



Michigan Amateur Hockey Association Policy & Guidelines

Michigan Residency Requirements Policy

Section: Registration

Revised: March 15, 2022

This policy is designed to standardize the process of establishing residency. The Policy addresses a participant's residence requirements and how MAHA will look at residency for the purpose of hockey in Michigan. In an effort to reduce the potential of any problem regarding where a Player resides for any purposes the following Policy is applicable:

- MAHA looks first to the residency of both the player's parents as the player's primary residence. There may be exceptions to this rule in the case of divorce or billeted players, but these players must be brought to the attention of the MAHA registrar, in writing prior to the Roster being submitted for approval. In the event the player does not live with both parents, MAHA can request additional information necessary to determine the player's primary residence.
- If the address on the roster is not the one where the player "lives" with both parents, you must bring the matter affirmatively to the attention of the MAHA Registrar, in writing, and obtain a ruling as to where the Player resides prior to the Roster being submitted. "Lives" for this purpose means: "eats, sleeps, attends school and performs normal daily activities from that address".
- It is the general intent of this Policy that no player may have more than one residence for the purposes of hockey. Therefore, any player who did not play for a Michigan team the previous regular season must identify themselves to the MAHA Registrar that they meet the residency requirements outlined here or they will be considered an out-of-state player. If they wish to apply to be deemed an in-state player, the MAHA Registrar will provide further direction for completing the approval process.
- No player may create a residence for the purpose of playing hockey. Temporary or limited guardianships are not permitted or recognized by MAHA as residence in Michigan.
- The player/parents shall have the burden of proving residence, and MAHA Rule II Registration and Rostering: Participants and Teams Paragraph J is especially important in this context. For Tier I teams, "district" refers to Michigan. If a player's residence is not with the parent(s), and the player's current residence was necessitated for the purposes of playing hockey, the presumption is that the player does not meet the residency requirements outlined in this policy.
- If a participant's parents are in the process of relocation to Michigan, documentation such as letters from the parents' employers, home listings and purchase agreements could be useful documentation showing intent to relocate. If approved as a resident, further documentation throughout the year may be required to prove residency has been fully established. As a general policy, the player must move with the people he/she was living with previously (full and complete move) in order for a relocation to meet the requirements of this Policy.
- Players who establish residency and are playing in Michigan for the first year may be asked to provide documentation throughout the year to prove that the player is still going to school in Michigan and that he/she continues to meet the residency requirements.



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Application Process

- An out of state player seeking a change of status to become a Michigan Resident must contact their Association / Organization Director and receive permission to access the application on the MAHA website. The application must be completed and the appropriate documentation as proof of residency detailed in the MAHA Residency Policy (see below) must be attached. The Association / Organization shall review the application to ensure all information is true and accurate.
- Annually the MAHA President will appoint a committee to review the applications and make a recommendation to the MAHA Executive Board based on the MAHA Residency Policy criteria included in this document. The Committee may request additional information and gather input from other sources to ensure the accuracy of all information provided.
- The Committee will meet in a timely manner to make a recommendation and forward to the Executive Board at their next scheduled meeting. The player must be approved as a Michigan Resident before being added to the roster as an in-state player. If Michigan Residency is not approved the player would be eligible to re-apply to prove Michigan Residency prior to the next season.
- If after reviewing any documentation submitted to prove residency, the MAHA Executive Committee or the State Playoff Committee deems a player a non-resident, the affected organization may challenge that ruling under the standard applicable to contest an Administrative Action under USA Hockey Bylaw 10.C. The affected organization shall notify the MAHA President who shall appoint a Committee of impartial parties to review the challenge.

Michigan Residency Documentation Requirements

Required minimum documentation to help establish residency

- **Valid permanent Michigan Driver's License for both Father & Mother**
- **Player's School Registration for the coming year**
- **Sales Agreement for previous residence**
- **Purchase / Rental Agreement for Michigan address**

Other documents that may help establish residency. All documents must have the family name and Michigan residence address on them (Michigan P.O. Boxes are not acceptable residence address)

- Employment agreements or job offers for parents
- Utility bill or credit card bill issued within the last 90 days
- Account statement from a bank or other financial institution issued within the last 90 days
- Life, health or auto insurance policy
- Federal, State or local government documents such as receipts, licenses or assessments
- Michigan Title Registration (must show current address)
- Adoption paperwork showing permanent guardianship



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Additional Player Requirements for Tier 1 Players

- Tier I organizations are limited in the number of non-Michigan (out of state) players per organization.
- Non-Michigan players will be defined as players who were rostered with USA Hockey outside of Michigan during their first regular season of play after the 8U age classification.
- Once a player is considered/determined to be an out of state player, that player will be considered an out of state player no matter how long they play in Michigan.
- A player whose entire family has moved to and become residents of the state of Michigan for reasons other than to play hockey, **may apply for acceptance as a Michigan resident player during the second regular season following their relocation.**
- Applications for players in the 12U, 13U, 14U, 15O, 16O and 18U age classifications may be submitted beginning in February of each year and through the month of August. The player must be approved as a Michigan Resident before being added to the roster. If Michigan Residency is not approved by December 31st, the player can play on a Michigan Tier I team that season but would be considered an out of state player per the MAHA allowance for that age classification for that season. The player would be eligible to re-apply to prove Michigan Residency prior to the next season.
- As no out of state players are allowed in Tier I at the 10U and 11U age groups, players in those age groups will be allowed to apply for Michigan Residency from February through December. The player must be approved as a Michigan Resident before being added to the roster.

This is the Policy that MAHA uses to determine the residence of a player participating in Michigan. Failure to comply may result in the disciplinary action of the Player and/or Team and/or Organization.