

Summary of Legislative Proposals for 2026 Winter Meeting

	TITLE	ANNUAL GUIDE	DESCRIPTION	SUBMITTED BY	REFERRED TO
1	Audit #1	Bylaw 4.F(5)	Removes conflict with Bylaw 6(B)(4)(b) which gives Audit Committee authority to select outside auditor. APPROVED	John Tobin, Audit Committee	Legal Council, Audit Committee, Finance Committee, Board of Directors
2	Officials #1	Bylaw 10.D.3(d)	Creates national review panel for abuse of officials penalties and hearings under Rule 601(e)(1). NOT APPROVED	Officials Section, Youth Council , Coaches Section	Board of Directors, Legal Council, Affiliate Presidents, Youth Council, Girls Council, Officials Section, Coaches Section, Playing Rules Committee
3	Officials #2	Bylaw 10.D.3(b)	Implementing a Green Officiating Crest program for officials under 18 and increases the penalties under Rule 602 for abuse in those games. NOT APPROVED	Ken Reinhard, Officials Section	Officials, Youth Council, Girls Council, Adult Council, Coaching Section, Player Development Committee, Playing Rules Committee
4	Officials #3	Rules & Regs XI.J	Update language to current on-ice official terminology; APPROVED	Ken Reinhard, Officials Section	Junior Council
5	Officials #4	Rules & Regs IV.A	Updates Officiating Education requirements. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Dave LaBuda, National Referee-in-Chief	Officials Section
6	Officials #5	Programs & Philosophies F	Recognizes evolution of Officiating Education Program to a nationally coordinated program with classroom seminars hosted in a virtual classroom. APPROVED	Dave LaBuda, National Referee-in-Chief	Officials Section
7	Officials #6	Duties & Responsibilities C	Updates District and National Referee-in-Chief duties; APPROVED	Dave LaBuda, National Referee-in-Chief	Officials Section, Board of Directors
8	Officials #7	Bylaw 6.C(1)(a)	Update to sub-section heading to include gender-neutral job title; APPROVED	Ken Reinhard, Officials Section	Officials Section
9	Affiliate Presidents #1	Rules & Regs III.D	Creates national residency rules and definitions for Tier II and recreational hockey programs. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Steve Oleheiser, Affiliate Presidents	Youth Council, Legal Council
10	Ethics #1	Programs & Philosophies B	Housekeeping, as Code of Conduct should be in Policies. APPROVED	Charles Fuertsch, Ethics Committee	Legal Council, Board of Directors, Ethics Committee
11	Ethics #2	Policies H	To add examples of conflicts of interest often seen in hearing and appeal panels. APPROVED	Charles Fuertsch, Ethics Committee	Legal Council, Board of Directors, Ethics Committee, National Appeal Committee
12	Ethics #3	Bylaw 6.B	To specify that the Ethics Committee shall also have authority to review matters involving Associate Registrars, Associate Risk Managers, Associate Coaches-in-Chief, Associate Referees-in-Chief and others appointed by USA Hockey. APPROVED	Charles Fuertsch, Ethics Committee	Legal Council, Board of Directors, Ethics Committee
13	Disabled #2	Programs & Philosophies D	Update to reflect the minimum age of a player for sled development camp. APPROVED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Disabled Section, Player Development Committee, International Council
14	Disabled #6	Rules & Regs I	Add Disabled Disciplines to Participant Registration Heading. APPROVED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Registrars Section
15	Disabled #7	Rules & Regs II	Update Sled Hockey age classification and references age waiver requirements. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Disabled Section, Registrars Section
16	Disabled #11	Rules & Regs VI	Include disabled disciplines into Team Manager requirement. Add that on-ice volunteers are to be added to rosters. APPROVED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Disabled Section, Youth Section, Registrars Section
17	Disabled #13	Rules & Regs VIII	Add International Paralympic Committee into section A. Add Disabled Discipline Classics into 100 mile prohibition for invitational tournaments. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Registrars Section, International Council
18	Disabled #14	Rules & Regs IX	Include references for participation in the Sled and Warrior National Championships into National Championship Rules & Regs. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Disabled Section, Youth Section, Registrars Section

