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HOCKEY
ASSOCIATION
ILLINOIS, INC.**

\$4.00

2025-26 BY-LAWS, RULES & REGULATIONS



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AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ILLINOIS, INC.

*"Dedicated to the development of today's youth
thru Athletic and Academic excellence"*

August, 2025

Welcome to another exciting season of Hockey in Illinois!

Again this season the focus for AHAI is player safety, member conduct and information/communications with the AHAI membership. The AHAI website and e-newsletter hopes it meets the needs of you, the members, by continually providing timely and accurate information to all of AHAI's members. The website, SNAPSHOT (*electronic newsletter*), along with AHAI's social media sites (*Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube and Google+*) are the main sources of communications with AHAI members.

AHAI is the leader in the country in providing opportunities for everyone to participate in our sport, no matter their level of ability. AHAI provides extensive disabled programming in special hockey, blind hockey, sled hockey, deaf/hard of hearing hockey and Warrior hockey.

Again this season you will see officials calling aggressive penalty infractions. All officials have gone through educational seminars and have been instructed to call the aggressive, dangerous penalties. That being said, it is up to coaches to coach the dangerous penalties out of the players. Coaches that attend USA Hockey/AHAI Coaching Education Clinics have been instructed on the prevention of dangerous play. Last but not least, players need to take responsibility for their actions. Remember penalties are only called after they happen.

This season all USA Hockey coaches will be required to complete the SafeSport Education Program. This program rolled out by USA Hockey is designed to create awareness of player safety off the ice. These include without limitation — Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Screening, Locker Room Supervision and Hazing Policies, in addition to Codes of Conduct applicable to administrators, coaches, officials, parents, players and spectators.

AHAI has great support from the Blackhawk Alumni. The Blackhawk Alumni present scholarships each season to deserving High School players who represent dedication to education, community service, family as well as playing hockey.

To all AHAI members, players, coaches, officials, parents, spectators and administrators, be responsible for your actions. Have respect for others who just want to enjoy watching or playing this great game.

This season it's everyone's responsibility to help make it a safe and enjoyable experience. Enjoy another great season!

Kevin Bolger
President



One Goal – One Kid at a Time



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2025-26 AHAI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 1, 2025 thru August 31, 2026



2025-26

Note: These dates are **VERY PRELIMINARY** and should be used as a quick reference guide only until the final confirmations have been made. These dates and locations may be subject to change. Please refer to the AHA! website at www.ahai.org for the most current information.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| August 5 | AHAI Board of Directors Meeting |
| August 8 | AHAI Golf Outing @ Schaumburg Golf Club |
| August 15..... | Tier II Tryouts Begin |
| September 8..... | AHAI Board of Directors Meeting |
| September 9-13..... | USA Hockey Welcome Back Hockey Week |
| September 13..... | AHAI/USA Hockey Try Hockey For Free Day |
| October 6 | AHAI Board of Directors Meeting |
| October 17-19 | IIHF World Girls Hockey Weekend |
| November 3..... | AHAI Board of Directors Meeting |
| December 1 | AHAI Board of Directors Meeting |
| January 5 | AHAI Board of Directors Meeting |
| January 15-18..... | USA Hockey Winter Meeting - Nashville, TN |
| January 26 | AHAI High School Boys All Star Game @ West Meadows Ice Arena |
| February 1..... | Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame Induction Dinner @ Belvedere Banquets |
| February 1..... | AHAI State Elimination Playoffs Begin |
| February 2..... | AHAI Board of Directors Meeting |
| February 13-15 | Downstate High School State Tournament @ TBD |
| February 19-22 | Girls State Championships Round Robins @ Glenview Rink |
| February 19-22 | AHAI Tier I Playoffs @ Various Locations |
| February 22..... | AHAI High School Girls All Star Game @ Fifth Third |
| February 26 -March 1..... | Tier II State Championships Round Robins @ Various Sites |
| February 26 - March 9..... | AHAI High School Playdowns @ West Meadows |
| February 28 - March 3..... | Tier I & Girls Tier I & II Championship Series @ Mt. Prospect |
| March 2..... | AHAI Board of Directors Meeting |
| March 2-8..... | USA Hockey Hockey Week Across America |
| March 6 (<i>Tentative</i>) | High School Championships (<i>All Divisions</i>) @ All-State Arena |
| March 7..... | AHAI/USA Hockey Try Hockey For Free Day |
| March 7 - 8 "SUPER WEEKEND" — | Tier II Championship Series @ Mt. Prospect Rink |
| March 7-9..... | Boys Central District Tier I Championships @ Sun Prairie, WI |
| March 7-9..... | Girls Tier I & Tier II Central District Championships @ St. Peters, MO |
| March 23 (<i>Tentative</i>)..... | Blackhawk Alumni Scholarship Luncheon @ United Center |
| March 18-22..... | USAH National High School Championships @ Plymouth, MN |
| March 24 - 29, 2025 | USA Hockey Nationals at Various Locations |



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AHAI CALENDAR OF EVENTS
September 1, 2025 thru August 31, 2026
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April 6..... AHAI Board of Directors Meeting
April 10-12 USAH Girls Central District Festival Tryouts @ Chicago, IL
April 10-12 AHAI Boys Player Development Camp @ Mt. Prospect Rink
April 23-26 USA Warrior National Championships @ Coral Springs, FL

April 30 - May 3USA Sled Hockey National Championships @ Dallas, Texas

May 4 AHAI Board of Directors Meeting
May 8-10... USAH Boys Central District Festival Tryouts @ Arctic Ice, Orland Park, IL
May 30..... AHAI Annual Meeting@ Westin Chicago Northwest

June 3-6 USA Hockey Annual Congress in Denver, Colorado
June 13-18Girls Central District Camp @ Green Bay, WI
July 6 AHAI Board of Directors Meeting

August 3 AHAI Board of Directors Meeting
August 14.....AHAI Golf Outing @ Schaumburg Golf Club

*All Coaching Education Program Clinics (CEP) are Virtual
Go to www.usahockey.com for complete
CEP Clinic Schedules*

*All Officiating Seminars are Virtual
Go to www.usahockey.com
for complete information
or go to IHOA.com
for complete Officiating Schedules*



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The AHA! Story

The Amateur Hockey Association Illinois was founded as the governing body of Illinois amateur hockey in 1975. During that season, AHA! was recognized as a sanctioned affiliate of USA Hockey which was appointed by the United States Congress as the governing body of American Hockey.

Today, the AHA! is the fifth largest American amateur ice hockey association and is a dynamic force in the molding of amateur hockey in America.

AHA! consists of over 2700 member teams of all sizes and shapes. There are boys' and girls' teams. There are pre-mite teams (*for the 5 and 6 year olds*), Tier III Youth "B" & House "C" league youth teams, all-star youth travel teams, high school teams, girl's/women's teams, adult teams, and Junior Tier I and II, ACHA Collegiate and NCAA Collegiate teams for the top contenders in Illinois.

Since its inception in 1975, AHA! has made great strides in the development of American amateur hockey. It has provided leadership in revising game playing rules which has resulted in amateur hockey being one of the safest of all amateur sports; it has fielded numerous national championship teams; it has provided the opportunity for players to participate in the prestigious Junior Tier I or Tier II leagues, college hockey and even NHL hockey.

AHA! has sent over 5,100 young players to U.S. Olympic Training Camps, where players are evaluated as being potential members of future U.S. Olympic and U.S.A. National hockey teams.

AHA! is operated under a strict set of By-Laws which are established by member teams. These By-Laws and the Association Rules and Regulations are carried out by the Board of Directors which are elected by the membership of the Association.

On the national basis, AHA! is a part of USA Hockey's Central District which includes Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. As a combine of associations, the Central District of USA Hockey is the largest provider of American ice hockey talent.

Since its beginning however, AHA! has become established as one of the outstanding amateur hockey programs in America. It provides programs and leadership opportunities for players, coaches, managers, teams and hockey associations throughout Illinois. It has established the Illinois amateur hockey scene as one of the finest amateur athletic programs in America. AHA! is dedicated to the development of today's youth through Athletic and Academic excellence.

As another hockey season begins, the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois will continue this tradition.

USA Hockey / AHAI Membership Benefits . . .

Amateur hockey teams which register with AHAI/USA Hockey support the development of the sport from the recreational level through international competition, as well as having their teams benefit from services provided by USA Hockey and AHAI.

Some of the many services provided include:

AHAI governs ice hockey in Illinois for compliance with rules of fair play and conduct.

Providing a Safe Environment

- AHAI's rules of the sport provide for the safest environment for your children
- Advancement of hockey equipment – safest of all court or turf sports
- Screening for criminal backgrounds of all our coaches, officials and volunteers
- AHAI's Safe Sport program, initiated by the International Olympic Committee, is the most advanced off the ice safety program of any youth sport in the country
- AHAI and Illinois Hockey Officials Association provide insurance and on ice safety through certification and screening of officials and the enforcement of rules to protect players. This includes intensive training programs to provide the best officiating at all levels using "mentoring", direct "supervision" and "evaluation" as teaching methods.

Providing a learning environment commensurate with proficiency

- The backbone of learning and development is American Development Model (*ADM*) is a factual science based Long term Athlete Development methodology, now being adopted by Hockey Canada and other sports alike.
- Every hockey coach must be certified to teach your children through the most advanced coaching education program (*CEP*) of any sport in the United States.
- The CEP has 5 distinct levels for coaches and age appropriate modules for all ages, Mite through Midget

AHAI Illinois State Championships

- Conducted at all levels Mite through Midget Major: AAA, and 3 levels of Travel hockey
- High School State Championships – conducted in 5 divisions: Pure, Combined, Girls, Junior Varsity and Combined Junior Varsity Divisions.
- Girls state championships up through U-19
- State, District, and National Championships are conducted

Opportunity for Advancement

- Player Development/Identification Camps: Boys Bantam Camp, 15 Camp, 16 Camp and 17 Camp; Girls 15 Camp, U18 Camp and U-18 Select camp; as well as District and National Camps.
- Assist with the Chicago Blackhawks Alumni Association annual scholarship program
- National Development Festivals are offered for boys and girls who may be sent onto international competition representing the United States.

Other Benefits

- To stimulate growth of our sport, AHAI provides One Goal hockey equipment; Minor Hawks learn to play lesson programs; and financing for cross-ice and half-ice equipment.
- Hat Trick, Play Maker and Shut Out patches are available free of charge every year.
- AHAI and USA Hockey Guides (*Rules & Regulations*) are sent to each hockey club in Illinois.
- AHAI provides hockey is for "everyBODY", including our special needs Tomahawk program, the Hornet's Sled program for kids with physical disabilities, Blind hockey for persons with vision impairment, Warrior hockey for our injured veterans and "Hockey is for Everyone" program for kids who are economically disadvantaged.
- AHAI's Committees are focused on Tier I, Tier II, Tier III, Girls and High School, as well as preserving discipline on and off the ice, through Suspension and Review Committee and the Rules and Ethics Committee.



AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ILLINOIS, INC.

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AHAI POLICIES/GUIDELINES

AHAI has determined that it is not in the best interest of ice hockey and is detrimental to hockey and is therefore prohibited to do any of the following while participating in or affecting the sport of amateur hockey:

- Discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, or socioeconomic status.
- Consume, use, sale, give or abuse mood altering substances, other than in accordance with a Doctor's prescription,

For purposes of this policy, the words "mood altering substances" shall include the following:

1. Intoxicating beverages, including, but not limited to, alcohol.
 2. Non-prescription or prescribed controlled substances.
 3. Prescription or prescribed controlled substances when used to an excess in violation of doctors orders, or to produce the state of intoxication in the participant.
- Abuse, (including but not limited to *etÚic, racial, sexual, physical or mental*) another person or player.

CONSUMPTION / USE ABUSE OF MOOD ALTERING SUBSTANCES

It is the considered judgment of the Board of Directors of AHAI that consumption/ use/abuse of mood altering substances is detrimental to a healthy state of mind, body, and spirit in an athletic participant. This is especially true for those participants aspiring to develop their talents in the furtherance of their playing, or coaching, or officiating careers in the sport of ice hockey.

Therefore, with the best interests of its participants in mind, AHAI prohibits use by any participant of mood altering substances during active participation in its programs, and, upon discovery of any violation, shall take action to remove the participant from participation in its programs for a reasonable period of time. Further, AHAI hereby recommends that each and all of its teams, associations, programs, and affiliates adopt reasonable regulations concerning the prohibition of consumption/use/abuse of mood altering substances, and a reasonable enforcement procedure thereafter, in order to maintain the health of our athlete participants, the integrity of our programs, and the eligibility of all of our competitors for national, international, and collegiate competition.

Further, a participant shall include players, coaches, referees, and all persons involved in the conduct of an ice hockey contest.

USA Hockey and AHAI, through their Safety and Protective Equipment Committees, will develop a program of drug abuse awareness for players of all ages through 20 years, their parents and/or guardians and coaches of those players.



AHAI COACHING CODE OF ETHICS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This USA Coaching Ethics Code (“Code”) intends to provide standards of ethical conduct for coaches involved with USA Hockey and its member organizations. It provides General Principles and Ethical Standards which cover many situations encountered by coaches, with its principle goals the welfare and protection of participants with whom coaches work. Coaches will respect and protect human and civil rights and not knowingly participate in or condone unfair discriminatory practices.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Competence

Coaches will maintain a standard of excellence with regard to education and information related to coaching and make an on-going effort to maintain competence in the skills they use.

Integrity

Coaches will exercise integrity in the practice of coaching and be honest, fair and respectful of others.

Professional Responsibility

Coaches will uphold professional standards, clarify professional roles and obligations, accept appropriate responsibility for behavior and adapt methods to the needs of participants.

Respect for Participants

Coaches will respect the fundamental rights, welfare, dignity, values, opinions and worth of all participants and will be aware of cultural and individual differences including those due to age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language and socio-economic status.

Concern for Participants

Coaches will be sensitive to different roles and responsibilities of all participants and not exploit or mislead them.

Responsible Coaching

Coaches will be aware of ethical responsibilities to society and the community in which they work and live as well as comply with the law and encourage the development of policies which serve the interest of the sport and USA Hockey.

ETHICAL STANDARDS

Applicability of the Ethics Code

Although many aspects of personal behavior and private activities may seem far removed from the official duties of coaching, Coaches will be sensitive to their positions as role models for participants and will consistently obey the standards of the Code.

Discrimination

Coaches will not engage in or condone discrimination based upon age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language, socioeconomic status or any other basis prescribed by law.

Sexual Harassment

Coaches will not engage in sexual harassment which includes but is not necessarily limited to sexual solicitation, unwelcome physical advances and verbal or non-verbal conduct. Coaches will not deny any participants the right to participate in any activity based upon their having made or their being the subject of a sexual harassment claim.

Hazing / Bullying

Coaches will not engage in or condone behavior which is harassing, harmful or demeaning to participants.

Personal Problems and Conflicts

Coaches will recognize a personal problem may harm participants. Coaches have an obligation to take reasonable steps to prevent impaired performance by recognizing a personal problem and seeking assistance for it.

Avoiding Harm

Coaches will take reasonable steps to avoid harm being caused to participants whether it be physical, verbal or through electronic / social media.

Misuse of Influence

Coaches will guard against the misuse of influence and understand any action or judgment may have an effect on participants.

Outside Relationships

Coaches will refrain from entering into personal, professional, financial or other relationships with anyone if such a relationship may impair objectivity, interfere with properly performing coaching functions or directly or indirectly exploit or harm participants. Coaches will refrain from taking on obligations if a pre-existing relationship may create a conflict of interest.

Exploitation

Coaches will not exploit or have a sexual or intimate relationship with participants.

Statements

Coaches will not make a statement which is deceptive, false, fraudulent or misleading.

Communication with Participants

To avoid any misunderstanding with participants, Coaches will discuss the nature and course of training with them and answer any questions they may have.

Relationship Involving Coaches, Participants and Parents

Coaches will clarify the role of each party and any service provided relative to a relationship with participants and parents.

Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco

Coaches will refrain from using and discourage the availability or use of alcohol, tobacco or performance enhancing or recreational drugs in conjunction with , including travelling to or from, any USA Hockey competition, training or practice session and prohibit the use of alcohol, tobacco or performance enhancing or recreational drugs by participants.

Gambling

Coaches will refrain from and prohibit gambling of any kind in conjunction with, including travelling to or from, any USA Hockey competition, training or practice session.

Pornography

Coaches will refrain from and prohibit the use of pornographic or sexually explicit material in conjunction with any USA Hockey competition, including travel to or from any USA Hockey competition, training or practice session.

Recruiting

Coaches will not recruit a participant who is already a member of another USA Hockey team. Direct contact by a coach or his / her staff or indirect contact through an agent or parent during the playing season with a participant who is a member of another USA Hockey team is considered tampering and is prohibited.

Evaluating Participants

Coaches will evaluate participants on actual ability, attitude and performance and in a manner consistent with the Code.

RESOLVING ISSUES**Familiarity with Code**

Coaches will be familiar with the Code. Lack of awareness or misunderstanding of general principles or ethical standards included in the Code will not excuse violations of the Code.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

All AHAI Board of Directors and committee members who may participate in decisions where a personal gain may be possible, are required to sign a "Conflict of Interest" Statement.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY

USA Hockey and AHAI shall provide an equal opportunity to amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in amateur athletic competition, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin or socioeconomic status, and with fair notice and opportunity for a hearing to any amateur athlete, coach, manager, administrator, or official before declaring such individual ineligible to participate in USA Hockey programs or competition.

SLED HOCKEY POLICY

It is AHAI Policy that sled hockey players (*playing on sleds*) shall not compete in games with players who are playing hockey standing up (*playing on skates*).

WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

A whistleblower as defined by this policy is an employee, volunteer, or board member of the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois, Inc. (AHAI) who reports an activity that he or she considers to be illegal or dishonest to one or more of the parties specified in this Policy. The whistleblower is not responsible for investigating the activity or for determining fault or corrective measures; appropriate AHAI officials are charged with these responsibilities.

Examples of illegal or dishonest activities are violations of federal, state or local laws; billing for services not preformed or for goods not delivered; and other fraudulent financial reporting.

If an AHAI employee or AHAI volunteer has knowledge of or a concern of illegal or dishonest fraudulent activity, the AHAI employee or AHAI volunteer is to contact the Treasurer of the AHAI Board or the President of the AHAI Board who is responsible for investigation and coordinating corrective action. The AHAI employee or AHAI volunteer must exercise sound judgment to avoid baseline allegation. An AHAI employee or AHAI volunteer who intentionally files a false report of wrongdoing will be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

Whistleblower protections are to cover two important areas – confidentiality and against retaliation. Insofar as possible, the confidentiality of the whistleblower will be maintained. However, identity may have to be disclosed to conduct a thorough investigation, to comply with the law and to provide accused individuals their legal rights of defense. AHAI will not retaliate against a whistleblower. This includes, but is not limited to, protection from retaliation in the form of an adverse employment action such as termination, compensation decreases, or poor work assignments and threats of physical harm. Any whistleblower who believes he or she is being retaliated against must contact the AHAI Board Treasurer or the AHAI Board President immediately. The right of the whistleblower for protection against retaliation does not include immunity for any personal wrongdoing that is alleged and investigated.

