

# PAHL Annual Meeting – May 2026

## Meeting Minutes



**Date of Meeting:** Sunday, May 3, 2026  
**Meeting Location:** Pittsburgh Ice Arena  
**Presiding Officer:** Glen Scholze, President

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### CALL TO ORDER

The PAHL President called to order the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League at 5:05 PM. The PAHL Executive Administrator is recording the minutes of the meeting.

#### Members present (24):

- Allegheny Badgers: Josh Fajt
- Altoona Trackers: Jill Breton
- Arctic Foxes: Mike Ciocca
- Armstrong Arrows: Joel Shriver
- Beaver Badgers: David Symanowicz
- Crawford County Flames: Matt Nagel
- Indiana Chiefs: Matt Jackson, Brad Scott
- Johnstown Warriors: Jody Gustkey
- Lawrence County Lightning: Brent Fisher
- Mon Valley Thunder: Frank Lopresti
- Morgantown Blades: Hillarey Young
- Mt Lebanon Hornets: Cindy Bittel (non-voting)
- North Pittsburgh Wildcats: Brian Hornyak
- Pittsburgh Aviators: Anthony Quinlan
- Pittsburgh Huskies: Ryan Patrick
- Pittsburgh Predators: Crissy Schultz
- Pittsburgh Vengeance: Michele Graham
- Pittsburgh Yetis: Jon Langer
- South Hills Panthers: Glen Siniawski
- South Pittsburgh Rebellion: Sean Coyle
- State College Icercs: Pete Brumberg
- Westmoreland Eagles: Chris Bitz
- Wheeling Nailers: Caitlin Rodocker
- Youngstown Phantoms: Lisa Doll

#### Absent Members (1):

- Erie Junior Otters

#### Others present:

- Officers: Glen Scholze, Ron Michalak, Courtney Iaccio
- Staff: Dave Fryer
- Guests: none

## Previous Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the 2026 PAHL Midseason Meeting were presented by the Executive Director.  
**Motion by South Hills Panthers, seconded by State College Icers:**  
**Approve the 2026 Midseason Meeting minutes, as presented.**  
**Motion passes via unanimous consent.**
- The minutes from the January 2026 Emergency Meeting were presented by the Executive Director.  
**Motion by Allegheny Badgers, seconded by South Hills Panthers:**  
**Approve the January 2026 Meeting minutes, as presented.**  
**Motion passes via unanimous consent.**

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

### Report from the President

- Crystal Ochwat has resigned as the PAHL Secretary. The position has one year remaining in its term, so the vacancy is filled by appointment. Anyone interested should contact the Executive Director.
- The Fayette Ice Miners and North Hills Vipers have been in dormant status for two years. Per our by-laws, membership expires after two years of dormancy, so those organizations are no longer members of our league. That is not our desired outcome, but neither organization has made any progress towards returning. If they are revived, they can reapply for membership.
- We do not have a lot of policies on tryouts and recruiting, as we have instead attempted to lean on expectations and ethics. But we are struggling with some of the behaviors and even violating the policies that are in place, so we need to continue the discussion and explore new policies. A committee will be formed to come up with policy proposals.
- MidAm has placed an attendance requirement for their “association education” seminars, and PAHL will help facilitate that with our teams, potentially scheduling a seminar in conjunction with our preseason meeting. South Hills Panthers asked that PAHL also requests that the seminar cover only timely and relevant topics in an efficient manner.
- MidAm has new tryout policies, effective for next season, placing a specific timeline for when tryouts can take place for National Bound teams. The guidelines are in the MidAm policies document, which was just posted to the MidAm website.
- MidAm is going to narrow the number of organizations that can field Tier 1 teams after this season. MidAm will notify associations who maintain that classification, and no other organization can advertise that it is fielding a Tier 1 or “AAA” or similar level team.
- The MidAm Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, July 25. It will be held in Cranberry, but attendees can be virtual. Meeting details will be communicated by MidAm.

