

USA Hockey Tech Bulletin

NEW RULES IMPLEMENTING IN THE 2025-26 SEASON

- Tier I Moratorium – No new Tier I programs in the 2025-26 or 2026-27 seasons unless approved by USA Hockey. This means if a program didn't field a Tier I team, at specific age classification in 2024-25, they can't field a Tier I team in 2025-26 or 2026-27 for that age classification.
- Tier I Roster Submissions – Tier I rosters must be submitted for approval no later than October 15th.
- Tier I Roster Size - 22 Player rosters expanding from Youth 18U to Youth 15U, 16U and 18U. Girls 19U Tier I will be 22 players as well. 22 players can dress, no more than 20 skaters.
- Tier I Vertical Integration – Changed from a pilot to a rule and expanded to Girls 16U and 19U.
- Tier I 130 National Championships – Changed from a pilot to rule.
- CEP Update –
 - Affiliates can't impose a CEP deadline earlier than 12/31.
 - If a coach is redlined from a roster during the season due to not having the proper CEP, the affiliate may require that coach to have the proper CEP before the coach can be rostered on a team in the next season.
 - Adds a 6U/8U CEP level (includes LTS) for new coaches.
 - Coaches need Level 1 once they begin coaching an age class of 10U or above.
 - Good for 5 years as long as not coaching a higher age classification. Refresher will be needed after 5 years
 - No need to progress unless coaching something other than 6U/8U/LTS
 - Expired coaches can continue to coach 6U/8U/LTS
 - Student coaches need to attend or audit the 6U/8U or level 1 clinic.
 - Must wear a helmet and neck laceration protection, even when on the bench.
 - Coaching Continuing Education
 - Coaches at Levels 1-3 can accumulate CE Credits for future use
 - Coaches at Level 4 are valid for 3 seasons, Level 5 is valid for 4 seasons. Both levels need 5 CE Credits to be recertified at the same level.

NEW – Board Rosters

USA Hockey is requiring that each association create and submit for approval a Board Roster of their association. All board members of the association should be registered with USA Hockey and complete both Safe Sport and screening. When creating the Board Roster, add all members as Staff and use the pencil to select the appropriate title for that Board member. If there is not a title listed for their position, select volunteer. Board rosters should be submitted and approved first before any team rosters are approved for the association.

Individual Online Registration

Online registration is provided for individual members to register with USA Hockey at <https://membership.usahockey.com/>. All members (players, coaches, team managers and volunteers) must register with USA Hockey for participation. For the 2025-26 season, the **Waiver of Liability, Concussion Information & Acknowledgment and Safe Sport Training Policy Acknowledgment** have been updated and are completed during online registration. These waivers can also be found in the Forms section of the Registry/Admin.

Instruct your members to register online **using their legal name, correct DOB** and send their confirmation number to you.

Let your members know the below USA Hockey fee is collected during online registration plus the affiliate fee. More information on the USA Hockey fee structure and membership benefits can be found at <https://www.usahockey.com/membership>

Important note: If a player registration is completed with a wrong year of birth and should be at a different fee then USA Hockey national office will refund the original registration fee and have the individual register again. This will result in the person getting a NEW Confirmation number. The old confirmation number will be deleted from the national database and if it was already claimed to your association the process of us deleting it will remove this number from your Registry. You will need to get the NEW confirmation number from that member to claim them again with the correct DOB.

Claiming/Registering Members

All associations **MUST** claim their members:

- Collect Confirmation numbers/bar codes
- Log in to the USAH Registry, click on Registration
- Enter member type (C-coach, P-player, M-Manager, V-Volunteer)
- Enter Confirmation Number to claim that individual. The player/coach confirmation number is 9 digits and 5 letters, **for the 2025-26 season, the 4th digit will always be 6**. A manager/volunteer confirmation number is 9 digits followed by XX and 3 letters.
- You can also import several confirmation numbers at one time with the upload feature. When importing lists, it is recommended to have no more than 500 confirmation numbers per import.
- **If importing**, create an Excel spreadsheet with the required two columns; Member Type (C, P, M or V) is in one column and Confirmation Number in the next column. Click on Import Members on the Registration screen to upload your file. You will identify which column contains what information and then import.
- After submitting one or many confirmation numbers with the member type a table will list who you are ready to submit for claiming.
- Click 'Submit Member List;' a report will be provided summarizing the registrations you have submitted and are now in your personnel. You can then begin to create rosters.

