

2023-2024



AFFILIATE OF USA HOCKEY

RULES AND REGULATIONS



All changes are highlighted in Yellow
Rules and Regulations Effective 3-6-2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| | 1 |
| ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION | 5 |
| A. MEMBERSHIP | 5 |
| B. REGISTRATION | 5 |
| ARTICLE II: PLAYERS | 7 |
| A. PLAYER ROSTERING | 7 |
| B. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY | 9 |
| C. EXPEDITED PROCEDURE FOR DECIDING PLAYER ELIGIBILITY DISPUTES | 11 |
| D. PLAYER MOVEMENT | 12 |
| E. PLAYER AWARDS | 14 |
| ARTICLE III: COACHES | 14 |
| A. COACHING ELIGIBILITY | 14 |
| B. AFFILIATE COACHING APPOINTMENTS | 15 |
| C. COACHING SAFETY | 15 |
| ARTICLE IV: OFF ICE VOLUNTEERS, TEAM MANAGERS, ASSIGNORS, AND ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP | 16 |
| A. REFEREE ASSIGNORS | 16 |
| B. MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES | 17 |
| C. ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES | 18 |
| ARTICLE V: ON ICE OFFICIALS | 18 |
| A. OFFICIAL'S MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION | 18 |
| B. ZONE REFEREES-IN-CHIEF | 18 |
| C. TRAINING SEMINARS | 18 |
| ARTICLE VI: TEAMS AND ASSOCIATIONS | 18 |
| A. NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BOUND CLASSIFICATION APPROVAL | 18 |
| B. TIER I AND TIER II DESIGNATIONS – REQUIREMENTS | 20 |
| C. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF DENIAL OF TIER I OR TIER II DESIGNATION | 29 |
| D. USE OF TIER I AND TIER II DESIGNATIONS | 30 |
| E. NON-REGISTERED TEAMS AND ASSOCIATIONS | 30 |
| F. ADM COMPLIANCE | 31 |
| (a) In-House | 32 |
| (b) Recreational | 32 |
| (c) Travel | 32 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| G. REFUSAL TO CONTINUE PLAY | 35 |
| H. TRYOUTS | 35 |
| I. USA HOCKEY REGISTRY | 35 |
| ARTICLE VII: APPLICATION FOR LEAGUE SANCTION | 35 |
| A. LEAGUE SANCTION | 35 |
| ARTICLE VIII: PLAYING RULES | 37 |
| A. USA HOCKEY RULES | 37 |
| B. USA HOCKEY OFFICIALS | 37 |
| C. PENALTY DOWNGRADE | 37 |
| D. SCORE SHEETS | 38 |
| E. DEFINITION OF A "GAME" | 38 |
| F. AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION PENALTY REPORT | 38 |
| ARTICLE IX: TOURNAMENTS | 38 |
| A. TOURNAMENTS – GENERAL PROVISIONS | 38 |
| B. TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY | 39 |
| C. TOURNAMENT TEAM REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION AND FORMAT | 39 |
| D. TOURNAMENT TEAM QUALIFICATIONS | 39 |
| E. TOURNAMENT OPEN COMPETITION | 40 |
| F. TOURNAMENT GOALTENDER RULES | 40 |
| G. TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY CHALLENGES | 40 |
| H. HOUSE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT RULES | 41 |
| I. TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES | 41 |
| J. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS | 42 |
| K. TOURNAMENT UNIFORMS | 42 |
| L. TOURNAMENT SITE SELECTION | 42 |
| M. TOURNAMENT AWARDS | 42 |
| N. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE | 43 |
| O. COMMITMENT FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS | 43 |
| P. INVITATION TOURNAMENTS | 43 |
| Q. RULES FOR INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS | 44 |
| ARTICLE X: AFFILIATE POLICIES, CODES OF CONDUCT, SCREENING AND SAFESPORT | 45 |
| A. PARENT AND SPECTATOR DISCIPLINE AND SUSPENSION GUIDELINES | 45 |
| B. SCREENING | 46 |
| C. HAZING | 47 |
| D. PARENT AND SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT | 47 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| <i>E. HIGH SCHOOL POLICY</i> | <i>48</i> |
| <i>F. MUSIC DURING EVENTS</i> | <i>48</i> |
| ARTICLE XI: SUSPENSIONS, APPEALS AND RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES | 48 |
| <i>A. DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND APPEALS</i> | <i>49</i> |
| <i>B. REFEREES SUSPENSIONS</i> | <i>49</i> |
| <i>C. COMMUNICATION OF SUSPENSION</i> | <i>49</i> |
| <i>D. GAME DEFINITION (FOR SUSPENSION)</i> | <i>49</i> |
| <i>E. LEGAL ACTIONS</i> | <i>49</i> |
| ARTICLE XII: USA HOCKEY GUIDELINES REGARDING NON-SANCTIONED PLAY | 49 |
| APPENDIX: FORMS AND CHARTS | 54 |
| <i>OFFICIATING LEVELS</i> | <i>54</i> |
| <i>AAHA PLAYER MOVEMENT: “ONE SEASON–ONE TEAM”</i> | <i>55</i> |

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION

A. MEMBERSHIP

- (1) Membership Status. A player becomes a member in the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association upon completion and acceptance of Affiliate Agreement and payment of same.
- (2) Renewal. Membership in this association must be renewed annually.

B. REGISTRATION

- (1) USA Hockey Registration. Each player must register with USA Hockey with the registrar or as determined by USA Hockey.
- (2) Classification and Declaration. Teams are to declare their classification level on their registration form, subject to the provisions of Article VI (Teams and Associations). Failure to declare will result in the team being assigned to the open level.
- (3) Determination. In accordance with USA Hockey Annual Guide, Rules and Regulations, the regular season shall be September 1 through August 31. New members or those members who register on or after April 1 of any calendar year are eligible for participation from the date of their registration through August 31 of the following calendar year.
- (4) Registration. A sanctioned USA Hockey Member Program, as determined by the applicable Affiliate, must register all of its teams in the USA Hockey Affiliate in which the greatest percentage of the Member Program's players reside (as defined below). In addition, unless approved by the applicable Affiliates, all Teams registered within a Member Program must have the greatest percentage of team members that reside in the Affiliate where the Member Program is registered and shall comply with all applicable Affiliate Rules regarding Team Registration. An Affiliate may require that teams registered within its Affiliate have a minimum percentage of players that reside in the Affiliate (or similarly, an Affiliate may place a limitation on out-of- Affiliate or non-resident players).

Teams that are not part of a sanctioned Member Program but which are approved by the Affiliate (an "independent team") must register in the USA Hockey Affiliate in which the greatest percentage of its players reside. Independent teams must comply with all applicable Affiliate rules regarding Team Registration.

In the event that a Member Program/Independent team have equal percentages of players that reside in two or more Affiliates, the Affiliates involved shall promptly convene and decide as to where

that Member Program/Independent team shall register.

Notwithstanding that application of the above rules would require that a Member Program or Independent team register in a particular Affiliate, two neighboring Affiliates, with the Member Program's or Independent team's consent, may agree that a particular Member Program or Independent team may register through either of those two Affiliates.

If there is a dispute between one or more Affiliates and a Member Program or Independent team regarding the proper Affiliate in which a Member Program or Independent team must register, then the Member Program, Independent team and any affected Affiliate shall seek resolution of such dispute through an appeal to the USA Hockey Youth Council.

For the purposes of determining where a player resides under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, absent specific Affiliate rules regarding residency, the residency status of a minor age player shall be the same as at least one of the minor's parents or legal guardians. Should a player not be residing with a parent or legal guardian but rather residing and attending school elsewhere, the location of the school shall be considered the player's residence. Any dispute under this section regarding where a minor age player resides shall be resolved by the appropriate USA Hockey Registrar(s), in consultation with the Assistant Executive Director of Member Services of USA Hockey. There shall be no appeal following such determination. The residency determination for the purposes of this rule does not affect the player's residency for the purposes of representation at player development camps.

- (5) Fees. The annual fees for registered players will be set by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting with properly filed notice to USA Hockey.
- (a) Youth/Girls Player Fees are:
 - 6U - No charge
 - 8U - \$15.00
 - 10U - 19U - \$25.00
 - (b) Adult Fees are: \$10.00
 - (c) Tournaments/Showcases Fees are: \$125.00 (Tournaments and showcases are defined as six (6) or more teams gathered for a single event with or without standings. Such events hosted by AAHA sanctioned Leagues are exempt. 6U - No charge)
- (6) Liability Insurance. USA Hockey fees automatically include a charge for inclusion under the liability insurance policy making all members eligible for indemnity coverage from specified suits and other coverage provided under the USA Hockey group insurance policy. Insurance becomes effective on the date you're your teams are fully registered and all fees are paid in full.

- (7) Eligibility Date. Teams must be registered before the start of league or exhibition games, but in any event not later than December 31, of the playing season to be eligible for Affiliate and National tournaments.
- (8) Games Prior To Registration. No game played before a Team/Association is officially registered with completed T-1 and T-2 USA Hockey forms shall count to fulfilling the 10/20 or 10/14 game player/team requirements for post season tournament eligibility.
- (9) Organizational Registration. All Teams of an Association must be exclusively registered only with USA Hockey and the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association
- (10) Registration Expiration. Team registration expires August 31 of each year.

ARTICLE II: PLAYERS

A. PLAYER ROSTERING

- (1) Roster Forms. All teams must roster players on USA Hockey Player Roster form to be eligible for tournament play.
- (2) Birth Certificates. Verification of a birth certificate is shown on the USA Hockey roster and credentials verification sheet. If no verification is shown then a copy of the birth certificate or passport must be presented (Baptismal or hospital certificates are not acceptable).
- (3) Dual Rostering. Players may only appear on a USA Hockey roster with one Association during the season (August 1 – end of USA Hockey National Tournament) with the following exceptions:
 - (a) Junior team as allowed by USA Hockey Affiliated player rule
 - (b) AAHA recognized scholastic team
 - (c) AAHA recognized house league
 - (d) AAHA Affiliate sponsored teams
 - (e) Female players may appear on a youth and girls roster with the same or different Associations.
- (4) Time for Rostering. Any player properly rostered with USA Hockey shall not be rostered on another tournament bound team, unless the player is “dropped” from a previous team. The player must be dropped from the roster or rosters and a written release secured from the Association the player is leaving. Refer to Player Movement section Article II- D.2 a for additional information.

- (a) Definition of a season – the date which the player commitment contract was signed through 48 hours after Nationals of that season, whichever is shorter.
 - (b) Signing period – a player may not be signed to a commitment contract for the following season prior to the AAHA approved tryout dates.
 - (c) Any Team and/or Association that provides written commitment contract and/or requires the collection of money from a player or player’s family prior to the official AAHA tryout dates shall be subject to sanctions.
- (5) Girls Tier I Rostering.
- (a) AAHA Tier I and Tier II 14U teams – No underaged players permitted to play up to 14U.
 - (b) AAHA Tier I 16U teams – Maximum of two (2) second year 14U players may play up at 16U. First year players are not permitted to play up.
 - (c) AAHA Tier I 19U teams – Unlimited second year 16U players may play up to 19U. First year players are not permitted to play up.
 - (d) Tier II USAH girls registered teams at 16U and 19U will not be subject to restrictions on the number of players playing up in age classification, however, it is recommended that they play within their age group. Affiliate ADM policies, rules and regulations supersedes this rule.
- (6) Exceptional Status at 16U AAA. AAHA tournament-bound 16U AAA teams may only roster one (1) underage player starting with the 2021-2022 season.
- (7) Pursuant to USA Hockey Nationals, Districts and State Championships requirements, players 12 years-old and younger shall be prohibited from being rostered on any Youth Classification teams older than 12U Classification, with the following exceptions;
- (a) 12U players playing in a non-check classification
 - (b) A team operating in a non-check middle school, or a scholastic program or league, operating under a 14U roster.
 - (c) A 12-year-old goaltender may be rostered at the 14U level on a team from the same Association in which the player played in the previous season, and such team is not eligible to compete in the USA Hockey National Tournament or games leading the USA Hockey National Tournament, (e.g. 14A, 14B). The 12U Goaltender Waiver Form shall be completed and submitted by the Association Coaching Director (available online) and shall be subject to the approval of the AAHA Player Development staff.
 - i. The proposed player must have been rostered and

played on a travel team from the immediate prior season with the same Association requesting the waiver.

