



City of Aspen Recreation - 2026-27 Adult Hockey League Rules

Player Registration

1. League fees are determined at the beginning of each season and costs vary from season to season.
2. **USA Hockey Registration IS REQUIRED for the Winter/ Summer 2026-27 Season and USA Hockey Insurance Coverage will apply to our 2026-27 Season. We will need a current, valid USA Hockey Certificate from every Player & Goalie.**
3. Captains Register their Team, and their roster must register individually to Join that Team before the Deadline on www.aspenrecreation.com.
4. The teams are confirmed in a first-come, first-serve order of who pays their fees and fills their roster. See below for Registration Instructions.
5. New Teams must be submitted by July 31st of the previous Summer. All new teams are evaluated and reviewed for time and schedule availability before being accepted.
6. **Team Captains are responsible for prioritizing parity in skill level across teams in the league.**
7. **Participants are required to be residents of the Roaring Fork Valley.**

NEW FOR 2026-27 ALL PLAYERS MUST COME SIGN IN AT FRONT DESK PRIOR TO EACH GAME AND BEFORE TAKING THE ICE!!!

Teams and Equipment

- **All teams are required to wear matching jerseys with individual player numbers. Each rostered player needs their own number. Numbers may not be shared by 2 people. Subs are excluded as they will not get stats for teams they do not play on.**
- Hockey helmet with strap snapped is required for all players. Half shield or cage is strongly recommended but is not required.
- Winter League minimum number of players is 5 and a goalie to start the game.
- To pick up a sub, your team needs to have seven or less players at the start of game.
- You may pick up enough players to match the opposing team's quantity (ex. 7v7 not 8v7), or up to a max of 10 players.
- **Subs must have a valid, verified USA Hockey Membership and must be registered with the City of Aspen. NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- Subs must be in the same league or lower (goalies can sub up but not down a league).
- Subs may sub up in a higher league up to 3 games total. After 3 games, that player will be automatically moved up to that team's roster and division. Captains are responsible for keeping track of their subs.
- Any Sub must be agreed on by both Captains before the drop of the puck. It is the responsibility of the captain needing the subs to contact the opposing captain.
- If subs are agreed on, a game will be played as normal. If not, the team can choose to forfeit and scrimmage or play short with the players on hand.
- Any team using an ineligible player will forfeit by a score of 1-0 and the captain of the violating team will receive a 1 game suspension. An ineligible player/ goalie is defined as *any* or a combination of the following:
 - o The player is NOT registered to play with the City of Aspen.

- o The player or goalie has NOT submitted a verified USA Hockey # to Lee Liebmann before the start of the game.
- o The player is NOT listed on the roster, or is an unapproved substitute by opposing captain, is red flagged by USA Hockey or is a suspended player.

Penalties *(all penalties will be USA Hockey rules unless noted below)*

- Any player who incurs 4 penalties in one game receives a game misconduct and is suspended from the team's next game (someone must serve any non-ten-minute penalties). Double minors count as 2 infractions, as do 5-minute majors' penalties.
- Any player who receives 4 penalties in one game a second time in the season will receive a game misconduct and be suspended for 2 additional games.
- If a player receives 4 penalties in a third game during the season, they will be suspended for the remainder of the season without refund.
- If there is a Game Misconduct penalty the player is removed from their current game immediately (someone must serve any non-ten-minute penalties) and is suspended for a minimum of 1 game pending a review.
- If there is a Game Match penalty the player is removed from their current game immediately (someone must serve any non-ten-minute penalties) and is suspended indefinitely until the disciplinary board is convened and a ruling is given or after 30 days pass, whichever is first.
- All game misconducts are a minimum of 1 game and will be reviewed for further disciplinary action.
- Fighting is an automatic ejection, 1 game suspension to start, pending review for further suspensions up to 1 year with the possibility of expulsion from the league. If warranted, law enforcement will be contacted. There will be ZERO tolerance for fighting. No refunds for suspensions/ expulsions. If ejected from a game, the player or goalie must leave the building. Refusing to leave the building will result in law enforcement being called.
- Fighting off the ice will result in an automatic ejection from the building, 1 game suspension and a pending review for return to play. Law enforcement will be contacted.
- Checking from behind is assessed as a 2-minute minor plus a 10-minute misconduct or a major, or a major plus a game, or a match penalty.
- Any dangerous plays with an attempt to injure, or the appearance to attempt to injure anyone may result in suspensions and a disciplinary hearing with a formal hearing to return to play.

RESPECT OF OFFICIALS – Minimum 1 game suspension + review

- The City of Aspen has a ZERO tolerance policy disrespect of officials that can result in immediate ejection and a game suspension; disrespect can be in the forms of, but not limited to, cursing, arguing, yelling, intimidation, physical altercations, etc.
- Only the captain of each team has the privilege of discussing with the referee any question related to the interpretation of the rules that may arise during the game (the captain may leave the bench to do this but cannot leave if they are in the penalty box).

- Any other player who speaks disrespectfully to the referee may be given a bench minor, major, misconduct, or game misconduct at the referee's discretion. Cursing at the referee or scorekeeper will result in a penalty, game misconduct, and/or suspension.
- Upon second infraction of this clause, players will be immediately removed from the league pending review.
- **AIG or LIA Ice Staff have the authority to remove a player even if the referee does not.**

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Anyone who acts, commits, incites, or aids others in committing any of the following acts of unsportsmanlike conduct will be subjected to discipline. There is no appeals process for any of these unsportsmanlike conducts, and if a suspension occurs, no refund will be given.

