

VI. TEAM MANAGER

It is recommended that Youth and Girls'/Women's registered ice hockey teams have a manager. All Youth and Girls'/Women's national championship bound teams are required to have a team manager. A coach who also serves as team manager would register only as a coach. Managers are covered under USA Hockey insurance policies. A team manager who is not registered as a coach may not participate in on-ice activities or be on the bench during games.

The team manager shall be the custodian of all documents necessary for credential review prior to participation in invitational tournaments and district, regional and national championships. See Section IX: District Playoffs and National Championships, Subsection P. for complete listing.

VII. PLAYING RULES

USA Hockey will publish two official playing rules books – one that will pertain to all teams and leagues registered in the Youth, Adult and Girls'/Women's ice hockey classifications and one that will pertain to all teams and leagues registered in the Junior classifications. All constituent members must abide by the appropriate rulebook. Constituent members include all teams registered with USA Hockey as well as the leagues in which these teams are playing. No other playing rules book will be allowed.

Except for Juniors, any minor ice hockey playing rules changes must be approved by the respective district referee-in-chief.

Changes to the above policy can be made from time to time by the Executive Committee.

VIII. GAMES, EXHIBITION GAMES, INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS AND SANCTIONED EVENTS

In order to be eligible to be awarded USA Hockey district/affiliate tournaments, national tournaments or coaching/officiating clinics, the host facility must be a STAR member and register all of its ice hockey programs/leagues with USA Hockey. Exceptions can be granted with the approval of the appropriate council.

A. Definition of a Game: An ice hockey game is a match played against another team which is registered with USA Hockey or a member organization of the IIHF. USA Hockey playing rules or approved modification thereof shall apply.

- (1) The age appropriate standard playing surface at 8 & Under is cross-ice or half-ice.
- (2) Effective for the 2013-14 playing season, but subject to limited exceptions as are approved by the USA Hockey Player Development Committee, all games and scrimmages at the 8U age level shall be played either cross-ice or half-ice, or on a surface that is equal to or less than the dimensions of cross-ice or half-ice. Each Affiliate shall enact applicable rules and regulations to address the governance,

implementation and transition for this rule to become effective within the Affiliate on or before September 1, 2013. To the extent an Affiliate desires to seek exceptions for a limited number of full ice games or scrimmages for its teams at the 8U level, the Affiliate shall submit a plan by May 15 each year detailing such request to the USA Hockey Player Development Committee. The Affiliate's plan is subject to the annual approval of the Player Development Committee which will give final determination by June 15 of the same year.

- B.** Registered USA Hockey ice hockey teams shall not participate in games against nonregistered teams without prior written approval of the appropriate registrar. The district risk manager and district referee-in-chief shall receive a copy of such written approval. Violation of this rule shall subject the team to suspension by the appropriate affiliate.
- C. Definition of a Tournament:** Ice hockey competition, other than normally scheduled league or exhibition games, where three or more legally-registered teams compete within a specified time frame for the purpose of declaring a champion. This shall include gatherings consisting of more than three (3) teams, except Association Exchanges (limited to two (2) Associations), even though there are no winners declared.
- D.** All invitational ice hockey tournaments that involve USA Hockey registered teams and/or another amateur hockey federation or association must receive the sanction of the appropriate registrar for the district where the tournament will be held.
- E.** The conditions for sanction of an ice hockey tournament are as follows:
 - (1) Written application on the official USA Hockey invitational tournament application form must be submitted to the appropriate registrar for the district where the tournament will be held.
 - (2) The appropriate registrar, with the approval of the applicant's affiliate association, may issue a sanction where no exceptions to USA Hockey rules and regulations are involved.
 - (3) Applications must be accompanied by a copy of the full rules, regulations, and the complete procedures of the tournament. Where a tournament desires to use exceptions to the rules and regulations of USA Hockey, such exceptions must be approved in advance by the appropriate registrar and the host affiliate association.
 - (4) Only USA Hockey-registered officials may officiate tournament games, unless specifically approved otherwise.
 - (5) Only USA Hockey playing rules and age divisions may be used in tournament play, unless specifically approved otherwise.
 - (6) The following sanction fees listed for invitational tournaments must be complied with.
 - USA Hockey teams only – \$50
 - USA Hockey and another federation – \$75

- (7) Invitational tournaments shall be prohibited from being held within 100 miles of, and on the same weekend as a USA Hockey national championship.
 - (8) The Tournament Director, as identified on the Invitational Tournament Application, is required to verify that all participating teams are properly registered with USA Hockey. A USA Hockey player roster form (1-T) approved by the District or Associate Registrar shall be proof of proper registration and individual player age. Invitational Tournaments shall not require player birth certificates for review. Travel permits are required for all non-USA Hockey teams, and any team from an affiliate requiring travel permits.
- F.** Any ice hockey tournament which is conducted for profit, by an organization whose primary purpose is not to support amateur hockey or an amateur hockey team, shall also, as a condition of sanction, provide a copy of a tournament budget, or accounting of the proceeds of the tournament; and the fact that the tournament is conducted "for profit" shall be prominently displayed on all literature distributed for promotion of said tournament. The USA Hockey sanction fee for such tournaments shall be set by the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.
 - G.** Permission for use of a tournament "title" that would imply that there is a "United States," or "national" championship involved can only be granted by the appropriate USA Hockey Council, and "International" or "World" by USA Hockey's International Council.
 - H.** Violation of any of the above rules and procedures will be considered grounds for suspension from USA Hockey of the individuals and/or bodies responsible for such violations.
 - I.** USA Hockey ice hockey teams traveling to Canada to play games against Hockey Canada teams must obtain a Canadian/USA Hockey Travel Permit. This permit is available from your appropriate registrar or his/her designee.
 - J.** Except as stated in Section VIII: Games, Exhibition Games, Invitational Tournaments and Sanctioned Events., for an event to be sanctioned, all players, coaches, on-ice officials and team(s) must be properly registered with USA Hockey. All practices are sanctioned and all games and scrimmages are sanctioned provided both teams are properly registered. Early season clinics and tryouts leading toward team selection do not require rosters, however, all coaches and players must be individually registered.