- ii. The waiver can only be submitted for an existing member of your Association. New players are not eligible.
- iii. If granted, the waiver is for the player at your Association. It is not transferable to another Association should the player choose to contract to play with a different Association.

(8) In-Season Invitational Tournament Rosters

- (a) Definition of In-Season Invitational Tournament Rosters: Rosters formed in order for a team to participate in a USA Hockey sanctioned tournament during the current season.
- (b) Approval of Rosters: In-Season Invitational Tournament Rosters will be approved providing all players on the proposed roster are current members of the association requesting the Invitational Tournament roster, with the exception noted in 8
- (c) A team is permitted to roster up to three (3) additional players who are not current members of their Association providing the following steps are taken:
 - i. Written authorization is obtained from the temporary players current Association permitting them to participate with the Invitational Tournament team on a temporary basis for the Tournament dates specified.
 - ii. This authorization must be provided by an Officer of the Association, who is not related to the Player and who is not the Coach.
 - iii. Associations operating within the same building shall not be subject to the three player limit.

(9) Split Season Rosters

- (a) A player that has participated on any split season youth or Girls team, may not be added to any National bound AAHA Team roster until the following season. This rule shall not apply to players being added to a Tier-I National bound AAHA Team of a related association within the same building, provided the player movement adheres to the National Guidebook rule only allowing players one attempt at Nationals and/or Districts.

B. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

(1) Team Commitments.

- (a) Youth: During the season, a player may only play ice hockey for one Association exclusively, with the exception that the player may also participate in playing hockey for scholastic, a team in a

recognized house league, or any affiliate sponsored team. Girls playing on youth teams may also play for a Girls team in the same or another Association.

- (b) Girls: From August 1 through the end of USA Hockey Nationals, 14U, 16U and 19U female players must play ice hockey exclusively for only one designated Tier I, Tier II or non-tournament Association, with the exception that the player may also participate in playing hockey for an AAHA recognized scholastic, in an AAHA recognized house league, or any AAHA affiliate sponsored team. Girls may also be rostered on both a youth and a girls Tier I or Tier II travel Association (Limit 1 youth Association and 1 girls Association).
- (2) Ineligible Players. A coach or manager who knowingly allows the participation of an ineligible player in any game shall be subject to suspension for not less than 60 days or more than one year.
- (3) Financial Responsibility. No player from any USA Hockey Affiliate may register or participate on a team within the AAHA if such player owes any financial obligation, including, unreturned equipment, **or canceled credit card payments** to any previous team or Association registered within any USA Hockey Affiliate.
- (a) **It is recommended that each** Association **include** in their contract that the person signing the contract agrees to be bound by this Article regarding Player Eligibility and releases and appeals. All payment plans are to have a final date. **It is suggested** that all payment plans have an end date of January 1. If not paid in full by February 1, the player's name is placed on the Financial Outstanding list and player cannot play for the rest of the season for that team or until the financial obligation is satisfied. No name may be placed on the Financial Outstanding list after February 15.
- (b) After February 15, the Atlantic Affiliate will compile a list of all registered Affiliate players who are claimed to owe an outstanding financial obligation by their previous Atlantic Affiliate team or Association. No player whose name appears on the outstanding financial list shall be rostered with another Atlantic Affiliate team (regardless of girls'/women's, youth or adult) until the outstanding financial obligation has been discharged or satisfied to the satisfaction of the Association or permission is given by the Affiliate, respective league or Association.
- (c) Any player who is denied a release after having been notified has the right to the review and appeal of such denial in accordance with the provisions of this rule and Article Affiliate's Rules and Regulations.

C. EXPEDITED PROCEDURE FOR DECIDING PLAYER ELIGIBILITY DISPUTES

- (1) Mediation and Review. A player who is denied a release shall have the right to a prompt and reasonably unbiased mediation and review of his release claim upon written notice to the team or Association that has refused to provide the release.
- (2) Conduct of the Mediation and Review. Within a reasonable period of time following the receipt of the Player's request for mediation and review, a reasonably unbiased representative of the team or Association shall meet with the player, and in the case of a minor, with his parents or guardians, in person, and review the circumstances of the release claim. The representative shall be prepared to demonstrate through the team/Association's records or other material evidence that the player either owes a financial obligation to the team or Association or such other facts as shall substantiate the denial of the release sought. The objective of the mediation and review is to allow the parties the informal opportunity to amicably settle any disputed release claims before any appeal is taken. Mediation and Review must occur before an appeal to the league can be processed.
- (3) League Appeals. In the event that a release dispute cannot be settled by Mediation and Review, the Player may present a written appeal for a release to the President of the League in which the player's team competes. Appeals involving independent teams that do not compete in an Affiliate League shall be presented directly to the Affiliate Vice President of Suspensions and Appeals as set forth below.
- (4) Conduct of League Appeal. Within a reasonable period of time following the receipt of the player's request for a League Appeal, the League President shall conduct a hearing into the facts surrounding the release request. The League President shall have broad discretion in conducting the hearing which may be formal or informal, conducted by the President personally or by appointed committee and be by live witness or by submission of records by the parties. Hearings may be conducted in person, telephonically or electronically at the discretion of the League President.
- (5) Decision by the League President. Within fourteen (14) days of the date of the conclusion of the hearing the League President shall render a written decision which shall contain a brief finding of facts, conclusions and order.
- (6) Affiliate Appeal. Within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of the League President's decision, any aggrieved party may file a written appeal to the Affiliate Vice President of Suspensions and Appeals. The Affiliate appeal shall be governed by Article V of the Rules and Regulations and prevailing Affiliate Policies relating to appeals.

D. PLAYER MOVEMENT

- (1) Contracts. All 14U, 15U, 16U, 18U and 19U players are free to try out for any team or Association 48 hours after USA Hockey's National Youth Tournaments. All 6U, 8U, 10U and 12U players are free to try out for any team or Association 48 hours after AAHA's latest Championship Tournament and as designated by the Affiliate. After a player commitment contract is signed, there will be no player movement without a written release from his or her Association.
- (2) Player Movement. All AAHA players are free to tryout at the end of each season for any Member Association at the conclusion of the USA Hockey National Championship. All players are required to fulfill all financial obligations with their current Association. Any Member Association may impose a Player Movement Restriction against a player who has not fulfilled their financial obligation. Written notification to the AAHA Office is required when placing a player on the Restricted List.
 - (a) There will be no "in-season" player movement. "In-season" Player Movement is defined as player who has already committed in writing, to play for one AAHA Member Team and is seeking a release to play for a different AAHA member within the same season. Exception – Tier II players who receive a release from the Association they are registered with and have satisfied any contractual obligation.
 - (b) Once a player has made his/her commitment to an AAHA Member Association, for the purposes of playing on an AAHA Team; the player will be deemed ineligible to participate with any other AAHA Member Association for that season.
 - (c) AAHA Member Associations may issue a written release "in-season" to any player for purposes of indicating that the player (and Parents) has met all financial obligations with the AAHA Member Association. However, this release does not authorize the player to participate with other AAHA Members for the duration of that season.
 - (d) For the purposes of this policy, the "season" will commence at the start of the AAHA Member Association's initial tryout period and run through the conclusion of the following USA Hockey National Championship or AAHA Championship as defined above.
 - (e) The AAHA Vice President of Protests, Suspensions and Appeals is empowered to review extenuating circumstances, such as family relocation, as a possible reason to exempt a player from this policy.
 - (f) During the season, the player agrees to play ice hockey exclusively

for the Association, with the exception that the player may participate in playing hockey for the player's scholastic, recognized house league, any affiliate sponsored teams, and girls playing on youth teams in another Association.

In the appendix of these Rules and Regulations you will find a suggested Player Movement Explanation and Parental Notification Form to be completed by each parent/player, returned and retained by the Association as well as a copy to be retained by the parent/player.

(3) 2/4 Roster Rule: The following shall be known as the "2 / 4 Roster Rule." The "2 / 4 Roster Rule" places limitations on eligible players that can rostered on a USA Hockey Team Roster. In addition to rostering restrictions enumerated in these Rules, the following applies:

(a) Tier I Youth and Girls Rosters (10U through 16U Age Classification):

A Tier I Youth or Girls National Tournament Bound Roster shall not roster more than two (2) players who appeared on Tier I Youth or Girls National Tournament Bound Roster, or four (4) players who appeared on a Tier II Youth or Girls National Tournament Bound Roster from the previous season. Players exempt from this provision are those who;

- (i) Participate at the 18U Youth or 19U Girls levels; or
- (ii) Move up or transfer from within the same Association or from the prospective Tier I AAA team's feeder team(s) provided the player(s) were part of the same Association or feeder team's roster from the previous season; or
- (iii) Legitimately tryout with their original Association and are subsequently cut or who are not offered a player contract.
- (iv) Join an Association that is based out of the same ice arena that the Head Coach's and or Assistant Coach's team utilized for a majority of their practice and home game ice in the prior season.

(b) Tier II Youth and Girls Rosters:

No Tier II Youth or Girls Roster shall roster more than three (3) players from another Tier II roster where the Head Coach and or Assistant Coach was also from the previous season's roster. Players exempt from this provision are those who;

- (i) Participate at the 18U Youth or 19U Girls levels; or
- (ii) Move up or transfer from within the same Association or from the prospective Tier II AA team's feeder team(s) provided the player(s) were part of the same Association or feeder team's roster from the previous season; or
- (iii) Legitimately tryout with their original Association and are subsequently cut or who are not offered a player contract
- (iv) Join an Association that is based out of the same ice arena that the Head Coach's and or Assistant Coach's team utilized for a majority of their practice and home game ice in

the prior season.

Example: Coach “Mike” from Association A leaves after the 2020-21 season to coach for Association B at the same age level and category. Only three (3) players from Association A can be rostered the coming season on Coach “Mike’s 2021-22 team.

(c) Non-Tier I, Non-Tier II, Non-National Bound Youth or Girls Teams, and Independent Teams:

Roster of Non-Tier I, Non-Tier II, Non-National Bound, Independent Team, Tournament Team in Youth or Girls categories shall not roster more than two (2) players who appeared on a Tier I Youth or Girls National Tournament Bound Roster, or four (4) players who appeared on a Tier II Youth or Girls National Tournament Bound Roster from the previous season. Players exempt from this provision are those who;

- (i) Legitimately tryout with their original Association and are subsequently cut or who are not offered a player contract.
- (ii) Join an Association that is based out of the same ice arena that the Head Coach's and or Assistant Coach's team utilized for a majority of their practice and home game ice in the prior season.

E. PLAYER AWARDS

USA Hockey Awards. Hat Trick, Zero, and Playmaker awards will be awarded at the conclusion of the season through the office of the Registrar to those that earn them during the regular season, at AAHA sanctioned tournaments or at USA Hockey sanctioned tournaments. .

ARTICLE III: COACHES

A. COACHING ELIGIBILITY

- (1) Registration of Coaches. All teams registering with AAHA and USA Hockey must have a head coach and assistant coach(s) in good standing. These individuals must be identified on the team registration form, player roster form, and on the score sheet, along with their CEP card number. The replacement and addition of managers and coaches must be reported immediately.
- (2) CEP Compliance. All coaches in the Atlantic Affiliate shall be in compliance with USA Hockey’s Coaching Education Program requirements (see USA Hockey’s most current edition of their annual guide under Coaching Education Programs for these requirements).

- (a) It will be the responsibility of the league to receive from each of their individual Associations by October 15, a list of all coaches with that Association's teams as well as a copy of their online coaches certification record from USA Hockey to confirm that each coach within that Association within the league are of the proper level of accreditation.
 - (b) If the coaches are not accredited, the leagues will then notify the Associations involved. It will then be the responsibility of the league to follow up with the Associations as to the activation of current accreditation. If an Association allows a coach who is not accredited or not of the proper level to continue to stay on the bench after December 31, the final date for coaching accreditation, the Association will be subject to a fine of \$175.00 per coach, the coach will be officially suspended until the league allows a hearing, and the team involved may not be allowed to participate in Affiliate Playoffs.
- (3) Temporary Coaching Cards. Temporary coaching cards may be issued **upon request** to the Coach in Chief, to allow a coach to stay on the bench without proper accreditation. The Coach in Chief **and/or** the President has the final say as to whether or not the temporary coaching card will be issued. No temporary cards will be issued after **April 1st** of that season.
- (4) Affiliate Coaches. In order to be eligible to represent the AAHA as a head or assistant coach or coach any team of select players sanctioned to represent the AAHA at events including, but not limited to the Chicago Showcase, and Affiliate, or National Development Camps, Festival, or Select Programs, the coach must hold current USA Hockey coaching accreditation of least the Advanced Level. At the discretion of the (Coaching in Chief after consulting with the Player Development Program Director and the President, the head coach or assistant coach may be exempt from obtaining the Advanced Level credentials.

