

**NORTHEAST COLLEGIATE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
(NECHA)
2007-2008 RULES MANUAL**



9/2007

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NOTE:** = Denotes Rule updates

I. League Meetings

1. Two mandatory league meetings are held annually, it is mandatory that all NECHA member-teams attend these meetings:

Fall meeting: Finalize league structure; Schedule submission; Team package distribution; Rules clarification and interpretation.

Spring meeting: Season wrap up; Rules revision; and Applications for new membership.

2. The Commissioner is in charge of booking a meeting place and coordinating each meeting agenda. All NECHA member teams are expected to send a representative, known as a board of director, to attend these meetings and will be fined (\$50.00) if absent.

3. Additional league meetings may be held as deemed necessary by the Commissioner, or majority of member teams.

II. Rules Committee

1. A Rules Committee exists to settle any disputes between league members, as well as interpret league rules established by league membership governing: equipment, length of periods, officials, disciplinary action, etc...

2. The Rules Committee is made up of the NECHA Commissioner, Supervisor of Officials and other members appointed by Commissioner.

3. The Rules Committee will sit in judgment of all rule violations and protests, which must be submitted in writing. All protests must be acted upon within two weeks of receipt in writing to the League Commissioner.

4. All rulings by the Rules Committee are final until the next league meeting. Membership must have a two-thirds (2/3) majority to change a Rules Committee ruling.

III. Financial Commitments

1. League dues are \$400.00 per team annually. Payment must be made no later than November 1 or a \$50 (Fifty) fine shall be imposed. Fee does not include annual A.C.H.A. dues.

2. Each league member is required to maintain a \$200.00 forfeiture fee with the League Office prior to its first year. Should a team forfeit a game, this \$200.00 forfeiture fee may be used by the league to reimburse the league, opponent or officials for expenses incurred due to forfeit.

- 2A. The forfeiture fee shall be carried over from year to year, if not used. If used, the team shall be responsible for submitting the balance owed of the forfeiture fee for the next season before their first game. **Any team that needs to reschedule a game must inform both the opposing team and the league office at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled event. If bad weather is cause for reschedule, the team representative must contact the opposing team's designated representative and the League Office at least 6 hours before the event.** Failure to comply with this procedure will result in a forfeit.
- 2b. A ten minute grace period from the contract starting time will be allowed before a forfeit becomes necessary. NCAA penalty rules do apply for tardiness.
3. Score must be reported within 24 hours of completion of game. A \$25.00 fine shall be imposed for all late score submissions. Official game sheets are submitted either by ice official or home team directly to NECHA league office.
4. \$50.00 fine per team for not attending any NECHA meeting.
5. \$50.00 fine for non-submission of a certified copy of the ACHA Roster and Eligibility Form to the NECHA league office prior to October 15.
6. Championship trophy must be returned to the League Commissioner at least one week prior to the playoffs, or a \$50.00 fine will be assessed. If a trophy is lost, stolen or damaged, it must be replaced by or repaired by the last team in possession.

IV. Ice Officials and Assignment

1. All games played by NECHA teams will be officiated by league sanctioned officials as assigned by the NECHA Supervisor of Officials.
2. All complaints regarding officiating should be directed to the NECHA League Office and/or the NECHA Supervisor of Officials as well as through electronic submission provided by League Manager. Any team found using non-sanctioned officials for a NECHA game without permission from the NECHA Commissioner shall forfeit game in which this infraction has occurred and shall be fined \$300 dollars.
3. All Officials for NECHA games must carry a policy of liability insurance from USA Hockey and must be qualified as determined by the ACHA. Verification of compliance of this rule shall be managed by the NECHA Supervisor of Officials and the ACHA Supervisor of Officials.

V. **Insurance**

It is **mandatory** for all NECHA teams to carry USA Hockey Insurance with their local registrar which includes: Registration of all individual players on an official USA Hockey IMR Form; Registration of the team with USA Hockey. Each team must present verification of liability insurance to the League Commissioner BEFORE their first league contest.

