

YOUTH PROPOSAL #2: USA Hockey Pilot Project – Tier I Youth Vertical Roster Integration Program

The Youth Council hereby authorizes a pilot program known as “Tier I Youth Vertical Roster Integration” starting with the 2023-24 season through the 2024-25 season. The purpose of this pilot program is to allow vertical roster movement at the Tier I Youth 15O, 16U and 18U levels within the same Association through February 1st. Only those players otherwise eligible for a different age category within their Organization and currently appearing on a Tier I roster in the Organization shall be eligible to play on a different Tier I team from that Organization without being added to the official roster, subject to the following conditions:

- *Each Player is limited to a total of 8 games played outside of their official roster between September 1st and February 1st.*
- *Players may only compete at one age level per day.*
- *The Youth Council and Registrar’s Section shall establish a means of requiring notice and record keeping of all instances under this pilot program where players play in a game without being added to the official roster.*
- *All other current National Championship rules, including the 20/10 rule and the 12/31 roster deadline will stay in effect. Games played shall not count toward the 20/10 rule until added to the official roster.*
- *Any suspension incurred by a player under this rule must be served with the team in which the player is officially rostered.*
- *Players under suspension are not eligible for vertical integration movement until the suspension is served with the team in which the player is officially rostered.*

By the January 2025 Winter meeting, the Youth Council shall determine its final recommendation on this Pilot Project, and final legislation shall be timely submitted to Congress for final adoption.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. Is a player allowed to vertically integrate on a Tier II team or between a Tier I and Tier II team?

A. No, Vertical integration is a Tier I rule only and only between teams in the same organization at the 15O, 16U and 18U age classification.

Q. Is a player allowed to play for two different age classification teams on the same day?

A. No, Players may only compete at one age classification per day.

Q. How do I know which is my players official roster?

A. A players official roster (Form 1-T) is the roster of the team that the player has committed to for that season and has been approved by the registrar. Player changes to the official team roster for Youth Tier I National Championship Bound teams will not be accepted after December 31.

Q. What is the purpose of Vertical Rostering?

A. Vertical rostering is Player Development tool to allow Clubs greater flexibility with player management and playing experience. With vertical rostering, Clubs can move their players around based on the players development needs and clubs needs in terms of competition. Allowing Clubs to move their players will be less disruptive to other clubs, save time on adding or dropping players from roster, provide a larger window for player movement and development.

Q. What if my players Coach does not want to let my player move vertically?

A. Vertical movement will be executed on an individual Club basis. Players and families should have a clear understanding on Vertical movement within the Club that you are playing with.

Q. Can a player who is serving a suspension with the official rostered team use the vertical Integration rule to play in a different age classification?

A. No, players are not allowed to vertically participate with other teams while serving a suspension. Once the suspension is over, the player is free to participate in vertical integration.

Q. If a player receives a suspension while playing with a different age classification than the officially rostered team, may they play games with the officially rostered team?

A. No, players are not allowed to play games with any teams while suspended.

Q. How is the game count for suspensions served?

A. Suspensions are served by using the game count for a player’s officially rostered team only. A player must serve the full suspension before returning to competition with any team.

Q. My player is bored on the 14U team. Can they vertically move to the 15O or 16U team within my club?

A. No, the vertical integration rule does not encompass 14U teams.

Q. Can my player vertically roster outside of our club that they are originally rostered?

A. No.