



The Mid Am District of USA Hockey Presents....

The 2023 Association Must Know Information

Youth Hockey Association 101

Last Revised on September 20, 2023

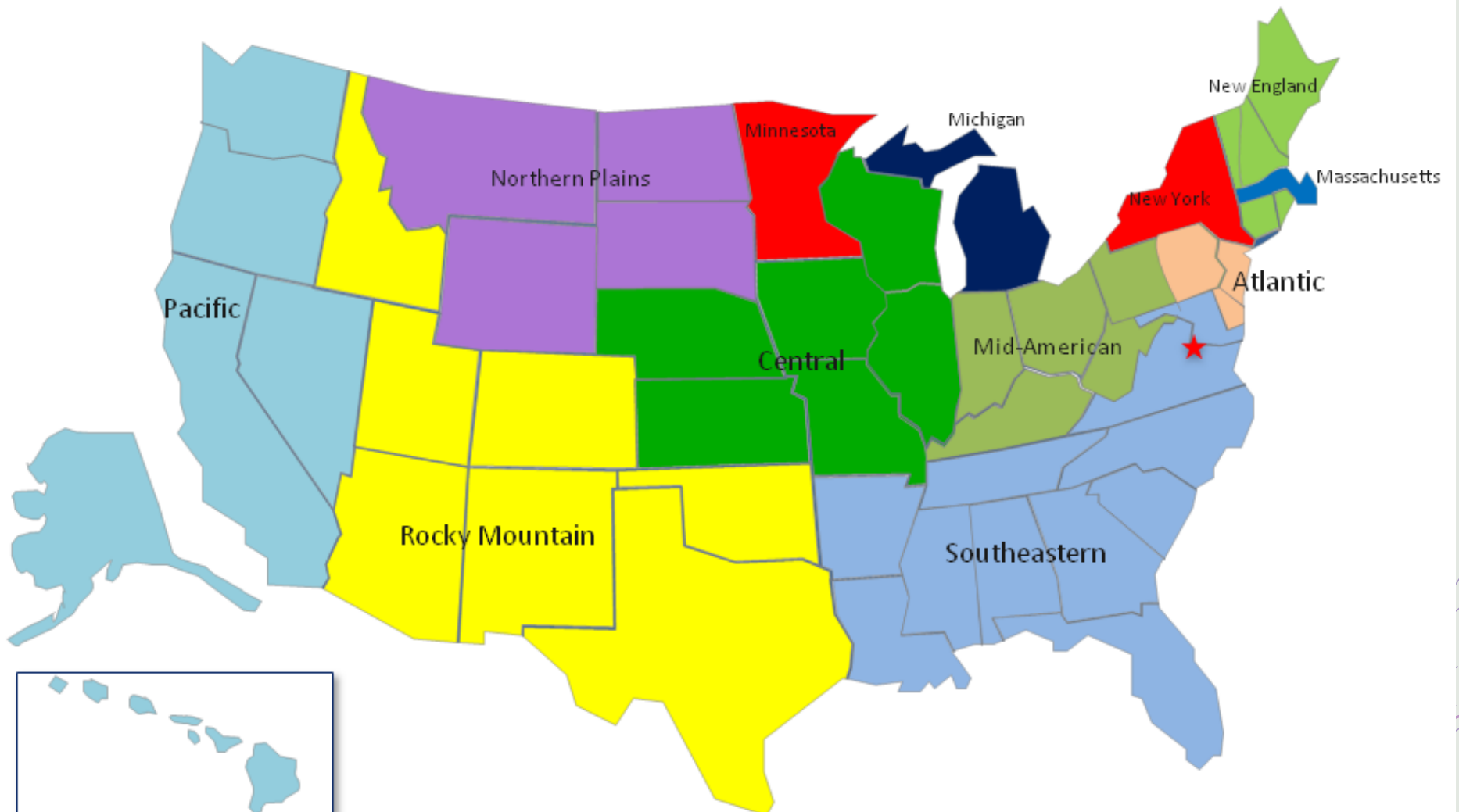
The road map for the USA Hockey & Mid Am journey

Youth Hockey Association 101...or....

.....What is USAH and Mid Am and What Do They Do?

