

# Valley League and Dual State League Rules



Andover Hockey - “Shoot High!”

**AHA Mission Statement:** To encourage athletic and recreational activities and to foster and promote the qualities of physical fitness, competitive spirit, team play, loyalty, and good sportsmanship by providing ice skating and hockey instruction to boys and girls who are residents of the Town of Andover

## **Valley League Rules**

*(reflects 2006-2007 rules – the document will be updated when the 2007-2008 update is available – the Valley League rules are available under the “Information” section of their website:*

*<http://www.valleyhockeyleague.com/content.php?sect=5>)*

All Valley League Games will be conducted according to the USA rule book. Below is a list of additional Valley League Rules and Regulations.

1. All teams must be registered with Massachusetts Hockey or USA Hockey (New England Region). Official Massachusetts Hockey or USA Hockey rosters must be submitted to the district registrar by the applicable deadline. Valley League Electronic Rosters must be submitted by Sept 15<sup>th</sup> and the signed rosters by October 15<sup>th</sup> to the Valley League Office. Birth certificates of those players on the roster must be made available to the league officials upon request.
2. Full season Bantam teams must submit any amended full season roster to the Valley League Office by January 1st. All players listed on new rosters must compete in 10 regular season games to be eligible for playoffs. (Waiver of rule #2 for those teams which compete in the White Division)
3. The playing rules of the league will be guided by the current USA Hockey rule book with the exception of the fighting rule as so stated in item rule 13.
4. A roster will consist of a maximum of 20 players
5. A minimum of 6 players may be dressed for a game in an emergency only. (i.e., Bantam teams during the High School season.)
6. All protests must be made to the League Commissioner within 24 hours by phone and 48 hours in writing, or before the next game. *Note: Judgement calls of officials are not grounds for protest.*
7. Player eligibility dates for team rosters will be in accordance with USA Hockey guidelines.
8. Complete uniforms and helmets are mandatory for play. All players must wear only USA Hockey approved helmets.
9. No player may appear on more than one roster within the league. A player from a team below may be carried as an alternate. Each alternate may play only six games for the team above. If a player participates in a seventh game, he or she will not be allowed to play for the team below. Each time an alternate player plays he or she must sign the score sheet prior to the start of the game otherwise the game will result in a forfeit.

## Play-up rules

B1	B2	B3	B4	<p><b>A player can play in a game for other teams in their program if the following criteria is met:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The team is the same level or higher. (level 1, 2, 3, etc.)</li> <li>• The team is the same age group and older. (Mites, Squirts, PeeWees and Bantams)</li> </ul> <p><b>For example:</b> A Squirt 3 player can play a game with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Squirt 1, Squirt 2, Squirt 3, Pee Wee 1, Pee Wee 2, or Pee Wee 3</li> <li>• But NOT with any Mites, Squirt 4 or lower, Pee Wee 4 or lower, etc.</li> <li>• On chart at left green is acceptable, red is not</li> </ul>
P1	P2	P3	P4	
S1	S2	S3	S4	
M1	M2	M3	M4	

10. In case of inclement weather, teams should call the rink at which they are scheduled to play. If the rink is open, the game should be played.
11. Postponement forms will be issued to each program representative. These forms must be filled out and returned to the League office within 7 days of any cancelled or postponed game. *Both the home and visitor coaches are required to submit these forms. Forfeits and credits will be awarded only if these forms are received prior to the aforementioned deadline.*
12. (a) Opponents requesting postponement of scheduled games must make arrangements with opponent and submit a league score sheet within 30 days of the originally scheduled game date (except for games scheduled within 30 days from the last regular season game in your particular division - see below)
12. (b) All game sheets for postponements must be received before the last scheduled regular season game in your particular division.
 

Approved USA Hockey Officials must officiate and sign the game sheet. ***The above is required in order for any makeup game to count toward league standings. Any makeup games score sheet received after the aforementioned deadline will not be accepted and a forfeit will be awarded.*** The League is not responsible for any costs incurred as a result of a postponed and rescheduled game, unless such a postponement is initiated by the league.
13. Fighting or match penalties will result in expulsion from the league.
14. Teams requesting postponement with other teams due to inclement weather or otherwise are responsible for the full cost of the regularly scheduled game, unless the game has been cancelled by the Valley League.
15. Players, including alternates, must wear the same rostered jersey number throughout the season.
16. The shaking of hands among players at the conclusion of a game is not permitted. The team closest to the locker rooms will leave the ice first. The other team will remain at their bench until all players of the opposing team are off of the ice. Any coach whose players leave the bench too soon, thereby causing an altercation, will not be permitted to return to the bench as a coach until he/she has a hearing with the board of commissioners.