### Report from the First Vice President

- The discipline report shows that incidents increased this year, but the Discipline VP noted that we had better reporting tools this year, which would record more incidents into the report.
- Added to the report is “Total Games Awarded” from the suspendable offenses to show the number of games involved in the suspensions, not just the number of suspensions.
- Most of the numbers under the Supplemental section of the report come from hearings held by MidAm, though not all of the hearing results may have been communicated to get them entered into the report. There are also a few hearings that have not been completed for this season.

### Report from the Second Vice President

- The Executive Director reviewed the competition report, cited a few trends, and identified a few areas that will need further investigation. The Competition Committee will be convening in the upcoming weeks to do a retrospective on the season and identify any areas for improvement. The Executive Director added that the Placement Committee does amazing work, as the numbers show.
- A few areas where our membership can help improve the placement process include more accuracy and honesty with initial declarations, providing player history on 100% of rostered players, and ensuring that all placement games are useful to the evaluation process.
- We have an existing policy that grants the League Office the ability to rule a player ineligible for a team due to deeming that the player is overqualified for the division. The Executive Director cited the intent of the rule but the many challenges in enforcing it, including an example with our 12B1 division. We will need to look at options for modifying this rule in the future.

### Report from the Treasurer

- Several associations owe money from playoffs, for which invoices are being issued. Some associations are owed money from hosting playoffs, and checks will be issued to those members.
- Fines from the season have been processed for missed meetings, schedule changes, and forfeitures. If an association's fine fund has been depleted, an invoice was sent to replenish the fund.
- There are a few expenses still outstanding for this season, including a few playoff invoices, the cost of attending the USA Hockey conference, and the payouts on the PAHL Scholarships.
- We currently have \$98,439.16 in our checking account and \$120,122.76 in our savings account.
- A budget proposal for next season will be completed this month.
- Account statements will be sent out in the upcoming week. If your statement shows a negative number, you have a credit.

### Report from the Secretary

- The Executive Director stated that envelopes for Academic All-Stars are available for each association to take tonight. Each envelope includes certificates and patches to distribute to recipients.
- Selecting the PAHL Scholarship winners is still in progress, and winners will be contacted once the process is completed.

### Report from the Executive Administrator

- The Executive Director took a moment to recognize the recent passing of Pete Shaffalo.
- We had a successful season. The player experience must drive what we do, and the work we have done in the past few seasons has greatly enhanced the experience for every player in our league.
- We must still improve in a few areas: scorekeeper error rate, playoff layout, and officiating. Most of the struggles with officiating are due to a lack of training, but within PAHL, we must do a better job with properly assigning officials to games based on merit and ability.
- PAHL Playoffs went well again this season. Congratulations to all of the champions, and thank you to Josh and Mindy with Palmer Imaging Arena for their help in making the championship site go well.
- The Ponytail Jamboree was again hosted by South Pittsburgh. It is a great event but does need more support. We made some adjustments this year to encourage more attendees, but participation was slightly down compared to last season's event.
- Any change to the president, registrar, and secretary positions within each association need to be reported to the League Office. All other contacts will be collected in August.
- We will determine soon if we will continue with SportsEngine as our website provider for next season, including the cost of renewing. If needed, any change to the website provider should not affect users, as all content will be copied over.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Governing Proposals

- The full wording for the approved Administrative Policies proposals is listed in Exhibit A of this document.
- The full wording for the approved Game Manual proposals is listed in Exhibit B of this document.
- There are 23 voters present in the room, all of which are confirmed to have access to the electronic voting platform.
  
