



**Tier 1 Hockey Federation
Rulebook
2025-2026**

1. Hockey Operating Rules	3
2. League Staff (see appendix)	3
3. Equipment	3
4. THF Structure	3
4.1 Age Levels	3
4.2 Participation	3
4.3 Declarations	4
5. Operations	5
5.1 Rostering	5
5.2 Player Movement:	6
5.3 Parity Event	6
5.4 Scheduling	7
5.5 Game Play and Game Day Protocols	8
5.6 Regular Season Overtime Format	9
5.7 Scoring Changes	9
5.8 Showcases and Showcase Fees	9
5.9 Suspensions	9
6.0 Playoffs	10
6.1 Playoff Requirements	10
6.2 Playoff Format	10
6.3 Playoff Round Robin Points Awarded	10
6.4 Playoff Round Robin and Championship Overtime Rules	11
6.5 Playoff Round Robin Tie-Breaker	11
7.0 Federation Discipline Policy	13
8.0 Player and Coach League Waiver	16
9.0 Spectator and Zero Tolerance Policy	16
10.0 Spectator and Player Video Policy	17
11.0 USPHL J18 Operations	17
12.0 TGHF Operations	18
Appendix	19
1. Contact Information	19
2. THF Important Upcoming Dates	20
3. Inclement Weather Policy	21
4. Inclement Weather Postponement/Reschedule Guidelines	21
5. Game Timing Information	22
6. Participant Waiver	23

PLAYING RULES OF THE TIER I HOCKEY FEDERATION, LLC (“THF”)

1. Hockey Operating Rules

The Tier I Hockey Federation (“THF”) shall attempt to abide by all USA Hockey rules and regulations as presented in the USA Hockey Annual Guide unless expressed otherwise in the THF By-Laws or these Rules and Regulations, or at the discretion of the Board of Governors. Any member team, player or person in violation of USA Hockey or THF rules or regulations is subject to discipline by the Commissioner. Failure to comply shall be dealt with by the Commissioner who can apply multiple sanctions as well as levy fines.

2. League Staff (see THF season guidebook for staff and contacts)

- a. Director**
- b. Commissioner**
- c. Deputy Commissioner**
- d. Director of Hockey Operations**
- e. Director of Administration**
- f. Director of Scheduling**
- g. Director of Operations**
- h. Director of Officiating**

3. Equipment

- 1. The home team is required to wear a light color jersey, and the road team is required to wear a dark color jersey for all games unless agreed upon in writing prior to the game.
- 2. Players must follow USA Hockey Rules & Regulations in regards to equipment.

4. THF Structure

4.1 Age Levels

The THF has divisions of play at the Tier 1 level at the following age classifications: 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, and 18U

4.2 Participation

THF offers the following membership options: Full Season or Partial Season

1. All Mid-Atlantic teams are assumed to be Full Season Unless:
 - a. Teams that finished the previous season in the Top 25 of Myhockey Rankings shall qualify for a Partial Season
 - i. Teams can request a partial season if they are in the Top 50 of Myhockey Rankings for review by the Competition Committee
 - ii. Team requesting a partial season schedule that are in the Top 50 of Myhockey rankings must attend parity
 - b. Teams outside of the geographical footprint of the Mid-Atlantic can qualify for a partial season. (reduced number of regular season games)
2. Game Counts
 - a. Full Season teams (Mid-Atlantic):
 - i. 9-13U: 28 home and home games plus optional showcases
 - ii. 14-18U: 20 home and home games plus optional showcases
 - iii. All mid-atlantic teams shall play full season unless qualify for Partial Season
 - iv. Showcase games do not count toward home and home game count
 - v. Showcase games will count towards regular season Krach ratings
 - b. Partial Season:
 - i. 9-13U: 16 home and home games plus optional showcases
 - ii. 14-18U: 12 home and home games plus optional showcases
 - iii. Partial Season members must participate in the THF Playoffs.
 - iv. In certain circumstances member organizations may seek approval from the Board of Directors and the Board of Directors may grant approval for specific teams in a member organization to participate as a partial season team.
 - c. Showcase only teams (non Mid-Atlantic based only)
 - i. Must play a minimum of 12 games to be playoff eligible.
 - ii. Non-Mid Atlantic/ Northeast; showcases can be used in lieu of loose games.

4.3 Declarations

1. Team declaration submission deadline will be published in the season guidebook
2. League Members will not be required to compete at all levels but WILL be required to have all registered Tier I teams in their program participate in the league.
 - a. THF Central and THF Massachusetts based teams excluded
3. Tier 1 Hockey Federation is for teams wishing to compete at the Tier I level for the season, not to use it as practice to compete later at Tier II.
 - a. THF teams are NOT allowed to compete in a Tier II league and are NOT allowed to try and qualify for Tier II/AA USA Hockey Nationals. This includes teams that wear another uniform for THF play and their home club for local Tier II play.

- b. Any Teams caught competing at the Tier II level will be immediately removed from the THF. The THF will also contact your local affiliate and educate the affiliate on the agreement your teams and clubs have made by competing in the THF and in many affiliates this will disqualify you from competing for Districts/Nationals.
- c. Organizations that have teams participating in Tier II playoffs shall be fined \$5000 and paid prior to any organizational team participating in the THF Playoffs.

