

COMMISHIPEDIA

JUNE COMMISIONER'S CORNER

I grew up with hockey in Massachusetts. This month marks the end of my term with the PVAHA (since 2011). And after 20 years (wow!) with the CBHL (This is my seventh season, as Commissioner), I will be retiring.

Back in the 70's (that's the 1970's) Phil Esposito and Ray Bourque came to the basement of a local church for my brothers' hockey team banquet - yes, Team! Yes - Phil and Ray! Yes - 1979... This was when 7-year-olds were called Mites, were allowed to check, played on ice the size of California and signed NHL contracts.

A lot has changed since then...

A letter from the PVAHA recently came out regarding Tier I and Tier II try-outs. I realized that there may be (many) terms in the letter which may need to be defined.

Be safe –

Debbie Moon
CBHL Commissioner



Disclaimer: This is for general reference only.

Visit USAHockey.com and PVAHA.org for specific and additional information.

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Excerpt from PVAHA's Letter from May 14

PVAHA Approved Player Agreements for the USA Hockey 2020–2021 Season:

1. Tuesday, May 26, 2020, Tier I Youth (Team Maryland and Washington Little Capitals) and Tier I Girls (Washington Pride) are allowed to offer player agreements for the upcoming 2020–21 season, without on-ice tryouts, to only those players who were rostered on their respective teams in 2019–20. All players must be registered with USA Hockey for the 2020–21 season and must be registered for tryouts with the club offering the player agreement.

2. Monday, June 1, 2020, Tier I Youth and Tier I Girls may begin offering player agreements to all other players. All players must be registered with USA Hockey for the 2020–21 season and must be registered for tryouts with the club offering the player agreement.

...

4. The Affiliate will continue to monitor the situation regarding rink openings and based on that, will determine the date that clubs may begin the tryout process. Tier I clubs may begin on that date and all Tier II and Travel clubs shall begin 14 days from that date. Also, Tier II and Travel clubs may not offer player agreements until on-ice tryouts commence.

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Let's start with some definitions and where we (the CBHL) fit in the hockey world.



USA Hockey: Founded 1937, as the Amateur Hockey Association of the United States (AHAUS). Based in Colorado Springs, CO. Changed name to USA Hockey in June 1991.

USA Hockey provides the foundation for the sport of ice hockey in America; helps young people become leaders, even Olympic heroes; and connects the game at every level while promoting a lifelong love of the sport. USA Hockey's primary emphasis is on the support and development of grassroots hockey programs. Its cutting-edge American Development Model, which was launched in January 2009, provides associations nationwide with a blueprint for age-appropriate athlete development. Always a leader in safety, USA Hockey furthered the enhancement of those efforts by advancing the USA Hockey SafeSport Program in June 2012.

Amateur Hockey: Tier I, Tier II, Travel, High School, House/Rec, etc.

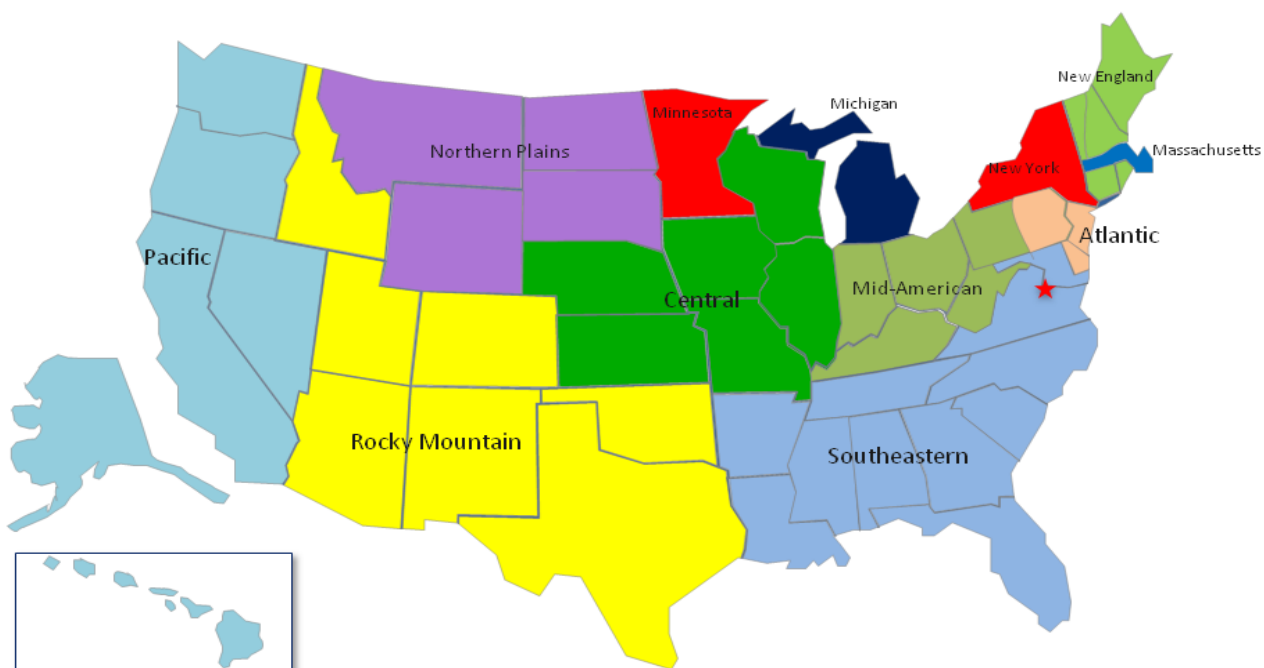
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USA Hockey is divided into 12 geographical **districts** throughout the United States. Within those districts, a total of 34 **affiliates** provide the formal governance for the sport.

