

**MID AMERICAN DISTRICT NEWSLETTER**  
from the **DISABLED SECTION of USA HOCKEY**

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Information below obtained during two meetings:

- USA Hockey Annual Congress, Denver, CO. June 6-8, 2024
- MidAmerican Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH. June 22, 2024
- Monthly and ad hoc virtual meetings

DELAYS in communication are due to requiring confirmation and or clarification of information from multiple committees



**REMINDER: REGISTRATION & WAIVERS FOR USAH SANCTIONED PLAY**

- All players who **intend** to participate in the USA Hockey Championships for Sled, Blind, Warrior, Special, Standing/Amputee or Deaf/Hard of Hearing post-season games (example: USAH CHAMPIONSHIPS) **MUST** register with USA Hockey **AND** be listed on the team's roster **BEFORE** December 31 each season.
  - **ONLY EXCEPTION: NEW PLAYERS.**

**Scenario:** if you are a returning player to the sport and you are not USAH registered and on the closest team's roster, you will **not** be allowed to play in the USAH Championships.

- If you are registered on the closest team and it is not compatible (regarding skill level), you will require a Waiver to change teams. The Waiver committee will determine which team is acceptable to promote parity (prevent stacking).

**ALL National Men's players**

- Must be rostered on a team with the appropriate skill level \*
- **MUST** play Tier 1 at the National Championships

**ALL National Female players**

- Must be rostered on a team with the appropriate skill level \*
- **MUST** play Tier 1 or Tier 2 at the National Championships

**National Men's Camp – all Select Players**

- **MUST** play at the level assigned
  - If no skill compatible team near player, Waiver required to join compatible team.



FROM: <https://www.usahockey.com/playersafety> **neck laceration protection**

Sunday, January 28, 2024

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – The USA Hockey Congress today approved legislation requiring the use of neck laceration protection **for players in all age classifications, other than adults, in games and practices, as well as for on-ice officials under the age of 18, effective August 1, 2024.** For clarity, the requirement includes players in the youth, girls and junior age classifications.

USA Hockey has long recommended the use of neck laceration protection, as well as cut-resistant socks, sleeves or undergarments. The USA Hockey Board of Directors asked the organization’s Safety and Protective Equipment Committee in November 2023 to begin the process of recommending potential rule changes related to neck laceration protection.

“Safety is always at the forefront of our conversations and the action of our Congress today reflected that,” said Mike Trimboli, president of USA Hockey. “We appreciate the significant work done by our Safety and Protective Equipment Committee, led by Dr. Mike Stuart, and the many others who were instrumental in the overall evaluation process.”

“I know throughout our organization, the overwhelming opinion was that the time is appropriate to modify our rules related to neck laceration protection,” said Pat Kelleher, executive director of USA Hockey. “We’re also encouraged that the hockey industry is committed to continuing to work to improve the cut resistant products that protect players to help influence the safest possible landscape for the game.”

The legislation passed today also strongly recommends use of neck laceration protection by adult players”.

**FAQ:** <https://www.usahockey.com/playersafety>

Neck laceration protection may NOT be altered from its original form.

As an organization or association under USAH, it is permissible to make a rule stricter. For example, an organization or association can mandate NLP for ALL PLAYERS of ALL AGES for all disciplines of hockey.

ADULT coaches, officials and on-ice volunteers are strongly recommended to use neck laceration protection during all practices and games.

## SAFESPORT REMINDERS

**Everyone is expected to do the “right thing” to protect all our players.**

- Report information to the SafeSport coordinator or call 911 immediately
  - even if you don't have all the information
  - even if what you observe, hear or see is questionable

All youth locker rooms (boys and girls) must have a Locker Room Monitor.

- Regardless: if practice, a game or tournament
- Regardless: if at home or at a visitor's rink
  - If CO-ED, a male and female monitor is required
  - If there are 2 locker rooms, each room requires a monitor

The score sheet for all youth games/scrimmages must list the full name of that game's Locker Room monitor (s).

- If there is (are) no name(s) listed, by default, it is the head coach who is responsible for the locker room and behaviors occurring within the locker room.

## ROSTER CHECK LIST

- EVERYONE is required to register with USAH annually.
  - Volunteers are FREE <https://membership.usahockey.com/>
  - New players to the sport (first-time players) are FREE
    - The program or team registrar should register all first-time players.
- COACHES, VOLUNTEERS, PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS OVER 17 yrs. old BEFORE DECEMBER 31 of each season are ALSO required to complete SafeSport training annually <https://www.usahockey.com/safesporttraining>
- ALL COACHES, VOLUNTEERS, PARENTS, & MANAGERS who **may** provide hands-on assistance to a minor (under 17 yrs old before December 31) or go into a locker room where a minor(s) may be present ARE REQUIRED TO BE SCREENED & CLEARED by USAH
- A completed Affiliate agreement is MANDATORY by USA Hockey or the association/organization will not be able to roster players (NEW)

