



8U SCAHA Guidelines

Purpose of 8U hockey - To provide a fun, safe environment for all players involved while maximizing playing time and development, keeping in mind that the key factor to grow long term hockey players is fun. This is a NO Score-Keeping League with NO Stats to ensure that coaches, families, and players focus on the big picture of learning, growth, and fun. The adults involved (referees, coaches, managers, and parents) are responsible to create and uphold a positive culture that instills fair play, sportsmanship and always puts the player first.

USA Hockey Recommendations for 8U

- Roster size 6-12 skaters, no full-time goalies, equal playing time.
- SCAHA does not have minimum or maximum roster size (must have enough players to play).

8U A, B and C (Gretzky Division)

- Participate in 12 Jamboree Events (September - March), 13th season ending tournament for 8UA only.
- Half ice games, 4 teams per Jamboree.

Schedule

- Teams should be prepared to play at all SCAHA club locations.
- All games will be pre-determined and posted on the SCAHA's website, host teams will be highlighted on website.

Jamboree Events

- Host rink will post Jamboree Matchup Form in central, visible area to ensure all teams can see jersey assignments.
- Upon Arrival to Jamboree event, Team Managers need to locate Lead Host Manager with sign in sheet.
- Team Manager has their coach sign roster sticker and gives to Lead Host Manager to place on sign in sheet.
 - SCAHA has implemented a pre-printed sign in sheet, please follow instructions on SCAHA website.
- Following event, Lead Host Manager needs to email a copy of the sign in sheet to Rob Foster, lahockeyfan2@yahoo.com. Email should be sent no later than Monday following the Jamboree.

Game Format:

- Each game is **24 minutes** running time.
- Buzzer every **90 seconds** of play for player changes.
- There will be one, three (**3**) **minute warm up** for all teams, prior to the start of the first game.
- After each game, clock is set for **2-minute transition time**, teams shake hands and immediately report to their next game bench destination to start up play as soon as possible.
- All games are 4v4 with a goalie.
- All games use blue pucks.
- Intermediate (48 x 36) ADM nets are required.

Permitted on Ice Personnel

- Referees assigned by LAHOA.
- ALL on ice rostered coaches **MUST** be wearing a helmet secured with chin strap and wearing skates.
- If there is only one coach for a team and the coach does not have proper equipment, the team should be moved to the nearest player's bench so the coach can stand and interact with his/her team, while not on the ice.

Penalties: USA Hockey states at the 8U level players need to begin to understand the following:

- **Acceptable On-Ice Conduct** – Acceptable conduct should be taught and reinforced. Unsportsmanlike conduct is the broad term covering this topic, but acceptable conduct should relate to teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, etc. This is the beginning of teaching players to be good sports and to respect everyone involved with the game.
- **Allowable Contact with Opponents** – Players should learn what types of physical contact are allowed with an opponent. Players should learn the importance of having their stick on the ice in puck battles, so that good body-contact habits are

established early. The players should also begin to learn the types of physical contact that are not allowed, **such as body checking, checking from behind, slashing, tripping**, etc. While these young players are not at an age where they should be lectured as to the types of illegal contact, they should be made aware when they have made contact in a way that violates the rules.

Two Types of penalties will be called:

- **Dangerous plays:** Defined as any play that endangers that safety of another player. At 8U level collisions will happen but any major stick infractions or dangerous body contact as stated above should be called.
- **In the clear scoring chances:** Defined by any player in the clear attempting to attack the other net for a breakaway and is tripped or hooked down or purposely impeded, a penalty is called. **In the clear scoring chances** are when a penalty is called, players go to their benches and puck is put at center ice for a penalty shot with the goalie (if the buzzer rings during this process, let the player complete the penalty shot). This process should be done quickly to not waste time.

Major Penalty: If a major penalty occurs the player is removed from the jamboree and referee writes in the infraction on the sign in sheet. A major penalty is determined by SCAHA referee guidelines.

Faceoffs: Face-offs occur at center ice, as follows:

- After a goal is scored.
- After a penalty shot.

The face-offs should be done immediately when a minimum of 1 player from each team lines up for the faceoff - referees don't need to wait for all players to get there.

Line Changes: There should not be clear scoring opportunities following line changes, pucks should be pushed wide or to 'quiet' areas to create 50/50 battles.

On puck out of play: Referees should have extra puck in their pocket to put in nearest corner of play. If referee does not have extra puck, they will retrieve puck and put puck into play at nearest corner to create 50/50 battle.

On goalie covers: Referees must command offensive team to back off from goalie so referee can get puck from goalie. Referee will play puck to nearest corner to create 50/50 battle.

Locker Rooms

- In many rink locations teams will be asked to share locker rooms.
- At 8U depending on your club policy, parents can be in the locker room to help their child get dressed, please ensure that all members of your club abide by [USA Hockey's SafeSport](#) locker room guidelines.
- For the protection of all our players, a NO CELL PHONE POLICY in the locker room must be followed.

Jamboree Matchup Format: A, B and C (Gretzky Division) (4) team Jamboree (2 half Ice games)

Jamboree #	A				B				Jersey Assignments					
Location									Dark		White			
Date & Time									T1		T3		T2	
	A				B									
	Game 1:		T1		T3		Game 1:		T2		T4			
	Game 2:		T1		T4		Game 2:		T2		T3			
	Game 3:		T1		T2		Game 3:		T4		T3		Game 3: *jersey change T2 & T4*	