



*2016-2017*

*RULES & REGULATIONS*



**ATLANTIC AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**  
**2016-2017 RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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- (5) Know and study rules of the game
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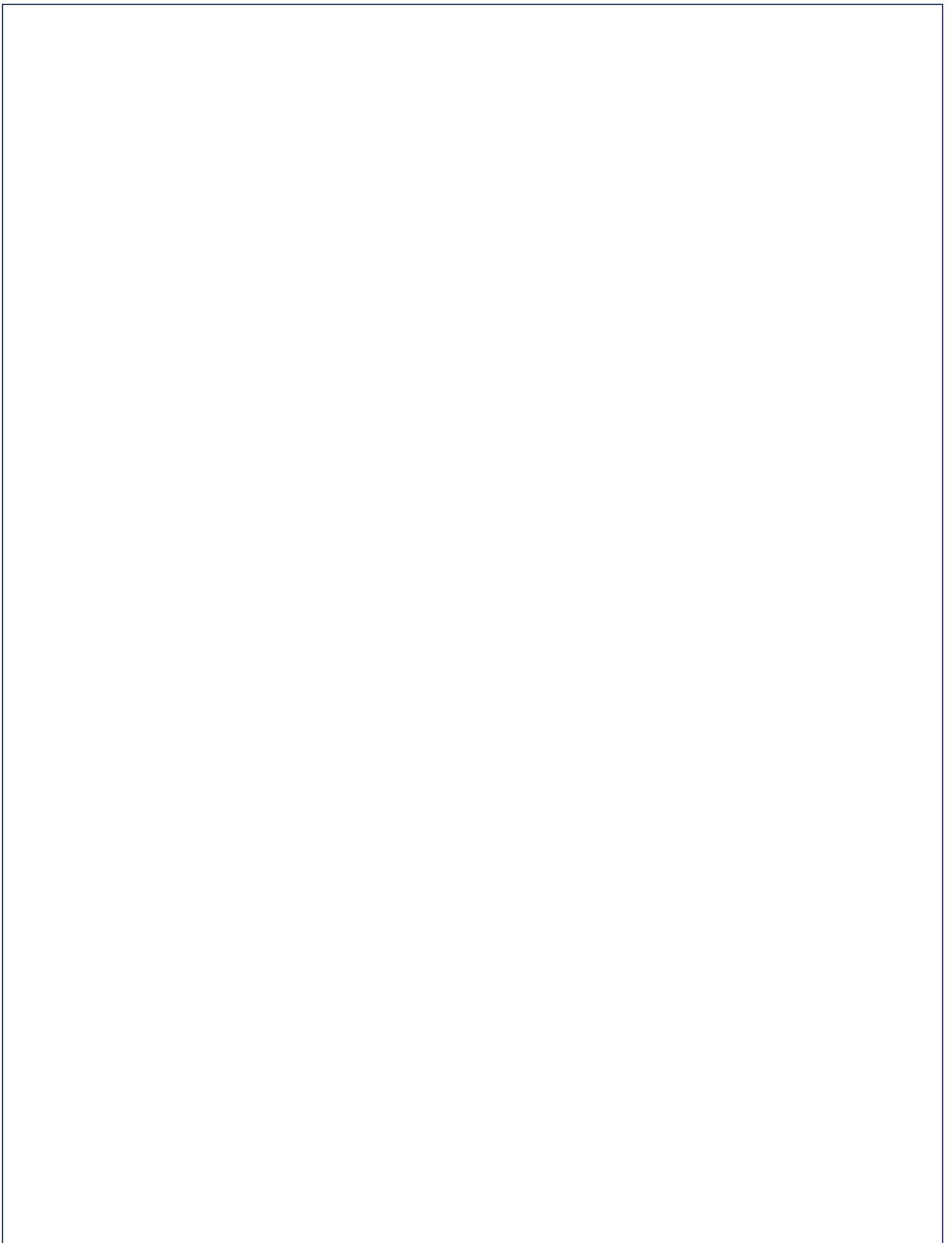
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# **ATLANTIC AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION** **RULES & REGULATIONS**

## **ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION**

### **A. MEMBERSHIP**

- (1) Membership Status A player becomes a member in the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association upon completion and acceptance of Affiliate Agreement and payment of same
- (2) Renewal. Membership in this association must be renewed annually.

### **B. REGISTRATION**

- (1) USA Hockey Registration. Each player must register with USA Hockey with the registrar or as determined by USA Hockey.
- (2) Classification and Declaration. Teams are to declare their classification level on their registration form, subject to the provisions of Article VI (Teams). Failure to declare will result in the team being assigned to the open level.
- (3) Determination. In accordance with USA Hockey Annual Guide, Rules and Regulations, the regular season shall be September 1 through August 31. New members or those members who register on or after April 1 of any calendar year are eligible for participation from the date of their registration through August 31 of the following calendar year.
  - A sanctioned USA Hockey Member Program, as determined by the applicable Affiliate, must register all of its teams in the USA Hockey Affiliate in which the greatest percentage of the Member Program's players reside (as defined below). In addition, unless approved by the applicable Affiliates, all Teams registered within a Member Program must have the greatest percentage of team members that reside in the Affiliate where the Member Program is registered and shall comply with all applicable Affiliate Rules regarding Team Registration. An Affiliate may require that teams registered within its Affiliate have a minimum percentage of players that reside in the Affiliate (or similarly, an Affiliate may place a limitation on out-of-Affiliate or non-resident players).
  - Teams that are not part of a sanctioned Member Program but which are approved by the Affiliate (an "independent team") must register in the USA Hockey Affiliate in which the greatest percentage of its players reside. Independent teams must comply with all applicable Affiliate rules regarding Team Registration.
  - In the event that a Member Program/Independent team have equal percentages of players that reside in two or more Affiliates, the Affiliates involved shall promptly convene and decide as to where that Member Program/Independent team shall register.
  - Notwithstanding that application of the above rules would require that a Member Program or Independent team register in a particular Affiliate, two neighboring Affiliates, with the Member Program's or Independent team's consent, may agree that a particular Member Program or Independent team may register through either of those two Affiliates.
  - If there is a dispute between one or more Affiliates and a Member Program or Independent team regarding the proper Affiliate in which a Member Program or Independent team must register, then the Member Program, Independent team and any affected Affiliate shall seek resolution of such dispute through an appeal to the USA Hockey Youth Council.



- For the purposes of determining where a player resides under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, absent specific Affiliate rules regarding residency, the residency status of a minor age player shall be the same as at least one of the minor's parents or legal guardians. Should a player not be residing with a parent or legal guardian but rather residing and attending school elsewhere, the location of the school shall be considered the player's residence. Any dispute under this section regarding where a minor age player resides shall be resolved by the appropriate USA Hockey Registrar(s), in consultation with the Assistant Executive Director of Member Services of USA Hockey. There shall be no appeal following such determination. The residency determination for the purposes of this rule does not affect the player's residency for the purposes of representation at player development camps.
- (4) Fees The annual fees for registered players will be set by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting.
  - (5) Liability Insurance USA Hockey fees automatically include a charge for inclusion under the liability insurance policy making all members eligible for indemnity coverage from specified suits and other coverage provided under the USA Hockey group insurance policy. Insurance becomes effective on the date you're your teams are fully registered and all fees are paid in full.
  - (6) Eligibility Date Teams must be registered before the start of league or exhibition games, but in any event not later than December 31, of the playing season to be eligible for District, Regional, and National tournaments.
  - (7) Games Prior To Registration. No game played before a team/organization is officially registered with completed T-1 and T-2 USA Hockey forms shall count to fulfilling the 10/20 or 10/14 game player/team requirements for post season tournament eligibility.
  - (8) Organizational Registration. All teams of an organization/association must be exclusively registered only with USA Hockey and the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association (Policy for 2014-15)
  - (9) Registration Expiration Team registration expires August 31 of each year.

## **ARTICLE II - PLAYERS**

### **A. PLAYER ROSTERING**

- (1) Roster Forms. All teams must roster players on USA Hockey Player Roster form to be eligible for tournament play.
- (2) Birth Certificates Verification of a birth certificate is shown on the USA Hockey roster and credentials verification sheet. If no verification is shown then a copy of the birth certificate or passport must be presented (Baptismal or hospital certificates are not acceptable).
- (3) Dual Rostering Players may only appear on one USA Hockey roster of teams eligible to participate toward USA Hockey National Tournaments, except Junior, where a name may appear only on one roster. High School rosters and girls playing on boy's teams are not affected by this rule.
  - a. Girls Rostering – Female players may only be rostered on one club of the following: USAH Tier I (either National Bound or Non-National bound) or USAH Tier II National Bound club roster from August 1<sup>st</sup> through the end of USA Hockey Nationals each season. Exceptions are that the

player may also be rostered on an AAHA recognized scholastic team, a team in an AAHA recognized house league, or any AAHA affiliate sponsored teams.

- (4) Time for Rostering Any player who signs an official roster form, which has been filed with USA Hockey registration shall not be rostered on another tournament bound team, unless receives a written release from an officer of the club, who is not related to the player. If a player is rostered on two tournament bound teams, playing a game should not matter. The player must be deleted from the roster or rosters and a written release secured from the club the player is leaving.
- (a) Definition of a season – the date which the player commitment contract was signed through 48 hours after Nationals of that season, whichever is shorter.
  - (b) Signing period – a player may not be signed to a commitment contract for the following season prior to the AAHA approved tryout dates
  - (c) Any team and/or organization that provides written commitment contract and/or requires the collection of money from a player or player's family prior to the official AAHA tryout dates shall be subject to sanctions.
- (5) AAHA/USAH Girls Rostered Tier I teams will be limited to no more than two (2) players per roster, per season, playing up in age classification. Any girl's player playing up in age classification may only do so in the second year of eligibility of her current application age appropriate classification except for 16U age group classification can play up as a 19U team. Tier II USAH girls registered teams will not be subject to restrictions on the number of players playing up in age classification, however, it is recommended that they play within their age group. Affiliate ADM policies, rules and regulations supersedes this rule.

## B. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- (1) Team Commitments. During the season, the player agrees to play ice hockey exclusively for the club, with the exception that the player may participate in playing hockey for his scholastic, Non-tournament teams, independent travel teams, recognized house league, any affiliate sponsored teams, and girls playing on boy's teams in another organization.
- (a) Girls: From August 1 through the end of UDSA Hockey Nationals, 14U, 16U and 19U Female players must play ice hockey exclusively for only one designated Tier I, Tier II or non-tournament club, with the exceptions that the player may also participate in playing hockey for an AAHA recognized scholastic, in an AAHA recognized house league, or any AAHA affiliate sponsored team. Girls may also be rostered on both youth and a Girl's girls Tier I or Tier II travel club (Limit 1 youth club and 1 Girl's club)
- (2) Ineligible Players. A coach or manager who knowingly allows the participation of an ineligible player in any game shall be subject to suspension for not less than 60 days or more than one year.
- (3) Financial Responsibility. No player from any USA Hockey Affiliate or may register or participate on a team within the Atlantic Affiliate if such player owes any financial obligation, including, unreturned equipment, to any previous team or organization registered within any USA Hockey Affiliate or District.
- (a) Each organization should put in their contract that the person signing the contract agrees to be bound by this Article regarding Player Eligibility and releases and appeals. All

payment plans are to have a final date. Suggest that all payment plans have a end date of January 1. If not paid in full by February 1, the player's name is placed on the Financial Outstanding list and player cannot play for the rest of the season for that team. No name may be placed on the Financial Outstanding list after February 15.