5. Operations

5.1 Rostering

1. The League will be using Time to Score software for rostering, scoring, standings and statistics
2. League Members must identify one contact person within their organization that will be responsible for providing all the rosters to the THF office. THF staff will not deal with individual teams. The roster coordinator for each member organization will have to gather the rosters for their entire club, submit the USAH rosters and input the rosters directly into Time to Score.
3. League Members must provide an approved USA Hockey roster by the date provided in season THF Guidebook. Only properly USAH certified players and coaches will be allowed to participate in any THF games.
4. Roster changes must be submitted to the league 24 hours prior to game start time (Weekend Games) and by 5pm on Friday for weekend games. Submissions after said deadlines are not guaranteed to be approved for said game. A team that plays a player not on the active roster is subject to penalties which can include forfeiture of the game. Rule will be waived in instances where a team must use an emergency goalie to play the game as scheduled.
 - a. 15/16/18U
 - i. THF will follow USA HOCKEY rules for VERTICAL INTEGRATION and 18U Rostering
 - ii. Teams have until 5pm Friday to designate up to 25 eligible players for weekend games.
 - iii. Teams can use any combination of players for games over the weekend from the 25 players listed.
 - iv. Players must be on their December 31st National Bound roster or play 50% of THF Regular Season Games for that team.
 - b. Teams must file appropriate roster with their local registrar matching their game lineup for each individual THF game
 - c. Teams are not allowed to replace a suspended player on their roster.
 - d. Any coach caught breaking the rule by dropping or not sitting a suspended player shall receive a 5 game penalty from the THF.
5. If a player is added or dropped from a USAH roster the League Member must provide the latest USAH approved roster to the THF staff and they must update the THF roster

system. All roster moves must be made in accordance with the protocols outlined in the THF season guidebook.

6. For the 9U and 11U divisions, teams are permitted to roster two(2) players that are 1 year older.. An organization can appeal to the commissioner of the league to add two(2) additional overage to the roster for the season. The 4 max overage players are allowed to play in any game. The decision and ruling by the commissioner is final and there is no appeal process as the commissioner's decision in this matter is final and binding. (Emergency goalie)
7. The Board of Governors in its sole discretion may elect to privately insure events in which case the member clubs will have to attend using a different name than their primary USA Hockey team name.

5.2 Player Movement:

1. Registration with One Organization Only. No player shall register with more than one organization in a single season in accordance with Affiliate Guidelines
2. Alternate players may be called upon from other teams within the organization from younger age teams or from the same age lower division teams within the organization. Players called upon for more than 15 games shall become a full-time member of that team and will forfeit full time status on their previous team.
3. Moves are not permitted after December 31 of the playing season for 9U-14U. See emergency goalies rules for exceptions.
4. Emergency Goalie / Goalie Substitutions
 - a. A goaltender may be used from the age division immediately below in the same Association.
 - b. A goaltender may be used from any other THF team, including the opposing team, at the same level or the age group immediately below.

5.3 Parity Event

1. The THF will host a parity event in the Spring (multiple locations to reduce travel).
2. All Mid-Atlantic Teams are required to attend.
3. Format will be provided in the season guidebook.
4. Schedule matrices for the season will be built based on the results from this event along with evaluations from coaches and roster changes and performance from the previous season.
5. Following the parity event, Clubs primary contacts are welcome to speak with the THF Commissioner to review results within 5 days after the completion of the parity event.
6. Changing team attendance after March 11th for non-national bound teams will result in a fine of \$2500. Changing team attendance after March 25th for national bound teams will result in a fine of \$2500.

5.4 Scheduling

1. The assignment of non-Showcase opponents will be done by the THF staff and distributed to the League members by the date established by the THF.
2. League games can not be added to a team's schedule after October 15th. Any team wishing to add a league game that was not in the original scheduling matrix must receive approval from the league office.
3. Each League Member club will be assigned opponents for their non-showcase games, but the weekends for the actual game play are at the discretion of the individual clubs.
4. Each League Member shall be required to have one Master Scheduler that represents all of its Member teams. No scheduling will be allowed to be done by individual teams' coaches and/or managers.
5. Every league game time must be at a reasonable time given travel restrictions. Any disputes about scheduling or game times will be resolved by the Commissioner.
6. Schedules must be completed and entered in the THF schedule system by the League Members by the date established by the THF. Failure to input ALL the League Members' teams non-showcase schedules will result in a fine of \$500 per week for every week after the date established by the THF.
7. Start and end date will be provided in the date established in the THF Guidebook.
8. Once the league schedule is released on the league website, League members will have 14 days to make changes without penalty. Any change to a schedule must be agreed to by both teams involved. The Commissioner has the discretion to fine a member organization \$250 per schedule change after August 1st.
9. After January 1, no schedule changes can take place without the approval of the Commissioner.
10. If a game is approved to be postponed by the Federation Commissioner, the league shall impose a \$500 fine and be required to cover the cost of the game (Ice and Referees) of the team requesting the postponement. Game must be rescheduled within ten (10) days of the date the game was postponed. The Commissioner has the right to deny any re-scheduling requests, re-schedule a postponed game at a time or venue he chooses, assign expenses as he chooses, make the final decision and will notify all parties.
11. If a League Member team drops out of the league after July 20, the Commissioner shall have the authority to re-formulate the schedule and any other related matter without approval of the league Board of Governors.
 - a. Games are all removed from schedule and deemed "no contest."
12. Any team dropping out of a THF Showcase after June 1 will not be eligible to receive a refund for that Showcase.
13. A team which does not appear for a scheduled league game (or cancels a game) will forfeit the game and must pay a fine of \$1,000 to the THF.
 - a. The game will be recorded as a 1- 0 score in the standings.
 - b. Plus game expenses if the game is canceled less than 14 days prior, club must cover game expenses to the home team. (Showcase Rates - ice and referees). The game will be recorded as a 1- 0 score in the standings. All fines must be paid prior to playoffs.

- c. All fines must be paid prior to playoffs. Any unpaid fines may result in a team's disqualification from the playoffs and expulsion from the league.
- 14. A team that forfeits two (2) league games during the same season for failure to appear will be ineligible for playoff competition at the end of that season. A team that forfeits three (3) league games for failure to appear during the same season will immediately be removed from the league with no refund.
 - a. This includes showcase games.
- 15. Refer to appendix for inclement weather policy.