AHAI employees or AHAI volunteers with any questions regarding this policy should contact the President of the AHAI Board.



RECORD RETENTION POLICY



POLICY: The Amateur Hockey Association Illinois, Inc. (AHA) will retain records in an orderly fashion for time periods that comply with legal and government requirements.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

1.1 Record Retention Guidelines:

The following holding periods will be utilized for the maintenance of the documents listed below.

Accounting Records

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Accounts Payable | 7 years |
| Accounts Receivable | 7 years |
| Audit Reports | Permanent |
| Chart of Accounts | Permanent |
| Depreciation Schedules | Permanent |
| Expense Reports | 7 years |
| Financial Statements (<i>annual</i>) | Permanent |
| Fixed asset purchases | Permanent |
| General Ledger and General Journals | Permanent |
| Loan payment schedules | 7 years |
| Purchase orders & correspondence | 7 years |
| Purchase requisitions | 2 years |
| Tax Returns and Working Papers | Permanent |
| Trial Balances (<i>annual</i>) | Permanent |

Bank Records

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Bank Reconciliations | 3 years |
| Bank Statements | 7 years |
| Canceled checks | 7 years |
| Checks for capital purchase & important contracts | Permanent |
| Electronic payment records | 7 years |
| Petty Cash vouchers | 3 years |

Corporate Records

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Board minutes | Permanent |
| Bylaws, charter, articles of incorporation | Permanent |
| Business Licenses | Permanent |
| Contracts – major | Permanent |
| Legal & tax correspondence | Permanent |
| Contracts – minor | Life + 4 yrs |
| Insurance policies, accident, claims | Life + 4 yrs |

Employee Records

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Benefit Plans | Permanent |
| Employee files (<i>terminated</i>) | 10 years |
| Employee applications | 1 year |
| Employment taxes | 7 years |
| Payroll records | 7 years |
| Leasehold Improvements | Permanent |
| Lease Payment records | Life + 4 yrs |



UNREGISTERED ORGANIZATIONS, EVENTS, TEAMS AND OFFICIATING POLICY



The Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois, Inc. (AHAII) is authorized by USA Hockey (USAH) as the sole governing body for all USA Hockey registered players, teams, coaches and officials in Illinois. AHAII is authorized to act as it deems fit in the best interests of its members to promote the sport of ice hockey within the bylaws and rules and regulations as promulgated by USAH.

AHAII does not support any AHAII member or member association's participation in any association or organization not registered with USAH and AHAII (*Unregistered Organization*), unregistered teams (*Unregistered Teams*) or any non USAH or AHAII sanctioned event (*Non Sanctioned Event*). Unregistered Organizations and Non Sanctioned Events do not provide USAH governance or insurance benefits to any participant. The following guidelines shall outline AHAII's policy.

Organizations / Tournaments

- AHAII Member Organizations may not host any Unregistered Teams or Non Sanctioned Events. Any official assigned to any member association or organization or tournament games must be a properly registered USAH official.
- AHAII Member Teams may only participate in games hosted by properly registered USAH organizations, tournaments or teams.
- Any member organization who knowingly allows a member team to participate in any unregistered event shall not be eligible to participate in the AHAII State Tournament.
- Any member team who participates in any unregistered event shall not be eligible to participate in the AHAII State Tournament.
- Member Organization officiating scheduler's must be certified by AHAII. Schedulers who circumvent this policy shall lose AHAII certification and shall be replaced by their member organization.

Officials

- Youth games include all age classifications except USAH Adult and USAH Women.
- Any USA Hockey official wearing the USA Hockey officials crest in a non-sanctioned event may lose their USA Hockey officials status and certification.
- All officials are independent contractors and the assigning process is not a guarantee of any assignment(s).
- Any AHAII officiating scheduler who assigns an Official to any unregistered youth team game shall be subject to a hearing with the AHAII Rules & Ethics Committee.



AHAI SUSPENSION REVIEW GUIDELINES



*** PLAYER/COACHES LEAVING THE PLAYER'S AREA/BENCH DURING GAME:**

The ASRC guideline on this issue is that "No player or coach shall leave the player's area or bench to engage or join in any on-ice altercation. The coach of the team shall be responsible for the players." Accordingly, the ASRC will review any incident brought to its attention where a player or coach has left the player area or bench to engage or join in any on-ice altercation. After investigation and hearing, the ASRC may issue suspensions in addition to any penalty assessed by the Referees. Suspensions for violations of the guidelines may exceed five (5) or more games. The Coach of any offending team may also receive a suspension of five (5) or more games.

*** CONTACT WITH ANY GAME OFFICIAL (*Including Minor Officials*):** In addition to reviewing Match penalties assessed by a referee under USA Hockey Rule 603b, the ASRC guideline on this issue is that "No player or coach shall have any contact with any game official." USA Hockey Guidelines suggest a one (1) year suspension for any intentional contact with a game official. Accordingly, after investigation and hearing, the ASRC shall be stringently using the USA Hockey Guidelines as a basis for imposition of all suspensions for violations of these rules.

*** USA HOCKEY RULE 410 (*Supplementary Discipline*):**

The ASRC guidelines for review of an incident under USA Hockey Rule 410: Supplementary Discipline will include, but not be limited to, or require, all of the following items to occur:

- (a) The incident results in significant injury or potential injury to a player;
- (b) The incident occurs outside of the "normal play" of the game; and,
- (c) The President of a Registered Hockey League, Organization or Club makes a written request (*within 14 days after the date of the incident*) to the Chairperson of the ASRC for further investigation of the incident based upon circumstances warranting further review. The written request must include a factual recitation of the specific events and reasons supporting further review along with a copy of the Official Game Scoresheet and names, addresses and telephone numbers of all witnesses.
- (d) Notwithstanding the time limitations set forth in (c) above, the ASRC shall have the ability, in its sole discretion, to investigate and review any incident which meets criteria (a) and (b) above.

Notification of all AHAI Suspension Review Committee hearings will be made in writing to the President or other Head Team Official as soon as the exact date is set and it shall be his or her responsibility to inform the penalized player of all pertinent information.



USA HOCKEY, INC

Points of Emphasis

2025 Through 2029 Seasons



The goal of USA Hockey is to promote a safe and positive playing environment for all participants while continuing to focus on skill development and enjoyment of the sport. All officials, coaches, players, parents, spectators and volunteers are encouraged to observe these

Fair Play and Respect

Fair play and respect are the backbone of any successful amateur sports program. In order for a positive environment to be created, it is imperative that all participants and spectators have respect for all players, coaches, officials, administrators, spectators and the sport of hockey. Hockey is a game demanding high levels of concentration and skill. Taunting or unsportsmanlike conduct directed at opponents or officials will not be tolerated.

USA Hockey does not tolerate any abusive behavior, including racial and other derogatory slurs directed at players, coaches and officials. All participants are reminded that any language that is hateful or discriminatory in nature will be penalized with an automatic match penalty.

Abuse of officials is a continuing problem at all levels of play, and as a result the retention of officials in all youth sports has become a significant issue that affects the quality and number of available officials. USA Hockey is committed to taking a leadership role in this area and has in place a Zero Tolerance Policy towards unsportsmanlike behavior. Officials are required to strictly enforce all actions that are deemed to be abusive in nature in an effort to change the culture of what is deemed to be acceptable behavior when it comes to respect for officials.

Player Safety

Intimidation tactics have no place in ice hockey. These tactics include any contact to the head of the opponent, checking from behind and late body checks to an opponent who is no longer in control of the puck. Officials are instructed to enforce these rules to a high standard and assess the appropriate penalty when these actions occur. In addition, officials are expected to strictly enforce any avoidable contact occurring after the whistle – including during scrum situations around the goal.

In Competitive Contact categories, legal competitive contact shall be allowed and players allowed to compete using proper body position skills. However, any deliberate body checks shall be penalized accordingly. If a body check is delivered for the purpose of intimidation, punishment or to a vulnerable or defenseless opponent, a major plus game misconduct penalty should be assessed to the offending player.

In Body Checking categories, the primary focus of the check shall be to gain possession of the puck and officials should strictly penalize any illegal actions such as boarding, charging, cross checking, and a late body check to a player who is no longer in control of the puck.

The responsibility is on the player delivering the check to avoid forceful contact (*minimize impact*) to a vulnerable or defenseless player who is no longer in control of the puck.

Proper body checking technique starts with stick on puck, therefore the stick blade of the player delivering the check must be below the knees.

Players are encouraged to develop a deep sense of respect for all (*opponents and officials*) while endeavoring to enjoy the sport and improve their playing ability. Each player is expected to use proper skill and technique when engaging in any type of physical contact.

Coaches are responsible for instructing their players to play the sport in a safe and sportsmanlike manner. To that end, coaches are directed to teach only those skills necessary to allow for proper and legal competitive contact.

Officials should be diligent and confident when officiating the sport. Each official should enforce all playing rules fairly and respectfully with the safety of the players and the best interest of the game in mind.

Players must be held accountable for dangerous and illegal actions with the proper enforcement of the rules at all times.

Spectators are encouraged to support their teams while showing respect for all players, coaches, officials and other spectators.

Standard of Play and Rule Emphasis

USA Hockey will continue to observe the Standard of Play and Rule Emphasis for restraining fouls adopted in June 2006. The goal is to reduce restraining infractions in the game, allowing the skill levels of the participants to determine the outcome of a game and to increase participant enjoyment.

USA Hockey will also continue to emphasize the Body Checking Standard of Play and Rule Emphasis adopted in 2011 as part of its effort to create a safe environment for all participants. The goal is to enhance player skill development by eliminating intimidating infractions designed to punish the opponent. Proper enforcement of this standard will improve the proper skill of legal body checking or legal competitive contact at all levels of play.

Conclusion

Hockey should be enjoyed by all participants. To that end, all participants and spectators should observe a level of personal behavior that demonstrates respect for all. USA Hockey will continue to increase awareness among all officials and coaches with regard to these Points of Emphasis and the Standard of Play and Rule Enforcement.

Declaration of Player Safety, Fair Play & Respect

USA Hockey is committed to creating a safe and fair environment for all participants. Respect for the game, opponents, coaches and officials is a critical part of the environment that is created and it covers several different aspects of sportsmanship and fair play. This initiative will encourage a change in culture as to what is considered to be acceptable/unacceptable body checking and competitive contact at all levels of play.

The following is not designed to replace our current rules/definitions, but instead is intended to clarify and update the existing rules/ definitions to emphasize the key points to more clearly outline what is deemed acceptable and unacceptable behavior. Video examples can be found online at usahockey.com/declaration. Please review the materials thoroughly so you can play a positive role in making our game safer.

Competitive Contact

Competitive Contact – competitive contact is body contact between two or more skaters who are in the immediate vicinity of the puck and who are in the normal process of playing the puck. These skaters are reasonably allowed to lean into each other provided possession of the puck remains the sole object of the contact.

Competitive contact is encouraged in all age classifications of play within USA Hockey and provides the foundation for the skills necessary to advance to Body Checking classifications. Acceptable examples of competitive contact include:

Angling is a legal defensive skill used to direct/control the puck carrier to an area that closes the gap and creates an opening that is too small for the puck carrier.

Physical Engagement is when two players who are in pursuit of the puck are allowed to reasonably lean into each other provided that possession of the puck remains the sole objective of the two players.

Collisions occur when players are allowed to maintain their established position on the ice. A player shall not be penalized if the intention is to play the puck and in so doing causes a collision with an opponent. No player is required to move out of the way of an oncoming player to avoid an impact.

Body Checking

A body check represents intentional physical contact, from the front, diagonally from the front or straight from the side, by a skater to an opponent who is in control of the puck. The opposing player's objective is to gain possession of the puck with a legal body check and NOT to punish or intimidate an opponent.

Legitimate body checking must be done only with the trunk of the body (hips and shoulders) and must be above the opponent's knees and at or below the opponent's shoulders. The use of the **hands, forearm, stick or elbow** in delivering a body check is unacceptable and not within the guidelines of a legal body check.

The primary focus of a body check is to gain possession of the puck and proper body checking technique starts with **stick on puck**, therefore the stick blade of the player delivering the check must be below the knees.

USA Hockey reminds coaches and players that these requirements are the responsibility of the player delivering the body check. Under no circumstance is it acceptable to deliver a body check to a **vulnerable or defenseless** opponent, an opponent who is not in control of the puck or to use the hands, stick, forearm or elbow in delivering a check to an opponent.

Vulnerable or Defenseless – a skater is considered to be in a vulnerable or defenseless position when unaware, unprepared, or unsuspecting of an impending hit.

Infractions that occur as a result of a body check delivered to a vulnerable or defenseless player must be penalized under the boarding, charging, checking from behind, head contact or roughing rules. When done in a dangerous, careless or reckless (*unacceptable*) manner where the player delivering the check has made no effort to play the puck, the **major plus game misconduct or match penalty** provisions of these rules must be assessed.

When two or more players are **physically engaged** for control of the puck along the boards, they are considered to be **vulnerable or defenseless**. Any body check delivered by a skater to an opponent who is **physically engaged** with another skater is considered dangerous, careless or reckless (*unacceptable*) and must be penalized accordingly.

Late Avoidable Body Check – any avoidable check delivered to a player who is no longer in control of the puck. An avoidable check is when the player delivering the

check has an opportunity to avoid contact or minimize contact, once it is realized the opponent no longer has control of the puck.

The concept of “finishing the check” is an unacceptable action as it is one that is meant to intimidate or punish the opponent with no intent to gain possession of the puck. The responsibility is on the player delivering the check to avoid forceful contact (*minimize impact*) to a **vulnerable or defenseless** player who is no longer in control of the puck.

COMPETITIVE CONTACT CATEGORY

Non-check hockey does not mean no contact and the Competitive Contact Category game can be very physical. **USA Hockey strongly encourages legal competitive contact to occur in all age classifications as part of the skill progression that teaches legal body checking.**

When determining whether a body check has occurred, the official must focus on whether the player is attempting to play the puck and whether there is any overt hip, shoulder or forearm action used to initiate contact and separate the opponent from the puck.

Legal **competitive contact** occurs when players are focused on gaining possession of the puck and are simply maintaining legally established body position. This most often occurs when two players are physically engaged in front of the goal or along the boards.

Legal **competitive contact** also commonly occurs when a player has established an angle on the opponent and closes the gap to create an opening that is too small for the puck carrier. Additional acceptable forms of competitive contact include:

- A skater is entitled to the ice they occupy so long as they maintain their skating speed and body position between an opponent and the loose puck.
- A skater is entitled to stand their ground and is not required to move if an opponent wishes to skate through that area of the ice.
- A skater may block an opponent so long as they are in front of the opponent and moving in the same direction.
- A skater can use their body position while maintaining their skating lane, to force an opponent to take a less direct route to the puck, so long as they do not use a hand or arm to hold or block the opponent.

BODY CHECKING CATEGORY

It is USA Hockey’s intent to create a safe environment for players to be able to develop their skills – including body checking in age appropriate classifications – while also being able to physically compete within the rules.

A player delivering a check to a vulnerable or defenseless player, who is not in control of the puck, will be assessed a penalty for roughing. Officials are to pay particular attention to these examples when applying this rule. These are intended as a guide and include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A player who is dangerous, careless or reckless (*unacceptable*) in delivering a check.

- A player who anticipates an opponent gaining possession or control of the puck but who makes contact with the opponent before possession or control occurs.
- A player who delivers a late avoidable check to an opponent who has released a shot or pass and is no longer in control of the puck.
- The use of the hands, forearm, stick or elbow in delivering a body check OR making contact with the opponent after the whistle. If contact is made above the shoulders, this action must be penalized as head contact. This includes any contact that occurs as part of a scrum situation after play has been stopped.
- Two skaters who use competitive contact for position as they skate to a loose puck are within their rights to do so, unless one uses their stick, arm, or skates to obstruct the opponent's ability to skate to the puck.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

A bench minor penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be assessed to any team whose players or team officials commit the following actions while on the players' bench:

- Banging the boards with a stick or other object, including skates or arms, after a body check regardless as to whether the check is being penalized. It is deemed to be unsportsmanlike conduct and should be penalized when done as a means of escalating dangerous and/or unnecessary physical play where there is no intent to legally gain possession of the puck.

Standard of Play and Rule Emphasis – Body Checking

Through the standard of rules enforcement, our game will continue to allow the opportunity for improved skill development and a more positive hockey environment for all participants. This initiative will result in greater emphasis on skating, puck possession and the proper use of the body to establish position and legally gain a competitive advantage.

The goal of the enforcement standard is to create an environment that enhances player skill development by reducing intimidating infractions designed to punish the opponent. This standard is designed to improve the proper skill of legal body checking or competitive contact at all levels of play and will not remove the physical component from the game. A player using a body check or competitive contact/ body position (*competitive contact categories*) to gain a competitive advantage over the opponent should not be penalized as long as it is performed within the rules. The focus of the body check must be to gain possession of the puck.

The principles of this enforcement standard include the following:

- The purpose of a body check is to gain possession of the puck.
- Proper body checking technique starts with stick on puck, therefore the stick blade of the player delivering the check must be below the knees.
- Only the trunk (*hips to shoulders*) of the body shall be used to deliver a body check.
- The check must be delivered to the trunk (*hips to shoulders*) and directly from in front or the side of the opponent.

- Players who use their physical skills and/or anticipation and have a positional advantage shall not lose that advantage provided they physically engage with the opponent within the rules.
- Players will be held accountable for acts of an intimidating or dangerous nature.
- The onus is on the player delivering the check to avoid placing a vulnerable or defenseless opponent in danger of potential injury.

Enforcement Standard – These penalties are to be called with very strict enforcement.

BODY CHECKING (*Competitive Contact Categories*)

A player cannot deliver a body check to any player while participating in a competitive contact category. Examples include:

- Making intentional physical contact with an opponent with no effort to legally play the puck.
- Using overt hip, shoulder or forearm contact with the opponent to physically force them off the puck.
- Physically impeding the progress of the opponent with hips, shoulders or torso without establishing competitive contact and making no attempt to gain possession of the puck.

BOARDING

A player cannot commit any infraction, including body checking, for the purpose of intimidation or punishment that causes their opponent to go dangerously or excessively into the boards. Examples include:

- Accelerating through the check to a player who is in a vulnerable or defenseless position off of the boards resulting in the opponent going dangerously into the boards.
- Driving an opponent excessively into the boards with no intent to gain possession of the puck.
- Any other infraction (*tripping, cross-checking, charging etc.*) that causes the opponent to go dangerously and excessively into the boards.

