

1. General

- 1.1. The USARS/AAU (National Governing Body for inline hockey in the United States) Rules and Regulations shall apply. For unique, local situations, for which there are no specific USARS Hockey rules, the IHA AZ rules and regulations will apply. IHA AZ may expand on USARS/AAU Inline Hockey Rules.
- 1.2. Any rules, regulations or directives must be approved by the IHA AZ executive board.
- 1.3. In the event that a game official or league official deems it necessary to eject a spectator, the following shall occur:
 - 1.3.1. The spectator will be ejected and shall leave the rink properly and shall not be allowed re-entry to the property until approval has been granted by an IHA AZ director.
 - 1.3.2. The score sheet shall be documented that an ejection has occurred. Whenever possible, the spectators name should be documented on the score sheet. The referee will file a report within 24 hours with the Director of Officials.
- 1.4. Any player or coach who is given a penalty as a result of a racial slur will be immediately suspended indefinitely and will be reviewed and ruled upon by the IHA AZ executive board. The racial slur must be documented on the score sheet and in the referee's report.
- 1.5. IHA AZ considers sportsmanship paramount at all times and in all of our individual rink facilities. The IHA AZ Executive Board by and through the tournament director or any individual Board member at each facility reserves the right to eject any team officials, players, families of players or other spectators from the Festival facility. Any player or family of a player ejected from the facility will be referred to the IHA AZ Executive Board for disciplinary action. Disciplinary action can include penalties up to and including a player's future exclusion from the current or future IHA AZ Festival Seasons. Any players excluded from IHA AZ events are not eligible for any refund of registration or playing fees from the IHA AZ.

2. Registration Requirements for Players

- 2.1. Anyone who is an amateur in accordance with the IHA AZ's decision, who is not under suspension by the IHA AZ or the USARS/AAU and is not member of any other club team under the jurisdiction of USARS/AAU shall be eligible for membership in a club or team of the IHA AZ.
- 2.2. Any player who participates in the IHA AZ programs, festivals or games must be registered with IHA AZ and USARS/AAU prior to taking part in any on-rink activity.
- 2.3. It is the hockey program's responsibility to check all birth certificates and releases before submitting them to IHA AZ members services. Program teams must be in possession of birth certificates prior to rostering players.

- 2.4. Any player whose name appears on the game score sheet must be properly registered and rostered with USARS/AAU prior to taking part in his/her first game. Failure to register could result in forfeiture of all subject games. Forfeiture fees may apply.
- 2.5. Players must participate in at least two entire regular festival games within a specific festival to be eligible to compete with that team during festival playoffs or championship games.
- 2.6. Players must also compete/participate in no less than **three** designated, mandatory festival tournaments during the current season with the team in question in order to be on that team's 'locked' final roster and to participate with that team during the state championships.
- 2.7. Players shall wear the following:
 - 2.7.1. H.E.C.C. approved helmet with strap and full face shield for youth and goaltenders with an optional colored mouth guard connected to the shield
 - 2.7.2. Elbow pads
 - 2.7.3. Matching team jersey
 - 2.7.4. Gloves
 - 2.7.5. Protective cup
 - 2.7.6. Pants
 - 2.7.7. Knee/shin pads
 - 2.7.8. Inline hockey skates with no exposed bolts or brake pads
 - 2.7.9. Stick – butt end taped
 - 2.7.10. Chest/shoulder pads recommended for youth
 - 2.7.11. Full face shield/cage for all youth division players

3. Registration Requirements for Teams

- 3.1. No team can participate in any IHAAZ festivals or organized activities without proper registration with IHAAZ and USARS/AAU Hockey.
- 3.2. Each team shall be entitled to register no more than fourteen (14) active players in order to compete in the IHAAZ season.
- 3.3. Teams will be registered at the USARS/AAU Inline Hockey recognized age division level according to the following age divisions for the 2017–2018 season:

Age cutoff date is January 1st, 2020.