- (b) After February 15, the Atlantic Affiliate will compile a list of all registered Affiliate players who are claimed to owe an outstanding financial obligation by their previous Atlantic Affiliate team or organization. No player whose name appears on the outstanding financial list shall be rostered with another Atlantic Affiliate team (regardless of youth or adult) until the outstanding financial obligation has been discharged or satisfied to the satisfaction of the club or permission is given by the Affiliate, respective league or club.
- (c) Any player who is denied a release after having been notified has the right to the review and appeal of such denial in accordance with the provisions of this rule and Article Affiliate's Rules and Regulations.

### **C. EXPEDITED PROCEDURE FOR DECIDING PLAYER ELIGIBILITY DISPUTES**

- (1) Mediation and Review. A player who is denied a release shall have the right to a prompt and reasonably unbiased mediation and review of his release claim upon written notice to the team or organization that has refused to provide the release.
- (2) Conduct of the Mediation and Review. Within a reasonable period of time following the receipt of the Player's request for mediation and review, a reasonably unbiased representative of the team or club shall meet with the player, and in the case of a minor, with his parents or guardians, in person, and review the circumstances of the release claim. The representative shall be prepared to demonstrate through the team/club's records or other material evidence that the player either owes a financial obligation to the team or club or such other facts as shall substantiate the denial of the release sought. The objective of the mediation and review is to allow the parties the informal opportunity to amicably settle any disputed release claims before any appeal is taken. Mediation and Review must occur before an appeal to the league can be processed.
- (3) League Appeals. In the event that a release dispute cannot be settled by Mediation and Review, the Player may present a written appeal for a release to the President of the League in which the player's team competes. Appeals involving independent teams that do not compete in an Affiliate League shall be presented directly to the Affiliate Vice President of Suspensions and Appeals as set forth below.
- (4) Conduct of League Appeal. Within a reasonable period of time following the receipt of the player's request for a League Appeal, the League President shall conduct a hearing into the facts surrounding the release request. The League President shall have broad discretion in conducting the hearing which may be formal or informal, conducted by the President personally or by appointed committee and be by live witness or by submission of records by the parties. Hearings may be conducted in person, telephonically or electronically at the discretion of the League President.
- (5) Decision by the League President. Within fourteen (14) days of the date of the conclusion of the hearing the League President shall render a written decision which shall contain a brief finding of facts, conclusions and order.
- (6) Affiliate Appeal. Within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of the League President's decision, any aggrieved party may file a written appeal to the Affiliate Vice President of Suspensions and

Appeals. The Affiliate appeal shall be governed by Article V of the Rules and Regulations and prevailing Affiliate Policies relating to appeals.

#### **D. PLAYER MOVEMENT**

- (1) Contracts. All players are free to tryout for any team or organization 48 hours after USA Hockey's National Youth Tournaments. After a player commitment contract is signed, there will be no player movement without a written release from his or her organization.
- (2) Player Movement All AAHA players are free to move at the end of each season to any Member Club at the conclusion of the USA Hockey National Championship. All players are required to fulfill all financial obligations with their current Club. Any Member Club may impose a Player Movement Restriction against a player who has not fulfilled their financial obligation. Written notification to the AAHA Office is required when placing a player on the Restricted List.
  - a. There will be no "in-season" player movement. "In-season" Player Movement is defined as player who has already committed in writing, to play for one AAHA Member Team and is seeking a release to play for a different AAHA member within the same season. Exception – Tier II players who receive a release from the club they are registered with
  - b. Once a player has made his/her commitment to an AAHA Member Club, for the purposes of playing on an AAHA Team; the player will be deemed ineligible to participate with any other AAHA Member Club for that season.
  - c. AAHA Member Clubs may issue a written release "in-season" to any player for purposes of indicating that the player (and Parents) has met all financial obligations with the AAHA Member Club. However, this release does not authorize the player to participate with other AAHA Members for the duration of that season.
  - d. For the purposes of this policy, the "season" will commence at the start of the AAHA Member Club's initial tryout period and run through the conclusion of the following USA Hockey National Championship.
  - e. The AAHA Vice President of Suspensions and Appeals is empowered to review extenuating circumstances, such as family relocation, as a possible reason to exempt a player from this policy.
  - f. During the season, the player agrees to play ice hockey exclusively for the club, with the exception that the player may participate in playing hockey for his scholastic, non-tournament teams, independent travel teams, recognized house league, any affiliate sponsored teams, and girls playing on boy's teams in another organization.

Below is a suggested Player Movement Explanation and Parental Notification Form to be completed by each parent/player, returned and retained by the organization as well as a copy to be retained by the parent/player



**Player Movement Policy Explanation  
Parental Notification Form**

Adopted June 2014

**AAHA Player Movement: “One Season – One Team”**

1. Player Movement: All AAHA players are free to move at the end of each season to any Member Club at the conclusion of the USA Hockey National Championship. All players are required to fulfill all financial obligations with their current Club. Any Member Club may impose a Player Movement Restriction against a player who has not fulfilled their financial obligation. Written notification to the AAHA Office is required when placing a player on the Restricted List.
2. There will be no “in-season” player movement. “In-season” Player Movement is defined as player who has already committed in writing, to play for one AAHA Member Team and is seeking a release to play for a different AAHA member within the same season. Exception – Tier II players who receive a release from the club they are registered with
3. Once a player has made his/her commitment to an AAHA Member Club, for the purposes of playing on an AAHA Team; the player will be deemed ineligible to participate with any other AAHA Member Club for that season.
4. AAHA Member Clubs may issue a written release “in-season” to any player for purposes of indicating that the player (and Parents) has met all financial obligations with the AAHA Member Club. However, this release does not authorize the player to participate with other AAHA Members for the duration of that season.
5. For the purposes of this policy, the “season” will commence at the start of the AAHA Member Club’s initial tryout period and run through the conclusion of the following USA Hockey National Championship.
6. The AAHA Vice President of Suspensions and Appeals is empowered to review extenuating circumstances, such as family relocation, as a possible reason to exempt a player from this policy.
7. During the season, the player agrees to play ice hockey exclusively for the club, with the exception that the player may participate in playing hockey for his scholastic, non-tournament teams, independent travel team, recognized house league, any Affiliate sponsored teams and girls playing on boys teams in another organization

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the AAHA Player Movement Policy is to:

- To allow free movement of players after the USA Hockey National Championships of each season.
- To prevent tampering or recruitment of players after the tryout/signing period.
- To discourage “team shopping” after the tryout period.
- Insure competitive parity.

**EXPLANATION:**

It is understood that once the Parent (or legal guardian) signs a player agreement with an AAHA Member Club, for the purposes of their son/daughter playing for an AAHA Team, said player’s eligibility is restricted to that Member Club and Team from the date of the signed Playing Agreement and/or Contract and the conclusion of the USA Hockey National Championship. This AAHA policy is considered the “One-season / One team” policy.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ the parent or legal guardian for \_\_\_\_\_, (THE PLAYER) playing

for the \_\_\_\_\_ (AAHA MEMBER CLUB), playing for the \_\_\_\_\_ season, have read the above Parental Notification Form and understand the AAHA Player Movement Policy as it pertains to THE PLAYER indicated above. Further the AAHA MEMBER CLUB and its representatives have satisfied any questions that I have related to the AAHA PLAYER MOVEMENT POLICY.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name (Parent / Guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name      Witness (Club Official)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **E. PLAYER AWARDS**

- (1) USA Hockey Awards Hat Trick, Zero, and Playmaker awards will be awarded to those that earn them in regular season, AAHA or USA Hockey sanctioned tournaments, at the conclusion of the season through the office of the Registrar.

## **ARTICLE III - COACHES**

### **A. COACHING ELIGIBILITY**

- (1) Registration of Coaches. All teams registering with AAHA and USA Hockey must have a head coach and assistant coach(s) in good standing. These individuals must be identified on the team registration form, player roster form, and on the score sheet, along with their CEP card number. The replacement and addition of managers and coaches must be reported immediately.
- (2) CEP Compliance. All coaches in the Atlantic Affiliate shall be in compliance with USA Hockey's Coaching Education Program requirements (see USA Hockey's most current edition of their annual guide under section VII. Coaching Education Programs for these requirements)
- (a) It will be the responsibility of the league to receive from each of their individual clubs by October 15, a list of all coaches with that clubs teams as well as a copy of their online coaches certification record from USA Hockey to confirm that each coach within that organization within the league are of the proper level of accreditation.
- (b) If the coaches are not accredited, the leagues will then notify the organizations involved. It will then be the responsibility of the league to follow up with the organizations as to the activation of current accreditation. If an organization allows a coach who is not accredited or not of the proper level to continue to stay on the bench after December 31, the final date for coaching accreditation, the organization will be subject to a fine of \$175.00 per coach, the coach will be officially suspended until the league allows a hearing, and the team involved may not be allowed to participate in District/Regional Playoffs.
- (3) Temporary Coaching Cards Temporary coaching cards may be issued at the request of the league to the Coach in Chief, or Coaching Administrator to allow a coach to stay on the bench without proper accreditation. The Coach in Chief and or the President has the final say as to whether or not the temporary coaching card will be issued. No temporary cards will be issued after December 31 of that season.
- (4) Affiliate Coaches. In order to be eligible to represent the Atlantic as a head or assistant coach or coach any team of select players sanctioned to represent the Atlantic at events including, but

not limited to the Chicago Showcase, and District, Regional, or National Development Camps, Festival, or Select Programs, he/she must hold current USA Hockey coaching accreditation of least the Advanced Level. At the discretion of the (Coaching Program Director after consulting with the Player Development Program Director and the President, the head coach or assistant coach may be exempt from obtaining the Advanced Level credentials.

## **B. AFFILIATE COACHING APPOINTMENTS**

- (1) Coach-in-Chief. The Atlantic will have an Associate Coach-in-Chief (s) appointed by the Coach-In-Chief. Each local association must appoint an individual to be their association's ACE Coordinator and notify the District/Affiliate ACE Administrator of that appointment.
- (2) ACE Coordinators. The Association Coaching and Education (ACE) Coordinator is an individual who serves as the administrative link to USA Hockey and its Coaching Education Program (CEP). In their role, ACE Coordinators will organize and manage many CEP requirements, assist the local association in the development of a well-trained coaching staff, promote parent education and provide clear goals and objectives for player skill development.

