



**2026-27  
PNAHA LEAGUE  
INFORMATION**

# PNAHA LEAGUE INFORMATION

Each Association recognizes that the purpose of the PNAHA league is to administer statewide competition for State and National Bound teams, and provide a schedule of games that adheres to the player development philosophies adopted by PNAHA for players.

Each association will give a final declaration of intent - by age classification and level - to participate in the PNAHA League during the Spring/Summer PNAHA meeting.

**The 2026 Spring/Summer Meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2026.**

Following the PNAHA meeting, a League Meeting will be held to establish the 2026–27 Competition Committee, elect the Chair and League Commissioner, and review league operations for the season.

Based on the final declarations submitted at the Spring/Summer PNAHA Meeting, PNAHA aims to offer the following league opportunities for the upcoming season:



10U Division - Full Ice  
(16 Game Maximum - 2 Divisions)

12U Division  
(20 Game Maximum - 3 Divisions)

14UB and 18UB Divisions  
(28 Game Maximum)

14U, 16U, 18U, 19U Tier II Divisions

High School Division



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Click the links below to skip to the desired section.

[League Declarations](#)

[10U League Overview](#)

[12U League Overview](#)

[League Team Composition](#)

[League Scheduling](#)

[League Game Lengths](#)

[Home/Away Duties](#)

[Additional League Information](#)

[League Management](#)



This PNAHA League Guide reflects the most up-to-date rules and information available as of [April 1, 2026](#). It is being published in advance of the publication of the 2026–27 USA Hockey Annual Guide, the 2026–27 National Tournament Guidebook, and the forthcoming 2026-27 PNAHA Guidebook. Information contained herein is subject to change.

# LEAGUE DECLARATIONS

**Competition Committee.** Each Member Organization that has a team in a PNAHA State League that is Festival, State, or National-bound will appoint a representative to the Competition Committee. The Members of this committee will be identified at the Spring/Summer Meeting of PNAHA. Each representative will have one vote. However, they can only vote on motions that affect a specific age division if they represent a team in that division. The PNAHA President will serve on the committee as a non-voting member; the PNAHA 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents will serve on the committee as voting members in all votes.

Each association will give a FINAL declaration of intent, by age classification and level, to participate in the PNAHA League during the Spring/Summer PNAHA Meeting. Each team will be assigned as either a State Bound or National Bound as recommended by its association.



Each association will have enough home ice slots and available travel weekends to satisfy the requirements.

**Note: A minimum of four (4) teams is needed to require a league to be scheduled.**

As **High School** hockey continues to develop within PNAHA and formal league rules have not yet been established, the Competition Committee may review proposals to coordinate a High School League and/or State Tournament Qualification Super Weekends for programs fielding High School teams at the June Spring/Summer Meeting.

Depending on the number of teams, **State Bound Teams** will be scheduled at a minimum 2 home and 2 away games with all the other State Bound teams in their USA Hockey age classification and declared level, or a maximum of 20 games at the 12U age classification and 28 games at the 14U and older age classifications.

**All League games must be completed prior to 14 days before the respective PNAHA Tournament or Festival.**

**NEW**

# 10U FULL-ICE LEAGUE

The PNAHA Competition Committee has approved a **limited 10U Full-Ice League** for the 2026–27 season as a pilot program. This league provides a full-ice competition option while maintaining half-ice as the primary developmental model at 10U.

*As a result, PNAHA will not operate a half-ice league for 2026–27.* Programs are encouraged to participate in or develop regional half-ice opportunities. **Full-ice 10U games between PNAHA member teams remain prohibited unless authorized under Rule 24.**

League participation will consist of full-ice competition only, with all games designated under Rule 24.3. The league is anticipated to follow the declaration model outlined below.

## 2026-27 Season 10U Full-Ice Pilot Program

- Each program may declare one (1) 10U full-ice PNAHA League team; associations with more than 250 registered members may declare up to two (2).
- PNAHA teams receive priority for participation. If necessary to complete league structure or balance divisions, out-of-affiliate teams may be considered following final PNAHA declarations at the Spring/Summer Meeting.
- The league will be divided into two tiers:
  - Rainier Division (top tier / Gold equivalent)
  - Cascade Division (second tier / Silver equivalent)

The season will begin with a **10U Tiering/Kickoff Weekend** to provide early full-ice exposure and allow the Competition Committee to assess team competitiveness. The weekend will include a coaches/managers meeting covering league expectations, rules/format, credentials, electronic scorekeeping, and Safe Sport requirements. Teams will then be placed into the Rainier or Cascade Divisions.

Following tiering, the League Commissioner will schedule divisional play. Teams will play up to 16 league games, with an unbalanced schedule permitted to reduce travel (including non-reciprocal home/away matchups). League teams may schedule additional exhibition games with other league team members, which will not count toward standings.

All 10U teams participating in the League are required to participate in their designated Festival. Only teams that participate in the PNAHA 10U League may participate in the Festival. The exception is if there is no League, then each PNAHA association may declare teams at the PNAHA Winter Meeting. *Pending Board approval at the June PNAHA Meeting*, league participation will qualify teams for the 10U Full-Ice Festival.