CHARGING

A player cannot take more than two strides or travel an excessive distance to accelerate through a body check for the purpose of punishing the opponent. Examples include:

- Running or jumping into the opponent to deliver a check.
- Accelerating through a check for the purpose of punishing the opponent.
- Skating a great distance for the purpose of delivering a check with excessive force.

CHECKING FROM BEHIND

A player cannot deliver a body check to an opponent directly from behind, or diagonally from behind. The onus is on the player delivering the check to not hit from behind. Examples include:

- Body checking or pushing an opponent from behind directly into the boards or goal frame or in open ice.

CROSS-CHECKING

A player cannot use the shaft of the stick between the two hands to forcefully check an opponent with no portion of the stick blade on the ice. Examples include:

- When a player in front of the goal uses the shaft of the stick and extension of the arms to contact an opponent in a dangerous manner to create space.
- When a player uses the shaft of the stick and extension of the arms to contact an opponent in a dangerous manner who is protecting the puck along the boards.

HEAD CONTACT

A player cannot contact an opponent in the head, face or neck, including with the stick or any part of the player's body or equipment. The onus is on the player delivering the check, regardless as to size differential, to not make contact in the head/neck area of the opponent. Examples include:

- When a body check is delivered with any part of the body that makes direct contact with the head or neck area.
- Use of the forearm or hands to deliver a check to the head or neck area of the opponent.

KNEEING

A player cannot lead with or extend their knee outwards for the purpose of making contact, or attempting to do so, with the opponent. Examples include:

- Extending the leg or knee to make direct leg-on-leg contact with the opponent.
- Extending the leg or knee while executing an oncoming body check where the primary point of contact is the opponent's knee or leg.

ROUGHING

A player cannot use the hands, stick or extension of the arms to body check an opponent or deliver a late body check to a player who is not in control of the puck. Examples include:

- Intentionally physically engaging with an opponent who does not have possession or control of the puck or when there is no effort to gain possession of the puck.
- Delivering a late check to a player who has already relinquished control of the puck by a pass or shot. This is oftentimes referred to as "finishing" the check.
- Any avoidable contact after the whistle shall be penalized strictly, including scrum situations around the goal or along the boards. Officials are instructed to assess an additional penalty to those players acting as the aggressor or who instigates any contact after the whistle.

SUMMARY

All USA Hockey members must demonstrate awareness and support for the application, spirit and the respect of the rules in order for continued improvement in the game of hockey. At the same time, it is important to remember that:

- A player is entitled to use proper body position and competitive contact in all age classifications in order to gain a competitive advantage.
- Players are allowed to physically engage with an opponent using their strength and balance as long as their primary focus is to gain possession of the puck.
- In classification where body checking is allowed, the focus of the body check must be to gain possession of the puck.
- Proper body checking technique starts with stick on puck, therefore the stick blade of the player delivering the check must be below the knees.

STANDARD OF PLAY AND RULE EMPHASIS – RESTRAINING FOULS

Through the standard of rules enforcement, our game will continue to allow the opportunity for improved skill development and a more positive hockey environment for all participants. The mission of USA Hockey is clear, through this initiative a greater emphasis will be placed on skating, puck possession and proper use of the body to establish position and a competitive advantage.

The goal of the enforcement standard is to reduce restraining infractions in the game and not to remove legal body checking or competitive contact. A body check or using competitive contact/ body position (*competitive contact categories*) to gain a competitive advantage over the opponent should not be penalized as long as it is performed within the rules.

The principles of the continued enforcement standard include the following:

- The use of the stick will be limited to only playing the puck, and therefore, the stick blade should be below the knees when involved in any physical engagement.
- The stick will not be allowed to in any way impede a player's progress.
- The use of a free hand/arm will not be allowed to grab or impede a player's progress.
- Players who use their physical skills and/or anticipation and have a positional advantage shall not lose that advantage as a result of illegal acts by the opponent.
- Players will be held accountable for acts of an intimidating or dangerous nature.

Enforcement Standard – These penalties are to be called with very strict enforcement.

HOOKING

A player cannot use their stick against an opponent's body (*puck carrier or non-puck carrier*) to gain a positional advantage. Examples include:

- Using the stick to tug or pull on the body, arms or hands of the opponent which causes the space between the players to diminish.
- Placing the stick in front of the opponent's body and locking on – impeding the opponent's progress or causing a loss of balance.

- Placing the stick on the hand/arm that takes away the ability for the opponent to pass or shoot the puck with a normal amount of force.

TRIPPING

A player cannot use their stick on the legs or feet of an opponent in a manner that would cause a loss of balance or for them to trip or fall. Examples include:

- Placing the stick in front of the opponent's legs for the purpose of impeding progress, even if on the ice, with no effort to legally play the puck.
- Placing the stick between the legs of the opponent (*can opener/corkscrew*) that causes a loss of balance or impedes the progress of the opponent.

HOLDING

A player cannot wrap their arms around an opponent or use a free hand to clutch, grab or hold the stick, jersey or body on the opponent in a manner that impedes their progress. Examples include:

- Wrapping one or both arms around the opponent along the boards in a manner that pins them against the boards and prevents them from playing the puck or skating.
- Grabbing the opponent's body, stick or sweater with one or both hands.
- Using a free arm/hand to restrain or impede the opponent's progress.

INTERFERENCE

A player cannot use their body ("pick" or "block") to impede the progress of an opponent with no effort to play the puck, maintain normal foot speed or established skating lane. Examples include:

- Intentionally physically engaging with an opponent who does not have possession or control of the puck.
- Using the body to establish a "pick" or "block" that prevents an opponent from being able to chase a puck carrier.
- Reducing foot speed or changing an established skating lane for the purpose of impeding an opponent who is in pursuit of the puck.

SLASHING

The use of the stick will be limited to only playing the puck. Any stick contact, as a result of a slashing motion, to the hands/ arms or body of the opponent will be strictly penalized. In addition, hard slashes to the upper portion of the stick (*just below the hands*) of an opponent, with no attempt to legally play the puck, shall also be penalized.

SUMMARY

All USA Hockey members must demonstrate awareness and support for the application, spirit and the respect of the rules in order for continued improvement in the game of hockey. At the same time, it is important to remember that:

- Players are entitled to the ice they occupy as long as they are able to maintain their own foot speed and body position between opponent and puck.
- Players are allowed to physically engage with an opponent using their strength and balance as long as their primary focus is to gain possession of the puck.

BY-LAWS OF AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ILLINOIS, INC.

ARTICLE 1 NAME, AFFILIATION AND JURISDICTION

1.0 NAME - The name of this corporation is Amateur Hockey Association Illinois, Inc. (referred to hereinafter as "AHA").

1.1 AFFILIATION - USA Hockey has designated AHA as its "Affiliate Association" for the State of Illinois, pursuant to an Affiliate Agreement, and consistent with the requirements of the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act of 1978 (codified as amended at 36 U.S.C. §§220501 et seq.).

1.2 JURISDICTION - As authorized by USA Hockey, AHA shall have jurisdiction over all amateur hockey in the State of Illinois and shall sanction all league and tournament play in the State of Illinois. The board of directors of AHA (the "Board") is empowered to adopt rules and regulations (the "Rules and Regulations"), which set forth the rules, regulations, and policies of AHA.

1.3 DEFINITIONS - The term "amateur hockey" as referred to in these Bylaws, shall be understood to mean any and all phases of the game of amateur hockey, including but not limited to games, practices and tournaments. The term "participants" as used in connection with the term "amateur hockey" shall include those who compose the voting membership of AHA as defined in Section 4.0.

1.4 USA HOCKEY PREEMINENCE - AHA shall abide by and act in accord with the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Policies, Playing Rules, and decisions of the Board of Director of USA Hockey, as well as its Affiliate Agreement with USA Hockey (the "USA Hockey Documents"). The USA Hockey Documents and decisions of USA Hockey shall take precedence over and supersede all similar governing documents and/or decisions of AHA to the extent of any inconsistencies between them. AHA shall assist USA Hockey in the administration and enforcement of the provisions of the USA Hockey Documents, within and upon its members and/or within its jurisdiction.

ARTICLE 2 OFFICES

2.0 LOCATION - The principal office of AHA shall be in the State of Illinois. AHA may have such other offices within the State of Illinois, as the business of the corporation may require from time to time. AHA will continuously maintain in the State of Illinois a registered office, and a registered agent whose business office address is identical with such registered office.

ARTICLE 3 PURPOSES

3.0 To encourage and improve the standards and conduct of amateur hockey in the State of Illinois.

3.1 To encourage, assist and administer amateur hockey in the development and growth of community and regional leagues, associations, organizations, programs and teams.

3.2 To develop and encourage sportsmanship and playing proficiency by all participants in the sport of amateur hockey in the State of Illinois.

3.3 To encourage registration of all teams and players at all levels of play with USA Hockey.

3.4 To conduct any amateur hockey tournaments it deems appropriate, and to Authorize amateur hockey teams to enter and participate in such tournaments.

3.5 To communicate and cooperate with the USA Hockey Central District Association, and other State and Officials associations, so as to improve and promote the sport of amateur hockey both within and outside of the State of Illinois.

3.6 To arbitrate and resolve financial reciprocity disputes between member organizations, players or both.

3.7 To encourage and assist in the administration of discipline for amateur hockey within the State of Illinois.

3.8 To do any and all acts AHAI or USA Hockey deems necessary or desirable in the furtherance of the foregoing purposes and the sport of amateur hockey; provided, that AHAI's purposes shall be exclusively charitable and educational within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

3.9 AHAI and its Members shall be guided by these core values of USA Hockey:
Sportsmanship: Foremost of all values is to learn a sense of fair play. Become humble in victory, gracious in defeat. Foster friendship with teammates and opponents alike. **Respect for the Individual:** Treat all others as you expect to be treated. **Integrity:** Seek to foster honesty and fair play beyond mere strict interpretation of the rules and regulations of the game. **Pursuit of Excellence at the Individual, Team & Organizational Levels:** Each member of the organization, whether player, volunteer, or staff, should seek to perform each aspect of the game to the highest level of his or her ability. **Enjoyment:** It is important for the hockey experience to be fun, satisfying and rewarding for the participant. **Loyalty:** Aspire to teach loyalty to the ideals and fellow members of the sport of hockey. **Teamwork:** Value the strength of learning to work together. The use of teamwork is reinforced and rewarded by success in the hockey experience.

ARTICLE 4

MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBER MEETINGS

4.0 MEMBERSHIP - The term "Member" as used in these Bylaws shall mean an amateur hockey player on an amateur hockey team playing for an Affiliate Organization duly registered and fully admitted to AHAI pursuant to these Bylaws and the AHAI Rules and Regulations, and such other amateur hockey players as may be designated to be under the jurisdiction of AHAI as the Illinois State Affiliate of USA Hockey. The Members of AHAI shall be represented by and through the team for which they play (*the "AHAI Team"*) in the AHAI Affiliate Organization through which the Member is registered. Each Affiliate Organization shall be represented by and through that Affiliate Organization's authorized officer(s) or through such officer's authorized proxy.

4.1 ANNUAL MEETING - The annual meeting of the Members (*"Annual Meeting"*) shall be held each year, and whenever possible, prior to the USA Hockey annual meeting, but in no event later than June 30 of each year. The Annual Meeting shall be, for the purpose of electing directors to the AHAI Board and for the transaction of such other business as may come before Members at the Annual Meeting. Whenever possible, the Annual Meeting shall be held in-person. However, when exigent circumstances exist that make an in-person meeting unworkable, then in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors, the Annual Meeting may be held by a virtual meeting through existing technological means.

4.2 SPECIAL MEETINGS - Special Meetings of the Members (a "*Special Meeting*") may be called by the AHAI President or by a majority of the AHAI Board. In the discretion of a majority of the Board of Directors, a Special Meeting may be held by a virtual meeting through existing technological means.

4.3 PLACE OF MEETINGS - The AHAI President or the AHAI Board may designate any place within the State of Illinois as the place for any Annual Meeting or for any Special Meeting. In the event of a virtual meeting, this Section shall not apply.

4.4 NOTICE OF MEETINGS - Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the Annual Meeting, and in the case of a Special Meeting, the purpose for which such Special Meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than ten (10) nor more than forty (40) days before the date of the meeting, to each Affiliate Organization entitled to vote at such meeting. Notice may be provided by United States mail or electronic delivery. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the Affiliate Organization at its address as it appears on the records of AHAI, with postage thereon prepaid. If by electronic delivery, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when transmitted by the designated AHAI representative to the electronic delivery address provided by the Affiliate Organization to the AHAI Registrar through that Organization's most recent registration data.

Notice of any Special Meeting may be waived either by a writing signed by an officer of the Affiliate Organization (*on behalf of the Members of such Affiliate Organization*), or by an electronic communication sent by that officer to the AHAI Registrar, either before, during or after the meeting. Attendance of an authorized officer or authorized proxy of an Affiliate Organization at any meeting will constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where the authorized officer or proxy of an Affiliate Organization attends the meeting solely for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business.

4.5 QUORUM - No action may be taken at any Members Meeting in the absence of a quorum. Forty (40%) percent of the Affiliate Organization teams eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum at any Members Meeting; provided, that if less than 40 percent of the voting Affiliate Organization's teams are represented at a meeting, a majority of the Affiliate Organization's actually represented there may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

4.6 VOTING RIGHTS AND PROCESS - Each Affiliate Organization shall be entitled to one vote for each team registered with AHAI by that Organization for the immediately preceding "Regular Season" as defined by USA Hockey, with such votes to be cast upon each matter submitted to vote at a Members Meeting. Every Affiliate Organization's vote shall be cast by the representative of the Affiliate Organization listed on the official AHAI Registration Form utilized for that meeting, provided that this Affiliate Organization authorized representative shall be either: (a) the President of that Affiliate Organization; or (b) the "proxy", who shall be associated or affiliated with that Affiliate Organization and also designated in writing as that Organization's representative no later than the registration by that Affiliate Organization at the start of the meeting. In the event of a virtual meeting, to be valid the written proxy must be provided by e-mail to the AHAI Registrar. Except as set forth above, no proxy voting shall be permitted.

4.7 VOTING. The affirmative vote of the majority of the Affiliate Organization teams which cast a vote on any matter submitted to a vote shall constitute the passage and adoption of the matter, unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws.

4.8 VOTING DISPUTES - At any Members Meeting, any question or dispute relating to the validity or result of any vote shall be submitted at that meeting to the incumbent AHAI Board for a determination, and the decision of the majority of the Board present, provided a quorum of the Board is present, shall be binding on all parties.

4.9 PARTICIPATION - Affiliate Organizations may participate in a Members Meeting by means of an electronic media format approved by the Board, which may include but is not limited to conference telephone, video conference or interactive or other similar communication equipment, provided that all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other. Participation in a meeting in this manner shall constitute presence in person at the meeting. Every vote cast by an Affiliate Organization's authorized representative who participates in a meeting by electronic means shall have the same force and effect as if that authorized representative had been physically present at the meeting.

4.10 ACTION WITHOUT A MEETING - Any action required to be taken or which may be taken at a Members Meeting may be taken without a meeting if such a procedure is consented to in writing by a majority vote of the Members, voting through their Affiliate Organization pursuant to Section 4.6, or such larger number as required by the AHAI Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws. Such written consent must be evidenced by approval obtained through a written ballot distributed to every Affiliate Organization entitled to vote. Ballots may be distributed by mail, email or any other electronic means at the discretion of the AHAI President or the AHAI Board. The quorum requirements of Section 4.5 shall be applied as if such action had been taken at an actual meeting. Voting must remain open for at least five (5) days from the date the ballot is delivered. The ballot must set forth the action to be taken. The ballots and the outcome must be delivered to the Secretary of AHAI and filed in the corporate records.

4.11 ELECTION OF BOARD AT ANNUAL MEETING - Five (5) directors shall be elected annually at the Annual Meeting. Affiliate Organizations shall vote for up to five (5) individuals from the list of nominations submitted by the Nominating Committee under the Committee's procedures set forth in the Board's Rules & Regulations. The votes of the Affiliate Organizations shall be counted by members of the Nominating Committee and overseen by an AHAI officer. The top five (5) individuals garnering the most votes shall be elected as directors of the Board

ARTICLE 5 DIRECTORS

5.0 GENERAL POWERS - The business and affairs of AHAI shall be managed by the Board of Directors.

5.1 SPECIFIC POWERS - The Board, in its discretion and consistent with these Bylaws and/or the AHAI Rules and Regulations, shall in all matters act in the best interests of amateur hockey in the State of Illinois. The Board shall have the authority to make decisions, and to develop, implement and enforce rules, policies, procedures, incentives and penalties, that advance such interests.

5.2 EMERITI DIRECTORS - The Board shall have the authority to name, at its discretion, one or more Emeritus Directors (*collectively, "Emeriti"*) as an honorary designation in recognition of outstanding service to AHAI. Such Emeriti shall be non-voting members of the Board. Emeriti shall be eligible for appointment to all committees by the President, in his sole discretion. The Board by majority vote shall have the ability to remove any Emeriti at any time, for any reason. Emeriti shall otherwise hold that position for life.

5.3 NUMBER, TENURE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF DIRECTORS - There shall be fifteen (15) Directors on the Board. The Directors shall be elected by the Members in accordance with Article 4 of these Bylaws. Five (5) directors shall be elected annually. Each such elected director shall hold office for three (3) years and until their successors have been elected and qualified, or until their death, resignation or removal. Each director must be legally competent. Each Director must be a member in good standing of USA Hockey, and must be in complete compliance with all USA Hockey mandates then in effect.

5.3.1 In the event of a vacancy by death, resignation or removal of a Director, the AHAI President shall appoint a new director to fill the unexpired term of that Director.

5.3.2 In addition to the 15 Directors and any Emeriti, the following non-voting observational members shall be considered to be members of the Board: the immediate past president of AHAI, the Executive Director of AHAI, and all AHAI district representatives to USA Hockey.

5.4 REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS - A director may be removed during that director's term in office only through one of the following processes: by a two-thirds vote of the Members with the vote taken pursuant to Article 4 of these Bylaws, either at the Annual Members Meeting or at a Special Meeting called pursuant to these Bylaws or by a two-thirds vote of the voting Board of Directors. Any member subject to such a removal vote shall not be allowed to vote. Abstained votes shall not be counted in determining if two-thirds has been met.

5.5 BOARD MEETINGS - In the discretion of a majority of the Board of Directors, any Board Meeting may be held by a virtual meeting through existing technological means.

5.6 REGULAR MEETINGS - A regular meeting of the Board shall be held without other notice than this Bylaw, immediately after, and at the same place as, the Annual Meeting of the Members. Each year, the Board shall also meet once each month during the months of January through June, August through November, and if deemed necessary by the President or the Board, in December. The President or a majority of the Board may provide, by resolution, the time and place, for the holding of other Board meetings without notice other than such resolution.

5.7 SPECIAL MEETINGS - Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by a majority of the Board. The person or persons calling the special meeting shall fix the time and method for holding that special meeting.