It is important that you claim all members that are participating in your association to confirm compliance with education, Safe Sport, and screening and to have the correct count of members participating in your association. **ALL Coaches must be claimed through your USAH Registry – any adult who is on the ice or bench with youth players must be registered through your program as a Coach.** Manager/Volunteer registration is only for off-ice participation. All players **must** also be claimed regardless of being on a roster or not. You do not need to save confirmation pages once you have claimed your members.

If you have any name corrections or other updates for the member, please contact the Associate Registrar or USA Hockey Member Services.

USA Hockey Member Confirmation Information

Each participant has a current season registration number which is their confirmation number generated during online registration. To get a reprint of a confirmation page – go to <https://membership.usahockey.com/>, and click 'Request Duplicate Registration Confirmation' on the home page. You can print the page; it does not email to you. To look up a confirmation number through your Registry, click on Registration and then Member Lookup – enter last name, first name, date of birth and state.

Building Team Rosters

After you have claimed your member, you are ready to create team rosters. Click Team button, then click Create Team to start your roster. If you have questions about creating a team in your area, contact your USA Hockey Associate Registrar.

You will enter TEAM NAME, a maximum of 35 characters. Please remember that USA Hockey is no longer using the nomenclature of Midgets, Bantams, Pee Wees, Squirts, Mites, and these should not be part of the "Team Name." Refer to your affiliate regulations regarding any specific directions on creating team name.

Following the prompts to continue the team setting; select CATEGORY, CLASS, and DIVISION.

National Tournament Bound teams **MUST** have positions and jersey numbers assigned as part of the official and at minimum name one Locker Room Monitor; this is a requirement of the USA Hockey National Championships.

It is recommended that you also claim your Team Manager and/or a Locker Room Monitor (Volunteer) to your official roster. This will show that they are compliant with Safe Sport and screening. Refer to your affiliate tech bulletin if this is a requirement versus recommendation.

You will not be able to add a Coach to a Youth/Girls Roster until the required Age-Specific Coaching Module has been completed. You will not be able to add Team Staff (Coach or Manager) to a Youth/Girls Roster until their Safe Sport training and Background Screening are completed.

You will not be able to add a Player (2008 birth year or older) to a youth, girls, high school, flex, disabled or junior roster until their Safe Sport training has been completed.

Once your roster is ready, you will submit the roster through your Registry (online) to your USA Hockey Registrar for approval. Once approved the status will change from submitted to approved on the tags listed on the team screen. You will also receive daily email notices on any actions taken to the roster. A link to the Official Certified Approved Roster is available so that you can distribute, as necessary. This link will remain the same all season, even if changes are made to the roster. You are still able to print Rosters. If you do print a Roster, be sure to print from the link.

Requirement for Creating a Roster

USA Hockey Annual Guide under III. Team Membership and Registration indicates the requirement of creating a roster.

A. Membership

Except for Juniors, all teams of USA Hockey member programs must register with USA Hockey in a manner prescribed by the appropriate district registrar. All youth, girls, high school, and disabled teams shall be required to use the official USA Hockey roster registration form (1-T). Affiliates and leagues may also require the USA Hockey roster registration form (1-T) for other specified teams. All applicants for team membership must be members in good standing of an affiliate.

Number of Players allowed on a Team

A limit of twenty (20) players at any one time may be registered per team except for high school, girls' high school, college and women's college who may roster 30 players and may dress 20 players and, adult and women's teams who may roster 25 players and may dress 20 players. Affiliates may allow their post season (Spring/Summer) teams, formed to play between the end of the last USA Hockey National Youth/Girls Championship and August 31, to have a limit of twenty-five (25) players on a roster and may dress twenty (20) players per game. Check with your Affiliate for more information.

TIER I Roster Size will be 22 players for Tier I Youth 15O, 16U and 18U as well as Tier I Girls 19U. 22 players can dress, no more than 20 skaters.

Date of birth and US citizenship verification

If a birth date or citizenship has been verified to the USA Hockey National office, you will see the word 'Verified' next to the date and citizenship in the participant's personnel record. A verified symbol will also appear on the Official Roster and on the Credential Verification form. Copies of birth certificates are not required to be collected or carried for those participants who have the verification symbol in the 'V' column of the Official Roster.

For National Championship bound teams, a verification is required to indicate that a review of each player's birth certificate has been completed. When no verification is indicated on the Roster or Credential Verification sheet, a copy of the birth certificate or passport for rostered player will be required.