USA HOCKEY district personnel information is available from the ACHA league Office. The A.C.H.A. requires all teams to have USA Hockey Insurance to be eligible for their National tournament.

VI. **League Play**

** 1. League play officially begins on October 15, 2007. Each NECHA team must play one home and one away game with each team in their division.

All NECHA game play shall be sanctioned by NCAA rules unless otherwise addressed in these NECHA Rules and Regulations and/or in the ACHA Rules, in which case the NECHA or ACHA rule shall apply.

1b. NECHA home game schedules must be submitted to the Commissioner at the NECHA fall meeting. Copies of the team's final schedule shall be submitted before October 15th, each season to NECHA Supervisor of officials and NECHA league office. **\$100 fine for failure of this rule.**

1c. It is the responsibility of the home team to obtain a game contract completed no later than **14 days** prior to a scheduled event.

1d. NECHA member teams must give opponent at least 48 hours notice for cancellation of NECHA games. This allows for notification of ice officials and arena. All cancelled games must be rescheduled prior to end of the season. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of both teams to complete their NECHA scheduling requirements. This fact implies the possibility of bumping a non-NECHA contest to complete the NECHA schedule. Member-team representatives maintain sole responsibility for the decision to travel to a scheduled contest. NECHA league guidelines are established to govern competition and not to discourage student safety related decisions.

1e. **Home Team Cancellation** - If a home team cancels a NECHA conference game within the prescribed guidelines the home is responsible for rescheduling the contest. It is preferred by the league that the rescheduled game be played at the home team's usual arena. However, if the home team cannot secure ice at their home arena, a neutral arena may be used at the home team's expense including officials. The visiting team may offer to secure ice at their home arena. If a conference game is not rescheduled due to a home team cancellation then the home team bears ultimate responsibility for incomplete schedule.

- 1f. In the event of a game cancellation, the League Commissioner will retain responsibility for declaring a forfeit, based on the information available. **SEE ALSO SECTION III, PART 2**
- 1g. **Visiting Team Cancellation** - If a visiting team cancels a contest within the prescribed guidelines, it retains the responsibility for paying all incurred expenses, which cannot be avoided or recovered by the home team. If the home team is unable to secure ice time for a rescheduled contest, the visiting will be responsible to schedule ice. If all costs are recovered from the original scheduled contest, the home team will be responsible for all costs minus their own transportation cost. The Rules Committee will retain responsibility for declaring a forfeit, based on the information available. **If a visiting team is found to be negligent of fulfilling a scheduled event, a penalty shall be imposed by the Commissioner, which may include automatic elimination from league playoffs, a fine and possible expulsion from the league. SEE ALSO SECTION III, PART 2**
- 1h. The League Office and the Supervisor of Officials shall be informed of any cancellations of any scheduled NECHA contest. Only the Commissioner can authorize an emergency postponement at the request of a team representative.
2. Top four teams in each Division of Conference A and Top six teams in Conference B at end of regular season will participate in the NECHA playoffs.
- **3. The first round will be played at the highest seeded team's home ice on the week of February 10, 2008. All quarterfinal game expenses shall be paid by home team. All travel expenses shall be paid by visiting team. A three-man referee system shall be used throughout the NECHA playoffs.
- **4. Semi-finals and Championship games will be on March 1 & 2, 2008. All Semi-final and Championship playoff game expenses shall be paid by the NECHA League Office.

VII. League Standings/Tie Break Ruling/Playoffs

1. Team with most points, (win = 2 pts, tie = 1 pt.) if tied;
2. Team with most wins, if still tied;
3. Head to head record with teams tied, if still tied;
(Includes goals for and against in games being compared)
4. Team with least amount of goals scored against them during regular season, if still tied;
5. Team with least penalty minutes amassed in regular season.