17. Each team's coach is responsible for the actions of his players on and off the ice. The condition of league facilities is maintained for the comfort and convenience of all league members. Abuse of these facilities will be dealt with severely by the league commissioner. If your locker room is dirty or damaged, report it to the league commissioner and include a brief note in the comments section of the official game sheet.
18. The regular season team standings will be computed using winning percentage.
19. All game sheets must be on a Valley Youth Hockey League form with goalies indicated. The commissioner reserves the right to check signatures and declare a forfeit if any discrepancies exist.
20. No coach will be allowed on the ice to aid an injured player until the referee requests help.
21. Please instruct parents to stay off the ice. Non-compliance will result in suspension of that parent's child from the league.
22. Any and all complaints, written or otherwise, by directors, coaches or parents will not be accepted unless they have been approved by the board of directors of their program.
23. This game is a sport, and the rules of fair play and sportsmanship are mandatory in the Valley League. We are guiding and teaching the young leaders of tomorrow. They will emulate our actions.
  - Any coach who forgets he or she is teaching young children and behaves in a less than gentlemanly manner either during, before or after a game, will receive a suspension from the league.
  - Any parent acting in the same manner will cause their child to be suspended.
  - Suspended coaches or players will not be allowed to participate in league competition for a period of time as determined by the League Commissioner
24. Any coach, manager or trainer ejected from a game will automatically receive a one-game suspension. Repeat offenders can be suspended permanently.
25. Running game clock situations: 1) 15 assessed penalties in a game (includes game misconducts - does not include attached misconduct penalties) 2) 6-goal margin occurs between teams during the game. If this margin drops back below six, stop play will resume.
26. Any player that receives 4 penalties in a game, including misconduct penalties, will be suspended from that game and the next scheduled league game.
27. Teams should be ready to play 5 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. A warm-up period of three minutes shall be allowed prior to the start of each game. Teams not prepared to play after the warm-up period will be assessed a minor penalty for delay of game.
28. Modification of league fighting rule No. 13 for Midget and High School level teams:
  - Any player assessed a fighting major penalty is automatically suspended from league play for one year from the date of the incident.
  - Any team which has a second fighting major penalty is suspended from league play for the balance of that playing year.
29. Penalty Times:  
Mite and Squirt - Minor (1:00) Major (3:00) Misconduct (8:00)· Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget/H.S. - Minor (1:30) Major (4:00) Misconduct (8:00)

## **Dual State League Rules**

### 1. Administrative

- 1.1.a. The league will supply a commissioner, who will act as a timer and scorekeeper
- 1.1.b. Commissioners may suggest to refereed additional penalties to players of coaches relating to unacceptable conduct
- 1.2. All payments will be made to the League Treasurer
- 1.3. The regular season team standings will be computed by points for wins, losses and ties:
  - 1.3.a. Wins = 2 points; Ties = 1 point; Losses = 0 points
  - 1.3.b. In case of a tie in the standing at the end of league play, the tied teams will be regular season co-champions
  - 1.3.c. At the end of the regular season, playoffs will take place in the Mite through Bantam levels. Playoff rules and requirements will be forwarded to the programs during the regular season.
- 1.4. All rosters must be on the official USA Hockey form and the form must be stamped by the appropriate District Registrar. If there are any complications regarding player eligibility, the League Commissioner will have the power to declare a forfeit.
- 1.5. All teams will submit to the League Commissioner a copy of their USA Hockey player roster by December 1, 2004. Any team which does not submit a player roster by December 1, 2004, will be ineligible for league playoffs.
- 1.6. All teams will be checked to see that they have registered with Massachusetts Hockey and USA Hockey by December 1, 2004.
- 1.7. Programs are directed to instruct spectators to keep off the ice. For violation of this mandate see Rule 6-3.
- 1.8. Length of season
  - 1.8.a. The season will be approximately 30 weeks long Approximately 10 weeks for alignment – approximately 20 weeks for record
  - 1.8.b. All leagues will be set up in final divisions after the teams play for approximately 10 weeks. The last part of the season will be played on a level of competition basis. The team with the most points after approximately the last 20 weeks is the winner.
- 1.9. Protests
  - 1.9.a. All protests must be made to the League Commissioner within 24 hours of game completion, by phone, and 48 hours in writing, or before the next game, whichever comes first. All protests must be approved by your program Board of Directors. No protests will be accepted via email.