1. Hitting, striking, pushing, or any contact deemed threatening towards any City of Aspen employee
 - a. Discipline: Immediate suspension and ban from City of Aspen recreation facilities and programs. Suspension reviewed by Hockey Commissioners, one year recommended
2. Hitting, striking, pushing, or any contact deemed threatening towards another participant, spectator, member, guest, user, etc.
 - a. Discipline: Immediate suspension and ban from the City of Aspen recreation facilities and programs. Suspension reviewed by Hockey Commissioners, one year recommended
3. Threatening physical harm or verbally abusing a City of Aspen employee, participant, spectator, member, guest, user, etc.
 - a. Discipline: Immediate suspension and ban from the City of Aspen recreation facilities and programs. Suspension reviewed by Hockey Commissioners, one month recommended
4. Causing damage to equipment or facility (i.e. spitting chew on the floor, damaging a bench, etc.)
 - a. Discipline: Immediate suspension and ban from the City of Aspen recreation facilities and programs. Suspension reviewed by Hockey Commissioners, one month recommended
5. Playing without payment or on a different team without consent
 - a. Discipline: Forfeiture of game and Captain of offending team gets a 1 game suspension

Game Format & Playing Rules *(all playing rules will be USA Hockey rules unless noted below)*

- All games have an 18-minute running clock. If a team cannot start the game on time due to absence of a goalie or too few players, they will start with 6 players – one acting as the goaltender.

- The last 1 minute of the first two periods will be stop time as well as the last 3 minutes of the third period if the goal differential is 3 goals or less.
- If a game is running late due to a situation arising from the current game (injured player, fight, etc.) the game's 3rd period may be shortened.
- If a game starts late due to an issue with the facility, the game will be played with normal times.
- If a game is going to start late due to player delays (i.e. not lining up for puck drop in a timely manner), the clock will begin running even if play has not begun.
- Altered game times are at the discretion of the league commissioner.
- Games may be rescheduled due to extreme weather conditions. Games may be rescheduled outside of normal playing days due to schedule constraints. If teams cannot make the rescheduled time/ date, the game will be cancelled.

Ties

- If the game is tied at the end of regulation, there will be a 3-man Shootout.
- If still tied at the end of 3 shooters, there will be a sudden death shootout up to 5 shooters maximum.
- If still tied at the end of shooters, the game will end in a tie.

General Rules

- No body checking is allowed in any division.
- ZERO Tolerance for repeated unnecessary contact.
- ZERO Tolerance for fighting.
- **Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the arena.** Violation of this rule will result in the suspension of the player for the remainder of the season with no refund. The League Commissioner, Ice Rink Staff, and Referees reserve the right to remove anyone suspected of playing under the influence of alcohol.
- No player will be allowed to play if intoxicated. No non-players allowed on benches. Violation of this policy will result in immediate suspension from the league to be determined by the league commissioner.

Season Format

The length of each season will be determined prior to the start of each season. Captains will be notified via email of the season dates, as well as the pre-season captain's meeting (if applicable).

- **REGULAR SEASON**
 - Depending on League, League will consist of 16 games between the dates of Oct. 27th and March 19th. Check with your team captain to receive your schedule, or view online on the Aspen Recreation Hockey page
- **PLAYOFFS**
 - To Be Determined
- **REGULAR SEASON RECORD TIEBREAKER FOR PLAYOFF SEEDING:**
 - Points
 - Head-to-Head
 - Least Goals Allowed
 - Least Amount of Penalties
 - Coin Flip

Schedule Design

- The schedule is set up to have the teams play each other an equal number of times, if possible. If the division has an odd number of teams that may not be possible. It is also designed to try and keep the numbers of early, mid, and late games evenly distributed. The league strives to keep it as balanced as possible. The same goes for game times, one team may play more late games, but it will be a small differential.
- Game times may alter throughout the season as there are other events that may interfere with game times.
- If Junior Hockey is on break, games will be consolidated to single nights and may be scheduled earlier than normally scheduled game times.
- Games for each division will almost always occur on the same night of the week throughout the season. It is possible, however, that an occasional game (including playoff games) may be scheduled on an alternate night of the week to facilitate rink scheduling. Schedules for the season will be available online at <http://www.aspenrecreation.com/adult-activities/hockey/>. If there are any changes during the season, the team captain will be notified, and it is their responsibility to disseminate the information to their team.

Playoff Format

- Single elimination will be determined prior to each season.
- Playoff Seed Tie Breakers (in order)
 - o Points
 - o Head-to-Head Record
 - o Least Goals Allowed
 - o Least Amount of Penalty Minutes
 - o Coin Flip
- Standings, schedules and league messages can be found online at <http://www.aspenrecreation.com/adult-activities/hockey/>
- Overtime
 - o 5-minute sudden death period.
 - o If the score remains tied at the end of overtime a 3-person shootout will be used to decide the game.
 - o If after 3 shooters, the score is tied, it will be a sudden death shootout with each team getting an equal number of shots. No shooters can shoot twice until everyone on their team has taken a shot in the shootout.

Communication & Contact Information

- Before doing anything, talk to your captain. If the problem is team-related, he/she should be able to help. If not, contact the league commissioner (below) for guidance.
 - o Lee Liebmann – lee.liebmann@aspen.gov

Make-Up Games/Reschedules, Refunds/Fees

- There may be NO MAKE UP GAMES OR RESCHEDULES due to limited ice availability.
- There will be NO REFUNDS if we reach the midway point of the season
- There will be no League Drop-In Fee Options
- NO PRORATIONS for games missed