Whatever age a participant is on that date will dictate where their primary qualifying age division is

18u (Midget)	2001 – 2004 Birth Years*	Must be enrolled in high school as of Fall 2019 in order to be eligible for IHAAZ play.
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14u (Bantam)	2005 – 2006 Birth Years	Girls = 2 additional years of eligibility
12u (Peewee)	2007 – 2008 birth Years	Girls = 2 additional years of eligibility
10u (Squirt)	2009 – 2010 birth Years	Girls = 2 additional years of eligibility
8u (Mite)	2011 and younger birth Years	Girls = 2 additional years of eligibility

- 3.4. In addition to 3.3's age requirements, in order to participate in the Midget division, players must be enrolled in a qualified high school or registered in an equivalent home-schooling program during the 2019-20 school year. Players that have graduated high school prior to the start of the 2019-20 school year are ineligible for IHAAZ play.
- 3.5. Girls must conform to the boys age restriction. Girls shall be allowed to have two additional years of eligibility within their primary qualifying age division, with the exception of the Midget division, as girls not enrolled in high school during the 2019-20 school year would not be eligible to play, regardless of age.
- 3.6. Teams having a player or players whose ages exceeds the limits specified for their age division, players without proper release or fictitious proof of documentation, shall forfeit all games in which the ineligible player or players has participated.
- 3.7. Regardless of the number of teams in an individual division, the IHAAZ executive board will decide the level of play for these teams and in which sub division within a single age division that they will ultimately be placed. Regardless of classification by error or misjudgment of competition, the decision as to the level of play shall be final and NOT subject to appeal.
- 3.8. Team representatives , which include coaches and assistant coaches, must be registered with IHAAZ and USARS/AAU Hockey and have current AAU non-athlete membership.
- 3.9. All teams are required to have matching jerseys.

4. Playing Rules

- 4.1. Current USARS/AAU Inline Hockey rules apply in all divisions.
- 4.2. Each team must field 4 skaters and one goalie to begin the game. If a goalie is unable to take the floor for their team, an additional skater may participate in place of the goalie such that 5 skaters would be permitted to play. The team that would have a skater participate in place of the goalie would have to declare whether the goalie replacement would have goalie privileges such that the player could cover a puck.
- 4.3. Any player receiving 4 penalties in one game will be ejected immediately for the remainder of that game and for that particular game only. Another player would have to serve the 4th penalty.

- 4.4. All game forfeits will be recorded as 8–0.
- 4.5. All bench personnel must be properly rostered as a coach on the official roster. Managers and assistants are not considered coaches of a roster, however any personnel that will be on the bench with the team during any game will be required to have an AAU non–athlete membership. Each team is permitted to have a maximum of 3 non–players on the bench (coaches, assistant coaches, manager) and all those would need to also have current AAU membership and be listed on the roster as such.

5. On Rink

- 5.1. Game slots must be between the hours of 5:30 AM (earliest start time) and 2:00 AM (latest start time), with the schedule reflecting consideration for time of day and distance traveled.
- 5.2. There will be a one (1) minute timeout allowed per team in each IHAAZ game. Timeouts will be noted on the scoresheet.
- 5.3. With the exception of the first two games of the day, games can start up to forty–five (45) minutes early. Teams not prepared and on the floor ready to play will be charged with their time out and assessed a delay of game penalty. If a game still cannot begin play, the tournament director can rule the game a forfeit. Special accommodations can be made at the discretion of the IHAAZ tournament director.
- 5.4. The tournament director, or any assigned official, will submit to the team’s coach an official team roster confirmation sheet. The coach will have to accurately confirm which players are present on his team roster for any particular festival. Coaches and/or managers are responsible for the accuracy of their rosters and jersey numbers that are associated with their roster.
- 5.5. If any on–rink official deems a noisemaker to be disruptive, then can direct the spectator to desist or leave the arena. All spectators are expected to cooperate fully with tournament game officials.

6. Game Protests

- 6.1. Game protests based on an official’s decision will not be considered.
- 6.2. All protests must be filed in writing with the on–duty tournament director within thirty (30) minutes after the game and a protest fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00), to be retained by IHAAZ Tournament Director, must accompany the protest. The party or parties against whom the protest is made shall be notified by the IHAAZ Tournament Director.
- 6.3. Upon receipt of the written official protest, IHAAZ Tournament Director will make a decision based on the facts and advise both (all) parties.