Non-US Citizen Transfer Requirements for Players

- International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) regulations require that all non-US citizen players on youth or girls' teams complete a transfer to USA Hockey and your member team prior to participation
- The appropriate transfer form and documents showing proof of resident status in the US must be sent to transfers@usahockey.org and **APPROVED PRIOR** to the player participating. A player with an incomplete transfer will not be available to add to a roster.
- Once a transfer is complete this will show in the player's record in Personnel as Transfer Complete or Transfer Complete – Student.
- Transfer forms can be found under "forms" in your registry. There are four different transfer forms –Canadian women on national bound teams, Canadian youth, all other non-US citizens on youth teams and 18 or over non-US/non-Canadian citizens on youth teams.
- Youth players age 18 and adult women, with a non-US and non-Canadian citizenship, will be charged a fee for the transfer. Those under the age of 18 are processed at no fee.
- Girls' national bound teams are restricted to no more than two (2) players in the US on student visas. Youth national bound teams are restricted to no more than four (4) players in the US on student visas. These transfers will show as transfer complete –student.

Registry Updates

Each time that you sign into your registry you will receive the most current data for your members – approved rosters, completed coaching clinics, modules, Safe Sport, screening, date of birth verification, non-US citizen transfer completion, etc. – anything that has been updated since you last viewed your membership data.

The USA Hockey national database receives information on members several times a day however it can take up to 24 hours from completion of age modules, coaching continuing education credits, screening, or safe sport training for this information to post. Once in the national database that will sync to the registry.

Rules & Regulations

Tier I rules regarding recruiting, tampering and player movement. Detailed information on this subject can be found in the Forms section of the Registry Portal; refer to the official language approved on January 28, 2024, and the summary document. This is particularly important when it comes to adding and dropping players from Tier I programs.

National Championship Guidebook reminders:

- Affiliate/State/District tournaments held prior to 12/31, there will be no changes to the roster once the tournament begins
- National Game Count requirement must be met prior to the State/Affiliate/District or Nationals
- Lock Room Monitors must be listed on the official roster if they are going to participate in the National Championships; they can be added up to 7 days prior to the event.
- The deadline to add a coach to the official roster will be 7 days prior to the National Championships.
- Credentials must be submitted to the host registrar within 7 days of qualifying for national, no exceptions.
- High Schools will no longer be different divisions; verification from Head Coach is required to confirm all players are eligible for participation on a High School roster

13 Only Tier I National Championship

In conjunction with the Tier I National Championships, USA Hockey shall conduct a twelve team National Championship. All other USA Hockey Rules and Regulations applicable to the Youth Tier I Levels shall be applicable to the Tier I Youth 13 Only classification. Furthermore, the playing rules for Tier I Youth 13 Only shall be consistent with the Tier I Youth 14U classification and any other playing rule modifications recommended by the Player Development Committee and approved by the Youth Council. For the 2025-26 season, Tier I Youth 13 Only eligibility shall be limited to only those players whose birth year is 2012.

Vertical Movement – Tier I Youth 15O, 16U and 18U; Tier I Girls 16U and 19U

Vertical roster movement has now passed and will also include Tier I Girls 16U and 19U. The purpose of this is to allow vertical roster movement at the Tier I Youth 15O, 16U and 18U levels and Tier I Girls 16U and 19U within the same Association through February 1st. Only those players otherwise eligible for a different age category within their Organization and currently appearing on a Tier I roster in the Organization shall be eligible to play on a different Tier I team from that Organization without being added to the official roster, subject to the following conditions:

- Each Player is limited to a total of 8 games played outside of their official roster between September 1 and February 1.
- Players may only compete at one age level per day.
- A player will not be eligible for vertical integration to a team in which they were previously added to that team's roster and then dropped.
- 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.
- A player who is under any suspension is not allowed to participate in vertical roster movement until such time the suspension is served.
- Any suspension incurred by a player under this rule, when playing normally scheduled league or exhibition games, must be served with the team in which the player is officially rostered. If player is participating in sanctioned tournament and/or showcase refer to the FAQ.
- All other current National Championship rules, including the 20/10 rule would stay in effect. Games only count if player is on official roster.

