

# Some New and Changed NORCAL Rules 2011

Citation	Rule	Explanation/Interpretation
3.5	<p>Notwithstanding Rule 2.6, a team recognized by CAHA as eligible to compete for the USA Hockey High School Division II championship may be included in a NORCAL schedule.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High School teams participating in a NORCAL schedule are not eligible for NORCAL Playoffs.</li> <li>• High School teams may be relegated by the Placement Committee to an appropriate competitive level.</li> </ul> <p>No NORCAL team may prevent a rostered player from participating on a CAHA High School Division II team and be considered in good standing with NORCAL.</p>	<p>Allows "Pure" HS teams to find games within NORCAL or to be put in the NORCAL schedule as an exhibition team (as has been done for other teams in the past)</p>
4.1	<p>All adult coaches and all other adult participants with routine contact with players must comply with USA Hockey and CAHA screening requirements before participating in any USA Hockey, CAHA, or NORCAL event. Non-compliance will result in a minimum one-year suspension for the non-complying person, a fine of \$250 to the club, and, in the event the unscreened person is a coach, forfeiture of all games played during the time in which the unscreened coach was active. Note that this rule intends to punish clubs and teams for unscreened coaches participating in practices.</p>	<p>Zero tolerance for ANY violation whatsoever of CAHA/USA Hockey screening requirement.</p> <p>"routine access" will be interpreted for adults on ice to mean more than once.</p>
4.7	<p>Mite-age players must sign up to play at the rink closest to their primary residence unless approved by the NORCAL General Manager.</p>	<p>Rule extended to all mites. This rule applies to mite players in programs participating in NORCAL mite events</p>
4.9	<p>Without specific permission of the NORCAL General Manager, players must play only at the lowest age level for which they qualify under USA Hockey rules with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A player, in an age group allowing body checking, who by birth is in the last year of his age classification may skate up one age classification following submission of a properly completed NORCAL "Consent to Skate Out of Age Division" form.</li> <li>• A mite-aged player may play on a squirt team for a club that has not declared or registered a NORCAL mite program.</li> </ul> <p>Playing Below Age Classification. Playing below the USA Hockey assigned age level is not permitted.</p> <p>To be eligible for NORCAL playoffs, a team must play all games and tournaments at the competitive level at which they compete in the NORCAL schedule, with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Games with teams within NORCAL,</li> <li>• Games or tournaments before September 10 or after January 31 of the current season with prior notice to the NORCAL General Manager.</li> <li>• A High School Team may play games against any age-appropriate NORCAL opponent .</li> </ul>	<p>This rule eliminates playing above age level in most circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The only players who may play up without permission of the General Manager are second year Bantams to Midget.</li> <li>• Mites will not be allowed to move out of a mite program to a club with no mite program in order to play up at squirt.</li> </ul> <p>Amend playing at competitive level by allowing games within NORCAL and prohibiting games out of NORCAL between September 11 and January 31.</p> <p>Allow HS teams to play any age-appropriate team they can get to play them</p>
4.12.C	<p>Played or participated in a NORCAL-scheduled preseason, tournament, or regular season game with a team or</p>	<p>In definition of "joining a team," new rule eliminates in-game "tryouts" by non-rostered players.</p>
4.15.D	<p>The following players are not eligible for a Competitive Advancement Release:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players on a disbanded Tier team formed jointly between two clubs.</li> <li>• PDR Players on a team relegated to a lower competitive level.</li> <li>• Players playing above their expected age level or attempting to do so.</li> <li>• Mites or Squirts.</li> </ul>	<p>Extends limitations on CAR to include PDR relegated players (this change necessary to be in line with rule 4.16.B)</p>

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4.16.B	No team which was created initially as a Tier team or announced as a tier team prior to holding tryouts shall be permitted to participate in NORCAL league play competing for a NORCAL championship as an "A" or "B" team while retaining players from other NORCAL clubs who joined the club with the expectation that the team would be a Tier team without express approval of the NORCAL Board.	Wording change to current rule.
4.19	Block recruitment is not allowed at Tier II, "A," or "B" levels. Block recruitment has occurred when A) a club has within its rostered player base 25% or more players who were rostered with another single NORCAL member club during the previous playing season; or B) a team's roster contains four or more players who were rostered with another single NORCAL member club during the previous season.	No AA, A, or B team can have 4 or more players that played with a single different club the previous season. No club can have more than 25% of its players who played on the same different club the previous season.
5.3	In all NORCAL games, all teams shall comply with all USA Hockey, CAHA, and NORCAL rules. Under no circumstances will any rule be waived by consent of any participants, coaches, or game official. Failure to comply with all rules subjects teams to possible game forfeits and coaches to suspensions.	This rules eliminates all negotiating of playing rules such as blue pucks, touch-up icing, fighting, etc..
5.10	Each player must properly wear as intended by the manufacturer USA Hockey approved protective equipment as specified by all applicable rules for the duration of each game while on the ice, players' bench, or penalty box. Referees will check out every player prior to each game. Players reporting to their team after the referee's checkout may not go on the ice until a supplemental check has been completed. The penalty for noncompliance is a misconduct penalty. No warning need be given before assessing this penalty.	Player safety, especially regarding concussions, requires equipment such as helmets, cages, and mouthguards to be worn properly.  This requirement in NORCAL rules acts as a warning and no further warning need be given by on-ice officials before assessing a game misconduct.
6.2	Game misconduct penalties called by on-ice officials are not subject to review except for procedural errors. The affected team's club president may make a request for review by the NORCAL General Manager. The club president must provide a copy of the game score sheet containing the game misconduct penalty in question. Request for review must be made within 24 hours of the end of the game in question. The General Manager will decide if the game misconduct penalty stands or not. No other game result will be affected. The General Manager's decision is final.	Specifies process for appealing to GM in event procedural errors are alleged
8.2	Tier II (AA), "A," and "B" playoffs shall be conducted to determine the first and second place teams from among the four qualifying teams at the Squirt, Peewee, Bantam, Midget 16 ("AA" and "A" only), and Midget ("AA" and "A" only) levels at the end of regular season play. The General Manager shall issue rules governing playoff team qualification, each playoff format, and the playoff schedule of games	Changes "top four" to "four qualifying" to eliminate ambiguity and to allow our East/West B-League playoff format
8.3.D	In the case of a B division with two groups, the General Manager may determine a cross-over format to allow one or more teams in both of the B divisions to compete for places in the NORCAL B Playoffs.	Allow our playoff format
9.3.B.ii	Decline relegation. Teams declining relegation are not eligible to participate in any NORCAL league and are not eligible for any NORCAL playoffs. Teams in NORCAL Tier league may not play any team declared tier that NORCAL Placement Committee relegates to A/B.	Minor modification to relegation rule clarifying what teams a reluctantly relegated team may play.

There were several other rules changes in addition to those included in this summary. For clarity as to exact wording, refer to NORCAL rules document.