## **C. COACHING SAFETY**

- (1) Helmets. All ice hockey coaches and instructors of registered USA Hockey youth/high school, disabled, girls'/women's 19 & under and below programs must properly wear an ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages and coach and referee clinics (seminars), with the exception of when a team official is tending to an injured player.
  - (a) Any ice hockey coaches and instructors found in violation of this rule by their organization, league or the Atlantic Affiliate shall be subject to a recommended suspension of not less than 30 days.

## **ARTICLE IV – OFF ICE VOLUNTEERS, MANAGERS & ASSIGNORS**

### **A. REFEREE ASSIGNORS**

- (1) Assignors Duties
  - (a) Assignors shall be registered certified USA Hockey officials and be listed in the Affiliate database
  - (b) Assignors (18 years of age and older) shall have a current Background Request (Screening) Form in the files
  - (c) Assignors shall be appointed after notifying the Referee-in-Chief or his designee.
  - (d) Aid in the retention of officials through appropriate game distribution – this may include both the number of games and the level of games assigned each official
  - (e) Assignors shall assign officials to no more than two consecutive upper-level games when feasible
  - (f) Assignors shall assign officials to no more than four total upper-level games in one day. There shall be at least a one and a half hour time lapse between games 2 & 3 when feasible

- (g) Assignors shall not assign an official to a game where a relative(s) of the official is involved with either team as a player, coach, or team official
- (h) Assignors shall ensure that assigned officials are at least two years older than the level of the youth games being assigned. 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 RIC shall be notified of these exceptions.
- (i) 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 USAH crest, and that they are NOT covered by the USAH insurance umbrella for that game. Any suspension penalties assessed will not be honored by USAH
- (j) Assignors shall use only registered USAH officials who have completed the USAH registration process appropriate for the level of play being assigned. They are responsible to verify the current certification level of each official they assign via the Atlantic Officiating Database. Assignors need to contact the RIC to gain access to that database.

	2 -Official	3 – Official	3 – Official	2 – Official	3 – Official	3 - Official
	Tier I	Tier I	Tier I	House &	House &	House &
	Tier II	Tier II	Tier II	Independent	Independent	Independent
<b>Age Class</b>	<b>Referees</b>	<b>Referee</b>	<b>Lines</b>	<b>Referees</b>	<b>Referee</b>	<b>Lines</b>
Adult Open				Level 3	Level 4	Level 3
Adult US				L3	L4	L3
Adult No-Check				L3	L3	L2
Women’s Adult				L3	L3	L2
Junior A				L4	L4	L3
Junior B				L4	L4	L3
Junior C				L3	L3	L3
HS Varsity				L3	L3	L3
HS JV				L3	L3	L3
19U Girls	Level 3	Level 3	Level 3	L3	L3	L2
18U Youth	L3	L3	L3	L3	L3	L2
16U Youth & Girls	L3	L3	L3	L3	L3	L2
14U Youth & Girls	L3	L3	L2	L2	L2	L2
12U Youth & Girls	L2	L2	L1	L1	L1	L1
10U Youth & Girls	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1
8U Youth	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1	L1

- (k) If a sufficient number of properly-registered officials cannot be assigned at any level:
1. The assignor shall contact neighboring assignors and request assistance
  2. The assignor shall specify any officials that he recommends be assigned and the reasons for his recommendations
  3. The assignor shall notify in advance (if possible) the RIC or his designee of the need to fill the vacant assignments with the next lower level recommended officials
  4. 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 RIC or his designee of the situation



- (l) 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 RIC. Failure to comply with any of the above requirements, subjects the assignor and/or the official to possible disciplinary action.

## **B. MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- (1) Must be registered, screened and complete the USAH SafeSport Program
- (2) Ineligible Players A manager who knowingly allows the participation of an ineligible player in any game shall be subject to suspension for not less than 60 days or more than one year.

## **ARTICLE V - ON ICE OFFICIALS**

### **A. OFFICIAL'S MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION**

- (1) Registration. Officials must be registered in accordance with USA Hockey. Registration is made by forwarding their application to USA Hockey Referee-In-Chief.

### **B. ZONE REFEREES-IN-CHIEF**

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

### **C. TRAINING SEMINARS**

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

## **ARTICLE VI** **TEAMS, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS**

### **A. NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BOUND CLASSIFICATION APPROVAL**

In June of 2016, the USA Hockey Board of Directors approved Proposal "2016 – Youth Council #3 Amended" which establishes "Standards and Criteria" for the Tier I Youth & Girls Classifications. The final language will be placed into the USA Hockey Annual Guide in section "III TEAM MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION".

This section of the AAHA Rules and Regulations will provide additional "Standards and Criteria" as well as interpretative guidelines of Proposal "2016 – Youth Council #3 Amended".

- (1) The Affiliate President shall designate by the third weekend of January of each year those organizations and or clubs that shall be authorized to field teams for the upcoming season that may register teams at the Tier I Youth and Girls, Tier II Youth and Girls, and Senior Women A, B & C classifications.
  - (a) Such approval for any Organization/Club that is designated by the Affiliate President to compete towards USA Hockey National Tournament competition is based solely on those levels where USA Hockey offers a National Championship Tournament or equivalent;
  - (b) The Affiliate recognizes that its member Organizations/Clubs may compete in Leagues that have developmental structures and levels (i.e. Major, Minor, AA, A, B, National, Premier, Elite, etc.), to support the overall developmental objectives of the league and

its Member's players. Such team(s) shall not require the approval of the Affiliate President, for participation in such league, provided such teams will not be competing in any competition that will lead towards a USA Hockey National Championship for that team. (Example: Tier II Teams at the A & B levels, Tier I 10U, 12U and 14U Minor do not need Affiliate Approval.) However, the Affiliate President has the authority to withhold sanctioning at these levels based upon previous season's performance and other such criteria deemed appropriate.

- (2) Classification Level. Team classifications for the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association shall be the USA Hockey classifications at all levels. Age levels 10U through 18U are deemed appropriate levels for approved Tier I Organizations/Clubs, and such Organizations/Clubs may conduct tryouts as designated in the AAHA Rules. AAHA Organizations/Clubs shall not make any reference or indicate in any way "Tier I Mite", "AAA Mite" or similar term in association with their Tier I or Tier II program.
- (3) The Affiliate shall provide an application to initiate the approval process, available from the Affiliate Office and/or online from the Affiliate web site. The Affiliate reserves the right to change the application, in order to collect the appropriate information.
- (4) For Tier I Organizations/Clubs, the Affiliate may require the execution of an agreement between the Tier I Organization/Club and the Affiliate, which agreement may be subject to the approval of USA Hockey.

#### **B. TIER I & TIER II DESIGNATIONS – REQUIREMENTS**

- (1) Organizations/Clubs seeking approval for Tier I or Tier II National Tournament Status for the following season shall complete and submit the appropriate Tier I/Tier II National Tournament Status Application by November 30<sup>th</sup> of the current season.
- (2) Tier I AAA Designation Policy. Any Organization/Club in good standing within the Atlantic Affiliate that is seeking approval for a Tier I AAA designation (Youth 14U, 15P 16U, 18U and Girls 14U, 16U, 19U) for any or all of its teams may make written application to the President for such designation. The President shall, with the advice of the Tier I Selection Committee, formally designate those teams that shall be authorized to use the Tier I AAA designation and be eligible to participate in competition leading to the USA Hockey National Tournament. Every Tier I AAA National Tournament Bound application shall be duly considered and acted upon in accordance with the procedures and criteria set forth in this Article.
- (3) Procedure for Making Tier I National Tournament Bound Designations. All Tier I AAA National Tournament Bound designations shall be made by the President in accordance with the following procedure:
  - (a) Time for Applying for Tier I National Tournament Bound Designation. By no later than November 30<sup>th</sup> for the following season of each year, any Organization/Club that wishes any teams to be considered for a Tier I AAA designation shall submit a written application as provided by the Affiliate and in the manner prescribed by the President.
  - (b) Applicants may be required to attend a formal presentation meeting, held prior to the third weekend in January. The completed Application, any additional requested information from the Organization/Club may be required for the presentation meeting.
  - (c) Applicants may be summarily approved, granting full or partial approval, and not require a meeting based upon generally recognized high competitive performance, and compliance with Affiliate and USA Hockey requirements on Tier I Standards and Criteria.

- (d) Applicants may be summarily rejected in whole or part, based upon failure or inability to comply with Affiliate and USA Hockey requirements on Tier I Standards and Criteria, apparently lack of competitiveness, and such rejections are subject to the appeals process of this Article, Section C.
  - (e) The Affiliate may provide for stricter rules and requirements than what is provided by USA Hockey.
  - (f) Tier I AAA Selection Committee. The President shall by no later than November 30th of each year appoint a committee consisting of not fewer than Five (5) persons who are reasonably disinterested and impartial and are sufficiently familiar with the game of ice hockey to reasonably evaluate the qualifications of those Organizations/Clubs seeking a Tier I designation. The Tier I AAA Selection Committee shall be headed by a Chairperson who shall be appointed by the President and be generally responsible for the conduct of all Committee business and shall submit a written report to the President containing the Committee's recommendations. The Tier I selection Committee shall consider all Tier I AAA applications submitted to the President for Tier I AAA designations and make written recommendations to the President on all such applications in accordance with this Article.
  - (g) Time for Committee to Make Tier I AAA Recommendations. The Tier I AAA Selection Committee shall submit its written recommendations to the President by no later than January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year based upon the criteria set forth in this Article.
  - (h) Time & Method of Notice for President to Declare Tier I AAA Designations & Number of Designations Available for the Following Season. The President shall by the third weekend of January of each year declare those Organizations/Clubs and their specific teams that are designated as Tier I AAA and are authorized to use that designation and compete as Tier 1 AAA teams for the upcoming season.
  - (i) The President shall also identify the number of Tier I AAA designations that will be available for the following season based upon the criteria set forth in this Article. Publication on the Affiliate website of those teams designated as Tier I AAA for the then- current year and the number of Tier I AAA designations available for the following year shall be sufficient notice of such determinations for the purposes of this Article.
- (4) Criteria for Determining Tier I AAA Designations. Tier I AAA hockey is the highest level of youth/girl's hockey within the Affiliate. Organizations/Clubs with designated Tier I AAA teams should be those that have demonstrated the highest level of competence based on past tournament performance, organization, league schedule, and development of players that advance onto NCAA college hockey, National Team and USA Hockey Festival Teams. The Affiliate Tier I designations shall be based upon the following National and Affiliate adopted criteria:
- A. FOR TIER I YOUTH TEAMS - The number of Tier 1 Youth teams in the Affiliate, in each age classification, shall be limited by the number of players registered in the Affiliate, in that age classification. In each classification, the Tier I Teams shall not exceed 12% of the total players registered in that age classification in the Affiliate during the preceding season, provided that, subject to Affiliate approval, the Affiliate shall have at least one team per age classification. For the purposes of this 12% calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. The total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 12% and the product shall then be divided by 20

players which shall determine the number of Tier I team permitted in the Affiliate. For example, If the Affiliate has 480 players in an age classification then 12% of that number would equal 57 players eligible for Tier 1 in order to have teams of 20 players, the Affiliate would be limited to three (3) Tier 1 teams at that age.