5.5 Game Play and Game Day Protocols

1. The official score sheet will be prepared using the league approved software system, Time to Score, or any future system. The score sheet must be approved by the head on-ice official at the conclusion of every game. Once it has been approved and uploaded to the league website, an official score sheet may not be changed by anyone other than the Commissioner. Each team Manager will be required to provide an iPad to record the game information and each club will be required to maintain spare iPads (for rent) at their front desk.
 - a. Time to Score must be updated by Monday 5pm. Clubs that continue to fail to meet this deadline may be subject to fines by the commissioner.
2. Warm up time will be a minimum of 3 minutes for all levels.
3. Please appendix section #5 for complete game timing information for all levels. Failure for the home team to have reserved the required time may result in a forfeiture by the home team.
4. The scorekeeper must provide on-ice officials with the official score sheet from Gamesheet software immediately after the conclusion of a league game for their final approval as well as both coaches.
5. A minimum of two (2) on-ice officials will be scheduled for every league game. In situations beyond the control of the home team or the league a single official can officiate a league game for either a showcase or non showcase game.
6. The home team must provide a clean dressing room for the visiting team (a girl's locker room should also be made available as needed). The home team is required to provide off-ice officials for each scheduled league game including a Timekeeper and an Official Scorer (who could be the same person). Penalty box will be manned by a person from each team.
7. The home team must provide up to two volunteers for games to handle the clock and the score keeping duties. The scorekeeping must be done on an iPad using Game Sheet – no paper score sheets will be allowed.
8. A team playing an ineligible or improperly registered player in a league game will forfeit that game and may be ineligible for playoffs.
9. A team must have a minimum of six (6) skaters and one (1) goaltender dressed for the game. Failure to meet this number of players will result in a forfeit loss for the team that does not meet the minimum roster requirement for the game. The game will be recorded as a 1-0 victory in the standings.
10. If the goal differential is 7 or greater during the third period, the clock shall be set to running time. At 7 or greater in the second period, the clock shall be set to running time. If the goal differential goes to 6 or less, the game returns to stop time. (Or agreed upon by both coaches) No adjustments to penalties will be made. If a penalty expires during a

play stoppage, the player may not leave the penalty box until the puck is dropped at the next faceoff.

11. Games are considered official after 2 periods of play. If a game is discontinued after 2 periods of play due to situations beyond the control of the rink, home team, away team, on ice official or the THF the game will be recorded in the standings as complete and final.

5.6 Regular Season Overtime Format

1. All league regular season games remaining tied at the end of the third period will be decided by a 5-minute, running time, 3v3 sudden death overtime.
2. In 3 v 3 sudden death overtime teams will defend the same net that is defended in period (2), (i.e. long change).
3. If the game is still tied at the end of overtime, the game will end in a tie.

5.7 Scoring Changes

1. Please submit all scoring changes via the THF Manager's portal.
2. Only scoring changes with video and the required information that are submitted by a coach or team manager will be accepted.
3. Please note it is the coach's responsibility to verify the scoresheet at the conclusion of the game.

5.8 Showcases and Showcase Fees

1. Fees will be due in three (3) installments payable June 15 (1/3), August 1 (1/3) and September 15 (1/3). A fee schedule for each season will be published separately. The THF will offer optional showcases for its member teams.
2. Showcases are operated by Exposure Series and the USPHL. The Showcase Fees are set by the operators and paid directly to the operator.
3. If team's wish to have games count in Krach ratings for the Beantown Classic and Jr. Bruins Shootout they must submit their game schedule to the THF to add to gamesheets. The team submitting the games must score the games in gamesheets.

5.9 Suspensions

1. Any suspension issued for an action occurring during a league game will be served in the teams next USA Hockey sanctioned game. As a reminder, a coach who plays a suspended player in a game is subject to a match penalty.
2. Penalties assessed during a league game by on-ice officials or mandatory suspensions per the USA Hockey Rules are not subject to appeal or review by a league official.

6.0 Playoffs

6.1 Playoff Requirements

1. KRACH ratings will be used to determine final playoff rankings.
2. All teams that play their required scheduled games will be eligible for a playoffs based on KRACH ratings.
3. A team that is in the Top 10 of MyhockeyRankings.com shall be able to opt out of playoffs if there are no other teams in the Top 25 teams in the division.
4. After final team, age and level declarations, the THF Commissioner in consultation with the THF Competition Committee will recommend to the THF Board of Directors the number of teams that will qualify for playoffs at each age division and the number of teams as well as the format for each division will be available in the rulebook.
5. Any team that has an affiliate or district championship conflict with playoffs shall have the ability to opt out of playoffs. The Commissioner has the ability to award a replacement team.
6. Any team dropping out of playoffs after January 15th shall be fined \$2500 paid by the organization prior to the start of playoffs. Any unpaid fines may result in the organization being disqualified from playoffs and expulsion from the league.

6.2 Playoff Format

1. The Competition Committee will publish a playoff format for each division based on the amount of teams in each division prior to the beginning of the season.
2. A round robin format will be used for each division.
3. The THF shall offer a playoff for all 9U-12U teams a playoff
 - a. Silver Cup Opt-In: the THF will operate a Silver Cup for 9U-12U teams provided that teams opt into the play. Teams will not be able to drop out after January 1 if they opt into the Silver Cup Playoffs
4. The Competition Committee has the ability to amend the format and number of teams that qualify for playoffs.

6.3 Playoff Round Robin Points Awarded

Type	Points
Regulation Win	3
OT Win	2
Shootout Win	2
OT Loss	1
Shootout Loss	1
Regulation Loss	0

6.4 Playoff Round Robin and Championship Overtime Rules

1. All THF round robin playoff and championship games tied after regulation, three periods, will move to a:
 - a. (5) minute 3 v 3 sudden death overtime period
 - b. If the game remains tied after the 3 v 3 sudden death overtime period the game will be decided by a shootout
2. The shootout will follow the following process:
 - a. Shootout Phase 1: Alternate Shot
 - i. (3) unique shooters for each team alternating shootout attempts with the visiting team shooting first each time until all 6 shooters, 3 home and 3 visiting, have shot.
 - ii. The team that scores the most goals in Phase 1 is declared the winner.
 1. If the teams score an equal number of goals in phase 1, the shootout moves to phase 2.
 - iii. A player whose penalty has not expired before the end of an overtime or regulation period is ineligible for the shootout and sudden death shootout.
 - b. Shootout Phase 2: Sudden Death
 - i. Visiting team will shoot first followed by the home team
 - ii. If one team scores and the other does not the team that scores is the winner
 - iii. If both teams score, move to the next round of sudden death shootout with visiting team shooting first followed by the home team
 - iv. If both teams fail to score, move to the next round of sudden death shootout with the visiting team shooting first followed by the home team
 - v. The home team and the away team may use the same shooter in consecutive round

