

## 2025-26 TIER I UPDATES AND REQUIREMENTS

- Tier 1 Moratorium – No new Tier 1 programs in the 2025-26 or 2026-27 seasons unless approved by USA Hockey. This means if a program didn't field a Tier 1 team in 2024-25, they can't field a Tier 1 team in 2025-26 or 2026-27.
- Tier 1 Roster Size - 22 Player rosters expanding from Youth 18U to Youth 15O, 16U and 18U. Girls 19U Tier 1 will be 22 players as well. 22 players can dress, no more than 20 skaters.
- Vertical Integration – Expanded to Girls 16U and 19U. All player movement must be processed through Vertical Integration.

### Updated checklist For Roster Approval

- ✓ The Mid Am Member Association Agreement for your association must be on file with Mid Am Administrator Lori Billings.
- ✓ The Tier I District Championships application and full payment must have been received by the Mid Am Administrator.
- ✓ Roster must be submitted prior to October 15, 2025.
- ✓ Team name must relate back to the association name for proper team and association identification.
- ✓ All players must have Date of Birth & Citizenship verified prior to approval to the roster. Have Registrar submit copy of birth certificate or passport ID page to me for any player not showing in the Registry as Verified.
- ✓ All players must have "Position" listed on the roster.
- ✓ All players must have "Home" and "Away" Jersey numbers completed on the roster.
- ✓ At least one "Manager" must be identified on the roster. If the "Manager" is also a "Coach" or "Head Coach", then it might read as "Head Coach/Mgr" or "Coach/Mgr", or "Coach/Mgr/LRM" if they are also a Locker Room Monitor.
- ✓ "LRM" (Locker Room Monitor(s)) must be identified on the roster.
- ✓ If the team has an Athletic Trainer, that person(s) must be on the roster and properly identified.
- ✓ If the team has Billet families, all persons 18 years of age and older must be listed on the roster as Vol/Billet. Let your Registrar know this will required a "Custom" field description.

If your local association Registrar has any issues with any of these requirements, please have them contact me directly.

### All players should have a properly signed Player Agreement & Commitment for the current season on file with the organization which outlines at least the following information:

1. The specific team which the player will be rostered on.
2. Anticipated fees or budgets for the season, including fee payment schedule(s) and option(s) along with what is being provided for those fees It should also including any anticipated ancillary fees for required equipment, travel, hotel, meals, etc.
3. Number of anticipated off ice and on ice practice sessions, games and tournaments, etc.
4. Any required player or parent Code(s) of Conduct required for participation with the team.
5. Any other documentation which might be considered essential to participation of the team.

### **Vertical Integration**

- Each Association will have one person handles Vertical Integration for all teams in the association. The person responsible for Vertical Integration will be responsible for making sure all rules and regulations regarding Vertical Integration are properly followed.
- Each Player is limited to a total of 8 games played outside of their official roster between September 1st and February 1st.
- Players may only compete at one age level per day.
- The Youth Council and Registrar's Section shall establish a means of requiring notice and record keeping of all instances under this pilot program where players play in a game without being added to the official roster.
- All other current National Championship rules, including the 20/10 rule and the 12/31 roster deadline will stay in effect. Games played shall not count toward the 20/10 rule until added to the official roster.
- Any suspension incurred by a player under this rule must be served with the team in which the player is officially rostered.
- Players under suspension are not eligible for vertical integration movement until the suspension is served with the team in which the player is officially rostered.

**The Head Coach is ultimately and completely responsible for his or her "Roster" and for all information listed on game score sheets, including any GameSheet or other electronic scoresheets. Players not in attendance at a game should be properly lined out or not listed on the score sheet. Players not listed on the roster must not appear on a game score sheet unless they have been added to the team properly through Vertical Integration.**