- The Team Discipline proposal for merging and revising current rules to create a single rule on “Accumulation of Disciplinary Penalties in a Season” is meant to provide better clarity on the application and consequences of the rule. The proposal was modified slightly to add more clarity.  
**Motion by State College Icers, seconded by Beaver County Badgers:**  
**Approve the Game Manual proposal on Team Discipline, as amended.**  
**Motion passes, 19-3-1.**
  
- The proposal to remove two rules related to Discipline is meant to eliminate the overlap with existing USA Hockey rules and instead defer all such situations to those USA Hockey rules.  
**Motion by South Hills Panthers, seconded by State College Icers:**  
**Approve the removal of two disciplinary rules from the Game Manual.**  
**Motion passes, 23-0-0.**
  
- The proposal on Minimum Game Participants is to eliminate some lingering confusion about our rule and defer more to the USA Hockey rule on the matter.  
**Motion by Indiana Chiefs, seconded by Allegheny Badgers:**  
**Approve the Minimum Game Participants proposal, as presented.**  
**Motion passes, 22-1-0.**
  
- The proposal on Schedule Change Categories is to make the cutoff earlier for changes that need to come to the League Office for approval first. The cutoff date was amended from 14 days to 12 days.  
**Motion by Pittsburgh Yetis, seconded by Youngstown Phantoms:**  
**Approve the Schedule Change Categories proposal, as amended.**  
**Motion passes, 21-1-1.**
  
- The proposal on Schedule Change Costs is to further deter significant changes and reduce the overall number of changes made during the course of the season. The limit for changes to the start time of a game was proposed as 1 hour but amended from the floor to 90 minutes.  
**Motion by Youngstown Phantoms, seconded by Westmoreland Eagles:**  
**Approve the Schedule Change Costs proposal, as amended.**  
**Motion passes, 17-6-0.**
  
- The proposal on Scheduling Restrictions is to simplify the requirement for teams to spread their regular-season games across the full season. There was consideration to remove the requirement entirely, but the proposal was amended to essentially require each team to play at least 3 games in the first two months of its season and at least 3 games in the last two months of its season  
**Motion by Lawrence County Lightning, seconded by Westmoreland Eagles:**  
**Approve the Scheduling Restrictions proposal, as amended.**  
**Motion passes, 21-2-0.**

- The proposal on Placement Game Provisions is to ban a team from playing two placement games on the same day since neither game provides a fair evaluation of the team and its opponents.

**Motion by State College Icers, seconded by Morgantown Blades:**  
**Approve the Placement Game Provisions proposal, as presented.**  
**Motion passes, 16-7-0.**
- The proposal on Placement Appeals is to merge the previous two steps of the process into a single step so that it can be completed in the one-week timeframe we now have between the end of the preseason and the scheduling sessions. The proposal was amended to still require a team to notify the league of its intent to appeal but added an additional 24 hours for the team to submit its appeal.

**Motion by Beaver County Badgers, seconded by State College Icers:**  
**Approve the Placement Appeals proposal, as amended.**  
**Motion passes, 22-1-0.**
- The proposal on Player Addition Limitations moves the cutoff for requiring roster additions to go through the full approval process to August 1. It also provides clarification on players sustaining eligibility, and it clarifies the process in which a player can move to a team in a lower division.

**Motion by South Hills Panthers, seconded by Allegheny Badgers:**  
**Approve the Player Addition Limitations proposal, as presented.**  
**Motion passes, 22-1-0.**
- The proposal on Playoff Game Schedules is a combination of existing policies moved into this new section and new policies added to the section, intending to create standards for playoff schedules. The proposal was modified to maintain the 4-hour rest period between games instead of increasing the rest period to 6 hours.

**Motion by Crawford County Flames, seconded by Johnstown Warriors:**  
**Approve the Playoff Game Schedules proposal, as amended.**  
**Motion passes, 22-1-0.**
- The proposal on Playoff Site Coordination is to set expectations and create consistency for host sites during the league postseason. The proposal was amended to remove the restriction on hosts communicating directly with teams and to allow 10U hosts to announce the player names from the winning team during the championship celebration.

**Motion by Allegheny Badgers, seconded by South Hills Panthers:**  
**Approve the Playoff Site Coordination proposal, as amended.**  
**Motion passes, 22-0-1.**
- The proposal on Playoff Personnel Assignments is to modify the existing policy to provide clarification and guidance on music and announcements during playoff games.