**** Playoff Ranking Formula and Format:**

The team rankings of Conference A for the quarterfinal round of the NECHA playoffs are as follows: #1 hosts #4 and #2 hosts #3 from the other division. The NECHA Playoffs are single elimination format with the winner advancing to the next round. The team ranking for Conference B for the quarterfinals of the NECHA Playoffs are as follows: #1 and #2 receive byes. #3 hosts #6 and #4 hosts #5.

The highest seeded team remaining will play the lowest seeded team remaining in semi-final round. In the event of a tie, team with the best NECHA league standing as indicated in Section VII is higher seed. If still tied, team with the higher ACHA regional ranking is higher seed. The higher seeded team always receives home ice advantage (Which includes home jersey colors and line changing advantages).

VIII. Trophies/Awards

1. Rotating Cup to Playoff Champion for one (1) year.
2. Keeper Trophy for each Playoff Championship Finalist.
3. Keeper Trophy Regular Season Champion.
4. Individual medal for each player of NECHA Playoff Champion.

IX. Team Rosters; Disclosure and Eligibility

1. A copy of the official rosters **must** be submitted to the Commissioner prior first scheduled game. The roster must visibly show the validation stamp of the institution's Registrar or Athletic Department. Rosters will include a line for each player's signature to be used as a backup identification system. Each player **must** sign the roster before submission. Teams who do not submit a roster **prior** to their first game will be fined \$50.00.
2. Any additions to the original roster must be submitted to the Commissioner and ACHA league office prior to the individual(s) in question playing in a NECHA contest.
3. ID checks may be required during the season it is expected that all players will carry their student ID with them to all games in case of a identification challenge situation.
- **** 4. Final rosters will be frozen on February 1, 2008. All additions to the league roster must be sent in writing and postmarked by January 31, 2008 for a player to be eligible for NECHA League Playoffs. NECHA member teams with varsity programs cannot play any players once listed on varsity roster during a season.

5. The official roster must be certified (stamped) by your Institution's Registrar to verify player eligibility in compliance with ACHA eligibility Rules. The roster should be filled out clearly and completely submitted to the school Registrar for verification. Any team found playing with an ineligible player shall forfeit all games in which this infraction has occurred.
6. **Player Eligibility is determined as follows:**
Undergraduate Status:
Please refer to the ACHA eligibility guidelines
Graduate Status:
Please refer to the ACHA eligibility guidelines

**** All teams must submit a copy of official ACHA player eligibility rosters to the NECHA League Office before their first game of season and no later than 11/01/2007.**

X. Game Regulations

1. All league play shall be sanctioned by ACHA, NCAA and NECHA rules. **If an NCAA rule is different than a NECHA rule governing play then the NECHA rule shall apply.**
2. Teams may dress a maximum of twenty-one (21) players. 18 players and 3 goalies or 19 players and 2 goalies may participate in each NECHA contest. **All teams must have an alternate goalkeeper but are not required to dress more than one per game. No penalty shall be assessed if injury forces change of goalie.**
3. All games shall consist of three (3) 20-minute periods with ice resurfacing between each period.
4. Overtime results shall count for the NECHA regular season. Overtime format shall proceed according to NCAA rules for regular season.
5. **NECHA GAME DEFINED:** Any contest in which two NECHA teams participate and is officiated by NECHA sanctioned officials.
6. **NECHA Game Disqualification & NECHA Game Misconduct**
These infractions have historically caused confusion during league play. The definitions below are to help provide a better understanding.

Game Misconduct is defined as a major infraction of the rules in which the referee ejects a participant for the remainder of the game. NCAA rules state that any player receiving a game misconduct is ejected for remainder of the game only.

Game Disqualification is defined as a major infraction of the rules in which the referee ejects a participant for the remainder of the game and the next game.