Invitational tournament games are considered sanctioned events providing the tournament has received USA Hockey sanctioning. Other on-ice activities may be approved by the District Registrar or his/her designee as sanctioned events. Certain other activities conducted by teams/programs may be considered sanctioned events (for example, bingo games, pancake breakfasts, etc). Contact your district risk manager or appropriate registrar for details.

IX. DISTRICT PLAYOFFS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Youth Classifications (13 & 14, 15 & 16, 17 & 18)

Girls'/Women's Classifications

(13 & 14, 15 & 16, 17 to 19, Women's Senior A, B & C)

High School Classifications (Varsity and/or Prep School Divisions)

For regulations applicable to regional, invitational and national championships for the Junior and Adult Men classifications, please contact your appropriate registrar, the junior staff liaison, or the USA Hockey national office.

All national tournament-bound teams and players (except Women's Senior A) must be registered with USA Hockey and must be a member in good standing of an affiliate association on or before December 31 of the playing season. (Women's Senior A teams must be registered with USA Hockey and be a member in good standing of an affiliate association by the third Monday in March). Teams competing on natural ice have until January 20 to register. Player changes to the official team roster for youth Tier I and Tier II teams and girls'/women's national tournament-bound teams will not be accepted after December 31. For games to count in meeting the 20/10 (14/10 girls'/women's) rule, that team's official team roster registration form (1-T) must be certified by the appropriate district registrar or his/her designee prior to that game being played.

TEAM REQUIREMENTS

The following items are **mandatory** for all teams participating in USA Hockey national championships. (These mandatory items are covered further within this section).

A. Hotel

All team members and staff that require hotel accommodations are required to stay in the HOST hotel(s). There will be financial penalties for teams that do not stay in the host hotel(s). See Section N(3)(b).

B. Coaching Education Requirements

All coaches must have current USA Hockey certification and the corresponding online age-specific module to participate in the district and national championships. All coaches are expected and required to follow all USA Hockey rules, including the helmet rule, during all pre-tournament and tournament events. Non-compliance will result in a Discipline Committee hearing with a minimum one game suspension. Please refer to the Coaching Education requirements, USA Hockey Annual Guide.

TIER I – Any youth or girls' team that is properly registered with USA Hockey as a Tier I national championship bound team.

TIER II – Any youth or girls' team that is certified Tier II by an affiliate organization which has jurisdiction over the team. Tier II certification will be based on criteria set up by the affiliate and approved by the Youth Council.

If the affiliate rules permit a certified Tier II team to participate in the affiliate's Tier I district playoffs and a certified Tier II team elects to participate in that affiliate's Tier I district playoffs, then that certified Tier II team shall be ineligible to participate in the Tier II national championships.

HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY DIVISION AND/OR PREP SCHOOL DIVISION –

Varsity Division (male and female teams) – Pure teams (See High School Division II requirements) that are community based public high schools, private schools drawing their students exclusively from a local metropolitan area (excluding any school that boards players) OR a combined team from a state that has NO pure teams. Representation from each state will be determined by the state affiliate participating in the tournament. Billeted players competing on Tier I, Tier II or junior teams are not eligible to compete in the High School Varsity national tournament. Participation is restricted to amateurs who are full-time students (grades 9-12), and 19 years old or under as of December 31 of the playing season. Eligibility is not to exceed eight (8) consecutive semesters starting with a player's freshman year. **Clarification:** Those high school students graduating mid-year are no longer full-time students and therefore, are not eligible to play on a varsity high school hockey team, effective on their last day of attending classes full-time. **Prep Division (male and female teams)** – Boarding schools, non-community based high schools and others. All teams, players and coaches must register with USA Hockey prior to application for participation.

For districts only, these rules and regulations may be modified for local and state association competition and districts that are composed of a single state, as conditions may require.

Player eligibility regulations may not be less restrictive than those governing national championships.

TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES**A. Eligibility/Registration**

- (1) Players and registered team members properly classified shall be eligible to participate in district and national tournaments see:
 - (a) Rules & Regulations; Section II: Classifications; Subsections Youth, Girls/Women, High School Varsity and/or Prep School
 - (b) Rules & Regulations; Section III: Team Membership and Registration.
- (2) The team shall be certified by its appropriate registrar (form 2-C, team roster registration certification) to have complied with all eligibility requirements.
- (3) A verification and affirmation that a review of each player's birth certificate has been completed by a district registrar or his/her designee. When no verification and affirmation is provided, a copy of government-issued birth certificate, verification of birth or copy of a passport identification page for each rostered player, is required. Also, for High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions, evidence of current school enrollment eligibility to participate on the team is required.
- (4) The team's certified player roster must be in the hands of the championship director one week before the start of the championship.