The Southeastern District encompasses Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi.

USAHockey Districts



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Potomac Valley Amateur Hockey Association (PVAHA) is the **affiliate** serving as the governing body for ALL amateur hockey within D.C., Maryland and Virginia

PVAHA is one of four affiliates comprising the Southeast District:

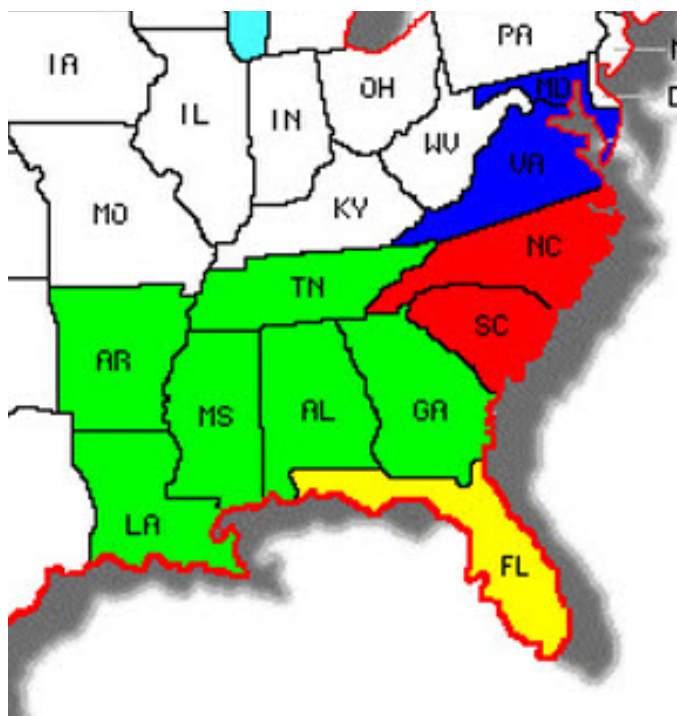
Potomac Valley Amateur Hockey Association (PVAHA)
Maryland, Virginia, DC

Carolina Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA)

Southern Amateur Hockey Association (SAHA)

Statewide Amateur Hockey of Florida (SAHOF)

USA Hockey Affiliates within the Southeastern District



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The Chesapeake Bay Hockey League (CBHL) is a Tier II league that follows the rules and regulations of USA Hockey and the PVAHA. We coordinate, schedule and execute a Tier II hockey season along with our 21 member clubs from Maryland, DC and Virginia.

So...the Chesapeake Bay Hockey League is a league within the Potomac Valley Amateur Hockey Association which is an affiliate of the Southeastern District of USA Hockey.





AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

Levels:

8U: 8 and under (Mite)

10U: 10 and under (Squirt)

12U: 12 and under (Peewee)

14U: 14 and under (Bantam)

16U: 16 and under (Midget)

18U: 18 and under (Midget)

Girls: 19U, 16U, 14U, 12U, 10U, and 8U

Prior to the 2016–17 season, USAH removed the traditional names (Mite, Squirt, Peewee, Bantam, Midget) in favor of referring to the age group. (18U, 16U, etc.)