- The Mid Am District is one of 12 Districts in USA Hockey and it administers the affairs of USA Hockey within the district.
- The geographical boundaries of the Mid Am District include Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania with over 45,000 registered players.

USA Hockey Districts



Youth Hockey Association 101...or....

.....What is USAH and Mid Am and What Do They Do?

- USA Hockey Annual Guide (<https://www.usahockey.com/annualguide>)
- The Mid Am District has 4 USA Hockey Representatives, Council and Section Representatives who participate at the national level with USA Hockey



***Your USA Hockey
Associations***

USA Hockey Associations are part of the International Olympic Community

Objectives

+ At the conclusion, you should have the basic understanding and Mid Am resources of the following:

- Registration of players/coaches/volunteers
- DEI- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
- Background screening
- Safe Sport Program
- Coaching Program
- Referee Program
- Discipline (Playing Rules and Non Playing Rules)
- High School Hockey
- Girls Hockey
- Disabled Hockey
- Risk Management
- Player Safety
- National Tournament Championship
- Player Development (National and District Select process)
- Roger Sharrer “Grow Hockey” Award





Registration



- + All players, coaches, and volunteers need to register with USA Hockey
- + Link to Registration: Website www.midamhockey.com under USA Hockey tab
- + Fees: 6 and younger \$20, 7 and 8 year olds \$55, 9 thru 12 year olds \$66, 13 thru 18 year olds \$75, Coaches \$51 (Mid Am Affiliate fee \$5), Volunteers are free...
- + All associations must have a Registrar who is responsible for administering the USA Hockey Registry portal which manages association player, coach and volunteer data and USA Hockey approved rosters.
- + **All members need to be registered with USA Hockey, complete a background screen, and complete Safe Sport training prior to participation in any USA Hockey activity.**
 - + Note: Youth players who are born in 2006 or earlier must complete Safe Sport training.

Keith Kenitzer Mid Am District Register keith.kenitzer@usahockey.org



Background Screening



- Who needs to be screened?
 - All coaches, all volunteers who have periodic contact with minors and or persons of any age with intellectual impairment
- When do they need to be screened?
 - Every other year (prior to participation)
- How do they get screened?
 - Website www.midamhockey.com under the SSS tab
- All teams should have a link from their association registrar to check their roster. What does it mean if someone is Redlined on a roster?
 - Screen is not complete, and the member is ineligible for participation

Kaye Pinkowski USAH Representative hckemom@aol.com



Safe Sport



- Safe Sport is designed to protect our members (players, coaches, referees and other volunteers who are registered members). We do not have jurisdiction over non members or their actions (fans, parents (Spectator Behavior Policy)).
- Safe Sport training must be renewed every year. Your expiration date is based on when you completed your training last year.
- These are some of the offenses we handle ... Sexual misconduct or child abuse, physical misconduct, emotional misconduct, bullying, threats, harassment, hazing, one on one interaction policies, locker room policy, and electronic communications policy.
- Cases can be handled at different levels. Sexual Misconduct or Child Abuse must be reported to the Center for Safe Sport and the local police department (can result in a Summary Suspension). Any other cases can be reported to the USAH Safe Sport site and can also be reported to your local Safe Sport representative and the Mid Am Safe Sport Coordinator.
 - Some of these cases may take a year or more to resolve

Murray Stall Mid Am District Safe Sport Coordinator mdstalliii@gmail.com



Safe Sport



- Investigations are handled at different levels ...
 - **Center for Safe Sport** if they take the case (most cases are returned to Mid Am to handle)
 - **Mid Am Coordinator** or designated volunteers or local association Safe Sport Coordinators. If the investigation shows there is a possible violation of Safe Sport policies it will be resolved via an agreement with the parties involved or there will be a hearing with a 3 person panel to decide. Hearing can be held at the district level, state level or can be handled by the local association which must follow the USA Hockey By-Law 10 procedure.
- Billeting (**All Billeted players must have a Billeting Form returned to Mid Am**)
 - Billeting Family Form: This Form must be completed for all billeted players
 - Billeting Form must be completed and returned to Lori Billings, Mid Am District Administrator administrator@midamhockey.com
- Locker Room Monitors (**must be noted (circled) on score sheet for every game**)
 - All teams must have a locker monitor at all times when youth members are in the locker room.
 - Locker Room Monitors can be a coach, manager, or willing volunteer and must be listed on team's official roster
 - All monitors must have current Safe Sport Training and a Background Screening
 - Teams with Co-ed locker rooms must have a monitor for each locker room

