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# OFFICIAL RULE BOOK

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*Effective Fall 2023/24*



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# DISCLAIMER

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These leagues are USA Hockey Sanctioned.

The rules outlined in this guide are subject to change at any time. Any rule changes are at the discretion of the league director, USA Hockey, Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (“MAHA”), and Rink Management. Any rule change within the season will result in all team managers being notified via e-mail. Any changes outside of the season will result in revisions to be shared prior to the start of the following season.

The league director, in partnership with facility management, holds the right to issue all player disciplinary within these Adult Leagues. The use of LiveBarn streaming services for disciplinary review is at the sole discretion of the league director. League Director and Facility Management in compliance with USA Hockey (USA Hockey Rulebook section 5, rule 502(a)), will not overturn a ruling or suspension made by the referees. The League Director and Facility Management hold the right to amend a player’s disciplinary in the means that it is in addition to a referee ruling and does not overturn the referee’s ruling. Such disciplinary may result in suspensions up to and including expulsion from all Adult Leagues at Kensington Valley Ice House and Hartland Ice House permanently and a ban from the properties.

Behavior subject to disciplinary review and action includes any behavior occurring while on Kensington Valley Ice House and Hartland Ice House property, on or off the ice surface, as well as using text messages, electronic mail, phone calls, in person verbal or written communication, and social media to bully, threaten, and/or verbally abuse the rink staff, rink customers, league participants, fans, and game officials. Any behavior occurring off property that puts the safety of staff and customers at risk is subject to review and disciplinary action.

The League Director reserves the right to make any decision that is in the best interest of the League, regardless of whether it involves a written or unwritten rule. Any K.V.I.H. rules listed will supersede U.S.A. Hockey Rules.

These leagues are non-refundable, the league director does not hold any discretion over refunds per rink policy.

# 1. PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

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## Player Eligibility

- All players must meet the registration requirements for their league which are provided in the registration directions documents for the respective leagues, before stepping on the ice. This includes:
  - ALL players **MUST** have a current USA Hockey registration as a player.
    - The registration **MUST** be uploaded to the rink software, prior to taking part in their first game, as part of registration
  - ALL players **MUST** be registered in the rink software and placed on a team.
  - ALL players **MUST** obtain a helmet sticker and **PROPERLY** wear it as directed.
    - Must present a valid ID to obtain sticker.
    - A player/manager is **NOT** permitted to obtain a sticker for another participant.
  - All players must be age eligible for their division. **NO exceptions will be made.**
    - Fall season – must meet minimum age by April 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season.
    - Spring/Summer Season- must meet minimum age by first day of league start.
- **It is the team manager's responsibility to make sure all players on their bench are legally registered and have a valid eligibility sticker.**
- Team Managers will receive a (1) game suspension if a non-eligible/illegal player is taking part in a game for their team. This rule will be strictly enforced, no exceptions will be made. 2nd offences by a team manager will result in immediate suspension pending review from league management.
  - This includes for any subs playing for the team.
- Any player found to be illegal will be immediately suspended until further notice and will have to apply in writing to be reinstated by league management. Including subs.
- Players must sign-in with a valid ID before their first regular season game and before each playoff game.
- Eligibility protests **MUST** be announced prior to or during the game and filed with the referees.
  - Protests will not be accepted once the game concludes.
  - Player(s) must immediately verify their identity by showing a valid photo ID to league management.
  - If a player is found to be illegal, the game will be immediately forfeited and both player(s) and manager involved will be subject to suspension.

## Rosters

- Players are only permitted to be rostered on one roster within a league, no exceptions.
- Roster Freezes (No Exceptions):
  - Fall- January 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Spring- Prior to games two weeks before start of playoffs
  - Summer- Prior to your last game before the start of playoffs

## Jerseys

- All teams must wear matching jerseys with numbers.
- All Players must have a permanent jersey number that will be listed on the roster. If your team has 2 sets of jerseys with different numbers, both numbers must be assigned to each player on your roster.
  - This number must get recorded in the system prior to them stepping on the ice.
- Jerseys without a number are not allowed (goalies are the only exception).
- Duplicate jersey's numbers on the same team are not allowed.

## Equipment

- All players participating must wear protective equipment that meets USA Hockey requirements.
  - This includes skates, shin pads, hockey pants, shoulder pads, elbow pads, gloves, and helmet.
- All Players must wear an unaltered hockey helmet, securely fastened at all times with snapping or permanently attached straps. String or tape is not acceptable.
- USA Hockey approved facial protection and mouth guard are strongly recommended.