7. Player Movement

- 7.1. Players may only move one time during the season/year (January 2020 – June 2020). Each player will be allowed one move (upon release from the original team) within the season. Once a player is released to another team, he/she must then finish the season with that team. Any player moving to a different team after the first move will be deemed an ineligible player and those games will be forfeited.
 - 7.1.1. During the Summer 2020 season, no player movement is allowed between Qualifier and Finals tournaments.
- 7.2. A rostered player may only drop to the next lower playing level once during the same season and must be approved by the IHAAZ prior to the move. All downward movement is permanent for the season.
- 7.3. Players choosing to play on two teams in different age or skill divisions do so with the understanding that if any circumstance arises where both the player's teams wind up in the same competitive division, the player may not continue playing on both teams. IHAAZ will not make special exceptions for rostering or scheduling double-rostered players.
- 7.4. Roster lock shall occur on the festival date that will occur in **March 2020**.
 - 7.4.1. Roster lock for Summer 2020 events is effective the start of the first qualifier game.
- 7.5. Final roster will be submitted on or before that date. No changes can be made to that roster once submitted. Any players deemed ineligible will cause games to be forfeited. All players listed on the final roster must meet the player qualifications to be confirmed on locked roster and play in the IHAAZ finals.
- 7.6. Players who will not be qualified to participate at state finals will be prohibited from participating with their team when the festival designated as the roster lock is played.

8. Permanent Player Releases

- 8.1. Any player who wants to be released from the team that they were originally rostered on when the season began, must submit their desire in writing. Only parents, legal guardians or the player themselves may request a release. Before a release is valid, it must be signed by all required persons and forwarded to the IHAAZ.
- 8.2. Any release given to players with suspensions within a program or players with parents suspended by the program will be marked with that information and every other program shall honor said suspension.

9. Festival Host Programs

- 9.1. IHAAZ hockey festivals are hosted by hockey programs who have earned the privilege of doing so. Host programs who have earned the privilege to host an IHAAZ festival are permitted to engage in the following:

- 9.1.1. *Choose any approved venue*
- 9.1.2. *Gain news coverage and attention for their program*
- 9.1.3. *Conduct fundraisers and revenue generation*
- 9.1.4. *Select their own scorekeepers and announcers*
- 9.1.5. *Collection of team participation fees to benefit their own program*

How does a hockey program qualify to host an IHA AZ festival?

- 9.2. A program is awarded 1 (one) point for every team that participates in a festival during a season. A program must accumulate no less than 15 points by the conclusion of the regular season (State finals participation does not count). If a team fails to qualify for the state championship, all of the participation points that the team earned gets erased from that programs' total. A program must accumulate 15 (fifteen) team participation points for two consecutive seasons before the program can be given consideration to host an IHA AZ festival. Any program that has accumulated 15 or more team participation points during its first season in the IHA AZ may request probationary, non-voting IHA AZ Board member status. Probationary IHA AZ Board members are entitled to participate in IHA AZ Board meetings and other events in a non-voting capacity. Status as a probationary board member does not guarantee permanent membership or voting rights at any future time.

Host programs get a seat on the IHA AZ executive board

- 9.3. When a host program qualifies to conduct an IHA AZ festival, that program also gets a seat on the IHA AZ executive board. Each host program that has a seat on the IHA AZ executive board is granted the privilege of 1 (one) vote that may be utilized in official meetings where rules, policies, schedules and budgets are decided.

10. Festivals

- 10.1. Select weekends will be chosen to host festivals for teams within programs or independent clubs. IHA AZ will host multiple weekend festivals, at various venues.
- 10.2. Teams are required to play in all officially scheduled festivals in order to be eligible to participate in the end of season IHA AZ state championships.
- 10.3. Teams intending on qualifying to participate at the state championships will submit an **\$850.00** one time IHA AZ membership fee prior to the beginning of the official season. When teams arrive at the venue of a festival, an individual team will submit **\$350.00** prior to them taking the floor for their first game. State finals cost per team will be **\$200.00**. Teams that do not intend to qualify for the state championships and want to play in festivals that they choose, will pay a team fee of **\$495.00** prior to them taking the floor for their first game.
- 10.3.1. Due to the special circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 Coronavirus situation, the Summer 2020 event fees will be \$250.00 for the Qualifier festival, due by May 30, 2020,

and \$300.00 for the Finals, due by June 4, 2020. **Teams that had not previously played as part of the IHAZ 2020 season and paid their registration fee, or teams that had paid said fee, but requested a prorated refund of their fees, shall be charged \$450.00 for the Qualifier and \$500.00 for Finals, payment deadlines remain the same.**