**ANY COACH WHO WRITES A PROTEST OR REMARK ON A GAME SHEET WILL BE SUSPENDED FOR A MINIMUM OF ONE (1) GAME.**

- 1.9.b. Judgment calls by officials are not grounds for protests. Questions concerning officials may be directed to the following Referee Supervisors:

Brian Ferraro	(978) 362-1902
Bill Byers	(978) 851-6476
Kevin Conway	(978) 663-0196 (Timekeeper Supervisor)
Joe Ferraro	(978) 667-1465 (League Commissioner)

- 1.10. Conduct

- 1.10.a. All complaints, written or otherwise, by directors, coaches, or parents will not be accepted unless they have been accepted by the board of directors of the responsible program.
- 1.10.b. Any coach that forgets he is coaching children and loses his control during or after a game will receive a suspension from the league.
- 1.10.c. Any parent or spectator who, after being warned by a league or game official, persists in conduct which is detrimental to play of the game will be ejected from the rink. If the individual(s) refuses to leave the area, the game will be suspended. Coach(es) failing to identify the offending parent or spectator, will be suspended indefinitely at that point and the offending team will then forfeit the game.

When the parent or spectator is identified, the player connected with the individual(s) will be suspended from the league for a period to be determined by the League Commissioner.

- 1.10.d. As a game official, the commissioner (timekeeper) on duty has the authority to suspend players, coaches, and spectators who are guilty of inappropriate conduct. Coaches and parents should realize that the control of the players is their responsibility. When they act up, so will the players.
- 1.10.e. Suspended coaches or players will not be allowed to participate in league competition for a period of time so determined by the League Commissioner.

#### 1.11. Liability

- 1.11.a. All teams should have sufficient insurance coverage. The league will not be responsible for any injury to players, coaches, officials, or spectators.
- 1.11.b. Hockeytown USA has made the Dual State League responsible for informing all persons that are associated with the league during these rental sessions, whether they be spectators or participants, that they must absolve Hockeytown USA from liability for any injuries sustained by them on their premises.

1.12. The league will not be responsible for any damages incurred by teams at any of the rinks. Individual programs are responsible for payment of damages caused by their players.

1.13. All league business will be conducted through the League Office, preferably by telephone. No league business will be conducted via email.

## 2. Eligibility

2.1. All teams must be registered with Massachusetts and USA Hockey. Official rosters and copies of birth certificates for each player must be available, upon request, to the League Commissioner.

2.2. A roster will consist of a maximum of 20 players – 18 skaters and 2 goaltenders.

2.3. Any team that does not dress the minimum number of skaters for a game will automatically forfeit that game (Reference USA Hockey Rules 201 and 203c – “A team must start a game with six players on the ice. Any time a team has been reduced to less than four players, the game shall be declared a forfeit”.)

2.4. Player eligibility dates for team rosters will be in accordance with USA Hockey.

#### 2.5. Roster Rules

2.5.a. No player may appear on more than one roster within the league

2.5.b. A player from a team below may be carded as an alternate. Each alternate may only play 5 games for the team above. If an alternate participates in a sixth game he will not be allowed to return to his original team.

2.5.c. Each time an alternate player participates he must sign the score sheet at the start of the game. Any coach who does not notify the commissioner (timekeeper) of an alternate player will be subject to being suspended by the League Commissioner.

- 2.6. In addition to the players, only three coaches and a trainer will be allowed on the bench.
3. Cancellations/Postponements
- 3.1. In case of inclement weather or ice breakdowns, teams will be notified of cancellations by the League Commission or his representative.
- 3.2. Postponements
- 3.2.a. Teams requesting postponement of scheduled games must make arrangements with the opposing team seven days prior to the date of the game. **DIRECTORS OF BOTH GAMES INVOLVED IN A POSTPONEMENT MUST CALL THE LEAGUE COMMISSIONER TO INFORM HIM OF WHAT IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE ON THE SCHEDULED GAME ICE.** No postponements or cancellations will be accepted via email.

Note: Playoff games will not be rescheduled by request of team officials.

- 3.2.b. The team requesting the postponement must make arrangements for ice and officials and make up the game so that the game sheet can be turned into the League Commissioner no later than three weeks after the original scheduled league game. All games to be canceled between March 15 and March 31 must:
- 3.2.b.1. Be made up prior to April 1
- 3.2.b.2. Have make-up game sheets turned into the league by April 1 with the following information included on it: Date, time and location of originally scheduled game; name and phone numbers of both teams' coaches.