## Use of subs

- Non-Rostered Subs:
  - A team is only allowed to use a sub from another team or the league registered sub/free agent list.
  - May only use up to 10 skaters when using a sub.
  - **Players must check in with the scorekeeper and provide their FIRST NAME, LAST NAME, and JERSEY NUMBER to be written LEGIBLY on the scoresheet.**
    - It is the manager's responsibility to ensure that any non-rostered sub checks-in

- Subs must be USA registered and have completed the online player registration process and have a helmet sticker.
- Players can only roster on 1 team within the league or they can be on a registered sub list but not both.
- Draft League– subs that are on other draft teams should be used first. Subs not registered on a draft team must be approved and rated by the director. Subs should be of similar rating to absent player and Team Managers will communicate with opposing team about subs that outside that guideline.
- Rostered Subs:
  - Teams can register a sub player on their team that will only play part time or when needed, they would register the same as a regular player.
  - Registered subs/part time players on your roster are not considered using a sub and sub rules do not apply.
  - These players cannot be on the registered sub list or registered on another team within the league.

**Playoff Eligibility:** To qualify for playoffs all teams must:

- Paid the full team balance by the payment deadline.
- All full time and part time players are to meet all eligibility requirements and be rostered by the roster freeze deadline.

**Player Check-Ins:** Players are required to participate before their first game and before any playoff games.

- Present valid form of ID to the front office
- Any player that is rude, aggressive, or hassles the staff over the check-in process will be immediately suspended upon review and unable to participate in that night's game.

## 2. SEASON/GAME FORMAT

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### Regular Season/Game Format

- The Fall season will consist of:
  - Men's and Draft league - 26 weeks including playoffs.
  - Women's and Over 50 league - 24 weeks including playoffs.
- The Spring Season will consist of 11-week seasons, including playoffs.
- The Summer Season will consist of 6-week seasons, champions are based on final standings.
- Divisions may be tiered off and reseeded throughout the season and again at playoffs to achieve optimum parity.
- League management has the right to place teams into tiers that they feel are in the best interest of the league.
- Scorekeepers and referees will be provided.
- **Any forfeited game will be scored 6-0.**
- **Any team forfeiting will be charged a \$100 forfeit fee which must be paid before the next scheduled game.**
  - **If the fee is not paid before the assigned deadline, then the team is subject to have their next game cancelled.**
- No time outs allowed.
- Games will be (3) 15-minute run time periods. 2-minute warm-up
  - Warm-ups will start once Zamboni doors are closed.
  - Scorekeepers will put 16 minutes on the clock and run it. The 16 minutes include the 1-minute intermission and 15-minute period. This is to get the games going on time. Refs are required to whistle 30 seconds prior to the minute expiration. This does not apply to periods with carryover penalties.
- Games that are within 2 goals in the last 2 minutes of the 3rd period will then go to stop clock.
- 3-minute minor penalties.
- Defensive Blue Line icing
- Tag-Up rule in effect for off-sides
- Non-checking & Non-Fighting

- NO SLAPSHOTS in COED and WOMENS FALL league (Permitted in Women's Spring/Summer)
- Playoffs TBD – 2 or 3 weeks will be allotted for playoff games and will be posted week by week as seeds are available.

### Women's League

- Women's league follows all the same rules with the following exceptions:
  - NO slapshots (Fall)
  - Subs are not allowed to score.
    - Goal will be disallowed, and faceoff brought to center ice.
    - No penalty
    - Manager's responsibility to inform referee of subs in the game and when they score.

### Coed League

- Coed league follows all the same rules with the following exceptions:
  - No slapshots for Men or Women
  - Defensive pairs must always consist of at least 1 woman.
  - There must be always at least 2 women on the ice.
  - No player can skate the puck from their defensive end into the offensive end without passing.
    - NO EXCEPTIONS- no matter gender or skill
    - If infraction occurs:
      - Whistle must be blown to blow play dead.
      - Face-offs will occur in the offending team's defensive zone.
  - If a team has a 3-goal lead, only women may score.
    - If a guy scores the goal will be disallowed and faceoff will go to center ice
  - **Overtime:** 3-on-3 format. Must have 2 women on the ice.
  - **Shootout:** Must alternate between men and women with women starting



## Schedules & Standings

- Standings will be based on 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie and 0 points for a loss. League standings will be posted in the arena and on the website. **Note that Daysmart's standings will not reflect the correct standings.** Tiebreakers will be determined as follows:
  - Total Points
  - Head-to-Head against said team(s)
  - Goal Differential
  - Least goals allowed.
  - Most goals scored.
  - Coin Toss
- Schedules and standings will be posted online.