- (i) Notwithstanding the use of the 20 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may registered in the Affiliate at the Tier I Level, all teams at the 14U, 15P, 16U and 18U must have minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers). Organizations must be able to provide proof, if requested by the Affiliate, that the Organization's Tier I Teams have at least twelve (12) players under contract by May 15 for the foregoing season. Failure to provide such proof, may result in the loss of Tier I status, minimally for that coming season.

District-YOUTH 2015-2016	State	17- 18	15-16	13-14
Atlantic	DE	81	120	118
Atlantic	E PA	1,553	1,834	1,897
Atlantic	NJ	1,374	2,168	2,545
TOTAL		3008	4122	4560
DIVIDE /20 Players		150.4	206.1	228.0
12% RULE		18.0	24.7	27.4
15% RULE		22.56	30.915	34.2

NOTE: Over the next 12 months, the Affiliate shall study the feasibility of reducing the number of Tier I YOUTH to a more competitive level; develop methods to reduce the number of teams and the possible creation of an "at-Large" parity event, to serve as a "catch-all" so that Tier I can remain accessible, but not watered down.

**B. FOR TIER I GIRLS TEAMS** - The number of Tier 1 Girls teams in the Affiliate, in each age classification, shall be limited by the number of players registered in the Affiliate, in that age classification. In each classification, the Tier I Teams shall not exceed 20% of the total players registered in that age classification in the Affiliate during the preceding season, provided that, subject to Affiliate approval, the Affiliate shall have at least one team per age classification. For the purposes of this 20% calculation, each team shall be presumed to have eighteen (18) players. The total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 20% and the product shall then be divided by 18 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I Girls teams permitted in the Affiliate. For example, If the Affiliate has 350 players in an age classification than 20% of that number would equal 70 players eligible for Tier 1 in order to have teams of 18 players, the Affiliate would be limited to three (3) Tier 1 teams at that age.

District - GIRLS 2015-16	State	19	17-18	15-16	13-14
Atlantic	DE	4	1	9	6

Atlantic	E PA	25	123	249	185
Atlantic	NJ	12	72	163	214
TOTAL		237	196	421	405
DIVIDE /18 Players		13.2		23.4	22.5
12% RULE		1.6		2.8	2.7
20% RULE		2.6		4.7	4.5

- (i) Notwithstanding the use of 18 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may registered in the Affiliate at the Tier I Level, all teams at the 14U, 16U and 19U must have minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers). Organizations must be able to provide proof, if requested by the Affiliate, that the Organization's Tier I Teams have at least twelve (12) players under contract by May 15 for the foregoing season. Failure to provide such proof, may result in the loss of Tier I status minimally for that coming season.

C. For All Tier I Teams (Youth and Girls)

- (i) **Minimum Period of Operation:** In order for any Association to be eligible to apply for Tier I National Tournament status, the Association must have been in existence and registered with the Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) consecutive years.
- (ii) **TRYOUTS –** Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No Tier I team may recruit or solicit players or offer contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, make player selections, or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). (i.e If the National Tournament ends at 4 PM on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 PM on Wednesday). Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, ineligibility of the team or coach, or loss of Tier I status, as determined by the Affiliate.
- (iii) **TEAM ROSTERS:** USA Hockey allows up to twenty (20) players to be rostered on any given team. An Organization with approved Tier I teams is required to maintain and publish their roster, either on the Club's website, or a League website in which the team participates. Each Team's Tier I Roster must be identical to its USA Hockey Tier I Roster, at all times, without exception. Players dropped from a Tier I roster, shall be deemed "Cut" from the team, and eligible to participate and join with any other Tier I team, and shall not be bound to the "One Team/One Season" Rule. This determination, in no way, makes any determination on the financial obligations of the player to the Club that has dropped the player.

No Organization shall roster a player on any approved Tier I Roster, without that player's consent, and if a minor, parental consent is required.

- (iv) All Tier I Teams must play a full season, have a minimum average of two (2) on-

ice practices weekly, plus one off-ice training session, between September 1 and March 1 of each season. Each Organization with approved Tier I Teams shall keep accurate records, which may be requested for review by the Affiliate at any time during the season, and as part of the Tier I approval process.

- (v) The Association must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound Teams in either the Tier I or Tier II Tournament Bound class of 14U through 18U for Boys, and 14U and 19U for Girls, each of which must have a minimum of fifteen (15) players per team. To be compliant with this rule, if the Organization was fielding two Nationally Tournament Bound Teams, both rosters must have 15 players each, for a total of 30 different players.

**D. Highest Level of Quality & Proficiency.** Organizations and their Prospective Tier I AAA teams must demonstrate their willingness and ability to perform at the highest levels of proficiency both on the ice and in their administration, including, each of the following:

**On Ice Quality & Proficiency.** Teams must demonstrate the highest skill level(s) and the ability to compete at the highest level and to develop high-level players in the future; and

**Coaching.** Teams must have qualified high-level coaches, in good standing and demonstrate effective training and player development standards and protocols; and

**Responsible Organizational Governance.** Teams must demonstrate that they are part of a responsible organization with a willingness and ability to consistently adhere to USA Hockey and Affiliate bylaws, rules, regulations and policies, including those of any league of which they are a member; and

**Financial Responsibility.** Teams must demonstrate their willingness and ability to meet their financial obligations; and

**Access to Suitable Facilities.** Teams must demonstrate consistent and reliable access to suitable facilities; and

**Other Requirements.** Teams must meet such other requirements as the Affiliate shall from time to time adopt.

**E. Club Affiliation.** Every prospective Tier I AAA team must be part of an Organization/Club and demonstrate a viable feeder program. Each prospective Tier I AAA team shall have a minimum of three (3) age level teams below the requested level so as to demonstrate an established feeder program. (Example – If applying for 14U level a team would be required to have the following feeder teams, 8U-10U-12U or similar combination, within its organization or a working relationship with another organization that has its primary home within the same rink facility)

**F. Transfer Players.** No prospective Tier I AAA team may add more than two (2) players who were rostered on any single Tier I AAA team or more than four (4) players who were rostered on the same Tier II team the previous season. The 2/4 player rules set forth in this paragraph shall not apply to those players who:

- (i) Participate at the 18U level; or
- (ii) Move up or transfer from within the same club, organization or from the prospective Tier I AAA team's feeder team(s); or
- (iii) Legitimately tryout with their original organization and are subsequently cut or who are not offered a player contract

G.ADM/AAHA Affiliate Compliance. All prospective Tier I AAA teams must provide evidence that their affiliated organization is ADM/AAHA Affiliate compliant.

H.Annual Application. All teams must re-apply for Tier I AAA designation each year. However, those teams earning a berth in the USA Hockey National Tournament are presumptively designated Tier I AAA for the following year provided they otherwise meet these Tier I AAA requirements.

5.Non-League & Independent Tier I AAA Teams. In order to afford non-league and independent teams' reasonable access to the Tier I AAA designation and Affiliate Tournament, the Affiliate shall organize, administer and operate through its President and Vice President of Tournaments, an Annual AAHA Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament. The Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament is intended to allow those Tier I AAA teams that do not play a regular Tier I AAA league schedule and are not part of league standings, or not part of a League sanctioned by the AAHA Affiliate, the opportunity to play into the Tier I AAA Tournament. The Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament shall be administered in accordance with the rules applicable to Affiliate Invitational Tournaments set forth in Article IX.

- a) Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament. The Affiliate VP of Tournaments shall determine the eligibility and seeding for the Tier I AAA Tournament in accordance with prevailing policies and may appoint a competition committee to assist in determining eligibility and seeding for the annual Affiliate tournament.
- b) Districts & Nationals. The AAHA Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament shall determine which Tier I teams qualify for the District Tournament and USA Hockey National Championship.

6.Tier II Designation Policy. Every Tier II AA National Tournament Bound application shall be duly considered and acted upon in accordance with the procedures and criteria set forth in this Article.

7.Procedure for Making Tier II AA National Tournament Bound Designations. All Tier II AA National Tournament Bound designations shall be made by the President in accordance with the following procedure:

- a) Time for Applying for Tier II AA National Tournament Bound Designation. By no later than November 30<sup>th</sup> for the following season of each year, any Organization/Club that wishes to have its teams be considered for a Tier II AA National Tournament Bound designation shall submit a written application on a form and in the manner prescribed by the President. Teams shall provide such information and documentation as shall from time to time be requested by the President.
- b) Tier II Selection Committee. The President shall by no later than November 30<sup>th</sup> of each year appoint a committee of persons sufficiently familiar with the game of ice hockey to reasonably evaluate the qualifications of those teams seeking a Tier II designation consisting of not fewer than five (5) persons including the following: (1) the President of the Delaware Valley Hockey League; (2) the President of the New Jersey Youth Hockey League; plus, plus three (3) reasonably disinterested and impartial persons. The Tier II Selection Committee shall be headed by a Chairperson who shall be appointed by the President and be generally responsible for the conduct of all Committee business and shall submit a written report to the President containing the Committee's recommendations. The Tier II selection Committee shall consider all Tier II applications provided by the President for Tier II designation and make written recommendations to the President on all such applications in accordance with this Article.
- c) Time for Committee to Make Tier II Recommendations. The Tier II Selection Committee shall submit its written recommendations to the President by no later than January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year based upon the criteria set forth in this Article.

- d) Time & Method of Notice for President to Declare Tier II Designations. The President shall by February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year declare those teams that are designated as Tier II and are authorized to use that designation and compete as Tier II teams for the upcoming season. At that time, the President shall also identify the number of Tier II designations that will be available for the following season based upon the criteria set forth in this Article. Publication on the Affiliate website of those teams designated as Tier II for the then current year and the number of Tier II designations available for the following year shall be sufficient notice of such determinations for the purposes of this Article.
- (i) Criteria for Determining Tier II AA National Tournament Bound Designations. Tier II AA National Tournament Bound hockey is a competitive level of youth travel hockey within the Affiliate. Tier II teams should be those that have demonstrated a consistent level of competition, organization, and development of youth hockey players for advancement to Tier I or other youth hockey programs and for their enjoyment and recreation. The Affiliate designations shall be based upon the following criteria:
- e) General Acceptance of Competent Tier II Programs. Since Tier II is intended as a less competitive classification of youth hockey than Tier I, no limiting percentages will be applicable and the criteria for granting Tier II designations shall be less stringent. Once a team is designated as Tier II, it shall be presumed to retain that designation unless otherwise recommended by the Tier II Selection Committee and approved by the President. The President, with the advice and recommendation of the Tier II Selection Committee shall generally grant Tier II designation requests at each level based upon the following criteria:
- f) Proficient Level of Quality. Prospective Tier II AA National Tournament Bound teams must demonstrate their willingness and ability to perform at proficient levels both on the ice and in their administration; including, each of the following:
- On-Ice Quality & Proficiency. Teams must demonstrate the ability to field teams of competent skill level(s) to compete and develop youth travel players in the future; and
- Coaching. Teams must have qualified coaches, in good standing and demonstrate effective training and development standards and protocols; and
- Responsible Organizational Governance. Teams must demonstrate that they are part of a responsible organization with a willingness and ability to consistently adhere to USA Hockey and Affiliate bylaws, rules, regulations and policies, including those of any league of which it is a member; and
- Financial Responsibility. Teams must demonstrate their willingness and ability to meet their financial obligations; and
- Access to Suitable Facilities. Teams must demonstrate consistent and reliable access to suitable facilities; and
- Full Season Teams. Teams must be full season teams
- Other Requirements. Teams must meet such other requirements as the Affiliate shall from time to time adopt.