- 10.4. An eight (8) goal differential will be a mercy and the game will end in all divisions. Teams must complete the first period of play before a mercy can be declared. Prior to the end of the period, if a mercy has been attained, there will be no recording of shots on net or points scored and there will be a running clock until the period has concluded.
- 10.5. Festival game periods and clock timing may be different depending on the number of teams playing and the division. In the past, IHAZ has used the following periods and clock timing:

Age division	Number of teams	Period	Clock
Midget/Bantam/Peewee/Squirt	3, 4 or 6	12 minutes	Stop time
Midget/Bantam/Peewee/Squirt	5	10 minutes	Stop time
Mite	Any number	15 minutes	Run time – Stop after a score

- 10.6. If a round-robin game is tied at the end of regulation, the result will be recorded as a tie. During playoffs, if the game is tied at the end of regulation, it goes to a five (5) minute running clock sudden-death overtime. If the game is still tied after overtime has expired, it will go to a 3 player shootout. Both teams can choose any 3 players to shoot in any order. If a winner is still not determined and a tie still remains, a sudden death shootout will commence. Both teams may choose to allow the same player to shoot again and again or may allow any other player on their roster to shoot in any order. Both teams will be given the same number of shots on the opposing goalie. Any player serving their own penalty at the conclusion of overtime is not eligible to participate in the shootout. The team whose shooter is unable to match the score of their opponent during the sudden death shootout will be declared the team that loses the game.
- 10.7. All forfeit games will be recorded as a score of 8–0 in favor of the team not forfeiting.

10.8. Tie breakers will be as follows:

Head to head (does not apply when more than two teams involved)
Goal Differential

Fewest goals against during all games
Most goals scored during all games
Fewest penalty minutes
Coin flip

11. Application Process

- 11.1. Any team or organization that wishes to participate in the upcoming or current IHA AZ festival season must submit an online application. The application must be completely filled out in order to have your team or organization considered, including each individual team's coach, manager and initial roster. In order for any application to be considered, the application must be accompanied by the mandatory one-time IHA AZ team membership registration fee of \$850.00 (fee subject to change) per team. Any team registration fees submitted will not be processed until such time as the team has been accepted into IHA AZ for the festival season. Submission of an application or registration fee does not guarantee acceptance into IHA AZ. If a team or organization is not accepted into IHA AZ, any funds received will be returned within 30 days of notice that the team or organization was not admitted.
- 11.2. Any accepted team or organization that withdraws from IHA AZ AFTER the registration deadline risks forfeiting their entire team membership registration fee.
- 11.3. ***Deadline for submission of team applications will be Tuesday, December 31, 2019.***
- 11.4. The IHA AZ reserves the right to place teams in divisions most appropriate for overall competitive balance within the league. This can occur at any point during the current IHA AZ Festival Season, up to and including State Finals.
- 11.5. In the event one or more divisions fill up before the registration application deadline, IHA AZ reserves the right to close any such divisions from further registration applications before the deadline.
- 11.6. If a team demonstrates such talent and skill as to require movement into an older age division, the IHA AZ reserves the right to move that team into the appropriate competitive division. If a team being asked to move up an age division does not wish to make such a move, their only alternative option will be to cease league play and receive a prorated refund of their team membership fee.
- 11.7. Any team that wishes during the current IHA AZ Festival Season to move up to the next age division can request that the IHA AZ Board make such an adjustment. The IHA AZ Board will give any such request due consideration and respond within a reasonable timeframe.

- 11.8. The IHAAZ Board reserves the right to refuse any single-Festival team or other team that has not and will not qualify for State Finals, entrance to upcoming Festivals that are considered full and closed due to Festival team capacity.
- 11.9. The IHAAZ Executive Board reserves the right to refuse acceptance of any individual organization, team, player, coach, manager's registration application for participation in the upcoming or current IHAAZ Festival Season.
- 11.10. The IHAAZ Executive Board reserves the right to terminate any individual team or organization's participation in the IHAAZ festival season at any time during said IHAAZ festival season.