



RULES AND REGULATIONS

AFFILIATE OF USA HOCKEY

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Article I. PREAMBLE

USA HOCKEY, INC. - PREEMINENCE

USA Hockey Inc., a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation ("USA Hockey"), is the national governing body for the sport of amateur ice hockey, as designated by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee ("USOPC") pursuant to the Amateur Sports Act of 1978 ("Sports Act").

USA Hockey is the duly authorized representative of the International Ice Hockey Federation ("IIHF") with exclusive jurisdiction over the conduct of the play of the sport of amateur hockey as sanctioned by the IIHF within the United States of America.

Pursuant to an "Affiliate Agreement" made between USA Hockey and the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association (AAHA or Affiliate), the AAHA is authorized to develop and administer the sport of amateur ice hockey within the geographical jurisdiction of the AAHA, which includes Delaware, New Jersey, and Eastern Pennsylvania.

As such, the AAHA must abide by and act in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations, Playing Rules, and decisions of the Board of Directors of USA Hockey and the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF).

Further, the AAHA shall assist USA Hockey in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Playing Rules, and decisions of the Board of Directors of USA Hockey within and upon its members and/or within the jurisdiction and agrees to be guided by the core values of USA Hockey.

Article II. AAHA MEMBERSHIP AND USA HOCKEY REGISTRATION

A. PLAYERS, COACHES, MANAGERS, VOLUNTEERS, ON-ICE OFFICIALS

1. Participant Registration: Each participant (players, coaches, managers, on-ice officials, volunteers) must register annually with USA Hockey at www.usahockey.com. Participant registration is complete when the individual member registration information and all appropriate fees are received, and the participant is processed by a USA Hockey Member Association.

Participants gain AAHA membership by completing their annual USA Hockey registration. They are then assigned a USA Hockey membership number and processed by an AAHA member Association. All Associations

must process all registered members of their Association into the USA Hockey Registry to complete their USA Hockey registration. This process must be completed before participating in a USA Hockey-sanctioned event.

2. Registration Fees: The registration includes the payment of USA Hockey fees and Affiliate fees. The Affiliate fee and any fee increases are voted on by the AAHA Board of Directors. The breakdown of the annual AAHA registration fees is available on the AAHA website.
3. Liability Insurance: USA Hockey fees include coverage under the USA Hockey liability insurance policy, making all members eligible for indemnity coverage in specified suits and other benefits provided under the USA Hockey group insurance policy. Insurance becomes effective on the date teams are fully registered and all fees are paid in full.

B. ASSOCIATIONS

1. Association Membership: An Association applies to become a member of the AAHA by completing the AAHA Membership Application. If accepted by the AAHA President or designee, the applicant must execute the AAHA Association Agreement. The AAHA Association Agreement defines the requirements for membership in the AAHA, including compliance with its Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Policies, etc. (Governing Documents). Upon completion and approval of the AAHA Membership Application and receipt of the executed AAHA Association Agreement, an Association Code will be issued by USA Hockey.
2. AAHA Association Agreements: Agreements do not need to be resubmitted annually, but the AAHA may, from time to time, update this Agreement, which will require resubmission as relevant. The AAHA requires all approved Associations to submit an annual Association Request for Information (RFI) form. This form must be submitted to gain access to the USA Hockey Registry. This RFI will include data points such as Association leadership names and contact information, website URL, home rink, etc. It may also include required annual USA Hockey Certifications (e.g., Association SafeSport compliance) and any other relevant documentation as prescribed.
3. Plurality: A sanctioned USA Hockey Member Association, as determined by its applicable Affiliate, must register all its teams in the USA Hockey Affiliate in which the greatest percentage of the Member Association's players reside, as described in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, "Proper Affiliate for Team/Association Registration."

Article III. LEAGUE SANCTIONING AND RECOGNITION

Only leagues that are sanctioned by the AAHA pursuant to its Governing Documents and leagues located within the geographical area of the AAHA and are recognized by USA Hockey shall be entitled to the rights and benefits of the AAHA and be eligible for National Tournament Play. All new league applicants shall meet the requirements of the AAHA Governing Documents, comply with the probationary provisions, and be in good standing to obtain final sanctioning and recognition from the AAHA President or Designee. All sanctioned leagues and leagues located within the geographical area of the AAHA that are recognized by USA Hockey warrant that they shall comply with, and adhere to, the AAHA Governing Documents then in force in the AAHA to maintain AAHA sanctioning and recognition.

A. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEAGUE SANCTIONING

- 1.** To be designated as a Sanctioned league approved by the AAHA President or Designee, a league applicant must demonstrate that it meets each of the following requirements:
 - a.** Be registered under the laws of its state of residence as a non-profit corporation; and
 - b.** Have received within 180 days of league application 501(c)3 tax status from the United States Department of the Treasury; and
 - c.** Have a minimum of eight (8) member Associations with at least four (4) teams in each of two (2) age categories, each of which is qualified to advance toward a National Championship by USA Hockey (e.g., four (4) 12U and four (4) 14U teams);
 - d.** Be governed by an executive board and board of directors that have been duly elected through a representative election process from among its member teams; and
 - e.** All component league teams must be located within the geographical boundaries of the AAHA, unless the league provides advancement to AAHA Districts for AAHA teams, based upon competition only amongst those AAHA teams; and
 - f.** Be governed by written bylaws that the AAHA has approved; and
 - g.** Follows USA Hockey ADM Policies.
 - h.** All prospective league members shall comply with the requirements of the AAHA Governing Documents. Failure to comply with the AAHA Governing Documents can result in the revocation of League Sanctioning.

B. PROCEDURE FOR SANCTIONED LEAGUE RECOGNITION

- 1.** To request Sanctioned League recognition, a league shall submit an application to the AAHA President or Designee. The AAHA President shall present all applications received for consideration to the AAHA Executive Committee. Approval of the application will be granted by a 3/4 majority vote of the AAHA Executive Committee.
- 2.** Probationary Status of New Leagues - Once approved for admission by a three-quarters (3/4's) majority vote of the AAHA Executive Committee, all new leagues shall be approved on a conditional or probationary basis ("Probationary League Sanction") for a period of one (1) year following their approval vote. At the first Annual Meeting following their probationary admission, the AAHA Executive Committee shall make a recommendation to the full Board on whether the Probationary League Sanction shall be made permanent. The full Board shall thereafter decide by a two-thirds (2/3s) majority vote whether to accept or reject the Probationary League Sanction for permanent League Sanctioning.
- 3.** Admission/Rejection of League Sanction - If the AAHA Board approves a Probationary League Sanction, the League shall be accepted for full league sanctioning. If the Board votes to reject a Probationary League Sanction, the vote shall be final, and the League shall not reapply for league sanctioning for a period of not less than one (1) year.
- 4.** Status of Probationary League Sanction Pending Permanent Sanction Vote - Leagues granted Probationary League Sanction shall not have voting rights in the AAHA during the one-year probationary period. Once accepted for full league sanctioning, the new League and its constituent teams shall have representative voting rights within the AAHA in accordance with the prevailing Governing Documents.

Article IV. TRYOUTS

A. TRYOUTS

- 1.** At the end of each playing season, all players are free to try out for any USA Hockey Member Association on the official AAHA Tryout Dates, which are published on the AAHA website.

B. TIME FOR TRYOUTS

1. Associations and/or Teams may not hold tryouts for the upcoming season before the official AAHA tryout dates, as published on the AAHA website.
2. Any Association and/or Team that provides a written contract or requires the collection of money from a player or a player's family, parent/guardian, before the official AAHA tryout dates shall be subject to sanctions. See the USA Hockey Annual Guide for more information on www.usahockey.com.
3. Associations and/or Teams may not hold tryouts, evaluations, training camps, skills sessions, or any other program that includes players not currently registered with that Association before the official AAHA tryout dates.
4. Associations and/or Teams found in violation of AAHA Governing Documents may be subject to suspension and/or sanctions in accordance with the USA Hockey Annual Guide.

C. SIGNING PERIOD

1. A player may not be signed to a contract for the following season before the official AAHA tryout dates. All player contracts must include the player's team age classification and level before being signed by the player and the parent or guardian.
2. For 13-Only through 19U, player contracts are valid from the date the player contract was signed until 48 hours after the conclusion of the USA Hockey National Championships of that season (the first day of tryouts for the following season).
3. For players 12U and younger, player contracts are valid from the date the player contract was signed until 48 hours after the conclusion AAHA District Championships of that season (the first day of tryouts for the following season).
4. Additional information on roster restrictions is provided in the Rosters Article.

Article V. ROSTERS

A. REGISTRATION OF TEAMS

1. In accordance with the USA Hockey Annual Guide, Team Membership and Registration, all AAHA Association teams must:
 - a. Register with USA Hockey in the manner prescribed.
 - b. Register their teams through the official USA Hockey Registry.
 - c. Be in good standing with the AAHA.

B. ELIGIBILITY AND SEASON DATES

- 1.** USA Hockey defines the regular season as September 1st through August 31st. The AAHA recognizes that some of its teams may begin their playing season sooner than September 1st. The AAHA Registrar designates the earlier season start date in the USA Hockey Registry Technical Bulletin each year to permit the AAHA playing season to begin before September 1st. All team rosters must be approved by the AAHA Registrar before the first game is played.
- 2.** In accordance with the USA Hockey Annual Guide, all teams must be registered and approved before playing any games. Deadlines for registering teams are as follows:
 - a.** Approved Tier I (AAA) teams - October 15th
 - b.** Approved Tier II (AA, A, B) teams - February 15th
 - c.** Approved High School (Scholastic) teams - February 15th

C. PLAYER ROSTERING

- 1.** Roster Forms: All Associations must submit USA Hockey rosters for approval using the USAH Registry to participate in USA Hockey-sanctioned games and tournaments. Specific details regarding roster approval requirements may be found in the USA Hockey Registry and the AAHA Technical Bulletin, published each season.
- 2.** Tier I/AAA Youth – 2 Player Roster Rule: The Tier I/AAA Youth 2 Player Roster Rule limits the number of eligible players who can be rostered on a USA Hockey Tier I/AAA Youth Team.
 - a.** No team can be the recipient of more than two (2) players from any single Tier I/AAA or Tier II Youth or Girls team from another Association's previous season team (10U classification and higher).
 - b.** Players exempt from this provision are those who:
 - i.** Play at the 18U Youth level; or
 - ii.** Move up or transfer from within the same Association or from the prospective Tier I/AAA team's feeder team(s), provided the player(s) were on the same Association or feeder team's roster in the previous season; or
 - iii.** Attend an on-ice tryout with their original Association and are subsequently cut or are not offered a player contract.
 - iv.** Join an Association that is based at the same ice arena that the Head Coach's and/or Assistant Coach's team used for the majority of their practice and home game ice in the prior season.
- 3.** Tier I/AAA Girls – 2/4 Roster Rule: The Tier I/AAA Girls 2/4 Player Roster Rule limits the number of eligible players who can be rostered on a USA Hockey Tier I/AAA Team.