- g) Club Affiliation. Every prospective Tier II AA National Tournament Bound team must be part of a club or program and demonstrates a viable feeder program. Each prospective Tier II AA National Tournament Bound team shall have a minimum of three (3) age level teams below the requested level so as to demonstrate an established feeder program. (Example – If applying for 14U level a team would be required to have the following feeder teams, 8U-10U-12U or similar combination, within its organization or a working relationship with another organization that has its primary home within the same rink facility)
- h) ADM/AAHA Affiliate Compliance. All prospective Tier II AA National Tournament Bound teams must provide evidence that their affiliated organization is ADM/AAHA Affiliate compliant.
- i) Annual Application Teams must re-apply for Tier II AA National Tournament Bound 14U, 16U and 18U designation each year.

### **C.ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF DENIAL OF TIER I OR TIER II DESIGNATION**

- a. 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 President's decision by the Affiliate Appeals Committee described below.
- b. Notice of Appeal. Any team denied its requested Tier designation may appeal the President's decision by sending written notice of appeal to the President and to the Vice President of Protests, Suspensions and Appeals within fourteen (14) days of its receipt of notice of denial. Notice may be sent by any means reasonably calculated to achieve receipt of notice of the appeal, including, but not limited to: electronic mail, provided the recipient acknowledges receipt of the notice.
- c. Nature of the Appeal. The Affiliate Appeals Committee, which shall be appointed by the President, from reasonably disinterested and impartial persons, shall hear all administrative appeals and shall provide the aggrieved team an opportunity to present any evidence or argument it may have to support its application.
- d. Conduct of Hearing. All appeals shall be informal and be presided over by the Vice President of Suspensions and Appeals or such Vice President's designee, who shall serve as the Chairman of the Executive Committee for the purposes of the hearing. If no person is currently serving in the position of Vice President of Suspension and Appeals, then the legal counsel for the Affiliate shall serve as the Committee Chairman. If no legal counsel has been designated, then the person with the longest tenure on the Executive Committee as of the date of the hearing shall serve as its chairman. The hearing shall proceed in the following manner:
  - i. Evidence. The hearing may proceed on submitted documents, via teleconference or upon personal appearance, in the sole discretion of the Chairman. The formal rules of evidence shall not apply and the Appeals Committee may accept or reject any information submitted as the Chairman shall allow.
  - ii. Time of Hearing. The hearing shall be conducted at the time, place and in the manner as the Chairman shall designate.
  - iii. Issues and Standard of Review. The sole issue to be considered and decided by the Executive Committee shall be whether the President had a rational basis for denying the application; this means that Committee's decision shall be limited to deciding whether there exists any reasonable basis for the President to deny the request based upon the criteria set forth in this rule. If there was any reasonable basis that for the President's

- decision, the decision must be upheld.
- iv. Method and Time of Decision. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Committee shall decide the appeal based upon a simple majority of its members. Thereafter, the Chairman shall issue a brief written letter to the appealing team notifying it of the Appeals Committee's decision within seven (7) days.
- v. Finality of Decision. This decision is intended to be a final decision of the Affiliate in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw X. There shall be no further appeal of the Affiliate Appeals Committee's decision.

(For Organization Application for Tier I/Tier II Status – See Below)



**ORGANIZATION APPLICATION: TIER I / TIER II STATUS**

*DUE: November 30<sup>th</sup> – Annually*

*Tier I AAA, Tier II AA, Youth & Girls / Women A, B & C*

**NOTE: USE SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH TIER LEVEL**

ORGANIZATION NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

501(c)3 Yes  No  FOR PROFIT TYPE: \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR INCORPORATED: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PRIMARY RINK: \_\_\_\_\_ ADD'L RINK: \_\_\_\_\_

IS CLUB ADDRESS SAME AS PRIMARY RINK: Yes  No  CLUB WEBSITE: \_\_\_\_\_

TIER LEVEL YOU ARE APPLYING FOR (CHECK ONLY ONE): TIER I  TIER II

(CHECK ONLY ONE) BOYS  GIRLS  WOMEN:

AGE LEVEL(S) APPLYING FOR: 14U  15P  16U  18U  19U  / (WOMEN): A  B  C

14U HEAD COACH: \_\_\_\_\_ CEP# \_\_\_\_\_ . MODULES (Y/N) SCREENED: \_\_\_\_\_

15P HEAD COACH: \_\_\_\_\_ CEP# \_\_\_\_\_ . MODULES (Y/N) SCREENED: \_\_\_\_\_

16U HEAD COACH: \_\_\_\_\_ CEP# \_\_\_\_\_ . MODULES (Y/N) SCREENED: \_\_\_\_\_

18U HEAD COACH: \_\_\_\_\_ CEP# \_\_\_\_\_ . MODULES (Y/N) SCREENED: \_\_\_\_\_

19U HEAD COACH: \_\_\_\_\_ CEP# \_\_\_\_\_ . MODULES (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ SCREENED: \_\_\_\_\_

IS YOUR CLUB ADM COMPLIANT: Yes  No  IF NO, WHY: \_\_\_\_\_

HAVE ALL COACHES WITHIN YOUR CLUB COMPLIED WITH USA HOCKEY / AFFILIATE SCREENING REQUIREMENTS: Yes

No  IF NO, WHY & WHEN WILL IT BE COMPLETED: \_\_\_\_\_

FEEDER PROGRAM: \_\_\_\_\_

# OF TEAMS IN CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE LEVELS: \_\_\_\_\_ # OF PLAYER IN CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_

WILL ANY TEAM LISTED PLAY INDEPENDENT OF A LEAUGE EXCLUSIVELY: Yes  No

IF YES, PLEASE INIDICATE WHICH TEAMS: \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT LEAGUE(S) WILL TEAM(S) PARTICIPATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DOES

YOUR ORGANIZATION SCHOLARSHIP PLAYERS: Yes  No  IF YES, IS THE SCHOLARSHIP POLICY MADE PUBLIC (where) AND IS IT "NEED" BASED, OR PERFORMANCE BASED? \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOW BULLETS, AND INITIAL THAT YOU AND THE SECOND SIGNATORY FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT EACH BULLET REQUIRES OF THE CLUB. \_\_\_\_\_(Initials) \_\_\_\_\_(Initials)

- The use of unapproved Tier designation, include letters to imply the same, is strictly prohibited.
- Your Club leadership, coaches and staff are aware of USA Hockey and AAHA Rules governing Tier I and Tier II National Tournament eligible teams and following said rules are a minimum requirement for approval.
- You must attach separately, each team's record presently, and previous season.

THIS APPLICATION REQUIRES TWO (2) SIGNATURES; CLUB PRESIDENT & ONE OTHER OFFICER.

\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Print & Sign – President

\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Print & Sign – 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer

#### **D. USE OF TIER I & TIER II DESIGNATIONS**

(1) Exclusive Use of Tier I & Tier II Designations. Only those Tier I and Tier II teams designated under this Article may use the following designations in/on promotional material or on tournament applications: Tier I, Tier II, "AAA" and "AA"

(2) Violations. If a violation occurs, the Tier I, Tier II, "AAA" and "AA" teams and leagues shall be notified of the infraction, provided the name of the offending organization and given a recommendation that their teams not schedule any games with the offending organization until the infraction is corrected

#### **E. NON-REGISTERED TEAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

(1) Games Against Non-USA Hockey Teams A registered team shall not play a team under suspension by the AAHA or USA Hockey.

(2) Scholastic Teams. Registered teams may play non registered high school, preparatory school, or college team with prior permission form USA Hockey registrar.

(3) Penalty. Any team violating any of the foregoing rules will be declared ineligible for District, Regional, or National Tournaments.

(a) Players playing on non-registered teams are ineligible for AAHA Tournaments or USA Hockey Player camps.

(b) Any organization, teams, individual Affiliated directly or indirectly with a non-USA Hockey team or organization except with respect to Varsity status academic institutions shall be subject to suspension.

#### **F. ADM COMPLIANCE**

(1) The AAHA has established an American Development Model (ADM) Committee, chaired by the Affiliated ADM Coordinator (in consultation with USA Hockey ADM Regional Manager), which will oversee the ADM in the Affiliate. The Committee is made up of a cross section of the overall youth membership (i.e Tier I, Tier II, Girls, Rink Owners, ADM Model Club representation

and the Affiliate ADM Field Supervisors). The Committee will make by-law, policy, guideline and rules and regulations recommendations regarding ADM implementation and compliance to the AAHA Executive Board annually prior to the AAHA Annual meeting. The Committee will be responsible for ADM implementation, compliance and management for the Affiliate.

- (2) Advancement and Waiver: Effective with the 2016-17 season, a player who is 8 years old or under, shall not be permitted to play up at the 10U level under any circumstances. "In House" programs as defined herein are exempt from this regulation.
- (3) Definitions of "In House", "Recreational" and "Travel" Teams:
- "IN HOUSE":**
- Teams do not leave the building
- "RECREATIONAL":**
- Teams that leave the building
  - Teams that play a maximum of 25 games per year and play against other rink run "recreational" teams
- "TRAVEL":**
- Teams that leave the building
  - Teams that are members of any travel league within the Affiliate and any independent, non-"recreational" league
- (4) Tournament Sanctioning. No sanctioning of Mite full ice tournaments will be approved in the Atlantic Affiliate
- (5) ADM COMPLIANCE. ADM compliance includes, but is not limited to:

(a) 6U – Cross Ice

All 6U teams are required to play cross ice. All 6U teams are not permitted to play full ice at any time.

1. Cross ice station based practices and small area games
2. Mini nets or ADM skill nets. Use of goaltenders at this level is optional and maybe decided on a case by case basis by each organization
3. Blue pucks
4. Games played within geographic zones whenever possible
5. Cross zone boundaries as needed for small clubs
6. Regular season length – approximately 20 weeks as published annually by the AAHA
7. Coaches serve as officials for games
8. Pre-season travel team placement jamboree participation optional

(b) 8U – Half Ice/Cross Ice

All 8U teams are required to play either cross ice or half ice. All 8U teams are not permitted to play full ice at any time.