CATEGORIES: Tier I, Tier II

PVAHA Rule 2.3: Youth and Girls' Teams

Youth Teams shall be registered in the following categories:

- a) Tier I
- b) Tier II
- c) Travel
- d) Recreational/House
- e) Invitational Tournaments
- f) Cross-Ice/Half Ice

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LEVELS

Depending on where you live in the country AAA, AA, A, B, House, Tier I, Tier II, ... all mean different things.

Tiers are designated by USA Hockey and they represent levels of hockey for state, regional and national competition.

TIER I / TIER II

In general....

Tier I is the highest level and USA hockey offers National Championships at 14U, 16U and 18U levels. It is also commonly referred to as “AAA” hockey.

Tier II LEVELS, Within the CBHL, we utilize AA, Upper A, Lower A and B youth (co-ed) and girls’ teams that play in the CBHL, at every age classification, to denote competitiveness level. We stratify competitiveness levels to allow clubs to form teams that allow every player to compete and perform to their best potential.

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PVAHA, the governing body of all amateur hockey within D.C., Maryland and Virginia, recognizes the following Tier I programs:



Washington Little Capitals



Team Maryland



Washington Pride
(Girls Tier I)

The recognized Tier I age classifications within the Affiliate are as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Youth Fourteen (14) & Under | Girls Fourteen (14) & Under |
| Youth Fifteen (15) & Only | Girls Sixteen (16) & Under |
| Youth Sixteen (16) & Under | Girls Nineteen (19) & Under |
| Youth Eighteen (18) & Under | |

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CBHL Tier II LEVELS

YOUTH (Co-ed teams)

NATIONAL (AA) – The top 2 teams per CBHL regular season standings from the 14U, 16U and 18U brackets in each state compete in March to go to USA Hockey National Tournament. (USA Hockey National tournament – Top teams from the country compete)

UPPER PATRICK (Upper A / UA)

LOWER PATRICK (Lower A / LA)

WALES (B)

GIRLS (Only teams)

19U, 16U, 14U, 12U

National bound Girls' teams declare through the PVAHA. They compete in the district tournament to go on to the USA Hockey National tournament.

14U Wales, 12U Wales

10U Half-Ice (pending)*



* Girls may play on two teams per CBHL rules

(*Disclaimer: 2020-2021 rule updates regarding dual rostering are pending approval)

TRY-OUTS and PLAYER AGREEMENTS

PVAHA Rules (*www.pvaha.org)

2.4.7 Tier I Open Tryouts: All Tier I teams must have open tryouts.

2.5.5 Tier II Tryouts: A Team/Association may hold open or closed (only association members allowed) tryouts for Tier II teams.

5.1 Tier I Youth and Tier I Girls' Associations

Tier I associations' tryouts may be held 48 hours following completion of the USA Hockey National Championships.

5.2 Tier II Youth and Girls' Associations

Tier II associations' tryouts may not be held until the third Saturday following the completion of the USA Hockey National Championships.

5.4 Player Agreements/Contracts

A local association/member program shall not have any player or parent execute an association/ team player agreement for the next hockey season prior to the completion of the USA Hockey National Championships.

3.0 Tampering and Player Release Obligations

3.1 Definition

Tampering shall be defined as the recruitment of a rostered youth or girls' player without the prior approval of the Association of the rostered player.

3.2 Prohibited Activities

At no time after a player has been properly registered and rostered by an association and until the player's team ceases to engage in its schedule of play, may a coach, manager or other team official of another Association, directly or indirectly, contact a player already signed to an association/ team player agreement or rostered on a team for the purpose of recruiting the player to roster and play on another team. (See the *USA Hockey Coaching Ethics Code*.) An association or team may not offer sponsorship, reduced dues or other pecuniary benefits to a prospective player as an enticement to join a particular team or association.



TRY-OUTS and PLAYER AGREEMENTS

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To summarize the key points:

Regular season:

Open try-out: Advertised and registration available

Closed try-outs: Only members of that association (i.e.: player from last season) may attend

Try-outs have a specific start date.

Players cannot be recruited.

Player agreements/Contracts cannot be offered to players that have an agreement or contract with an association.