Make-up game sheets not submitted by April 1 or without the above information will not be accepted.

- 3.2.c. The team requesting the postponements for games scheduled April 1 through the end of the regular season must make arrangements for ice and officials and must meet the following criteria to count for league standings and playoffs
- 3.2.c.1. League must give prior approval authorizing the change
- 3.2.c.2. Game must be played and the game sheet must be submitted to the League office prior to the date of the originally scheduled game

Make-up sheets under this scenario not submitted by the originally scheduled game date and/or without the above information will not be accepted.

No exception to rule 3.2.b. and 3.2.c. will be made.

- 3.2.d. Failure to make-up the game will result in a forfeit for the team requesting the postponement. If the team requesting the postponement has offered a minimum of two (2) reasonable hours of ice for the purpose of the game make-up which have been declined by the opposing team, contact the League for further action.

- 3.2.e. **REMEMBER:** The team requesting the postponement will be responsible for the entire payment of League costs if the team officials do not give the opponent the proper seven-day notification. (This means the fee for both teams for that game).
- 3.3. Teams receiving proper notification from opponents to postpone a game should realize that the ice, officials and timekeeper are available. If you (coach) invite another team to play a non-league game you are responsible for their actions. Teams invited to play non-league games do not have to be a member of our league but must be USA Hockey registered. Club teams must show proof of registration before officials will proceed with the game. When for whatever reason, not to use the ice for a game or practice, it is your responsibility to call the League Commissioner.

**REMEMBER:** When the above is complied with both teams are still responsible for their game costs.

- 3.4. Teams requesting postponements with other teams due to inclement weather are responsible for payment of ice, officials and timekeeper. Unless games have been canceled by the Dual State League, no coach should assume that the games have been canceled.
4. **Playing Rules**
    - 4.1. The playing rules of the league will be guided by the current USA Hockey Rule Book with the exception of the fighting, high stick, and maximum penalty rules.
    - 4.2. **Playing Time**
      - 4.2.a. All teams will play 12-minute stop time periods. Mites will have the ice made after every second game.
      - 4.2.b. **Midgets Only:** The first two periods will be 12 minute stop time, the third period will be running time for the remainder of the hour.
      - 4.2.c. **Midgets Only:** The final two minutes of the game will be stop time if the difference in score is two goals or less.
    - 4.3. A puck which strikes the wall below the height of the glass in the rinks at Hockeytown, Saugus and Skate 3 Tyngsboro (White Rink Only) shall be considered in play.
    - 4.4. Players, including alternates, will wear the same number all season.
    - 4.5. Teams should be ready to play 5 minutes prior to the scheduled game time and will take the ice immediately at the request of the game officials. Failure to respond will result in a delay of the game penalty. Any coach who takes exception to this rule will be reported to the League Commissioner and be subject to league suspension.
    - 4.6. A warm-up period of no more than three minutes shall be allowed at the start of the game. Teams not prepared to start after the warm-up period will be given a delay of game penalty. An additional delay of the game will be added if the offending team or teams are not ready to play 30 seconds after the first delay of the game penalty. Any further delay will cause the offending team to forfeit the game. If both teams are at fault for the delay, no contest will be declared. In case of no contest, teams may use the ice under the supervision of their coaches for the remaining time allotted for the game only.
    - 4.7. **Running time**
      - 4.7.a. Any game that has an 8-goal spread will result in running time for the remainder of the game. Once a game goes on running time it will remain that way until its conclusion.
      - 4.7.b. Any game where the teams require the referees to continually position the players on the ice will result in running time.