- (5) The team and each rostered member must be eligible to participate in the district championships in order to participate in the national championships.
- (6) Number of Games for Eligibility – districts and nationals
 - (a) Each team must have competed as a team unit in at least twenty (20) games for youth teams, at least fourteen (14) for girls'/women's teams except Women's Senior A and at least ten (10) games for High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions, and
 - (b) Each player must have played in at least ten (10) games during the season or at least five (5) games for High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions. Women's Senior A players must have played in the ten (10) games prior to the third Monday in March. Women's Senior A district all-star teams are allowed and may be composed of players having played in ten (10) games for a district team prior to the third Monday in March. This team will not be required to have played as a team prior to the nationals.
 - (c) For games to count in meeting the 20/10 (14/10 girls'/women's, 10/5 high school varsity and/or prep school) rule, that team's player roster form (1-T) must be certified by the appropriate registrar or his/her designee prior to that game being played. Teams formed and certified prior to the September 1 season start may have games played in August counted toward fulfilling the 20/10 (14/10 girls'/women's, 10/5 high school varsity and/or prep school) requirement, with approval of the district registrar. Player changes to the official team roster for youth Tier I and Tier II teams and girls'/women's national championship bound teams will not be accepted after December 31 (February 15 for High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions). Any question regarding eligibility of game count in the girls'/women's program would be resolved by a committee composed of the appropriate registrar, the appropriate district Girls'/Women's Section Representative and the Girls'/Women's Section Director. If the issue cannot be resolved, the team may appeal to a committee composed of the Youth Council chair, the Registrar Section director and the national championship director or their designees.
 - (d) A game is a match played against another team which is registered with a member organization of the IIHF of the same competitive level and officiated by registered officials. A game shall consist of at least three (3) periods (or the equivalent, see paragraph Q. Time of Periods below), except where the game is interrupted, (by some unforeseen event) after two (2) periods have been completed. High School Varsity/Prep School games played against school sanctioned teams and USA Hockey high school teams shall count as games toward the 10/5 rule.
- (7) **Ineligible Coach(s)/Player(s)** – Any coach of a team that knowingly plays an ineligible player(s) shall be suspended from coaching in any games

that lead to a district or national championship in the current hockey season.

Appeal Procedure – Should a youth level, girls'/women's or high school varsity and/or prep school team or player(s) be declared ineligible to compete in district and/or national championship playoffs, by reason of improper registration certification, the team may appeal its ineligibility to a committee composed of the Youth Council chair, the Registrar Section director and the national championship director or their designees. The committee will add the High School Section director in the case of High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions.

Upon receipt of the appeal and a \$500 bond, the committee will render a decision as soon as possible. The decision of this committee shall be final. Should the team's appeal be denied, the team will forfeit the \$500 bond.

***Note:** Team for this purpose shall mean the President and/or Board of Directors of the program or organization to which the team belongs.*

B. Championship Director

(1) Districts

A USA Hockey District Director or his/her designee from the district holding the tournament shall be named championship director.

(2) Nationals

The championship director will be appointed by the Youth Council chairperson.

C. Number and Qualification of Teams (including Host Association)

(1) Districts

(a) The qualifying procedure and number of teams, and the entry of a host team, shall be determined by the district. The national championship director shall act as the final authority in all unresolved disputes.

(b) The host shall be allowed an entry at districts, if permitted by the district or affiliate.

(c) It is recommended that the national championship host team not participate in state or district playoffs.

(2) Nationals

(a) One representative from each district, plus a host team, shall be qualified to participate in the national championships. For the High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions, each affiliate shall have the ability to send a representative for each state represented by the affiliate. At the discretion of the tournament director and the high school section chair, additional qualified teams may be invited to fill the tournament.

(b) The host shall be allowed no more than two (2) entries and may be permitted to have more than one entry (the host team and one other) who are eligible to win the championship.

- (c) Where a program already designated to act as host for a national championship tournament elects to participate in its district playoffs and wins the district playoffs, the district playoffs runner-up team will be designated to represent the district in the national championship. The host team must participate in the host position in the game format at all national championship tournaments, unless specifically approved otherwise.
 - (d) No team representing a district shall be ineligible from championship competition for reasons other than those found in P. Credential Requirements of teams for districts and nationals.
 - (e) If, for any reason, there are less than twelve (12) teams qualified, the national championship director may select a team or teams in order to operate the tournament successfully.
 - (f) For a tournament to qualify as a national championship, at least three (3) districts and a host must be represented.
 - (g) The Youth Council and the national tournament director may choose to operate a national tournament with more than 12 teams.
- (3) Nationals – Specifically for Girls'/Women's Teams**
- (a) A Women's Senior B or C team must move up from its present classification if it has won a women's senior national championship in any of the last three (3) years and placed first or second in either of the two (2) other years. This includes teams of different program registration when a majority of the same players are composed of the same entity.
 - (b) When a women's senior team has qualified to move to the next highest classification in the next national championship and participated, the Girls'/Women's Section will review their ability to be competitive with the higher classification teams and make a recommendation to either remain or move down a classification.

D. Entry Fees

(1) Districts

Not in excess of \$600 per team. Any fee in excess of this amount must be approved by the chairperson of the appropriate Council.

(2) Nationals Youth: None.

(3) Nationals Girls: None. Women's Senior: \$500 maximum.

(4) Nationals High School Varsity and/or Prep School: None.