PVAHA Rules

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or other pecuniary benefits to a prospective player as an enticement to join a particular

team or association.

Putting it all together

PVAHA Approved Player Agreements for the USA Hockey 2020–2021 Season:

1. Tuesday, May 26, 2020

- ONLY Tier I (Little Caps, Team Maryland, Washington Pride)
- Offer player agreements to 2019-2020 respective rostered players
- No on-ice tryouts

2. Monday, June 1, 2020

- ONLY Tier I (Little Caps, Team Maryland, Washington Pride)
- Offer player agreements to all other players (see respective club websites)
- No on-ice tryouts

4. **DATE TBD and Announced**

PVAHA will determine the DATE that clubs may begin the on-ice tryout process.

- Based on rink openings and situations
- DATE – Tier I may begin on ice tryouts
- **DATE – Tier II may begin 14 days later.**
- **No player agreements (except Tier I) prior to on-ice tryout start DATE**



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While we wait for the rinks to receive permission to open, the CBHL board continues to meet at least once every month via video conference. The CBHL staff is in daily contact. USA Hockey and the Affiliates meet weekly via video conferencing.

INFORMATION FROM USA HOCKEY

USA Hockey has established a COVID-19 Information Page on their website: <https://www.usahockey.com/playersafety>



On May 5, USA Hockey released published information to help rink owners and affiliates prepare to return to hockey. Their document can be found [HERE](#).

On May 26, USA Hockey released the following information to respond to questions regarding the use of full clear shields:

HELMETS -- FULL CLEAR SHIELD vs. HALF SHIELD OR CAGE There is no scientific proof that a full clear shield on a hockey helmet provides better protection against infectious diseases compared to a visor (half shield) or cage.

MASKS TO COVER MOUTH/NOSE - A cloth mask protects the wearer's nose and mouth from contact with droplets and may protect others by reducing exposure to the saliva and respiratory secretions of the mask wearer. This is especially important if someone is infected but does not have symptoms. Players should wear cloth masks at all times, except while playing. Coaches and other support personnel should wear cloth masks at all times. Wearing a cloth mask during high intensity aerobic activity is not recommended by the CDC due to decreased oxygen inhalation and decreased carbon dioxide exhalation.

Around the USA

Information below is only intended to show how other areas are returning to play and are not meant to imply how our area will follow. We continue to follow the guidance of the PVAHA as they work with USA Hockey

Minnesota Hockey Return to Play Guidelines

| Activity | Phase 1 | Phase 2 | Phase 3 |
|-------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Tentative Timeline | June 1 | Announcement by August 1 (subject to change & MDH guidance) | Announcement by September 1 (subject to change & MDH guidance) |
| Practice | Open per MDH guidance | Open | Open |
| Skill Clinics | Open per MDH guidance | Open | Open |
| Tryouts | Open but not recommended initially per MDH guidance on no contact | Open | Open |
| Dryland | Closed inside arena | Open per MDH guidance | Open |
| Local Games/Scrimmages | Closed | Open per MDH guidance | Open |
| Travel Games | Closed | Closed | Open per MDH guidance |
| Tournaments | Closed | Closed | Open per MDH guidance |

Minnesota Hockey will open programming in phases, which are subject to change at all times. They are also subject to restrictions placed by state or local governments. Minnesota Hockey will not sanction on-ice activities prior to restrictions being lifted by the state government. The dates listed next to each phase are NOT meant to indicate the transition to that phase will happen on that date. However, Minnesota Hockey will be providing updated guidelines prior to that date if the transition can be made to enter the next phase. Those guidelines will be subject to regulations imposed by the state government, as well as recommendations from the MDH and CDC.

Go to [Minnesota Hockey Return to Play Guidelines](https://www.minnesotahockey.org) to see how much is involved in Return to Play

(<https://www.minnesotahockey.org>)

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[For More Information About the CBHL, visit:](#)

<https://www.cbhl.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/CBHL-Chesapeake-Bay-Hockey-League>

Twitter: @CBHL_Hockey

As USA Hockey continues adapting to the coronavirus situation, the safety of participants always remains our top priority. Thank you to all players, parents, coaches, officials, administrators and volunteers for your continued passion and support for hockey in the United States and we're all looking forward to returning to more normal times as soon as possible!

**Debbie Moon
CBHL Commissioner**