**Motion by South Hills Panthers, seconded by Westmoreland Eagles:**  
**Approve the Playoff Personnel Assignments proposal, as presented.**  
**Motion passes, 21-0-2.**
- The proposal on Playoff Officiating Assignments is to add provisions to the existing policy to help improve the officials assigned to our playoff games.

**Motion by Youngstown Phantoms, seconded by Morgantown Blades:**  
**Approve the Playoff Officiating Assignments proposal, as presented.**  
**Motion passes, 21-1-1.**

- The proposal on Playoff Player Eligibility is to remove the portion of the existing rule that makes it apply only to 14U and above, thereby making it apply to playoffs for all age classifications.  
**Motion by Johnstown Warriors, seconded by Morgantown Blades:**  
**Approve the Placement Game Provisions proposal, as presented.**  
**Motion passes, 23-0-0.**
- The proposal on Financial Obligation policies is to modify the process and requirements so that we are able to enforce bad debt without it being dumped on the league to resolve. A clause was added to account for situations where a higher authority requires that temporary relief be given to the situation, with additional clarification that the league cannot grant any other relief.  
**Motion by South Hills Panthers, seconded by Johnstown Warriors:**  
**Approve the Placement Game Provisions proposal, as amended.**  
**Motion passes, 21-1-0.**
- The Executive Administrator presented a few topics that will be considered for rules/policy changes in the near future, in advance of tryouts for next season: non-PAHL rosters, PAHL AA2 rosters, and the policies recommended by a committee for tryouts, poaching, and recruiting.
- The President stated that it is incumbent on our associations to be asking players who are inquiring about roster spots or are attending supplemental tryouts if they are already committed to another PAHL association. North Pittsburgh Wildcats stated that tryout issues and player movement is worse this year than it has ever been, including parents who are making a commitment and still paying their way out of the commitment. Mon Valley Thunder asked if there are any current policies regarding associations offering a player free tuition in order to encourage players to switch organizations. The president stated that there is no current policy, and the topic will be an important part of the committee discussion. The Executive Administrator added that social media posts from anyone speaking on behalf of an association cannot be encouraging players who “don’t like their roster spot” to come to their association instead.

#### League Calendar

- The Executive Administrator presented the proposal for the 2026-27 League Calendar. The start of the 10U preseason is agreed to move a week earlier than previous seasons, but the end of the 10U preseason is extended back to its usual weekend since teams can no longer play two placement games on the same day.  
**Motion by State College Icercs, seconded by Allegheny Badgers:**  
**Approve the proposed 2026-27 League Calendar, as amended.**  
**Motion passes, 21-0-2.**

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

#### First Vice President

- Ron Michalak has been nominated by the South Hills Panthers and accepted the nomination. No additional nominations were made from the floor, so the nomination period was closed and the campaign period was conducted.
- Secret balloting was done electronically, with 23 confirmed voters present.

#### **Balloting for the First Vice President election:**

**Ron Michalak = 21**

**abstain = 2**

**Ron Michalak is re-elected as First Vice President of the PAHL for a 2-year term.**

## Treasurer

- Courtney Iaccio has been nominated by the Allegheny Badgers and accepted the nomination. No additional nominations were made from the floor, so the nomination period was closed and the campaign period was conducted.
- Secret balloting was done electronically, with 23 confirmed voters present.

### **Balloting for the Treasurer election:**

**Courtney Iaccio = 22**

**abstain = 1**

**Courtney Iaccio is re-elected as the Treasurer of the PAHL for a 2-year term.**

The next scheduled PAHL meeting is the Preseason Meeting to start next season, which will be in mid-August. It is usually a virtual meeting, but we may conduct it as an in-person meeting to help associations satisfy their MidAm education requirement. Specifics will be communicated as those details are completed.

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 8:18 PM.