6.5 Playoff Round Robin Tie-Breaker

1. All round robin playoff tournaments will be subject to the tie breaking procedure provided in the USA Hockey Tournament Guide Book to determine the standings of the teams in the round robin playoff tournament. The tie-breaker rules are as follows:
 - a. The results of only the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:
 - i. Most points earned.
 - ii. Most total wins (whether in regulation, overtime and shootout).
 - iii. Most regulations wins.
 - iv. Differential — Subtracting goals against from goals for in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus. A maximum goal differential of plus or minus eight (8) per game will be used in tie-breaking rules.

1. Quotient — Dividing the goals for by the goals against in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. If a game has a goal differential of more than eight (8) goals, the goals for will be decreased until there is a maximum of eight (8) more than goals against in a given game prior to dividing (i.e. 10-1 game would use 9-1 for purposes of quotient). A quotient involving dividing by zero 35 (0) has higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any number other than zero (0). Where two or more teams have no goals against and the quotient tie-breaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of “goals for.”
 2. Most periods won — In the games played by each tied team, points will be awarded for each regulation period won (2 points) and for each regulation period tied (1 point). Positions shall be in the order of highest point total.
- v. If after applying the formulas of 1 a, b, c, d, e or f the tie still exists, the results of all the games played by the teams tied in the following order.
1. Most total wins (whether in regulation, overtime and shootout).
 2. Most regulations wins.
 3. Differential — Subtracting goals against from goals for in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus. A maximum goal differential of plus or minus eight (8) per game will be used in tie-breaking rules.
 4. Quotient — Dividing the goals for by the goals against in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. If a game has a goal differential of more than eight (8) goals, the goals for will be decreased until there is a maximum of eight (8) more than goals against in a given game prior to dividing (i.e. 10-1 game would use 9-1 for purposes of quotient). A quotient involving dividing by zero (0) has higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any number other than zero. Where two or more teams have no goals against and the quotient tie-breaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of “goals for.”
 5. Most periods won — In the games played by each tied team, points will be awarded for each 36 regulation period won (2 points) and for each regulation period tied (1 point). Positions shall be in the order of highest point total.
 6. Lowest number of penalty minutes — Calculate the number of penalty minutes accrued during all preliminary round games. The teams shall be ranked low to high in ascending order of “penalty minutes for.”
 7. Quickest first goal — The team that scored the quickest goal in their preliminary round games shall be ranked highest.
- vi. If the above procedure does not break the tie, the teams shall use a shootout procedure as previously described. NOTE: A team may go into the tie-breaking process having defeated another of the tied teams and still not advance. NOTE: If a team forfeits any of its games, and becomes

involved in any tie-breaking formula, the team that forfeited will not advance and all games played against the forfeiting team shall be recorded as 1-0 victories for all opposing teams.

7.0 Federation Discipline Policy

1. The Federations support the on ice calls of the officials.
 - 1.1. The Federations will follow [USA Hockey Rule 411](#) for Progressive Suspensions including but not limited to:
 - 1.1.1. 411 (a) Any [player](#) who receives
 - 1.1.1.1. third major [penalty](#) during the same season for any combination of aggressive infractions listed below shall receive an additional three game suspension (USA Hockey).
 - 1.1.1.2. fourth major [penalty](#) in this category, the [player](#) shall receive an additional five-game suspension (USA Hockey).
 - 1.1.1.3. 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).
 - 1.1.1.4. 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:
 - 1.1.2. 411 (b) Any team that receives
 - 1.1.2.1. three major penalties in the same game shall have its Head [Coach](#) suspended for the next game of that team.
 - 1.1.2.2. 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.
 - 1.1.2.3. 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).
 - 1.1.3. 411 (c) Any [coach](#) who receives
 - second game misconduct [penalty](#) in the same season for a violation of Rule 601 shall automatically receive an additional three-game suspension.
 - 1.1.3.1. third game misconduct [penalty](#) in the same season for a violation of Rule 601 shall automatically be suspended from USA Hockey activities until a hearing is conducted by the Proper Authority.

- 1.2. The Federations will work with USA Hockey to assess appropriate discipline in the situations of a Match Penalty following [USA Hockey's Standardized Discipline Policy](#) - Match Penalties
2. Game Misconduct Accumulation Policy
 - 2.1. The THF will follow the following Game Misconduct Accumulation Policy for player's receiving 3 game misconducts or more in THF games:
 - 2.1.1. Third game misconduct, the player shall receive an additional one (1) game suspension
 - 2.1.2. Fourth game misconduct, the player shall receive an additional two (2) game suspension.
 - 2.1.3. Fifth game misconduct, the player shall be suspended until a hearing is conducted by the THF Director of Officiating
 - 2.2. These designated game suspensions shall be in addition to any other suspensions imposed through the official playing rules.
3. The Federations reserve the right to apply Supplemental Discipline as outlined in [USA Hockey Rule 410](#).
 - 3.1. There is no right to appeal a game misconduct, because this rule is considered to be part of the referee's game jurisdiction.
 - 3.2. The Federations shall look into any event that it deems a "detriment to player safety or the game." at the discretion of the commissioner or By by member (JH)
 - 3.2.1. The Federation reserves the right to review and investigate any report in regards to locker room, discrimination, parent behavior, coach related matters, etc.
 - 3.3. Supplemental discipline may be assessed under USA Hockey Rule 410, Supplementary Discipline, following a hearing. Has the ability to send to the appropriate affiliation for ratification.
 - 3.4. All hearings should have the following components.
 - 3.4.1. Adequate notice of the time and place of the hearing must be provided. This should be in writing. "Adequate notice" means giving a reasonable chance to prepare, including obtaining evidence or affidavits and getting the assistance of others.
 - 3.4.2. Notice of the charges or issues that will be considered and the possible discipline that may occur must be provided. This should also be in writing. It is the Association's responsibility to give prior notice of the allegations and the possible discipline. For example, absent an immediate threat to the safety of youth players, it would be improper to schedule a meeting to "discuss" a coach's conduct, and to then suspend the coach based on the "discussion."
 - 3.4.3. Where playing conduct is under review, the player or his parent must be provided with the information supporting the suspension, including a copy of the game scoresheet and any report submitted by the referees, as well as videotapes and written statements, or summaries of oral statements, to the extent those were relied upon in awarding or sustaining the penalty.

