

# OCEANSIDE ADULT HOCKEY LEAGUE HANDBOOK





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## I. LEAGUE CONTACTS

### 1. OAHL Management

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AAHA Adult Hockey Director & Disciplinary Committee Member

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**Crystal Koontz** – Assistant Adult Hockey Director/ Statistician

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Office (480) 941-0944 x.25 - [brad.priest@oceansideicearena.net](mailto:brad.priest@oceansideicearena.net)

### 2. OAHL Advisory Board

**Sean Whyte**

**Scott Ferris**

**Brad McCaughey**

**Sherri Koshiol**

## II. LEAGUE INFORMATION

### 1. OAHL non-checking USA Hockey-Sanctioned Adult Hockey League

- A. OAHL is governed by USA Hockey Official Rules of Ice Hockey
- B. Review the USA Hockey rulebook at [usahockey.com](http://usahockey.com)
- C. OAHL reserves the right to strengthen USA Hockey rules

### 2. League Eligibility

- A. Adults 18 years of age and older
- B. Must have completed Oceanside Ice Arena registration and be assigned to a team roster.
- C. Players are expected to play in a league commensurate with their skill level. OAHL reserves the right to determine a player's skill level and to deny a player participation in a league that is above or below that player's skill level.
- D. All players must have a current Adult/Coach USA Hockey membership.
- E. USA Hockey registration can only be completed online at [usahockey.com](http://usahockey.com).
- F. Must be in good standing with Oceanside Ice Arena, Desert Youth Hockey Association, and Arizona Amateur Hockey Association (state sub-affiliate of USA Hockey)
- G. All players must be paid in full or have an agreed-upon payment plan in place.

### 3. Leagues' Reservation of Rights

- A. OAHL is committed to providing a safe hockey league. OAHL reserves the right to suspend, expel, or otherwise deny any player from playing that OAHL determines, in its sole discretion, to be detrimental to the safe operation of the hockey league.
- B. OAHL reserves the right to review, alter, add, or delete its rules and procedures at any time. Teams and players are encouraged to check the Oceanside Ice Arena website for the latest version of the handbook.
- C. OAHL reserves the right to consider special circumstances in regards to its rules and procedures. In order to protect the integrity of the league OAHL may alter rules and procedures without notice if it is in the best interest of the league as a whole.

### III. LEAGUE PAYMENT INFORMATION

#### 1. League Payment

- A. Payments can be made online, or in person with by Credit Card, Cash, or Check.
- B. Returned checks are subject to a \$25 fee.
- C. Please retain the payment receipt for proof of payment.
- D. OAHL enforces a strict NO PAY, NO PLAY policy.
- E. Discounts are available for players in multiple leagues and for goalies.
  - 1. Discounted payments cannot be paid online, they must be done in-person or over the phone.

#### 2. League Discounts

- A. Only one discount available per player.
  - 1. The only way to get more than 1 discount is if you play goalie in 2 (or more) leagues.
- B. Players receive a 30% discount on 2nd league enrollment
  - 1. Only applies to players playing on teams made up of players paying individually.
  - 2. AND they pay for their original league in full.
    - a) Additional leagues must be paid in full prior to the first game.
  - 3. Multi-league discount applies to a third league.
    - a) As long as the player's skill level is appropriate for that league.
- C. Goalies receive a 50% discount on league fees.
- D. Goalies are not eligible for the multi-league discount. They are already getting 50% off league fees for each league they play goalie in.
  - 1. A goalie who skates as a player in a different league pays full price for that second league.

#### 3. League Refund/ Credit Policy

- A. Refunds and credits will be granted on a case by case basis. Requests must be made by email to the League Director.
- B. A refund or credit may be granted for an injury that requires a player to miss at least 50% of the season. Documentation may be requested to verify the injury.
- C. A refund or credit may be granted in the event a player's employment requires that the player permanently move or temporarily work out of state which results in the player missing at least 50% of the season. Documentation may be requested to verify the job relocation.
- D. Refunds and credits are not granted for suspensions or expulsions from the league.
- E. Refunds and credits are not granted for injuries caused by a player fighting or doing any other prohibited activity on or off the ice.
- F. Refunds and credits are not granted for failing to show up to games.
- G. OAHL reserves the right to deny any request for a refund or credit.