- a. No team can be the recipient of more than two (2) players from any single Tier I/AAA Youth or Girls team from another Association's previous season team (10U classification and higher).
 - b. No team can be the recipient of more than four (4) players from any single Tier II Youth or Girls team from another Association's previous season team (10U classification and higher).
 - c. Players exempt from this provision are those who:
 - i. Play at the 19U Girls level; or
 - ii. Move up or transfer from within the same Association or from the prospective Tier I/AAA team's feeder team(s), provided the player(s) were on the same Association or feeder team's roster in the previous season; or
 - iii. Attend an on-ice tryout with their original Association and are subsequently cut or are not offered a player contract.
 - iv. Join an Association that is based at the same ice arena that the Head Coach's and/or Assistant Coach's team used for the majority of their practice and home game ice in the prior season.

- 4. Tier II Youth and Girls Rosters: A Tier II Youth or Girls team shall not roster more than three (3) players from another Association's Tier II roster where the Head Coach and or Assistant Coach were on the other Association's previous season's roster. Example: Coach Smith from Association "A" leaves after the current season to coach for Association "B" at the same age level and category, or the next older age level or category. Only three (3) players from Association "A" can be rostered for the coming season on Coach Smith's upcoming season team. Players exempt from this provision are those who:
 - a. Attend an on-ice tryout with their original Association and are subsequently cut or not offered a player contract.

- 5. Girls teams at Tier II 14U and 16U National Tournament Bound levels: No team can be the recipient of more than two (2) players from any single Tier II Girls 14U or 16U National Tournament Bound team from another Association's previous season team. Players exempt from this provision are those who:
 - a. Attend an on-ice tryout with their original Association and are subsequently cut or not offered a player contract.

- 6. Non-Tier I, Non-Tier II, Youth or Girls Teams, and Independent Teams: The roster of a Non-Tier I, Non-Tier II, Non-National Bound, Independent Team and/or Tournament Team in Youth or Girls categories shall not roster more than two (2) players who appeared on another Association's Tier I Youth or Girls National Tournament Bound Roster, or four (4) players who appeared on another

Association's Tier II Youth or Girls National Tournament Bound Roster from the previous season. Players exempt from this provision are those who:

- a. Legitimately try out with their original Association and are subsequently cut, or who are not offered a player contract.
- b. Join an Association based at the same ice arena that the Head Coach's and/or Assistant Coach's team used for the majority of their practice and home game ice in the prior season.

D. PLAYER VERIFICATION

1. All players must complete the Player Verification process, as outlined on the AAHA website.

E. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Notwithstanding the in-season player movement rules herein, during the season, a player may play ice hockey for only one Association.

F. DUAL ROSTERING

1. Players may only appear on one USA Hockey roster with one Association during the USA Hockey regular season - September 1 (or as permitted by the AAHA Registrar) through the end of the USA Hockey National Championship Tournament, with the following exceptions:
 - a) A Junior team as permitted by the USA Hockey Junior Affiliated player rule.
 - b) AAHA recognized scholastic teams (play in a scholastic league).
 - c) AAHA in-house and recreational teams.
 - d) AAHA Affiliate-sponsored teams.
 - e) AAHA In-Season Tournament team as outlined in the In-Season Tournament rule.
2. Girls may be dual rostered on one (1) Youth and one (1) Girls travel Association team. However, at the 12U level and higher, the dual rostered player must declare in writing to the AAHA Registrar by February 15th on which National and/or District Championship Bound team the player wishes to be eligible to participate should both teams advance to AAHA post-season play.

If the player does not indicate which team she wishes to be eligible for District, State, Regional, and National Tournaments, the AAHA Registrar shall have the final authority to certify the eligibility of any such player solely based on the date the earliest team roster registration form is received, as provided above.

G. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

1. No player may be added to a team roster or participate with a team within the AAHA if the player has an outstanding financial obligation to the player's previous USA Hockey-registered Association until it is resolved with the previous Association and a financial release has been issued.
2. It is recommended that each Association include a notice in its player contract stating that the person signing the player contract agrees to be bound by this Article regarding Player Eligibility, the AAHA's Outstanding Financial Obligation List, Releases, and Appeals.
3. All Association payment plans should be in writing.
4. Associations may submit a list of players who have not satisfied their financial obligation to the AAHA by March 1st of the current season to have the players' names added to the Outstanding Financial Obligation List. This list shall be published and distributed to all AAHA Associations. Players named on the list will not be permitted to be added to any AAHA roster until their financial obligation is satisfied. Once the financial obligation is satisfied, the Association must notify AAHA to remove the player's name from the Outstanding Financial Obligation List. It is recommended that Associations notify the signatory(ies) of the player agreement by no later than February 28th of the Association's intent to add the player's name to the Outstanding Financial Obligation List.
5. Any player who is placed on the AAHA Outstanding Financial Obligation List has the right to appeal in accordance with the Suspensions, Protests and Resolution of Disputes Article if they disagree with the Association's inclusion of their name on the list.

H. NATIONAL/DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP AGE ELIGIBILITY

1. Pursuant to USA Hockey - District, State, and National Championship requirements, players 12 years old and younger shall be prohibited from being rostered on any Youth or Girls teams older than 12U, with the following exceptions:
 - a. 12U youth players playing in a 14U non-checking youth classification.
 - b. A 12-year-old goaltender may be rostered on the 14U-A or 14U-B team of the same Association where the player was rostered the previous season, provided the Association's Coaching Director submits a 12U Goaltender Waiver Form available on the AAHA website, and it is approved by the AAHA. The team rostering the underage goaltender is not eligible to compete in the USA Hockey National Championship Tournament or in any regular season games or playoffs leading up to it.

The proposed goaltender must have been rostered and played on a travel team from the immediate prior season with the same Association requesting the waiver. New players to the Association are not eligible. If granted, the waiver is non-transferable to another Association.

I. EXCEPTIONAL STATUS AT TIER I-16AAA

1. AAHA National Tournament-bound 16U AAA Youth teams may only roster two (2) underage players (those defined as eligible to play on a 15 Only team). There is a one (1) player limit for a player who was rostered with a different AAHA Association the previous season. The total number of players permitted to be rostered is two (2) players.

J. TIER I AND TIER II GIRLS ROSTERING

1. Tier I and Tier II AA and A 14U teams: No underage players are permitted to play up to 14U AA; however, up to two (2) 12-year-old Girls may play up on a Girls 14U Tier II team that is not District or Tournament-bound.
2. Tier I and Tier II AA 16U teams: A maximum of two (2) second-year 14U players may play up at 16U. First-year 14U players are not permitted to play up.
3. Tier I and Tier II AA 19U teams: Unlimited second-year 16U players may play up to 19U. First-year 16U players are not permitted to play up.

K. SHORT/SPLIT SEASON ELIGIBILITY

1. TO BE ADDED AT A FUTURE DATE

L. IN-SEASON INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT ROSTERS

1. Definition of In-Season Invitational Tournament Rosters: Rosters formed for a team to participate in a USA Hockey-sanctioned tournament during the current season, September 1st through the conclusion of the USA Hockey National Championship Tournament.
2. Approval of Rosters: In-Season Invitational Tournament Rosters will be approved, providing all players on the proposed roster are current members of the Association requesting the Invitational Tournament roster, with the following exceptions:
 - a. A team is permitted to roster up to three (3) additional temporary players who are not current members of their Association, provided the following steps are taken:

- i. Written authorization is obtained from the temporary player's current Association, permitting them to participate with the Invitational Tournament team temporarily for the Tournament dates specified.
- ii. This authorization must be provided by an Officer of the Association who is not related to the Player and who is not the Coach.
- iii. Associations owned by the same legal entity, operating within the same building, shall not be subject to the three-player limit.

Article VI. IN-SEASON PLAYER MOVEMENT AND RELEASES

A. COMMITMENT TO TEAM

1. During the season, the player agrees to play ice hockey exclusively for the contracted Association, except that the player may also participate in hockey for the player's scholastic, recognized house or recreational teams, Invitational Tournament Teams (per in-season Invitational Tournament rules), any AAHA-sponsored teams, any USA Hockey Junior programs with affiliated players, and girls playing on youth teams in the same or another Association.

B. IN-SEASON PLAYER MOVEMENT

1. In-season player movement is defined as a player who is already contracted in writing to play for an AAHA Member Association and is seeking an unconditional release to play for another AAHA Member Association within the same season. The only in-season player movement permitted is as follows:
 - a. A Tier I player requesting to move to another Tier I Association must follow the USA Hockey Annual Guide, receive an unconditional or conditional release from the Association is rostered with, and have been dropped from the releasing Association's team's USA Hockey roster.
 - b. A Tier I player may move to Tier II if the player receives a financial release from the Association is rostered with and has dropped from the releasing Association's team's USA Hockey roster.
 - c. A Tier II player may move to another Tier II team, provided the player receives an unconditional or conditional release from the releasing Association the player is currently rostered with and is dropped from

the releasing Association's team's USA Hockey roster.

C. RELEASES

1. Unconditional release: An unconditional release is the complete discharge of the player's obligation to the releasing Association/Team without any restrictions.
2. Conditional release: A release conditioned on some agreement between the player and parent/guardian and the releasing Association.
3. Financial release: The releasing Association/Team may grant a financial release if the player has met all financial obligations outlined in the player contract.
4. Associations are not obligated to grant in-season releases.
5. All releases must be in writing from the releasing Association President or Designee, with a copy sent to the AAHA Registrar.