5.8 NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETINGS - Notice of a special meeting shall be given by in writing by United States mail or electronic delivery delivered to each director at the mailing address or electronic delivery address provided by each director to AHAI from time to time. A director may waive notice of any meeting. The attendance of a director at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where such director attends the meeting solely for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business.

5.9 QUORUM - A majority of the number of directors then holding that position constitutes a quorum for transaction of business at a meeting of the Board. If less than a majority of such number of directors is present at a meeting, a majority of the directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

5.10 VOTING - The affirmative vote of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum exists shall be the act of the Board. The manner of how votes are cast on an issue presented for vote shall be determined by the President or by a majority of the Board. Unless the Board determines otherwise on any particular issue called to a vote, the manner of such voting by the directors shall be by either: (1) by secret written ballot, (2) by oral roll call, (3) by a show of hands, or (4) by oral "call out" of those in favor, those opposed, or those abstaining. All non honorary directors shall be entitled to vote on any issue called for a vote, including the person holding the office of President.

5.11 PARTICIPATION - Directors may participate in a meeting of the Board by means of a conference telephone, audio or video equipment or similar communication equipment whereby all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other, and participation in a meeting in this manner shall constitute presence in person at the meeting. Every vote cast by a director who participates in a meeting by electronic means shall have the same force and effect as if that director had been physically present at the meeting.

5.12 BOARD ACTION WITHOUT A MEETING - Any action which may be taken at a formal meeting of the Board may be taken without a formal meeting, but only if taking such action is consented to by an affirmative vote of no fewer than eight (8) of all of the voting members of the Board, being cast within 48 hours of submission of the question to the Board. In the absence of an affirmative vote of no fewer than eight (8) of all of the voting members of the Board, no action may be taken until the next regular Board meeting. Such consent may be obtained by electronic means. Such consent must be evidenced by ballot distributed to all voting directors. Such ballots may be distributed by mail, email or any other electronic means. The ballot seeking such consent must call for two votes on each issue so submitted: first, for consent to take such action without a formal meeting, and second for that director's vote on the issue presented. The votes submitted on the merits of the issue presented shall only be considered where the necessary number of votes to take action without a formal meeting have been obtained; otherwise, such votes on the merits of the issue shall be deemed null and void.

5.13 OTHER DUTIES - Appeals from decisions by any of the committees established pursuant to Article 7 of these Bylaws shall proceed pursuant to such Rules and Regulations as are adopted by the Board. To the extent feasible, the Board shall attempt to resolve any disputes within AHAI, among the Affiliate Organizations, and/or the Members.

5.14 LEGAL CONTROL GROUP - Unless otherwise determined by the Board as to a particular matter, all directors, including Emeriti and non-voting observational directors, shall at all times be deemed to be in the "Control Group" of AHAI's top level management, as that term is used by the Illinois courts in determining the scope of corporate attorney-client and work product privilege rights.

ARTICLE 6 OFFICERS

6.0 DESIGNATION - The officers of AHAI shall be a President, one or more Vice President(s), a Treasurer, a Secretary, an Executive Director, a Registrar, and such other officers as may be elected or appointed by the Board.

6.1 ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE - The officers of AHAI shall be elected by the Board at the board meeting held immediately after the Annual Meeting of the Members. If the election of officers shall not be held at that time, then the election of officers shall be held as soon thereafter as is possible. Vacancies may be filled by the Board at any board meeting. Each officer shall hold office until that officer's successor shall have been duly elected or until death or resignation; or until that officer shall have been removed in the manner hereinafter provided.

6.2 REMOVAL - Whenever, in the Board's sole judgment, the best interests of AHAI would be served thereby, an officer may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the entire number of board members then on the Board.

6.3 PRESIDENT - The President must be a Director at all times while holding that office. The President shall be the chief executive officer of AHAI and shall in general supervise and control all of the day-to-day business and affairs of AHAI on behalf of the Board. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Members and of the Board. The President shall serve as an ex-officio member on all committees. The President may sign any bonds, contracts, or other instruments which the Board has authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be required by law or has been expressly delegated by the Board or by these Bylaws to some other officer or agent of AHAI. The President in general shall perform all duties incident to the office of the President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board from time to time. In addition, the President or his/her designee(s) shall represent AHAI and the Members in meetings with other hockey associations and USA Hockey.

6.4 THE VICE-PRESIDENT(S) - Each Vice-President must be a Director at all times while holding that office. The Vice-President shall in general perform all the duties incident to the office(s) of the Vice-President and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the President or the Board. In the absence of the President or in the event of the President's inability or refusal to act, the Vice-President first in line in the following order shall perform the duties of the President: first, the Vice-President of Operations; second, the Vice President of Administration; third, Vice-President of Finance. When so acting, the Vice-President shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. In the event that the office of President has become vacant, the Board at its next regular meeting shall elect a person to serve the remaining term.

6.5 THE TREASURER - The Treasurer must be a Director at all times while holding that office. If required by the Board, the Treasurer shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of his/her duties in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Board shall determine. The Treasurer shall: (a) have charge and custody of and be responsible for funds and securities of AHAI; (b) receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to AHAI from any source whatsoever; (c) deposit all such moneys in the name of AHAI in such banks, trust companies and other insured depositories as shall be selected in accordance with these Bylaws; and (d) in general perform all the duties incident to the office of the Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or the Board.

6.6 THE SECRETARY - The Secretary must be a Director at all times while holding that office. The Secretary shall: (a) be custodian of the corporate records and of the seal of AHAI, and see that the seal of the corporation is affixed to all documents, the execution of which on behalf of the corporation under its seal is duly authorized in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws; (b) in general perform all duties incident to the Office of the Secretary; and (c) perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned him/her by the President or the Board.

6.7 THE REGISTRAR - The Registrar shall be chairperson of the registration committee and shall: (a) be responsible for the registration of teams, players, coaches, managers, tournament/travel permits as directed by the Board or by the Rules and Regulations; (b) keep records of all registrations and memberships; (c) keep a register of the post-office address of each Member; (c) "certify" eligible voting Member teams; (d) "certify" those Affiliate Organizations eligible for State Tournaments; (e) implement procedures to coordinate registration activities with USA Hockey; (f) in general perform all duties incident to the office of the Registrar and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned him/her by the President or the Board. Nothing in this Bylaw shall relieve any Affiliate Organization of the responsibility to submit a roster that is true and correct and complies with these Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations.

6.8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - The responsibilities of the Executive Director are to oversee the day-to-day operations, growth and well-being of the organization and of amateur hockey in Illinois. Duties include but are not limited to: Generating revenue via corporate sponsorships, marketing and branding of AHAI; establishing and overseeing programs; managing the overall communications plan of the organization; and any other duties as assigned by the AHAI Board of Directors through the AHAI President. The Executive Director shall: (a) keep the minutes of the Board meetings and of the Members Annual Meeting; and (b) see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by law.

6.9 LEGAL CONTROL GROUP - Unless otherwise determined by the Board as to a particular matter, all officers shall at all times be deemed to be in the "Control Group" of AHAI's top level management, as that term is used by the Illinois courts in determining the scope of corporate attorney-client and work product privilege rights.

ARTICLE 7 COMMITTEES

7.0 STANDING COMMITTEES - The President shall annually appoint the members and the chairperson of the following standing committees: Tournament, Suspension Review, Nominating, High School, Tier I, Tier II, Rules and Ethics, Girls Hockey, and Appeals Committees; provided, however, every person named as the chairperson of these standing committees named above must be a voting director on the Board. Any person serving on those committees who is not a chairperson need not be a director on the Board. The responsibilities of each standing committee shall be established by the Board in the Rules and Regulations.

7.1 GENERAL COMMITTEES - The President shall establish such other committees as are deemed necessary or appropriate to the efficient conduct of AHAI's affairs. The President shall appoint the members and the chairperson of such committees on an annual basis for so long as those committees are in operation. The chairperson of such committees need not be a member of the Board.

7.2 COMMITTEE MEETINGS - Any AHAI director has the right to attend any meeting of any AHAI committee. Unless otherwise determined by the AHAI President, Board, or Chairperson of the subject committee, all AHAI committee meetings shall be "open" meetings, at which attendance by an AHAI or Affiliate Organization director, officer, employee, agent, or Member is welcome. Notwithstanding that, any committee meeting may be deemed a "closed" meeting at which attendance is limited to the AHAI directors and the committee's own members, in the sole discretion of the AHAI President, Board, or Chairperson of the subject committee. The committee chairperson shall make a good faith effort to provide notice of every "open" committee meeting no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting, by reasonably available means.

ARTICLE 8
CONTRACTS, LOANS, CHECKS AND DEPOSITS

8.0 CONTRACTS - The Board may authorize any officer(s) or agent(s) to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name and on behalf of AHAI, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

8.1 LOANS - No loans shall be contracted on behalf of AHAI and no evidences of indebtedness shall be issued in its name unless authorized by a resolution of the Board. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

8.2 CHECKS, DRAFTS, ETC. - All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of AHAI, shall be signed by such officer(s) or agent(s) of AHAI and in such manner as shall from time be determined by the Board.

8.3 DEPOSITS - All funds of AHAI not otherwise employed shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of AHAI in such banks, trust companies or other insured depositories as the Board may select.

8.4 FINANCIAL OBLIGATION SATISFACTION - No Member or persons in a Member's immediate family shall be permitted to change their AHAI or Affiliate Organization, and also may be subject to suspension, until they have satisfied every outstanding financial obligation to their "old" team or association. This applies to but is not limited to all youth, girls, high schools, and adults Members. AHAI will not act as a collection agency for outstanding financial obligations owed by a Member to an Affiliate Organization. All responsibility for collection of outstanding financial obligations for the Affiliate Organization lies with the applicable Affiliate Organization. However, AHAI, through the Rules & Ethics Committee, will enforce its Bylaws and Rules and Regulations and impose a suspension for failure to satisfy any financial obligations based upon the following guidelines:

- 8.4.1** there must be written communication from the Affiliate Organization to the obligor-Member;
- 8.4.2** collection activity must be for a prior or the current season;
- 8.4.3** the Affiliate Organization must have taken steps to collect the amounts due during the season in which such amounts were due. AHAI will not be involved if the Affiliate Organization allowed the obligor-Member to play the entire season in which the financial obligation was due and only attempted to collect such amounts after the season was completed or allowed the obligor-Member to register and play for a subsequent season;
- 8.4.4** if the obligor-Member fails to respond, AHAI may suspend the entire family until the obligation has been satisfied.

8.5 ANNUAL AUDIT - An audit will be conducted at the conclusion of each fiscal year and will be available for inspection by any Affiliate Organization upon request.

ARTICLE 9
FISCAL YEAR

9.0 The fiscal year of AHAI shall begin on the first day of June in each year and end on the last day of May in each year.

ARTICLE 10

SEAL

10.0 The Board may provide a corporate seal which shall be in the form of a circle and shall have inscribed thereon the name of AHAI and the words "Corporate Seal, Illinois". The seal may be used by causing it or a facsimile thereof to be impressed or affixed or reproduced or otherwise.

ARTICLE 11

WAIVER OF NOTICE

11.0 Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation of AHAI or under the provisions of the General Not-For-Profit Corporation Act of the State of Illinois, a waiver thereof in writing, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

ARTICLE 12

DISPUTES

12.0 Resolution of Disputes, Exclusive Remedy.

12.0.1 Primacy of USA Hockey Dispute Resolution Procedures. To the extent that USA Hockey has adopted formal Dispute Resolution Procedures in its Bylaws, Rules or Policies, those procedures shall take precedence over and supersede the provisions of this Article 12 to the extent of any inconsistency between them.

12.0.2 Scope of Procedure and Purpose. Because AHAI is a not-for-profit organization whose vital services are provided largely by volunteer efforts, AHAI has established Article 9 and Article 10 of the Rules and Regulations (*collectively, the "AHA! Dispute Resolution Procedure"*) to provide an efficient, orderly and uniform method of resolving every controversy, question or dispute regarding or having any impact on amateur hockey, any applicant and/or actual Members, Teams, Affiliate Organizations, AHAI, the Board and/or any director or committee thereof (*collectively referred to as a "Dispute"*). It is the further purpose of the AHAI Dispute Resolution Procedure to provide an administrative procedure that is a full, complete and exclusive remedy and substitute for any and all court or other formal legal proceedings regarding any Dispute.

12.0.3 Submission to the Dispute Resolution Procedures. Every person and entity within the jurisdiction of AHAI, including, but not limited to, every Member, coach, official, referee, parent, guardian, agent or any other person; and every Affiliate Organization, league, team, club, sponsor, facility or any other group or organization (*collectively referred to as "Person" or "Entity"*) by virtue of their membership, application for membership, affiliation or participation, at any time, in any program or event taking place under the authority of AHAI as the USA Hockey State Affiliate for Illinois, agrees to submit exclusively to the AHAI Dispute Resolution Procedure and the Dispute Resolution procedures contained in the Bylaws, a Rules and Regulations of USA Hockey as the sole and exclusive remedy of all Disputes, and to forego any remedy in any court of law or equity, and to refrain from initiating any legal proceedings regarding the matters expressly or implicitly covered by the Dispute Resolution Procedures.

- 12.0.4 No Circumvention of Dispute Resolution Procedures.** No Person or Entity shall attempt to circumvent the Dispute Resolution Procedures. Any attempt to circumvent the Dispute Resolution Procedures shall not diminish or alter the requirements or authority for the exclusive use of the Dispute Resolution Procedures concerning all Disputes as a full, complete and exclusive substitute for any and all court, mediation, arbitration or other proceedings. In addition, failure to participate to the fullest extent possible in the Dispute Resolution Procedures concerning any Dispute shall be deemed a failure to exhaust the available administrative remedies and AHAI shall have the power to assess costs, impose fines and/or disciplinary action (*including suspension*) and other sanctions, in accordance with these Bylaws and the Rules and Regulations. "Costs" shall include the time of AHAI personnel and, in the event such person is a volunteer, such costs shall include the expense of what it would have cost for an individual to perform similar duties in an arm's length commercial transaction.
- 12.0.5 Failure to Follow Process.** In addition to any other sanctions available hereunder, the failure to follow and abide by the Dispute Resolution Procedures may in the sole discretion of AHAI subject every Person and Entity and any Person and Entity representing, participating with or aiding such Person and Entity, to the following:
- 12.0.5.1** Liability for any and all expenses and costs, direct and indirect, including all reasonable process costs and attorneys' fees and the value of volunteer time, incurred by AHAI, its Affiliate Organizations, teams, Members, or any of AHAI's directors, officers, or agents; and
 - 12.0.5.2** Immediate suspension and/or disqualification of such Person and/or Entity as an Affiliate Organization, team, or Member, as applicable; and forfeiture of the right to participate in AHAI and/or USA Hockey or any of their Affiliate Organizations sanctioned events.
- 12.0.6 Rules of Dispute Resolutions Proceedings.** The following rules shall control these Bylaws in any Dispute:
- 12.0.6.1** The constructions, interpretations, rulings, procedures, decisions and opinions of AHAI and/or USA Hockey (*including their directors, officers and duly authorized personnel*), being the product of specific skills, expertise and background as people experienced in hockey and sports administration matters, shall be deemed controlling and shall be deferred to;
 - 12.0.6.2** If there is any rational basis for the decision of AHAI, such decision shall be upheld; the only question shall be, did AHAI act contrary to the Bylaws, Rules & Regulations, and Policies of USA Hockey or AHAI; the

fact that another reasonable inference or interpretation could have been made will not be grounds for overruling or modifying a decision of AHAI;

12.0.6.3 Only the evidence and theories explicitly presented to AHAI for consideration in the initial Dispute and prior to the rendering of any decision may later be presented or considered in dispute resolution proceeding;

12.0.6.4 The burden of proof shall be on the party attempting to have any decision or action of AHAI reversed, modified or changed in any way, and this burden shall be either by "clear and convincing evidence", or by the equivalent of the highest degree of proof required in any civil proceedings, whichever is the more difficult standard; and

12.0.6.5 Any party not successful in overturning a procedure, ruling or other decision of AHAI in its entirety, shall pay for any and all fees, expenses and other costs of AHAI with respect to such Dispute (*including, but not limited to: attorneys' fees, process costs, document and exhibit costs, fees and expenses of consultants, experts, investigators and witnesses, and in obtaining or producing materials or evidence, the transportation and other per diem or incidental expenses of each of the foregoing and of all volunteers and the value of each volunteer's time as measured by that individual's customary work position*).

12.0.7 Mandatory. The Dispute Resolution Procedures shall be the sole and exclusive remedy for disputes with AHAI.

ARTICLE 13

INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE

13.0 AHAI shall indemnify and hold harmless USA Hockey, the board of directors of USA Hockey and each member thereof, the executive committee of USA Hockey and each member thereof, the councils and committees of USA Hockey and each member thereof, and all other elected, appointed, employed or volunteer representatives of USA Hockey from any and all claims, liability, judgments, costs, attorneys' fees charges and expenses whatsoever, arising from the acts and omissions of AHAI, except to the extent: (i) that USA Hockey or its afore-described representatives caused such claims, liability, judgments, costs, attorneys' fees, charges or expenses by their own intentional neglect or default; or (ii) that such acts or omissions were the direct result of compliance with the articles of incorporation, Bylaws, rules and regulations, playing rules or decisions of the board of directors of USA Hockey; or (iii) to the extent that such claims, liability, judgments, costs, attorneys' fees, charges or expenses are covered by insurance provided by USA Hockey or by AHAI. Further, AHAI understands and acknowledges that USA Hockey and its afore-described representatives have assumed such assignment, function, office or capacity upon the express understanding, agreement and condition that they be so indemnified and held harmless to the extent described in this Bylaw. USA Hockey shall reasonably cooperate with AHAI in any litigation and provide reasonable support in connection therewith, including but not limited to advice and testimony upon reasonable request; provided, however, that such cooperation shall not require USA Hockey to incur any out of pocket expense not reimbursed by AHAI.

13.1 AHAI shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any proceeding by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee, or agent of AHAI, against expenses (*including attorneys' fees*), judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such proceeding if he or she acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of AHAI.

13.2 To the extent that a present or former director, officer, employee, or agent of AHAI has been successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any proceeding referred to in this Section, or in defense of any claim, issue, or matter therein, then such person shall be indemnified against expenses (*including attorneys' fees*) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such proceeding if that person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of AHAI.

13.3 Sections 13.1 and 13.2 will not apply in any proceeding in which the director, officer, employee, or agent is liable for misconduct in the performance of his or her duties.

13.4 Such rights of indemnification will not be exclusive of any other rights to which such director, officer, or employee may be entitled apart from this provision.

13.5 AHAI shall have power to purchase and maintain, at AHAI's expense, insurance on behalf of AHAI and on behalf of any director, officer, employee, agent, or other person.

13.6 AHAI shall have the authority in the discretion of the Board to give other indemnification to the extent permitted by law.