Murray Stall Mid Am District Safe Sport Coordinator mdstalliii@gmail.com



DEI

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



- Accessibility - creating an inclusive and welcoming environment that enables the widest possible access to the game. Key initiatives include:
 - Help make the game more accessible to youth everywhere who want to try the sport before making a commitment to it (floor, street, or ball hockey).
 - Help make the game - and offshoots of the game - more accessible to disabled individuals.
 - Help make the game more accessible to girls, women and adult hockey players.
- Each state has their own DEI representative

Howard Smith Mid Am District DEI Representative Smith@midamhockey.com



Coaching



- All coaches must, PRIOR to any participation in any USA Hockey activity (Redlined):
 - Register with USA Hockey as a Coach,
 - Complete the Age Specific Module for the appropriate age level,
 - Complete a Background Screen, and
 - Complete Safe Sport Training
- After the above is met, the Coach has till December 31st to attend the appropriate Coaching Education Clinic
- There are 5 levels of Coaching Education in USA Hockey
 - Level 1 is the first Coaching Education Clinic for any first time coach
 - Second year a coach must complete Level 2 (unless coaching at 8U only or Disabled Athletes)
 - Third year a coach must complete Level 3
 - Fourth year a coach must complete Level 4
- If a coach stops coaching and their CEP expires, they will always pick up at the next level where they left off in the Coaching Education Program
- **Resource for Coaching Material:** [USA Hockey Mobile Coach App](#)

Bill Switaj Mid Am District Coach-in-Chief wswitaj@bgsu.edu



ADM



- USA Hockey's American Development Model (ADM) is an athlete-centered, coach-enhanced, administrator-supported framework that aims to help all individuals realize their athletic potential and utilize sport as a path toward an active and healthy lifestyle.
- This can be accomplished by following the 10 Guiding Principles and the age group recommendations that focus on developing all aspects of hockey performance in a developmentally appropriate manner, based on research and best practices in youth sports, human development, coaching, and the sports sciences.
- www.admkids.com

Scott Paluch, USA Hockey Director of Player Development scottp@usahockey.org



Referees



- USA Hockey appoints only one Referee-in-Chief per District
 - The USA Hockey Mid Am District Referee-in-Chief is Jim Weaver in McMurray, PA
 - Mr. Weaver appoints Local Supervisors of Officials throughout the District to assist him in carrying out his duties and responsibilities and to provide a local presence in the hockey community and for officials.
- USA Hockey Referee Section is responsible for registering, training, and certifying referees. All referees are required to register, attend a seminar, complete online modules and pass a rules exam every season.
- Teams or Associations are responsible for scheduling Officials for their games, typically through a local or league assignor. We request that games are scheduled together with the same age groups to assist the scheduling process and allow more opportunities for new and younger officials to work games, especially with a mentor or shadow for their first few games.

Jim Weaver Mid Am District Referee-in-Chief midamric@verizon.net



Referees



- Rule 502 – REFEREE -The Referee shall have general supervision of the game and their decision shall be final in all matters occurring before, during or after the game and in doing so shall have full authority over all participants (Including players, coaches, off-ice officials, and spectators).
- The referee may not change their decision, or that of any other official after the resumption of play following the rendering of the original decision, including after the game. Clerical errors on the scoresheet may be changed (for instance the referee assessed a game misconduct, but the scorekeeper incorrectly entered only a misconduct, or a player with four penalties was missed during the game).