E. Number of Players

A maximum of twenty (20) players, including goalkeepers, shall be permitted to play in a game. The maximum number of players, excluding goalkeepers, shall not exceed eighteen (18). It is highly recommended that all teams arrive at the district and national championship with two (2) goalkeepers qualified under the rules. Teams that are unable to arrive with a backup goalkeeper shall be permitted, with the approval of the national championship director or his/her appointee, and appropriate registrar, to use a substitute goalkeeper

from a lower level (Tier I, II, then house/rec.) team within the same association, affiliate or district. Selection order should start with the same age classification (lower level team) first and if not available, then move to the next younger age classification (any tier, house/rec.). The backup goalkeeper shall only be permitted to participate in a game with the approval of the tournament director if the original goalkeeper is injured, ill or unable to participate.

Note: While high school teams may roster up to 30 players during the regular season, they must comply with this rule for the national tournament and submit a final roster of 20 players four (4) weeks prior to the tournament.

F. *Playing Rules*

The official USA Hockey playing rules shall be used. No protests shall be permitted on the playing rules.

G. *Notification of Intent to Enter Team(s)*

- (1) Affiliate associations shall signify their intentions of entering a team(s) in the district at least sixty (60) days prior to the tournament.
- (2) A district shall signify their intention of entering a team or teams in the national championship, in writing, to USA Hockey with a copy to the Youth Council chair by October 15 of the current season. Affiliates shall signify their intention of entering a team(s) in the High School Varsity and/or Prep School national tournament by November 15 of the current season.
- (3) Once declared, the district/affiliate must compete in the national championships or be subject to a one-year suspension from future championship eligibility by the USA Hockey Board of Directors.

The Youth Council shall:

- (a) Notify the affected parties of the council's suspension recommendation at least thirty (30) days prior to the USA Hockey Annual Congress.
 - (b) Give the affected parties an opportunity, in person or writing, to explain the circumstances which caused the non-appearance.
 - (c) Include its decision in the council's report to the Board of Directors at its Annual Meeting.
 - (d) Participation in USA Hockey district and national championship play shall be at the discretion of USA Hockey affiliate associations, subject to rules with regard to notice, etc., as set forth herein. No affiliate shall be forced to participate, nor shall any of its constituent organizations have a vested right to participation, simply because USA Hockey does provide a national championship for which they may be eligible.
- (4) No USA Hockey member team or association may participate in any league that prohibits that team or association from entering and fully participating in its state, district or national championship. All teams participating in that league shall not be eligible to participate in any state, district or national championship.

H. Merchandise and Awards

(1) Districts

The host shall supply championship and runner-up awards.

(2) Nationals

USA Hockey shall supply championship and runner-up trophies and awards. USA Hockey shall supply patches suitable for wearing on a jersey for each team participating in the youth and girls'/women's championships. The Marketing Council will present a merchandise proposal to the appropriate national championship director thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Congress, for presentation to the appropriate council. The appropriate council will then determine its national championships merchandise program.

(3) No all-tournament teams shall be selected.

I. Uniforms

All teams entered must be properly uniformed. Unless otherwise agreed by the teams and the tournament director, the home team shall wear light/white jerseys and the visiting team shall wear dark/colored jerseys in all games. If the home team in each game has not been established by the Tournament Committee, it shall be determined by the national championship director or his/her designee. All players participating in the national championships must properly sew his/her nationals patch(es) on his/her jersey(s) in the designated area. The head coach will not be allowed to coach until his/her players have complied with this rule and are considered properly uniformed.

J. Completion Dates

All district tournaments must be completed not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the first day of the national championships. Dates for national championships will be established by the Youth Council at the Annual Congress prior to the tournaments and announced at that time.

K. Time Between Games

(1) Districts

It is recommended that no team shall be required to play a second game in one day against a team playing its first game on that day, except with specific prior written approval of the national championship director. It is recommended that there shall be a minimum of four (4) hours between games played on the same day and twelve (12) hours on games played on consecutive days.

(2) Nationals

No team shall be required to play more than two (2) games per day, and no team shall be required to play a second game in one day against a team playing its first game on that day, except with specific written prior approval of the Youth Council. It is recommended that there be a minimum of four (4) hours between games on the same day and twelve (12) hours between games played on consecutive days. The Youth Council will provide the approved game schedule and times of games to the national championship director. The game schedule format may be played Wednesday through Sunday.

L. Age Classifications**(1) YOUTH**

To be eligible to compete during the 2013-14 season, a player must have been born during the year indicated below:

13 & 14	1999 and 2000
15 & 16	1997 and 1998
17 & 18	1995 and 1996

To be eligible to compete during the 2014-15 season, a player must have been born during the year indicated below:

13 & 14	2000 and 2001
15 & 16	1998 and 1999
17 & 18	1996 and 1997

A youth or girls player may play on a team in an older classification only if the applicable Affiliate's rules or decisions, and the applicable local program's rules or decisions, permit that player to do so. A youth or girls player residing in one Affiliate may not play on a team in an older classification in a different Affiliate unless both the Affiliate where the player resides and the Affiliate where the player desires to play have granted permission to play in an older classification. In the event a youth or girls player has been denied the permission to play in an older classification in an Affiliate other than the Affiliate where the player resides, the player may appeal such denial to the USA Hockey Player Development Committee.

