



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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To: All Athletic Administrators and Ice Hockey Head Coaches

Re: NFHS vs. USA Ice Hockey Playing Rules

Good afternoon and happy Friday!

We wanted to reach out and address recent questions regarding teams playing by NFHS or USA Ice Hockey rules during contests involving non-OHSAA member school/USA Hockey teams. We understand that many of our member schools have scheduled contests against teams that fall under the non-OHSAA member/USA Hockey distinction. Further, while using USA Ice Hockey rules is in direct violation of our regulations that are set forth, we realize that forcing schools to adjust a large portion of their schedules for the 2019-20 season would be difficult on all ends. However, we are working to ensure the rules and regulations set forth by the OHSAA are followed by each of our member schools in the future.

With that being said, for the 2019-20 season, when competing against non-OHSAA member/USA Hockey teams, schools can use the following guidelines to determine which set of rules shall be used during that contest:

- In contests where OHSAA member schools are scheduled to play non-OHSAA member/USA Hockey teams, and the OHSAA member school is hosting the game, shall be played using NFHS Ice Hockey Rules
- Contests in which OHSAA member schools are scheduled to play non-OHSAA member/USA Hockey teams, and the non-OHSAA member/USA Hockey team is hosting the game, shall be played using USA Ice Hockey rules unless both coaches agree to use NFHS playing rules
- Contests during holiday and other local ice hockey tournaments in which OHSAA member schools are participating can be played using either NFHS or USA Ice Hockey rules at the discretion of the tournament manager

Thank you for all that you do and please let us know if you have any questions. Have a great start to your season!

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