

## MICHIGAN CRITERIA FOR “APPROVED SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS”

### Introduction:

The Michigan Amateur Hockey Association Rules & Regulations, Section I-B(4.a) require all recognized associations to have *”a USA Hockey Skills Development Program with a minimum of 6 players the first year, and a minimum of 15 players by the third year of existence, and must continue to support its existence to nurture the game of youth hockey”*.

The Michigan Coaching Education Program has set out these criteria as requirements to satisfy the above rule, especially the continued support provision. The MAHA District Council which oversees each association may ask for evidence of compliance at any time.

### Criteria:

1. The Skills Development Program (SDP) must accept players from ages 4-10 years, of both genders. Younger players may be accepted at association discretion. It is strongly recommended that an SDP should accept players through age 15 if coach and ice time resources exist.
2. The SDP must demonstrate that it uses the USA Hockey Skill Development curriculum as contained in its manuals (A-D), and that all of its on-ice instructors have achieved Level 1 of the USA Hockey Coaching Education Program by the required date.
3. The SDP program must offer participants at least 30 hours of instruction (an hour being a minimum of a 50 minute ice time) per hockey season (Sept-March).
4. Children must be allowed to participate in the SDP for multiple full hockey seasons, if desired by their parents, before participating on a registered team.
5. There must be no strings on SDP participation. The program must be open to all comers until the available ice resource is filled, and no one must be required to participate in subsequent association programs in order to enroll in the SDP.
6. Programs with insufficient numbers of players to meet the MAHA Rule (above) may formally ally with other SDP programs in a joint effort. Such alliance must be done annually, in writing, agreed to by both association boards, with copy to District Chairperson.
7. The association must meet the above six criteria by December 31 of each season in order to be considered in compliance with MAHA Rule I-B(4.a).