B. AFFILIATE COACHING APPOINTMENTS

- (1) Coach-in-Chief. The Atlantic Affiliate will have at least one (1) Associate Coach-in-Chief (s) appointed by the Atlantic Affiliate Coach-In-Chief with the approval of the USA Hockey Executive Director whose responsibility will be to assist and train Association Hockey Directors in supporting the CEP and American Development Model.

C. COACHING SAFETY

- (1) Helmets. All ice hockey coaches and instructors of registered USA Hockey youth/high school, disabled, girls'/women's 19U and below programs must properly wear an ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages and coach and referee clinics (seminars), with the exception of when a team official is

tending to an injured player.

- (a) Any ice hockey coaches and instructors found in violation of this rule by their Association, league or the Atlantic Affiliate shall be subject to a recommended suspension of not less than 30 days.

ARTICLE IV: OFF ICE VOLUNTEERS, TEAM MANAGERS, ASSIGNORS, AND ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

A. REFEREE ASSIGNORS

(1) Assignors Duties.

- (a) Assignors shall be registered certified USA Hockey officials and be listed as Assignors in the Affiliate database.
- (b) Assignors (18 years of age and older) shall have a current Background Screening and SafeSport certification.
- (c) The District Referee-in-Chief or their designee shall appoint assignors for a term of up to one (1) year and renewable annually. The term shall be from August 1 through July 31 the following year. The District Referee-in-Chief shall obtain recommendations for possible assignors from the Club, Rink, and/or League where the assignor will assign. Any dispute arising from an assignor's appointment or denial of appointment shall be heard by the AAHA Executive Committee. This rule will not compel any league to use a specific assigning platform.
- (d) Assignors shall aid in the retention of officials through appropriate game distribution. This may include both the number of games and the level of games assigned each official.
- (e) Assignors shall assign officials to no more than two consecutive upper-level games when feasible.
- (f) Assignors shall assign officials to no more than four total upper-level games in one day. There shall be at least a one and a half hour time lapse between games 2 and 3 when feasible.
- (g) Assignors shall not assign an official to a game where a relative(s) of the official is involved with either team as a player, coach, or team official.
- (h) Assignors shall ensure that assigned officials are at least two years

older than the level of the girls'/youth games being assigned. A league may recommend that officials be at least four years older. Exceptions may be made in cases where the development of an "up and coming" official may be hampered by this policy. The RIC shall be notified of these exceptions.

- (i) Assignors who assign officials to games not involving USAH registered teams shall notify the officials of that fact. The assignor shall tell the officials that they SHALL NOT wear their USAH crest, and that they are NOT covered by the USAH insurance umbrella for that game. Any suspension penalties assessed will not be honored by USAH.
- (j) Assignors shall use only registered USAH officials who have completed the USAH registration process appropriate for the level of play being assigned. They are responsible to verify the current certification level of each official they assign via the Atlantic Officiating Database. Assignors need to contact the RIC to gain access to that database. A table for officiating levels may be found in an Appendix to these Rules and Regulations.
- (k) If a sufficient number of properly-registered officials cannot be assigned at any level:
 - (i) The Assignor shall contact neighboring Assignors and request assistance.
 - (ii) The Assignor shall specify any officials that he recommends be assigned and the reasons for his recommendations.
 - (iii) The Assignor shall notify in advance (if possible) the RIC or his/her designee of the need to fill the vacant assignments with the next lower level recommended officials.
 - (iv) In extenuating circumstances (a few hours or less before game time – "an emergency") if a properly registered official is not available to do the game, the Assignor may use a lower level official and shall notify the RIC or his/her designee of the situation.
- (l) If an Assignor thinks there is an official who should be assigned higher level games regardless of their age because of the official's skill and judgment, the Assignor shall discuss that official's assignments with the RIC or his/her designee. Failure to comply with any of the above requirements, subjects the Assignor and/or the official to possible disciplinary action.

B. MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) All Team Managers must be registered with USA Hockey, background screened and complete the USAH SafeSport Program. They must be included on the team roster where they are the manager.

- (2) Ineligible Players. A Manager who knowingly allows the participation of an ineligible player in any game shall be subject to suspension for not less than 60 days or more than one year.

C. ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) All Association Leadership, including but not limited to members of an Association board of directors, ownership, coaching directors, tournament directors, skills coaches, etc. must be registered with USA Hockey, background screened and have completed the SafeSport Program. The AAHA recommends each Association use their USAH Registry to verify proper registration, SafeSport and background screening for its leadership team.
- (2) Written verification of the above to be submitted to the AAHA no later than October 15th.

ARTICLE V: ON ICE OFFICIALS

A. OFFICIAL'S MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION

- (1) Registration. Officials must be registered in accordance with USA Hockey registration procedures.

B. ZONE REFEREES-IN-CHIEF

- (2) Designation. Zone (League) Referee-In-Chief designation is appointed by the League, subject to the approval of the Atlantic Affiliate USA Hockey Referee-In-Chief.

C. TRAINING SEMINARS

- (3) Training. USA Hockey Referee-In-Chief shall coordinate all training seminars for officials.

ARTICLE VI: TEAMS AND ASSOCIATIONS

A. NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BOUND CLASSIFICATION APPROVAL

This section of the AAHA Rules and Regulations will provide additional "Standards and Criteria" as well as interpretative guidelines of Proposal "2016 – Youth Council #3 Amended".

- (1) The Affiliate President shall designate by February 1st of each year those Associations that shall be authorized to field teams for the upcoming season that may register teams at the Tier I Youth and Girls, Tier II Youth

and Girls, and Senior Women A, B and C classifications.

- (i) Such approval for any Association that is designated by the Affiliate President to compete towards USA Hockey National Tournament competition is based solely on those levels where USA Hockey offers a National Championship Tournament or equivalent;
 - (ii) The Affiliate recognizes that its member Associations may compete in Leagues that have developmental structures and levels (i.e. Major, Minor, AA, A, B, National, Premier, Elite, etc.), to support the overall developmental objectives of the league and its Member's players. Such team(s) shall not require the approval of the Affiliate President, for participation in such league, provided such teams will not be competing in any competition that will lead towards a USA Hockey National Championship for that team. (Tier II Teams at the A and B levels, Tier I 10U, 12U and 14U Minor do not need Affiliate Approval) provided the Association has received Tier I or Tier II sanctioning at the National Tournament bound age levels through the required Affiliate process for the Tiering. However, the Affiliate President has the authority to withhold sanctioning at these levels based upon previous season's performance and other such criteria deemed appropriate.
 - (iii) Only those Associations that have been approved for Tier I AAA National Tournament-bound age levels teams shall be permitted to offer Tier I AAA 10U, 12U and 14U Minor age level teams and operate and or offer tryouts for such teams pursuant to AAHA Tryout Policy.
 - (iv) Only those Associations that have been approved for Tier II AA National Tournament-bound age levels teams shall be permitted to offer Tier II AA 10U, 12U and or 14U Minor age level teams and operate and or offer tryouts for such teams pursuant to AAHA Tryout Policy.
 - (v) Those Associations that have been approved for Girl's Tier II AA National Tournament-bound age levels teams shall be permitted only to have one National Tournament Bound (NBT) "Girls" team at any age classification that is recognized by USA Hockey.
- (2) Classification Level. Team classifications for the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association shall be the USA Hockey classifications at all levels. Age levels 10U through 18U are deemed appropriate levels for approved Tier I Associations, and such Associations may conduct tryouts as designated in the AAHA Rules. AAHA Associations shall not make any reference or indicate in any way "Tier I Mite", "AAA Mite" or similar term in association with their Tier I or Tier II program.
- (3) The Affiliate shall provide an application to initiate the approval process, available online from the Affiliate web site and attached as an Appendix to

these Rules and Regulations. The Affiliate reserves the right to change the application, in order to collect the appropriate information.

- (4) For Tier I Associations the Affiliate may require the execution of an agreement between the Tier I Association and the Affiliate, which agreement may be subject to the approval of USA Hockey.

B. TIER I AND TIER II DESIGNATIONS – REQUIREMENTS

Associations seeking approval for Tier I or Tier II National Tournament Bound Status for the following season shall complete and submit the appropriate Tier I/Tier II National Tournament Bound Status Application as provided by the Affiliate by November 30 of the current season. All Associations seeking Tier I or Tier II National or AAHA Affiliate Tournament Status for the following season must declare at each level whether they will be Independent or a member of an Affiliate sanctioned league by November 30th of the current season.

(1) TIER I AAA POLICY

- (a) Tier I AAA Designation Policy. Any Association in good standing within the Atlantic Affiliate that that is seeking approval for Tier I AAA designation (Youth 14U, 15P 16U, 18U and Girls 14U, 16U, 19U) for any or all of its teams may make written application to the President for such designation. The President shall, with the advice of the Tier I Tiering Committee, formally designate those teams that shall be authorized to use the Tier I AAA designation and be eligible to participate in competition leading to the USA Hockey National Tournament. Every Tier I AAA National Tournament Bound application shall be duly considered and acted upon in accordance with the procedures and criteria set forth in this Article.
- (b) Procedure for Making Tier I National Tournament Bound Designations. All Tier I AAA National Tournament Bound designations shall be made by the President, in conjunction with the Tiering Committee, in accordance with the following procedure:
 - (i) Time for Applying for Tier I National Tournament Bound Designation.
By no later than November 30 for the following season of each year, any Association that wishes any teams to be considered for a Tier I AAA designation shall submit a written application as provided by the Affiliate and in the manner prescribed by the President.
 - (ii) Applicants may be required to attend a formal presentation meeting, held prior to the third weekend in January. The completed Application, any additional requested information from the Association may be required for the presentation meeting.
 - (iii) Applicants may be summarily approved, granting full or partial approval, and not require a meeting based upon generally

recognized high competitive performance, and compliance with Affiliate and USA Hockey requirements on Tier I Standards and Criteria.

- (iv) Applicants may be summarily rejected in whole or part, based upon failure or inability to comply with Affiliate and USA Hockey requirements on Tier I Standards and Criteria, apparent lack of competitiveness, and such rejections are subject to the appeals process of this Article, Section C.
 - (v) The Affiliate may provide for stricter rules and requirements than what is provided by USA Hockey.
 - (vi) Tier I AAA Tiering Committee. The President shall by no later than November 30 of each year appoint a committee consisting of not fewer than five (5) persons who are reasonably disinterested and impartial and are sufficiently familiar with the game of ice hockey to reasonably evaluate the qualifications of those Associations seeking a Tier I designation. The Tier I AAA Tiering Committee shall be headed by a Chairperson who shall be appointed by the President and be generally responsible for the conduct of all Committee business and shall submit a written report to the President containing the Committee's recommendations. The Tier I Tiering Committee shall consider all Tier I AAA applications submitted to the President for Tier I AAA designations and make written recommendations to the President on all such applications in accordance with this Article.
 - (vii) Time for Committee to Make Tier I AAA Recommendations. The Tier I AAA Tiering Committee shall submit its written recommendations to the President by no later than January 1 of each year based upon the criteria set forth in this Article.
 - (viii) Time and Method of Notice for President to Declare Tier I AAA Designations and Number of Designations Available for the Following Season. The President shall by February 1st of each year declare those Associations and their specific teams that are designated as Tier I AAA and are authorized to use that designation and compete as Tier I AAA teams for the upcoming season.
 - (ix) The President shall also identify the number of Tier I AAA designations that will be available for the following season based upon the criteria set forth in this Article. Publication on the Affiliate website of those teams designated as Tier I AAA for the then-current year and the number of Tier I AAA designations available for the following year shall be sufficient notice of such determinations for the purposes of this Article.
- (c) Criteria for Determining Tier I AAA Designations. Tier I AAA hockey is

the highest level of youth/girl's hockey within the Affiliate. Associations with designated Tier I AAA teams should be those that have demonstrated the highest level of competence based on past tournament performance, organization, league schedule, and development of players that advance onto NCAA college hockey, National Team and USA Hockey Festival Teams. The Affiliate Tier I designations shall be based upon the following National and Affiliate adopted criteria:

- (i) For Tier I Youth Teams. The number of Tier I Youth teams in the Affiliate, in each age classification, shall be limited by the number of players registered in the Affiliate, in that age classification. In each classification, the Tier I Teams shall not exceed 12% of the total players registered in that age classification in the Affiliate during the preceding season, provided that, subject to Affiliate approval, the Affiliate shall have at least one team per age classification. For the purposes of this 12% calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. The total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 12% and the product shall then be divided by 20 players which shall determine the number of Tier I team permitted in the Affiliate. For example, If the Affiliate has 480 players in an age classification then 12% of that number would equal 57 players eligible for Tier I in order to have teams of 20 players, the Affiliate would be limited to three (3) Tier I teams at that age.
- (ii) Notwithstanding the use of the 20 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may registered in the Affiliate at the Tier I Level, all teams at the 14U, 15P, 16U and 18U must have minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers). Associations must be able to provide proof, if requested by the Affiliate, that the Association's Tier I Teams have at least twelve (12) players under contract by May 15 for the foregoing season. Failure to provide such proof, may result in the loss of Tier I status, minimally for that coming season.