D. PLAYER RELEASE DISPUTES

1. A player who is denied a release shall have the right to prompt and unbiased mediation and review of the player's release claim, upon written notice to the Association/Team that has refused to provide the release. A refusal to issue a release shall be made only by an appropriately appointed person within the Association with established authority over player contracts, or by the Association President or Designee with such authority.
2. The outline of the Dispute Resolution process is as follows and is detailed below. All appeals shall be conducted in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10 - Dispute Resolution, Discipline, Arbitration, found in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.
 - a. Step one - The mediation and review process begins at the Association/team level.
 - b. Step two - If not resolved, the League in which the Association/team is a member conducts an appeal.
 - c. Step three - If it is still not resolved, the AAHA may hear the appeal.
 - d. Step four - The aggrieved party may appeal to USA Hockey if all prior steps have been exhausted.
3. Association/Team Mediation and Review: Within seven (7) days after receiving a request for mediation and review, a representative of the Association/team shall meet with the party(s) named in the player contract

and review the circumstances of the release claim. The representative shall be prepared to demonstrate, through the Association/Team's records or other material evidence, that the player either owes a financial obligation to the Association/team or that other facts substantiate the denial of the release sought. The objective of the mediation and review is to allow the parties an opportunity to amicably settle any disputed release claims before any appeal is taken. This process must occur before a league appeal can be processed.

4. League Appeals: If a release dispute cannot be settled through Association/team Mediation and Review, the party(s) may submit a written appeal for a release to the League President/Commissioner (or designee) in which the player's team competes. Appeals involving independent teams that do not compete in an AAHA league shall be submitted directly to the AAHA Vice President of Protests, Suspensions, and Appeals, as set forth below.
 - a. Conduct of League Appeal: Within ten (10) days of receiving the request for a League Appeal, the League President/Commissioner (or designee) shall conduct a hearing into the facts surrounding the release request. The League President or designee shall have broad discretion in conducting the hearing, which may be held in person or by the parties submitting records. Hearings may be conducted in person, telephonically, or electronically at the discretion of the League.
 - b. Decision by the League: Within seven (7) days of the date of the conclusion of the hearing, the League shall render a written decision that shall include a brief statement of facts, findings, and an order. The League shall not unreasonably delay the conduct of the appeal nor unreasonably postpone the issuance of its determination.
5. AAHA Appeal: Within seven (7) days of the receipt of the League's decision, any aggrieved party may file a written appeal to the AAHA Vice President of Protests, Suspensions and Appeals. The AAHA appeal shall be governed by USA Hockey Bylaw 10.
 - a. The AAHA Vice President of Protests, Suspensions and Appeals is empowered to review extenuating circumstances, such as family relocation, as a possible reason to exempt a player from this policy.

Article VII. ADM COMPLIANCE

A. ADM COORDINATOR

1. The AAHA has appointed an American Development Model (ADM) Coordinator to oversee the program. The ADM Coordinator, in consultation with the Coach in Chief, will make recommendations regarding ADM implementation and compliance with AAHA's Governing Documents to the AAHA Executive Board annually, before the AAHA Annual Meeting. The ADM Coordinator will be responsible for ADM implementation, compliance and management for the AAHA.

B. ADM COMPLIANCE DESCRIPTION

1. ADM compliance in the AAHA includes the following categories. The overall ADM model is available on the USA Hockey website.
2. 6U Games, Teams and Players:
 - a. All 6U teams are required to play cross ice. 6U teams are not permitted to play full ice at any time.
 - b. Cross ice station-based practices and small area games.
 - c. Mini nets or ADM skill nets. Use of goaltenders at this level is optional and may be decided on a case-by-case basis by each Association.
 - d. USA Hockey-approved blue pucks must be used.
 - e. Regular season length - approximately 20 weeks as published in the AAHA 6U/8U Guidelines on the AAHA website.
 - f. USA Hockey-certified officials should officiate all games.
3. 8U Games, Teams and Players:
 - a. All 8U teams are required to play either cross-ice or half-ice. 8U teams are not permitted to play full ice at any time.
 - b. Half ice or cross ice station-based practices and small area games.
 - c. Recommend ADM skill (or intermediate) nets if available.
 - d. Rotation of players as goalies with full equipment.
 - e. USA Hockey-approved blue pucks must be used.
 - f. Regular season length - approximately 20 weeks as published in the AAHA 6U/8U Guidelines on the AAHA website.
 - g. Recommend a minimum of two practices to one game ratio for travel teams (2:1 practice to game). All 8U registered "In House" or "Recreational" teams are required to play half or cross ice but are not required to meet the 2:1 practice-to-game ratio.
 - h. A maximum of 20 "game days" in a season. A "game day" may include more than one game but should not exceed more than 3 hours of on-ice play in that game day.
 - i. Participation in a maximum of 2 tournaments (excluding AAHA-hosted jamborees) is permitted per season.

- j. USA Hockey Officials are required for all games. One official per half ice game.

C. AGE COMPLIANCE

1. 4-year-old and Younger: Players who are 4 years old or younger, regardless of team classification, are not permitted to play at the 10U level or higher under any circumstances
2. Travel Players: Players who are 7 years old or younger shall not be permitted to play up to the 10U level or higher on any travel or independent team.
3. Scholastic Players: Players who are 5 or 6 years old and attend school are permitted to be rostered on Elementary (scholastic) rosters, if permitted by their league rules. Please refer to the Scholastic/High School Article for details.
4. In-House and Recreational League Players: Players that are in the 8U birth year classification may participate in In-House or Recreational leagues at the 10U age level without an ADM waiver. Players who are 6 years old and younger are not permitted to play at the 10U level or higher under any circumstances other than the exception listed in the Scholastic/High School Article.

D. WAIVER PROCESS

1. Each Association may request up to two (2) waivers for 8U Major (oldest birth year in the classification) players from within the Association to be rostered on a 9U Tier I (AAA) travel team, any 10U Tier II travel team, or any 10U independent team. This waiver limit applies to both girls and youth classifications, meaning each Association is limited to two (2) waivers in total, regardless of tier or classification.
2. To be considered for a roster waiver, the 8U Major (oldest birth year in the classification) must have been included on an approved USA Hockey roster for the prior two seasons, the most recent being with the Association requesting the waiver. New 8-year-old players at any Association, whether new to the sport or new to the Association, are ineligible. Waivers are granted to the Association, not to the player. The player does not retain approval if they change Associations.
3. The Under-Age Player Roster Waiver Form, found on the AAHA website, must be completed and submitted electronically by the Association's Coaching Director to the ADM Coordinator. Submission of the request will attest that the player(s) are significantly proficient in participating in the levels described above. The ADM Coordinator will review and authorize the

request.

4. The ADM Coordinator is authorized to periodically audit Associations that were granted ADM waivers and may assign an experienced hockey coach to review an Association's selection of those player(s) receiving waivers.
5. Abuse of this waiver policy will result in the loss of an Association's ability to participate in this waiver process for a minimum of one season, as determined by the ADM Coordinator.
6. The ADM Coordinator has the authority to deny an Association's issuance of a waiver in cases where the ADM Committee believes the Association misused the waiver process.
7. Under no circumstances will more than two (2) Under-Age Waiver requests be sanctioned in a single season for an Association unless there are exigent circumstances, which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

E. NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ADM RULES

1. Non-compliance with the AAHA ADM Rules may result in sanctions and/or monetary fines to the Association, not to exceed \$1,000.00 per violation.

F. DEFINITION OF ADM TEAM CATEGORIES

1. In-House: Teams do not leave the building
2. Recreational: Teams that leave the building to play other "rink-run" recreational teams and play a maximum of 25 games per season.
3. Travel: Teams that leave the building and may be members of a league.
4. Independent: Teams that leave the building and operate independently of any league.

Article VIII. TIERING AND NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BOUND STATUS

A. NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BOUND LEVELS

1. Tier I Youth: 13O, 14U, 15O, 16U, and 18U
2. Tier II Youth: 14U, 16U, 18U
3. Tier I and Tier II Girls: 14U, 16U, 19U

B. TIER I TEAMS

1. Basic Requirement: Tier I AAA hockey is the highest level of youth/girls hockey within the AAHA. Associations with designated Tier I AAA teams should be those that have demonstrated the highest level of competence, as evidenced by recent AAHA and USA Hockey National Tournament performance, performance in other USA Hockey invitational tournaments of similar caliber, the strength of league schedules, and the development of players who advance to USA Hockey Festival Teams, the USA Hockey National Team, USA Hockey Tier I and II Junior leagues, and NCAA college hockey. The AAHA Tier I designations are based on the criteria listed in this Article.
2. Rights of the AAHA President: The AAHA President, based on the recommendation of the Tier I AAA Youth and Girls Committees, may grant annual Tier I AAA designation requests at each level based upon the criteria listed in this Article.

C. ELIGIBLE NUMBER OF TIER I TEAMS

1. Eligible Number of Teams and Roster Sizes for Youth Teams: The number of Tier I Youth teams in the AAHA in each age classification shall be limited to the number of Youth players registered in the AAHA in that age classification. The number of Tier I Youth teams shall not exceed 12% of the total registered Youth players in each age classification in the AAHA, based on the two seasons before the current season.

For this 12% calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. For example, if the AAHA has 480 players in an age classification, 12% of that number would equal 57 players eligible for Tier I. To have teams of 20 players, the AAHA would be limited to three (3) Tier I teams at that age classification.

Notwithstanding the use of 20 players per team in calculating the number of possible teams that may be registered in the AAHA at the Tier I Youth level, all teams at the 13O, 14U, 15O, 16U, and 18U levels must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).

If requested by the AAHA President or Designee, Associations must provide proof that the Association's Tier I Youth teams have at least twelve (12) players under contract by May 15 for the upcoming season. Failure to provide such proof may result in the loss of Tier I status for the upcoming season.

Subject to the approval of the AAHA President, the AAHA shall have at least one (1) team for each age classification.

2. Eligible Number of Teams and Roster Sizes for Girls Teams: The number of Tier I Girls teams in the AAHA in each age classification shall be limited by the number of Girls players registered in the AAHA in each age classification. The number of Tier I Girls teams shall not exceed 12% of the total registered Girls players in each age classification in the AAHA, based on the two seasons before the current season.