- 4.8. All Dual State League games are curfew games. Therefore, under USA Hockey Rule 637e., there will be no time-outs permitted.
- 4.9. Net anchors are prohibited at the Mite and Squirt levels, but may be used at all other levels at the discretion of the Dual State League officials.
5. Injuries
  - 5.1. No coach or spectator will be allowed on the ice to aid an injured player until the referees request assistance (Reference USA Hockey Rule 625h)
  - 5.2. Injuries Impact on Games
    - 5.2.a. If a player is injured and cannot be moved off the ice until medical help arrives, the clock will keep running until the player is removed by the proper authorities.
    - 5.2.b. In cases where this may run into the next game, the timekeeper will keep the clock running into the time of the next game.
    - 5.2.c. When the player is removed, the timekeeper will stop the clock and allow for ice making (unless both coaches agree to play without new ice). The timekeeper will then inform both coaches of how much time is left for the game and what the adjusted periods will be.
6. Discipline
  - 6.1. Any coach who takes hi team off the ice before the conclusion of a game will not be permitted to return to the bench for a period of one year unless reinstated by the League Commissioner.
  - 6.2. **THE SHAKING OF HANDS AMONG THE PLAYERS AT THE CONCLUSION OF A GAME IS NOT PERMITTED.** The visiting team will leave the ice first. The home team will remain on the bench until all players of the visiting team are off the ice. Any home team coach whose team leaves the bench too soon thereby causing an altercation will not be permitted to return to the bench as a coach until he has a hearing with the League Commissioner.
  - 6.3. In accordance with USA Hockey rule 410a, the league reserves the right at its discretion to investigate any incident that occurs in connection with a Dual State League game - during the course of a game or in its aftermath – and assess any suspensions and/or bannings as the Leagues Disciplinary Committee deems fit.
  - 6.4. Any parent or spectator found to be a travesty to the game by the on- or off-ice league officials will be banned from all league activity for a period to be determined by the League Disciplinary Committee. For failure to adhere to this rule, player(s) connected to the offender could also face disciplinary action by said committee.
  - 6.5. The League Disciplinary Committee will comprised of five (5) individuals appointed by the League Commissioner, acting in accordance with USA Hockey Annual Guide Bylaws Section 10C.
7. Awards
  - 7.1. Trophies will be awarded to the regular season first and second place teams in each division of all leagues. In case of a tie, trophies will be awarded to each team tied. Regular season trophies will only be awarded to those teams that complete a full 30-week season. Awards will be issued to playoff champions.
  - 7.2. USA Hockey Patches: After each game, every team receives a copy of the official score sheet, signed by the referees. It is each coach's responsibility to use this copy to obtain patches from USA Hockey for his players. It is suggested that you send a copy of the score sheet to USA Hockey. You may need the original for tournaments later in the year.
8. Penalties
  - 8.1. Match Penalty: Refer to USA Hockey Rule Book and Massachusetts Hockey Official Guide (Rule 405 summarized: the player assessed the match penalty is suspended from the remainder of the game and a nonpenalized player other than the goalie serves the penalty time – 5

minutes. The player is prohibited from playing in any USA Hockey game until a mandatory hearing [within 30 days] is held by the proper authorities regarding further disciplinary action)

## 8.2. Suspensions

### 8.2.a. Fighting or Attempt to Injure:

8.2.a.1. Mites through Bantams – Automatic 30-day suspension from Dual State League play. Second offense results in expulsion from Dual State League

8.2.a.2. Midget Only – Automatic expulsion for Dual State League play for the first offense.

8.2.b. Any coach who allows a suspended player to participate in Dual State League play will be suspended for a period of no less than one year and reported to the proper Massachusetts Hockey and USA Hockey authorities.

8.3. All levels: Combined 15 penalties in a game will result in running time for the remainder of the game. The final two minutes of play will be stop time only if the difference in score is two goals or less.

### 8.4. Arguing Judgment Calls

8.4.a. An immediate bench minor will be assessed to any coach who argues a judgment call pertaining to the Massachusetts Hockey and USA Hockey high stick and no check rules.

8.4.b. If a coach persists in arguing after a bench minor has been assessed, he will be ejected from the game.

8.5. Any coach, manager, or trainer ejected from a game will automatically receive a one-game suspension to be served in the next played Dual State League game. Repeat offenders will be subject to further league action.

### 8.6. Duration of penalties

Level	Minor	Major	Misconduct
Midgets	2 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes
Bantams	1 minutes 30 seconds	4 minutes	8 minutes
All other categories	1 minute	3 minutes	6 minutes

8.7. Any player, from Mites through Midgets, who receives more than three penalties in a game will be suspended for the balance of that game and the next scheduled game, which includes playoffs.

8.8. Any team found guilty of causing a major altercation will be subject to forfeiting the game. Decision will be made by the League Commissioner only.

8.9. Midgets Only: Any player who receives a high stick minor or major penalty will receive an automatic game misconduct. That means that the player is suspended for the remainder of the game that the penalty was incurred in and the next scheduled league game.

8.10. Any player or coach, who is suspended for a second time during the season, could face additional disciplinary action from the League Disciplinary Committee.

8.11. Any suspension of a coach, player, or spectator by the Dual State League for the remainder of the season will be extended throughout the league playoffs.