**Minutes recorded by:** Dave Fryer, PAHL Executive Administrator

**Minutes approved on:** *currently unapproved*

# EXHIBIT A: APPROVED CHANGES TO PAHL ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

## Schedule Change Categories

1. Any change – for any reason – to the date, start time, or location of a league game constitutes a Schedule Change. There shall be three categories of Schedule Changes, which shall be delineated by the timeframe and the circumstances that prompt the change request.
2. Schedule Adjustments are defined as any change submitted more than 12 days prior to the date of the game.
3. Rescheduled Games are defined as any change requested within 12 days prior to the date of the game.
4. Postponements are specifically defined herein and shall be changes necessitated due to circumstances beyond the control of either team.

## Schedule Change Costs

1. A fee shall be charged to the team initiating a Schedule Change, and any single fee over \$50 may be appealed to the Executive Board with supporting evidence that the change was beyond the control of the team/association.
  - a. \$0 fee for Postponements, including changes made in advance for situations necessitated – as a single schedule change or a related bulk of game changes – by a matter similar to the definition of a Postponement, as deemed by the Executive Administrator)
  - b. \$0 fee if only the start time of the game is changed by 90 minutes or less via a Schedule Adjustment
  - c. \$50 fee for the first change made to a specific game, including all Rescheduled Games
  - d. \$200 fee for each subsequent change made to a specific game
  - e. \$500 fee for any team that makes 4 total Schedule Changes in a single season that results in a fee, in addition to the fees for the individual Schedule Changes
  - f. \$250 fee to any association that has its teams collectively make 10 or more total Schedule Changes in a single season that results in a fee, in addition to the fees for the individual Schedule Changes.

## Scheduling Restrictions

1. Each PAHL team at the 12U age classifications and above shall schedule at least 3 of its regular-season league games on or prior to November 30 of each season and at least 3 of its regular-season league games on or after January 1 of each season.
2. Each PAHL team in the 10U age classification shall schedule at least 3 of its regular-season league games on or prior to December 31 of each season and at least 3 of its regular-season league games on or after January 1 of each season.
3. If two teams from the same member association are placed into the same division, the first two matchups, as applicable, between those teams must take place prior to December 31. If a third matchup in the regular season is mandated, it must be played prior to January 31. If a fourth (or more) matchup in the regular season is mandated, there shall be no restriction on when the fourth game is played.
4. The League Office can authorize an exception to these restrictions if a scheduled game is postponed and henceforth cannot be rescheduled in adherence to this policy. The Executive Director can also authorize an exception within these restrictions when the temporary unavailability of the home rink of a team prevents the team from adhering to a requirement.

## Placement Game Provisions

- No team shall play more than one placement game on the same day. An exception shall only be granted by the League Office if a scheduled placement game is not initially played under the provisions for Postponements and no other viable date is available for the teams to play the rescheduled game.

## **Placement Appeals**

1. There shall be no appeal option to the final placement of any 10U team, with no exceptions and no subsequent review.
2. Any team (12U and above) wishing to appeal its final placement must submit an appeal only from the association president via the Placement Appeal Form provided by the League Office. If multiple teams within an association are appealing their placement, a separate form must be submitted for each appealing team.
3. A notification of an intent to appeal must be submitted by a team no later than 24 hours after the publication of final placements. The team must submit rationale and supporting evidence for its appeal no later than 48 hours after the publication of final placements. No appeal nor additions to an appeal shall be accepted after the applicable deadlines.
4. The onus shall be on the appellant association to provide ample justification for the request, using supporting information from the team's roster composition and performance in PAHL placement games.
5. All appeals received prior to the deadline shall be distributed to the members of the Executive Board and members of the Placement Committee.
6. The Executive Board and the Placement Committee shall convene – in-person, electronically, or a hybrid there of – to review, discuss, and vote on all appeals requests. No less than 2 members of the Executive Board and no less than 3 members of the Placement Committee shall be present for the discussion and included in the voting. The Executive Administrator shall moderate the discussion, shall not count towards an attendance requirement, and shall not cast a vote on any appeal. The PAHL President, if present, shall count toward the total board attendees and shall cast one vote on each appeal. The Chair of the Placement Committee, if present, shall count only toward the committee attendees and shall cast one vote on each appeal. All other members of the panel present for the discussion shall each cast one vote on each appeal.
7. A majority vote of the appeals panel must be in favor of the appeal request in order for the appeal to be upheld. A tie in a vote shall not be broken and shall result in the appeal being denied.
8. The Executive Administrator shall communicate the result of the vote to the applicable association president, and there shall be no further appeals on the decision.

