



MCHA - Penalty & Suspension Guide

1. PENALTIES, EJECTIONS & SUSPENSIONS

- 1.1.1. MCHA plays according to USA Hockey rules, with additional league-specific discipline noted in this section. The North Texas Hockey Officials Organization (NTHOA) is an independent, USA Hockey-sanctioned organization that officiates all MCHA games.
- 1.1.2. MCHA players (Christian or non-Christian) are human beings playing a competitive sport and can get caught up in the bravado just like anyone else. Therefore, MCHA asks that the officials issue penalties as necessary to help MCHA maintain the highest standards to make sure the league is able to better accomplish our outreach objectives through fun and safe play.
- 1.1.3. Any player who incurs three (3) penalties in the same game shall be immediately ejected from the game. This ejection is to cool down a game and does not include any additional penalty minutes recorded against the player's penalty total for the season, nor does it result in suspension in and of itself.
- 1.1.4. Indefinite suspensions issued for any of the reasons stated in the below sections remain in place until rectified by the offending player through MCHA's reinstatement process and will carry over into future seasons. No refunds will be issued for games missed during a suspension.
- 1.1.5. In compliance with USA Hockey rule 601, MCHA requests that the officials ensure that profanity is not a part of the game and to issue a maximum of one warning per game, followed by unsportsmanlike conduct penalties as necessary, up to and including Game Misconduct or Match penalties at the officials' judgment.
- 1.1.6. MCHA reserves the right to assess additional discipline at any time at leadership discretion. MCHA will make decisions based on best serving the ministry goals of the organization when reviewing penalties and suspensions.

1.2. Penalty Caps

- 1.2.1. Each player has per-season Penalty Minute Caps where additional disciplinary actions are assessed. Once the penalty minutes have been calculated, each player will be evaluated against the Penalty Minute Caps identified in this section.
- 1.2.2. These guidelines are presented to each player at the time of registration with MCHA, but MCHA reserves the right to modify the Penalty Minute Caps at any time at its sole discretion. Captains will be made aware of any modifications.
- 1.2.3. Penalty minutes carryover from the regular season into playoffs. All penalty minutes accumulated expire once the regular season and playoffs are over.



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1.3. Major Penalties

- 1.3.1. Any player who receives a penalty for fighting on or off of the ice surface will be issued an indefinite suspension from MCHA.
- 1.3.2. Any player who receives a body checking penalty will be issued a 1-game suspension from MCHA for the first offense and an indefinite suspension for additional offenses.
- 1.3.3. Any player who receives an abuse of Officials penalty will be issued a 2-game suspension from MCHA for the first offense and an indefinite suspension for additional offenses.
- 1.3.4. Any player who receives 3 major penalties (other than fighting) in a single season will be issued an indefinite suspension from MCHA.

1.4. Match Penalties

- 1.4.1. Per USA Hockey rule 405, any player who receives a Match penalty is suspended from participating in **all** USA Hockey games and practices (including but not limited to MCHA) until their case has been addressed by TAHA.
- 1.4.2. Once the player's case has been addressed by TAHA, MCHA will determine if additional suspension (beyond that imposed by TAHA) is warranted based on the specific circumstances of the infraction.

1.5. Suspensions

- 1.5.1. Any player who receives a suspension will begin serving that suspension at the next scheduled MCHA game for the respective division in which the suspension was earned. Any player who receives a suspension is not eligible to receive a refund for games missed due to that suspension.
- 1.5.2. Any player who attempts to participate in any MCHA game while suspended is subject to further disciplinary actions including possible indefinite suspension. In addition, suspension period(s) not fulfilled will carry over into subsequent season(s).
- 1.5.3. If a player is subbing for another team and receives a penalty warranting a suspension, that player must serve the suspension missing a game with the team on which they are rostered, not the team they were subbing for. Suspended players are not eligible to sub on other teams until their suspension has been lifted.
- 1.5.4. Any player who is indefinitely suspended must submit a written petition requesting to be readmitted to the league using the Petition for League Reinstatement form that can be found on the MCHA website under the Hockey Resources page. MCHA will review the petition and will



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determine whether and when to reinstate the player to league play. A ruling must be made within 30 days after receipt of petition.

- 1.5.5. Any player who is indefinitely suspended and who is not being reinstated for the remainder of the season may be replaced by a player on the Free Agent list for the remainder of the season at the discretion of the league. No refunds will be issued for players who are replaced due to infractions causing a season-ending suspension.
- 1.5.6. The below table provides a summary of the suspension guidelines that MCHA uses. All discretionary suspensions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and will be based on the severity of the misconduct.

Infraction	Discipline
3 penalties in a game	Ejection, but no additional suspension
Body checking	1 game for 1st offense - indefinite suspension for future offenses in a season
Abuse of Officials	2 games for 1st offense - indefinite suspension for future offenses in a season
25 penalty minutes in a season	1 game
35 penalty minutes in a season	Indefinite - 3 game minimum
Fighting	Indefinite - 3 game minimum
3 major penalties in a season	Indefinite - 3 game minimum
Abuse of MCHA staff	Indefinite - 3 game minimum
Match Penalty	Indefinite until TAHA hearing - at MCHA discretion once TAHA has issued a ruling
Fraudulent registration information	Indefinite until resolved
Unpaid registration	Indefinite until resolved



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1.6. Conduct Evaluations

- 1.6.1. MCHA captains may (as a last resort in addressing player behavior that fails to live up the league's code of conduct) petition the league for discretionary disciplinary action against individual players for conduct unbecoming of the MCHA using the Player Conduct Review form that can be found on the MCHA website under the Hockey Resources page.
- 1.6.2. This process allows MCHA leadership to become aware of and put appropriate action in place to address violations of the league code of conduct, and empowers captains with ownership to address the conduct.
- 1.6.3. Conduct that is unbecoming of the MCHA includes but is not limited to:
 - Repeated violations of the MCHA code of conduct
 - Conduct that threatens player safety
 - Consistent instigation of on-ice conflict through words or actions
 - Consistent unsportsmanlike conduct on or off the ice
 - Detrimental representation of the league on or off the ice
- 1.6.4. Petitions will be reviewed and adjudicated by MCHA leadership. Assessment may include review of past game video, review of player penalty/suspension history, interviews with captains who joined the petition, interviews with affected players, and any other sources of data the league feels is appropriate.
- 1.6.5. MCHA leadership will decide what (if any) discretionary disciplinary action is warranted based on the review and nature of alleged conduct unbecoming of MCHA. Discipline may range from coaching with the MCHA Ministry Coordinator or leadership, to indefinite suspension from league play depending on the nature and scope of the conduct.