## IV. LEAGUE RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. **Regular season game format**
  - A. 4 minute warm-up period
  - B. Three 15 minute stop time periods
  - C. Tied games at the end of regulation are decided by a 3-player NHL format shootout.
2. **Playoff game format**
  - A. 4 minute warm-up period
  - B. Three 15 minute stop time periods
  - C. Tied games at the end of regulation go to a 10 minute sudden-death 5-on-5 stop time period. If still tied at the end of OT the game is decided by a 3-player NHL format shootout.
3. **Seeding for playoffs**
  - A. Seeding is determined by:
    1. Points
    2. Wins
    3. Head-to-head record
    4. Goal differential
    5. Fewest PIM
    6. Coin flip
4. **Points**
  - A. A win in regulation or shootout is 2 points
  - B. A loss in shootout is 1 point
  - C. A regulation loss is 0 points.
5. **Running Time/ Mercy Rule**
  - A. If at any time during the game an 8 goal differential exists the game will go to running time.
    1. If the differential becomes less than 8 goals the game will return to stop time.
  - B. A game may go to running time without an 8 goal differential or be prematurely ended if any of the following apply:
    1. The OAHL supervisor on duty determines that a game is getting too dangerous
    2. The game will not finish in the allotted time as a result of excessive penalties and/or unsportsmanlike conduct.
    3. Both teams decide to go to runtime
6. **Uniforms and Equipment**
  - A. All players must wear a HECC approved helmet with proper straps, elbow pads, shin guards, gloves, and hockey skates. Shoulder pads, hockey pants, facemasks/ visors, and mouth guards are not required but HIGHLY recommended.
  - B. All players on a team must wear the same color jersey with a unique number.
7. **Team Representatives**
  - A. Each team must have an appointed team representative who will coordinate effectively and regularly via email, phone, and in-person with OAHL management.

- B. Team reps are to take the lead in communicating the league rules to the players and to ensure that all players are league eligible.

8. **Officials and Scorekeepers**

- A. Referees are contracted by OAHL from the Arizona Hockey Referees Association.
- B. AHRA is the only officials association sanctioned to do USA Hockey games in AZ.
- C. The scorekeeper 'runs the show' they administer the game procedures. The referees do not operate the league.

9. **Alcohol**

- A. Alcohol and tobacco is strictly prohibited on the player bench
- B. Alcohol use by players (and officials) immediately prior to and especially during a game is not permitted per the USA Hockey Annual Guide. If an official or league administrator witnesses a player consuming alcohol prior to a game, that player should be instructed that they are not allowed to take the ice. If an official believes that a player is intoxicated they will be instructed to talk to the captain of the team to have the player removed from the ice. If the captain does not cooperate or is unable to get the intoxicated player off the ice then the official will have to assess the intoxicated player a Game Misconduct. This procedure comes directly from the Rocky Mountain District Referee-in-Chief.
  - 1. Rule 601 (g) states: The use of tobacco products or alcoholic beverages by any player or team official is prohibited in the rink area, including the bench areas and off-ice official area. A warning shall be issued by the Referee for the first offense by any participant and any subsequent violations by the same team shall result in a bench minor penalty being assessed.

10. **Music**

- A. Amplified music of any type is prohibited on the player benches, spectator seating areas, lobby, and dining room. Inside the locker rooms is the only place where music is allowed. Music is also prohibited in the parking lot and exterior entryway without prior approval. Music violations will be handled in the same manner as alcohol on the bench. First the referee will issue a warning followed by escalating penalties.

11. **Video Monitoring**

- A. Oceanside Ice Arena records all activities on the ice and in the arena (except locker rooms).
- B. At our discretion we reserve the right to view the recordings to assist in the investigation of any and all incidents.

## V. ROSTER

1. **Teams comprised of players paying individually:**
  - A. Team may roster up to 17 players and a goalie.
  - B. Team is required to have a minimum of 15 full-time paid players
    1. One of these can be the half-price goalie.
  - C. Team may roster up to 3 additional players as “subs”.
    1. They are part of the 17 players and a goalie roster.
  - D. Subs are required to pay \$30 per game prior to the game.
    1. They can pay in person at the game or call prior to the game to pay by phone.
2. **Teams comprised of a team paying the team fee:**
  - A. Team fee must be paid in full prior to the first game in one transaction.
  - B. Team may roster up to 18 players including the goalie (17 players, 1 goalie)
  - C. No distinction between full-time players and subs, therefore no \$30 sub fees.
3. **Minimum number of games needed to play for playoffs**
  - A. To be eligible for playoffs a player must play in a minimum of 1/3 of the games during the season (preseason game counts also) unless an exception is granted by the OAHL.
4. **Roster freeze date**
  - A. All rosters are frozen after the 2/3 point in the season unless permission is granted by the OAHL. (I.e., After game 8 in a 13 game season, or 14 in a 21 game season)
5. **Forfeits**
  - A. OAHL considers forfeits to be unsportsmanlike to your opponent and are to be avoided at all costs.
  - B. A forfeit is declared if a team uses an illegal player or has less than 6 players (5 players and 1 goalie or 6 players and no goalie) in attendance.
  - C. If a game is played that is later deemed a forfeit then the forfeiting team is awarded the loss and gets credit for 0 goals scored for standings and player stats. The non-forfeiting team is awarded the win and gets credit for a 1-0 victory.