(2) GIRLS/WOMEN

To be eligible to compete during the 2013-14 season, a player must have been born during the year indicated below:

13 & 14	1999 and 2000
15 & 16	1997 and 1998
17 to 19	1994, 1995 and 1996
Women's Senior	1995 or prior

To be eligible to compete during the 2014-15 season, a player must have been born during the year indicated below:

13 & 14	2000 and 2001
15 & 16	1998 and 1999
17 to 19	1995, 1996 and 1997
Women's Senior	1996 or prior

A youth or girls player may play on a team in an older classification only if the applicable Affiliate's rules or decisions, and the applicable local program's rules or decisions, permit that player to do so. A youth or girls player residing in one Affiliate may not play on a team in an older classification in a different Affiliate unless both the Affiliate where the player resides and the Affiliate where the player desires to play have granted permission to play in an older classification. In the event a youth or girls player has been denied the permission to play in an older classification in an Affiliate other than the Affiliate where the player resides, the player may appeal such denial to the USA Hockey Player Development Committee.

M. *Pairings – Districts/Nationals*

(1) **Districts**

- (a) The tournament format and schedule of games, including home and visiting team designations, shall be set by the District Tournament Committee and approved by the national championship director no less than thirty (30) days prior to the first game of the district tournament.
- (b) The schedule of games shall be sent to all qualified teams by registered mail, courier mail, email or telefax no less than ten (10) days in advance of the first game.
- (c) Anyone requesting a change in the schedule must notify the USA Hockey national championship director within 48 hours of receipt. Unresolved matters shall be referred to the appropriate Council.
- (d) The schedule of games to be played during the national championships, including home and visiting team designations, shall be forwarded to the national championship director, in writing, on or before December 1 preceeding the tournament by the host. The tournament director will return the approved game schedule and times of games to the host by February 1 preceding the tournament. The game schedule format may be played Wednesday through Sunday. Any deviation from these requirements must be approved by the appropriate Council.

(2) **Nationals – Youth Tier I, Tier II, Girls'/Women's, High School Varsity and/or Prep School**

(a) **8-Team Format, 10-Team Format**

Divisions and format to be determined by the national championship director and approved by the Youth Council. The High School Varsity and/or Prep School division tournament will use the national championship format as established by the Youth Council.

(b) **12-Team Format**

Year	AMERICAN CONFERENCE		NATIONAL CONFERENCE	
	USA	Olympic	NHL	Liberty
2014	5,6,8	1,3,7	2,9,11	4,10,12
2015	7,10,11	3,6,9	1,4,8	2,5,12
2016	2,8,9	1,7,12	5,6,11	3,4,10

Districts for a 12-Team Format-Youth Tier I, Tier II, Girls/Women

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|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. New England | 7. Pacific |
| 2. New York | 8. Rocky Mountain |
| 3. Mid-American | 9. Atlantic |
| 4. Michigan | 10. Southeastern |
| 5. Massachusetts | 11. Minnesota/Northern Plains |
| 6. Central | 12. Host |

N. *Requirements to Host a Nationals and District/Nationals*

In order to be eligible to be awarded USA Hockey district/affiliate tournaments, national tournaments or coaching/officiating clinics, the host

facility must be a STAR member and register all of its ice hockey programs/leagues with USA Hockey. Exceptions can be granted with the approval of the appropriate council.

(1) Selecting A Host – Nationals

Application to host a national championship shall be submitted on the official application form with the accompanying fee to the appropriate registrar, who in turn shall forward it to the USA Hockey Youth Council staff liaison, by May 15. The host must agree to all of the rules and regulations of the national championships. This fee is non-refundable to hosts who are awarded championships.

(2) Outside Web Facilitators – Nationals

All hosts are required to provide the necessary on-site web support to upload game results/statistics immediately following the conclusion of each game.

USA Hockey owns and uses the “Official National Championship Tournament Tool” scoring system, which all host locations are required to use exclusively to post live scores, statistics, game information and standings from each game of the tournament. No other scoring system or data publication system may be used during this event, regardless of any other rink arrangements. Host will not permit any such information to be displayed on any websites other than usahockey.com without the expressed prior written consent of the national championship director and USA Hockey.

(3) District/National Requirements

- (a) A sufficient amount of ice time shall be provided to comply with the regulations which permit a maximum number of games per day per team.
- (b) Accommodations for each team shall be arranged for at a first-class facility at the best possible rate. Unless otherwise requested by the teams, these accommodations shall be enough to house twenty-five (25) people per team with two to a room. They shall make certain that there are adequate food facilities open during the hours that will be needed by the teams. The expense is the responsibility of each team. At the national championship, all team members and staff that require hotel reservations are required to stay in the host hotel(s). There will be financial penalties for teams that do not stay in the host hotel(s). The penalty will be the full price of the rooms for the entire tournament. The involved district will be responsible to collect the monies and forward them to the Youth Council chair.
- (c) No transportation will be provided by the host. The host will provide teams with a list of agencies where rental vehicles may be obtained.
- (d) There shall be in attendance at all games a certified athletic trainer, emergency medical technician (EMT), paramedic, registered nurse or medical or osteopathic physician and any additional persons who have successfully completed and maintained certification for programs conducted by the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association, specifically AFA (advanced first aid), CPR

(cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and BLS (basic life support). The host shall be responsible for making any additional arrangements for medical care beyond emergency treatment at the arena, the cost of which shall be the responsibility of the player's team or parents.