NOTE: Matrix with Current Team Counts can be found in the Appendix of these Rules and Regulations.

- (iii) For Tier I Girls Teams. The number of Tier I Girls teams in the Affiliate, in each age classification, shall be limited by the number of players registered in the Affiliate, in that age classification. In each classification, the Tier I Teams shall not exceed 12% of the total players registered in that age classification in the Affiliate during the preceding season, provided that, subject to Affiliate approval, the Affiliate shall have at least one team per age classification. For the purposes of this 12% calculation, each team shall be presumed to have eighteen (18) players. The total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 12% and the product shall then be divided by 18 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I

Girls teams permitted in the Affiliate

- (iv) Notwithstanding the use of 18 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in the Affiliate at the Tier I Level, all teams at the 14U, 16U and 19U must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers). Associations must be able to provide proof, if requested by the Affiliate, that the Association's Tier I Teams have at least twelve (12) players under contract by May 15 for the foregoing season. Failure to provide such proof, may result in the loss of Tier I status minimally for that coming season.

NOTE: Matrix with Current Team Counts can be found in the Appendix of these Rules and Regulations.

- (v) For All Tier I Teams (Youth and Girls):
 - (i) Minimum Period of Operation. In order for any Association to be eligible to apply for Tier I National Tournament status, the Association must have been in existence and registered with the Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) consecutive years.
 - (ii) Current Tier I Associations that have maintained Tier I Status for more than three (3) consecutive seasons, and have demonstrated high operational and competitive standards overall, may receive sanctioning for a period of up to three years, if recommended by the Tiering Committee and approved by the President.
 - (iii) Associations that are filing their first application for Tier I or are not currently sanctioned as Tier I and making application shall be required to operate as Non-Tournament Bound for three (3) consecutive seasons as a provisional period, subject to all rules required of Tier I Associations and Teams, with its first age level of operation being 12U, and adding one (1) birth year each subsequent season. This provisional period shall require the recommendation of the Tiering Committee. (Note: This requires a provisionally approved Association to operate successfully, both administratively and competitively for three seasons, with its fourth season being sanctioned for Tier I National Tournament levels at the 14U and 15P levels of play.)
The President shall have the authority to shorten the Non-Tournament Bound provisional period for currently sanctioned Tier I Girls programs in order to benefit the growth of girls hockey in the district.
 - (iv) Tryouts. Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No Tier I team may recruit or solicit players or offer contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, make player selections, or any

activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). (i.e. If the National Tournament ends at 4 PM on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 PM on Wednesday). Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, ineligibility of the team or coach, or loss of Tier I status, as determined by the Affiliate.

- (v) Team Rosters. USA Hockey allows up to twenty (20) players to be rostered on any given team. An Association with approved Tier I teams is required to maintain and publish their roster, either on the Association's website, or a League website in which the team participates. Each Team's Tier I Roster must be identical to its USA Hockey Tier I Roster, at all times, without exception. Players dropped from a Tier I roster, shall be deemed "Cut" from the team, and eligible to participate and join with any other Tier I team, and shall not be bound to the "One Team/One Season" Rule. This determination, in no way, makes any determination on the financial obligations of the player to the Association that has dropped the player. No Association shall roster a player on any approved Tier I Roster, without that player's consent, and if a minor, parental consent is required.
- (vi) All Tier I Teams must play a full season, have a minimum average of two (2) on-ice practices **on different nights** weekly, plus one off-ice training session, between September 1 and March 1 of each season.
- (vii) Each Association with approved Tier I Teams shall keep accurate records, including practice schedules, which may be requested for review by the Affiliate at any time during the season, and as part of the Tier I approval process.
- (viii) The Association must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound Teams in either the Tier I or Tier II Tournament Bound class of 14U through 18U for Boys, and 14U and 19U for Girls, each of which must have a minimum of fifteen (15) players per team. To be compliant with this rule, if the Association was fielding two Nationally Tournament Bound Teams, both rosters must have 15 players each, for a total of 30 different players.
- (ix) Highest Level of Quality and Proficiency. Associations and their Prospective Tier I AAA teams must demonstrate their willingness and ability to perform at the highest levels of proficiency both on the ice and in their administration, including, each of the following:

- (1) On Ice Quality and Proficiency. Teams must demonstrate the highest skill level(s) and the ability to compete at the highest level and to develop high-level players in the future; and
- (2) Coaching. Teams must have qualified high-level coaches, in good standing and demonstrate effective training and player development standards and protocols; and
- (3) Responsible Organizational Governance. Teams must demonstrate that they are part of a responsible organization with a willingness and ability to consistently adhere to USA Hockey and Affiliate bylaws, rules, regulations and policies, including those of any league of which they are a member; and
- (4) Financial Responsibility. Teams must demonstrate their willingness and ability to meet their financial obligations; and
- (5) Access to Suitable Facilities. Teams must demonstrate consistent and reliable access to suitable facilities; and
- (6) Other Requirements. Teams must meet such other requirements as the Affiliate shall from time to time adopt.

Association Affiliation. Every prospective Tier I AAA team must be part of an Association and demonstrate a viable feeder program.

- (x) Tier I Associations that fail to follow the requirements of all rules indicated for Tier I Associations and Tier I teams shall be subject to sanctions, which may be immediate loss of Tier I status, fines not to exceed \$10,000 and future ineligibility for Tier I status.
- (xi) Each prospective Tier I AAA team shall have a minimum of three (3) age level teams below the requested level so as to demonstrate an established feeder program. (Example: If applying for 14U level a team would be required to have the following feeder teams, 8U-10U-12U or similar combination, within its Association or a working relationship with another Association that has its primary home within the same rink facility).
- (xii) Transfer Players. No prospective Tier I AAA team may add more than two (2) players who were rostered on any single Tier I AAA team or more than four (4) players who were rostered on the same Tier II team the previous season. Associations with provisional approval, shall be limited to no more than three (3) players total who were not part of their

Association their previous season, and no more than two (2) players who were rostered on any single Tier I AAA team from the previous season. The 2/4 player rules set forth in this paragraph shall not apply to those players who:

- (1) Participate at the 18U Youth or 19U Girls levels; or
 - (2) Move up or transfer from within the same Association, or from the prospective Tier I AAA team's feeder team(s) provided the player(s) were part of the same Association or feeder team's roster from the previous season; or
 - (3) Legitimately tryout with their original Association and are subsequently cut or who are not offered a player contract
- (n) It is each Tier I Association's (or Provisionally approved Association) responsibility to manage their rosters and know the previous Association of new players. Failure to follow 2/4 Player Movement rule may result in sanctions including loss of Tier I status upon discovery of the violation, following an appropriate hearing. It is appropriate for the Tiering Committee to consider these or any other violation for its Recommendations.
- (o) ADM/AAHA Affiliate Compliance. All prospective Tier I AAA teams must provide evidence that their affiliated Association is ADM/AAHA Affiliate compliant.
- (p) Annual Application. All teams must re-apply for Tier I AAA designation each year, unless otherwise specified in these rules. However, those teams earning a berth in the USA Hockey National Tournament are presumptively designated Tier I AAA for the following year at the same birth year provided they otherwise meet these Tier I AAA requirements.
- (d) Non-League and Independent Tier I AAA Teams. In order to afford non-league and independent teams reasonable access to the Tier I AAA designation and Affiliate Tournament, the Affiliate shall organize, administer and operate through its President and Tournament Committee, an Annual AAHA Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament. The Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament is intended to allow those Tier I AAA teams that do not play a regular Tier I AAA league schedule and are not part of league standings, or not part of a League sanctioned by the AAHA Affiliate, the opportunity to play into the Tier I AAA Tournament. The Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament shall be administered in accordance with the rules applicable to Affiliate Invitational Tournaments set forth in Article IX.
- (i) Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament. The Tournament Committee shall determine the eligibility and seeding for the Tier I AAA Tournament in accordance with prevailing policies and may appoint a competition committee to assist in determining eligibility and seeding for the annual Affiliate tournament.

- (ii) Affiliate Championships and Nationals. The AAHA Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament(s) shall determine which Tier I teams qualify for the Affiliate Championship Tournament and USA Hockey National Championship.

(3) TIER II POLICY

- (a) Tier II Designation Policy. Every Tier II AA National Tournament Bound application shall be duly considered and acted upon in accordance with the procedures and criteria set forth in this Article.
- (b) Procedure for Making Tier II National Tournament Bound Designations. All Tier II National Tournament Bound designations shall be made by the President, in accordance with the following procedure:
 - (i) Time for Applying for Tier II AA National Tournament Bound Designation. By no later than November 30 for the following season of each year, any Organization that wishes to have its teams be considered for a Tier II AA National Tournament Bound designation shall submit a written application on a form and in the manner prescribed by the President. Teams shall provide such information and documentation as shall from time to time be requested by the President.
 - (ii) Tier II Selection Committee. The President shall by no later than November 30 of each year appoint a committee consisting of not fewer than five (5) persons who are reasonably disinterested and impartial and sufficiently familiar with the game of ice hockey to reasonably evaluate the qualifications of those Associations seeking a Tier II designation. The Tier II Selection Committee shall be headed by a Chairperson who shall be appointed by the President and be generally responsible for the conduct of all Committee business and shall submit a written report to the President containing the Committee's recommendations. The Tier II selection Committee shall consider all Tier II applications provided by the President for Tier II designation and make written recommendations to the President on all such applications in accordance with this Article.
 - (iii) Time for Committee to Make Tier II Recommendations. The Tier II Selection Committee shall submit its written recommendations to the President by no later than January 15 of each year based upon the criteria set forth in this Article.
 - (iv) Time and Method of Notice for President to Declare Tier II Designations. The President shall by February 1 of each year declare those teams that are designated as Tier II and are authorized to use that designation and compete as Tier II teams for the upcoming season. At that time, the President shall also identify the number of Tier II designations that will be available for the following season based upon the criteria set forth in this Article. Publication on the Affiliate website of those teams designated as Tier II for the then current year and the number of Tier II designations available for the

following year shall be sufficient notice of such determinations for the purposes of this Article.

(v) General Acceptance of Competent Tier II Programs. Since Tier II is intended as a less competitive classification of youth hockey than Tier I, no limiting percentages will be applicable and the criteria for granting Tier II designations shall be less stringent. Once a team is designated as Tier II, it shall be presumed to retain that designation unless otherwise recommended by the Tier II Selection Committee and approved by the President. The President, with the advice and recommendation of the Tier II Selection Committee shall generally grant Tier II designation requests at each level based upon the following criteria:

(vi) Criteria for Determining Tier II AA National Tournament Bound Designations. Tier II AA National Tournament Bound hockey is a competitive level of youth travel hockey within the Affiliate. Tier II teams should be those that have demonstrated a consistent level of competition, organization, and development of youth hockey players for advancement to Tier I or other youth hockey programs and for their enjoyment and recreation. The Affiliate designations shall be based upon the following criteria:

(1) Proficient Level of Quality. Prospective Tier II AA National Tournament Bound teams must demonstrate their willingness and ability to perform at proficient levels both on the ice and in their administration; including, each of the following:

(2) On-Ice Quality and Proficiency. Teams must demonstrate the ability to field teams of competent skill level(s) to compete and develop youth travel players in the future; and

(3) Coaching. Teams must have qualified coaches, in good standing and demonstrate effective training and development standards and protocols; and

(4) Responsible Organizational Governance. Teams must demonstrate that they are part of a responsible organization with a willingness and ability to consistently adhere to USA Hockey and Affiliate bylaws, rules, regulations and policies, including those of any league of which it is a member; and

(5) Financial Responsibility. Teams must demonstrate their willingness and ability to meet their financial obligations; and

(6) Access to Suitable Facilities. Teams must demonstrate consistent and reliable access to suitable facilities; and

(7) Full Season Teams. Teams must be full season teams

(8) Other Requirements. Teams must meet such other requirements, as the Affiliate shall from time to time adopt.