## VI. SUBSTITUTES

1. **Substitute Players**
  - A. Substitute players, on a non-team fee team, must pay \$30/game at the time of play.
  - B. **ONLY** rostered players may play in OAHL games. Subs that are not rostered and/or do not have a current USA Hockey registration may not play. Subs may not play until rostered and approved by the OAHL.
  - C. In addition to being rostered, subs must be evaluated and approved to be of appropriate skill level for the league in which they are playing.
2. **Exceptions to Sub Player Rule**
  - A. An ex-teammate or somebody’s brother/sister comes to town for a visit and would like to join for a game... **Email** or call the League Director to ask for permission at least 48 hours PRIOR to the game. If the proposed player is of the appropriate skill level, is registered with Oceanside

and USA Hockey, and pays the \$30 sub fee, then we will do our best to accommodate the request.

3. **Substitute Goalies**

- A. Sub goalies **DO** need to be Oceanside Ice Arena and USA Hockey registered.
- B. Sub goalies do NOT need to be rostered and they do NOT pay the sub fee of \$30.
- C. In playoff games, any sub goalie must be pre-approved by the League Director.

## VII. ILLEGAL PLAYERS

1. **An illegal player is...**

- A. **Not** registered with Oceanside Ice Arena
- B. **Not** currently registered with USA Hockey
- C. **Not** in good standing with Oceanside Ice Arena, Desert Youth Hockey Association, or Arizona Amateur Hockey Association
- D. **Not** rostered on the team for which they are playing
- E. **Not** current in regards to league fee payments
- F. **Suspended** one or more games
- G. In playoffs- did not play the minimum number of regular season games to be eligible

2. **Penalty for illegal player participation ...**

- A. Game will be declared a forfeit win for the opposing team.
- B. The opposing team will receive a 1-0 forfeit victory in the standings.
- C. Regarding statistics, both team's penalties and goalie shots will be recorded but only the non-forfeit team's goals and assists will be recorded.

3. **Rules Governing Play**

- A. O AHL is a USA Hockey sanctioned adult league
- B. O AHL is governed by USA Hockey adult 2017-21 rules UNLESS strengthened by specific O AHL rules included in this handbook

## VIII. PENALTIES

1. **Penalty Types**

- A. **Minor** penalty – 2 minutes
- B. **Major** penalty – 5 minutes plus automatic Game Misconduct Penalty
- C. **Misconduct** penalty – 10 minutes
- D. **Game Misconduct** penalty – 10 minutes plus ejection from that game plus suspension for at least 1 additional game.
- E. **Match** penalty – 5 minute Major penalty plus 10 minute Game Misconduct penalty plus ejection from that game.
  - 1. Officials submit Match Penalty Report to USA Hockey, Arizona Amateur Hockey Association, and O AHL.
  - 2. AAHA Disciplinary Committee has up to 30 days to schedule a hearing during which time the player is suspended from all USA Hockey activities. Match penalty suspensions are typically 30 days to 1 year.
- F. **Three (3) penalties rule** – modified 401(b): Upon being assessed a third penalty in the same game the player is immediately ejected from the game with no further suspension unless one of the penalties is a Major penalty or Game Misconduct penalty that warrants suspension.

*\*\*\*This OAHL rule strengthens the USA Hockey rule 401(b) that uses 5 penalties as the maximum.*

**2. Penalty Assessments**

- A. All Major penalties, Game Misconducts, and Match penalties are reviewed and investigated by the League Director. When necessary the OAHL Advisory Board will be consulted.
- B. Game Misconduct penalties carry a minimum 1 game suspension. Depending on severity and frequency, the suspension could range from 1 game to league expulsion.
- C. Behavior off the ice but on still on property is subject to Game Misconduct penalties and suspension.
- D. Suspensions must be served in the player's next scheduled game in the same league in which the suspension occurred.
- E. OAHL supervisor will call Tempe police if it is determined that a player has committed an act either on the ice or off the ice that is possibly a violation of state laws. Oceanside Ice Arena will aid in prosecution if pressing charges is necessary.

**3. Fighting**

- A. Fighting is not tolerated in OAHL games.
- B. Fighting is a major penalty with a mandatory Game Misconduct penalty.
- C. A fighting penalty results in the player getting ejected from the game plus serving at least a 1 game suspension for the Game Misconduct penalty.

**4. Checking**

- A. OAHL is a non-checking league. Depending on the severity, checking will result in a Minor penalty up to a Major penalty with Game Misconduct.

**5. Icing**

- A. Center red line is used for icing calls.

**6. Excessive Penalties in Minutes (PIMs)**

- A. Any player who accumulates an excessive total of PIMs is subject to supplemental discipline including, but not limited to, a hearing with the OAHL advisory board or Director, suspension for games, and expulsion from the OAHL.