## Playoff/Championship Games

- Playoff games follow all the same rules as the regular season with the following exceptions:
  - (1), 1-minute time out per team is allowed.
  - Only ROSTERED players can participate, NO EXCEPTIONS
  - All players **MUST** Sign-in before their game at the front desk with ID.
  - Overtime is allowed:
    - 1<sup>st</sup>- (5) minute sudden death STOP TIME, 3-on-3
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>- Rotating 3-man shootout.
    - 3<sup>rd</sup>- Sudden death shootout (one player from each team)
  - Shootout:
    - All players on the bench are required to shoot prior to a player's second attempt.
    - Any player serving a penalty at the conclusion of overtime are not permitted to participate in the shootout.
- League Trophy
  - A perpetual trophy will be awarded to the championship team.
  - Teams are responsible for returning the trophy within the communicated time (typically 30 minutes).
  - Any damages or theft of the trophy will result in fines to the guilty party equal to the cost of damages or replacement fees.

### 3. ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

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#### Players under 21

- All players under the age of 21 are required to sign a waiver prior to their first game, every year. The waiver will be good for an entire calendar year from signing.

#### Alcohol and Substance Abuse Policy

- **Any player determined by the referees to be under the influence of alcohol/drugs, or caught with the substances on the bench**, will incur the following disciplinary:
  - First Offense- Player(s) will be removed from the game and written for a one game suspension. The manager (if not directly involved) will be given a warning.
  - Second Offense- Player(s) will be given an indefinite suspension, pending review of league director. Manager (if not directly involved) will receive a minimum 1 game suspension.
- **Outside alcohol is NOT permitted**
  - Any team found to be bringing outside alcohol into the facility will face disciplinary action that includes:
    - Team fine, exact amount is at the discretion of Rink Management (minimum of \$50), to be paid before next game.
    - Minimum 1 game suspension to the team manager
      - Additional player and Manager suspension at the discretion of the league director
  - In compliance with the liquor license awarded to Top Shelf Pub & Grub by the state of Michigan, no alcoholic beverages are permitted to be brought into the facility (Kensington Valley Ice House and Hartland Ice House). In addition, alcohol sold at Top Shelf Pub & Grub is not permitted to leave the facility.
  - Top Shelf Pub & Grub, as part of Kensington Valley Ice House and Hartland Ice House, offers alcoholic beverages for purchase to be consumed on location before and after a game in which you participate in. Our businesses enforce responsible drinking and hold the right to refuse the sale of alcoholic beverages to any individual.

#### Top Shelf Pub and Grub

- The ovens in the kitchen will be turned off 30-minutes after the last game of the night. If you would like to place an order, you must do so before that time.
- Contact Top Shelf Pub & Grub prior to your game to place orders for food and locker room beer after your game:
  - Hartland-(810) 632-7222 Ext. 4
  - Brighton- (810) 494-9474

## 4. CONDUCT

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- Players are to communicate through their team manager first with any issues when possible. Team managers and league director will be in regular communication and expected to address issues of concern.
- Communication from the league director will go through team managers. At times, the director will extend the courtesy of communicating information (such as suspensions) to the player directly. If a player cannot communicate and conduct themselves in a proper manner, this courtesy will be revoked.
- Team Managers are expected to review league rules with all players on their team. Copies of these rules are available upon request and can also be viewed on our website @ [www.kvicehouse.com](http://www.kvicehouse.com) under the Adult League tab.
- **24 Hour Rule – any player/manager that wants to discuss any incident must wait 24 hours to contact the league director and the rink.**
- **SPECTATOR CONDUCT:** All spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a proper matter that is not unruly, vulgar, inappropriate, violent, and in accordance with all Facility Rules and USA Hockey Rules.
  - Verbal/Physical Abuse and Intent to Injure or Harm- Any spectator that verbally abuses, attempts to threaten, threatens, or targets based on race, ethnicity, religion, sex, and sexual orientation and/or threatens to, attempts to and/or physically abuse or start/participate in a fight with any employee, game official, spectator, coach, or player will be:
    - Escorted off the property and not permitted to return to Kensington Valley Ice House and Hartland Ice House Facilities for the remainder of the tournament.
    - Upon review by League and Rink Management, can include permanent expulsion from all Kensington Valley Ice House and Hartland Ice House programs and facilities.
- All players within the adult program are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner and be respectful of facility and league rules. Verbal abuse of any kind toward any member of arena staff will result in a minimum game suspension.
- Locker Room Policy: Teams are to completely vacate their room within 30 minutes following the conclusion of their game.