## **Player Addition Limitations**

1. A player in the process of being added to a PAHL Roster shall not be eligible for participation in a PAHL game until the roster addition process is fully completed, including explicit approval of the player by the League Office. Any player who has not yet obtained approval shall be considered an ineligible player if used in a PAHL game, which shall result in a forfeiture to the team.
2. Starting on August 1, player additions, releases, and changes must be completed via the online form through the standard Roster Addition Process.
3. All rostered players must remain eligible under applicable PAHL, MidAm, and USAH policies, and no player shall be added to a PAHL Roster after any deadline prescribed by applicable PAHL, MidAm, and USAH policies. No exceptions shall be granted by any entity.
4. A player currently on a PAHL Roster cannot be moved to the roster of a lower team in the same association after September 1. A player on a PAHL Roster after September 1 who is seeking a roster transfer to a new association must obtain at least 75% approval of the PAHL Placement Committee to be added to the roster of a team in the new association that is in a lower division than the original team.
5. A player cannot be temporarily placed on a PAHL Roster for any reason, and use of player movement policies shall not be used to circumvent PAHL policies or provide a team/association with temporary relief of any applicable policy. Suspected violations of this clause shall be investigated by the League Office and shall be deferred to the Executive Board for an Administrative Hearing if evidence is found of a violation.

### **Playoff Game Schedules**

1. Ice slots for 19G, 18U, 16U, 14U, and 14G shall be reserved as 90 minutes in length. Ice slot for 10U, 12U, and 12G shall be reserved as 70 minutes in length. All playoff games must be able to run longer than the reserved ice slot without being curfewed by the host venue.
2. A single playoff round being played in a single day at a host site shall have start times for games between 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM. A host site that has multiple playoff rounds in a single day shall have start times for games between 10:00 AM and 8:00 PM. A host site that has multiple playoff rounds for the 10U age classification shall have start times for 10U games between 9:00 AM and 8:00 PM.
3. Games involving advancing teams that will meet in the next round shall be played simultaneously or consecutively, as best applicable.
4. Once the playoff game schedule is published to the PAHL website, only the League Office is authorized to approve a change to the start time of any playoff game.
5. There shall be no less than 4 hours of rest scheduled between any game involving a team advancing to another playoff game within the same day. The calculation is done from the scheduled end time of the first game to the scheduled start time of the second game, and the start time of the second game shall not be modified if the first game ends later than scheduled due to overtime, shootouts, late starts, and other standard delays. Unexpected delays that reduce the scheduled rest period for a team to under 3.5 hours shall be reviewed by the League Office for a potential schedule adjustment.

### **Playoff Site Coordination**

1. The host association shall appoint a single individual to serve as its Playoff Site Coordinator, who will provide the ice schedule with the appropriate number of game slots and liaise with the League Office on playoff preparations.
2. The host association shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that all participating playoff teams at a host site are given equal and adequate treatment throughout the playoff event, including the team(s) from the host association. Areas of focus include a conventional assignment of team locker rooms, the use of the respective team benches as traditionally assigned to the home/away teams, and the neutral use of in-game music and announcements.
3. The host association, through its Assignor of Officials and in advance of the playoff weekend, shall ensure that all officials assigned to playoff games are provided with the playoff rules and procedures published by the PAHL.
4. The playoff rules and procedures published by the League Office shall be made readily available by the host association in the referee room(s) prior to games and in the scorer's box(es) during games.
5. The host association withholds no authority to make a ruling on a matter, resolve a dispute, nor interpret an applicable rule/policy. The host association shall direct all such matters to the League Office. The host association does reserve the ability to provide factual information on rules, policies, and protocols to the participants of its playoff games.
6. The host association shall make a reasonable effort, when feasible, to ensure that real-time scoring is provided for all playoff games via an active internet connection on the scoring device and timely scoring entries by the Official Scorer.
7. The host association for 10U championship games shall have at least one person conduct an on-ice championship presentation and take an organized championship picture with the winning team at the immediate conclusion of the championship game. The on-ice presentation shall congratulate the winning team and issue the championship banner. Hats are to be distributed prior to the team photo. No spectators are to be permitted on the ice surface by the host association nor host venue during or after the post-game celebration, including for on-ice pictures of any kind.