# 12U LEAGUE

Each association recognizes that the purpose of the PNAHA league is to provide a schedule of games that adheres to the player development philosophies adopted by PNAHA for players in the 12U age classification.

The season will begin with a **12U Tiering/Kickoff Weekend** to allow the Competition Committee to assess team competitiveness. The weekend will include a coaches/managers meeting covering league expectations, rules/format, credentials, electronic scorekeeping, and Safe Sport requirements. Teams will be “bracketed” into two to four divisions: Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Copper.



The PNAHA 12U league will complete a 20-game schedule. Note that the game schedule number could be less than 20 if the number of participating teams does not support 20 games (i.e., less than six participating teams in the league). The number of teams in each division will be determined by the Competition Committee.

All 12U teams participating in the League are required to participate in their designated Festival which is the final event of season. Only teams that participate in the PNAHA 12U League may participate in the Festival. The exception is if there is no League, then each PNAHA association may declare teams at the PNAHA Winter Meeting.

# LEAGUE TEAM COMPOSITION

**Team Composition.** All members of a given team must be no older than the maximum age limit defined by the team level. However, a player may “play up” at a level older than his age if permitted by their association and any applicable PNAHA and USA Hockey rules.

All teams entered in the state-sanctioned league must be certified with USA Hockey.

**Non-PNAHA teams** may be allowed to play in the league. This is a year-to-year accommodation and is subject to the approval of the PNAHA Board of Directors. Teams from associations that are non-voting members of PNAHA can win the League Championship. All game results from games played against non-voting members will be removed when seeding the teams prior to the PNAHA State Tournament.

For the purposes of league play, team may have a maximum of twenty (20) players, in which not more than 18 are skaters permitted to play in a game on the roster with a maximum of 18 players. Each team must have a designated Head Coach, and only four (4) Team Officials are allowed on the player’s bench during a game.



**For the purposes of league play**, no player may be added to the roster of a National Bound team after December 31st of the season, except with the approval of the Pacific District Registrar. For State Bound teams, players may be added to the roster in case of injury. All requests must be sent to the Competition Committee Chair in writing and have a majority approval from the Competition Committee.



**Documentation.** Each player must be a member in good standing of USA Hockey.

All teams must maintain the proper documents as required for USA Hockey certification and follow both USA Hockey and PNAHA rules and regulations.

All team personnel must maintain CEP certification levels, Safe Sport certification and have a current background screen.

# LEAGUE SCHEDULING

## **League Play and Tiering.**

- League play will generally occur between September and 14 days prior to the State Tournament/Festival.
  - If tiering games are required to determine divisions or competitive placement, those games may be scheduled in late September or at another time determined by the Competition Committee to best accommodate team and facility availability.

## **League Scheduling.**

- A minimum of four (4) teams is needed to require a league to be scheduled.
- A League Scheduling Meeting will be held at least two (2) weeks prior to the first scheduled games for each respective age classification. All teams in the league are required to have a representative at this meeting.
- Once the League Schedule is posted on the official PNAHA website, the schedule becomes official, and it shall become a commitment for the participating associations for the year's play.

## **Failure to Play as Scheduled.**

- Failure to play a scheduled game without prior approval from the League Commissioner shall result in reimbursement of the documented, reasonable expenses incurred by the host association, including ice rental, officials' fees, and administrative costs. Administrative costs may include, but are not limited to, payments to off-ice officials and any host hotel rebates that would have been received had the offending team played the scheduled game.
  - The host association must submit all documented expenses to the League Commissioner within ten (10) days of the missed game. The League Commissioner will review and approve the expenses and forward the approved amount to the offending team. Payment by the offending team to the host association shall be made within thirty (30) days of notice.
  - A fixed administrative fee of \$250 shall also be assessed by PNAHA to cover league oversight and discourage avoidable cancellations. The offending team shall remit this fee within thirty (30) days of notice from the League Commissioner. All payments shall be forwarded to the PNAHA Treasurer for deposit into the PNAHA League Operations budget, designated specifically to support officiating and scorekeeping development, including referee and scorekeeper education, clinics, mentorship programs, and related training materials.
  - Failure to remit payment of either the reimbursable expenses or the \$250 administrative fee within the prescribed timeline may result in sanctions, including but not limited to the team being deemed ineligible to participate in its respective State Tournament, Festival, or other PNAHA-sanctioned postseason events.

# LEAGUE GAME LENGTHS

- Teams are not permitted on the ice prior to the referees being on the ice.
- There will be no time-outs during league games.

**Game Lengths.** In all cases, teams will use the available ice to the best possible advantage. League games will be played with the following stop-clock periods. Periods of play may be shortened utilizing the listed formula; however, periods of play are not to exceed the times as listed.

