



16U/18U – High School Age Classifications 18U AA and 16U Split Season Program 2024 – 2025

This will be the 11th year of the 16U/18U Tier II Program. We are extremely excited about year Eleven!

We have now had three National Championships coming from this program.

Some of the benefits of the program are:

- Encourages more player development prior to high school season.
- Allow all 16U/18U age players intending to play high school hockey the opportunity to play for the State and National Championship as well.
- Reduce the competition between MAHA and MHSAA programs who are each recruiting the same players for their teams.
- Split season provides more places to play for players not making the varsity teams.

Important Dates: Which are all tentative currently!

- On August 1, 2024, 16U A split season teams and 18U AA can begin playing games. Teams can begin rostering on 7/15 but cannot play games until 8/1.
- September 1, 2024, Teams must declare intent to enter early-season playoffs (Entry form will be on MAHA website) A \$900 deposit will also be required as part of the application process.
- October 18, 2024, 16U split-season playoffs begin that weekend and may be completed depending on the number of teams. If needed more games will be played the following weekend, October 25-27, 2024.
- 18U AA State Tournament will be October 24-27th. Depending on the number of teams, regionals may be required October 18-20, 2024.
- November 6, 2024, Early Season rosters go dormant until MHSAA High School Season is over.
- The dates for the MHSAA Finals are March 8th, 2025. MAHA State Tournament dates will be announced soon.
- **USA Hockey Nationals** are April 2nd – 6th, 2025, 16U – Wayne New Jersey, 18U – Utica N.Y.

Age Divisions:

- **16 U (National Bound)**
 - Players in the 2008 & 2009 birth years or younger
- **18 U (National Bound)**
 - Players in the 2006 & 2007 birth years or younger

16 U Split Season Playoff Format: Subject to change pending State Playoff Committee decision.

- 16 U begin playoffs on or about 10/18 with finals to select team advancing to State Championship completed by 11/1.
- Double Elimination Format in 16U playoff games
- There may be two weekends of playoffs. The first weekend (Oct 18-20) will be the finals. If the champion cannot be determined given the format a second weekend (Oct 25-27) will be used.

18 U Tier 2 State Tournament Format:

- Both full & split season teams can participate
- If needed October 18th weekend will be regional play using double elimination format
- October 25th weekend is the MAHA 18 U Tier 2 State Championship. The standard state tournament format will be used.

Eligibility for Playoffs:

- 7 Games for a player in classification and 17 games for a team apply to be eligible for playoffs. This means 17 games in the age classification you are in. So, if you are an 18 U team you will need 17 games against other 18 U teams to qualify for the playoffs. If 16 U, then 17 games vs other 16 U teams. They can be split season or full season as well as out of state teams, even the Canadian equivalent to your level. (Games against Tier 1 AAA teams do not count toward your game count)
- There may be two early round robin events to help teams get games. To be announced later.
- Credential checks must be done before the playoffs begin by your district. Any requirements that are due by December 31st of each year (i.e., coaching certification) must be completed by the teams that will play at the end of the season

Questions and Additional Information Contact: Don Wright don@arcticcoliseum.net