19	Disabled #15	Rules & Regs XIII	Include reference to IPC/WPIH in International of Rules & Regs. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	International Council
20	Disabled #16	Rules & Regs XIV	Update the preamble for the Sled Hockey section and remove language regarding minimum disability requirements; APPROVED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Disabled Section, SPEC, Legal Council
21	Disabled #17	Rules & Regs XIV	Update the Sled Age Waiver process and rules. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Disabled Section
22	Disabled #18	Rules & Regs XIV	Update the Sled roster eligibility rules. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Disabled Section
23	Disabled #19	Rules & Regs XIV	Updated to allow able-bodied player access to teams. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Disabled Section
24	Disabled #20	Rules & Regs XIV	Update the national events held and publication of event guidebooks. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Disabled Section
25	Disabled #21	Rules & Regs XIV	Add a Warrior Hockey section and eligibility rules. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Disabled Section
26	Disabled #22	Rules & Regs XIV	Add a Blind Hockey section and eligibility rules. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Disabled Section
27	Disabled #23	Rules & Regs XIV	Add a Deaf/Hearing Impaired Hockey section and eligibility rules. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Disabled Section
28	Disabled #24	Rules & Regs XIV	Add a Special Hockey section and eligibility rules. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Disabled Section
29	Disabled #25	Rules & Regs XIV	Add a Standing Amputee Hockey section and eligibility rules. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Disabled Section
30	Disabled #26	Duties & Responsibilities F	Update roles and responsibilities of members of the Disabled Section APPROVED AS AMENDED	Maureen Thompson-Siegel, Disabled Section	Disabled Section
31	Governance #1	Bylaw 4.B	Housekeeping for consistency and definition of participant members considered for district Congress representation. APPROVED	John Tobin, Kris Knauss, Donna Kaufman, John Coleman, Sarah Fraser, Taylor Lipsett, Governance Subcommittee	Legal Council, Board of Directors
32	Governance #2	Bylaw 4.C	To incorporate a provision for filling a vacancy that was not addressed in prior Governance work. APPROVED AS AMENDED	John Tobin, Kris Knauss, Donna Kaufman, John Coleman, Sarah Fraser, Taylor Lipsett, Governance Subcommittee	Legal Council, Board of Directors
33	Governance #3	Duties & Responsibilities XV	Housekeeping to correct references to Executive Committee. APPROVED	John Tobin, Kris Knauss, Donna Kaufman, John Coleman, Sarah Fraser, Taylor Lipsett, Governance Subcommittee	Legal Council, Board of Directors
34	Governance #4	Bylaw 4.C(6) & 4.E(3)	To make athlete elections simpler rather than having to conduct four separate elections each year. APPROVED AS AMENDED	John Tobin, Kris Knauss, Donna Kaufman, John Coleman, Sarah Fraser, Taylor Lipsett, Governance Subcommittee	Legal Council, Board of Directors, Athlete Directors
35	Governance #5	Bylaw 4.F, 8.A & 12	To allow for changes to Bylaws or Affiliate Agreement at any meeting of the Congress if it is required for compliance with the USOPC, Center for SafeSport or IIHF requirements, and changes to the Rules & Regulations, Policies and Philosophies may be made annually if approved by the applicable Council, Committee or Section, and by the Board between meetings, subject to Congress ratification. APPROVED	John Tobin, Kris Knauss, Donna Kaufman, John Coleman, Sarah Fraser, Taylor Lipsett, Governance Subcommittee	Legal Council, Board of Directors, Youth Council, Girls Council, Adult Council, Membership Council, Junior Council, International Council, Athlete Advisory Committee

26	Governance #6	Bylaw 4.B(5), 4.C(5), & 4.E(6)	To change so that the Independent Representative is elected by the Congress and related clarifications. APPROVED	John Tobin, Kris Knauss, Donna Kaufman, John Coleman, Sarah Fraser, Taylor Lipsett, Governance Subcommittee	Legal Council, Board of Directors