Division/ Age Group	Game Length	Warm-Up	Time Between Periods	Period Length	Ice Scrapes
<b>16U &amp; 18U Tier II</b>	Minimum 1.5 hour games	4 minutes	1 minute	3 seventeen (17) minute stop clock periods	Optional; If there is an ice scrape, minimum 1.75 hour game
<b>14U Tier II</b>	Minimum 1.5 hour games	4 minutes	1 minute	3 sixteen (16) minute stop clock periods	Optional; If there is an ice scrape, minimum 1.75 hour game
<b>12U, 14UB, 16UB, 18UB</b>	1.5 hour games	4 minutes	1 minute	3 fifteen (15) minute stop clock periods	No ice scrapes
<b>10U (Full Ice)</b>	1.25 hour games	3 minutes	1 minute	3 thirteen (13) minute stop clock periods	No ice scrapes

**Note:** Prior to the third period, if the timekeeper and referee feel there is not sufficient time to play the period as listed, the referee will notify both teams that it is necessary to shorten the period by a specific number of stop-time minutes.

This is determined by the following formula: Actual ice time remaining divided by 2 equals the time on scoreboard. This must be noted on the score sheet by the referee. The revised playing time shall be shown on the clock at the commencement of the third period.



# HOME/AWAY DUTIES

## Home Team Responsibilities.

- Provide ice for home games (game lengths outlined on Page 9).
- Schedule officials.
  - 10U will use a 2-referee system.
  - 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U will use a single referee and two linesmen system whenever possible. (A two referee and two linesmen system is permitted for 14U, 16U or 18U).
  - A 2-referee system may be used in the event that 3 officials are not available.
- Provide electronic scorekeeping for all league games utilizing the PNAHA electronic scorekeeping vendor.
  - Each score sheet will be checked indicating that this is a scheduled league game and will include the game number on the scoresheet. The game number is located on the league schedule provided to each participating association.
- Head Coaches must review the roster and must note any players or team officials serving a suspension on the scoresheet.
  - Any team playing an ineligible player will forfeit two (2) league standing points and will suspend its head coach for 30 days. The opposing team will be credited with two (2) league standing points and will record a “1-0 forfeit” win as outlined in the USA Hockey Guidelines.
- Provide off-ice officials, i.e., timekeeper, scorekeeper, penalty box volunteers.
  - All off-ice officials—scorekeepers, timekeepers, and penalty box personnel—must be at least sixteen (16) years of age for all PNAHA league games.
- Schedule locker room access.
- Wear light jerseys, if available.
- Leave the ice after the visiting team has left the ice.

## Visiting Team Responsibilities.

- Wear dark jerseys, if available.
- Provide a penalty box volunteer if asked by the home team manager.
- Leave the ice immediately after the handshake.
- It is important to recognize that game times vary occasionally due to unseen conflicts. Because of this, be sure to call or email the team you will be visiting to verify your game times and dates. If you should discover an error in the schedule, please notify League Commissioner immediately at [commish@pnaha.com](mailto:commish@pnaha.com).



# LEAGUE INFORMATION

**Host Hotels.** Teams participating in the league are required to adhere to the PNAHA Sponsor Hotel policy. Failure for a visiting team to comply with the PNAHA Sponsor Hotel policy will carry a financial penalty of **\$400.00 per night** to the team in violation of the policy. The fine will be payable to the host association.

**State League Standings.** Points for games shall be 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and no points for a loss. Standings will be determined as follows:

1. Most points obtained
2. If two or more teams are tied for any position, standings will be determined by the current USA Hockey tie breaker rules as stated in the current National Tournament Guidebook.



**League Discipline.** All PNAHA league games shall be conducted in full accordance with the current disciplinary rules and procedures of USA Hockey, including but not limited to USA Hockey Playing Rules, USA Hockey Bylaw 10, and the USA Hockey Standardized Discipline Policy.

Any supplemental disciplinary action, hearing, or suspension administered at the affiliate or local level shall be consistent with these standards and any current PNAHA Suspension Guidelines.

## League Champions.

There will be a banner awarded to the league champion for 14U, 16U, 18U, and 19U.



# LEAGUE MANAGEMENT

The Competition Committee shall elect a **League Commissioner** who will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the League to ensure teams are in compliance with PNAHA League Rules.

The role and responsibilities of the League Commissioner are:

- The regular management of the League, including assisting in the scheduling, ensuring accuracy of game statistics, maintaining public record of league standings, etc.
- May appoint additional volunteers, with notification to the committee of any such appointment, to support them in administrative functions (scheduling, statistics, etc.). The committee, by a majority vote, shall have veto authority over any such appointment.
- Shall be available to League team coaches and managers to offer clarification and guidance regarding all league matters.
- Conduct scheduling meetings at least two weeks prior to the first scheduled game for each respective age classification. all teams in the league are required to have a representative at this meeting.
- Secure League banners for League champions.
- Preparing League reports for the Committee Chair to present at each PNAHA meeting.
- Be available to support the Committee Chair at each PNAHA meeting.
- The Commissioner shall be allowed expenses to all meetings as required by PNAHA. These expenses include meals and lodging, commercial transportation, when necessary, in the performance of his/her duties. All expenses shall be allowed with the submission of a written statement, documentation of expenses and receipts to the Treasurer for payment.