- 3.4.4. The person or panel that is ruling on the matter must be impartial and they must not have previously made up their mind on a dispute. It is invalid for someone who is involved in the dispute to rule on a matter.
 - 3.4.5. The person who is the object of the hearing must have the right to hear all negative evidence and to present all favorable evidence. They must be permitted to have someone assist them or represent them.
 - 3.4.5.1. However, legal rules of evidence do not apply and they do not have unlimited time to present their case.
 - 3.4.6. The decision resulting from the hearing shall be promptly conveyed and should be memorialized in writing.
 - 3.4.7. Appeals to AAHA within fourteen (14) days of the ruling by the league or club that is being appealed.
 - 3.4.8. The decision of the Discipline/Dispute Resolution Committee may be appealed to the AAHA Appeals Committee under certain restrictive rules.
4. The Federations receives unsolicited video during the season with a request that we consider supplemental discipline for an infraction that either went uncalled or, where the penalty assessed was not appropriate. Availability of video and in the interest of ensuring the safety of our athletes, we are introducing a trial video review program.
- 4.1. The Federations will NOT use video review for the **purpose of changing** any on ice call, UNLESS the video clearly and unambiguously demonstrates MAJOR/GAME MISCONDUCT penalty assessments were made to the wrong player.
 - 4.1.1. Video must clearly show, without question, that the wrong player was identified and penalized by officials during the infraction.
 - 4.1.2. The Federations will only consider a review if the penalty assessed was a MAJOR/GAME MISCONDUCT.
 - 4.2. Video submitted for potential review by Federation, will only be accepted/considered if presented by a member Association's Hockey Director or President. (No individual or parent submissions will be accepted.) The following process shall be followed:
 - 4.2.1. Upon review by the Association, and determination that a request for further action is requested, the Association's Director of Hockey must complete the "Video Review Request" form.
 - 4.2.2. Completed form must be sent within 48 hours of the incident to vicepresident@Federationhockey.org. Form must be submitted with a \$150 check (\$250 check if the request is for review of a mis-identified player).
 - 4.2.3. If the video is accepted and supplemental disciplinary hearing is conducted, the check will be returned. If the video does NOT result in a hearing to determine additional discipline or correct player identification, the \$150/\$250 check will be considered a fine to the organization that submitted the video.)
 - 4.2.4. Upon receipt, the Referee in Chief will review and determine if the actions shown on video warrants further review.

- 4.2.4.1. If it is determined that that event is of a Game Misconduct level, the video will be forwarded to the offending organization to be handled internally within the organization.
- 4.2.4.2. If it is determined that the event is of a Match Penalty level, then the event proceeds to a review process.
- 4.2.5. If further review is deemed warranted, a review process will be undertaken by a Video Review Committee (the "VR Committee").
- 4.2.6. The Video Review Committee will make a recommendation to the Federation Commissioner who will make the final determination on conducting a supplemental discipline hearing.
- 4.2.7. Supplemental Discipline will not be imposed until a hearing has been conducted with the player, coach or parent that is the subject of the request.
- 4.2.8. Discipline administered by Federation will be imposed immediately and the subject of supplemental discipline will retain all appeal rights as provided for in the Federation Guidebook and USA Hockey Bylaw 10. (Any discipline assessed will not be delayed while an appeal is in process.)

8.0 Player and Coach League Waiver

1. It is mandatory that all players and coaches complete the online THF Registration and Participant Waiver for the 25-26 season. The waiver link is available on the home page of the THF website.
2. Any player or coach who does not complete the waiver will not be eligible for competition.
3. The THF Board reserves the right to include a player registration fee. Fee Shall be set at the October board meeting for the upcoming season and be included in the season agreement.
4. Club shall be able to elect to pay the fee for its membership which will be included in regular invoicing payments.

9.0 Spectator and Zero Tolerance Policy

The THF has adopted the USA Hockey Zero Tolerance policy and this policy applies to all participants in the league including players, coaches, on ice officials, off ice officials and parents/spectators. In instances where a participant receives a match penalty for the violation of rule 601 during an THF showcase or non showcase game, the THF Director of Officiating and the THF Commissioner will work with the appropriate USA Hockey affiliate to conduct an investigation into the incident and the USA Hockey affiliate will enforce penalties outlined in rule 601.

10.0 Streaming and / or Recording of Games

It is illegal to video any games in the THF. If a player, parent, family member or friend produce (or any other version of such) a video or livestream or any other broadcast production of an THF event or game, the player can be immediately suspended or dismissed from the team, league or tournament for the remainder of the season with no refunds provided

11.0 J18 Operations

1. All League protocol established in the THF rulebook will be followed by the J18 division
2. All league games will operate under THF 18U playing rules, game timing and overtime formats.
 - a. Any contest between a J18 and USPHL Elite team will use USPHL playing rules.
3. The League will be using the Time to Score software for rostering, scoring, standings and statistics.

11.2 Age Eligibility

1. The J18 division will be made up of 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009 birth year players.
 - a. Teams are limited to a maximum of (3) 2006 birth year players.