(vii) Association Affiliation. Every prospective Tier II AA National Tournament Bound team must be part of a Association or program and demonstrate a viable feeder program. Each prospective Tier II AA National Tournament Bound team shall have a minimum of three (3) age level teams below the requested level so as to demonstrate an established feeder program. (Example – If applying for 14U level a team would be required to have the following feeder teams, 8U-10U-12U or similar combination, within its Association or a working relationship with another Association that has its primary home within the same rink facility).

(viii) ADM/AAHA Affiliate Compliance. All prospective Tier II AA National Tournament Bound teams must provide evidence that their affiliated Association is ADM/AAHA Affiliate compliant.

(ix) Annual Application Teams must re-apply for Tier II AA National Tournament Bound 14U, 16U and 18U designation each year.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF DENIAL OF TIER I OR TIER II DESIGNATION

- (1) Appeal of Denial of Requested Designation. Any team denied their requested Tier I or Tier II designation shall be entitled to a review of the President's decision by the Affiliate Appeals Committee described below.
- (2) Notice of Appeal. Any team denied its requested Tier designation may appeal the President's decision by sending written notice of appeal to the President and to the Vice President of Protests, Suspensions and Appeals within seven (7) days of its receipt of notice of denial. Notice may be sent by any means reasonably calculated to achieve receipt of notice of the appeal, including, but not limited to: electronic mail, provided the recipient acknowledges receipt of the notice.
- (3) Nature of the Appeal. The Affiliate Appeals Committee, which shall be appointed by the President, from reasonably disinterested and impartial persons, shall hear all administrative appeals and shall provide the aggrieved team an opportunity to present any evidence or argument it may have to support its application.
- (4) Conduct of Hearing. All appeals shall be informal and be presided over by the Vice President of Protests, Suspensions and Appeals or such Vice President's designee, who shall serve as the Chairman of the Executive Committee for the purposes of the hearing. If no person is currently serving in the position of Vice President of Suspension and Appeals, then the legal counsel for the Affiliate shall serve as the Committee Chairman. If no legal counsel has been designated, then the person with the longest tenure on the Executive Committee as of the date of the hearing shall serve as its

chairman. The hearing shall proceed in the following manner:

- (a) Evidence. The hearing may proceed on submitted documents, via teleconference or upon personal appearance, in the sole discretion of the Chairman. The formal rules of evidence shall not apply and the Appeals Committee may accept or reject any information submitted as the Chairman shall allow.
 - (b) Time of Hearing. The hearing shall be conducted at the time, place and in the manner as the Chairman shall designate.
 - (c) Issues and Standard of Review. The sole issue to be considered and decided by the Executive Committee shall be whether the President had a rational basis for denying the application; this means that Committee's decision shall be limited to deciding whether there exists any reasonable basis for the President to deny the request based upon the criteria set forth in this rule. If there was any reasonable basis that for the President's decision, the decision must be upheld.
 - (d) Method and Time of Decision. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Committee shall decide the appeal based upon a simple majority of its members. Thereafter, the Chairman shall issue a brief written letter to the appealing team notifying it of the Appeals Committee's decision within seven (7) days.
- (5) Finality of Decision. This decision is intended to be a final decision of the Affiliate in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw X. There shall be no further appeal of the Affiliate Appeals Committee's decision.

Application for Tier I/Tier II Status can be found in the appendix of these Rules and Regulations.

D. USE OF TIER I AND TIER II DESIGNATIONS

- (a)
- (1) Exclusive Use of Tier I and Tier II Designations. Only those Tier I and Tier II teams designated under this Article may use the following designations in/on promotional material or on tournament applications: Tier I, Tier II, "AAA" and "AA"
 - (2) Violations. If a violation occurs, the Tier I, Tier II, "AAA" and "AA" teams and leagues shall be notified of the infraction, provided the name of the offending Association and given a recommendation that their teams not schedule any games with the offending Association until the infraction is corrected

E. NON-REGISTERED TEAMS AND ASSOCIATIONS

- (b)
- (1) Games Against Non-USA Hockey Teams A registered team shall not play a team under suspension by the AAHA or USA Hockey.

- (2) Scholastic Teams. Registered teams may play non-registered high school, preparatory school, or college team with prior permission from USA Hockey registrar.
- (3) Penalty. Any team violating any of the foregoing rules will be declared ineligible for Affiliate, or National Tournaments.
 - (a) Players playing on non-registered teams are ineligible for AAHA Tournaments or USA Hockey Player camps.
 - (b) Any Association, team, and/or individual affiliated directly or indirectly with a non-USA Hockey team or Association except with respect to Varsity status academic institutions shall be subject to suspension.

F. ADM COMPLIANCE

- (1) ADM Committee. The AAHA has established an American Development Model (ADM) Committee, chaired by the Affiliated ADM Coordinator (in consultation with USA Hockey ADM Regional Manager), which will oversee the ADM in the Affiliate. The Committee is made up of a cross section of the overall youth membership (i.e. Tier I, Tier II, Girls, Rink Owners, ADM Model Association representation and the Affiliate ADM Field Supervisors). The Committee will make by-law, policy, guideline and rules and regulations recommendations regarding ADM implementation and compliance to the AAHA Executive Board annually prior to the AAHA Annual meeting. The Committee will be responsible for ADM implementation, compliance and management for the Affiliate.
- (2) Advancement and Waiver. A player who is 7 years old or younger shall not be permitted to play up at the 10U level under any circumstances. "In House" programs as defined herein are exempt from this regulation.

Each Association shall have the authority to request up to two (2) waivers, for current 8 year old players from within the Association to play up to 10U. This waiver limit is for both girls and youth classifications, meaning each Association is limited to two (2) waivers in total for the entire Association regardless of tier or classification.

To be considered for a roster waiver, the 8-year-old player must have 2 years' documented travel hockey experience, and must have been rostered by the requesting Association on a USA Hockey roster the previous season. New 8-year old players at any Association, whether new to the sport, or new to the Association are ineligible. Waivers are granted to the Association, and not the player. The player does not retain the approval if they change Associations.

The Under-Age Player Roster Waiver Form, found on the AAHA website, must be completed and submitted electronically by the Association's Coaching Director to the ADM Coordinator. Submission of the request will attest that the player(s) is significantly proficient to participate in 10U hockey. The ADM Coordinator will review and authorize the request.

The ADM Coordinator, on behalf of the ADM Committee is authorized and compelled to periodically audit Association issued and ADM sanctioned waivers, and may assign an experienced hockey coach to review an Association's selection of player(s) receiving waivers.

Abuse of this waiver policy will result in the loss of an Association's ability to participate in this waiver process for a minimum of one season, as determined by the ADM Coordinator.

The ADM Coordinator, on behalf of the ADM Committee has the authority to deny an Association's issuance of a waiver, in cases where the ADM Committee believes the Association misused the waiver process.

Under no circumstance will more than two (2) Under-Age Waiver requests be sanctioned in a single season for an Association unless there are exigent circumstances, which will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

All Associations that do not submit waiver forms for sanctioning in a specific season (in other words, play all players age-appropriate) may be eligible for additional AAHA sponsored opportunities.

(3) Definition of In-House, Recreational and Travel Teams

- (a) In-House
Teams do not leave the building
- (b) Recreational
Teams that leave the building
Teams that play a maximum of 25 games per year and play against other rink run "recreational" teams
- (c) Travel
Teams that leave the building
Teams that are members of any travel league within the Affiliate and any independent, non-"recreational" league

(4) Tournament Sanctioning. No sanctioning of Mite full ice tournaments will be approved in the Atlantic Affiliate.

(5) ADM Compliance. ADM compliance includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) 6U – Cross Ice.
 - (i) All 6U teams are required to play cross ice. All 6U teams are not permitted to play full ice at any time.

- (ii) Cross ice station based practices and small area games
- (iii) Mini nets or ADM skill nets. Use of goaltenders at this level is optional and maybe decided on a case by case basis by each Association
- (iv) Blue pucks
- (v) Games played within geographic zones whenever possible
- (vi) Cross zone boundaries as needed for small Associations
- (vii) Regular season length – approximately 20 weeks as published annually by the AAHA
- (viii) Coaches serve as officials for games
- (ix) Pre-season travel team placement jamboree participation optional

(b) 8U – Half Ice/Cross Ice.

- (i) All 8U teams are required to play either cross ice or half ice. All 8U teams are not permitted to play full ice at any time.
- (ii) Half ice or cross ice station based practices and small area games.
- (iii) Regulation size nets or ADM skill (or intermediate) nets if available
- (iv) Rotation goalies with full equipment
- (v) Blue pucks
- (vi) Games played within geographic zones whenever possible
- (vii) Cross zone boundaries as needed for small Associations
- (viii) Regular season length - approximately 20 weeks as published annually by the AAHA
- (ix) Required a minimum of two practices to one game ratio (2:1 practice to game). Teams may count all practices from tryouts/evaluations until the end of the season. Practices may be evaluated in minutes, for example:
 20 games (60 minutes) = 40 practices or 2,400 minutes
 15 games (60 minutes) = 30 practices or 1,800 minutes
- (x) Maximum of 20 “game days” in a season. A “game day” may include more than one game but should not exceed more than 3 hours of on-ice play in that game day
- (xi) Participation in a maximum of two tournaments (excluding AAHA offered jamborees) permitted in a season
- (xii) USA Hockey Officials required for all games. One official per half ice game
- (xiii) Pre-season travel team placement jamboree participation required
- (xiv) All 8U registered “In House” or “Recreational” teams are required to play half or cross ice but are not required to meet the 2:1 practice to game ratio
- (xv) All 8U registered “travel” teams are required to play half or cross ice and are required to meet the 2:1 practice to game ratio

- (c) 10U – Full Ice.
 - (i) Recommended full ice games with station based practices and small area games.
 - (ii) Regulation size nets
 - (iii) Black pucks
 - (iv) Games played within geographic zones or as defined by league of which team is a member
 - (v) Regular season length – September 1 through March 15 or as determined by league of which team is a member
 - (vi) Associations are required to meet a minimum of three practice to one game ratio (3:1 practice to game) whenever possible. Teams may count all practices from tryouts/evaluations until the end of the season. Practices may be evaluation in minutes, for example:
 - (vii) 30 games (60 minutes) = 90 practices or 5,400 minutes
 - (viii) 25 games (60 minutes) = 75 practices or 4,500 minutes
 - (ix) Those teams that cannot meet the three to one (3:1) practice to game ratio need to request a waiver from the AAHA ADM Coordinator no later than May 15. Waiver requests must include plan for best effort attempt to meet the practice to game ratio goal. Approval of waiver will not be unreasonably withheld.
 - (x) Maximum of 30 games permitted in the regular season. League schedule of 31 or more games are subject to Affiliate approval.
 - (xi) Teams may participate in up to a maximum of four (4) tournaments during the regular season. These events plus league and Affiliate playoffs are exempt from the total game count requirement.
 - (xii) 30 minutes of off-ice training per week is highly recommended
 - (xiii) All 10U registered “in house” or “recreational” teams are not required to meet the 3:1 practice to game ratio.
 - (xiv) All 10U registered “travel” teams are required to meet the 3:1 practice to game ratio.

- (d) 12U – Full Ice. Reserved

- (e) 14U – Full Ice. Reserved

- (f) 15P – Full Ice. Reserved

- (g) 16U – Full Ice. Reserved

- (h) 18U – Full Ice. Reserved

Enforcement of the Affiliate ADM Rules and Regulations, may result

in a monetary fine not to exceed \$1,000.00

G. REFUSAL TO CONTINUE PLAY

- (1) Leaving Ice During Game. Any team playing in a league, exhibition, or tournament game that leaves the ice during the game, shall forfeit the game by a score 1-0, or by the official score at that time, the team leaving the ice is behind.
- (2) Suspension of Coach/Manager. The coach and/or manager of the team leaving the ice will be subject to a maximum suspension for a period of one year and a minimum of thirty days.