Jim Weaver Mid Am District Referee-in-Chief midamric@verizon.net



Discipline

Playing Rule Violations



● Playing Rule Violations

- A Referee's decision is final and is not appealable (Rule 502 (a))
- All **Match Penalties** are addressed by the Affiliate (Mid Am) Discipline Committee
 - The Discipline Committee after review may make an offer to the offending player
 - The player may accept the offer or ask for a hearing
 - The Discipline Committee may elect to not make an offer and allow the incident to proceed to a Mid Am hearing or delegate the hearing to the local authority
 - Only a hearing decision may be appealed (no on ice calls may be appealed)
- **Progressive Penalties** (Rule 411 and Rule 615 (f))
 - These penalties are not appealable
- Both Match Penalties and Progressive penalties will be communicated to the player's parents email and a copy will be emailed to the local association and/or league
- **Resource for Playing Rules:** [USA Hockey Mobile Rulebook App](#)

John Karolcik USAH Representative john.karolcik@icloud.com



Discipline Non-Playing Rule Violations

(Code of Conduct, Association or League Rule Violations)



+ *Non-Playing Rule Discipline Violations*

- No USA Hockey member can be suspended without first having a hearing (exceptions Summary Suspensions and Playing Rules Violations/Match Offers)
- Hearing vs Meeting (A Meeting is investigative whether to proceed to a hearing)
 - Impartial investigator- disinterested to the outcome and responsible to finding of facts
- The Hearing Discipline Procedure must include **all** of the following anytime a member is sanctioned or suspended:
 - Member must be given **NOTICE** of the violation prior to the hearing (email)
 - Member must be given a **7 DAY NOTICE** (email) of the hearing unless waived and documented
 - Member must have the opportunity to review all evidence
 - The hearing committee must be made up of **at least 3 IMPARTIAL MEMBERS** who have not been involved in the investigation of the incident
 - Decisions must be **COMMUNICATED IN WRITING** (email) within 5 business days
 - Instructions must be provided of how to appeal the decision, which must be appealed within 14 days of the decision notification

John Karolcik USAH Representative john.karolcik@icloud.com



Discipline Non-Playing Rule Violations

(Code of Conduct, Association or League Rule Violations)



+ **Spectator Behavior Policy**

- All Associations must develop a Spectator Behavior Policy which is approved by the affiliate. These policies must be submitted to the Mid Am Administrator by December 31, 2023. Only revised or new policies need submitted in subsequent years.
- The Policy must be enforceable by the local association
- Recommended Suspension
 - First Offense - a suspension from all events involving the Association for a minimum of fourteen (14) days to a maximum of thirty (30) days;
 - Second Offense - a suspension from all events involving the Association for a minimum of thirty (30) days to a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) days
- Third Offense
 - Third Offense - a suspension from all events until a decision has been rendered from an USA Hockey Affiliate hearing.
- If the local association fails to address the incident, the incident will be addressed by the league and or Mid Am Affiliate which may include local association sanctions.
- Recommended that officials who are younger than 18 years of age wear a green arm band which can be provided by their local association.
- An Association Policy Sample is on our website: [Sample Association Policy](#)

John Karolcik USAH Representative john.karolcik@icloud.com



High School Hockey



- School based hockey programs between 9th and 12th grades
- High School students on these hockey teams must be:
 - Full-time students
 - In Grades 9-12
 - Under 20 years of age before December 31st of the current playing season
 - Eligibility begins in freshman year (9th grade)
 - Not to exceed eight (8) consecutive semesters
- The High School Section was approved for its first National Championship in 2010. This National Championship today includes four divisions:
 - Division I (pure teams)
 - Division II (combined teams)
 - Prep School teams
 - Girls' teams
 - All 4 of these Divisions are State based teams, representing their State

Kathy Santora, USAH High School Section Representative kathy@santora.us



Girls Hockey



- Having a dedicated contact for girls playing in your organization will have many benefits such as: assistance with funding for all female events; assisting female players along whatever path their hockey playing takes them to forming all female teams.
- You don't have to have all girls' teams to be a proponent of Girls' Ice Hockey
 - Having things such as a girls' locker room is a **must**
 - Set aside dates and check with your Mid Am Girls' representative for programs specific to attract more girls to your organization
 - Look to have female role models in your rink/organization. Coaches and officials are growing among the female ranks
- Girls' Ice Hockey is the fastest growing youth sport in the country.
- Getting started or re-energizing girls' hockey in your organization is easy-reach out to your contact from Mid Am. There is a variety of programs and resources at your disposal. Please contact Ladd Wagner.