27	Legal #1	Bylaw 10.B(1)	Adds a definition of “Record” in order to clarify future uses of the term throughout Bylaw 10; amends “USCSS Code” to proper title. APPROVED	Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell	Legal Council, Board of Directors, National Appeal Committee
38	Legal #2	Bylaw 10.C(4)	Primarily housekeeping but also adds some framework for requests to extend the scope of discipline beyond the Affiliate. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell	Legal Council, Board of Directors, National Appeal Committee
39	Legal #3	Bylaw 10.D(3)	Primarily housekeeping but also clarifies intent behind Summary Suspensions; also distinguishes between discipline that requires a hearing and discipline for minor violations of team rules. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell	Board of Directors, Legal Council, National Appeal Committee, Coaches Section
40	Legal #4	Bylaw 10.E(1-3)	Primarily housekeeping but also removes the separate process for appeals of discipline of officials and amends appeals of discipline of Junior participants or teams. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell	Board of Directors, Legal Council, National Appeal Committee
41	Legal #5	Bylaw 10.F(4)	Housekeeping re: Challenges to Affiliate Status; APPROVED	Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell	Board of Directors, Legal Council, National Appeal Committee
42	Legal #6	Bylaw 10.G	Housekeeping and to clarify that arbitration pursuant to Bylaw 10.G. is a complete substitute for court proceedings and addresses arbitration procedure. APPROVED	Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell	Board of Directors, Legal Council, National Appeal Committee
43	Legal #7	Bylaw 10.I	Housekeeping re USOPC Arbitration; APPROVED	Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell	Board of Directors, Legal Council
44	Legal #8	Rules & Regs III.B	Bring the language of subsection 2 (Enforcement against Coaches) consistent with both subsection 1 (Enforcement against Players) and Subsection 3 (Enforcement against Programs) in Tier I recruiting rules. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Steve Stapleton, Dave Baun and Mike Feiwell	Board of Directors, Legal Council, National Appeal Committee, Youth Council. Affiliate Presidents
45	Youth #1	Rules & Regs III.B	Housekeeping to remove requirement that Tier I teams provide “team budget” to all players; “team fees” still required. APPROVED	Keith Barrett, Youth Council	Youth Council, Board of Directors, Affiliate Presidents
46	SPEC #1	Rules & Regs VIII	Recommending qualified medical personnel on-site at USA Hockey sanctioned tournaments to treat/manage any injuries or emergency medical needs. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Michael Stuart, SPEC	Youth Council, Girls Council, Affiliate Presidents, High School Section, Legal Council. Risk Management
47	SPEC #2	Policies D	Ammonia inhalants are not advised for youth athletes and may have harmful effect. Minors should not receive over-the-counter medications without parental consent. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Michael Stuart, SPEC	Board of Directors, Legal Council, SPEC
48	DL #2	Bylaw 1.D	This specific proposal would establish a team membership assessment to cover possible costs to USA Hockey in connection with the Development League. APPROVED AS AMENDED	John Coleman and Kris Knauss, National Development League Working Group	Youth Council, Junior Council. Legal Council, Affiliate Presidents Committee, Athlete Advisory Committee, Player Development Committee, Coaches Section, Registrars Section
49	DL #1	Programs & Philosophies D	This specific proposal identifies the Development League as a part of the USA Hockey Player Development Program under USA Hockey’s authority as an NGB. APPROVED AS AMENDED	John Coleman and Kris Knauss, National Development League Working Group	Youth Council, Junior Council. Legal Council, Affiliate Presidents Committee, Athlete Advisory Committee, Player Development Committee, Coaches Section, Registrars Section

50	DL #3	Bylaw 6.B(10)(b)	This specific proposal would establish that the USA Hockey Player Development Committee and Youth Council have the responsibility to oversee the National Development League. APPROVED AS AMENDED	John Coleman and Kris Knauss, National Development League Working Group	Youth Council, Junior Council. Legal Council, Affiliate Presidents Committee, Athlete Advisory Committee, Player Development Committee, Coaches Section, Registrars Section