ARTICLE 14 DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS

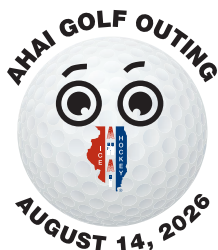
14.0 The assets of AHAI are permanently dedicated to exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (*or corresponding provisions of future laws*). AHAI shall not be operated for pecuniary profit and shall have no capital stock and shall make no distribution of dividends to its members, directors, officers, or persons having a private interest in the activities of AHAI. In the event AHAI is dissolved, the Board shall pay, satisfy and discharge all liabilities and obligations of AHAI or make adequate provisions therefore and distribute all remaining assets of AHAI to an organization or organizations engaged in activities substantially similar to those of AHAI and organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at that time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (*or corresponding provisions of future laws*)

ARTICLE 15 AMENDMENTS

15.0 These Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new Bylaws may be adopted, at the Annual Meeting or a Special Meeting of the Members as follows. A two-thirds vote in favor of the amendment is cast by the Affiliate Organizations, taken consistent with Article 4 of these Bylaws at a Members Meeting in which a quorum was present as provided in Article 4 of these Bylaws. In order for a vote on any such amendment to be held, each proposed amendment must first be submitted in writing to the President at least thirty (30) days prior to the Members meeting. No proposed amendment shall be eligible for presentation or vote at a Members meeting unless it shall have been submitted within this time

frame. The Board shall then decide whether to recommend its adoption at the next Annual Meeting or to call a Special Meeting for the purpose of consideration of amendments. The proposed amendment shall be published by the Board at least fourteen (14) days prior to such a meeting, along with the Board's recommendation on whether it should be adopted.





29th Annual AHAI Golf Outing August 14, 2026

Schaumburg Golf Club • 401 North Roselle
Schaumburg, Illinois

Includes:

Shotgun Start • Lunch on the Course
18 Holes of Golf • Golf Cart • Lockers,
Towel Service • Evening Entertainment,

Golf Gifts for Each Golfer, Raffle Prizes,
Cocktails, Dinner & More!

\$\$ CASH PRIZES \$\$

for Closest to the Pin!

—Mulligans - Individual Photo—

Pre-Registration Required

For More Information Call:

Don Allord 630.464.5910

Download Your Registration Form at:

www.ahai.org

Junior Golfers Welcome (*18 years of age & under*)

Golf with Your Son/Daughter!



We are seeking donors, sponsors and volunteers.
Please call if you can assist in any way!

RULES & REGULATIONS OF AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ILLINOIS, INC.

The Rules and Regulations governing amateur hockey in Illinois are covered in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, USA Hockey Rule Book, and the AHAI Annual Guide. Changes to these rules or additional rules enacted by the AHAI Board of Directors that are “in the best interests of hockey” after the printing of this annual guide may not be included in this publication. Please consult the AHAI web site for the most current version of these Rules and Regulations.

AHA! Rules and Regulations are available at www.ahai.org

ARTICLE 1 MEMBERSHIP & GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1.0 MEMBERSHIP and ACTIVITIES

- 1.0.1** The membership of AHAI shall be comprised of all Amateur Players, Coaches, Volunteers, Officers (*registered as volunteers*), Directors, and Officials meeting the definition stated in the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois, Inc. By-Law 4.0. All capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to such term in the Amended and Restated By-Laws of AHAI.
- 1.0.2** Associate Members shall be comprised of recognized Affiliate Organizations, Affiliate Organization Leagues, Ice Rinks, Manufacturers Representatives, Officials Association and those AHAI has deemed as having significant interest in amateur hockey such as applicants for Association Membership or Affiliate Organization membership, those engaged in the Dispute Resolution Procedure regarding Associate Membership or Affiliate Organization applications, and those approved to submit proposed changes to the AHAI By-Laws, Rules & Regulations, and Policies.
- 1.0.3** Associate Members shall not be entitled to a vote in the Corporation. No individual players, coaches, volunteers, or teams may register as Associate Members.

1.2 PERMITTED AID

Scholarships, grants, or financial aid, administered by an Affiliate Organization are permitted pursuant to a written policy of the Affiliate Organization under the following conditions:

- a.** Which grants assistance to players based upon the written evidence of financial need of the player
- b.** Based upon the player's family's ability to pay
- c.** Is made available to all players that meet the criteria
- d.** Is administered consistent with the directives of AHAI
- e.** Is permitted and will not be considered pay in any form

1.3 PERMITTED BENEFITS

- 1.3.1** Funds raised by an Affiliate Organization or any of its subdivisions, including individual teams, to defray the expenses of organizational activities or of team activities is permitted. *(Exception: Those funds raised or earmarked for a specific player are prohibited.)*
- 1.3.2** The benefits which inure to the team as a whole may be expended to reduce the expenses of each and every team member/participant equally provided the benefit is available to all who meet the criteria within the participating group.
- 1.3.3** Permitted expenses are limited to actual and necessary coaching, travel and per diem, equipment, team equipment, including but not limited to, wearables, jerseys, and expenses for practice and competition.
- 1.3.4** Funds raised and being used for expenses other than those listed must be submitted to AHAI in writing for approval. Further, any player's parent or other adults may make donations directly to the Affiliate Organization.
- 1.3.5** The decision as to how the money is used rests exclusively with the Affiliate Organization.
- 1.3.6** Donations may not be earmarked by the donor for a specific individual within the Affiliate Organization.

1.4 WAIVER

An Affiliate Organization may waive the player fees provided the individual qualifies for the waiver under the Affiliate Organization's established waiver policy and the athletic ability of the participant is not a part of the criteria under such a policy.

1.5 NCAA PROVISIONS ON AMATEURISM

- 1.5.1** Commencing with the first game played in the 9th grade, current NCAA regulations apply to all college-bound athletes. NCAA restrictions regarding amateurism may disqualify players from further participating at the collegiate level.

Specific information is located on the NCAA Eligibility Center website: <https://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/amateurism>

Specifically, the sport of Ice Hockey: http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/ECMIP/Amateurism_Certification/Amat_DI_Ice_Hockey.pdf. This pdf document may be updated from time to time.

- 1.5.2** NCAA Amateurism Rules may not allow for an arrangement where an athlete is sponsored or is provided money to cover player fees either directly to the player who cannot pay the fee or specifically to cover that player's fees.

ARTICLE 2 AFFILIATE AGREEMENT

2.1 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION DEFINITION

A group of Participants/Members as defined in AHAI By- Law Article 4 that comprise at least three (*except High School which may have one team*) teams in an Organization that is authorized on a nonexclusive basis as an "Affiliate Organization" under AHAI.

2.1.1 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION LEAGUES

Affiliate Organization Leagues are leagues that are comprised of fifty percent (50%) or more of AHAI Tier II Youth, Tier II Girls or Tier III registered teams of the league's total membership. Affiliate Organization Leagues are Affiliate Organizations except for voting purposes.

2.2 AUTHORITY – JURISDICTION

Affiliate Organization Status/Authority: An Affiliate Organization is to develop players and teams in Illinois and is encouraged to do so primarily of Illinois players as well as conduct the affairs of the Affiliate Organization in accordance with the By-Laws, Rules & Regulations of AHAI and USA Hockey and within the level authorized by AHAI.

2.3 AUTHORIZED SERVICES

The Affiliate Organization is authorized to perform and/or provide other services or functions to promote and regulate the play of the sport of amateur hockey as an Affiliate Organization of AHAI in the Affiliate Organization's Authorized Level.

2.4 AUTHORITY

2.4.1 Separate Organization: The Affiliate Organization is and shall be a separate Organization/Entity from AHAI.

2.4.2 Conduct Its Affairs and Programs: The Affiliate Organization is the Organization which has initial authority to conduct its affairs and programs. The Affiliate Organization shall be responsible for the conduct of its affairs and programs, including, but not limited to, the conduct of its Directors, Officers, Officials, Players, Parents, Coaches, Administrators, Fans, and Participants in accordance with the By-Laws, Rules & Regulations of AHAI and USA Hockey.

2.4.3 Annual Basis: The Affiliate Organization's authorization shall be on a year-to-year basis, but at all times shall be subject to disciplinary action including suspension or termination for failure to comply with the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, and decisions of AHAI, including its Committees, and USA Hockey.

2.4.4 Affiliate Organizations must comply with the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, and decisions of AHAI, including its Committees and USA Hockey. This includes conduct that is not detrimental to hockey whether within the State of Illinois or anywhere in the

world. The By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of AHAI and USA Hockey and their decisions shall take precedence over, and supersede all similar governing documents, authority, and/or decisions of the Affiliate Organization.

2.5 FEES/FUNDRAISING THE AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION IS AUTHORIZED TO PERFORM

2.5.1 Fees: The Affiliate Organization shall assess and charge reasonable fees for its players/participants within its Authorized Level for participation in the Affiliate Organization's program(s), in addition to the annual AHAI and USA Hockey fees. The amount of any charge shall be communicated in writing to each player/participant prior to evaluations and/or tryouts along with the obligation of the participant/member.

2.5.2 Fund-Raising: Fund-Raising: The Affiliate Organization may operate fund-raising programs to support its functions as an Affiliate Organization of AHAI, including special charge on paid gate tournaments for games or events sponsored by the Affiliate Organization but at no time on events sponsored by AHAI; nor may such events conflict with AHAI events, unless specifically authorized by AHAI.

2.6 COOPERATION

Each Affiliate Organization must cooperate fully with AHAI in any inquiry made by AHAI with regard to the USA Hockey Playing Rules, AHAI By-Laws, Rules and Regulations.

2.7 RESPONSIBILITY

Every Affiliate Organization shall be fully responsible to AHAI for including, but not limited to, the actions and/or infractions of its teams, players, coaches, managers, parents and personnel. This responsibility shall include, but not be limited to, debts incurred by or in the name of the Affiliate Organization or any team of said Affiliate Organization.

2.8 AHAI RECOGNITION / COOPERATION / NAME

2.8.1 AHAI Recognition of Teams:

2.8.1.1 AHAI will accept and recognize only those individuals and teams within an Affiliate Organization's Authorized Level which hold and continue membership in good standing with an Affiliate Organization or those that are authorized in an AHAI sanctioned league, all of which must be in good standing with AHAI and USA Hockey.

2.8.2 Cooperation

2.8.2.1 AHAI and the Affiliate Organization will cooperate with each other in the administration of the sport of amateur hockey within Affiliate Organization's Authorized Level. It is understood, however, that the initial responsibility is with the Affiliate Organization.

2.8.3 AHAI Name:

- 2.8.3.1** The Affiliate Organization has no right to the name Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois, AHAI, or their logos (“*AHAI Names*”) and shall not use AHAI Names or any affiliation with AHAI except as approved, in writing, by AHAI. Use of the words “Sanctioned Affiliate Organization of AHAI” is approved for use

2.9 BY-LAWS and/or POLICIES THAT MUST BE ADOPTED BY THE AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION

By-Laws or General Guidelines: The Affiliate Organization shall have written By- Laws or General Guidelines of the governance and authority of the Affiliate Organization. It is recommended that they be By-Laws or a Constitution.

2.10 OPERATING POLICIES, RULES, and REGULATIONS

- 2.10.1** The Affiliate Organization shall have written Operating Policies, Rules, and Regulations that will inform the players/participants and their families, which in most instances when those terms are used shall include any potential players/participants of the Affiliate Organization, of its day to day operational procedures, including any concept that the Affiliate Organization wishes to enforce and shall make them reasonably available to its players/participants prior to the earlier of evaluations/tryouts or the selection of any team.
- 2.10.2** “Reasonably available” shall mean at any the following occurrences:
- a. Requests or inquiries are made
 - b. At the time of registration
 - c. Conditioning clinics and/or evaluations/tryouts.
- 2.10.3** The fact that an Operating Policy, Rule, or Regulation is not in writing will not necessarily deem it unenforceable, but rather will be taken into consideration.

2.11 ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE OF AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION

- 2.11.1** The Affiliate Organization shall agree to electronically approve & abide to the terms detailed in the agreement each year prior to the Regular Season (*Fall/Winter*).
- 2.11.2** This agreement will be in place for the entire season, September 1st to August 31st.

2.12 CORPORATION 501(c)(3) STATUS

- 2.12.1** Except as set out in the AHAI By- Laws, Rules and Regulations it is highly recommended each Affiliate Organization have a corporate structure and at all times maintain a tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or other

acceptable and comparable IRS category and/or have a good faith application for IRS 501(c)(3) pending that shall be approved by the IRS within 180 days of submission of the application or other comparable IRS category status.

2.12.2 It is recognized that High School Affiliate Organizations may have some difficulty obtaining 501(c)(3) status. It is recommended High School Affiliates be an Illinois Not-For-Profit corporation. The High School Affiliates shall use reasonable efforts to become a 501(c)(3) corporation.

2.12.3 It is recognized that Tier III Youth "B" & House "C" or Adult Affiliate Organization structures may vary between governmental, not for profit and for-profit Organizations. If any House League Affiliate Organizations or Adult Affiliate Organization, because of its structure, believes the governance requirements do not fit with their structure, the Affiliate Organization should contact the appropriate AHAI Committee to resolve the matter prior to any issue being raised. AHAI highly recommends all teams compete in Leagues which are IRS defined as 501(c)(3) Corporations.

2.13 PROTECTING AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

2.13.1 Based upon the special skills, expertise and background in hockey and sports administration of the AHAI Board of Directors, it is determined that it is vital to maintain the independence of 501(c)(3) and Not-For-Profit Affiliate Organizations from undue influence, potential conflicts of interest, inappropriate financial dealings, undermining of their IRS status or adversely influencing the Affiliate Organization's compliance with the AHAI and/or USAH By-Laws, Rules, Regulations and Policies. The intent of this Rule set forth in this Article 2, shall govern and control over any specific language set out as restrictions. Therefore, except as set out in the AHAI By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, no Affiliate Organization shall suffer, submit to or tolerate, or permit an officer, director, coach, hockey director or similar position, or team manager, directly or indirectly, by attribution or otherwise, to have any relationship as, nor shall such person or entity be, an officer, director, elected official, landlord, ice provider, an interest holder, or have a financial interest, investor or loan or debt holder relationship of another Affiliate Organization nor in any business entity of whatsoever nature that interacts with the Affiliate Organization's operations other than an arm's length business relationship or adversely influences or attempts to influence or control the Affiliate Organization.

2.13.2 An Affiliate Organization with any existing such relationship shall immediately advise AHAI in writing, identifying the person(s) or entity(ies) and the relationship. The Affiliate Organization is required to comply with this Rule within 90 days from the effective date of this Rule. *(Exception: Tier II or Tier II Girls Affiliate Organizations may be affiliated with a Learn to Skate or Tier III Youth "B" & House "C" Affiliate Organization, which affiliation shall be reported to AHAI in writing prior to implementing any such affiliation.)*

- 2.13.3** The operation by the Affiliate Organization of the Affiliate Organization's rink owned by the Affiliate Organization, or the Affiliate Organization's rink in joint rink-ownership with other Affiliate Organizations who own the rink, each as approved in writing by the AHAI Board of Director.
- 2.13.4** AHAI may from time to time set out specific examples or clarifications of prohibited conduct under this Section 2.13 and publish them on the AHAI web site and those are incorporated by reference in this Rule. However, if there is any question to the application or compliance with this Rule, the Affiliate Organization and/or the person interacting with the Affiliate Organization has the affirmative duty to inquire in writing from the AHAI Board of Directors prior to entering into any such relationship.

2.14 GOVERNANCE and RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.14.1** The government and authority of the Affiliate Organization, other than an official governmental entity, shall be vested in a Board of Directors composed of at least five (5) representatives, as determined by the Affiliate Organization, who shall be representative of the Affiliate Organization, its programs and be fundamentally fair to all the participants/members of the Affiliate Organization.
- 2.14.2** Tier I, Tier II, Girls, and High School Affiliate Organizations, the Board of Directors shall be composed predominantly of parents who currently have or have had a child in the program, except for High School, which may have a representative(s) who are employed by the High School as set out in the Affiliate Organization's By-Laws, Rules and Regulations.
- 2.14.3** It is recommended that there be multiple representatives for each level of the Affiliate Organization's program.
- 2.14.4** The burden of proving fundamental fairness lies on the Affiliate Organization.
- 2.14.5** It is recommended that the terms of directors and officers be staggered.
- 2.14.6** It is required there be one person ultimately responsible for the Affiliate Organization as an Officer, and that there be a Treasurer who is responsible for the financial aspect of the Affiliate Organization; a Registrar who is responsible for the registration of the Affiliate Organization's players and teams and other similar activities; a Coaching Manager who is responsible for all coaching aspects of the Affiliate Organization, and a Referee Coordinator who is responsible for coordinating and scheduling Officials.

2.15 ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Affiliate Organization shall hold an annual meeting of its players/ participants with reasonable notice of such a meeting being given.

2.16 COMMUNICATION

The Affiliate shall establish reasonable methods of communication with its participants/members.

2.17 MINIMUM PRINCIPLES

The Affiliate Organization's structure, policy, By-Laws and/or any other operation of the Affiliate Organization shall reflect, and shall not violate, the following principles

2.18 PARTICIPANTS / MEMBERS / TEAMS

All registered teams, players, coaches, and administrators of the Affiliate Organization, as a consideration of membership in good standing or participation with said Affiliate Organization, shall be required to be "registered with USA Hockey and in good standing with AHAI and USA Hockey.

2.19 OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

2.19.1 The Affiliate Organization shall prepare and distribute to its players/participants an overview of its program, including but not limited to, its philosophies and associations (*i.e., Learn to Skate Programs or Park Districts*), ice times, team selection, individual/team fees, how individual/team fees are calculated, and a grievance procedure.

2.19.2 This Overview shall be available and provided to players/participants prior to the earlier of evaluations/tryouts or the selection of any team.

2.20 FINANCIAL REPORTS / DUES and ASSESSMENTS

2.20.1 Financial Stability:

2.20.1.1 The Affiliate Organization shall be able to prove financial stability.

2.20.2 Financial Overview:

2.20.2.1 Each player/participant must be provided in writing, and prior to any participation or obligation, a description of what will be provided to the player/participant including the total cost to the player/participant and any payment deadlines or rules.

2.20.3 Fees, Dues and Assessments:

2.20.3.1 All fees, costs, dues, and assessments by the Affiliate Organization shall be reasonable in relation to the programs the Affiliate Organization offers to its players/participants.

2.21 PUBLICATION OF CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS, RULES and REGULATIONS

Affiliate Organizations shall make its Constitution, By-Laws, and other governing documents, including all amendments, available to its players/participants. Copies shall also be available upon reasonable request.

2.22 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / DISCRIMINATION

Advise AHAI of any allegation of discrimination. Affiliate Organizations shall notify the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee in writing immediately upon knowledge of any allegation and keep the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee advised in writing including but not limited to, any investigation, action taken or recommended.