Ladd Wagner, USAH Girls/Women Council Representative lwagner@midamhockey.com



Disabled Hockey



- Hockey is for every **body**
 - Sled hockey for physical impairment
 - Special hockey for intellectual impairment
 - Blind hockey for visual impairment
 - Warrior hockey is in standing for Veterans
 - Amputee hockey is in standing for persons with limb loss
- Sled Loan program
- Mentorships to assist with program development and growth

Renee Loftspring, USAH Disabled Section Representative cincinnati sledhockey@gmail.com



Disabled Hockey



- Disable section only: Coaching levels do not expire if coaching an adaptive hockey program; coaches are encouraged to proceed to the next coaching level annually but is it not required.
- There is a SafeSport waiver for players who are not able to understand the content, even with a parent/guardian's assistance OR players who do not speak or read English and SafeSport doesn't have a module with that person's language (attached). Send completed form to Don Pino:
don.pino@usahockey.org .
- MidAm District supports both a sled hockey development camp for all skill levels annually in Indianapolis, IN. each August; and supports a Special Hockey Invitational each October in Columbus, OH..

Renee Loftspring, USAH Disabled Section Representative cincinnati sledhockey@gmail.com



Risk Management



- Sanctioned and Approved events – USA Hockey Rosters and Organization-approved events (can include off ice activities).
- Tournaments: MUST BE USA Hockey- sanctioned to provide coverage, AAU and non-USA Hockey rostered teams will exclude coverage.
- USAH Insurance Coverage: General Liability, Directors & Officers, Crime, Participant Accident (Excess) are the most common coverages discussed. See your USA Hockey Risk Manager for the Mid-American District for other available coverage.
- Claims: For an efficient claims process, it is important to document all activities related to the claim when filing. The organization has exposure and a duty to respond in a timely fashion so that all claims are handled appropriately.
- Ice Contracts: Beware of what you sign to assure USA Hockey coverage matches up to exposure within contract. USA Hockey Risk Manager for Mid-American District can help you understand what you are signing PRIOR to document execution.
- Paid coaches: This presents an “employment” scenario so discussion should be had with USA Hockey Risk Manager for the Mid American District. Workers’ Compensation IS NOT a provided membership benefit and something the Association Board of Directors needs to discuss and clarify in the contract with a paid coach.
- Canadian Tournaments require Canadian Travel Permit (USA Hockey Registrar for Mid-American District) and must be sanctioned/ approved by Hockey Canada. Generally, 5/31 to 8/31 are NOT sanctioned/approved by Hockey Canada so no coverage is applicable. Contact USA Hockey international department to assure your event is sanctioned/approved by Hockey Canada.

Mark Zukowski, Mid Am District Risk Manager mmzukowski@ehd-ins.com



Player Safety



- Ice Safety (HECC Certification)
- Neck Laceration Protectors
- Concussion Information
 - <https://www.usahockey.com/safety-concussions>
 - Return to Play
 - [USA Hockey Concussion Management Return to Player Form](#)
 - Must be completed and returned to Shena Link, Mid Am District Player Safety Coordinator
Slink1392@yahoo.com
- Locker Policy (Safe Sport> Locker Room Monitors, Electric Devices...)
- Zero Tolerance Policy -creating a safe and fair environment for all participants
 - [USA Hockey Zero Tolerance Policy](#)
 - Spectator Behavior Policy

Shena Link, Mid Am District Player Safety Coordinator Slink1392@yahoo.com



USA Hockey National Tournament

- Mid Am manages district and state tournaments in order to send qualifying teams to USA Hockey National Tournaments
 - USA Hockey Tier I Pilot Programs
 - Youth Proposal #1 Allows for a maximum of 22 players (maximum 20 Skaters) 18u Tier I ONLY
 - Youth Proposal #2 Allows for Tier I Vertical Roster Integration
 - Tier I 15o and older only
 - Youth Proposal #3 Allows for 13 Only Tier I National Championship

Lori Billings, Mid Am District Administrator administrator@midamhockey.com



USA Hockey National Tournament

- These tournaments are usually in March and include:
 - Youth: **13 Only**, 14U, 15 Only, 16U, 18U Tier I District-wide, limited to 6 teams
 - Youth: 14U, 16U & 18U Tier II by state, limited to 8 teams
 - Girls/Women: 14U, 16U & 19U Tier I and Tier II, District wide
 - High School as determined by state
 - Note: registering a team for Tier 1 or Tier 2, does not register the team for the District or State tournament. A separate application and entry fee is required.