Category of USA Hockey Participant	SafeSport Training	Background Screen
Affiliate Board of Directors	✓	✓
Member Program Administrators, including board members, hockey directors, or other employees of the Program	✓	✓
Coaches eighteen (18) or older	✓	✓
Officials eighteen (18) or older	✓	✓
Staff persons or volunteers eighteen (18) or older with regular contact and/or authority over minors (e.g., team managers, locker room monitors, chaperones, team drivers, etc.)	✓	✓
Coaches, officials, staff persons or volunteers with a 2007 birth year (turning 17 on or before December 31, 2024)	✓	✗
Players with a 2007 birth year (turning 17 on or before December 31, 2024) or earlier, and playing on a team that allows Minor Athletes	✓	✗
All residents of a billet household that are eighteen (18) years of age or older.	✓	✓

#### Background Screening:

STEP 1 – apply

STEP 2 – receive GREEN LIGHT (passed) – this takes up to 10 days

- More specific examples of who should get screened:
  - If you will ever serve as a locker room monitor at practices/games
  - If you are ever going to help players get their gear on/off
  - If you are ever going to help players get on/off the ice
  - If you might transport a minor(s) who is not a family member
  - Coaches and Safesport coordinators who may have to have a 1:1 conversation with a minor, *even if observable and interruptible*
  - Parents who work closely with minor players: Example: team managers and equipment managers (who help players try on jerseys or spirit wear for size, or handle equipment needs/repairs).

#### [Click this link for USAH Screen](#)

- *The Disabled Section serves as your advocate.* There is ongoing conversation about the cost of USA Hockey fees based on age for the Disabled Section participants as well as the cost for house leagues and other programs whose players are on the ice once a week throughout their season.



**Adult Sled Hockey:** no change re: number of able bodies (AB) on the ice. 3 AB's can be rostered and play in a game with only 2 on the ice at a time. An AB cannot be a goalie.

**Sled Hockey:** to assist with USA Hockey Championship tier decisions, PLEASE submit game/tournament stats to the Waiver Committee.

**Women and girls** can play on their closest team **and** on an all-female team to grow women's hockey. So **YES**, females can be dual rostered for this purpose.



### **“MIDAM DISTRICT CHANGES & REMINDERS AFFECTING ALL DISABLED HOCKEY PROGRAMS”**



**(USAH mandate):** Every MidAm District organization/association must complete an Affiliate Agreement, or they will not be eligible to roster players.

- If an organization or association is not in compliance, USAH and or MidAm can take action against the organization or association.

**Sanctioning** events ensures USAH insurance extends to that event.

- Teams are covered by USAH insurance **ONLY** when playing another USAH registered team or in a USAH sanctioned event.



### **“GOOD TO KNOW” INFORMATION**



#### **CURRENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024-2025**

- Men's TEAM USA try-outs are July 21-26, 2024, in Voorhees, N.J.
- Women's TEAM USA try-outs are August 16-19, 2024, in Plymouth, MI
- Women's Para Hockey World Challenge is October 25-28, 2024, in Skien, Norway

## 2024-25 USA Hockey Disabled Events Calendar

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
Warrior Hockey Classic	Oct. 10-13, 2024	Wesley Chapel, Fla.
Sled Hockey Classic, Presented by the NHL	Nov. 7-10, 2024	Farmers Branch, Texas
Special Hockey Classic	Nov. 15-17, 2024	Blaine, Minn.
Blind Hockey Classic	Nov. 15-17, 2024	Blaine, Minn.
Toyota USA Hockey Warrior National Championship	April 24-27, 2025	Coral Springs, Fla.
Toyota USA Hockey Sled National Championship	May 1-4, 2025	Coral Springs, Fla.

LINK: <https://www.usahockey.com/page/show/8398291-future-disabled-hockey-events?tab=permissions>



**MidAm's** Roger Sharrer Grow Hockey Award awarded **\$52,038** this year!!

**EVERY DISABLED HOCKEY PROGRAM SHOULD BE APPLYING TO THIS AWARD TO HELP GROW THEIR PROGRAM!**



**A CALL FOR RFP's FOR DISABLED HOCKEY EVENTS 2025-2027**

The goal of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to give inquiring bidders a proper guide to hosting a Disabled Hockey event with USA Hockey. This RFP gives proper guidelines and objectives for both the Host and what is expected from USA Hockey. If there are any questions remaining after going through this RFP, be sure to contact the representative indicated on the cover page.

LINK: [https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/5ba0-2515823/Disabled\\_Hockey\\_RFP\\_83\\_.pdf](https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/5ba0-2515823/Disabled_Hockey_RFP_83_.pdf)



Current NHL partnerships agreed to start using USAH's video(s) to promote Disabled Hockey. The specific details are being addressed.

FLYERS, DEVILS and LIGHTENING are initiating LEARN TO SKATE events for disabled hockey disciplines. This concept should catch on to more NHL teams over time. Regarding sled hockey, they are discussing how to make this work.