2.23 ABUSE

(Adherence to the Safe Sport Policy in Article 7)

Advise AHAI of any allegation of abuse or potential abuse, including but not limited to, ethnic, racial, sexual, physical, or mental abuse. Affiliate Organizations shall notify the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee in writing immediately upon knowledge of any allegation and keep the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee advised, in writing including but not limited to, any investigation, action taken or recommended.

2.24 MOOD ALTERING SUBSTANCES

Advise AHAI of any allegation of consumption, use, sale, gift, or abuse of mood-altering substances. Affiliate Organizations shall notify the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee in writing immediately upon knowledge of any allegation and keep the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee advised in writing, including but not limited to, any investigation, action taken or recommended.

2.25 GRIEVANCE/SUSPENSION PROCEDURE

Affiliate Organizations shall provide a written grievance procedure for the prompt and equitable resolution of grievances of its players/participants. This procedure shall be in accordance with the Rules of AHAI and USA Hockey and provide for a fair notice of an opportunity to be heard.

2.26 TURNOVER FILES

Affiliate Organizations shall use reasonable efforts to prepare and have available "turnover" files for each of its operations with the intent of smooth transitions of personnel.

2.27 AVAILABILITY OF ICE

Affiliate Organizations shall be able to show sufficient availability of ice to support its program and promote that program in accordance with the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of AHAI and USA Hockey.

2.28 ICE CONTRACTORS

Affiliate Organizations shall have each ice contract it anticipates entering into or enters into reviewed by the USA Hockey Risk Manager for Illinois prior to entering into each contract.

2.29 GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

Affiliate Organizations shall, at all times, obtain and be covered by the general liability insurance policy maintained by USA Hockey. The limit of that policy may be made by USA Hockey at its sole prerogative. The Affiliate Organization may also obtain whatever additional insurance coverage it may desire, at its own expense, but agrees to name AHAI as an additional insured of any such policy. By purchasing and maintaining the USA Hockey general liability insurance policy, USA Hockey and AHAI do not assume, and indeed disclaims, any liability for any actions or omissions of the Affiliate Organization.

2.30 DIRECTORS and OFFICERS LIABILITY

(Reference USA Hockey Affiliate Agreement 3H)

Affiliate Organizations shall use reasonable efforts to purchase, acquire or provide, and maintain, in full force and effect at all times, Directors' and Officers' liability insurance, and to the extent such insurance is not obtained through USA Hockey, USA Hockey and AHAI shall be named as an additional insured under any such policy.

2.31 CRIME INSURANCE

(Reference USA Hockey Affiliate Agreement 3H)

Affiliate Organizations shall use reasonable efforts to purchase, acquire or provide, and maintain, in full force and effect at all times, crime insurance, and to the extent such insurance is not obtained through USA Hockey, USA Hockey and AHAI shall be named as an additional insured under any such policy.

2.32 COOPERATION IN ANY LITIGATION

AHAI and the Affiliate Organization shall reasonably cooperate with each other in any litigation and provide reasonable support in connection with that cooperation, including but not limited to, advice and testimony upon reasonable request. Provided, however, that such cooperation shall not require AHAI to incur any out-of-pocket expense not reimbursed by the Affiliate Organization.

ARTICLE 3 AFFILIATE APPLICATION PROCESS

3.1 PROPOSED NEW AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION APPLICATION PROCESS

- 3.1.1** The "Applicant" is defined as a rink, park district or any other organization recognized by USA Hockey and/or AHAI as having the qualifications to operate an Affiliate Organization. A proposed Affiliate Organization is required to begin their program at the lowest level of play, 8U or 10U, or the grassroots level (*learn to skate programs following the USA Hockey ADM- American Development Model*).

3.2 APPLICATION VERIFICATION and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- 3.2.1** Every Applicant for a proposed new Affiliate Organization must submit a signed "Application Verification and Acknowledgement" form along with their other required information. This form may be obtained from the Committee Chairperson having jurisdiction or by clicking on the link above.

3.3 PROPOSED NEW AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION AGREEMENT

- 3.3.1** All entities submitting an application for a proposed new Affiliate Organization must include within their by-laws the following statement: "The Affiliate Organization of the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois shall adhere to all By-laws, Rules, Regulations, and Policies of USA Hockey and AHAI, including Article 1 of AHAI's Rules & Regulations and Article 10 of USA Hockey's By-Laws.

3.4 APPLICATION

- 3.4.1** An Applicant for a Proposed New Affiliate Organization is required to submit a formal application to the Committee Chairperson having jurisdiction. The application must include but is not limited to the following:

- a.** Brief description of the parties involved in submitting the application
- b.** Proposed Affiliate Organization's By-Laws
- c.** Identification of Board positions and job descriptions – including Individual Names, if known
- d.** Location/name of the rink the proposed Affiliate Organization will use as its "home rink" (*defined as 51% or more of Applicant's total ice utilization*)
- e.** "Financial" solvency data on the proposed Affiliate Organization which demonstrates its financial ability to commence operations and to maintain the Affiliate Organization's operations year after year (*i.e. player fees, ice costs, coach's expenses, etc. – proposed budget*)
- f.** Proof of adequate ice contracts to sustain teams year after year based on average total per team hours per season.
- g.** Identification of the existence of a viable feeder system such as Learn to Skate or Learn to Play programs.

- 3.4.2** The Committee having jurisdiction and or the AHAI Board of Directors at their discretion may adopt any other requirements appropriate to the best interests of amateur hockey in Illinois.

Tier I Youth - Refer to Article 18 of the AHAI Rules & Regulations for criteria specific to Tier I Youth Hockey application

Tier I Girls – Refer to Article 17 & Article 18 of the AHAI Rules & Regulations for criteria specific to Tier I Girls' Hockey application

Tier II Youth - Refer to Article 16 of the AHAI Rules & Regulations for criteria specific to Tier II Youth Hockey application

Girls Tier II – Refer to Article 17 of the AHAI Rules & Regulations for criteria specific to Girls Tier II Hockey application

Tier III Youth "B" & House "C" – Refer to Article 15 of the AHAI Rules & Regulations for criteria specific to House/Rec Hockey application

High School – Refer to Article 19 of the AHAI Rules & Regulations for criteria specific to High School Hockey application

3.5 DEADLINE FOR NEW APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

An Applicant for a new Affiliate Organization must submit their application and related materials to the appropriate Committee no later than January 15th of the current playing season in order to be considered for beginning operations in the next year's Regular playing season (*Fall/Winter*).

- a. Proposed Applicants for Tier III, Girls Tier II, and High School may submit a new application each season.
- b. Tier I Youth & Girls, and Tier II Youth applications. Applications will only be considered based on a repeated three (3) year application cycle.
 - 2024/25 season: no new applications
 - 2025/26 season: limited to Youth Tier II
 - 2026/27 season: no new applications
 - 2027/28 season: limited to Youth & Girls Tier I

3.6 DETERMINATION

- 3.6.1 The Committee having jurisdiction is responsible to review the application, request & additional information as said Committee deems necessary, undertake an in-person interview with the proposed Affiliate Organization's representatives as deemed warranted, and to conduct all other actions needed to complete a thorough review of the submitted documents.
- 3.6.2 The Committee having jurisdiction will submit its recommendations on the application to the AHAI Board of Directors, which will make the final decision on the application.
- 3.6.3 The Committee having jurisdiction will complete its work on all timely-submitted applications so that the AHAI Board of Directors may make its decision by April 15th of the season

in which the application was submitted (*or a later date in April after the Board's April meeting*). Written notification of the Board's decision on the application will be sent to the Applicant.

- 3.6.4** Decisions of the AHAI Board of Directors under this Article shall be final unless a notice of appeal therefrom is filed as provided in the AHAI By-Laws, Policies & Rules & Regulations governing appeals of Board decisions.

3.7 PLAYER RECRUITING RESTRICTIONS

- 3.7.1** A new Affiliate Organization may NOT obtain players that were rostered with an AHAI Affiliate Organization the previous regular season at the same Tier level of the new Affiliate Organization for the first (*1st*) regular season of play (*Fall/Winter*).
- 3.7.2** A proposed Affiliate Organization is required to begin their program at the lowest level of play, 8U or 10U, or the grassroots level (*learn to skate programs following the USA Hockey*).

3.8 AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION TEAMS' ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY

- 3.8.1** The purpose of this rule is to introduce more young athletes to the sport in a given area while supporting the integrity of existing Affiliate Organizations.
- 3.8.2 Tier I Youth and Girls:** AHAI applies the same Standards and Criteria to the State Tournament as stated in Article III F and G of the USA Hockey Annual Guide – In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the program/association must have been in existence and registered with the applicable Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive seasons.
- 3.8.3 Tier II Youth:** An approved new Affiliate Organization will not be eligible for participation in the State Tournament until the new Affiliate Organization's 2nd full regular (fall) season in existence. In the second (*2nd*) year, the new Affiliate Organization may have only 8 & Under, 10 & Under, and 12 & Under teams participate in the State Tournament. In the third (*3rd*) year of existence the new Affiliate Organization may have all age classifications participate in the State Tournament.
- 3.8.4 Tier II Girls:** An approved new Affiliate Organization will not be eligible for participation in the State Tournament until the new Affiliate Organization's 2nd full regular (fall) season in existence. In the second (*2nd*) year, the new Affiliate organization may only have 10 & Under and 12 & Under teams participate in the State Tournament. In the third (*3rd*) year of existence the new Affiliate Organization may have all age classifications participate in the State Tournament.

- 3.8.5 High School:** A new High School Affiliate Organization may participate in the High School State Tournament their first (1st) season in existence with the approval of the AHAI High School Committee. (*ADM-American Development Model*).

3.9 PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 3.9.1** All players of a newly approved Affiliate Organization will be required to be with USA Hockey through the USA Hockey portal.

ARTICLE 4 COMMITTEES

4.1 STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. The President shall designate and appoint membership to the Girls, High School, Nominating, Rules & Ethics, Suspension, Tier I, Tier II Committees, and other such committees deemed necessary or appropriate to the efficient conduct of AHAI's affairs. Provided, however, the Chairperson of the seven (7) standing committees named above must be members of the Board of Directors of AHAI. registered

4.2 FINANCE COMMITTEE

- a. There shall be established a permanent committee named the "Finance Committee" chaired by the Treasurer of AHAI with at least two (2) current Board Members appointed by the President of AHAI. This committee will be charged with the review of financial statements, investment policy, and all other financially related subjects as determined from time to time by the Board. This committee will make recommendations to the Board on such matters as required.

4.3 GIRLS' COMMITTEE

- a. Shall be responsible for the development and growth of Girls' Hockey. The members of the Girls' Committee are from different hockey backgrounds offering varied insight and perspective to ensure ALL girls playing hockey are represented. This committee will oversee all girls' events including but not limited to the State Tournament, the Girls Showcase Team, Girls Player Development & Growth as well as the Girls' Tier II Choice substitutions and will work closely with all other Committees regarding specific situations that may arise during the course of the hockey season. Additionally, this committee will be responsible for the acceptance, review & forwarding of recommendations for all new Girls' Affiliate Organizations.
- b. The mission: To provide a strong foundation for the growth of Girls' Hockey through designing innovative programs that increase participation and developing the skills of female players following the USA Hockey ADM guidelines and committed to providing a safe and encouraging environment.

4.4 HIGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Shall be responsible to:

- a. Encourage and improve the standards and conduct of High School hockey in the State of Illinois.
- b. Coordinate the AHAI High School Division State Championship Tournaments.
- c. Establish a code of ethics for AHAI High School coaches.
- d. Establish an AHAI High School Board of Governors (*Committee*) composed of at least ten (10) members.

4.5 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

4.5.1 Shall include at least two (2) members of the AHAI Board of Directors whose seats are not up for re-election.

4.5.2 The duties of the Committee shall consist of:

- a. Soliciting and collecting the names and qualifications of individuals who wish to be considered on an individual basis for election to the AHAI Board of Directors.
- b. Within 60 days of the Annual Meeting, shall inform the Affiliate Organizations of AHAI by mail of the requirements and deadlines for becoming a candidate for election.
- c. At least forty-two (42) days in advance, or six (6) weeks of the Annual Meeting, any adult individual who wishes to run for election for the AHAI Board of Directors shall submit his or her name as well as a written biography to the AHAI Nominating Committee.
- d. No later than twenty-one (21) days, three (3) weeks, before the Annual Meeting, the AHAI Nominating Committee shall disseminate to all Affiliate Organizations of AHAI, by electronic mail and by publication on AHAI's website, a list of all names submitted accompanied by their respective biographies.
- e. The AHAI Board of Directors or any AHAI participant/member may issue an endorsement of or opposition to any candidate so long as said endorsement or opposition does not disparage or demean any candidate.
- f. The AHAI Board of Directors may issue a position paper on any candidate or group of candidates in the mailing to the Affiliate Organizations. If an individual AHAI member wishes to submit an endorsement of or opposition to any candidate(s), AHAI agrees to include said position statement with the Initial AHAI electronic mailing only.

- g. The individual member who submits a position paper agrees to pay his or her proportionate share for the expenses of creating and mailing the position paper. Any position paper submitted by the AHAI Board or any AHAI individual member shall be limited to one communication to AHAI Affiliate Organizations.
- h. All of the above may be submitted electronically.

At the AHAI Annual Meeting, present Affiliate Organizations shall vote for up to five (5) individuals from the list of nominations. The vote may be an individual vote for each candidate or a “slate” vote at the discretion of the AHAI Board of Directors. The votes shall be counted by members of the Nominating Committee and overseen by an AHAI Officer. The top five (5) individuals garnering the most votes shall be elected as Directors to the AHAI Board.

Board Member Recommended Qualifications

Each Director must be a member in good standing of USA Hockey and must be in complete compliance with all USA Hockey mandates currently in effect: these include SafeSport, Background Screen Each Director must be free of financial obligations to any AHAI Affiliate Organization.

To submit your name for consideration as an AHAI Director, an individual should ideally:

1. Be in good standing with the affiliate they are currently a member of *(if applicable)*.
2. Have previously held a leadership position within an AHAI Affiliate/ League/Officiating *(i.e., president, board member, registrar, hockey director, etc. or been a member of a AHAI Standing Committee)*.
3. Have been in the role for a minimum of 2 years.
4. Provide at least two references to the nominating committee.
5. Not have any past disciplinary action against them from AHAI, their Affiliate Organization, IHOA, or USA Hockey.

Submit your nomination along with a brief biography to: AHAI Nominating Committee Chairperson

4.6 RULES AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

- 4.6.1 Shall have original jurisdiction over the administration and enforcement of the By- Laws, Rules, and Regulations of AHAI in respect to all matters other than infractions of the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations which arise out of on-ice violations.
- 4.6.2 In accordance with procedures established by the AHAI Board of Directors, the AHAI Rules and Ethics Committee shall have authority to suspend, place on probation, or impose other disciplinary sanctions against any person, team, League, USA Hockey applicant or registered Affiliate Organization determined to have violated the AHAI By- Laws or Rules and Regulations, or for conduct deemed by the Committee to not be in the best interests of amateur hockey.

- 4.6.3** All decisions of the Rules and Ethics Committee shall be final. Any person, team, or Affiliate Organization affected by a decision of the Rules and Ethics Committee may appeal such decision in accordance with the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of AHAI, by filling a written notice of appeal and submitting said written notice to the President of AHAI within ten (10) days of the final decision. The appeal shall be acted upon by the Board of Directors whose decision shall be final.

4.7 SUSPENSION REVIEW COMMITTEE

- 4.7.1** Shall have jurisdiction to conduct hearings and determine the proper disciplinary actions resulting from complaints or incidents that come to the attention of the committee of infractions of the AHAI By-Laws, Rules and Regulations or conduct not in the best interest of amateur hockey which arise out of competitive play on the ice and suspending any Affiliate Organizations, teams or individuals for such infraction in accordance with procedures established by the Board of Directors.
- 4.7.2** The duration of any imposed suspension will be determined by the AHAI Suspension Review Committee. During regular season play, a majority of the members of this Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of making a determination.
- 4.7.3** A vote by the majority of the members of the AHAI Suspension Review Committee present and in accordance with the procedures established by the AHAI Board of Directors shall be required for a suspension.
- 4.7.4** All decisions of the Suspension Review Committee shall be final.
- 4.7.5** Any person, team, or Affiliate Organization affected by a decision of the Suspension Review Committee may appeal such decision in accordance with the AHAI By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations, by filling a written notice of appeal and submitting said written notice to the President of AHAI within ten (10) days of the final decision. The appeal shall be acted upon by the Board of Directors whose decision shall be final.

4.8 TIER I YOUTH & GIRLS COMMITTEE

- 4.8.1** Shall be responsible to:
- a.** Refer matters regarding the status or conduct of Tier I Affiliate Organizations to the Rules & Ethics Committee and/ or the Suspension Review Committee.
 - b.** Review and make recommendations to the AHAI Board of Directors regarding the status of a Current Tier I or Applicant Affiliate Organization under the terms established by the AHAI By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations.
- 4.8.2** This Committee shall, review, postpone, condition or recommend action on an application by a proposed group to become a Tier I Affiliate Organization to the AHAI Board of Directors based upon the submittal of the required Affiliate Organization Application Process and supporting documentation. This action includes but is not limited to recommendation of approval of any eligible group to become a Tier I Affiliate Organization.

4.9 TIER II YOUTH COMMITTEE

4.9.1 Shall be responsible to:

- a.** Refer matters regarding the status or conduct of Tier II Affiliate Organizations to the Rules & Ethics Committee and or the Suspension Review Committee.
- b.** Review and make recommendations to the AHAI Board of Directors regarding the status of a Current Tier II or Applicant Affiliate Organization under the terms established by the AHAI By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations.

4.9.2 This Committee shall, review, postpone, condition or recommend action on an application by a proposed group to become a Tier II Affiliate Organization to the AHAI Board of Directors based upon the submittal of the required Affiliate Organization Application Process and supporting documentation. This action includes but is not limited to recommendation of approval of any eligible group to become a Tier II Affiliate Organization.

4.9.3 This Committee will hear and review questions regarding player movement from one Tier II Affiliate Organization to another, or any other issues that may arise concerning player movement and take such other actions as may be directed by the AHAI Board of Directors regarding current AHAI By-Laws, Rules and Regulations.

4.10 TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

The AHAI State Tournament Committees shall have the sole authority to conduct all State Tournaments respectively with the assistance of the AHAI Board of Directors.

4.11 TIER III YOUTH COMMITTEE

4.11.1 Shall be responsible to:

- a.** Shall be responsible for developing hockey programs in the AHAI youth divisions (*pre-mite through midgets*) by providing program consultation to all Affiliate Organizations regardless of tier.
- b.** Coordinate any and all activities designed to develop amateur hockey at the youth level in accordance with the principals of the (*ADM*) American Development Model.
- c.** Refer matters regarding the status or conduct of Tier III Affiliate Organizations and House Programs to the Rules & Ethics Committee and or the Suspension Review Committee.
- d.** Review and make recommendations to the AHAI Board of Directors regarding the status of a Current Tier III or Applicant Affiliate Organization under the terms established by the AHAI By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations.