1. Half ice or cross ice station based practices and small area games
2. Regulation size nets or ADM skill (or intermediate) nets if available
3. Rotation goalies with full equipment
4. Blue pucks
5. Games played within geographic zones whenever possible

6. Cross zone boundaries as needed for small clubs
7. Regular season length: Approximately 20 weeks as published annually by AAHA
8. Required a minimum of two practices to one game ration (2:1 practice to game). Teams may count all practices from tryouts/evaluations until the end of the season. Practices may be evaluated in minutes, for example:
  - a. 20 games (60 minutes) = 40 practices or 2,400 minutes
  - b. 15 games (60 minutes) = 30 practices or 1,800 minutes
9. 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
10. Participation in a maximum of two tournaments (excluding AAHA offered jamborees) permitted in a season
11. USA Hockey Officials required for all games. One official per half ice game
12. Pre-season travel team placement jamboree participation required

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

All 8U registered "travel" teams are required to play half or cross ice and are required to meet the 2:1 practice to game ratio

### C. 10U – Full Ice

1. Recommended full ice games with station based practices and small area games
2. Regulation size nets
3. Black pucks
4. Games played within geographic zones or as defined by league of which team is a member
5. Regular season length: September 1 through March 15 or as determined by league of which team is a member
6. Organizations are required to meet a minimum of a three practice to one game ration (3:1 practice to game) wherever possible. Teams may count all practices from tryouts/evaluations until the end of the season. Practices may be evaluation in minutes, for example:
  - a. 30 games (60 minutes) = 90 practices or 5,400 minutes
  - b. 25 games (60 minutes) = 75 practices or 4,500 minutes

Those teams that cannot meet the three to one (3:1) practice to game ratio need to request a waiver from the AAHA ADM Coordinator no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>. Waiver requests must include plan for best effort attempt to meet the practice to game ratio goal. Approval of waiver will not be unreasonably withheld

7. Maximum of 30 games permitted in the regular season. League schedules of 31 games or more are subject to Affiliate approval
8. Teams may participate in up to a maximum of four (4) tournaments during the regular season. These events plus league and Affiliate plays are exempt from the total game count requirement
9. 30 minutes of off-ice training per week is highly recommended

All 10U registered "In house" or "recreational" teams are not required to meet the 3:1 practice to game ratio

All 10U registered "travel" teams are required to meet the 3:1 practice to game ratio

### D. 12U – Full Ice

- e. Reserved
- B. 14U – Full Ice
  - a. Reserved
- C. 15P – Full Ice
  - a. Reserved
- D. 16U, 18U – Full Ice
  - a. Reserved

(6) Enforcement of the Affiliate ADM Rules and Regulations, may result in a monetary fine not to exceed \$1,000.00

### G. REFUSAL TO CONTINUE PLAY

- (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 1-0, or by the official score at that time, the team leaving the ice is behind.
  - (a) Suspension of Coach/Manager. The coach and/or manager of the team leaving the ice will be subject to a maximum suspension for a period of one year and a minimum of thirty days.

### H. TRYOUTS

- (1) Time for Tryouts. No Tier I or Tier II team may hold tryouts for the upcoming season prior to 48 hours after the USA Hockey National Championships end.
- (2) Tryout Dates. Tryout dates amended as follows for Tier I and Tier II for the 2017-18 season are:

18U, 16U, 15P, 14U                      Tier I                      April 12, 2017 after 4:00 PM

12U, 10U                                      Tier I                      March 27, 2017 after 4:00 PM

18U, 16U, 14U                              Tier II                      April 17, 2017 after 4:00 PM

12U, 10U                                      Tier II                      April 3, 2017 after 4:00 PM

All 8U    April 3, 2017 after 4:00 PM

Girls, Tier I and Tier II – all levels                      April 12, 2017 after 4:00 PM

12U, 10U Independent Club/Teams                      April 10, 2017 after 4:00 PM

18U, 16U, 14U Independent Clubs/Teams

and all age levels for Spring/Summer Teams                      April 24, 2017 after 4:00 PM

Tier I tryouts must be concluded for the above by                      August 1, 2017

Tier II and all other tryouts must be concluded for

The above by    October 31, 2017

- (3) No Tryouts Prior to 48-Hours After Nationals. No team (s), organizations (s) or program may hold tryouts, evaluations, training camps, skills sessions, or any other program that has players who were not registered with that team, organization or program the previous season, prior to 48 hours after the end of USA Hockey's National Championships without being in violation of this Rule.
- (4) Penalties for Teams & Coaches Violating Try-Out Rules. Team (s), organization (s), or program (s) found in violation of these bylaws, may lose their privilege of being eligible to compete at Districts and toward a national championship for a period of up to three (3) years. Coaches found in violation may be suspended up to five (5) years

### **ARTICLE VII- APPLICATION FOR LEAGUE SANCTION**

1. Only leagues that are sanctioned by the District pursuant to its Bylaws and these Rules & Regulations shall be entitled to the rights and benefits of the District and be eligible for National Tournament Play. All new league applicants shall meet the requirements of the Bylaws and these Rules & Regulations, comply with the probationary provisions, and be in good standing in order to obtain final sanctioning from the District. All sanctioned leagues warrant that they shall comply with, and adhere to, the District Bylaws, Rules & Regulations and policies then in force in the District in order to maintain District sanctioning.

a. Admission Requirements for League Sanction - In order to be eligible for league sanctioning by the District, a league applicant must demonstrate that it meets each of the following requirements:

1. be registered under the laws of its state of residence as a non-profit corporation; and
2. have received within 180 days of league application 501(c)3 tax status from the United States, Department of Treasury; and
3. have a minimum of eight (8) member teams 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) 12 & Under; four (4) 14 & Under teams);
4. 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
5. All component league teams must be located within the geographical boundaries of the District; and
6. Be governed by written bylaws that have been approved by the District; and
7. Outline house league and Learn to Skate commitments of all prospective league teams; and
8. Submit an application for league sanctioning by May 1<sup>st</sup> in advance of the next District Annual meeting.

b. Admission Procedure for League Sanction - League sanctioning shall be acquired first upon submission of a written application to the District Executive Committee which shall demonstrate its compliance with the requirements set forth above and be approved by simple majority vote by the Executive Committee. Upon approval of the District Executive Committee, the prospective league must be approved for formal sanctioning by a three-quarters (3/4's) majority vote of the District Board at its next regularly-scheduled Annual Meeting. All prospective league members shall comply with the requirements of the Bylaws, the Rules and Regulations, as from time to time, amended, pay all required fees and agree to be subject to all disciplinary action by the Executive Board, including, suspension, fine or expulsion from the District upon a finding of "good cause" by a simple majority of the Executive Committee.

c. Probationary Status of New Leagues - Once approved from admission by a three-quarters (3/4's) majority vote of the full Board, 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 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

d. Admission/Rejection of League Sanction - If the Board approves a Probationary League Sanction under Section c., above, 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 re-apply for league sanctioning for a period of not less than one (1) year.

Status of Probationary League Sanction Pending Permanent Sanction Vote - Leagues granted Probationary League Sanction shall not have voting rights in the District 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 District in accordance with the prevailing Bylaws and Rules & Regulations in the District.

## **ARTICLE VIII - PLAYING RULES**

### **A. USA HOCKEY RULES**

(1) Applicability of USA Hockey Rules. The official USA Hockey playing rules shall be used in all classes.

### **B. USA HOCKEY OFFICIALS**

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

### **C. PENALTY DOWNGRADE**

(1) Reduction of Penalty. Officials may not reduce a penalty once play resumes or after a scoresheet is signed, whichever occurs first.

### **D. SCORESHEETS.**

(1) Score sheets. One copy of the completed signed score sheet shall go to each team.

### **E. DEFINITION OF A "GAME"**

(1) Game Definition. For jurisdictional purposes, a game shall be defined as follows: When two hockey teams occupy the same ice surface for the purpose of competitive play and complete at least 2 periods of play in an ice hockey game.

### **F. AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION PENALTY REPORT**

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

## **ARTICLE IX - TOURNAMENTS**



**A. TOURNAMENTS – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- (1) Affiliate Tournament Director. The USA Hockey Affiliate Vice President of Tournaments ~~Director~~ or his/her designee shall be named the Tournament Director.
- (2) Tournament Classifications. tournaments may be held in the following classifications:
  - (a) Tier I AAA: 14 & Under through 18 & Under (National Tournament Bound)
  - (b) Tier II AA: 14 & Under through 18 & Under (National Tournament Bound)
  - (c) Tier II AA, A & B: 12 & Under through 18 & Under
  - (d) Tier I AAA: 12 & Under
  - (e) House League: 10 & Under, 12 & Under
  - (f) Girl/Women: 12&U, 14&U, 16&U, 19&U, Senior B (National Bound),
- (3) Fees. Tournament fees are to be determined on an annual basis by the Board of Directors as recommended by the Vice President of Tournaments and accepted by the Board.
- (4) Limitations of Players. No Olympians, Para-Olympians, USA Hockey NTDP players or members of the USA Hockey Jr. National Sled Hockey team may participate in any AAHA tournaments.
- (5) Court Intervention. In the event that any court shall intervene to affect the participants, that tournament shall be canceled, and the representative, if any, to go to the next level of tournament play will be designated by the Tournament Director.

**B. TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY**

- (1) TIER I and TIER II The AAHA Representative at Nationals will be determined by a District tournament playoff in accordance with these as determined by the AAHA President and AAHA Vice President of Tournaments
- (2) Senior Women Senior Women's tournaments may be used to determine who will represent the AAHA at a National Championship.

**C. TOURNAMENT TEAM REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION & FORMAT**

- (1) Tournament Format. The AAHA President and Vice President of Tournaments will decide on the format of selecting team representatives for tournament play, prior to the start of its league schedule.

**D. TOURNAMENT TEAM QUALIFICATIONS**

- (1) Minimum Number of Games In order to qualify for or National play, teams must play 20 games as a unit and each player on that team must play at least 10 games against USA Hockey registered teams from other organizations at a similar or more competitive level. Girls/Women's teams must play 14 games as a unit at their competitive level and each player on that team must play at least ten games against USA Hockey Registered teams. For a Senior Women's A team, each player must play 10 games at their competitive level.

