



Northwest Amateur Hockey League (NWAHL) Information Sheet 2025-2026 Season

I. Background

The Northwest Amateur Hockey League (NWAHL) understands every amateur hockey association and their teams have different needs and limitations. NWAHL attempts to accommodate teams by using a flexible scheduling approach. Our standings are based on winning percentages, which allows teams to play an unequal number of games during the season. While we cannot accommodate every request, we will do our best to meet every team's needs within reason. In addition, NWAHL makes every effort to keep league costs at a minimum to help reduce the rising costs of playing hockey.

II. League Communications

NWAHL recognizes that every amateur hockey association operates differently. Each association participating in NWAHL is responsible for notifying the League Commissioner about who will serve as its points of contact. The points of contact may be the hockey director, coach, manager, and/or designated person. The League Commissioner is not responsible for determining who will serve as the association's or team's points of contact. However, the association's points of contact must be able to address all issues and questions that arise during league meetings or the season within a reasonable amount of time.

III. Eligibility and League Participation Requirements

1. All teams participating in the league must be properly registered with USA Hockey and their respective USA Hockey Affiliate.
2. NWAHL shall hold an initial league planning meeting in June of each year. All associations or teams interested in participating in NWAHL for the upcoming season shall submit their preliminary declarations specifying the number of teams and age divisions by May 31, 2025.

3. After receiving the preliminary declarations, the League Commissioner shall schedule the league planning meeting in June with at least 14 days notice to all associations or teams through their designated points of contact.
4. At the league planning meeting, all associations or teams shall make their final declarations to play in the league for the upcoming season.
5. The League Commissioner has full discretion to approve or deny an association's or team's request to join the league based on whether it can meet NWAHL's eligibility and participation requirements.
6. All teams must commit to playing a minimum of six league weekends, unless the League Commissioner approves fewer weekends. A team requesting to play fewer than 6 league weekends shall make such a request in advance of the league planning meeting.
7. At the league planning meeting in June, each association and team shall be able to answer the following questions:
 - a. How many teams will participate and in which age divisions?
 - b. How many league weekends is each team requesting?
 - c. Is the team willing to fly for league games?
 - d. Does the team want to host and/or participate in Jamboree or Super Weekends as described in the Section IV. below?
8. Following the league planning meeting, the League Commissioner shall submit a proposed league format to all associations for review and approval no later than July 10th. Teams shall have 72 hours from notification of the league format to request adjustments, which the League Commissioner has discretion to approve or deny.
9. Teams accepted to participate in NWAHL shall submit their available weekends for home and away games for the upcoming season by July 15th unless a later date is approved by the League Commissioner. Ice times are not required on that date.
10. The league schedule for the upcoming season shall be published to all associations and teams by the first Friday following the first Monday in August, unless teams fail to meet the July 15th deadline to submit their available weekends.

11. After the initial league schedule is published, teams have 72 hours to request adjustments, which the League Commissioner has discretion to approve or deny. Once the League Commissioner has issued the final schedule, no team may reschedule a game without approval from the League Commissioner.
12. All teams are required to play other NWAHL teams that are within an 8-hour driving distance from their designated home arena. Teams may host or participate in Jamboree and Super Weekends on a voluntary basis.
13. Teams accepted into the league that have only one team within an 8-hour driving distance are required to travel outside the 8-hour driving distance from their home arena and may be required to participate in Jamboree or Super Weekends.
14. Teams shall play a minimum of two league games per weekend if the visiting team is traveling less than a 6-hour driving distance. However, those teams may play three games if agreed upon by both teams. If the visiting team is traveling a driving distance of 6 hours or more, then the teams shall play three games on the weekend.
15. Home teams are required to cover the costs of games, including ice time and referees, when playing another NWAHL team in their home arena.
16. All teams shall be available for NWAHL playoffs. The specific weekend will be agreed upon by the teams at the league planning meeting in June. All teams are required to split the costs of playoff games, including ice time and referees, regardless of whether one of the teams is playing in its home arena.
17. All teams are required to pay a \$500 league fee to help cover the costs of the league website, banners, insurance, and other administrative costs. The league fee is due by July 31st.

IV. Jamboree and Super Weekends

1. A Jamboree Weekend consists of a home team hosting two visiting teams, or three teams playing at a neutral location. The costs of games between the visiting teams shall be split between those teams and paid directly to the hosting association or its designated ice arena. The costs of all games against the home team are covered by the home team as stated above. If playing at a neutral location, the cost of all games shall be split between the three teams and paid directly to the arena hosting the weekend.
2. Super Weekends consists of a home team hosting three or more teams, or four or more teams playing at a neutral location. The costs of games between the visiting teams

shall be split between those teams and paid directly to the hosting association or its designated ice arena. The costs of all games against the home team are covered by the home team. If playing at a neutral location, the cost of all games shall be split between the three teams and paid directly to the ice arena hosting the weekend.

V. Game Requirements

1. All USA Hockey Playing Rules apply to regular season games unless a more restrictive NWAHL rule is in effect.
2. All games slots must be a minimum of 90 minutes.
3. 14u regular season games shall be three 16-minutes stop time periods.
4. 16u and 18u regular season games shall be three 17-minute stop time periods.
5. For 90-minute slots, warm-ups shall be 4 minutes and a 1-minute break between periods. For slots 105 minutes or longer, warm-ups shall be 5 minutes and a 1-minute break between periods.
6. For 105-minute slots or longer, there shall be an ice cut between the second and third periods.
7. There are no timeouts during regular season games.
8. There shall be no running time during league games. At the start of the third period, if there is less than 32 minutes remaining for 14u games or 34 minutes remaining in the ice slot for 16u and 18u games, the third period shall be half the allotted time remaining for ice slot.
9. Unless otherwise approved by the League Commissioner, 14u games shall have a minimum of three referees, and 16u and 18u games shall have four referees.
10. Home teams are required to provide a copy of their scoresheets to the League Commissioner within 24 hours of the last game of the weekend.

VI. League Standings and Playoffs

1. All team managers are required to enter their regular season game scores and statistics into the designated league website within 48 hours of the final game of each league weekend.

2. League standings are based on winning percentage, which is calculated by dividing the team's total points vs. the total number of available points (2 points per game multiplied by the total number of games).
3. If there are 9 or fewer teams in an age division, the top 6 teams shall attend the league's playoffs. If there are 10 or more teams in an age division, the top 8 teams shall attend playoffs.
4. The League Commissioner shall establish playoff rules at least 14 days prior to the league playoffs.
5. Playoffs shall be held at a location determined by the League Commissioner, and NWAHL will make all reasonable efforts to hold playoffs at a location that is within an 8-hour driving distance of all participating teams, if possible.