### **Financial Obligation Definitions**

1. A player is deemed to have a disqualifying financial obligation when the player attempts to be released from an association during the season while still owing monies to the sending association that are specific to the “player dues” (or similar) required of the association for participating in league games with a team in the association.
2. A player is deemed to have a disqualifying financial obligation when the player was removed from participation by the association in the prior PAHL season due to failure to make full payments on a financial agreement. The association must be able to provide documentation of the financial agreement and proof that the association withheld the player from further game participation prior to the final month of the season due to the arrears.
3. A player is deemed to have a disqualifying financial obligation when the player made a financial commitment to a team during the offseason (tryouts, supplemental tryouts, open roster spot, etc.) – of which the terms of the commitment must be backed by a signed contract by a parent/guardian and furnished by the association – and then failed to fully honor any of the financial terms of that commitment.
4. A player cannot be deemed to have a disqualifying financial obligation if no written agreement can be produced, if the association did not withhold the player from further game participation during the season in which the debt was overdue, nor if the association previously submitted a release of the player to the PAHL.
5. An association cannot attempt to submit a player for a disqualifying financial obligation when the financial obligation is in regard to any matter extraneous of “player dues,” such as fees for participation in a non-league event/tournament(s) and a camp/clinic(s) conducted by the association, its home rink, or its representatives.

### **Financial Obligation Clearance**

1. A player with a disqualifying financial obligation (“bad debt”) to a PAHL member association shall not be eligible to participate with another PAHL member association until all financial arrears have been satisfied. All such ineligibility shall be indefinite, which includes extending into future seasons, until the conditions of the financial obligation have been satisfied or until a determination is made by an entity of appropriate jurisdiction that no financial obligation can be enforced.
2. Associations shall report any player with a disqualifying financial obligation to the League Office prior to September 1 of each season via a method established by the League Office and submitted only by the president or treasurer of the PAHL Association. The player shall have until September 15 to resolve the outstanding debt before the player is deemed to be ineligible for further participation in league games.
3. A player with a disqualifying financial obligation to an association who is requesting a release from one of the PAHL rosters of the association during the season shall not be released by the association. At the time the release is requested by the player, the association shall – via its president or treasurer – submit the player as financially disqualified for a release via the method established by the League Office.
4. The League Office shall communicate, to the sending association, the confirmation of the eligibility status of any player submitted as having a possible disqualifying financial obligation. The sending association shall inform the affected player of an ineligibility ruling. The League Office shall hold no obligation to communicate with the ineligible player, the player’s family, nor a player’s representative.
5. The League Office shall only communicate the ineligibility of a financially disqualified player to a receiving organization requesting to add a player to one of its team rosters. Upon such notification, the potential receiving association shall not place the player on the USAH roster of any of its teams, shall not attempt to intervene in the matter, and shall not offer a financial resolution to or for the player.
6. Member Associations are responsible for reporting, within 3 days and via its president or treasurer, the full payment of outstanding monies by players reported by the association to have a disqualifying financial obligation. A sending association shall also report a determination by the association that it no longer wishes to pursue further financial obligations from the player.
7. The League Office only withholds the ability to temporarily permit the participation of a player with a disqualifying financial obligation when required to do so by a court or authority of competent jurisdiction and/or when an approved federal bankruptcy filing is applicable to the situation. The relief shall be strictly contingent upon the terms and rulings of the matter at hand, and the player shall again become ineligible for participation if/when those terms no longer apply. No other relief shall be granted by the League Office.
8. The League Office shall clear a player with a potentially disqualifying financial obligation upon determination by the League Office – or any other entity of appropriate jurisdiction – that the player does not or no longer meets the conditions for a disqualifying financial obligation.