District Tournament Sites: are awarded to programs in the district for these events upon review of all applications (Deadline June 15th)

Lori Billings, Mid Am District Administrator administrator@midamhockey.com



USA Hockey and Mid Am Player Development



- Player development: Manage district wide camps to identify top-end players for USA Hockey – Nominations start to be accepted in February, tryouts in April (14 and 15 year old) and May (16 and 17 year old)
- Who should be nominated
 - Only US citizens and Mid Am District residents only
 - Top 2-3%
- State VP will send a nomination form to the Association Presidents that should be sent to coaches to nominate players
- Nomination forms should be returned to Mid Am Administrator-Lori Billings
- In-District Development Camps (Girls and Boys 14u)

Lori Billings, Mid Am District Administrator administrator@midamhockey.com



USA Hockey and Mid Am



- USAH Growth and Improvement of the Game Initiatives:
 - Try Hockey for Free
 - Mid Am will reimburse ice costs, Associations must complete the Registration and Reimbursement for Try Hockey for Free document on the [Mid Am Website \(Try Hockey Free Info\)](#)
 - USA Hockey provides jerseys
 - USA Hockey provides promotional and marketing tools
 - Girls Hockey [Weekend Info](#)
 - Hat Trick Growth Challenge
 - [Hat Trick Growth Challenge](#) focus on growth at the 8 and under

Mid Am Website www.midamhockey.com under USA Hockey tab



Roger Sharrer “Grow Hockey” Award

- The Roger Sharrer “Grow Hockey” Award provides between \$50,000-\$100,000 annually to Mid-Am Associations in order to subsidize initiatives designed to help them grow the game of ice hockey.
- This award assists with 50-75% of the purchase of assorted equipment such as small/intermediate nets; border patrol and hard rink dividers; sled, mite and goalie equipment. All items are meant exclusively to grow/increase participation in recreational ice hockey for abled and disabled players.
- Associations need to apply by April 25th, with award recipients being announced at the Mid-Am District Annual meeting in June, for the upcoming season.
- The application is sent by email to all Mid-Am Associations and is also available on the district website under the “[About Us](#)” tab. Our goal is to increase your program participation!

Kathy Santora, Chair Roger Sharrer “Grow Hockey” Award kathy@santora.us

Communication Methods

- State Vice Presidents
- Mid Am Administrator
- Website: www.midamhockey.com
- Newsletter
- “Got a Minute?” electronic flyer
- Social Media: Facebook Mid-American Hockey, @USAHockey
- Annual Meeting: typically held in late June every year



YOUR Key Contacts in USA Hockey within Mid Am

- Mid Am Administrator
 - Lori Billings: administrator@midamhockey.com 419-304-6060
- Discipline:
 - John Karolcik: john.karolcik@icloud.com 724-323-3033
- Safe Sport
 - Murray Stall: mdstalliii@gmail.com
- Coach-in-Chief:
 - Bill Switaj: wswitaj@bgsu.edu
- Referee-in-Chief:
 - Jim Weaver: midamric@verizon.net

YOUR Key Contacts in USA Hockey within Mid Am

- State Vice Presidents: Western Pennsylvania
 - John Folmer: folmerj7755@gmail.com
 - Chris Stern: sluggoesq@yahoo.com
 - Jim Black: jblack@nextstephockeyppgh.com
- Associate Registrar: Western PA/West Virginia
 - Chris Skowron: chrissyskowron@yahoo.com
- Associate Registrar: Western PA/West Virginia (High School)
 - Michelle Miller: registrar.hs.wpa.wv@gmail.com
- Player Safety Coordinator
 - Shena Link: Slink1392@yahoo.com

Review of New Changes

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- **Tier 1 Pilot Programs** [USA Hockey Tier I Pilot Programs](#)
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