For this 12% calculation, each team shall be presumed to have eighteen (18) players. For example, if the AAHA has 480 players in an age classification, 12% of that number would equal 57 players eligible for Tier I. To have teams of 18 players, the AAHA would be limited to three (3) teams at that age classification.

Notwithstanding the use of 18 players per team in the calculation of the number of possible teams that may be registered in the AAHA at the Tier I Girls' level, all teams at the 14U, 16U, and 19U levels must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).

If requested by the AAHA President or Designee, Associations must provide proof that the Association's Tier I Girls teams have at least twelve (12) players under contract by May 15 for the upcoming season. Failure to provide such proof may result in the loss of Tier I status for the upcoming season.

Subject to the approval of the AAHA President, the AAHA shall have at least one (1) team for each age classification.

D. OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TIER I YOUTH AND GIRLS CLASSIFICATIONS

1. Minimum Period of Operation: For any Association to be eligible to apply for Tier I National Tournament status, it must have been in existence and registered with the AAHA for at least three (3) consecutive seasons.
2. Tryouts: Tier I tryouts must be published, advertised, and conducted in accordance with the Tryouts Article.
3. Team Rosters: An Association with approved Tier I teams must maintain and publish their rosters on the Association's website or on the League website where its teams participate, meeting the AAHA roster minimum and/or the USA Hockey roster maximum, as applicable. Additional information is available in the Rostering Article.
4. Full Season Schedule: All teams must compete utilizing a full-season schedule.

5. On-Ice and Off-Ice Practices: All teams must have a minimum of two (2) on-ice practices on different weekdays each week, plus one off-ice training session, between September 1 and March 1 of each season. Each Association shall maintain accurate records, including practice schedules, which may be requested for review by the AAHA at any time during the season and as part of the Tier I approval process.
6. Minimum Number of National Tournament Bound Teams: The Association must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound teams, each with a minimum of fifteen (15) players.
7. Association Affiliation: Every prospective Tier I team must be part of an AAHA member Association.
8. Feeder Program: Each Association's prospective Tier I team shall have at least three (3) age classification teams below the requested level to demonstrate an established feeder program. (Example: If applying for 14U level, an Association would be required to have the following feeder teams, 10U, 12U, 13O, or a similar combination.
9. Highest Level of Quality and Proficiency: An Association and its prospective Tier I team must demonstrate its willingness and ability to perform at the highest levels of proficiency both on the ice and in its administration, including each of the following:
 - a. On Ice Quality and Proficiency: An Association's team must demonstrate the highest skill level(s), the ability to compete at the highest level, and the ability to develop high-level players in the future.
 - b. Coaching: An Association's team must have USA Hockey credentialed and qualified high-level coaches who demonstrate effective training and player development standards and protocols.
 - c. Responsible Organizational Governance: An Association must demonstrate that it is willing and able to consistently adhere to USA Hockey and AAHA Governing Documents, including those of any league of which they are a member.
10. Financial Responsibility: An Association's must demonstrate its willingness and ability to meet their financial obligations.
11. Access to Suitable Facilities: An Association must demonstrate consistent and reliable access to suitable facilities.

- 12. Other Requirements:** An Association must meet such other requirements as the AAHA shall from time to time adopt.
- 13. ADM Compliance:** All prospective Tier I Associations must provide evidence that it is ADM compliant.
- 14. Location of Association:** An Association's geographical location may be considered when approving new applications.

E. PROVISIONAL STATUS REQUIREMENTS FOR NEWLY APPROVED TIER I YOUTH AND GIRLS ASSOCIATIONS

- 1. Youth Associations:** Associations submitting their first Tier I Youth application or not currently approved as Tier I Youth must operate as Non-Tournament Bound for three (3) consecutive seasons as a provisional period. During this time, provisional Associations are subject to all rules applicable to Tier I Associations and Teams, beginning with their first age level of operation. A provisionally approved Association must operate successfully, both administratively and competitively, each season to retain provisional status. Initial and continuing approval of provisional status requires the Tiering Committee's recommendation.
 - a.** First Season – 12U Major – non-national bound
 - b.** Second Season – 13 Only – non-national bound
 - c.** Third Season – 14U – non-national bound*
 - d.** Fourth Season – 13O, 14U, 15O – national bound
 - e.** Fifth Season – 13O, 14U, 15O, 16U – national bound
 - f.** Sixth Season – 13O, 14U, 15O, 16U, 18U – national bound

*The Tier I AAA Youth Tiering Committee will review the removal of the provisional status after the third season.

- 2. Girls Associations:** Associations submitting their first Girls Tier I application or that are not currently approved as Tier I must operate as Non-Tournament Bound for two (2) consecutive seasons as a provisional period. During this time, provisional Associations are subject to all rules applicable to Tier I Associations and Teams, beginning with their first age level of operation. A provisionally approved Association must operate successfully, both administratively and competitively, each season to retain provisional status. Initial and continuing approval of provisional status requires the Tiering Committee's recommendation.
 - a.** First Season – 12U – non-national bound
 - b.** Second Season – 14U – non-national bound

- c. Third Season – 14U, 16U – national bound*
- d. Fourth Season – 14U, 16U, 19U – national bound

*The Tier I AAA Girls Tiering Committee will review the removal of the provisional status after the second season.

- 3. Provisional Status Roster Requirements: Associations with provisional Tier I Youth or Girls approval may roster no more than a total of five (5) players from who were not part of their Association in the previous season, comprising of no more than three (3) Tier II players and no more than two (2) Tier I players. It is the Association's responsibility to manage its rosters and know the previous Association of new players. Failure to follow this rule may result in sanctions, including loss of Tier I status.
 - a. The exception is the player who attended an on-ice tryout with their original Association and is subsequently cut or not offered a player contract.
- 4. Penalty for Non-Compliance: Tier I Youth and Girls Associations that fail to comply with all applicable rules for Tier I Associations and Tier I teams shall be subject to sanctions, which may include immediate loss of Tier I status, fines not to exceed \$10,000, and future ineligibility for Tier I status.

F. TIER II TEAMS

- 1. Youth Basic Requirement: Tier II AA Youth hockey is intended to be less competitive than Tier I AAA. There are no limiting percentages on the number of Tier II teams, and the criteria for granting Tier II designations shall be less stringent. Tier II Youth AA National Tournament Bound hockey is a competitive level of hockey within the AAHA. Tier II Youth Associations with National Tournament Bound teams are those that have demonstrated a consistent level of competition, organization, and player development, enabling advancement to Tier I or other hockey programs, including USA Hockey Tier I and II Junior leagues, ACHA, or NCAA college hockey.
- 2. Girls' Basic Requirement: Tier II AA Girls hockey is intended to be less competitive than Tier I AAA. There are limiting percentages on the number of Tier II Girls teams, though the criteria for granting Tier II designations are less stringent. Tier II Girls AA National Tournament-Bound hockey is a competitive level of hockey within the AAHA. Tier II Girls Associations with National Tournament-Bound teams are those that have demonstrated a consistent level of competition, organization, and player development, advancing players to Tier I or college hockey.

3. Rights of the AAHA President: The AAHA President, based on the recommendation of the Tier II Youth and Girls Committees, may grant annual Tier II AA designation requests at each level based upon the criteria listed in this Article.
4. Application Requirements: For the application to be considered by the Tier II Committee, teams must meet all the criteria listed in this Article.

G. ELIGIBLE NUMBER OF GIRLS TIER II AA TEAMS

1. The number of Tier II Girls teams in the AAHA in each age classification shall be limited by the number of Girls players registered in the AAHA in each age classification. The number of Tier II Girls teams shall not exceed 20% of the total registered Girls players in each age classification in the AAHA, based on the two seasons before the current season.

For this 20% calculation, each team shall be presumed to have eighteen (18) players. For example, if the AAHA has 480 players in an age classification, 20% of that number equals 96 players eligible for Tier II. To have teams of 18 players, the AAHA would be limited to five (5) teams at that age classification.

Subject to the approval of the AAHA President, the AAHA shall have at least one (1) team per age classification.

H. OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUTH AND GIRLS AA CLASSIFICATIONS

1. Minimum Period of Operation: For any Association to be eligible to apply for Tier II National Tournament Bound status, the Association must have been in existence and registered with the AAHA for at least three (3) consecutive seasons.
2. Tryouts: Tier II tryouts must be published, advertised, and conducted in accordance with the AAHA Tryouts Article.
3. Team Rosters: An Association with approved Tier II teams must maintain and publish their rosters on the Association's website or on the League website where its teams participate, meeting the AAHA roster minimum and/or the USA Hockey roster maximum, as applicable. Additional information is available in the Rostering Article.
4. Full Season Schedule: All teams must compete on a full-season schedule, except for New Jersey Tier II Youth 16U and 18U Levels, which share a

geographic footprint with Federation High School leagues.

5. On-Ice Practices: All AA teams must have two (2) on-ice practices on different weekdays each week during the season. Each Association shall maintain accurate records, including practice schedules, which may be requested for review by the AAHA at any time during the season and as part of the Tier II AA approval process.
6. Minimum Number of National Tournament Bound Teams: The Association must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound teams, each with a minimum of fifteen (15) players.
7. Association Affiliation: Every prospective Tier II team must be part of an AAHA member Association.
8. Feeder Program: Each prospective Tier II Association shall have at least three (3) age classification teams below the requested level to demonstrate an established feeder program. (Example: If applying for 14U level, an Association would be required to have the following feeder teams, 8U, 10U, 12U, or a similar combination, within its Association or a working relationship with another Association that has its primary home within the same rink facility.
9. High Level of Quality and Proficiency: Associations must demonstrate the ability to field teams of competent skill level(s) to compete and develop youth/girls travel players in the future, including each of the following:
 - a. On Ice Quality and Proficiency: Associations must demonstrate the ability to compete at the AA level and develop competitive future players.
 - b. Coaching: Associations must have USA Hockey credentialed and qualified coaches who demonstrate practical player development standards and protocols.
 - c. Responsible Organizational Governance: An Association must demonstrate that it is willing and able to consistently adhere to USA Hockey and AAHA Governing Documents, including those of any league of which they are a member.
10. Financial Responsibility: Associations must demonstrate their willingness and ability to meet their financial obligations.