11.2 Rostering

1. All player roster movement will be made following THF protocol regarding player add/drop & Emergency Goalies.
2. Players must complete league registration to be eligible for competition(See Rule 8.0).
3. Any player not on the team roster prior to game time in Time to Score will be ineligible for competition.
4. Players are able to move freely between J18 and USPHL Elite/Premier rosters until March 16th.
 - a. Any player movement after this date must be approved by the THF.

11.3 Scheduling and League Showcases

1. Teams will will complete a 40 game regular season schedule made up of loose games and showcase games as set by the league season agreement
2. All teams will participate in league playoffs March 27-29 in Wayne, NJ
3. All scheduling protocols set forth in section 5.4 will be followed

12.0 TGHF Operations

1. **All** League protocol established in the THF rulebook will be followed by the TGHF
2. All league games will operate under THF playing rules, game timing and overtime formats.
3. The League will be using the Time to Score software for rostering, scoring, standings and statistics.

12.1 Age Eligibility

1. TGHF will have the following divisions 12U, 14U, 16U, and 19U

12.2 Rostering

1. All player roster movement will be made following THF protocol regarding player add/drop & Emergency Goalies.
2. Players must complete league registration to be eligible for competition(See Rule 8.0).
3. Any player not on the team roster prior to game time in Time to Score will be ineligible for competition.

12.3 Scheduling

1. Teams will play up to 16 loose games
2. All teams will participate in league playoffs 14U-19U February 20-24, 2026 and 12U March 6-8, 2026

Appendix

1. Contact Information

Tony Zasowski – Commissioner

Email: tzasowski@blackbearsportsgroup.com

Brent Gough– Deputy Commissioner

Email: bgough@blackbearsportsgroup.com

Avi Friedman – Director of Scheduling

Email: avi@atlanitchockeyfederation.com

Blake MacNicol – Director of Hockey Operations

Email: bmacnicol@blackbearsportsgroup.com

Nikki Miller – Director of Administration/TGHF Commissioner

Email: nmiller@blackbearsportsgroup.com

Laura Cahn – Director of Operations

Email: lcahn@blackbearsportsgroup.com

Kevin Keiper – Director of Officiating

Email: kkeiper@atlantichockeyfederation.com

Managers and Coaches should go through their Hockey Director and Organization scheduler prior to contacting the league.

2. THF Important Upcoming Dates

- June 3 Team Scheduling
- June 24 Home Schedule Due to league
- August 16 Season Starts
- February 8 End of Regular Season
- February 15 Make up games must be completed
- February 20-22 National Bound Playoffs (13U-18U)
- February 27-March 1 Youth Playoffs (9U-12U)

THF Meeting Dates

- May 8 Board of Directors Meeting (In Person)
- May 16 Directors / Organization Management Meeting (Virtual) - 10 am
- May 16 Managers Meeting (Virtual) - 6:30 pm
- June 13 Directors / Organization Management Meeting (Virtual) - 10 am
- June 13 Managers Meeting (Virtual) - 6:30 pm
- July 11 Directors / Organization Management Meeting (Virtual) - 10 am
- July 11 Managers Meeting (Virtual) - 6:30 pm
- August 8 Directors / Organization Management Meeting (Virtual) - 10 am
- August 8 Managers Meeting (Virtual) - 6:30 pm
- August 13 Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual)
- September 12 Directors / Organization Management Meeting (Virtual) - 10 am
- September 12 Managers Meeting (Virtual) - 6:30 pm
- October 10 Directors / Organization Management Meeting (Virtual) - 10 am
- October 10 Managers Meeting (Virtual) - 6:30 pm
- October 22 Board of Directors Meeting (In Person)
- November 14 Directors / Organization Management Meeting (Virtual) - 10 am
- November 14 Managers Meeting (Virtual) - 6:30 pm
- December 12 Directors / Organization Management Meeting (Virtual) - 10 am
- December 12 Managers Meeting (Virtual) - 6:30 pm
- January 9 Directors / Organization Management Meeting (Virtual) - 10 am
- January 9 Managers Meeting (Virtual) - 6:30 pm
- January 28 Board of Directors Meeting (In Person)
- February 6 Directors / Organization Management Meeting (Virtual) - 10 am
- February 6 Managers Meeting (Virtual) - 6:30 pm
- March 13 Parity Call HD
- March TBD Parity Town Hall
- April TBD Parity Town Hall

Federation Educational Series Dates

- October TBD Intro To Hockey (10U/12U Focus)
- November TBD College Hockey Inc (14/15/16U)
- December 15 ACHA/USPHL Advancement
- January TBD Agent & Advisor
- February TBD Pathway to Juniors

Federation Coach Development Series Dates

- August TBD TBD
- Sept TBD TBD
- October 8th TBD
- November TBD TBD
- January TBD TBD
- February TBD TBD

3. Inclement Weather Policy

- a. c.As we enter the winter driving season in the Mid-Atlantic, it is important that we remind organizations that decisions to postpone/reschedule THF games due to impending winter weather that will disrupt travel, made in advance of rink closings must be made by the master schedulers of the organizations.
- b. The decision to postpone can be made as late as Friday or Saturday at the Master Scheduler's discretion.
- c. Please email staff@tier1hockeyfederation.com , when games are postponed due to winter weather and send rescheduled details as soon as possible so the league schedule can be updated.
- d. Our families' safety is our primary focus and we ask everyone to make travel decisions with this in mind.

4. Inclement Weather Postponement/Reschedule Guidelines

- a. Traveling team manager contacts their organization's master scheduler informing of possible travel issues due to impending winter storm affecting weekend travel.
- b. The Travel team's master scheduler contacts the host organization's master scheduler to discuss alternative dates in case winter weather forecasts cause postponement.
- c. If the traveling team's master scheduler and the host organization's master scheduler agree to postpone/reschedule in advance of rink closure due to hotel arrangements or travel distance, organizations should email, staff@tier1hockeyfederation.com, with the new date and time.