- (2) Verification. The score sheets, signed by the Registered Officials, must be available to the tournament committee.
- (3) Games Played Before Registration. Games played prior to the date a team has registered with USA Hockey Registrar, will not count toward satisfying the 10/20 or 10/14 rule.
- (4) Qualifying Games. Only games against Atlantic member USA Hockey teams may be used to determine a league representative(s) to an Atlantic Tournament, or a USA Hockey National Championship.
- (5) DOCUMENTATION. ALL TEAMS MUST PROVIDE THE REQUIRED CREDENTIALS PRIOR TO THE TOURNAMENT AS DETERMINED BY THE REGISTRAR

#### **E. TOURNAMENT OPEN COMPETITION**

- (1) Declaration of League Representatives. Leagues must declare their representative(s) not later than 10 days prior to the tournament. Where a league is eligible to participate at two levels in the same division, they must compete at the higher level.

#### **F. TOURNAMENT GOALTENDER RULES**

- (1) Alternate Goaltenders. Subject to the Tournament Directors written approval, a team with less than two goalies may take alternates from their organization or league, subject also to the approval of USA Hockey Registrar.
- (2) No Goaltender. A team with no back up goaltender may participate with six skaters until another player dresses as a goaltender, but in no event will the game be delayed while an alternate goaltender is dressed in goaltender's equipment.

#### **G. TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY CHALLENGES**

- (1) Time For Challenges. No challenge on player or team eligibility can be made after the first puck is dropped of the challenged team's first game. The Tournament Director may act at any time.
- (2) Non-Sanctioned Tournament Play. Any registered team or any registered player participating in a non USA Hockey sanctioned tournament shall be ineligible by the Tournament Director for District, Regional or National Tournaments.
- (3) Limitation on Dual Rostering. No player rostered on a Tier I (AAA) or Tier II team (including teams designated as either ``AA" or ``A", or "B") at any age classification shall be permitted to participate in the house league tournament.

#### **H. HOUSE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT RULES**

- (1) Minimum Participation. Each house league program, wishing to participate in the House League Tournament shall select an all-star team to represent them at the various USA Hockey designated age levels of competition. The roster for tournament play limited to 20 players.

#### **I. TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES**

- (1) Schedule & Position Determination Tournaments formats shall be determined by AAHA VP of Tournaments and the Affiliate President. If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their position in the standings will be determined in accordance with USA Hockey's National Tournament Rules & Regulations. Copies shall be distributed and posted at the tournament(s) site(s).
- (2) Time of Periods. All age levels shall be per USA Hockey National Championship Format.
- (3) Penalties All penalties will be: minor (two minutes), major (five minutes), misconduct (ten minutes).
- (4) Protests. No game protests are permitted after the scoresheet has been signed.
- (5) Rules Interpretations. Any dispute relating to the interpretation of the playing rules shall be dealt with and ruled upon by the Referee-In-Chief or his representative or in consultation with his representative assigned at that game and in attendance at the moment of incident. The decision will be final. No protest on interpretation of the playing rules shall be accepted after play has been resumed. Any other protests will be ruled on by the Tournament Director.
- (5) Forfeiture Rule. If a team forfeits one game in a tournament, they will forfeit all of their games and will not be eligible to continue in the Atlantic tournament nor advance to USA Hockey Nationals Tournament. The offending team will be subject to the penalties in Paragraph 98 of this section (Penalty).
  - (a) Any team forfeiting any of its games shall have all of its losses declared forfeit (1-0 loss) for the purpose of determining the tournament standings for the other participants.
- (6) Suspensions. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for deciding any action (suspensions or restrictions) to be placed against a player or team official receiving a match, gross or game misconduct penalty. The Tournament Director shall have full power to waive or increase any suspension or penalty.
- (7) Opportunity for Suspended Participant to be Heard. No player or other participant may be barred in the remaining tournament games without an opportunity to tell his or her version of the incident. Failure to attend the meeting after being notified shall be deemed an opportunity.
- (8) Suspensions Prior To Tournament. Any suspensions measured in game incurred prior to a Tournament, shall not be served during this tournament.
- (9) Reporting of Actions. All disciplinary action shall be reported to the home association of the player or others involved, for further action at their discretion.

## **J. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS**

- (1) Referee Systems Recognized. An approved USA Hockey system (two or three man) of officiating will be used subject to the approval of the Referee-In-Chief and the Tournament Chairman Assignment.
- (2) Referee Assignments. All officials will be assigned by USA Hockey Referee-In-Chief or his appointee, in conjunction with the Tournament Director.
- (3) Decisions Final. The decision of the Tournament Director will be final.

- (4) Referees Not Eligible. Neither the Referee-In-Chief nor his appointee can officiate in any games.

### **K. TOURNAMENT UNIFORMS**

- (1) Uniforms Required. Each team must be fully uniformed. All players must have numbered, matching jerseys and socks of the same color.
- (2) Home Team Uniforms. The designated home team shall have the responsibility of contrasting uniforms subject to the Referee's approval.

### **L. TOURNAMENT SITE SELECTION**

- (1) Venue Designation. Designation of a tournament site is the responsibility of the AAHA President and AAHA Vice President of Tournaments.

### **M. TOURNAMENT AWARDS**

- (1) Awards. The AAHA may supply awards to the winners and second place finishers in each tournament classification.

### **N. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

- (1) Scheduling of Games. The schedule of games will be set by the AAHA President and AAHA Vice President of Tournaments.
- (2) Publishing of Schedule. The schedule shall be transmitted to all leagues not less than two weeks in advance of the first game.
- (3) Protests of Schedule. Protests of the schedule must be presented to the Tournament Director within 24 hours of publication.
- (4) League Responsible 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.
- (5) Time Between Games. There shall be a minimum of four hours between scheduled games on the same day and ten hours between games on consecutive days unless determined otherwise by the tournament director or AAHA President.
- (6) Second Game Rule. No team playing its second game in one day shall be required to play a team playing its first game on that day.
- (7) Host Teams. There will be no host teams in Tournament's.

### **O. COMMITMENT FOR REGIONAL / NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- (1) Commitment to Proceed. Any team entering an Atlantic Tournament agrees to participate in Northeast Sectionals, Regionals or National Championship should they become eligible.
- (2) Penalty for Failure to Proceed. Any team failing to fulfill its commitment at the District, Regional or National Tournament shall become disqualified to participate in all tournaments in the following year. Also a team's entire organization may be declared ineligible for tournament participation the following year.

**P. REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

- (1) Host Teams. With respect to regional tournaments held in the Atlantic District, they will be hosted by the Atlantic District.
- (2) Team Replacements. If a designated representative is unable to represent AAHA in a Regional or National Tournament the runner up or last eliminated team may be given permission by the Tournament Director to represent the Atlantic District.

**Q. INVITATION TOURNAMENTS**

- (1) Sanctioning. Any independent or invitational tournament held in the AAHA must secure the sanction of USA Hockey. This may be accomplished by contacting USA Hockey Registrar and filing a USA Hockey Tournament application form along with a copy of the rules and regulations for the tournament.
- (2) Officiating. All AAHA invitational tournaments must be officiated by USA Hockey officials assigned by USA Hockey Referee-in-Chief or his designee.

**R. RULES FOR INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

- (1) Required Forms. Tournament Director(s) for all tournaments within the involving USAH teams shall submit form 3-T.
- (2) Tournament Referee Assignor(s) for all tournaments within the involving USAH teams shall be notified after consultation with the RIC or his designee
- (3) Tournament Referee Supervisor(s) for all tournaments within the involving USAH teams shall be appointed after consultation with the RIC or his designee
- (4) Penalties assessed by an on-ice official shall not be changed or removed other than in accordance with Rule 502
- (5) All suspension penalties shall be served, and
  - (a) The referee shall have general supervision of the game and shall have full authority over all game officials (including off-ice officials), team officials, and players before, during and after the game
  - (b) In case of any dispute, the decision of the referee shall be final
  - (c) The referee may not change a decision, or that of any other official, after the resumption of play following the rendering of the original decision
  - (d) The referee may not change any penalties assessed at the end of the game after signing the score sheet
- (6) Tournament Directors, Rink Managers, and other Tournament personnel shall not become involved in the conduct of the game unless requested by an on-ice official; and
  - (a) Only team players and team officials are permitted in the players' bench area
  - (b) Only off-ice officials and penalized players are permitted in the penalty bench area

- (c) Only off-ice officials are permitted in the official scorers/game timekeepers area
  - (d) No changes shall be made to the score sheet after it is signed by the officials
  - (e) No changes to penalties incurred can be adjudicated by tournament director(s), rink manager(s) or other tournament official(s)
  - (f) The only tournaments that are not considered invitational are those run by the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association (AAHA), an Affiliate of USA Hockey.
- (7) Scheduling. No invitational tournament shall be sanctioned within a 75 mile radius of a or Regional Tournament or 100 miles of a National Tournament on the same weekend without permission of the registrar and AAHA President.

## **ARTICLE X - AFFILIATE POLICIES, CODES OF CONDUCT, SCREENING AND SAFESPORT**

### **A. PARENT & SPECTATOR DISCIPLINE & SUSPENSION GUIDELINES**

- (1) Guidelines for action are provided to emphasize the need to have in place as a guideline on how to handle disciplinary matters. It is imperative to demonstrate a FAIR patter of actions to avoid protests that there are personal reasons behind suspension. To do this, it is important to have and to follow guidelines for disciplinary actions.
- (2) A suspended individual will be suspended from all USA Hockey activities including practices or games for other children.
- (a) Level A Occurrence
- This will apply for first offenses only. The action should be of a non-threatening manner and should be considered unusual for the party involved. There should be remorse expressed by the party and it should be anticipated that there would not be a repeat of the behavior. Actions to be taken when found in violation at this level can be as low as a written warning and a maximum suspension not to exceed three (3) games or ten (10) days.
- (b) Level B Occurrence
- This would be in effect for a second time offender. Also falling into this group would be those individuals who may have had past observed behavior issues and have finally been reported. The individual would likely show minimal if any remorse. The penalty should be more severe with a suggested range between three (3) games and thirty (30) days
- (c) Level C Occurrence
- These cases must be dealt with promptly and would include a hearing. Actions that could lead to this charge include actual physical violence against another individual or what was perceived as sincere threatening actions. You would suspect these individuals as capable of causing future problems. The penalty should be a minimum of thirty (30) days and a maximum up to and including expulsion from the program.