- 11. Access to Suitable Facilities:** Associations must demonstrate consistent and reliable access to suitable facilities.
- 12. Other Requirements:** Associations must meet such other requirements as the AAHA shall from time to time adopt.
- 13. ADM Compliance:** All prospective Tier II Associations must provide evidence that it is ADM compliant.

I. PROVISIONAL STATUS REQUIREMENTS FOR NEWLY APPROVED TIER II YOUTH AND GIRLS ASSOCIATIONS

- 1.** Associations submitting their first Tier II application or not currently approved as Tier II must operate as Non-Tournament Bound for two (2) consecutive seasons as a provisional period. During this time, provisional status Associations are subject to all rules applicable to Tier II Associations and Teams, beginning with their first age level of operation. A provisionally approved Association must operate successfully, both administratively and competitively, each season to retain provisional status. Initial and continuing approval of provisional status requires the Tiering Committee's recommendation.
 - a.** First Season – 12U – non-national bound
 - b.** Second Season – 14U – non-national bound
 - c.** Third Season – 14U, 16U – national bound*
 - d.** Fourth Season – 14U, 16U, 18U, 19U - national bound

*The Tier II AA Tiering Committee will review the removal of the provisional status after the second season.

- 2. Provisional Status Roster Requirements:** Associations with provisional Tier II Youth or Girls approval may roster no more than a total of five (5) players from who were not part of their Association in the previous season, comprising of no more than three (3) Tier II players and no more than two (2) Tier I players. It is the Association's responsibility to manage its rosters and know the previous Association of new players. Failure to follow this rule may result in sanctions, including loss of Tier II status.
 - a.** The exception is the player who attended an on-ice tryout with their original Association and is subsequently cut or not offered a player contract.
- 3. Penalty for Non-Compliance:** Tier II Youth and Girls Associations that fail to comply with all applicable rules for Tier II Associations and Tier II teams

shall be subject to sanctions, which may include immediate loss of Tier II status, fines not to exceed \$10,000, and future ineligibility for Tier II status.

J. APPROVAL OF NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BOUND CLASSIFICATION

- 1. Announcement:** By February 1st each year, the AAHA President shall announce the Associations that are approved and authorized to register teams for the upcoming season in the Tier I Youth and Girls and Tier II Youth and Girls classifications. Approvals are based solely on those levels where USA Hockey offers a National Championship Tournament.
- 2. Number of Tier I AAA Youth and Girls Teams Permitted:** The AAHA President shall identify the number of Tier I AAA designations that will be available for the following season based upon the criteria outlined in this Article. Publication on the AAHA website of those teams designated as Tier I AAA for the current year and the number of Tier I AAA designations available for the following year shall be sufficient notice of such determinations for this Article.
- 3. Number of Tier II AA Girls Teams Permitted:** The AAHA President shall identify the number of Tier II AA Girls designations that will be available for the following season based upon the criteria outlined in this Article. Publication on the AAHA website of those teams designated as Tier I AA Girls for the current year and the number of Tier II AA Girls designations available for the following year shall be sufficient notice of such determinations for this Article.
- 4. Approvals:** Applicants may be summarily approved based on generally recognized highly competitive performance and compliance with AAHA and USA Hockey requirements for Tier I or Tier II Standards and Criteria.

Applicants may also be granted partial approval or approval with warnings, which may indicate that the performance of specific teams falls short of the required level. Repeated warnings can lead to the loss of Tier status at that level.

The Tier II Youth and Girls Tiering Committee(s) may recommend to the AAHA President that an Association that did not field a team at a specific level the prior season, should be considered a provisional status team at that level and shall be subject to the “Provisional Status Roster Requirements”.

The AAHA President has the authority to withhold the Association’s approval at any level based upon the previous season’s performance and

other criteria deemed appropriate.

5. Rejections: Applicants may be summarily rejected in whole or in part, based upon failure or inability to comply with AAHA and USA Hockey requirements on Tier I or Tier II Standards and Criteria, or apparent lack of competitiveness. Such rejections are subject to the appeals process of this Article.

K. RECOGNIZED ASSOCIATION DEVELOPMENT LEVELS AND TRYOUT DATES

1. AAHA acknowledges that Associations may choose to roster non-National Tournament-bound teams at their approved tier (e.g., Major, Minor, AA, A, B, National, Premier, Elite, etc.) to support the league's and its members' overall player development objectives.
2. AAHA Associations approved for Tier I AAA National Tournament-bound teams (13O, 14U, 15O, 16U, 18U Youth and 14U, 16U, and 19U Girls) are allowed to field AAA 10U and 12U Major and Minor teams. Approved Associations may advertise and hold tryouts for these teams in accordance with AAHA Tryouts Article.
3. AAHA Tier I Associations are only permitted to field one (1) team per age level authorized by the AAHA. Associations are not allowed to advertise or roster more than one (1) Tier I/AAA team per level they are approved for. During Tier I tryouts, Associations may not tryout more than one (1) team per age level and may not sign players to any additional team at that age level until the appropriate AAHA tryout date.
4. Associations approved for Tier II AA National Tournament-bound teams (Youth 14U, 16U, 18U, and Girls 14U, 16U, and 19U and Girls Non-National Bound teams at 14U, 16U, and 19U) may offer Tier II AA 10U and 12U teams. Approved Associations may advertise and hold tryouts for these teams in accordance with AAHA Tryouts Article.
5. Associations approved for Girls Tier II AA National Tournament-bound teams are limited to one National Tournament-bound team at 14U, 16U, and 19U levels.
6. AAHA team classifications are in alignment with the USA Hockey Annual Guide. AAHA Associations shall not make any reference or indicate in any way "Tier I Mite", "AAA Mite", "Full Ice Mite", or similar term associated with their Tier I or Tier II program.

L. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF DENIAL OF TIER I OR TIER II DESIGNATION

- 1.** Appeal of Denial of Requested Designation: Any team denied their requested Tier I or Tier II designation shall be entitled to a review of the AAHA President's decision by the AAHA Appeals Committee as described below.
- 2.** Notice of Appeal: Any Association/team denied its requested Tier designation may appeal the AAHA President's decision by sending written notice of appeal to the AAHA President and to the AAHA Vice President of Protests, Suspensions, and Appeals within seven (7) days of receiving notice of denial. Notice may be sent by electronic mail, provided the recipient acknowledges receipt of the notice.
- 3.** Nature of the Appeal: The AAHA Appeals Committee, appointed by the AAHA President, shall include three (3) impartial persons to hear all administrative appeals and provide the aggrieved Association/Team with an opportunity to present any evidence or argument it may have to support its application.
- 4.** Conduct of Hearing: All appeals shall be informal and be presided over by the AAHA Vice President of Protests, Suspensions and Appeals or such Vice President's designee, who shall serve as the Chair for the hearing. The hearing shall proceed in the following manner:
 - a.** Evidence: The hearing may proceed with the submitted documents, via video conference, or upon personal appearance, in the sole discretion of the Chairman. The formal rules of evidence shall not apply. Evidence on appeal shall be limited to the material submitted initially.
 - b.** Time of Hearing: The hearing shall be conducted at the time, place, and in the manner as the Chair shall designate. The hearing date notification shall be communicated within seven (7) days of receipt of the appeal request.
 - c.** Issues and Standard of Review: The sole issue to be considered and decided shall be whether the AAHA President had a rational basis for denying the application; this means the Committee's decision shall be limited to determining whether there exists a reasonable basis for the AAHA President to deny the request based upon the criteria outlined in this rule. If there was a reasonable basis for the AAHA President's decision, the decision must be upheld.

- d. Method and Time of Decision: At the conclusion of the hearing, the Committee shall decide the appeal by a simple majority of its members. Thereafter, the Chair shall issue a brief written letter to the appealing Association/team notifying it of the Appeals Committee's decision within five (5) days, followed by a written decision within seven (7) days.
 - a) Finality of Decision: This decision is intended to be the final decision of the AAHA in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10.

M. USE OF TIER I AND TIER II DESIGNATIONS

1. Exclusive Use of Tier I and Tier II Designations: Only those Tier I AAA and Tier II AA Associations and teams designated under this Article may use the following designations in/on promotional material or on tournament applications: Tier I AAA and Tier II AA.
2. Violations: If a violation occurs, the Association shall be notified of the infraction and shall have 72 hours to remedy it. Failure to remedy may result in sanctions to the Association, including the loss of postseason eligibility and National Bound Tournament status in current and future seasons.

Article IX. TOURNAMENTS

A. USA HOCKEY DEFINITION OF A TOURNAMENT

1. A tournament is an ice hockey competition, other than normally scheduled league or exhibition games, in which three or more legally registered teams compete within a specified time frame to declare a champion. This includes gatherings with more than three teams, except Association Exchanges, which are limited to two (2) Associations, even when no winners are declared.
2. All invitational ice hockey tournaments that involve USA Hockey-registered teams and/or another amateur hockey federation or association must receive sanctioning from the appropriate registrar for the district where the tournament will be held.

B. TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Tournament Sanctioning Conditions:** The conditions for the sanctioning of an ice hockey tournament are as follows:
 - a.** A written application on the official USA Hockey invitational tournament application form must be submitted to the appropriate registrar for the district where the tournament will be held.
 - b.** For an event to be sanctioned, all players, coaches, on-ice officials, and team(s) must be properly registered with USA Hockey.
 - c.** The appropriate registrar, with the approval of the applicant's Affiliate Association, may issue a sanction where no exceptions to USA Hockey rules and regulations are involved.
 - d.** Applications must be accompanied by a copy of the full rules, regulations, and the complete procedures of the tournament. A Certificate of Insurance (COI) is required from any Tournament Host that is not a registered Member Association in the AAHA. Where a tournament desires to use exceptions to the rules and regulations of USA Hockey, such exceptions must be approved in advance by the appropriate registrar and the host Affiliate association.
 - e.** No sanctioning of Mite (6U/8U) full-ice tournaments will be approved by the AAHA.
 - f.** Only USA Hockey-registered officials may officiate tournament games, unless specifically approved otherwise.
 - g.** Only USA Hockey playing rules and age divisions may be used in tournament play, unless specifically approved otherwise.
 - h.** The Tournament Director, as identified on the Invitational Tournament Application, must verify that all participating teams are properly registered with USA Hockey. A USA Hockey player roster form (1-T) approved by the District or Associate Registrar shall be proof of proper registration and individual player age. Travel permits are required for all non-USA Hockey teams and for any team from an Affiliate that requires them.
- 2. Tournament Sanction Fees:** The following sanction fees for invitational tournaments must be complied with:
 - a.** USA Hockey – \$250

- b. Atlantic District fee - \$125 plus processing
- 3. Conflict with National Championship: Invitational tournaments shall be prohibited from being held within 100 miles of, and on the same weekend as, a USA Hockey National Championship.

