped by the on-ice officials. If the goal differential becomes less than six (6), the clock will revert to normal stop time clock procedures.

11. Game time

Teams should be prepared to begin any game 15 minutes early if the ice is available except the first game of the day. A five (5) minute warm up period will be allotted for each game. Any team not ready to begin the game after the horn sounds at the end of the five (5) minute warm up period will forfeit the game. All forfeits will be scored as a 1-0 score.

12. Timeouts

Each team will be allowed one (1) timeout per game that will be one (1) minute in duration. If because of the mercy rule, the clock is in a running time scenario, the clock will stop during the timeout.

13. Post Game Handshake

The officials will monitor closely the post game handshaking tradition. All players will leave all equipment on, including helmets, for this process. The only exception will be the removal of a glove to shake hands. The referee will have the final decision on whether or not to allow the handshaking line to proceed. If in the opinion of the referee the situation is too volatile, the referee may dispense with the procedure and order the visiting team to the locker room. The home team will remain on the ice until the visiting team has entered the locker room. There will be a zero tolerance policy on any unsportsmanlike behavior in the handshake line. The referee may award a two (2) game suspension to any player causing a fight during this process.

14. Tournament Director

Games may be called if in the judgment of the Tournament Director continuing play is deemed to be not in the best interest of the tournament, players, spectators, or officials. The Tournament Director will have the final authority to settle all major disputes and his decision will be final. The TAHAHSS Directors reserve the right to review and make final determination on rule violations that may come to its attention that the directors feel require additional consideration or enforcement other than that issued at the time by the Tournament Director.

15. Uniforms and Jersey Colors

The home team will wear the light colored jerseys and the visiting team will wear the dark colored jerseys. All teams should always bring both jerseys to each game. If a color conflict or dispute arises, the Tournament Director reserves the right to render the final decision as to which team wears which colored jersey.

16. Players in Correct Jersey

All players must wear their assigned jersey for all games. If the player forgets their jersey or their jersey is otherwise not available, they will not be allowed to play. No jersey, no play. No switching of jerseys among players will be allowed. Circumstances exist beyond the control of the player where the player's jersey may not be available for an upcoming game. Such circumstances might be the jersey was stolen or torn beyond repair in a previous game. Such circumstances must be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director, who shall review the circumstances concerning the jersey and either issue a waiver or deny the request. If the waiver is granted, the opposing head coach will be notified and the scorekeeper will make a notation on the scoresheet. Any team playing a player in an incorrect jersey without following this procedure and obtaining a waiver will forfeit the game. All forfeits will be recorded with a 1-0 score. All players, including the goalkeeper will wear matching jerseys and socks.

17. Sanctioning & On-Ice Officials

USA Hockey sanctions the Texas Cup State High School tournament. All USA Hockey rules are in effect. USA Hockey requires the use of USA Hockey registered officials only. All officials in the state tournament are registered with USA Hockey and have been deemed qualified to officiate at this level.

18. Zero Tolerance Policy

In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, the Texas Cup State Tournament adheres to the USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy relating to sportsmanship. This policy is designed to require all players, coaches, and parents to maintain a sportsmanlike and educational atmosphere before, during and after all hockey games.

a. Players:

A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (Zero Tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player:

- Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
- Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision.
- Anytime that a player persists in any of these actions, he/she shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.

b. Parents/Spectators:

The game will be stopped by the on-ice officials when the parents/spectators displaying inappropriate and disruptive behavior interfere with other spectators or the game. The on-ice officials will identify violators to the security officers assigned to the game for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the spectator viewing and game area. Once removed, play will resume.

Lost time will not be replaced and violators may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body or police agency. This inappropriate and disruptive behavior shall include but not be limited to:

- Use of obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.

- Taunting of players, coaches, officials, or other spectators by means of baiting, ridiculing, threat of physical violence.
- Throwing of any object in the spectator viewing area, players' bench, penalty box, or on the ice surface, directed in any manner as to create a safety hazard.

19. Additional Questions

Any potential situations not specifically covered in the above rules and regulations should be discussed with the Tournament Director prior to the start of your game. Any scenario not specifically covered by these rules or those of USA Hockey is left to the discretion of the Tournament Director. Decisions are final and not subject to discussion, review or appeal. The TAHAHSS Directors reserve the right to review and make final determination on rule violations that may come to its attention that the directors feel require additional consideration or enforcement other than that issued at the time by the tournament director.

20. Awards

- a. Team trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th place.
- b. Individual player awards will be given to the 1st and 2nd place teams.

21. Eligibility for State Tournament

1. The UIL No Pass/No Play academic eligibility rules will be enforced for the state tournament just as they are throughout the year for each league, association, and team.
2. Players must have played in a minimum number of regular season games in their local High School Hockey League to be eligible for State Tournament play. The minimum number of games equals approximately 1/3 of the regular season games for each high school league.
For the 2008 State Tournament, the minimum number of games are as follows:
 - i. **Dallas – 8 games**
 - ii. **Houston – 7 games**
 - iii. **Austin – 6 games**
3. For players who fail to meet the above minimum number of games due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. injury, sickness, family relocation, etc.), a waiver exemption to this rule may be submitted to the Tournament Director at least two (2) weeks prior to the State Tournament. The TAHAHSS Directors shall make a final ruling on a case by case basis.
4. Any game suspensions received by a player at the end of the regular season or the regional playoffs will be carried over to the state playoffs. The player will not be eligible to participate in any post-season games until all game suspensions are served.
5. Any player not in good standing with their respective league/association is not eligible for post-season play including the state tournament.
6. Any player not in good standing with their respective school or otherwise considered ineligible by their school is not eligible for post-season play including the state tournament.

22. Roster Limit

The maximum roster limit is set by USA Hockey at 25 players, including goaltenders. However, only a maximum number of 20 players, including goaltenders, shall be permitted to play in any high school game. The maximum number of players, excluding goaltenders, shall not exceed 18.

23. Team Seeding

Team seeds for the State Tournament will be as follows unless modified by the TAAHSS Directors prior to the start of the State Tournament. The At-Large berth will be determined by the TAAHSS Directors on or around January 1st of each season based on relevant factors such as host city, level of competition, and geographical balance to name a few. For example, if the State Tournament is to be held in Austin, the At-Large berth could be awarded to Austin, and likewise to Houston if the State Tournament was hosted in Houston. Greater Texas is defined as any other area in Texas with a competitive high school team that is not already represented in the State Tournament.

1. Dallas 1
2. Houston 1
3. Dallas 2
4. Austin 1
5. Dallas 3
6. Houston 2
7. At-Large or Dallas 4
8. Dallas 4 or At-Large