51	DL #4	Rules & Regs II	This specific proposal sets out the age classifications for the Development League and provides that only two non-U.S. Citizens may participate as players on Development League teams. The DL is being established as part of USA Hockey's high-performance National Player Development Program. The DL will become part of the development pathway for American players and as part of the USA Hockey National Development Program. APPROVED AS AMENDED	John Coleman and Kris Knauss, National Development League Working Group	Youth Council, Junior Council. Legal Council, Affiliate Presidents Committee, Athlete Advisory Committee, Player Development Committee, Coaches Section, Registrars Section
52	DL #5	Rules & Regs III	This proposal provides that registration of players, teams and programs participating in the DL would be governed by a new Rules and Regulations section III. I. APPROVED AS AMENDED	John Coleman and Kris Knauss, National Development League Working Group	Youth Council, Junior Council. Legal Council, Affiliate Presidents Committee, Athlete Advisory Committee, Player Development Committee, Coaches Section, Registrars Section
53	DL #6	Rules & Regs III	This legislation allows for the establishment of the USA Hockey Development League following the USA Hockey Board of Directors Resolution dated January 19, 2025. The stated purpose of the NDL is to establish the NDL as part of USA Hockey's high-performance national player development program to train and develop American players from across the country to advance to high level Junior Hockey programs, College Hockey programs and also to increase the pool of players eligible to play for the United States in International competition. The establishment of the NDL is consistent with the commitment expressed by the USA Hockey Board in its recent Resolution. APPROVED AS AMENDED	John Coleman and Kris Knauss, National Development League Working Group	Youth Council, Junior Council. Legal Council, Affiliate Presidents Committee, Athlete Advisory Committee, Player Development Committee, Coaches Section, Registrars Section
54	Tournament Guidebook #1	Rules & Regs IX	To include a deadline for state/affiliate teams advancing to High school and Tier II National Tournaments. APPROVED	National Tournament Committee	Registrars, Affiliate Presidents Committee
55	Tournament Guidebook #2	Rules & Regs IX.E	Allow the National Tournament Committee flexibility to determine the number of teams at Tier I National Tournament (up to 24). APPROVED AS AMENDED	National Tournament Committee	Registrars, Affiliate Presidents Committee
56	Registrars #1	Rules & Regs IX.D	Revises the Youth 20/10 game count and Girls 14/10 game count requirements to be 18/12. High School remains at 10/5. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Mike McCullough, Registrar Section, Tier 1 Commission	Player Development Committee, Girls Council, Youth Council, Affiliate Presidents, Registrar Section, National Championship Committee, Board of Directors
57	Registrars #2	Rules & Regs IX.F	Moves roster freeze deadline to 2/15 to allow teams that have had players injured or lost to Juniors in January to fill those spots. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Mike McCullough, Registrar Section	Player Development Committee, Girls Council, Youth Council, Affiliate Presidents, National Championship Committee, Junior Council, Registrar Section, Board of Directors
58	Registrar #3	Rules & Regs IX.F-G	To provide consistency that all Tier 1 teams must be National Tournament declared. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Mike McCullough, Registrar Section, Tier 1 Commission	Registrar Section, Youth Council, Girls Council, National Championship Committee, Board of Directors, Affiliate Presidents
59	Registrars #4a	Rules & Regs IX.F	Reduce the allocation percentage of Tier 1 teams to 5% (after 2.5% for DL). APPROVED AS AMENDED	Mike McCullough, Registrar Section, Tier 1 Commission	Player Development Committee, Youth Council, Affiliate Presidents, Registrar Section, Board