## EXHIBIT B: APPROVED CHANGES TO PAHL GAME MANUAL

**Accumulation of Disciplinary Penalties in a Season:** Any team that is discovered to have greater than 50% of its regular-season league games in which a Misconduct, Game Misconduct, and/or Match Penalty(s) was incurred by any individual(s) on the team shall result in the team being automatically ineligible for league postseason play.

- 1) Any single league game can only count once towards a team's total count, regardless of how many applicable penalties were incurred by a team in the game.
- 2) The accumulation of 12 or more penalties by a team in a game shall, for the purposes of this rule, count as a Game Misconduct incurred by the head coach of the team.
- 3) A penalty that was not assessed to a team in a game and/or not recorded on the official scoresheet but is required by rule (automatic misconducts and game misconducts) shall be counted as incurred by the team as an administrative correction made to the scoresheet and communicated to the team by the League Office following the game.

**Remove these current rules from the Discipline section of the PAHL Game Manual:**

- 1) Participant Discipline – Accumulation of Game Misconducts
- 2) Team Discipline – Multiple Game Misconducts in a Season

**Minimum Game Participants:** In accordance with USA Hockey rules, a team must have a minimum of six players to start a game and must be able to place four players on the ice at all subsequent points of the game.

- 1) The minimum requirements do not require a goaltender (skaters only, or a mix of skaters and goaltenders).
- 2) A game that is not started due to a team not meeting the minimum requirement shall result in a Non-Contested Forfeit to the offending team.
- 3) A game that is started but not completed due to a team not maintaining the minimum requirement shall result in a Contested Forfeit to the offending team.

**Playoff Personnel Assignments:** The requirements of playoff personnel for each postseason game shall follow the regular season standards for Game Personnel.

- 1) The host association shall arrange for the Scorekeeper and Timekeeper.
- 2) The host association shall arrange for the Medic.
- 3) The referees shall be assigned through the host's Assignor of Officials.
- 4) Each participating team shall provide one qualified person to serve as its Penalty Box Attendant.
- 5) The League Office withholds the option of providing or requesting goal judges and/or security guards.
- 6) The host association holds the priority option on providing a PA Announcer and Arena DJ. If the host does not provide an individual(s), the home team shall be given the next option to fill the role, followed by the away team. All announcements shall be equal and consistent in content for both teams, and if utilized, a goal horn/song, must be played for all goals scored by both teams.

**Playoff Officiating Assignments:** League playoff games shall adhere to the officiating systems, policies, and procedures defined within Game Personnel, with the following additions:

- 1) No playoff game at any age classification shall start or resume with less than 2 certified officials participating on the ice.
- 2) No assigned official shall have been on any team roster within the same association of either participating team within the current season.
- 3) No assigned official shall have held decision-making powers with any team within the applicable division within the current season.
- 4) The Assignor is expected to make a reasonable effort to assign qualified and experienced officials via a merit system.
- 5) No official shall be assigned to more than 2 consecutive playoff games.
- 6) No referee mentor, "shadow," evaluator, nor supervisor shall be utilized at any playoff game by any entity unless approved by the League Office.

**Playoff Player Eligibility:** In addition to standard Participation Policies, players must meet the following requirements to participate in playoffs with a team:

- 1) Appeared on the team's league roster on or before October 31st or was placed on a league roster for the first time on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 2) Participated in at least 50% of the team's regular-season league games, with exceptions approved via Playoff Injury Exemptions.