4.11.2 This Committee shall, review, postpone, condition, or recommend action on an application by a proposed group to become a Tier III Affiliate Organization to the AHAI Board

of Directors based upon the submittal of the required Affiliate Organization Application Process and supporting documentation. This action includes but is not limited to recommendation of approval of any eligible group to become a Tier III Affiliate Organization or House Program.

ARTICLE 5 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

5.1 SEASONS

- 5.1.1** Fall/Regular Season - Fall/Regular active roster dates are September 1st to March 31st of each year for Tier II Youth, Tier II Girls, Tier III Youth "B" & House "C", Adult, Women's, and Disabled Teams. Fall/Regular season active roster dates for Tier 1 Youth and Tier I Girls is May 15 through March 31st of each year. Teams registered for the Fall season are designated in the USAH Registry Portal as Regular Season.
- 5.1.2** Spring/Summer Season - Spring /Summer active roster dates are April 1st through August 31st of each year. Teams registered for the Spring/Summer season are designated in the USAH Registry Portal as Pre/Post Season.

5.2 INDIVIDUAL MEMBER REGISTRATION

- 5.2.1** All players, volunteers and coaches participating on or with USA Hockey registered teams must be registered with USA Hockey by completing their individual member registration. Registration is required once each year September 1st through August 31st. <https://membership.usahockey.com/>
- 5.2.2** A player or coach shall not participate in any hockey related activity (*including tryouts*), until they have registered with USA Hockey, the appropriate fee has been paid, and the AHAI Affiliate Organization has processed their USA Hockey Registration Confirmation Number in their USA Hockey Registry portal.
- 5.2.3** Affiliate Organization Officers and Staff must register annually with USA Hockey by completing their individual member registration with USA Hockey. Registration is required once each year (*September 1st through August 31st*). If they are players or coaches, they only need to register once. They do not need to register again as a volunteer. If they are not coaches, or staff, they may register as a volunteer at no charge. <https://membership.usahockey.com/>
- 5.2.4** The USA Hockey Confirmation numbers for participants (players, coaches, managers, volunteers, and affiliate officers) must be processed annually through the Affiliate Organization's USA Hockey Registry Portal.
- 5.2.5** The confirmation number of Affiliate Officers must also be entered by the Affiliate Organization's Registrar into the AHAI Webtool on the Organization Page.

5.3 TEAM REGISTRATION AND ROSTERS DEADLINES

- 5.3.1** All Tier I Youth and Girls, Tier II Youth and Girls, Tier III Youth "B" & House "C", Adult, Women's, and Disabled Teams must have an Official USA Hockey Certified Roster before their first on ice activity. An Official USA Hockey Certified Roster is one that has been properly filed and approved by the AHAI Registrar. This is done by completing the registration process in the USA Hockey Registry Portal and then submitting the team to AHAI in the AHAI webtool. The roster is not officially certified until it is approved by the AHAI Registrar.
- 5.3.2** October 15th is the last date to file a team roster for a new Tier I Youth and Girls, Tier II Youth and Girls, Tier III Youth "B" & House "C", Girls High School or High School team.
- 5.3.3** December 26th is the last date to add a player to a Tier I Youth or Girls, Tier II Youth or Girls, Girls High School or High School team.
- 5.3.4** Tier III Youth "B" & House "C", Disabled, Adult and Women's teams may create new teams or add/drop players to a roster at any time during the Playing Season.

5.4 CLASSIFICATIONS AND DIVISIONS

- 5.4.1** Age Classifications are defined by USA Hockey each playing season.

Youth Age/Team Classifications

| <u>DATE OF BIRTH</u> | <u>AGE CATEGORY</u> | <u>AGE DIVISION</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2007 | 18 years | 18 & Under |
| 2008 | 17 years | 18 & Under |
| 2009 | 16 years | 16 & Under |
| 2010 | 15 years | 16 & Under |
| 2011 | 14 years | 14 & Under |
| 2012 | 13 years | 14 & Under |
| 2013 | 12 years | 12 & Under |
| 2014 | 11 years | 12 & Under |
| 2015 | 10 years | 10 & Under |
| 2016 | 9 years | 10 & Under |
| 2017 | 8 years | 8 & Under |
| 2018 | 7 years | 8 & Under |

Girls Age/Team Classifications

| <u>DATE OF BIRTH</u> | <u>AGE CATEGORY</u> | <u>AGE DIVISION</u> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2006 | 19 years | 19 & Under |
| 2007 | 18 years | 19 & Under |
| 2008 | 17 years | 19 & Under |
| 2009 | 16 years | 16 & Under |
| 2010 | 15 years | 16 & Under |
| 2011 | 14 years | 14 & Under |
| 2012 | 13 years | 14 & Under |
| 2013 | 12 years | 12 & Under |
| 2014 | 11 years | 12 & Under |
| 2015 | 10 years | 10 & Under |
| 2016 | 9 years | 10 & Under |
| 2017 | 8 years | 8 & Under |
| 2018 | 7 years | 8 & Under |
| 2019 | 6 years | 6 & Under |

5.4.2 The 10 & Under age classification players may play up on a 12 & Under team.

5.4.3 At the 14 & Under, 16 & Under, and 18/19 & Under age classifications, a player may play up one (1) age level.

5.4.4 High School Teams

5.4.4.1 High School Teams are restricted to amateurs who are full time students (*grades 9-12*), and under 20 years old on December 31st of the Playing Season, not to exceed eight (8) consecutive semesters starting with their freshman year, who are enrolled and attending the school designated on the team's and player's registration form.

(Clarification: Those High School students graduating mid-year are no longer full- time students and therefore, are not eligible to play on the High School hockey team, effective on their last day of attending classes full time as defined by the school).

5.4.4.2 Pure High School Teams

Pure HS are defined as teams with students that attend one school. They are registered in the USA Hockey Registry Portal as High School / Division I.

5.4.4.3 Combined High School Teams

Defined as teams with students from an approved combination of schools. They are registered in the USA Hockey Registry Portal as High School / Division II.

5.4.5 Home Schooling follows the IHSA Guidelines

https://www.ihsa.org/documents/forms/2012-13/Home_School_Fact_Sheet.pdf

5.4.6 Adult Teams

Limited to amateurs 18 years of age or older.

5.4.7 Juniors

All players wishing to play Juniors must contact the AHAI Registrar BEFORE they are rostered or play on a Junior team to determine eligibility. No player may actively participate on a Junior team and be simultaneously on a Youth Team in Illinois. Any player leaving his Youth hockey team must be stricken from his Youth roster and may only return to Youth hockey in Illinois with the approval of the AHAI Board of Directors.

5.5 USA HOCKEY / AHAI PLAY DOWN RULE

5.5.1 AHAI Affiliate Organizations may not petition AHAI to allow a player to play down an age classification to play with any Tier I Youth or Girls, or Tier II Youth or Girls team.

5.5.2 An AHAI Affiliate Organization may petition for a player to play down on a Tier III travel House League "C" team provided that they submit the following:

- 5.5.3** The parents or guardians of the player submit their request in writing stating the reason for the petition.
- 5.5.4** Written notice by the child's physician that it is medically necessary for the child to play down.
- 5.5.5** The Hockey Director for the AHAI Affiliate Organization provides in writing their agreement of the request.
- 5.5.6** Simply being "small for their age" or "not very skilled" are not considered to be adequate reasons for granting a 'play down' exception, since they do not rise to the level of a disability under definitions and current court decisions about the Americans with Disabilities Act (*ADA*).
- 5.5.7** Petitions granted in spring will apply to the following Fall/Regular Season under the same conditions stated above.

5.6 RESIDENCY

5.6.1 General Intent of Residency Rule:

- a.** No player may have more than one residence for the purposes of hockey.
- b.** It is the general intent of the Rules that no player may create a residence for hockey purposes.
- c.** No player shall attempt to "play games" with residence, nor benefit from multiple residences or a question on residence, especially for purposes of or affecting hockey.
- d.** If a player's residence is not with parent(s) and would benefit the player for purposes of hockey, the presumption is that the player does not reside at the non- parent residence for hockey purposes.

5.6.2 The player shall have the burden of proving residence, and AHAI Section 5.6.1 of this Article is especially important in this context.

5.6.3 There are several general statements that can be made regarding residency and how AHAI will look at residency for the purpose of hockey in Illinois. In an effort to reduce the potential of any problem regarding where a Player resides for any purposes the following Rules apply:

- a.** If the address on the roster is not the one where the Player "lives" with both parents, you must bring the matter affirmatively to the attention of the AHAI Registrar, in writing, and obtain a ruling as to where the Player resides prior to the Roster being submitted to AHAI. "Lives" for this purpose means: "eats, sleeps, attends school and performs normal daily activities from that address". This is not the definition of "reside" for Tier II purposes but is the definition AHAI uses to bring this matter to AHAI's attention. Failure to comply with this Rule may result in suspension of the Player and/or Team and/or Organization.

- b. The general rule is that AHAI looks to the residency of the players' parents as the players' residency. There may be exceptions to this rule, but they must be reviewed by AHAI prior to the submission of a roster to AHAI or any League or participation in any game.
- c. Divorce may pose additional considerations as to determining residence. Divorce situations should be brought to the attention of and clarified by AHAI prior to the submission of a roster to AHAI or any League or participation in any game.

5.6.4 In addition, and especially where there is a question or multiple residences are involved, AHAI will also look at other facts among which is where the player actually resides for normal day to day activities.

5.7 UNREGISTERED ORGANIZATIONS, EVENTS, TEAMS, AND OFFICIATING

5.7.1 The Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois, Inc. (*AHAI*) is authorized by USA Hockey (*USAH*) as the sole governing body for all USA Hockey registered players, teams, coaches, and officials in Illinois. AHAI is authorized to act as it deems fit in the best interests of its members to promote the sport of ice hockey within the bylaws and rules and regulations as promulgated by USAH.

5.7.2 AHAI does not support any AHAI Member or Member Association's participation in any association or organization not registered with USAH and AHAI (Unregistered Organization), unregistered teams (*Unregistered Teams*) or any non USAH or AHAI sanctioned event (*Non- Sanctioned Event*). Unregistered Organizations and Non- Sanctioned Events do not provide USAH governance or insurance benefits to any participant. The following guidelines shall outline AHAI's policy.

5.7.2.1 Organizations / Tournaments

- a. AHAI Member Organizations may not host any Unregistered Teams or Non-Sanctioned Events. Any Official assigned to any Member Association, Organization, or Tournament games must be a properly registered USAH Official.
- b. AHAI Member Association Teams may only participate in games hosted by properly registered USAH Organizations, Tournaments, or Teams.
- c. Any Member Association who knowingly allows a Member Team to participate in any unregistered event shall not be eligible to participate in the AHAI State Tournament.
- d. Any Member Team who participates in any unregistered event shall not be eligible to participate in the AHAI State Tournament.

- e. Member Organization Officiating Schedules must be certified by AHAI. Officiating Schedules who circumvent this policy shall lose AHAI certification and shall be replaced by their Member Association.

5.7.2.2 Officials

- a. Youth games include all age classifications except USAH Adult and USAH Women.
- b. Any USA Hockey Official wearing the USA Hockey Officials crest in a non-sanctioned event may lose their USA Hockey Officials status and certification.
- c. All Officials are independent contractors, and the assigning process is not a guarantee of any assignment(s).
- d. Any Officiating Scheduler's who assign an Official to any Unregistered Youth Team shall be brought before the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee.

ARTICLE 6 FEE SCHEDULE

| Individual Membership Registration | <u>USAH fee</u> | <u>AHAI Fee</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Youth/Girls Players 2017 & Younger | \$15 | | \$15 |
| Youth/Girls Players 2016-2015 | \$50 | \$25 | \$75 |
| Youth/Girls Players 2014-2011 | \$61 | \$25 | \$86 |
| Youth/Girls Players 2010-2005 | \$70 | \$25 | \$95 |
| Youth/Girls Players 2004 & Older (<i>Adults</i>) | \$46 | \$25 | \$71 |
| Coaches Registration | \$46 | \$25 | \$71 |
| Volunteer Registration | No Charge | | |
| Team Membership Registration | None | | |
| Travel Permits Per Team: Usa Travel Only | \$50 | | |
| Travel Permits Per Team: Usa And Canada | \$100 | | |
| Screening Application | \$35 Per Application | | |
| Tournament/Showcase Fees | \$300/Tournament | | |

Included in the USA Hockey portion of your registration fees is a mandatory liability and catastrophic injury insurance premium. For Youth, Girls, and High School teams and younger, this fee includes excess medical insurance.

ARTICLE 7

FALL/WINTER SEASON TOURNAMENT, JAMBOREE, & SHOWCASE TEAMS

7.1 FALL/WINTER SEASON TOURNAMENT/JAMBOREE/SHOWCASE TEAMS

- 7.1.1** A Tournament/Showcase Team may be formed during the Fall/Regular playing season to participate in an AHAI/USAH/Canada Hockey sanctioned tournament/showcase in or out of the State of Illinois is subject to the rules set out in this Article.
- 7.1.2** When an AHAI Affiliate Organization has an Official USA Hockey Certified Roster for the Fall/Winter season ("*Original Team*") does not have sufficient players available from the Original Team

because of absences (“Absent Players”) due to illness, injury or vacation conflicts, to attend a specific AHAI/ USAH/Canada Hockey Sanctioned Event (*Tournament/Showcase*) during the Fall/Winter season they may substitute other players for the absent player to enable the team to attend a specific event.

7.1.3 The following rules and restrictions will apply:

- a. The Registrar of the AHAI/USAH AHAI Affiliate Organization must register the team using the USA Hockey Registration portal and electronically upload the team to the AHAI webtool.
- b. The team must be identified as a “Tournament Team” using the name of the Original Team and registered as an Invitational Tournament in the season on the USA Hockey Registration portal.
- c. If a team is participating in a tournament/showcase outside of Illinois, the team must register and pay for a Travel Permit for the tournament team.
- d. The electronic roster must be approved by the AHAI State Registrar before the team departs for the tournament.
- e. The original players who will not be on the Tournament Team must be indicated together with the reason they will not attend the Tournament. This information must be submitted via email and approval given by the AHAI Registrar to enable the roster to be approved.
- f. The Tournament Team shall be comprised of the Original Team, less the Absent Players, plus, the substitute players who will take the place of the Absent Players. The Tournament Team may add substitute players up to the allowed number of players according to the USAH Rules.
- g. The “Tournament Team” Roster, and Travel Permit are valid only for the weekend dates of and for the AHAI/USAH/Canada Hockey sanctioned event listed on the travel permit. It is not good for any other event. This information must be submitted, and approved given by the AHAI State Registrar before the team departs for the tournament.
- h. Officially “rostered players” on the Original Team may not be left home or removed from the official team roster in order to make room for other players on a “Tournament Team”.
- i. Only players from within the AHAI/USAH member association of the Original Team may participate. All documentation must be submitted before a “Tournament Team” application can be approved.
- j. Substitute players must come from the same Affiliate Organization and at the same Tier level and a playing level the same or below. For example- Tier I Youth Teams may only roster players from other Tier I Youth teams within their own AHAI/USAH Affiliate Organization. Tier II Youth teams may only roster players from other Tier II Youth teams within

their own AHAI/USAH Affiliate Organization. Girl's teams may only roster players from within their own AHAI/USAH Girls Affiliate Organization. Tier III Youth "B" & House "C" teams may only roster players from within their own AHAI/USAH Affiliate Organization. Tier I Major players may not be rostered on Tier I Minor teams for "Tournament Team" purposes. Tier II "AA".

- k.** High School teams ("*Pure*" or "*Combined*") may not register tournament teams.
- l.** AHAI shall have complete jurisdiction over AHAI/USAH registered teams when they play inside Illinois or travel outside Illinois.
- m.** No team leaving or playing outside the State of Illinois shall use any Player not on its official USAH or "Tournament Team" roster and all teams, players, coaches, and Organizations registered with AHAI/USAH shall comply with all AHAI By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations and Policies whether they play in Illinois or out of State.
- n.** This "Tournament Team" will not be eligible for the AHAI State Tournament or any District/Regional National Championship play.
- o.** "Tournament Team" will not have the voting rights of a regular season team.
- p.** Any "Tournament Teams" formed for play in the Spring, from April 1st to August 31st, are governed by the rules found in the AHAI Guide, Spring/Summer Season.
- q.** Jamboree Teams may be formed by an AHAI Affiliate Organization for participation in sanctioned Jamboree Events (*refer to Article 10*). They may form groups for participation in two of the following ways:
 - i.** Flex Teams may be formed with players from within the same affiliate organization at the same tier level. The title of the team should be the name of the affiliate organization with the word "Jamboree" added to the team's name. The teams are limited to the approved division and class for the organization (*youth, girls, or disabled discipline*). They are not limited by age classification. ii. In lieu of a certified roster, a group of players from the within the same affiliate organization may participate in a USAH sanctioned Jamboree representative of their organization provided they provide to the Jamboree Event Director proof of current USAH Registration which has been processed by the affiliate organization and the players have been added to one of the affiliate's team. The affiliate is restricted to forming teams allowed by their affiliate approved category (*youth, girls or disabled*) meaning Youth organizations may have a combined group of youth and girls' players from their organization participate in the sanctioned event. Youth organizations may not send a group limited to females to the event. Girl's organizations are limited to sending a group of female players to participate as representative of their organization. They may not include male participants.

ARTICLE 8 TRAVEL PERMITS

8.1 U.S. / CANADIAN TRAVEL PERMIT

The possession of a current season Travel Permit is necessary for any member team leaving the State of Illinois to play games. All teams requiring a Travel Permit shall contact their Affiliate Organization

Registrar to apply to the AHAI State Registrar. Travel Permits are not required for league games.

- 8.1.1** Any team that does not obtain the proper travel permit from the AHAI Registrar will be referred to the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee for appropriate disciplinary action.
- 8.1.2** All Travel Permits are ordered in the AHAI Webtool by the Affiliate Organization Registrar in the AHAI Webtool on behalf of the teams.
- 8.1.3** AHAI shall have complete jurisdiction over AHAI/USAH registered teams when they travel outside the State of Illinois any form of team activity, including competition.
- 8.1.4** A special Hockey Canada and USA Hockey Travel Permit is required for Affiliate Organization teams traveling to Canada to play games.
- 8.1.5** No team leaving or playing outside the State of Illinois shall use any Player not on said team's official USA Hockey roster and all teams, players and Organizations registered with AHAI/ USA Hockey shall comply with all AHAI By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and Policies whether they play or are in Illinois or out of state.