Important Definitions

Definitions for High School classification:

Div I – a community based academic high school where teams consist of players attending the same high school as full-time students who are eligible to play in sanctioned varsity sports at that school

Div II – Community or non-community based academic high schools where teams consist of players representing more than one high school who are full-time students eligible to play sanctioned varsity sports at any one of the combined schools

Prep – Boarding schools or Academies that house players in a school dormitory or with billet families, and non-community based high schools consisting of full-time students attending the same school and non-community based online schools. All teams, players and coaches must register with USA Hockey prior to application for participation.

Definitions for Adult classifications:

Adult US – Open to all US Citizens; non-US residents are eligible on a limited basis. Excludes players that have participated during the current season at any elite professional level (NHL, AHL or European) or on an NCAA Division I and/or III team. Players that have participated in the following leagues before November 30 of the current season are eligible on a limited basis; ECHL, CHL, IHL, UHL, SPHL, AAHA and any Major Junior (other leagues may apply). Players that participated during the current season at any level of the ACHA are eligible for this classification. Players shall be 18 years of age or older. However, only 25 % of an Adult US registered team may be under the age of 20 unless approved by the Vice President, Adult Council Chair.

Adult Non-Checking – Unrestricted as to citizenship, and unlimited to include amateurs and/or reinstated professionals. National Championship rosters are limited as to: Exclude any player who plays that current season as a professional player or on an NCAA Div I, II or III or junior college, or college team. Players shall be 18 years of age or older.

Women are part of the adult classification and should be rostered as classification Adult Women. The age divisions are no longer part of the classification for adults. These age divisions could be part of the name of the team if needed.

Fifteen (15) (Tier I National Bound Teams only) - 15 Only

The 15-year-old age category shall be for the Tier I Youth level only and shall be limited to players age 15 (as defined in the age classification chart for the current season). Players that are not age 15 in the current season shall not be permitted to play at the 15-year-old age classification under any circumstances. For the current 2025-26 season this is the 2010 birth year.

Coaching Education Information

- Level 1, 2, 3 will be valid for one season
- As of the 2021-22 season, coaches who obtained Level 4 are part of the continuing education path. Their education will be valid for three (3) seasons; coach needs to take 5 credits for continuing education to advance the expiration to the next three-year cycle.
- As of the 2021-22 season, coaches who obtained Level 5 will be valid for four (4) seasons. If a coach was Level 4 with expiration of 12/31/2099 then Level 5 will also stay with the 12/31/2099 unless that individual in the future coaches a Tier I or Tier II team, then they would change to the continuing education based on the grandfather clause below.
- Grandfathered Level 4 & 5 coaches; if the coach had their Level 4 or 5 prior to January 1, 2021, and was not a coach on a category Tier I or Tier II roster since that date, they are grandfathered into the system and their expiration remains as 12/31/2099. If they do coach on a category Tier I or Tier II roster from the 2020-21 season or after, the expiration changed from 12/31/2099 to the three-year or four-year expiration and they are now on the continuing education path. Once a grandfathered coach is on the continuing education path they will remain on that path.
- Continuing Education courses will be provided by the Coaches Section; these could be virtual or in-person courses, online videos, or clinics. Additional information can be found online <https://www.usahockey.com/coaching-continuingeducation>
- The Registry/Admin will include information on the CEP Level as well as how many earned credits a coach has available. This will be shown in reports, in personnel and in roster views.
- A coach who is on continuing education path is required to earn 5 credits before their expiration date; if they earn more than 5 credits once they reach their expiration date all earned credits will go to zero and the expiration will move out to a new expiration date (3 years for Level 4, four years for Level 5). Extra credits over 5 will not carry over.

Other Requirements for Coaches

- Coaches MUST have the appropriate module completed PRIOR to being placed on a roster.
- If a coach already has a 10U module and coaching a 10U team, they do not need to take the new 10U/12U module. However, if they are coaching a 12U team and did not have the 12U module then they would need to take the new 10U/12U module.
- Remind your coaches that they must have current CEP completed by 12/31 or they will be redlined as of January 1st.
- **Please encourage coaches to use their legal name when registering so their coaching education (clinics and modules), safe sport and screening show in their record. Example if history is Michael Smith and new registration is Mike Smith the system will create a new record and not connect previous education and compliance.**

Safe Sport

- All coaches are required to have current/completed Safe Sport training PRIOR to participation in your program.
- Managers and volunteers must also complete Safe Sport to be placed on a team roster.
- **All players, 2008 birth year and older, participating on a team with minor participants will need to complete Safe Sport training PRIOR to being allowed to participate in any program.**