- (e) All television, internet and radio rights are the property of USA Hockey. The selling of these rights shall be negotiated through the national office.
- (f) The host, pursuant to USA Hockey guidelines, shall provide one room (where appropriate) for the lodging of the USA Hockey tournament director.
- (g) For every twelve teams participating in national championships, the host will pay USA Hockey a flat fee of \$4,000. This assumes there will be a hospitality room at the rink site(s) which game officials would be eligible to use at no cost. Thus a host with forty-eight teams participating in the national tournament would pay four fees. For national tournaments with fewer than twelve teams or grouping not divisible by twelve, the flat fee would be \$160 per game. Upon paying the flat fee, the host has no further responsibility with respect to officiating. The officiating program will take control of game fees, hotel accommodations, transportation to the event site(s), shuttle service between hotel and rink site(s) and per diem expenses. This applies to all youth and girls'/women's national championships.

O. Method of Determining Champion

(1) Tournament Format

No exceptions to the following formats will be permitted, except as may be specifically approved by the Youth Council.

(a) Districts

All district tournament formats and schedules must be approved by the national championship director no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the tournament.

(b) Nationals

- (1) National championship schedule and format will be determined annually based on the number of teams participating. The format will be submitted by the national championship director for approval by the Youth Council at its annual fall meeting.
- (2) If there are twelve teams in an age division, two six team conferences, divided into two divisions of three teams will be established. Each team will play a game against each team of the other division within its conference. After the preliminary round games have been played, the teams in each conference will be ranked based on points accumulated in the first round. The top four teams, in both conferences, will advance to the quarter-final round.
- (3) Girls'/Women's – If there are twelve teams in a division, each team will play a game against each team of the other division

within its conference. After the first round games have been played, the teams in each conference will be ranked based on points accumulated in the first round. The top four teams, in both conferences, will advance to the quarter-final round.

(2) Overtime for Nationals (Recommended for Districts)

(a) Youth, Girls'/Women's and High School Varsity and/or Prep School Preliminary-Round Games

1. All Games Played to a Winner:

If the game is tied following regulation play, one five-minute sudden death overtime period shall be played. At the completion of the third period, the tied teams shall receive a three-minute rest period. The teams will remain on the ice. The teams will not change ends. If the score is tied at the end of the five-minute sudden death overtime period, there shall be a shootout. The winner of the shootout will be credited with one additional goal in the final score. **If no goal is scored in the overtime period, there will be a shootout.**

a. Shootout

The shootout will be conducted as follows:

- A shootout is defined as a player attempting to score a goal and the opposing goalkeeper attempting to stop the shooter from scoring the goal.
- The referee shall call the two captains to the referee's crease to flip a coin to determine which team takes the first shot. The winner of the coin toss will have the choice whether his/her team will shoot first or second.
- All goalkeepers and all players from both teams listed on the official game sheet shall be eligible to participate in the shootout.
- Any player whose penalty had not been completed when the overtime period ended or who receives a penalty during a shootout procedure is not eligible to be one of the players selected to participate in any portion of the shootout procedure(s).
- The shootout procedure shall begin with five different individual shooters from each team taking alternate shots. The players do not need to be named beforehand.
- The goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot.
- The players of both teams will take the shots alternately until a decisive goal is scored. The remaining shots will not be taken.
- If after the shootout, the shootout score is still tied, there will be a sudden death shootout.

b. Sudden Death Shootout

The sudden death shootout will be conducted as follows:

- A sudden death shootout is defined as each team attempting a shot. Should one team be successful and the other team not, the successful team shall win the shootout.
- Teams will select their shooters to participate in sudden death shootout, whether or not they shot in the previous round.
- All goalkeepers and all players from both teams listed on the official game sheet shall be eligible to participate in the shootout.
- Any player whose penalty had not been completed when the overtime period ended or who receives a penalty during a shootout procedure is not eligible to be one of the players selected to participate in any portion of the shootout procedure(s).
- Players in a sudden death shootout shall not be allowed to take another shot until four additional shooters have completed their attempts.
- The goalkeepers from each team may be changed after each shot.
- The official scorekeeper shall record all shots taken indicating the players, goalkeepers and goals scored.

(b) Quarter-Final, Semi-Final and Final Games

1. The game shall be continued to determine a winner.
2. At the completion of the third period, there shall be a three (3) minute rest period before the start of the first overtime session.
3. All overtimes shall be ten (10) minutes in length and sudden death. Teams shall not switch ends throughout overtime periods, therefore teams will play in the same end from which they played during the third period until a winner is determined.
4. At the completion of the first overtime, if the teams are still tied, the teams shall leave the ice and the ice shall be resurfaced. A second overtime period shall begin immediately following the ice resurfacing.
5. Following the second overtime, there shall be a three (3) minute rest period prior to the start of the third overtime session.
6. If the teams remain tied at the completion of the third overtime period, the teams shall leave the ice and the ice shall be resurfaced.
7. Thereafter, the foregoing process in items 1-6 shall be repeated until such time as a winner is determined by the competition.

- (3) **Process to Determine Quarter-Finalists, Semi-Finalists and/or Finalists**
The following applies for a twelve team format. For information on six, eight or ten team tournament formats and tie-breaking procedures, contact the national championship director.

Twelve Team Format

Each team will play a game against each member of the other division within its conference (M(2)(b)). The top four teams, in both conferences, accumulating the most game points will advance to the second round.

- (a) During the youth and girls'/women's preliminary rounds, each team will be awarded three points for a win in regulation, two points for a win in overtime or shootout, one point for a loss in overtime or shootout and zero points for a loss in regulation.