C. TRAVEL PERMITS

- 1. U.S./Canada: USA Hockey teams traveling to Canada to play games against Hockey Canada teams must obtain a Canadian/USA Hockey Travel Permit. The Canadian Travel Permit Form is available in the USA Hockey Registry. Completed forms must be sent to the AAHA Registrar for approval.
- 2. International Competition: The Application for International Competition (Inbound / Outbound) is available in the USA Hockey Registry. Fees for International Competition Applications will be provided by the AAHA Registrar. Completed applications should be sent to the AAHA Registrar for processing.

D. SPECIAL EVENT SANCTIONING

- 1. A Special Events Sanction is “permission in writing” from USA Hockey to sponsor an event affecting the registered members of USA Hockey. The sanction is issued to protect participants and ensure that USA Hockey rules and regulations are observed.
- 2. USA Hockey’s insurance policies protect registered members, teams, clubs, and Associations’ programs (subject to the policy’s coverages and exclusions), provided that the activity has sanction approval from the District Registrar or District Risk Manager.
- 3. Sanctions must be obtained explicitly for fundraising events and off-ice activities, which involve or include members of the public or individuals who are not registered members of USA Hockey.
- 4. Special Event Sanction Submission Deadline: An application in writing for a Special Events Sanction must be filed with the District Registrar or District Risk Manager at least 14 days before the opening day of the event.

E. AAHA POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT CLASSIFICATIONS

- 1. AAHA Post-Season Tournaments may be held in the following classifications:

- a. Tier I AAA Youth: 13O through 18U (USA Hockey National Tournament Bound)
 - b. Tier I AAA Youth: 12U Major
 - c. Tier II AA Youth: 14U through 18U (USA Hockey National Tournament Bound)
 - d. Tier II Youth: 12U-AA, 12U-A, 12U-B, 14U-A, 14U-B, 16U-A, 18U-A
 - e. Tier I AAA Girls: 14U, 16U, 19U (USA Hockey National Tournament Bound)
 - f. Tier II AA Girls: 14U, 16U, 19U (USA Hockey National Tournament Bound)
 - g. Tier I and Tier II Girls: 12U Major
 - h. Women: Senior B (USA Hockey National Tournament Bound)
2. The AAHA has the right to expand or collapse the offered classifications at its sole discretion.

F. DISTRICT AND AFFILIATE SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS

1. Tournament Directors: The AAHA Tournament Committee shall be responsible for appointing the Tournament Directors for all Affiliate Tournaments.
2. Venue Designation: The designation of a tournament site is the responsibility of the AAHA President and the AAHA Tournament Committee.
3. Awards: The AAHA may supply awards to the winners in each tournament classification.
4. Scheduling of Games: The game schedule will be determined by the AAHA President and the AAHA Tournament Committee.
5. Publishing of Schedule: The schedule shall be published on the AAHA website as soon as possible once the advancing teams are identified.
6. Protests of Schedule: Protests of the schedule must be presented to the Tournament Director within 24 hours of publication.
7. League Responsibility to Notify Teams of Schedule. It is the responsibility of the league(s) to notify their representatives and members of all Tournament Schedules and Information.
8. Eligibility, Team Declaration, and Fees are as follows:
 - a. Tier I and Tier II National Tournament Bound. The AAHA Representatives at USA Hockey National Championships (13O, 14U, 15O, 16U, 18U,

19U) will be determined by an AAHA tournament playoff in accordance with these rules, as determined by the AAHA President and AAHA Tournament Committee.

- b.** Tier I and Tier II Affiliate Tournament Bound: The AAHA Representatives at the AAHA Affiliate Championship (12AAA, 12AA, 12A, 12B, 14A, 14B, 16A, 18A) will be determined by the AAHA President and the AAHA Tournament Committee.
- c.** Pre-season Declaration of Teams: All AAHA leagues are required to provide a list of teams in their leagues, their level of competition, and whether they are a split/short season team for use in developing the tournament format. This information is to be sent to the AAHA Executive Vice President (EVP) or Designee and the AAHA Registrar by May 1st. Only the teams listed by the league and confirmed by the AAHA will be considered eligible for National Tournament Bound Status or District Bound status, as applicable.
- d.** Approved Tier II AA Girls District and National Tournament Bound Eligibility: Girls teams are permitted to have only one eligible team at each age classification (12U, 14U, 16U, 19U). An Association is allowed to roster more than one (1) AA team at each level, but only one may be considered National Tournament Bound eligible to advance to Districts and/or Nationals. Tier II Girls team declarations must be sent to the AAHA EVP and Registrar by May 1st.
- e.** League Method of Advancement: The method of advancement (e.g., playoff champion, regular season champion, etc.) must be sent to the AAHA EVP by May 1st and must be published on the league websites before the beginning of the season.
- f.** Declaration of League Representatives: Leagues must declare their representative(s) to the AAHA District Tournament not later than 10 days before the tournament based upon the pre-determined method of advancement.
- g.** Affiliate Tournament Fees: Affiliate Tournament Fees shall be set by the Tournament Committee and shall comply with USA Hockey requirements. The individual team fee shall not exceed the apportioned expense, inclusive of ice costs, scoreboard personnel, officiating fees, and medical personnel. Tournament staff hospitality, player and team awards, giveaways, signage, printing, and other related costs shall be at the Affiliate's general expense.

9. Time For Challenges: No challenge to player or team eligibility may be made after the first puck is dropped in the challenged team's first game. The Tournament Director may act at any time.
10. Limitation on Dual Rostering: No player rostered on a Tier I AAA or Tier II team, including teams designated as AA, A, or B at any age classification, shall be permitted to participate with more than one team in a District Championship or National Tournament Bound Championship in the post-season.
11. Credentialing: The AAHA District Registrar is responsible for reviewing and approving the credentialing of all teams, coaches, and players participating in the Tournament. Details on the requirements are described in the USA Hockey District and National Tournament Guidebook.
12. Games Before Registration. All games played before an Association/Team is officially registered and has completed T-1 and T-2 USA Hockey forms shall not count toward fulfilling the player/team requirements for postseason tournament eligibility.
13. Tournament Format: The AAHA President and Tournament Committee will determine the event format as well as its eligibility requirements and publish them on the AAHA website by the start of the season.
14. USA Hockey District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook. The AAHA tournament event structure utilizes the USA Hockey District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook in effect at the time of the tournament for both National Tournament Bound competition levels and District Bound Tournament levels, including, but not limited to: tiebreaking procedures, time between games, use of emergency back-up goaltenders, period lengths, playing rules, penalties, officiating crew sizes, team uniforms, etc. USA Hockey publishes the USA Hockey National Tournament Guidebook online.
15. Host Teams. There are no host teams in District Tournaments. If a facility in the AAHA jurisdiction is selected as a host of the USA Hockey National Tournament at the Tier II level, the home team in that facility is ineligible to participate in the AAHA postseason Championship tournament if they are provided with automatic access to the USA Hockey National Championship Tournament as the host team.
16. Protests. No protests shall be permitted on the playing rules. The Tournament Director will rule on any other protests in consultation with the Tournament Discipline Committee. Details on the Discipline Committee's

responsibilities are outlined in the USA Hockey District and National Tournament Guidebook.

- 17. Decisions Final.** The Tournament Director's decision shall be final.
- 18. Forfeiture Rule.** If a team forfeits one game in a tournament, it will forfeit all of its games. It will not be eligible to advance to the USA Hockey National Championship Tournament, if applicable. The offending team shall be subject to the penalties listed in this Article– Penalty for Failure To Proceed.
 - a.** Any team forfeiting any of its games shall have its losses declared forfeit (1–0 loss) for the purpose of determining the tournament standings for the other participants.
- 19. Suspensions Assessed Before Tournament.** Any suspensions incurred in a game played before a Tournament shall be served during the tournament. No additional games may be added to the team's previously published schedule in an attempt to satisfy the suspension before the tournament.
- 20. Reporting of Actions.** All disciplinary action shall be reported to the player's home association and to any other involved parties for further action.
- 21. Officiating Assignments.** All officials will be assigned by the AAHA Referee-In-Chief or Designee(s), in conjunction with the AAHA Tournament Director. Neither the Referee-In-Chief nor Designee(s) can officiate in any games unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- 22. Commitment to USA Hockey National Championships:** Any team entering an AAHA Tournament agrees to participate in the National Championship should it become eligible.
- 23. Penalty for Failure to Proceed.** Any team failing to fulfill its commitment at the Affiliate and/or National Tournament shall be disqualified from participating in all tournaments in the following year. Additionally, a team's entire Association may be declared ineligible for tournament participation the following year. Any team that declines the position after being advanced is also subject to a \$5,000 fine.
- 24. Team Replacements.** If a designated representative is unable to represent AAHA in a National Tournament, the runner-up or last-eliminated team may be permitted by the AAHA President or Designee to represent AAHA.

Article X. PLAYING RULES

A. USA HOCKEY RULES

1. The current official USA Hockey playing rules apply to all classifications.

B. USA HOCKEY OFFICIALS

1. All games are under the jurisdiction of the AAHA and must be officiated by USA Hockey officials.

C. GAME DEFINITION

1. Ice Hockey Game: For jurisdictional purposes, an ice hockey game shall be defined as two hockey teams occupying the same ice surface for the purpose of competitive play and completing at least two periods of the game that USA Hockey-certified officials officiate. The AAHA may review the definition of a game if there are extenuating circumstances.
2. Eligible Players: Eligible players are those who appear on the approved USA Hockey roster and participate in a game. All players not on the bench should be scratched from the score sheet.

D. AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION PENALTY REPORT

1. Reportable Infractions: All match penalties, refusal of teams to start or continue play must be reported, in writing, by the referee to the League Commissioner and/or the AAHA Vice President of Protests, Suspensions, and Appeals, or the appropriate league official within 24 hours.

E. GAMES AGAINST NON-USA HOCKEY TEAMS

1. A Special Event Sanction must be submitted and approved for engagements that may involve interactions with non-USA Hockey entities. Please see Special Event Sanctioning in these Rules for more information.

F. SCHOLASTIC TEAMS

1. Registered teams may play non-registered high school, preparatory school, or college teams with the submission of a Special Events Sanction approved by the USA Hockey District Registrar. Please see Special Event Sanctioning in these Rules for more information.

G. LEAVING THE ICE DURING A GAME

1. Leaving Ice During Game: Any team playing in a league, exhibition, or tournament game that leaves the ice during the game shall forfeit the game by a score of 10-0.
2. Suspension of Coach: The coach of the team leaving the ice will be subject to a suspension of a minimum of thirty (30) days to a maximum suspension of one year.

Article XI. SUSPENSION, APPEALS AND RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

A. USA HOCKEY BYLAW 10 GOVERNANCE

1. Any party aggrieved by a decision, ruling, or determination of the AAHA or any of its Boards or other subdivisions shall, unless otherwise provided for in these Governing Documents, be governed by the provisions of USA Hockey Bylaw 10.
2. To preserve as far as possible the integrity of amateur hockey, any recourse to the courts or legal action by a member or individual before all the rights of the Governing Documents of this Association have been exhausted shall be handled in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10.
3. Dispute resolution, except for that related to in-season player movement, is defined in this Article. In-season player movement roster eligibility is described in the related Article.
4. Appeal of the USA Hockey Playing Rules is not permitted.
5. All disputes between a player and an Association/team, regardless of origin, shall follow the Appeal process defined in the In-Season Player Movement Article. Refer to the referenced Article for details.

B. SUSPENSIONS

1. Review of Referee Suspensions: Referee suspensions shall include the AAHA Referee in Chief or designee for matters involving supplemental discipline in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10.
2. Review of Coach Suspensions: Coach suspensions shall include the AAHA Coach in Chief or designee for matters involving supplemental discipline and for other than Playing Rule Suspensions in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10.
3. Communication of Suspensions: shall be in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10.
4. Supplemental Discipline: The AAHA Vice President for Protests, Suspensions, and Appeals has broad discretion to apply supplemental discipline, including additional game suspensions, to all sanctioned events within the AAHA. The AAHA Vice President of Protests, Suspensions, and Appeals may refer the suspension to neighboring USA Hockey Associations or the USA Hockey National Office to recognize and uphold the suspension.

C. SERVING SUSPENSIONS

1. Serving Suspension: When a player, coach, or other team official receives a game misconduct or match penalty in an AAHA game, that suspension must be served in the immediate subsequent AAHA game(s). This is independent of any USA Hockey suspension incurred, although they may be served concurrently. If the next scheduled game is non-AAHA, the USA Hockey penalty must be served in that game, with the AAHA suspension being served in the next AAHA game. Suspensions begin 45 minutes before and end 30 minutes after the scheduled games, with no access to the locker room, player bench, penalty box, or scoring area; unserved penalties carry over into the next season. They must be served in full, covering all USA Hockey activities.

D. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS/COACHES - SERVING SUSPENSIONS

1. Ineligible Player: A coach who knowingly allows the participation of an ineligible player in any game shall be subject to suspension for not less than sixty (60) days or more than one (1) year.
2. Ineligible Coach: A coach who knowingly takes the bench in any game when serving a suspension shall be subject to suspension for not less than sixty (60) days or more than one (1) year.

E. APPEAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

1. File Appeal: A party may file a written appeal of an AAHA administrative action or other disciplinary action that does not involve suspension within ten (10) days of receipt of the action to the AAHA Vice President of Protests, Suspensions, and Appeals. The appeal shall be governed by USA Hockey Bylaw 10.
2. Appeal Filing Notice and Fee: Any party filing an Appeal of an adverse decision of the AAHA, its Officers, Committees, and appointed proper Appeal Authority, shall be required to pay a fee of \$500.00 by check, payable to the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association, mailed and postmarked to the business address of the AAHA in conformity with the proper time lines as specified under USA Hockey's Bylaw 10.

Article XII. SCHOLASTIC/HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

A. HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY – COOPERATION – GENERAL RULE

1. The AAHA recognizes the value of both Association hockey and High School hockey to a player's development and enjoyment of the game. It is the policy of the AAHA that:
 - a) All 14U, 15O, 16U, 18U, 19U Association teams and coaches may not prohibit any of their players from participating with their High School team.
 - b) All High School Associations or coaches may not prohibit a player from participating on a USA Hockey-registered 14U, 15O, 16U,

18U, or 19U Association team.

2. In the event of a conflict between a game for one team and a practice for another team, the player may attend the game without penalty for missing practice. It shall be an excused absence from practice and not be held against the player in any way, including but not limited to any allowances a player is permitted to miss for that team.
3. If both the High School team and the Association team have games that conflict with each other, the family will determine which team the player will participate with and will not be penalized for their decision.
4. Penalties for Infraction of the General Rule are:
 - a. 1st offense – warning to the coach and the Association
 - b. 2nd offense – 30-day suspension to the head coach of the offending Association and the person responsible (if different from the head coach)
 - c. 3rd offense – 1 year suspension to the head coach and \$1,000 fine to the Association.

B. PLAYER ROSTERING

1. High School Teams:
 - a. High School Varsity, JV, and Girls teams must register as High School.
 - b. Players must be students in 9th–12th grades and age-eligible for USAH Classifications 14U Major and above.
 - c. Players must be under 20 years of age on or before December 31 of the Playing Season.
2. Middle School Teams:
 - a. Middle School teams must register as 14U teams.
 - b. Middle School Hockey is non-checking.
 - c. Players must be in 5th–8th grade and age-eligible for USAH Classifications 12U Minor through 14U Major.
 - d. Leagues are permitted to request an AAHA waiver for players who are classified as a USAH 2nd-year 10U and are in 5th grade.
 - e. Leagues are permitted to request an AAHA waiver for a 4th-grade player, who is a USAH Classification 10U Major or older, to participate at a Middle School developmental level only. Developmental-level teams may not include any players in the USAH 14U Major age classification.
3. Elementary School Teams:
 - a. Elementary School teams must register as 10U teams.
 - b. Elementary School Hockey is non-checking.

- c. Elementary School is considered an in-house league and should be based out of one rink with no travel. Leagues may petition the AAHA to add additional rinks.
 - d. Players must be in K-4th grade and age-eligible for USAH Classifications 6U Major through 10U Major.
 - e. No ADM Waiver required for 6U Major or 8U player.
4. Grades by Birth Year eligibility are posted on the AAHA website.

C. SCHOLASTIC TEAM SUSPENSIONS

1. Game Suspensions: received in Scholastic games and any related appeals are managed utilizing the procedure outlined in the In-Season Player Movement Article. Refer to that section for details on the process.

Article XIII. DISABLED DISCIPLINES

A. DISABLED ICE HOCKEY DISCIPLINES

1. USA Hockey supports disabled athletes in their ability to play the sport. These disciplines include:
 - a. Blind Hockey is played similarly to typical hockey, with a few adaptations to make it accessible to players who are blind or visually impaired.
 - b. Deaf/Hard of Hearing Hockey is for individuals diagnosed with hearing loss.
 - c. Sled Hockey is played by a wide range of players with a variety of mobility and cognitive limitations who have a permanent disability that limits participation in stand-up hockey.
 - d. Special Hockey gives people with cognitive and/or developmental disabilities the opportunity to play ice hockey in an environment adapted to their level of ability.
 - e. Standing Amputee Hockey is played upright and follows typical ice hockey rules. It has allowed a growing number of athletes with congenital or acquired amputations or other physical impairments to participate. Players use prostheses to control a hockey stick or to skate.
 - f. Warrior Hockey is dedicated to injured and disabled honorably discharged U.S. military veterans who have served our country and play the sport of ice hockey.

B. REGISTRATION AND ROSTERING

1. All Associations with teams in the above classifications are required to register and roster all participants using the USA Hockey Registry.
2. All new Associations in these classifications must follow the guidance in the Registration Article.

C. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Details on these disciplines can be found in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.
2. The rules for these disciplines can be found in USA Hockey Playing Rules of Ice Hockey.

Article XIV. ADULT HOCKEY

A. RESERVED

Article XV. COACHES

A. COACH-IN-CHIEF

1. The AAHA has one Coach-in-Chief, appointed by the Executive Director of USA Hockey. The Coach-in-Chief may appoint Associate Coaches-in-Chief, with the approval of the Executive Director of USA Hockey, to support and carry out any of the Coach-in-Chief's duties.

B. ELIGIBILITY

1. Proper Registration: All ice hockey coaches and all instructors in USA Hockey programs must be registered annually as individual participants of USA Hockey for the current season (before the start of the season) to be eligible to coach or instruct in any regular-season activities (practices, clinics, games, tournaments, tryouts, etc.), state, district, regional playoffs, national championships, or in the USA Hockey Player Development programs.
2. Association Responsibility: It is the responsibility of each Association to ensure that each coach within its Association is properly certified, which includes having a valid/current CEP, completing age-specific modules for the level they are coaching, holding a valid SafeSport certification, and passing a valid Screening.
 - a. If an Association allows a coach who is not properly certified to participate with the team, the Association will be subject to a fine of \$175.00 per coach. The coach will be officially suspended until the AAHA allows a hearing, and the team involved may be barred from participating in AAHA post-season play, including AAHA Districts or Championships.
3. Proper Certification: To be eligible to represent the AAHA as a Head or Assistant Coach, or coach any team of select players sanctioned to represent the AAHA at events, including, but not limited to, AAHA or National Development Camps, Festival, or Select Programs, the coach must be properly certified. The Coach-in-Chief, after consulting with the

Player Development Program Director and the AAHA President, may exempt a Head Coach or Assistant Coach from having a valid CEP for AAHA events only.

