

III. TEAM MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION

A. *Membership*

Except for Juniors, all teams of USA Hockey member programs must register with USA Hockey in a manner prescribed by the appropriate district registrar. All national championship bound teams shall be required to use the official USA Hockey roster registration form (1-T). Affiliates and leagues may also require the USA Hockey roster registration form (1-T) for specified teams. In some instances, a simple listing of players and coaches may comprise an approved roster. All applicants for team membership must be members in good standing of an affiliate.

Junior registration for players, coaches, teams, leagues and referees shall be as provided in Section XI: Junior Hockey.

B. *Tryouts/Player Selection*

Tryouts for all Tier I & II 14U-18U Youth and 14U-19U Girls Teams

Effective as of the 2017-18 season, no youth or girls Tier I or Tier II team may recruit or solicit players or offer **hockey** contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, 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). For example, 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, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.

Except for spring or summer season hockey, Affiliates are strongly encouraged to have rules for house, recreational and other youth and girls hockey teams that are not registered as Tier I or Tier II teams, prohibiting tryouts or player selection until after a certain date that is appropriate for such Affiliate.

C. *Registration*

The team roster registration form (1-T) shall be completed and forwarded to the official district registration office by the appropriate date as set forth in the USA Hockey Annual Guide of the current playing season for teams eligible for district playoffs and national championships.

The team roster registration form (1-T) shall not be effective until the earlier to occur of; a) the date it is received by the official district registration office, or b) the date of the postmark by the U.S. Postal Service, regardless of the date that appears on the team roster registration form.

A limit of twenty (20) players at any one time may be registered per team except for high school, girls' high school, college and women's college which may roster 30 players and may dress 20 players and, adult and women's teams which may roster 25 players and may dress 20 players (see Section XI: Junior Hockey for junior roster limits). Affiliates may allow their post-season (spring/summer) teams, formed to play between the end of the last USA Hockey Youth/Girls National Championship and

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.

D. National Championship-Bound Teams

A player may not register on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a national championship except for High School Varsity and/or Prep School divisions, who may also play on a Youth or Girls'/Women's national championship-bound team. Player changes to the official team roster form (1-T) for youth Tier I and Tier II teams and girls'/women's (except Women's A) national championship-bound teams will not be accepted after December 31. Refer to Rules and Regulations Section IX: District Playoffs and National Championships, for additional requirements for national championship-bound teams.

In the event a player is registered on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a national championship, the appropriate registrar shall have the final authority to certify the eligibility of any such player solely on the basis of the date on which the effective date of the earliest team roster registration form, as provided above, is received.

Girls may dual roster on a youth and girls' team if the affiliate rules permit dual registration for females. Dual-rostered females playing on youth and girls'/women's teams may continue playing on both teams until the end of the regular season. However, the player must declare in writing to her appropriate registrar, or his/her designee, by December 31 on which national championship-bound team she wishes to be eligible to advance to the district, state, regional and national championship. If the player does not indicate on which team she wishes to be eligible for district, state, regional and national tournaments, the appropriate registrar shall have the final authority to certify the eligibility of any such player solely on the basis of the date of the earliest team roster registration form, as provided above, is received.

Except for players playing in Tier I or Tier II Junior hockey pursuant to the Youth/Junior Affiliated Player Policy, 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. Except for players playing in Tier I or Tier II Junior hockey pursuant to the Youth/Junior Affiliate Player Policy, if the player plays in a Junior game after December 31, he/she loses all eligibility on his/her youth or girls'/women's team for the remainder of the season, regardless of how many games are played at the Junior level. Disputes regarding this rule should be resolved by the appropriate registrar.

E. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria

This section is effective as of the 2017-18 season.

USA Hockey recognizes Youth Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No youth Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, 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). For example, 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, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I teams shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior (i.e., the player registration numbers in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for 2015-16 would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the 2017-18 season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. For example, the total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 15%, and the product shall then be divided by 20 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has 360 players in an age classification in the 2015-16 season, then 15% of that number would equal 54 players. In order to have teams of 20 players, the Affiliate would be limited to two Tier I teams at that age classification in the 2017-18 season. In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section E, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.
- Notwithstanding the use of 20 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the program/association must have been in existence and

registered with the applicable Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive years.

- The Association/Program must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound teams from the 14U, 15 Only, 16U or 18U age categories in either the Tier I or Tier II categories, each of which must have a minimum of 15 players per team.
- It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section E, each Affiliate shall be permitted to “grandfather” any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the 2016-17 season, and in the Affiliate’s discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register team(s) in that age classification. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section E, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate’s rules or decisions. The Youth Council recommends that each Affiliate’s teams do not exceed a maximum of 15% of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.

E. Girls Tier I Standards and Criteria

This section is effective as of the 2017-18 season.

USA Hockey recognizes Girls Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 16U and 19U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No girls Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, 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 Girls National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, 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, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I teams shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior (i.e., the player registration numbers in USA Hockey’s Final Registration Report for 2015-16 would be used to determine the number of teams permitted