Youth, Girls'/Women's and High School Varsity and/or Prep School

Win Regulation	3 Points
Win Following Tie	2 Points
Loss Following Tie	1 Points
Loss Regulation	0 Points

- (b) After the preliminary round games have been played, the teams in each conference will be ranked based on points accumulated in the first round. The top four teams, in both conferences, will advance to the quarter-final round with the following pairings:

American 1	vs	National 4
National 1	vs	American 4
American 2	vs	National 3
National 2	vs	American 3

The first- and second-place teams in the American and National conferences will be the home team for all quarter-final games.

- (c) The semi-final round will consist of the following pairings:

Winner A1/N4	vs	Winner N2/A3
Winner N1/A4	vs	Winner A2/N3

The home team for each semi-final game shall be the team that was seeded the highest prior to the quarter-final games (i.e., A3 would be the home team if A3 vs. N4).

- (d) The winners will play for the national championship. The tournament director will determine the home team by the toss of a coin.

- (e) **YOUTH, GIRLS'/WOMEN'S AND HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY AND/OR PREP SCHOOL – Tie Breaking Rules to Determine Standings Position**

If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their position in the standings shall be determined by the following tie-breaking format. If one tie-breaker establishes a position for one or more teams, each team is placed in the applicable position. Once a team is placed, the remaining tied teams shall start the tie-

breaking process over again at step 1. *(If all tied teams have not played each other, then proceed to step 2. Note: a team may go into the tiebreaking process having defeated another of the tied teams and still not advance).*

The tie-breaker formulas are as follows:

1. The results of the head-to-head games played between the tied teams in the following order:
 - a. Standings — Most points.
 - b. Most total wins.
 - c. Differential — Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus.
 - d. Quotient — Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. A quotient involving dividing by zero (0) has higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any number other than zero. Where two or more teams have no goals against and the quotient tie-breaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of “goals for.”
2. If after applying the formulas of 1 a, b, c or d the tie still exists, the results of all the games played by the teams tied in the following order.
 - a. Most total wins.
 - b. Differential — Subtracting goals scored against from goals scored in these games, the positions being determined in order of the greatest surplus.
 - c. Quotient — Dividing the goals scored in these games by the goals scored against, the positions being determined in order of the greatest quotient. A quotient involving dividing by zero (0) has higher standing than a quotient from dividing by any number other than zero. Where two or more teams have no goals against and the quotient tie-breaker is required, the teams shall be ranked high to low in descending order of “goals for.”
 - d. Most periods won — In the games played by each tied team, points will be awarded for each regulation period won (2 points) and for each regulation period tied (1 point). Positions shall be in the order of highest point total.
 - e. Quickest first goal — The team that scored the quickest goal in their preliminary round games shall be ranked highest.

3. If the above procedure does not break the tie, the teams shall use a shootout procedure as previously described.

***Note:** Forfeits - If a team forfeits any of its games, and becomes involved in any tie-breaking formula to determine its eligibility to advance to the next level of play, the team forfeits all games in the round robin play and the games are recorded as 1-0 victories for the non-offending team.*

P. Credential Requirements of Teams for Districts and Nationals

- (1) The district registrar or his/her designee shall verify each team's eligibility for district and national championships.
- (2) Team credentials must be submitted at least ten (10) days prior to the start of national championships. The appropriate district registrar shall determine the deadline for receipt of team credentials for district tournaments.
- (3) The District Registrar or his/her designee will address any incomplete credentials at the Opening Coaches/Managers meeting.
- (4) The credentials for each team shall include the following items:
 - (a) For national championships only, a copy of the Team Roster Registration Certification Form (form 2-C) signed by the appropriate registrar or his/her designee.
 - (b) A completed Credentials Verification Form (form 1-C) and a USA Hockey Certified Roster Form (form 1-T) created by registration software.
 - (c) A verification and affirmation that a review of each player's birth certificate has been completed by a district registrar or his/her designee. When no verification and affirmation is provided, a copy of government-issued birth certificate, verification of birth or copy of a passport identification page for each rostered player, is required. Also, for High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions, evidence of current school enrollment eligibility to participate on the team is required.
 - (d) USA Hockey waiver and release completed for each registered participant and team manager. (Not required for participants who have registered online at usahockey.com).
 - (e) Sanctioned game scoresheets to verify compliance with 20/10 (14/10 girls'/women's, 10/5 high school varsity and/or prep school) minimum number of games for eligibility rule for each team and rostered player.
 - (f) USA Hockey consent to treat form for each rostered participant and manager.
 - (g) Coaching education credential for each coach at the level mandated by USA Hockey as shown on the official roster (Form 1-T), credentials verification report (Form 1-C), coaching education report generated through registration software or copy

of the CEP card, whichever demonstrates most current information.

- (h) Completed code of conduct for each rostered participant and team manager.
- (i) Non-U.S. citizens must meet proof of resident status eligibility and transfer from home country ice hockey federation (if required) as stated in Rules & Regulations II: Classifications, paragraph C.
- (j) Other documents pertinent to team activities and player eligibility.

A copy of the team player roster registration form (1-T) for each team shall be available from the Tournament Committee upon request from any of the participating teams. Should the Tournament Committee become aware of, and subsequently determine a player(s) to be ineligible before, during or after the tournament, said player(s) shall be ruled ineligible to participate in any remaining games and the team using the ineligible player(s) shall be required to forfeit any games in which the player(s) participated by the Tournament Disciplinary Committee. Also, if it is proven that the coach or manager was aware of the situation, they shall be subject to suspension.