- **While Zamboni is on Ice:**
  - NO player, pucks, sticks, or other objects are allowed on the ice while the Zamboni is on the ice.
    - First Offense will be a warning to the team.
    - Second Offense will be an automatic forfeit by the offending team.
    - Continued offenses will result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the league director.
  - Do NOT shoot pucks at the open zam doors.
  - Staff have been instructed to leave the ice and skip the resurface if players are in violation of this rule, NO EXCEPTIONS.
- **Locker Rooms-** Teams are only guaranteed entry to their locker room 30 minutes prior to game start and must vacate their locker room 30 minutes after the conclusion of their game.
  - Teams are responsible for any damage. If a team is found to have trashed/damaged their locker room, the team and manager are subject to fines and suspension upon review by rink and league management.
- Damage to facility property will result in fines and suspensions for players involved. The amount of the fines and suspensions is subject to review by rink and league management.

## 5. PENALTIES

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- **3- minute minors, 7-minute major, 10-minute misconduct, Game Ejection, Game Misconduct**
- **3 in a Game:** Any player receiving 3 penalties in a game will be ejected from (Game Ejection)
  - First Offense- Player received a warning.
  - Second Offense- Player will receive a 1 game suspension.
  - Third Offense- Player will be suspended indefinitely pending review by the league director.
- **Game Ejections:** do NOT result in an IMMEDIATE suspension. When a player is ejected, they are to leave the ice and sit out the remainder of the game.
  - An ejection can result in Suspensions at the discretion of league and rink management.
    - All ejections will be reviewed by the League director.
- **Game Misconduct:** **A MINIMUM 1 game suspension** that is in addition to the game in which the penalty was assessed.
- **Major Penalties:**
  - Player is to be removed immediately from the game.
  - Players will receive an automatic, minimum, 2 game suspension.
    - Fighting majors are a minimum 3 game suspension.
- **Match Penalties:** results in immediate removal from the game and the player or team official is immediately suspended in accordance with USA Hockey Rule 405
  - Kensington Valley Ice House and Hartland Ice House hold the ability to enact any discipline determined by League and Rink Management even before USA Hockey ruling if they feel fit.
  - If any Team Official or Player is assessed a match penalty, they are not permitted to be at the facility while serving their suspension.
  - Receiving a Match penalty could result in permanent expulsion from all programs at Kensington Valley Ice House and Hartland Ice House in addition to a permanent ban from the property.
- **Zero Tolerance** - A minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (zero tolerance) shall be assessed whenever a player: (Rule 601 A)
  - Challenges or disputes the rulings of any official.
  - Taunts or incites an opponent.
  - Creates a disturbance during the game.
  - Shoots the puck after the whistle, if in the opinion of the Official such shot was avoidable.

- **Probation-** Probations are used in the event of reoccurring behavior/disciplinary issues in which league and rink management deems that expulsion is not warranted and instead the player is given an opportunity to correct their behavior. While under probation any further major infractions, game misconducts, fights, inappropriate behavior, etc. will result in either:
  - An automatic indefinite suspension from all Adult Programs at Kensington Valley Ice House and Hartland Ice House. Upon review it will be determined whether the player will be allowed to petition to return or not.
  - An automatic minimum suspension (number noted in probation letter) from all Adult Programs at Kensington Valley Ice House and Hartland Ice House. Upon review it will be determined the full disciplinary action for the player.

