



NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT OFFICIALS – August 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the August 2024 edition of the New England District Newsletter!

2024 Registration: USA Hockey registration is in full swing. As a reminder, for the **2024-25 Membership season only**, online ZOOM seminars will include educational content, modules, and playing rules exercises. Officials may register for a seminar in any state and be able to officiate in any state. Optional Ice sessions will be established for new level 1 officials in New England starting in mid-August. Level 1 officials are highly encouraged to attend an ice session in order to better understand positioning and game play. Please refer to our web site (NEDOFFICIALS.COM) for dates and times of the optional ice sessions. During some ice sessions, scrimmage games will be played in order for new officials to be accustomed to the flow of the game. Again, please sign up for ice sessions under the seminar tab (look for New England ice sessions). **USA Hockey registration ends October 31, 2024. All requirements for certification MUST BE COMPLETED by December 31, 2024.**

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Neck Laceration Protection: Neck laceration protection requirements began August 1 for players in all age classifications, other than adult, during both games and practices, as well as for on-ice officials under the age of 18.

A neck laceration protector that is “designed for that purpose” is a piece of equipment that is specifically designed for protecting the neck area from cuts and abrasions while playing hockey. A common turtleneck sweater, headband or other clothing article that was never designed for protecting hockey players will not satisfy this rule. Game officials are strongly encouraged to use best judgement while determining if the equipment was designed for hockey, and protecting the neck from cuts, and always err on the side of protecting the player.

Additionally, hanging plastic goalkeeper throat protectors do not satisfy this rule due to the fact that they are not designed as neck laceration protectors, and they do not offer protection to the sides and rear of the neck. In short, all goalkeepers must wear a neck laceration protector in addition to any optional equipment they wear to protect the throat and neck area from shots.

If a player’s neck laceration protector comes off during play, the play shall be allowed to continue until the next stoppage. At which point the player must replace the equipment or be substituted for by another player. This interpretation is treated the same as mouthpieces.

With regard to enforcement, if a player enters the game without a neck laceration protector, they shall be ruled off the ice and a team warning shall be issued to that team, and any further violation by that team shall result in a misconduct penalty being issued to the offending player.

What is the penalty for not wearing a neck laceration protector? - Rule enforcement will be the same as any other equipment violation: an initial team warning followed by a 10-minute misconduct penalty for any violations after the initial warning.

What is the best neck laceration protector to use? Does it matter what kind I buy? - Choose a neck laceration protector that covers as much of the exposed neck area as possible and is worn properly without alteration.

If my parent signs a waiver giving me permission not to wear neck laceration protection, can I play without it? NO

USA HOCKEY BACKGROUND SCREEN

All officials who are 18 years-old (or older) by June 1, 2024 must submit to a USA Hockey sanctioned Criminal Background Screen. USA Hockey Background Screens are valid for two seasons, and no screening process performed by an outside entity will be accepted.

Development Camps: We're excited to inform NED official's that the NAPHL Officiating Program (NOP) will be returning to New Hampshire this November! Operated by the NAHL Officiating Department (NOD) in partnership with the New England District, this program is a fantastic opportunity for officials seeking to advance their careers.

Education: Enhance your skills and knowledge in officiating.

Exposure: Work at high levels of youth hockey.

Experience: Gain valuable experience and receive coaching to excel.

Key Details

Event Dates: November 22 – 24, 2024

Location: Hooksett / Exeter, NH

Level of Play: T1ER 18U, 16U, 14U

Application Deadline: September 1, 2024

Space for the event is limited, and selection will be based on the qualifications and availability of applicants. Please note that submitting a Show-of-Interest application does not guarantee assignment. The final roster will be approved by the NAHL Manager, Officiating and NED Referee-in-Chief.

How to Apply – Contact Charlie Trembley (Trembleyc2717@gmail.com) if you are interested, deadline to apply is September 1, 2024.

Officials Web Site – NEDOFFICIALS.COM: As a reminder, New England officials maintain our own web site. Please continually refer to the site for upcoming events, rule books, development camps and other information.

2025 Nationals Update: A National tourney will be held locally this year as the Girls Tier I (14U, 16U, 19U) will be hosted on April 1-6 in Marlborough, Mass.

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