- 6a. If a player or coach receives a **second** game misconduct/DQ during a NECHA game in the same season, that person shall sit out the next two games listed on master schedule. Progressive suspension rule applies hereinafter (ex. third misconduct= three games, etc.). Second-time offenders may be reviewed by the NECHA Rules Committee and/or NECHA Commissioner and may be subject to further discipline, including suspension from NECHA play for the remainder of the season including The NECHA playoffs. Appeals must be made in writing and should be directed immediately to the NECHA League Commissioner. SEE SECTION II, PART 3.
- 6b. It is the responsibility of the **home team** to notify the NECHA Commissioner and the League Office of all game misconduct or disqualification penalties and game results immediately following the event.
- 6c. The League office will notify the next NECHA opponent on the master schedule and inform them of any sanctions. If a player or coach is found directly participating in a NECHA game during suspension their team will automatically forfeit. Further review and/or disciplinary action may be taken by the league office.
7. All minor penalties shall be two (2) minutes in duration. Majors shall be five (5) or (10) minutes.
8. All games must be scheduled after 4:00 PM on weekdays and before 9:15 PM. Unless pre-approved by opponent and the league office.
9. A non-playing coach **must** be on the bench for all league contests. The coaching staff should remain constant throughout the season and must be familiar with all ACHA, NECHA and NCAA rules. Any change in coaching personnel during the season shall be recorded with the NECHA Commissioner before participation.

XI. Equipment

1. All NECHA players must wear HECC approved facemasks. All players must have a chin-strap securing the helmet to the players head.
2. It is required that all NECHA players must wear mouth guards in all NECHA contests.
3. All NECHA players must wear full hockey outfit with all safety equipment as stated under NCAA hockey guidelines.

4. Each team must have a separate and complete set of matching home and away game uniforms. If a NECHA team determines that a set of their jerseys are unusable or unavailable for game play, they must contact the opponent and the league office prior to the day of the game. It is recommended that player numbers remain the same throughout the season for accurate statistics.

XII. Home Team Responsibilities

1. To provide timer and scorer. To provide a safe environment for participants including providing a security detail, if necessary. **Timer and scorer are to act and be treated as off-ice officials.**
2. To confirm the scheduling of two certified ECAC officials with the NECHA Supervisor of Officials.
3. To confirm all game contracts with opponents for all NECHA events at least 14 days prior to the scheduled event. Confirmation includes a verbal understanding of the game time, uniform colors of each team and directions to the home rink.
4. To provide a certified athletic trainer, stocked first-aid kit and immediate access to ambulatory/emergency medical technician services.
5. Assure white copy of the official game sheet is signed by opposing coach and ice officials.
6. To notify the ACHA and NECHA League Office's of game results and disqualification penalty's immediately after completion of the contest. **If NECHA game results are not received by NECHA League office within 24 hours of completion of game a \$25.00 fine shall be imposed on home team.**

XIII. Tournament Committee

1. Teams involved in post-season tournament play are required to have one representative available (preferably Coach or Team Captain) to assist the Commissioner or Tournament Director with the following duties:
 - a. Serve on Protest Committee.
 - b. Work as ticket checkers (if needed)

- c. Perform ID check (if deemed necessary)
 - d. Work as off-ice officials and score keepers
 - e. Help with issues of security beyond the scope of hired personnel.
2. The Tournament Committee membership shall consist of the Tournament Committee Chairperson, NECHA Commissioner, Supervisor of Officials and interested NECHA member team representatives.

The committee's tasks are to evaluate all playoff proposals; decide upon a playoff location; and execute everything necessary to present an annual league playoff tournament. Present the league with details involving playoffs. Committee members are requested to attend the Semi-final and final portion of the playoffs. The Committee members may be required to help resolve all tasks and issues needing attention during the NECHA league playoffs.

3. Tournament Committee members have a conflict of interest may not serve on the protest committee. A conflict shall be deemed likely if a member has a clear association with a member team, which remains active in the playoffs. Tournament Committee members with teams remaining may stay involved in task related assignments.