C. COACHING EDUCATION PROGRAM (CEP) COMPLIANCE

- 1. CEP Requirements:** All coaches in the AAHA shall comply with USA Hockey's Coaching Education Program requirements in addition to the following AAHA requirements. USA Hockey requirements are outlined in the USA Hockey Annual Guide.
- 2. Valid CEP:** All coaches requesting rostering to an AAHA team during the season must have a current/valid CEP, except as noted below. This includes all Spring and Summer teams. All coaches must complete age-specific training modules for the level of play they are coaching, as well as SafeSport and Screening requirements. It is incumbent upon the coach and the coach's Association to ensure the coach's certifications remain current.
- 3. CEP Expiration:** Any coach with a CEP expiring December 31st of the current season or those coaches that have been permitted until Dec 31st of the current season to update/obtain their CEP, must do so by Dec 31st or they will be redlined as of January 1st of the current season and will not be approved to any roster for the remainder of the current season or the following season, until their CEP has been obtained/updated.
- 4. Exceptions to CEP Compliance:**
 - a. First Time Coaches New to USA Hockey:** Coaches have until December 31st of the current USA Hockey season to obtain Level 6U/8U if only coaching 6U/8U or Level 1 if coaching 10U or older.
 - b. Returning Coaches – Moving from Learn To Skate (LTS) 6U/8U or Returning from Coaching Hiatus:** Those coaches returning after a hiatus of one year or more or returning coaches who were coaching at the LTS/6U/8U level in the previous season and have now moved to a higher level (10U or above) for the current season have until Dec 31st to update their CEP.
 - c. Disabled Disciplines:** Coaches of Disabled Hockey may remain at level 6U/8U or Level 1 or other certification level, even if expired, until such a time as they are coaching something other than disabled hockey.
 - d. Adult Hockey:** Adult team coaches are exempt from all CEP requirements.

- e. Coaches with Approved Temporary Coaching Cards: Coaches with an expired CEP as of Dec 31st of the current season who are eligible for and have been provided a temporary coaching card valid through the conclusion of the National Tournament of the current season.
5. Temporary Coaching Cards: Temporary coaching cards may be issued upon request to the USA Hockey National Office to allow a coach to stay on the bench without a valid/current CEP until the conclusion of the National Tournament. USA Hockey coaches are eligible for only one temporary coaching card during their entire coaching career. Temporary Coaching Cards are only valid during the current season until the conclusion of the National Tournament. The Coach in Chief and/or the AAHA President has the final say as to whether the temporary coaching card will be issued.

D. HELMETS

1. All ice hockey coaches and instructors of registered USA Hockey Youth 18U and below, High School, Girls 19U and below, and disabled programs must properly wear an approved ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages, and all Coaching Education Program clinics and/or workshops. Failure to comply will result in a 30-day suspension from all activities involving USA Hockey-registered programs.

Article XVI. OFFICIALS

A. ELIGIBILITY AND REGISTRATION

1. Officials must be registered in accordance with USA Hockey's registration procedures.

B. ZONE REFEREES-IN-CHIEF

1. Zone (League) Referee-In-Chief designation is appointed by the League, subject to the approval of the AAHA USA Hockey Referee-In-Chief.

C. TRAINING SEMINARS

1. USA Hockey Referee-In-Chief shall coordinate all training seminars for officials.

D. REFEREE ASSIGNORS – RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Assignors shall be registered, certified USA Hockey officials, and be listed as Assignors in the AAHA database.
2. Assignors (18 years of age and older) shall have a current Background Screening and SafeSport certification.
3. The AAHA Referee-in-Chief or Designee shall appoint Assignors for a term of up to one (1) year and renewable annually. The term shall be from August 1

through July 31 of the following year. The AAHA Referee-in-Chief shall obtain recommendations for possible assignors from the Association, Rink, and/or League where the Assignor will assign. Any dispute arising from an assignor's appointment or denial of appointment shall be heard by the AAHA VP of Protests, Appeals, and Suspensions. This rule will not compel any league to use a specific assigning platform.

- 4.** Assignors shall aid in retaining officials through appropriate game distribution. This may include both the number of games and the level of games assigned to each official.
- 5.** Assignors shall assign officials to no more than two consecutive upper-level games when feasible.
- 6.** Assignors shall assign officials to no more than four total upper-level games in one day. There shall be at least a 1.5-hour time lapse between games 2 and 3, when feasible.
- 7.** Assignors shall not assign an official to a game where a relative of the official is involved with either team as a player, coach, or team official.
- 8.** Assignors shall ensure that assigned officials are at least two years older than the level of the girls/youth games they are assigned to. A league may recommend that officials be at least four years older. Exceptions may be made in cases where the development of an "up and coming" official may be hampered by this policy. The AAHA Referee in Chief shall be notified of these exceptions.
- 9.** Assignors who assign officials to games not involving USAH-registered teams shall notify the officials of that fact. The assignor shall tell the officials that they shall not wear their USA Hockey Officiating Crest, and that they are not covered by the USA Hockey insurance umbrella for that game. Any suspension penalties assessed will not be honored by USA Hockey.
- 10.** Assignors shall only use registered USA Hockey officials who have completed the registration process appropriate for the level of play being assigned. They are responsible for verifying the current certification level of each official they assign via the AAHA Officiating Database. Assignors need to contact the Referee in Chief to gain access to that database.
- 11.** If an Assignor thinks there is an official who should be assigned higher-level games regardless of their age because of the official's skill and judgment, the Assignor shall discuss that official's assignments with the Referee in Chief or their designee. Failure to comply with any of the related

requirements subjects the Assignor and/or the official to possible disciplinary action.

- 12.** If a sufficient number of properly-registered officials cannot be assigned at any level:
 - a.** The Assignor shall contact neighboring Assignors and request assistance.
 - b.** The Assignor shall specify any officials recommended for assignment and the reasons for their recommendations.
 - c.** The Assignor shall notify in advance (if possible) the Referee in Chief or their designee of the need to fill the vacant assignments with the next lower level recommended officials.
 - d.** In extenuating circumstances (a few hours or less before game time – “an emergency”), if a properly registered official is not available to do the game, the Assignor may use a lower-level official and shall notify the Referee in Chief or their designee of the situation.

Article XVII. MANAGERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

A. PROPER REGISTRATION

- 1.** All Association Leadership, including but not limited to members of an Association's board of directors, ownership, coaching directors, tournament directors, skills coaches, etc., must be registered with USA Hockey, undergo background screening, and complete the SafeSport Program. Each Association must submit a Board of Directors roster via its USA Hockey Registry to verify proper registration, SafeSport, and background screening for its leadership team prior to any team rosters being reviewed for approval.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEAM MANAGERS AND VOLUNTEERS

- 1.** Requirements: All Team Managers and Volunteers must be registered with USA Hockey, be background screened, and complete the USAH SafeSport Program. They must be listed on the team roster as the manager or a volunteer. Volunteers may include locker room monitors. Volunteers are not permitted to participate in any on-ice activities or be on the bench during games.
- 2.** For disabled disciplines, volunteers may serve as sled pushers, other disabled discipline assistants, etc., and are permitted on the ice provided they are listed on the USA Hockey roster.

Article XVIII. SCREENING AND SAFE SPORT REQUIREMENTS

A. NATIONAL LEVEL BACKGROUND SCREENING

1. AAHA Members must comply with USA Hockey's Safe Sport Program Handbook, the USA Hockey Annual Guide, and state/local screening law (Pennsylvania Act 151).

B. SAFE SPORT

1. AAHA Members are required to comply with USA Hockey's Safe Sport Program Handbook, the U.S. Center for SafeSport, and state and local reporting requirements.

C. ASSOCIATION SAFE SPORT PROGRAM AGREEMENT

1. All Associations must complete, sign, and submit to the AAHA "The USA Hockey Member Program Agreement to Adopt and Comply with Safe Sport Program" document annually.

D. LOCKER ROOM MONITORING

1. Locker rooms must be monitored in accordance with USA Hockey's Safe Sport Program Handbook. The locker room monitor is responsible for ensuring proper monitoring. Non-compliance with the locker room monitoring rules may result in suspensions of the head coach and/or a monetary fine to the Association, not to exceed \$500.00 per violation.

Article XIX. CODES OF CONDUCT

A. USA HOCKEY CODES OF CONDUCT

1. The USA Hockey Annual Guide includes Codes of Conduct for the following classifications:
 - a. Players
 - b. Coaches
 - c. Parents
 - d. Program Administrators
 - e. Officials
 - f. Fans and Spectators
 - g. All Affiliated Individuals

AAHA members are expected to be familiar with and abide by these Codes of Conduct.

Article XX. MISCELLANEOUS

A. MUSIC DURING EVENTS

- 1.** The playing of music during games, practices, in the arena, locker rooms, or other areas used during team functions must not contain explicit, hateful, or derogatory language. Associations shall require locker room monitors, coaches, and managers to enforce this policy. Violations of this policy shall subject the Association to fines not to exceed \$500.00 per occurrence and disciplinary review of those adults in charge, including coaches, managers, and locker room monitors. USA Hockey Playing Rules 601[e]3 – Other Misconduct for Hateful and Discriminatory Language, and 410 – Supplemental Discipline, may be invoked for any incident that occurs before, during, or after the game.

B. USA HOCKEY POLICIES

- 1.** The USA Hockey Annual Guide includes Programs, Philosophies, and Policies, which the AAHA and its members are required to comply with. All AAHA members should familiarize themselves with these policies and the other relevant information in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, the USA Hockey Playing Rules, and the USA Hockey National Tournament Guidebook. All of these documents are available on the USA Hockey website. The policies in the Annual Guide include, but are not limited to:
 - a.** Alcohol, Tobacco, Smoking Products, and Drug Abuse
 - b.** Antidoping
 - c.** Confidentiality
 - d.** Conflicts of Interest
 - e.** Gender equity – co-ed locker rooms
 - f.** Guidelines for Non-Sanctioned Play
 - g.** Logos
 - h.** Look Up Line
 - i.** Mailing Lists
 - j.** Safe Sport
 - k.** Sports Concussion Management Program
 - l.** Whistleblower
 - m.** Zero Tolerance