- d. In instances where both parties are not in agreement regarding the decision to postpone/reschedule or reschedule dates, times and locations can not be agreed upon, both organizations shall contact the THF Commissioner. The commissioner's decision in these instances will be final and binding for both organizations.
- e. Any games that are postponed due to rink closure as a result of a winter storm must be rescheduled within 10 days of the postponed date, please email notification of the new dates and times to staff@tier1hockeyfederation.com.
- f. In instances where both organizations can not agree on reschedule dates, time or locations, both organizations shall contact the THF commissioner. The commissioner's decision in these instances will be final and binding for both organizations.

5. Game Timing Information

- a. Please note that all game lengths listed are in minutes and do not include the ice cut at the end of the game.

THF LEAGUE GAME INFORMATION BY LEVEL

All League games, including League tournament games will play the following time rules:

<u>LEVEL</u>	<u>PERIODS</u>	<u>ICE CUT</u>	<u>WA RM- UP</u>	<u>MINOR PENALTIES</u>	<u>MAJOR PENALTIES</u>	<u>MISCONDUCT PENALTIES</u>	<u>OVERTIME</u>	<u>LENGTH</u>	<u>REFS</u>
<u>9U/ 10U</u>	<u>15 min</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>3:00 min</u>	<u>1:30 min</u>	<u>4:00 min</u>	<u>8:00 min</u>	<u>5 min, 3 on 3</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>11U/12U</u>	<u>15 min</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>3:00 min</u>	<u>1:30 min</u>	<u>4:00 min</u>	<u>8:00 min</u>	<u>5 min, 3 on 3</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>13U/14U</u>	<u>16 min</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>3:00 min</u>	<u>1:30 min</u>	<u>4:00 min</u>	<u>8:00 min</u>	<u>5 min, 3 on 3</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>13U/14U games in MD/NY</u>	<u>17 min</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>3:00 min</u>	<u>2:00 min</u>	<u>5:00 min</u>	<u>10:00 min</u>	<u>5 min, 3 on 3</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>15U/16U /18U</u>	<u>17 min</u>	<u>YES - after 2nd</u>	<u>3:00 min</u>	<u>2:00 min</u>	<u>5:00 min</u>	<u>10:00 min</u>	<u>5 min, 3 on 3</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Overtime is Stop Time</u>									
<u>No Shooto ut</u>									

6. Participant Waiver



Tier 1 Hockey Federation Participant Waiver

Atlantic Hockey Federation Participant Waiver

Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement

“READ BEFORE SIGNING INCLUDES ARBITRATION PROVISION IN BOLD BELOW”

It is the purpose of this agreement (the “Agreement”) to exempt, waive and relieve Operators (as defined below) from all forms of liability as a result of participation in events sponsored by Operators for any and all reasons including without limitation for personal injury, property damage, and wrongful death, including without limitation if caused by negligence, including the negligence, if any, of Operators. The Operators include Black Bear Sports Group, Inc, as well as any other affiliate league or tournament the Participant and/or Participant’s team participates in, including but not limited to the Atlantic Hockey Federation, the Atlantic Girls Hockey Federation, the Tier 1 Hockey Federation, Defender Hockey Tournaments, the National Girls Hockey League, The Show Tournaments, and any of their respective affiliates, officers, directors, managers, members, agents and employees (all referred to together as the “Operators”).

For Operator’s specific events which are sanctioned by USA Hockey, the participant (“Participant”) (and Participant’s parent(s)/guardian(s)) also certify and warrant to the Operators that the team manager or custodian of Participant’s team records has on file, written waivers from liability (USA Hockey or Hockey Canada Registration) for Participant participating in the Operators’ event(s). The Participant and/or guardian(s) understand that Operators shall rely upon the statements in this form in agreeing to accept the Participant’s participation in Operators’ event(s).

For and in consideration of the undersigned Participant’s registration with Operators, and being allowed to participate in Operators’ events and related activities, Participant (and the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of Participant, if applicable) waive, release and relinquish any and all claims for liability and cause(s) of action, including, but not limited to, for personal injury, property damage or wrongful death occurring to Participant, arising out of participation in Operators’ events, the sport of ice hockey, and/or activities incidental thereto, whenever or however they occur and for such period said activities may continue, and by this agreement any such claims, rights, and causes of action that Participant (and Participant’s parent(s) or legal guardian(s), if applicable) may have are hereby waived, released and relinquished, and Participant (and parent(s)/guardian(s), if applicable) does(do) so on behalf of my/our and Participant’s heirs, executors, administrators and assigns.

Participant (and Participant’s parent(s)/guardian(s), if applicable) acknowledge, understand and assume all risks relating to ice hockey and understand that ice hockey activities involve risks to Participant’s person including bodily injury, partial or total disability, paralysis and death, and damages which may arise

therefrom and that I/we have full knowledge of said risks. These risks and dangers may be caused by the negligence and/or willful misconduct of the Participant or the negligence and/or willful misconduct of others, including the Operators identified above. These risks and dangers include, but are not limited to, those arising from participating with bigger, faster and stronger participants, and these risks and dangers will increase if Participant participates in ice hockey activities in an age group above that which Participant would normally participate in. I/We further acknowledge that there may be risks and dangers not known to us or not reasonably foreseeable at this time. Participant (and Participant's parent(s)/guardian(s), if applicable) acknowledge, understand and agree that all of the risks and dangers described throughout this Agreement, including those caused by the negligence of Participant and/or others, are included within the waiver, release and relinquishment described in the preceding paragraph. I/We acknowledge that all Participants are required to have and do have his/her own medical insurance coverage. I/We further agree and acknowledge that complete hockey equipment, including mandatory equipment required by both the Participant's team's home club and league's governing body is required to be worn during Operators' events and it is understood by the team that any Participant who does not possess the required equipment shall not be permitted to participate in any of Operators' activities. For Participants participating in USA Hockey sanctioned events, Participant (and Participant's parent(s)/guardian(s), if applicable) also agree that Participant is a member in good standing of USA Hockey, Inc. and is bound by all of USA Hockey, Inc.'s rules and regulations.