H. TRYOUTS

- (1) Time for Tryouts. No Tier I or Tier II team may hold tryouts for the upcoming season prior to 48 hours after the USA Hockey National Championships end and in accordance with the AAHA published tryout dates.
- (2) Tryout Dates. Tryout dates can be found in the Appendix.
- (3) No Tryouts Prior to 48-Hours After Nationals. No team(s), Association(s) or program may hold tryouts, evaluations, training camps, skills sessions, or any other program that has players who were not registered with that team, Association or program the previous season, prior to 48 hours after the end of USA Hockey's National Championships and in accordance with AAHA published tryout dates without being in violation of this Rule.
- (4) Penalties for Teams and Coaches Violating Try-Out Rules. Team (s), Association (s), or program(s) found in violation of these bylaws, may lose their privilege of being eligible to compete at Affiliate Championship Tournaments and toward a national championship for a period of up to three (3) years. Coaches found in violation may be suspended up to five (5) years.

I. USA HOCKEY REGISTRY

1. Access of USA Hockey Registry: Any person/organization that requests access to the USA Hockey Registry for the purpose of rostering teams at any time during the year must complete the appropriate AAHA Member application prior to being assigned an Association Code and granted access to the registry. Requires approval of AAHA President.

ARTICLE VII: APPLICATION FOR LEAGUE SANCTION

A. LEAGUE SANCTION

- (1) Only leagues that are sanctioned by the Affiliate pursuant to its Bylaws and

these Rules and Regulations shall be entitled to the rights and benefits of the Affiliate and be eligible for National Tournament Play. All new league applicants shall meet the requirements of the Bylaws and these Rules and Regulations, comply with the probationary provisions, and be in good standing in order to obtain final sanctioning from the Affiliate. All sanctioned leagues warrant that they shall comply with, and adhere to, the Affiliate Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and policies then in force in the Affiliate in order to maintain Affiliate sanctioning.

(a) Admission Requirements for League Sanction - In order to be eligible for league sanctioning by the Affiliate, a league applicant must demonstrate that it meets each of the following requirements:

- (i) be registered under the laws of its state of residence as a non-profit corporation; and
- (ii) have received within 180 days of league application 501(c)3 tax status from the United States, Department of Treasury; and
- (iii) have a minimum of eight (8) member teams with at least four (4) teams in each of two (2) age categories each of which is qualified to advance toward a National Championship by USA Hockey (e.g., four (4) 12 & Under; four (4) 14 & Under teams);
- (iv) be governed by an executive board and board of directors that have been duly elected through a representative election process from among its member teams; and
- (v) All component league teams must be located within the geographical boundaries of the Affiliate; and
- (vi) Be governed by written bylaws that have been approved by the Affiliate; and
- (vii) Outline house league and Learn to Skate commitments of all prospective league teams; and
- (viii) Submit an application for league sanctioning by May 1st in advance of the next Affiliate Annual meeting.

(b) Admission Procedure for League Sanction - League sanctioning shall be acquired first upon submission of a written application to the Affiliate Executive Committee which shall demonstrate its compliance with the requirements set forth above and be approved by simple majority vote by the Executive Committee. Upon approval of the Affiliate Executive Committee, the prospective league must be approved for formal sanctioning by a three-quarters (3/4's) majority vote of the Affiliate Board at its next regularly-scheduled Annual Meeting. All prospective league members shall comply with the requirements of the Bylaws, the Rules and Regulations, as from time to time, amended, pay all required fees and agree to be subject to all disciplinary action by the Executive Board, including, suspension, fine or expulsion from the Affiliate upon a finding of "good cause" by a simple majority of the Executive

Committee.

- (c) Probationary Status of New Leagues - Once approved from admission by a three-quarters (3/4's) majority vote of the full Board, all new leagues shall be approved on a conditional or probationary basis ("Probationary League Sanction") for a period of One (1) year following their approval vote. At the first Annual Meeting following their probationary admission, the Executive Committee shall make a recommendation to the full Board on whether the Probationary League Sanction shall be made permanent. The full Board shall thereafter decide by a two-thirds (2/3s) majority vote whether to accept or reject the Probationary League Sanction for permanent League Sanctioning
- (d) Admission/Rejection of League Sanction - If the Board approves a Probationary League Sanction under Section c., above, the League shall be accepted for full league sanctioning. If the Board votes to reject a Probationary League Sanction, the vote shall be final and the League shall not re-apply for league sanctioning for a period of not less than one (1) year.
- (e) Status of Probationary League Sanction Pending Permanent Sanction Vote - Leagues granted Probationary League Sanction shall not have voting rights in the Affiliate during the One-Year probationary period. Once accepted for full league sanctioning, the new League and its constituent teams shall have representative voting rights within the Affiliate in accordance with the prevailing Bylaws and Rules and Regulations in the Affiliate.

ARTICLE VIII: PLAYING RULES

A. USA HOCKEY RULES

Applicability of USA Hockey Rules. The official USA Hockey playing rules shall be used in all classes.

B. USA HOCKEY OFFICIALS

Use of USA Hockey Officials. All games are under the jurisdiction of the AAHA and must be officiated by USA Hockey officials.

C. PENALTY DOWNGRADE

Reduction of Penalty. Officials may not reduce a penalty once play resumes or after a scoresheet is signed, whichever occurs first.

D. SCORE SHEETS

Score sheets. One copy of the completed signed score sheet shall go to each team.

E. DEFINITION OF A “GAME”

Game Definition. For jurisdictional purposes, a game shall be defined as follows: When two hockey teams occupy the same ice surface for the purpose of competitive play and complete at least 2 periods of play in an ice hockey game.

F. AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION PENALTY REPORT

Reportable Infractions. All match infractions, and refusal of teams to start or continue play must be reported, in writing, by the referee to the League Commissioner and/or the Vice President of Protests, Suspensions, Protests and Appeals or the appropriate league official within 24 hours.

ARTICLE IX: TOURNAMENTS

A. TOURNAMENTS – GENERAL PROVISIONS

- (1) Affiliate Tournament Director. The Tournament Committee shall be responsible for the appointment of the Tournament Director for all Affiliate Tournaments.
- (2) Tournament Classifications. Tournaments may be held in the following classifications:
 - (a) Tier I AAA: 14U through 18U (National Tournament Bound)
 - (b) Tier II AA: 14U through 18U (National Tournament Bound)
 - (c) Tier II AA, A and B: 12U through 18U
 - (d) Tier I AAA: 12U
 - (e) House League: 10U and 12U
 - (f) Girls’/Women: 14U, 16U, 19U, Senior B (National Bound),
- (3) Fees. Affiliate Tournament Fees shall be set by the Tournament Committee and shall meet USA Hockey compliance requirements. The individual team fee shall not exceed the apportioned expense inclusive of ice costs, scorebox personnel, officiating fees and medical personnel. Tournament Staff Hospitality, player and Team awards, giveaways,

signage, printing, and other related costs shall be at the Affiliate's general expense.

- (4) Limitations of Players. Olympians, Para-Olympians, USA Hockey NTDP players or members of the USA Hockey Jr. National Sled Hockey team may not participate in any AAHA District tournaments that lead to National Championships.
- (5) Court Intervention. In the event that any court shall intervene to affect the participants, that tournament shall be canceled, and the representative, if any, to go to the next level of tournament play will be designated by the Tournament Director.

B. TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY

- (1) Tier I and Tier II. The AAHA Representative at Nationals will be determined by an Affiliate tournament playoff in accordance with these rules as determined by the AAHA President and AAHA Tournament Committee.
- (2) Senior Women. Senior Women's tournaments may be used to determine who will represent the AAHA at a National Championship.

C. TOURNAMENT TEAM REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION AND FORMAT

- (1) Tournament Format. The AAHA President and Tournament Committee will decide on the format of selecting team representatives for tournament play, prior to the start of its season schedule.

D. TOURNAMENT TEAM QUALIFICATIONS

- (1) Minimum Number of Games. In order to qualify for National play, teams must play 20 games as a unit and each player on that team must play at least 10 games against USA Hockey registered teams from other Associations at a similar or more competitive level. Girls/Women's teams must play 14 games as a unit at their competitive level and each player on that team must play at least ten games against USA Hockey Registered teams. For a Senior Women's A team, each player must play 10 games at their competitive level.
- (2) Verification. The score sheets, signed by the Registered Officials, must be available to the tournament committee.
- (3) Games Played Before Registration. Games played prior to the date shown on the approved USA Hockey roster for that team, will not count toward satisfying the 10/20 or 10/14 rule.
- (4) Qualifying Games. Only games against Atlantic member USA Hockey

teams may be used to determine a league representative(s) to an Atlantic Tournament, or a USA Hockey National Championship.

- (5) Documentation. All teams participating in AAHA Championship Tournaments (including play-ins, qualifiers, etc.) that determine advancement to the National Tournament, must provide all documentation, as determined by the AAHA Registrar, with sufficient advance notice, to permit the Registrar's review and approval prior to the start of the event. Any participating team that does not comply with this requirement may be disqualified.

E. TOURNAMENT OPEN COMPETITION

- (1) Declaration of Sanctioned League Representatives. Sanctioned Leagues must declare their representative(s) to the AAHA District Tournament not later than 10 days prior to the tournament.

F. TOURNAMENT GOALTENDER RULES

- (1) Alternate Goaltenders. Subject to the Tournament Directors written approval, a team with less than two goalies may take alternates from their Association or league, subject also to the approval of USA Hockey Registrar.
- (2) No Goaltender. A team with no back up goaltender may participate with six skaters until another player dresses as a goaltender, but in no event will the game be delayed while an alternate goaltender is dressed in goaltender's equipment.

G. TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY CHALLENGES

- (1) Time For Challenges. No challenge on player or team eligibility can be made after the first puck is dropped of the challenged team's first game. The Tournament Director may act at any time.
- (2) Non-Sanctioned Tournament Play. Any registered team or any registered player participating in a non USA Hockey sanctioned tournament shall be declared ineligible by the Tournament Director for Affiliate, or National Tournaments.
- (3) Limitation on Dual Rostering. No player rostered on a Tier I (AAA) or Tier II team (including teams designated as either ``AA" or ``A', or "B") at any age classification shall be permitted to participate in more than one tournament. Players are permitted to participate in the AAHA District Post-Season tournament with one team only. Once a player has participated in any games that lead to the National Championship, that player may not participate with a different team in games leading to National Tournament competition.

H. HOUSE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT RULES

- (1) Minimum Participation. Each house league program, wishing to participate in the House League Tournament shall select an all-star team to represent them at the various USA Hockey designated age levels of competition. The roster for tournament play limited to 20 players.

I. TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES

- (1) Schedule and Position Determination. Tournament formats shall be determined by AAHA Tournament Committee and the Affiliate President. If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their position in the standings will be determined in accordance with USA Hockey's National Tournament Rules and Regulations. Copies shall be distributed and posted at the tournament(s) site(s) and will be on the AAHA Tournament website.
- (2) Time of Periods. All age levels shall be per USA Hockey National Championship Format.
- (3) Penalties. All penalties will be in accordance with the USA Hockey rules and the USA Hockey National Tournament Guidebook.
- (4) Protests. No game protests are permitted after the scoresheet has been signed.
- (5) Rules Interpretations. Any dispute relating to the interpretation of the playing rules shall be dealt with and ruled upon by the Referee-In-Chief or his representative or in consultation with his representative assigned at that game and in attendance at the moment of incident. The decision will be final. No protest on interpretation of the playing rules shall be accepted after play has been resumed. Any other protests will be ruled on by the Tournament Director.
- (6) Forfeiture Rule. If a team forfeits one game in a tournament, they will forfeit all of their games and will not be eligible to continue in the Atlantic tournament nor advance to USA Hockey Nationals Tournament. The offending team will be subject to the penalties of this section (Penalty).
 - (a) Any team forfeiting any of its games shall have all of its losses declared forfeit (1–0 loss) for the purpose of determining the tournament standings for the other participants.
- (7) Suspensions. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for deciding any action (suspensions or restrictions) to be placed against a player or team official receiving a match, or game misconduct penalty. The Tournament Director shall have full power to waive or increase any suspension or penalty.

- (8) Opportunity for Suspended Participant to be Heard. No player or other participant may be barred in the remaining tournament games without an opportunity to tell his or her version of the incident. Failure to attend the meeting after being notified shall be deemed an opportunity.
- (9) Suspensions Prior To Tournament. Any suspensions measured in game incurred prior to a Tournament, shall be served during this tournament.
- (10) Reporting of Actions. All disciplinary action shall be reported to the home association of the player or others involved, for further action at their discretion.

J. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

- (1) Referee Systems Recognized. An approved USA Hockey system (two, three or four person) of officiating will be used subject to the approval of the Referee-In-Chief and the AAHA Tournament Committee.
- (2) Referee Assignments. All officials will be assigned by the AAHA Referee-In-Chief or his appointee, in conjunction with the AAHA Tournament Director.
- (3) Decisions Final. The decision of the Tournament Director will be final.
- (4) Referees Not Eligible. Neither the Referee-In-Chief nor his appointee can officiate in any games.
- (5) Referee Payments. Equitable payments will be provided to officials based on the games' age level, tier, and referee system and regardless of the game or official's gender.

K. TOURNAMENT UNIFORMS

- (1) Uniforms Required. Each team must be fully uniformed. All players must have numbered, matching jerseys and socks of the same color.
- (2) Home Team Uniforms. The designated home team shall have the responsibility of contrasting uniforms subject to the Referee's approval.

L. TOURNAMENT SITE SELECTION

- (1) Venue Designation. Designation of a tournament site is the responsibility of the AAHA President and AAHA Tournament Committee.

M. TOURNAMENT AWARDS

- (1) Awards. The AAHA may supply awards to the winners and second place

finishers in each tournament classification.

N. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

- (1) Scheduling of Games. The schedule of games will be set by the AAHA President and AAHA Tournament Committee.
- (2) Publishing of Schedule. The schedule shall be transmitted to all leagues not less than two weeks in advance of the first game.
- (3) Protests of Schedule. Protests of the schedule must be presented to the Tournament Director within 24 hours of publication.
- (4) League Responsible to Notify Teams of Schedule. It is the responsibility of the league(s) to notify their representatives and members of all Tournament Schedules and Information.
- (5) Time Between Games. There shall be a minimum of four hours between scheduled games on the same day and ten hours between games on consecutive days unless determined otherwise by the Tournament Director or AAHA President.
- (6) Second Game Rule. No team playing its second game in one day shall be required to play a team playing its first game on that day.
- (7) Host Teams. There will be no host teams in Tournaments.

O. COMMITMENT FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- (1) Commitment to Proceed. Any team entering an AAHA Tournament agrees to participate in the National Championship should they become eligible.
- (2) Penalty for Failure to Proceed. Any team failing to fulfill its commitment at the Affiliate, National Tournament shall become disqualified to participate in all tournaments in the following year. Additionally, a team's entire Association may be declared ineligible for tournament participation the following year.
- (3) Team Replacements. If a designated representative is unable to represent AAHA in a National Tournament the runner up or last eliminated team may be given permission by the AAHA President to represent the Atlantic Affiliate.

P. INVITATION TOURNAMENTS

- (1) Sanctioning. Any independent or invitational tournament held in the AAHA must secure the sanction of USA Hockey. This may be

accomplished by contacting USA Hockey Registrar and filing a USA Hockey Tournament application form along with a copy of the rules and regulations for the tournament.

- (2) Officiating. All AAHA invitational tournaments must be officiated by USA Hockey officials assigned by USA Hockey Referee-in-Chief or his designee.

Q. RULES FOR INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- (1) Required Forms. Tournament Director(s) for all tournaments within the involving USAH teams shall submit form 3-T.
- (2) Tournament Referee Assignor(s) for all tournaments within the involving USAH teams shall be notified after consultation with the RIC or his designee.
- (3) Tournament Referee Supervisor(s) for all tournaments within the involving USAH teams shall be appointed after consultation with the RIC or his designee.
- (4) Penalties assessed by an on-ice official shall not be changed or removed other than in accordance with Rule 502.
- (5) All suspension penalties shall be served, and
 - (a) The referee shall have general supervision of the game and shall have full authority over all game officials (including off-ice officials), team officials, and players before, during and after the game.
 - (b) In case of any dispute, the decision of the referee shall be final.
 - (c) The referee may not change a decision, or that of any other official, after the resumption of play following the rendering of the original decision.
 - (d) The referee may not change any penalties assessed at the end of the game after signing the score sheet.
- (6) Tournament Directors, Rink Managers, and other Tournament personnel shall not become involved in the conduct of the game unless requested by an on-ice official; and
 - (e) Only team players and team officials are permitted in the players' bench area
 - (f) Only off-ice officials and penalized players are permitted in the

penalty bench area

- (g) Only off-ice officials are permitted in the official scorers/game timekeepers area
 - (h) No changes shall be made to the score sheet after it is signed by the officials
 - (i) No changes to penalties incurred can be adjudicated by tournament director(s), rink manager(s) or other tournament official(s)
 - (j) The only tournaments that are not considered invitational are those run by the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association (AAHA), an Affiliate of USA Hockey.
- (7) Scheduling. No invitational tournament shall be sanctioned within a 100 miles of a National Tournament on the same weekend without permission of the Registrar and AAHA President.

ARTICLE X: AFFILIATE POLICIES, CODES OF CONDUCT, SCREENING AND SAFESPORT

A. PARENT AND SPECTATOR DISCIPLINE AND SUSPENSION GUIDELINES

- (1) Guidelines for action are provided to emphasize the need to have in place as a guideline on how to handle disciplinary matters. It is imperative to demonstrate a FAIR patter of actions to avoid protests that there are personal reasons behind suspension. To do this, it is important to have and to follow guidelines for disciplinary actions.
- (2) A suspended individual will be suspended from all USA Hockey activities including practices or games for other children.
 - (a) Level A Occurrence. This will apply for first offenses only. The action should be of a non-threatening manner and should be considered unusual for the party involved. There should be remorse expressed by the party and it should be anticipated that there would not be a repeat of the behavior. Actions to be taken when found in violation at this level can be as low as a written warning and a maximum suspension not to exceed three (3) games or ten (10) days.
 - (b) Level B Occurrence. This would be in effect for a second-time offender. Also falling into this group would be those individuals who may have had past observed behavior issues and have

finally been reported. The individual would likely show minimal if any remorse. The penalty should be more severe with a suggested range between three (3) games and thirty (30) days.

- (c) Level C Occurrence. These cases must be dealt with promptly and would include a hearing. Actions that could lead to this charge include actual physical violence against another individual or what was perceived as sincere threatening actions. You would suspect these individuals as capable of causing future problems. The penalty should be a minimum of thirty (30) days and a maximum up to and including expulsion from the program.

B. SCREENING

- (1) Screening. To be in accordance with USA Hockey's SafeSport program and state local screening law.
- (2) A person may be disqualified and prohibited from serving as an employee or volunteer of USA Hockey and the Atlantic (AAHA) or its member Associations if the person has:
 - (a) Been convicted (including crimes the record of which has been expunged and pleas of "no contest") of a crime of child abuse, sexual abuse of a minor, physical abuse, causing a child's death, neglect of a child, murder, manslaughter, felony assault, any assault against a minor, kidnapping, arson, criminal sexual conduct, prostitution related crimes or controlled substance crimes.
 - (b) Been adjudged liable for civil penalties or damages involving sexual or physical abuse of children.
 - (c) Been subject to any court order involving any sexual abuse or physical abuse of a minor, including but not limited to domestic order or protection.
 - (d) Had their parental rights terminated.
 - (e) A history with another Association (volunteer, employment, etc.) of complaints of sexual or physical abuse of minors. 6. Resigned, been terminated or been asked to resign from a position, whether paid or unpaid, due to complaint(s) of sexual or physical abuse of minors.
 - (c) Has a history of other behavior that indicates they may be a danger to children in USA Hockey or the Atlantic (AAHA) or its member Associations.
 - (f) Not been properly screened as required in accordance with USA Hockey policy and applicable state law.

- (3) Coaches, managers, locker room monitors, officers, board of directors, employees and others will be re-screened every two years in accordance with USA Hockey policy and/or under state laws whichever takes precedent at the time screening is required
- (4) Where screenings are performed through a state agency, it is the responsibility of each individual Association organization to provide the AAHA SafeSport Coordinator a list of all coaches, managers, locker room monitors, employees, officers, board of directors and others required to be and have been screened under the individual Association's state of domicile by November 30th of each season. If an Association does not properly report and provide the list by November 30th of each season, the Association may be subject to a fine of \$175 per day.

C. HAZING

Hazing - To be in accordance with USA Hockey's Hazing policy.

D. PARENT AND SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

- (1) Do not force your children to participate in sports, but support their desires to play their chosen sport. Children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment. Make it fun.
- (2) Encourage your child to play by the rules. Remember, children learn best by example, so applaud the good plays of both teams.
- (3) Do not embarrass your child by yelling at players, coaches or officials. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your child will benefit.
- (4) Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit your young athlete. De-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
- (5) Know and study rules of the game, and support the officials on and off the ice. This approach will help in the development and support of the game. Any criticism of officials only hurts the game.
- (6) Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat and enforce the positive points of the game. Never yell or physically abuse your child after a game or practice – it is destructive. Work toward removing the physical and verbal abuse in youth sports.
- (7) Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. They are important to the development of your child and the sport. Communicate with

them and support them.

E. HIGH SCHOOL POLICY

- (1) General Rule. The AAHA recognizes the value of both Association hockey and high school hockey to a player's development and enjoyment of the game. It is the policy of the AAHA, that:
 - (a) No 14U, 15P, 16U, 18U, 19U or Junior coach or Association may prohibit any of their players from participating with their USAH registered scholastic team.
 - (b) No scholastic coach or Association may prohibit a player from participating on a USAH registered 14U, 15P, 16U, 18U, 19U team.
 - (c) In the event of a conflict between a game for one team and a practice for another team, the player shall be permitted to attend the game, with no penalties to the player for missing practice. It shall be an excused absence from practice, and not be held against the player in any way, including but not limited to any allowances a player is permitted to miss for that team.

- (2) Penalties for infraction of the above
 - (a) 1st offense – warning to coach and Association
 - (b) 2nd offense – 30 day suspension to head coach of offending Association and person responsible (if different from head coach
 - (c) 3rd offense – 1 year suspension to head coach and \$1,000 fine to Association

F. MUSIC DURING EVENTS

The playing of music during games, practices, in the arena, locker rooms, or other areas used during team functions must not contain explicit, hateful or derogatory language. Associations shall require locker room monitors, coaches and managers to enforce this policy. Violations of this policy shall subject the club to fines to the Club not to exceed \$500.00 per occurrence and disciplinary review to those adults in charge, including coaches, managers and locker room monitors.

ARTICLE XI: SUSPENSIONS, APPEALS AND RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

A. DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND APPEALS

- (1) Any party aggrieved by a decision, ruling or determination of the Affiliate or any of its Boards or other subdivisions, shall unless otherwise provided for in these Rules and Regulations, shall be governed by the provisions of USA Hockey Bylaw 10.
- (2) Any party filing an Appeal of an adverse decision of the AAHA, its Officers, Committees, and appointed proper Appeal Authority, shall be required to pay a fee of \$200.00 by check, payable to the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association, mailed and postmarked in conformity with the proper time lines as specified under USA Hockey's Bylaw 10 - Dispute Resolution, Discipline and Arbitration.

B. REFEREES SUSPENSIONS

in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10

C. COMMUNICATION OF SUSPENSION

in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10

D. GAME DEFINITION (FOR SUSPENSION)

A game in order to satisfy a suspension, qualifies only when the equivalent of two of the three stop time periods are played as defined in tournament playing rules, time of periods, against a team of another Association of the same or higher competitive level, officiated by USA Hockey registered officials.

E. LEGAL ACTIONS

In order to preserve as far as possible, the integrity of amateur hockey, any recourse to the courts or legal action by a member or individual before all the rights of the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of this Association have been exhausted, shall be considered ungentlemanly conduct entailing the immediate suspension and disqualification of any such member or individual. Refer to USA Hockey, Inc., Bylaws, Suspensions and Resolution of Disputes for additional information.

ARTICLE XII: USA HOCKEY GUIDELINES REGARDING NON-SANCTIONED PLAY

(From USA Hockey Annual Guide 2020-2021) USA Hockey and its Affiliates are charged with establishing rules and policies for the organization, coordination and betterment of hockey, including developing players, coaches and officials, and managing and minimizing risks associated with the sport. Recent examples include implementation of the ADM, including cross-ice hockey for players 8 and under, and processes and procedures for expansion of junior hockey programs. USA Hockey strongly believes in these programs as evidenced by the

overwhelming support they have received across the country, the continuing growth in membership, and the advances that have resulted and are expected to result in the development of hockey players in our country.