**B. SCREENING**

Screening. To be in accordance with USA Hockey's SafeSport program and state local screening law

- (1) A person may be disqualified and prohibited from serving as an employee or volunteer of USA Hockey and the Atlantic (AAHA) or its member organizations if the person has:
  - (a) Been convicted (including crimes the record of which has been expunged and pleas of "no contest") of a crime of child abuse, sexual abuse of a minor, physical abuse, causing a child's death, neglect of a child, murder, manslaughter, felony assault, any assault against a minor, kidnapping, arson, criminal sexual conduct, prostitution related crimes or controlled substance crimes.
  - (b) Been adjudged liable for civil penalties or damages involving sexual or physical abuse of children.
  - (c) Been subject to any court order involving any sexual abuse or physical abuse of a minor, including but not limited to domestic order or protection.
  - (d) Had their parental rights terminated.
  - (e) A history with another organization (volunteer, employment, etc.) of complaints of sexual or physical abuse of minors. 6. Resigned, been terminated or been asked to resign from a position, whether paid or unpaid, due to complaint(s) of sexual or physical abuse of minors.
  - (f) Has a history of other behavior that indicates they may be a danger to children in USA Hockey or the Atlantic (AAHA) or its member organizations.
  - (g) Not been properly screened as required in accordance with USA Hockey policy and applicable state law.
- (2) Coaches, managers, locker room monitors, officers, board of directors, employees and others will be re-screened every two years in accordance with USA Hockey policy and/or under state laws whichever takes precedent at the time screening is required
- (3) Where screenings are performed through a state agency, it is the responsibility of each individual club organization to provide the AAHA SafeSport Coordinator a list of all coaches, managers, locker room monitors, employees, officers, board of directors and others required to be and have been screened under the individual club's state of domicile by November 30<sup>th</sup> of each season. If an organization does not properly report and provide the list by November 30<sup>th</sup> of each season, the organization may be subject to a fine of \$175 per day.

**C. HAZING**

Hazing - To be in accordance with USA Hockey's Hazing policy

**D. PARENT & SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT**

- (1) Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desires to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.
- (2) Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.

- (3) Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit.
- (4) Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- (5) Know and study rules of the game, and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of officials only hurts the game.
- (6) Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice – it is destructive. Work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
- (7) Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with them and support them.

## **E. HIGH SCHOOL POLICY**

- (1) General Rule. The Atlantic recognizes the value of both club hockey and high school hockey to a player's development and enjoyment of the game. It is the policy of the Atlantic District, that:
  - (a) No Bantam, Midget or Junior coach or organization may prohibit any of their players from participating with their USAH registered scholastic team
  - (b) No scholastic coach or organization may prohibit a player from participating on a USAH registered Bantam or Midget team.
  - (c) In the event of a conflict between a game for one team and a practice for another team, the player shall be permitted to attend the game, with no penalties to the player 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
- (2) Penalties for infraction of the above
  - (a) 1<sup>st</sup> offense – warning to coach and club
  - (b) 2<sup>nd</sup> offense – 30 day suspension to head coach of offending organization and person responsible (if different from head coach)
  - (c) 3<sup>rd</sup> offense – 1 year suspension to head coach and \$1,000 fine to Organization

## **ARTICLE XI - SUSPENSIONS, APPEALS & RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES**

### **A. DISPUTE RESOLUTION & APPEALS**

- (1) Any party aggrieved by a decision, ruling or determination of the Affiliate or any of its Boards or other subdivisions, shall unless otherwise provided for in these Rules & Regulations, shall be governed by the provisions of USA Hockey Bylaw 10.



**B. REFEREES SUSPENSIONS** in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10**C. COMMUNICATION OF SUSPENSION** in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10**D. GAME DEFINITION (FOR SUSPENSION)**

- (1) A game in order to satisfy a suspension, qualifies only when the equivalent of two of the three stop time periods are played as defined in tournament playing rules, time of periods, against a team of another organization of the same or higher competitive level, officiated by USA Hockey registered officials.

**E. LEGAL ACTIONS**

- (1) In order 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 Bylaws and Rules & Regulations of this Association have been exhausted, shall be considered ungentlemanly conduct entailing the immediate suspension and disqualification of any such member or individual. Refer to USA Hockey, Inc., Bylaws, Suspensions and Resolution of Disputes for additional information.

**ARTICLE XII - USA HOCKEY GUIDELINES REGARDING NON-SANTIONED PLAY**

USA Hockey and its Affiliates are charged with establishing rules and policies for the organization, coordination and betterment of hockey, including developing players, coaches and officials, and managing and minimizing risks associated with the sport. Examples of recent rules and policies include the American Development Model (ADM), Red, White and Blue Hockey (cross-ice) for players 8 and under, and processes and procedures for expansion of junior hockey programs. USA Hockey strongly *believes* in these programs as evidenced by the overwhelming support they have received across the country, the continuing growth in membership, and the advances that have resulted and are expected to result in the development of hockey players in our country.

USA Hockey has had inquiries recently regarding the rights and obligations of USA Hockey, its various Affiliates and local programs with respect to ice hockey that is not sanctioned by USA Hockey. To provide guidance to Affiliates and local programs, USA Hockey, as the National Governing Body for ice hockey in the United States, provides the guidelines below acting pursuant to USA Hockey's authority under the Amateur Sports Act (36 U.S.c. § 220501 et. seq.).

- For a game to be sanctioned by USA Hockey, all players, coaches and officials in the game ("Individual Participants") must be members of USA Hockey and the USA Hockey Affiliate with jurisdiction over their *respective* geographic area(s). Participating teams must also be members of the applicable USA Hockey Affiliate.
- There have been occasional exceptions to the *above-stated* membership requirement where in certain limited, special circumstances, USA Hockey or the applicable USA Hockey District Registrar may provide a special *event* sanction for an event where not all participants are members of USA Hockey ("Special Events"). These Special Events are occasional and have generally been limited to exhibition games between USA Hockey teams and High School Federation or NCAA teams, Try Hockey For Free programs, and

alumni and charity games. The limited nature of these exemptions is due to USA Hockey insurance and risk management concerns.

- Any Individual Participant may become a member of USA Hockey. Membership in or registration with another sanctioning body may not be used as a basis to deny membership in USA Hockey, its Affiliates or local programs. Correspondingly, no Individual Participant may be penalized for participating in a program that is not sanctioned by USA Hockey. Any Individual Participant may be disqualified from membership for violation of USA Hockey Bylaws, Rules & Regulations or Policies in accordance with USA Hockey's Dispute Resolution Procedures.
- Affiliates may establish reasonable rules for compliance by such Affiliate's member organizations and/or teams seeking membership in or who are already members of the Affiliate, provided that such rules do not conflict with the Bylaws, Rules & Regulations, Policies or directives of USA Hockey.
- If a team desires to play in a USA Hockey sanctioned game, tournament or event then, unless it is sanctioned as a Special Event, the team and its Individual Participants must be registered with USA Hockey and the applicable Affiliate. Such registration implies and constitutes the registrant's agreement that the team and all of its Individual Participants will be subject to the Bylaws, Rules & Regulations, Policies and Playing Rules of USA Hockey and the reasonable requirements of membership for the applicable Affiliate.
- Once an organization, team, or Individual Participant becomes a member of USA Hockey and the applicable Affiliate, that Affiliate may require that the member organization, team, and all Individual Participants continue to comply with the reasonable requirements for membership in the Affiliate. This may include, for example, such rules as coaching certifications, screenings, equipment requirements, safety mandates, and other rules, including the ADM and Red, White and Blue Hockey, if the Affiliate has in fact mandated such rules.
- An Affiliate may enforce a rule that prohibits its member teams from participating in games or practices that are not sanctioned by USA Hockey. Unless sanctioned as a Special Event, USA Hockey's insurance policies are not available to cover local programs, teams and Individual Participants when participating in a game or practice among or between teams sanctioned by an Affiliate and a non-sanctioned team. A parent of a youth hockey player that has registered with USA Hockey with the expectation of receiving the benefits of such membership, should not be placed in a situation where they may be surprised to learn after their child is injured that the injury occurred during a non-sanctioned event.
- An Affiliate may also enforce a rule that its member organizations must register all of their teams and players with USA Hockey and the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has such a rule, a member organization within that Affiliate cannot register some of its teams with the Affiliate while other teams in that organization are not registered with the Affiliate. Important reasons for such a rule are so that neither USA Hockey nor its Affiliates become liable for activities conducted by a member organization that is also conducting non-sanctioned events, and to prevent the occurrence of situations where USA Hockey's insurance could potentially be asserted to apply in a non-sanctioned event.
- Despite the foregoing, if an Affiliate's member organization or team desires to

play in events or games that are not sanctioned by USA Hockey, they may seek a Special Event sanction for such game or event, or they may also do so provided that certain other requirements are met.

Teams playing in a non-USA Hockey sanctioned event or game must be part of a separate organization (for example, a separately incorporated corporation) that is sufficiently distinct from the USA Hockey sanctioned program. The non-sanctioned organization or team(s) should also have a separate board of directors, the team cannot wear the same uniforms or have the same team names, and all rink or vendor contracts relating to the non-sanctioned team(s) or activities must be in the name of the separate organization rather than the USA Hockey member organization or team. Distinguishing teams participating in non-sanctioned events or programs from teams that are members of USA Hockey will help avoid making USA Hockey, its Affiliates or member organizations liable for activities conducted in connection with non-sanctioned play, prevent the occurrence of situations where USA Hockey's insurance could potentially be asserted to apply in a non-sanctioned event, and will also help make Individual Participants (and their parents or guardians) aware of which games or events are under USA Hockey rules and oversight and are covered by USA Hockey insurance and other benefits.

•USA Hockey Rules & Regulations, Section IV., provide as follows:

- Any youth player (male or female) rostered on a Tier I or Tier II youth or girls'/women's team and a Junior Program team as of December 31, can only play for one team after December 31. If the player plays in a Junior game after December 31, he/she loses all eligibility on his/her youth team for the remainder of the season, regardless of how many games are played at the Junior level.
- This rule should be applied to any games played at the Junior level with any organization. The purpose of this rule is that players playing on youth teams during the latter half of the playing season should not also be playing Junior hockey. Further, not having Junior players participating in Youth national tournaments protects the integrity of the USA Hockey National Championships. By applying the rule regardless of the sanctioning body that governs the applicable Junior team, all Junior teams are treated equally.

Affiliates and officials' organizations may establish and use reasonable criteria, rules and procedures for selection and scheduling of officials for games within their jurisdiction. There are numerous valid reasons why an Affiliate, officials' organization or scheduler may select one official over another for a particular game, league or level of play. However, no USA Hockey official may be penalized, threatened, excluded or made ineligible for officiating USA Hockey games based on that official being certified by or officiating games that are not sanctioned by USA Hockey or are sanctioned by some other entity. Many USA Hockey officials work games not under USA Hockey's authority (e.g., NCAA Canadian Hockey League, East Coast Hockey league, High School Federation, etc.). To be sure, an official will not receive the benefits of USA Hockey, including insurance coverage, supervision, disciplinary processes and enforcement, etc., while officiating a game not sanctioned by USA Hockey; and that official is not permitted to wear a USA Hockey crest/patch on their jersey during a game not sanctioned by USA Hockey. To reiterate, no Affiliate may, and no Affiliate shall permit an official's organization or scheduler under its control to, punish, threaten, blackball or make any official ineligible for USA Hockey games, based on the official becoming certified by another entity or officiating games that are not sanctioned by USA Hockey. Most hockey programs and officials associations endeavor to consider their officials to be independent contractors; to place restrictions on officials from officiating non-sanctioned games may place that independent contractor status at risk, and subject the hockey program or officials association to other liabilities.

- USA Hockey may amend or supplement these guidelines.