Participant (and Participant's parent(s)/guardian(s), if applicable) acknowledge, understand and assume the risks, if any, arising from the conditions and use of ice hockey rinks and related premises and acknowledge and understand that included within the scope of this waiver and release is any cause of action (including any cause of action based on negligence and or willful misconduct) arising from the performance, or failure to perform, maintenance, inspection, supervision or control of said areas and /or events and for the failure to warn of dangerous conditions existing at said rinks and/or events, for negligent selection of certain Operators, or negligent supervision or instruction by Operators. As further consideration for registration and participation in Operators' events and activities, Participant (and the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of Participant, if applicable), hereby (1) consents and agrees that Operators, its licensees and designees and affiliates may make video and/or audio recordings of and/or otherwise film, photograph or memorialize some or all of Participant's participation in such events and activities, and (2) grants to Operators, its licensees, designees and affiliates, successors and assigns, a worldwide, perpetual, irrevocable, fully-paid, royalty-free, transferable and sublicensable right and license to use, copy and disseminate Participant's image and personal attributes, and to modify and present same in any form, manner and media, now known or hereafter devised, for any purpose whatsoever.

I/We willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation in the Operators' events. If, however, I/We observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I/We will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately.

Participant (and Participant's parent(s)/guardian(s), if applicable), agree if any third-party claim for Participant's personal injury or wrongful death is commenced against Operators, he/she shall defend, indemnify and save harmless Operators from any and all claims or causes of action by whomever or wherever made or presented for Participant's personal injuries, property damage or wrongful death.

Participant and Participant's parent(s)/guardian(s), if applicable), acknowledge that they have been provided and have read the above paragraphs and have not relied upon any representations of Operators, that they are fully advised of the potential dangers of ice hockey and understand these waivers and releases are necessary to allow amateur ice hockey to exist in its present form. Significant exclusions

may apply to USA Hockey, Inc.'s insurance policies or Operators' insurance policies, which could affect any coverage you may have. For example, there is no liability coverage for claims of one player against another player, and Participant and Participant's parent(s)/guardian(s) waive any rights to make a claim against the Operators for this or any other reason.

This Agreement will be governed by and construed under the laws of the State of Delaware (without reference to its choice of laws rules, as if to be entered into and performed wholly within the State of Delaware by residents of the State of Delaware). If any clause or provision of this Agreement is determined to be illegal, invalid, or unenforceable under present or future laws, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected by such determination, and in lieu of each clause or provision that is determined to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable, there shall be added as a part of this Agreement a clause or provision as similar in terms to such illegal, invalid or unenforceable clause or provision as may be possible and be legal, valid and enforceable.

Subject to strict adherence with the terms and conditions of the Dispute Resolution mechanisms in this Agreement, ALL PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT HEREBY FREELY WAIVE ANY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE RIGHTS TO A TRIAL BY JURY, BASED UPON, RELATED IN ANY MANNER TO OR ARISING OUT OF THIS AGREEMENT OR ANY DEALINGS BETWEEN THEM RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT OR THE MANAGEMENT OR OPERATION OF THE COMPANY. The scope of this waiver is intended to be all-encompassing of any and all disputes filed in any court for any reason relating to this Agreement including, without limitation, contract, tort, breach of duty and all common law and statutory claims. All parties to this Agreement acknowledge that they have and are receiving the benefits of this Agreement, and that this waiver was and is a material inducement to enter into this Agreement, that each has already relied on the waiver in entering into this Agreement, and that each will continue to rely on the waiver in their related future dealings. Each party to this Agreement represents and warrants to the other parties to this Agreement that it will strictly comply with the terms and conditions of the Dispute Resolution section of this agreement and that each party has reviewed this waiver with its legal counsel, and that each knowingly and voluntarily waives its jury trial rights following consultation with legal counsel. THIS WAIVER IS IRREVOCABLE, MEANING THAT IT MAY NOT BE MODIFIED EITHER ORALLY OR IN WRITING, AND THE WAIVER APPLIES TO ANY SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS, RENEWALS, SUPPLEMENTS OR MODIFICATIONS TO THIS AGREEMENT.

Dispute Resolution: All Participants and parties to this Agreement agree and consent that any dispute, controversy, or claim arising under this Agreement shall be conducted in accordance with the Consumer Arbitration Minimum Standards of Judicial Arbitration & Mediation Services, Inc (JAMS) which rules are incorporated by reference into this section. No party to this Agreement shall be precluded from seeking remedies in small claims court for disputes or claims within the scope of its jurisdiction. The provisions of this section shall survive the entry of any judgment, and will not merge, or be deemed to have merged, into any judgment.

This Agreement affects your legal rights, and you may wish to consult an attorney concerning this Agreement. Participant (and Participant's parent(s)/guardian(s)) hereto further warrant and represent that it has reviewed or had the opportunity to review this Agreement with its legal counsel and that it knowingly and voluntarily enters into this Agreement and waives any rights covered hereunder. If any part of this Agreement is determined to be void and unenforceable, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

I acknowledge that the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and spreads from person-to-person contact. Operators have put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of communicable

diseases; however, we cannot guarantee that you or your child(ren) will not become infected while attending our facilities. While we've implemented reasonable preventive measures, we depend on each and every visitor and their families to follow the guidelines from the Center of Disease Control, and all applicable federal, state, and local health department guidelines, rules, laws, and regulations before and while visiting our premises. We are all in this together and rely on each other to adhere to the above-mentioned guidance and legal restrictions. The undersigned fully understands and acknowledges both the known and potential dangers of utilizing the/our facilities, services, and programs and acknowledge that use thereof by the undersigned and/or such participating children may, despite our reasonable best efforts to mitigate such dangers, result in exposure to communicable diseases, which could result in quarantine requirements, serious illness, disability, and/or death.

This Agreement may be executed by signatures transmitted via facsimile or electronic transmission, such as a "pdf" document transmitted through electronic mail or electronic agreement and acknowledgement on a website, which shall have the same force and effect as an original signature. If you have any questions, contact the Operator representative.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

[Participant signature/acknowledgement if over 18]

[Participant's Parent/Guardia signature/acknowledgement if over 18]