USA Hockey has had inquiries regarding the rights and obligations of USA Hockey, its various Affiliates and local programs with respect to ice hockey that is not sanctioned by USA Hockey. To provide guidance to Affiliates and local programs, USA Hockey, as the National Governing Body for ice hockey in the United States, provides the guidelines below acting pursuant to USA Hockey's authority under the Amateur Sports Act (36 U.S.C. § 220501 et. seq.).

- A. For a game to be sanctioned by USA Hockey, all players, coaches and officials in the game ("Individual Participants") must be members of USA Hockey and the USA Hockey Affiliate with jurisdiction over their respective geographic area(s). Participating teams must also be members of the applicable USA Hockey Affiliate.
- B. There may be occasional exceptions to the above-stated membership requirement where in certain limited, special circumstances, USA Hockey or the applicable USA Hockey Affiliate Registrar may provide a special event sanction for an event where not all participants are members of USA Hockey ("Special Events"). These Special Events are occasional and have generally been limited to exhibition games between USA Hockey teams and High School Federation, prep schools or NCAA teams, Try Hockey For Free programs, and charity games. The limited nature of these exemptions is largely due to USA Hockey insurance and risk management concerns.
- C. Any Individual Participant may become a member of USA Hockey. Membership in or registration with another sanctioning body may not be used as a basis to deny membership in USA Hockey, its Affiliates or local programs. Correspondingly, no Individual Participant may be penalized for participating in a program that is not sanctioned by USA Hockey. On the other hand, an Individual Participant may be disqualified from membership for violation of USA Hockey Bylaws, Rules & Regulations or Policies in accordance with USA Hockey's Dispute Resolution Procedures.
- D. Affiliates may establish reasonable rules for compliance by such Affiliate's member organizations and/or teams seeking membership in or who are already members of the Affiliate, provided that such rules do not conflict with the Bylaws, Rules & Regulations, Policies or directives of USA Hockey.
- E. If a team desires to play in a USA Hockey sanctioned game, tournament or event, then, unless it is sanctioned as a Special Event, the team and its Individual Participants must be registered with USA Hockey and the applicable Affiliate. Such registration implies and constitutes the registrant's agreement that the team and all of its Individual Participants will be subject to the Bylaws, Rules & Regulations, Policies and Playing Rules of USA Hockey and the reasonable requirements of membership for the applicable Affiliate. The only exceptions to the requirement that sanctioned games, tournaments and events require that the team and all Individual Participants be registered with USA Hockey and the applicable Affiliate, are for Special Events noted above, and

circumstances where the applicable USA Hockey registrar has approved such participation in writing and in advance (see USA Hockey Rules & Regulations, Section VIII.B).

- F. Once an organization, team, or Individual Participant becomes a member of USA Hockey and the applicable Affiliate, that Affiliate may require that the member organization, team, and all Individual Participants continue to comply with the reasonable requirements for membership in the Affiliate. This may include, for example, such rules as coaching certifications, background screening, equipment requirements, safety mandates, and other guidelines, including the ADM and cross-ice hockey, and such other reasonable requirements of a USA Hockey Affiliate.
- G. An Affiliate may enforce a rule that prohibits its member teams from participating in games or practices that are not sanctioned by USA Hockey. Unless sanctioned as a Special Event, USA Hockey's insurance policies may not be available to cover USA Hockey programs, teams and Individual Participants when participating in a game or practice among or against a non-sanctioned team. A parent of a youth hockey player that has registered with USA Hockey with the expectation of receiving the benefits of such membership, should not be placed in a situation where they may be surprised to learn after their child is injured that USA Hockey insurance is not available because the injury occurred during a non-sanctioned event.
- H. An Affiliate may also enforce a rule that its member organizations must register all of their teams and players with USA Hockey and the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has such a rule, a member organization within that Affiliate cannot register some of its teams with the Affiliate while other teams in that organization are not registered with the Affiliate. Important reasons for such a rule are so that neither USA Hockey nor its Affiliates become liable for activities conducted by a member organization that is also conducting non-sanctioned events, and to prevent the occurrence of situations where USA Hockey's insurance could potentially be asserted to apply in a non-sanctioned event.
- I. Despite the foregoing, if an Affiliate's member organization or team desires to play in events or games that are not sanctioned by USA Hockey, they may seek a Special Event sanction for such game or event, or they may also do so provided that certain other requirements are met. A group of Individual Participants from a USA Hockey team playing in a non-USA Hockey sanctioned event or game must do so as part of a separate organization (for example, a separately incorporated corporation) that is sufficiently distinct from the USA Hockey sanctioned program. The non-sanctioned organization or team(s) should also have a separate board of directors, the team cannot wear the same uniforms or have the same team names, and all rink or vendor contracts relating to the non-sanctioned team(s) or activities must be in the name of the separate organization rather than the USA Hockey member organization or team. A sanctioned program should have separate bank accounts from the non-sanctioned organization. Additionally, sanctioned and non-sanctioned programs should not be included in the same advertisements or websites. Distinguishing teams participating in non-sanctioned events or

programs from teams that are members of USA Hockey will help avoid making USA Hockey, its Affiliates or member organizations liable for activities conducted in connection with non-sanctioned play; prevent the occurrence of situations where USA Hockey's insurance could potentially be asserted to apply in a non-sanctioned event; and will also help make Individual Participants (and their parents or guardians) aware of which games or events are under USA Hockey rules and oversight and are covered by USA Hockey insurance and other benefits. For a violation of these requirements, the team, coaches, administrators and/or program may be subject to sanctions as determined by the Affiliate following a hearing and any appeals provided in USA Hockey Bylaw 10.

- J. USA Hockey Rules & Regulations, Section III., provides as follows: Any youth player (male or female) rostered on a Tier I or Tier II youth or girls'/women's team and a Junior Program team as of December 31, can only play for one team after December 31. Except for players playing in Tier I or Tier II Junior hockey pursuant to the Youth/Junior Affiliate Player Policy, if the player plays in a Junior game after December 31, he/she loses all eligibility on his/her youth or girls'/women's team for the remainder of the season, regardless of how many games are played at the Junior level. This rule should be applied to any games played at the Tier III Junior level with any organization. The purpose of this rule is that players playing on youth teams during the latter half of the playing season should not also be playing Junior hockey. Further, not having Junior players participating in Youth national tournaments protects the integrity of the USA Hockey National Championships. By applying the rule regardless of the sanctioning body that governs the applicable Junior team, all Tier III Junior teams are treated equally.

- K. Affiliates and officials' organizations may establish and use reasonable criteria, rules and procedures for selection and scheduling of officials for games within their jurisdiction. There are numerous valid reasons why an Affiliate, officials' organization or scheduler may select one official over another for a particular game, league or level of play. For example, an official's experience in, and availability for, USA Hockey in-season games may be a factor to consider in evaluating officials for development or elite progress, or USA Hockey Affiliate or National Tournaments. However, no USA Hockey official may be penalized, threatened, excluded or made ineligible for officiating USA Hockey games based on that official being certified by or officiating games that are not sanctioned by USA Hockey or are sanctioned by some other entity. Many USA Hockey officials work games not under USA Hockey's authority (e.g., NCAA, Canadian Hockey League, East Coast Hockey League, High School Federation, etc.). To be sure, an official will not receive the benefits of USA Hockey, including insurance coverage, supervision, disciplinary processes and enforcement, etc., while officiating a game not sanctioned by USA Hockey, and that official is not permitted to wear a USA Hockey crest/patch on their jersey during a game not sanctioned by USA Hockey. To reiterate, no Affiliate may, and no Affiliate shall permit an officials' organization or scheduler under its control to, punish, threaten, blackball or make any official ineligible for USA Hockey games, based on the official becoming certified by another entity or officiating games that are not sanctioned by USA Hockey. Most hockey programs and officials' associations endeavor to consider their officials to be

independent contractors; to place restrictions on officials from officiating non-sanctioned games may place that independent contractor status at risk, and subject the hockey program or officials' association to other liabilities.

L. USA Hockey may amend or supplement these guidelines.

M. For questions related to these guidelines or other rule scenarios, please contact USA Hockey's General Counsel.

APPENDIX: FORMS AND CHARTS

A. OFFICIATING LEVELS

| | 2-Official | 3-Official/ 4-Official | 3-Official/ 4-Official | 2- Official | 3 – Official | 3 - Official |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| | Tier I | Tier I | Tier I | House and | House and | House and |
| | Tier II | Tier II | Tier II | Independent | Independent | Independent |
| Age Class | Referees | Referee | Lines | Referees | Referee | Lines |
| Adult Open | | | | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 3 |
| Adult US | | | | L3 | L4 | L3 |
| Adult No-Check | | | | L3 | L3 | L2 |
| Women's Adult | | | | L3 | L3 | L2 |
| Junior A | | | | L4 | L4 | L3 |
| Junior B | | | | L4 | L4 | L3 |
| Junior C | | | | L3 | L3 | L3 |
| HS Varsity | | | | L3 | L3 | L3 |
| HS JV | | | | L3 | L3 | L3 |
| 19U Girls | Level 3 | Level 3 | Level 3 | L3 | L3 | L2 |
| 18U Youth | L3 | L3 | L3 | L3 | L3 | L2 |
| 16U Youth & Girls | L3 | L3 | L3 | L3 | L3 | L2 |
| 14U Youth & Girls | L3 | L3 | L2 | L2 | L2 | L2 |
| 12U Youth & Girls | L2 | L2 | L1 | L1 | L1 | L1 |
| 10U Youth & Girls | L1 | L1 | L1 | L1 | L1 | L1 |
| 8U Youth | L1 | L1 | L1 | L1 | L1 | L1 |



Player Movement Policy
Explanation Parental
Notification Form
 Adopted June 2014

AAHA PLAYER MOVEMENT: “ONE SEASON–ONE TEAM”

1. Player Movement: All AAHA players are free to move at the end of each season to any Member Association at the conclusion of the USA Hockey National Championship. All players are required to fulfill all financial obligations with their current Association. Any Member Association may impose a Player Movement Restriction against a player who has not fulfilled their financial obligation. Written notification to the AAHA Office is required when placing a player on the Restricted List.
2. There will be no “in-season” player movement. “In-season” Player Movement is defined as player who has already committed in writing, to play for one AAHA Member Team and is seeking a release to play for a different AAHA member within the same season. Exception – Tier II players who receive a release from the Association they are registered with.
3. Once a player has made his/her commitment to an AAHA Member Association, for the purposes of playing on an AAHA Team; the player will be deemed ineligible to participate with any other AAHA Member Association for that season.
4. AAHA Member Associations may issue a written release “in-season” to any player for purposes of indicating that the player (and Parents) has met all financial obligations with the AAHA Member Association. However, this release does not authorize the player to participate with other AAHA Members for the duration of that season.
5. For the purposes of this policy, the “season” will commence at the start of the AAHA Member Association’s initial tryout period and run through the conclusion of the following USA Hockey National Championship.
6. The AAHA Vice President of Protests, Suspensions and Appeals is empowered to review extenuating circumstances, such as family relocation, as a possible reason to exempt a player from this policy.
7. During the season, the player agrees to play ice hockey exclusively for the Association, with the exception that the player may participate in playing hockey for his scholastic, non-tournament teams, recognized house league, any Affiliate sponsored teams and girls playing on boys teams in another Association

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the AAHA Player Movement Policy is to:

- To allow free movement of players after the USA Hockey National Championships of each season.
- To prevent tampering or recruitment of players after the tryout/signing period.
- To discourage “team shopping” after the tryout period.
- Insure competitive parity.

EXPLANATION:

It is understood that once the Parent (or legal guardian) signs a player agreement with an AAHA Member Association, for the purposes of their son/daughter playing for an AAHA Team, said player’s eligibility is restricted to that Member Association and Team from the date of the signed Playing Agreement and/or Contract and the conclusion of the USA Hockey National Championship. This AAHA policy is considered the “One-season / One team” policy.

I, _____ the parent or legal guardian for _____, (THE PLAYER) playing

for the _____ (AAHA MEMBER ASSOCIATION), playing for the _____ season, have read the above Parental Notification Form and understand the AAHA Player Movement Policy as it pertains to THE PLAYER indicated above. Further the AAHA MEMBER ASSOCIATION and its representatives have satisfied any questions that I have related to the AAHA PLAYER MOVEMENT POLICY.

 Print Name (Parent / Guardian)

 Print Name Witness (Club Official)

 Signature Date

 Signature Date