## 6. SUSPENSIONS

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**All suspensions are subject to the discretion of the League Director. This is not limited to On-Ice behavior and includes how you conduct yourself off ice and on the facility's property.**

- Team Managers will be notified by the league director of a player's suspension. It is the Team Managers responsibility to communicate suspensions to their players and to ensure they are served.
- If a player who incurs a suspension during their game does not have a jersey number properly tied to them to indicate they are the guilty party, the team manager is responsible for truthfully informing the league director who the guilty player is and correcting the jersey issue.
  - If the manger refuses to inform the league director who the guilty player is or misinforms intentionally then the manager is subject to a minimum one game suspension.
- **Abuse of Officials-** There is zero tolerance for abuse of officials (Rule 601A). Scorekeepers, Game Officials, and league staff are covered under this ruling.
- **Verbal Abuse-** Any player, manager, or coach that verbally abuses, attempts to threaten, threatens, or targets based on race, ethnicity, religion, sex, and sexual orientation towards:
  - Any rink employee, spectator, customer, or opponent will be suspended for a minimum of 2 weeks (14 consecutive days, not games).
  - Any scorekeeper will be suspended a minimum of 3 weeks (21 consecutive days, not games).
- **Physical Abuse/Intent to Injure or Harm-** Any player, manager, or coach that intends/attempts to and/or physically abuses, harms, and/or starts/participates in a fight (actions include but are not limited to spitting, swinging sticks, or shooting pucks at their direction, etc.) with an **employee, spectator, or customer**:
  - Will be suspended a minimum of 30 DAYS.
  - Upon review by League and Rink Management, can include permanent expulsion from all Kensington Valley Ice House and Hartland Ice House programs and facilities.
- **Physical Abuse/Reckless Endangerment/Intent to Injure or Harm-** Any player, manager, or coach that intends/attempts to and/or physically abuses, endangers, and/or harms (actions include but are not limited to; hits to the head and/or from behind, hair pulling, biting, spitting, etc.) a **player or game official**:
  - Will warrant a Match Penalty
  - Will be suspended a minimum of 30 DAYS.

- Upon review by League and Rink Management, can include permanent expulsion from all Kensington Valley Ice House and Hartland Ice House programs and facilities.
- **Fighting Majors:**
  - Any player who attempts to and/or fights another player.
    - First Offense is an automatic 3 game suspension, no exceptions.
    - Second Offense will result in an indefinite suspension pending league and rink review.
    - May result in permanent expulsion from all leagues and both facilities.
  - Any player who attempts to and/or fights a game official.
    - Will warrant a match penalty.
    - Will be suspended a minimum of 30 days.
    - May result in permanent expulsion from all leagues and both facilities.
  - **Major Infractions-** Any major penalty received will result in:
    - First Offense: automatic two-game suspension.
    - Second Offense: will result in permanent suspension.
      - Reinstatement will be determined based on a review with the League Director.
  - **Third Man In-** any coach, manager, or trainer that becomes the third participant in a fight started between two other players:
    - The referee will remove them from the remainder of the game.
    - They will be assessed an automatic one game suspension (Game Misconduct)
    - The League Director will review the situation that may result in additional suspension up to and including permanent expulsion from the leagues, at the discretion of the league director and rink management.
- **The league director will NOT reverse a call made by the referee in accordance with USA Rule 502a.**
- **If a player proceeds to play while under suspension:**
  - The player will be removed from the game and roster.
  - The player will receive an indefinite suspension pending League and Rink Management Review
  - Team Manager will receive a minimum 1 game suspension.
  - The offending team will be assessed a forfeit loss.
- **Any coach/player/team representative serving a suspension or ejected from the game is:**



- Not permitted on, behind, and/or near the scoreboard, player benches or playing surface following their ejection from the game and while under suspension
  - If the coach/player/team representative serving a suspension or ejected from the game violates the above rule:
    - A minimum one game suspension will be added to the player's disciplinary
- The ability to attend as a fan/spectator in the stands is at the sole discretion of League and Rink management based on the infraction that led to the suspension and the behavior while acting as a fan/spectator.
- Not permitted to sub for another team the night of and/or during suspension.
- Player history is reviewed upon **ALL** suspensions and can result in further discipline upon the League Director's discretion.
- Suspension Meetings: The league director has full discretion to require a suspended player to have a meeting before being permitted to return. They will be informed of this meeting in the official suspension notice.
  - Players must request/schedule a meeting with the league director prior to the end of the suspension.
    - If a meeting is not had before the initial suspension ends the player is still deemed under suspension until a meeting is conducted.
  - Meetings will be between the league director and suspended player. Rink and Team management may be required to join depending on the situation.