Q. Time of Periods (all stop time in minutes) and Ice Clean Requirements

- (1) **Youth Tier I, Youth Tier II, Girls'/Women's, High School Varsity and/or Prep School**

Class	1, 2, 3 Period	Overtime*	PENALTIES		
			Minor	Major	Miscndt.
13 & 14	16	5/10	2	5	10
15 & 16	17	5/10	2	5	10
17 & 18	17	5/10	2	5	10
17 to 19	17	5/10	2	5	10
Women's	15	5/10	2	5	10
HS Varsity/Prep	17	5/10	2	5	10

**Round robin games will utilize one (1) 5-minute overtime period, then proceed to a shootout if a winner has not been determined. Quarter-final, Semi-final and Final games will utilize 10-minute overtime periods until a winner is determined.*

- (2) If, due to extenuating circumstances, running time must be used, the minutes shall be increased by fifty percent (50%).
- (3) **Nationals – All Youth, Girls, Adult Women, High School Varsity and/or Prep School**
Ice shall be cleaned before each game and between the second and third periods including the semi-final and final games. Any variation must be approved by the National Championship Director.
- (4) **Districts**
 - (a) Ice shall be cleaned at least every two periods and before each game unless approved by tournament director.
 - (b) If, due to extenuating circumstances, running time must be used, the minutes shall be increased by fifty percent (50%).

R. Officials

The three-person system shall be used. All referees and linesmen shall be assigned by the referee-in-chief, or his/her appointee, of the district holding the tournaments. Neither shall be eligible to officiate in any games. All referees and linesmen must hold at least a Level 3 classification. The district referee-in-chief, or his/her appointee, shall be in attendance at all games to supervise officials.

All referees and linesmen are required to wear only the USA Hockey crest on their referee sweaters.

S. Discipline Committee

- (1) The Discipline Committee shall be composed of three (3) people and be appointed prior to the first game by the tournament director. Its members shall not come from the same community. The referee-in-chief, or his/her appointee, shall not be eligible to serve on this committee.
- (2) The committee shall be responsible for deciding any action, suspensions or otherwise, to be taken against a player or team official receiving a game misconduct or match penalty. The committee shall have full power to waive or increase the one-or two-game suspension imposed in Rule 404(b), Game Misconduct.
- (3) The committee shall have authority to initiate action involving supplementary discipline against a player or team official whether or not it involves the playing rules; provided, however, that no suspension shall occur without first giving notice of the intended action and providing the opportunity for a hearing.
- (4) No player or team official shall be suspended from participating in the remaining games unless he/she has been provided the opportunity to appear before the committee to relate his/her version of the incident.

***Note 1:** No hearing for game misconduct will be permitted for any player who incurs five penalties in the same game. Players shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.*

***Note 2:** No hearing for game misconduct will be permitted for any head coach whose team incurs fifteen or more penalties during one game. The head coach shall be suspended for the next one game of that team.*

- (5) All actions taken by the Discipline Committee as a result of incidents occurring at the district championship must be reported within five (5) days to:
 - (a) the Youth Council;
 - (b) the respective affiliate(s); and
 - (c) the Discipline Committee of the national championship accompanied by its recommendation, if it involves the district champion.
- (6) The Youth Council shall have the authority to review and take appropriate action on any incident in the district championship which is detrimental to the best interest of amateur hockey.

- (7) The National Championship Discipline Committee shall be the sole authority in determining the eligibility of the individual(s) for the national championships.
- (8) All suspensions incurred in the course of the national playdown schedule (i.e., in state or district playoffs) shall be served during regularly scheduled games of the championship playoff schedule. In no case, may such suspension(s) be served in a game occurring outside the championship playoff schedule, by scheduling a game not included in the national playdown configuration and having the player sit out that game.

T. Disputes/Operation of Tournament

- (1) Pre-tournament disputes between the tournament director, the host committee and/or the district referee-in-chief, shall be resolved by the national championship director in consultation with the Youth Council chair.
- (2) After the commencement of the first game, the district referee-in-chief or his/her appointee shall act as the final arbitrator in all disputes involving the interpretation of the playing rules.
- (3) For any other decision, other than playing rules interpretation, with regard to the operation of the tournament (including zero tolerance, tournament play or conduct not in the best interest of hockey), the tournament director shall have the final authority to make the appropriate decision.
- (4) The USA Hockey officers, in all matters pertaining to tournament play, shall have the authority to adjust matters at any time in the best interests of the tournament and ice hockey in general.

U. Opening Coaches/Managers Meeting

An opening meeting for all teams participating in the tournament shall be held prior to the start of play at a time and place to be set by the tournament director. All participating teams shall have a representative (coach and/or manager) present at such meeting. No one person may represent more than one team at this meeting unless prior approval is granted by the tournament director. Failure of a team to have its team representative present shall result in the suspension of the head coach, as listed on the team's official roster, from that team's first game of the tournament. After the preliminary games, there will be a second pairings meeting at a time and place as determined by the Tournament Director. It is mandatory for the head coach as listed on the team's official team roster to attend this meeting. If the head coach is not present at this second pairings meeting, the head coach will be suspended from the next game of the Tournament.

X. ALLIED MEMBERS

Dues for Allied Members (other than those Allied Members whose dues are specifically stated in other sections of these regulations) shall be established by the Board of Directors. All Allied Members are non-voting members.