60	Registrars #4b	Rules & Regs III.H	To simplify the calculation process for number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate, and limits the number of out of affiliate players on a Girls Tier I team. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Mike McCullough, Registrar Section	Player Development Committee, Youth Council, Registrars, Board, Affiliate Presidents

61	Registrars #5	Rules & Regs V	Confirm that coaches should sign the scoresheet prior to every game. APPROVED	Mike McCullough, Registrar Section	Registrar Section, Girls Council, Youth Council, Affiliate Presidents, Coaches Section, Referee Section, Board of Directors
62	Registrars #6	Rules & Regs VIII.C	Changes the definition of a "Tournament" that requires a Tournament Sanction. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Mike McCullough, Registrar Section	Board of Directors, Registrars, Youth Council, Girls Council, Affiliate Presidents, Coached Section, Referee Section, Disabled Section, Legal Council
63	Registrars #7	Rules & Regs IX.F	Allows National Championship-bound teams to add a replacement goaltender due to injury late in the season. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Mike McCullough, Registrar Section	National Championship Committee, Affiliate Presidents, Girls Council, Youth Council, Junior Council, Registrars Section, Board of Directors
64	Registrars #8	Rules & Regs III.C	To remove the opportunity for Tier 1 teams to have a 2 nd non-national tournament bound roster with ineligible players. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Mike McCullough, Registrar Section, Tier 1 Commission	Registrars Section, Youth Council, Girls Council, Affiliate Presidents, Board of Directors, National Championship Committee
65	Registrars #9	Rules & Regs III.E & F	Addresses residency definition for registration of teams in an Affiliate (which Affiliate program/team must register) , and limits the number of out of affiliate players on a Youth Tier I team. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Mike McCullough, Registrar Section, Tier 1 Commission	Registrar Section, Youth Council, Girls Council, Legal Council , Board of Directors, Affiliate Presidents
66	Registrars #10	Rules & Regs III.B	Provide clarification that Player Agreements are required for all Tier 1 teams. APPROVED	Mike McCullough, Registrar Section, Tier 1 Commission	Registrar Section, Youth Council, Girls Council, Board of Directors, Affiliate Presidents
67	Playing Rules #1	Rules & Regs VII	Amend language to reflect that all Disabled playing rules have been incorporated into the general playing rules, and replaces "Executive Committee" with the "Board of Directors" APPROVED AS AMENDED	Sarah Fraser, Playing Rules Committee Chairperson	Playing Rules Committee
68	Finance # 1	Bylaw 3	Requires Districts that include more than one Affiliate to be organized as 501(c)(3) corporations. APPROVED	Paul Day, Finance Committee	Finance Committee, Legal Council, Affiliate Presidents
69	Finance # 2	Bylaw 5.C(3-5)	To update Bylaws to conform to USA Hockey financial operations in a larger business than when bylaws were initially drafted. APPROVED	Paul Day, Declan Farmer, Steve Oleheiser, John Tobin, Donna Guariglia	Finance Committee, Legal Council, Board of Directors, Adult Council
70	Finance # 3	Bylaw 6.B(4)(a)	Correct the maximum term of office. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Paul Day, Finance Committee	Finance Committee, Legal Council, Board
71	Finance # 4	Programs & Philosophies B	Update Administrators Code of Conduct to reflect Fiscal Policy practice of local members. APPROVED	Paul Day, Finance Committee	Finance & Administration, Legal Council, Youth Council, Girls Council, Affiliate Presidents, Board of Directors
72	Finance # 5	Affiliate Agreement	To include more stringent reporting and financial compliance by Affiliates, timely publication of meeting minutes, cooperation with site reviews and adoption policies. APPROVED AS AMENDED	Paul Day, Finance Committee	Finance & Administration, Legal Council, Affiliate Presidents, Board of Directors

Note: The following proposals were withdrawn at the 2025 Annual Meeting: Disabled Proposals #1, 3, 4, 8 and 12, Registrars #11 and High School Proposals #1 and 2.

Note 2: At the USA Hockey Board of Directors Meeting on February 9, 2026, further amendments were adopted to Affiliate President #1, and Registrars #4a, #4b and #9.