8.2 INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PERMIT

- 8.2.1** All teams, Organizations, and individuals planning to travel to a foreign country other than Canada or planning to host foreign teams other than Hockey Canada Members shall apply to the AHAI State Registrar, in writing, for an International Travel Permit. Upon satisfactory completion of said application, an International Travel Permit may be granted upon receipt of international fees as established by AHAI and USA Hockey.
- 8.2.2** International matches involving USA Hockey member teams will be played under the jurisdiction of the International Ice Hockey Federation and USA Hockey. IIHF Playing Rules shall be used.

ARTICLE 9 SPRING/SUMMER HOCKEY

9.1 SPRING / SUMMER HOCKEY

The period from April 1 of the calendar year through August 31 of the same calendar year is considered the Spring/Summer hockey season. All applicable AHAI By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and Committee findings are in effect with the following exceptions:

- 9.1.1** Teams registered for the Spring/Summer Season will register using the Pre/Post season in the USA Hockey Registry Portal.
- 9.1.2** A team specifically established for this period must register through an existing AHAI Affiliate Organization. A team may not register as an independent team.
- 9.1.3** A registered AHAI Player may skate with any AHAI Affiliate Organization who registers Spring/Summer teams with AHAI.
- 9.1.4** Players may be registered with multiple AHAI Affiliate Organizations and on multiple teams within AHAI Affiliate Organizations. Sanctioned Leagues may be more restrictive.
- 9.1.5** A Player skating on a Spring/Summer team shall not be required to pay any fees in excess of actual ice costs and expenses.
- 9.1.6** Spring/Summer teams have no voting rights.
- 9.1.7** For the Spring/Summer season, the age classifications for the following fall season apply. The definition of the age classification for the following season can be found in the USA Hockey Registry Portal under USAH Forms, Age Chart (*Next Season*). AHAI Affiliate Organizations may not register players on spring teams that do not comply with the age classifications for the following fall season. Spring Leagues may not waive this requirement and allow players that do not comply with the above age classifications.
- 9.1.8** Any Tier I, Tier II or Tier III teams or leagues that do not comply with these rules will be considered non-sanctioned by USAH and AHAI. If an AHAI Affiliate Organization does not follow the rules for age classification, the AHAI Rules and Ethics Committee may require a hearing with that Affiliate Organization's Board of Directors.
- 9.1.9** Organizations that are registered with AHAI as a Tier III Youth "B" & House "C", Tier I or Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization may not register High School (*Varsity or Junior Varsity*) Teams.
- 9.1.10** High School Organizations may only register Varsity and Junior Varsity teams. They may not register Youth or Girls teams.
- 9.1.11** The rules that govern the registration of High School teams in the Fall/Winter (*Regular Season*) also applies to Spring teams.
 - a.** Pure High School Organizations may only register players that are currently enrolled in their school. They may not use players that are not students at their respective school.
 - b.** Combined Organizations must adhere to the combinations approved by the High School Committee for the previous Fall season. Any exceptions to the combinations from the previous Fall must be pre-approved by the High School Chair.
 - c.** Current seniors are not eligible to participate on a Spring High School team. Incoming freshmen (*current 8th graders*)

may participate on a high school team on the condition that they are eligible to attend that school and have indicated their intent to attend the school in the Fall. Current 7th graders are not eligible to participate on a Spring High School team. Players may only participate on high school teams from one organization each season.

- d. Girls may be on a girls' high school team and a Varsity or Junior Varsity team within the same organization.
- e. Spring/Summer Leagues may not waive these requirements and allow players that do not comply with the above age classifications and rules. Any teams or leagues that do not comply will be considered non-sanctioned by USAH and AHAI

9.1.12 If an AHAI Affiliate Organization does not follow the rules for Spring/Summer Hockey, the AHAI Rules and Ethics Committee may require a hearing with the Affiliate Organization's Board.

ARTICLE 10 PERMITS FOR SANCTIONED EVENTS TOURNAMENTS, SHOWCASES, OR A SERIES OF GAMES

10.1 PERMITS FOR SANCTIONED EVENTS

Any sanctioned amateur hockey event such as a tournament, showcase or series of games being played in Illinois must obtain a Tournament Event Permit.

All Sanctioned Tournaments must adhere to the USA Hockey Sanctioned Tournament Safe Sport Program Protocol detailing tournament staff requirements. https://secure.ahai2.org/pdf/Sanctioned_Tournament_Protocol.pdf

The event host must agree to the USA Hockey Rules and Regulations stated in the USAH Annual Guide in Article VIII – GAMES, EXHIBITION GAMES, INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS, JAMBOREES, AND SANCTIONED EVENTS.

<https://www.usahockey.com/annualguide>

The event host must agree to the terms stated in the AHAI Webtool permit registration.

- 10.1.1** No tournament may be held within the jurisdiction of AHAI, without the procurement of a Tournament Permit for each age level participating in the tournament.
- 10.1.2** A tournament or showcases or other series of games is designated as:
 - a. Any number of games played with teams outside of your normal league competition and/or teams from outside of Illinois.
 - b. An entry fee is required.
 - c. Playdown games may be required to determine a final winner in any division.

- d. All Players participating in such tournaments must be on their respective AHAI or other State's Affiliate's USA Hockey roster and the Tournament Chairperson must submit rosters of all teams in the tournament to the AHAI Registrar ten (10) days prior to the commencement of the tournament.
- e. Registration must be completed by the Affiliate Registrar or Tournament Vendor President or Registrar in the AHAI Webtool. All tournaments must be approved by the AHAI State Registrar and USA Hockey District Registrar.
- f. The Tournament Director is responsible for providing to the AHAI State Registrar a copy of the following: a listing of participating teams by division, where the games are to be played and a copy of all rules and procedures of the tournament. This information is due to the AHAI State Registrar a minimum of seven (7) days before the start of the event.
- g. The Tournament Director or site administrator does not have the authority to allow mixed or additional players on rosters. This practice will jeopardize a team's registration. All participating teams must have an official USA Hockey certified roster. Only members approved on the specific team roster may participate.
- h. Once sanctioning has been approved, the Tournament provider may NOT change the status of the event to be non-sanctioned without the written permission of the AHAI State Registrar and AHAI Affiliates. AHAI Sanctioned Leagues may not host non-sanctioned events.
- i. Sanctioned Jamborees may be hosted by an AHAI Affiliate Organization. The Affiliate Organization must notify the AHAI Registrar via email of the event including the date, location, and participating Affiliate Organizations. This notification must be made a minimum of seven (7) days before the event. All participants (*players and coaches*) must have a current USAH registration.

There are two (2) options for registering teams. The host may capture all players in their USAH Registry Portal program and create teams, or the host may require participating teams to provide a certified roster. The host may configure players from multiple USAH/AHAI Affiliate Organizations on a "team" for balanced play. The host may not configure a team of solely female players unless the event is limited to female players in which case only AHAI Affiliate Girls Organizations may host the event.

ARTICLE 11 ROSTERS

11.1 ROSTERS

No AHAI team shall practice or play any game unless it is properly registered and has an approved Official USA Hockey Certified Roster.

11.2 During the Regular (Fall) Season, a player is limited to be rostered on:

- a. One (1) USA Hockey Tier I Youth, Tier II Youth or Tier III Youth "B" & House "C" roster

- b. One (1) USA Hockey Tier I or Tier II Girl's roster
 - c. A player may only be rostered with one (1) High School Affiliate Organization
 - d. A player may not be rostered on both, a Girls High School team, and a Youth High School team except as stated in Article 19 Section 19.9.11 specific to Girls High School Goaltenders
- 11.3** Tier I Youth, Tier I Girls, and Tier II Girls (14U, 16U, 19U) who sign player cards are bound to the Affiliate Organization and team within the Affiliate Organization for the duration of the regular fall/winter season and may NOT move to or be rostered on any other Affiliate Organization's team. Removing a player from the regular fall/winter season roster DOES NOT enable a player to join a second team during the same regular fall/winter season.
- 11.4** All Affiliate Organizations including Tier I Youth, Tier I Girls, Tier II Youth, Tier II Girls, and High School Teams must register their teams by the date of the playing season set out in these Rules and regulations.
- 11.5** All Learn to Skate, Learn to Play, Tier III Youth "B" & House "C" Teams, Women's Teams, and Adult Teams must comply with these Rules and Regulations.
- 11.6** It is the responsibility of each Affiliate Organization/AHAI team and member to submit a correct roster which complies with the AHAI By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations. It is important to clarify, clear up, and obtain a ruling on any roster question or fact that may cause someone to question a roster prior to submitting a roster to AHAI or any League or participation in any game, even if it is believed to have been resolved.
- 11.7** If there is any question about a roster, or there is information that may cause anyone to doubt or question the residence or any matter concerning the roster, the Affiliate Organization/team and member has an affirmative obligation to bring the matter to the attention of the AHAI Registrar, and obtain a ruling in writing, prior to submitting a roster but in no event later than immediately after the question or fact is known to the Affiliate Organization, AHAI team and/or member. It is not the responsibility of AHAI to initiate the review of nor initially review rosters but rather the responsibility of the Affiliate Organization/team and member to submit a true and correct roster.
- 11.8** AHAI will review any roster question brought to its attention in accordance with the AHAI By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations. It is also the responsibility of each Affiliate Organization/team and player to be familiar with, and comply with all AHAI By-Laws, and these Rules and Regulations.
- 11.9** After a Member is certified to a roster they cannot be removed from that roster. Any modification to an approved roster must be approved by the AHAI Registrar prior to removal of the member.
- 11.10** Any AHAI team whose roster is found to be improper for failure to comply with the requirements of the AHAI By-Laws, or these Rules and Regulations shall be declared to be an "Improper Team" by the AHAI Registrar and referred to the Rules and Ethics Committee for other appropriate action.

The AHAI Rules and Ethics Committee shall consider, but is not limited to considering, the following sanctions where appropriate:

- a. All previous games played against other AHAI teams shall be forfeited and the improper AHAI Team shall not be eligible to play in any AHAI League end-of- season or State Playdown which may or may not lead to the USA Hockey Districts or Nationals Championship for the current Playing Season and no player appearing on an Improper Team roster may be added to any AHAI Team roster the following Playing Season except on appeal to the AHAI Board of Directors.

11.11 Roster Maximums

11.11.1 A limit of twenty (20) players at any one time may be registered per team except for High School, College teams and Women's College who may roster thirty (30) players and may play twenty (20) players, and Adult and Women's teams who may roster twenty- five (25) players and may play twenty (20) players.

11.11.2 A Member may be registered in only one (1) National Ice Hockey Federation.

11.12 Roster Minimums

11.12.1 Youth and Girls teams must consist of a minimum of at least twelve (12) players including goaltenders.

11.12.2 High School teams must have a minimum of fourteen (14) skaters and one (1) goaltender.
An Exception to this rule (*Roster Minimums*) may be considered by the respective Committee Chair.

11.13 Goaltenders

11.13.1 Any player on the team's Official Certified Roster may play as the goaltender provided, they are approved on the Official USAH Certified roster in any position other than a Back-Up Goaltender (*BUG*). Goaltenders, except for a *BUG*, may be skaters on the team.

11.13.2 All AHAI Youth and Girls teams must register with two (2) designated goaltenders for their roster to be certified by the AHAI Registrar.

11.13.3 The regular goaltender(s) on the team must be identified on the Official USA Hockey Roster. This is done in the USAH Registry Portal. On the team's Official Certified roster, they will be designated with "G" for goaltender.

11.13.4 The second goaltender may be an active member of the team that will not regularly play as the goaltender. They should be identified on the roster with "IG" for Identified Goaltender.

11.13.5 In the case where the position of goaltender will rotate among the players, two (2) players should be selected and identified as the Identified Goaltenders (*IG*) for the team.

- 11.13.6** In addition to player(s) on the Official USAH Certified Roster being identified as the goaltenders, a Back Up Goaltender (BUG) may be registered on the team as the second required Goaltender. The BUG must be a player from within the Affiliate Organization at the same Tier level and at the same playing level or below.

(Example: The goalie on a 10U A team may be the BUG on the 10U AA team. The BUG on the 10U A team may not be a 10U AA goalie since they are from a playing level above the 10U A team.)

- 11.13.7** AHAI Tier III or House C teams are balanced so the Back Up Goalie (BUG) on an AHAI Tier III B or House C level team may be any player from the same playing level or from a playing level beneath the team.

(Example: A 12U Tier III B or House C goalie may be the BUG for any 12U Tier III B or House C team within the same Affiliate Organization. They may also be the BUG for any 14U Tier III or House C team within the Affiliate Organization.)

- 11.13.8** AHAI Tier III B or House C players may not serve as the Back Up Goalie (BUG) for a Tier II or Tier I team. Tier II goalies may not serve as the BUG on a Tier III B or House C or Tier I team. Tier I goalies may not serve on a Tier II or Tier III B or House C team.

- 11.13.9** Back up Goalies (BUGs) may only participate with the team in the event that the regular goalie(s) are injured or unavailable. The team must notify the AHAI Registrar or President if they will be using the BUG in a game before they play. The notification should be made by phone.

- 11.13.10** The AHAI registrar may allow an exception for goaltenders. This request must be documented and sent to the AHAI Registrar, in writing, before an exception is considered.

- 11.13.11** High School Goalie Exception
(See High School Rules and Regulations)

- 11.13.12** *For Tier III B or House C only, a goaltender may be rostered on multiple teams within the same Affiliate Organization with the exception of the dedicated goalie on the Tier III Youth Prime Team who may only be on the Youth Prime Team's roster. The intent of this rule is to provide goalies for each team while respecting the Tier III philosophy of equal playing time for both games and practices.*

- 11.13.13** In an emergency situation, goalies within Tier III B or House C Affiliate Organizations can be rostered as Back Up Goalies (BUGs) on Tier II programs it is affiliated with. This is for Affiliate Organizations with either the same ILH numbers for both Tier II and Tier III or if the Tier III Affiliate Organization is in the same affiliation Park District. This is determined by the Tier III Affiliate Organization only. The AHAI Registrar and Tier III Chair must be notified via email when a Tier III Goalie is being added to a Tier II team as a Back Up Goalie (BUG). The Back Up Goalie (BUG) may only play when the Tier II Affiliate Organization does not

have a goalie available to play, and the Tier III team must take precedence for all conflicts. A Back Up Goalie (*BUG*) can play at the same level or up one (1) age level. The AHAI Registrar and the Tier III Chair must be notified when a team is using their Tier III Back Up Goalie (*BUG*) in a game.

11.14 TEAM AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

No players may be rostered or play on more than one Youth or Girls Tier I or Tier II team during the same playing season, except as specifically allowed in these AHAI Rules and Regulations.

11.14.1 AHAI registered teams shall **NOT**:

- a. Play any Illinois team that is not a member of AHAI and USA Hockey.
- b. Participate in any game, practice, event, or other activity with which a person or entity suspended by AHAI and/or USA Hockey is participating or otherwise involved.
- c. Use any player not properly rostered to its team and may not play any team using a player not properly rostered to the team it plays.
- d. Participate in any event (*game, tournament, showcase, or other series of games*) that is not sanctioned by either AHAI or USA Hockey.

11.15 GAMES

Definition of a game: For the purposes of this rule, the definition of what constitutes a "game" shall include the definition of that term as found in Section VIII-A of the USA Hockey Rules & Regulations, and shall also mean the following, whichever is more expansive: A contest between two separate, rostered, teams that uses one or more Officials, is played under the applicable USA Hockey Official Rules of Ice Hockey, and a time clock is used regardless of the length of the periods.

11.16 GAME LIMITS

11.16.1 The intent of this rule is to increase the practice to game ratio of all AHAI affiliate teams and to emulate the introduction of the USA Hockey American Development Model (*ADM*).

11.16.2 The AHAI team game limits shall be mandatory for High School, Tier II Youth and Girls, Tier III B / House League C teams and recommended for Tier I Youth and Girls teams.

11.16.3 Game limits will be as follows.

| | | |
|---|-----------|-------------------|
| 8U Girls | 8U | 12 half ice games |
| 15 full ice games starting December 1st of each calendar year | | |
| Youth 10U | Girls 10U | 40 games maximum |
| Youth 12U | Girls 12U | 45 games maximum |

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------------|
| Youth 14U | Girls 14U | 50 games maximum |
| 15 O Youth | | 50 games maximum |
| 16U Youth | Girls 16U | 60 games maximum |
| 18U | | 60 games maximum |
| | Girls 19U | 60 games maximum |
| High School | | 60 games maximum |

11.16.4 It is recommended all 8U games should be 50 minutes in duration and wins and losses will not be kept along with league standings, etc.

11.17 OUT OF TIER GAME LIMITS

AHAI Tier II Youth, Tier II Girls and Tier III B or House League C teams are limited in the number of games for the current playing season, which they may participate against teams registered at a higher tier level regardless of whether those games are in Showcases, Tournaments, or otherwise.

11.17.1 Explanation of out of tier limits - this rule establishes a 50% limit on the number of games Affiliate Organizations may play against higher tier Affiliate Organizations in a season. Prior to the commencement of the Illinois State Playoffs, no team is to have MORE than 50% of their games against higher Tier Affiliate Organizations.

(Example: A 10U Tier II Team that played thirty-six (36) games prior to the State Playoffs cannot exceed eighteen (18) games against Tier I Opponents,)

11.17.2 Every game played in Showcases or Tournaments against a team at a higher Tier level as defined under Section 11.16 counts against the limits, regardless of how either team is registered in the Showcase or Tournament.

11.17.3 No Tier II or House team may participate in any Tier I or Tier II League, respectively. League Playoffs and State Tournament games are NOT included in determining maximum game counts.

11.17.4 Definition of a team's Tier level: A team's tier level is determined by the Division and Category designated on their USA Hockey Certified Roster.

11.18 PENALTIES

Enforcement of this rule shall be the responsibility of the AHAI State Tournament Committee. The Committee having jurisdiction, or its chairperson, acting alone if required by the circumstances, shall decide a claim that a team has violated the rule. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 21 (*Disciplinary Action*) of AHAI's Rules & Regulations, the Committee or its chairperson is empowered to take action without holding a hearing if the time between AHAI's awareness of the alleged violation and the start of the State Tournament does not reasonably allow a hearing to be held. Violation of this rule shall disqualify the team from participating in the AHAI State Tournament. In addition, the Team's Affiliate Organization along with the Team's coaches and managers may be referred to AHAI Rules and Ethics Committee for possible further discipline.

ARTICLE 12 SAFETY

12.1 SAFE SPORT PROGRAM

The safety of its participants is of paramount importance to USA Hockey. USA Hockey SafeSport is the Organization's program related to off-ice safety. AHA! adheres to the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program. USA Hockey has long had systems in place to protect its participants from physical, sexual, emotional, and other types of abuse, and misconduct that can be harmful to youth hockey players and other participants.

12.1.1 These include without limitation Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Screening, Locker Room Supervision, and Hazing Policies, in addition to Codes of Conduct applicable to administrators, coaches, officials, parents, players and spectators. The USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook is intended to update and collect USA Hockey's various policies to protect its participants from all types of misconduct and abuse. Information and Training can be found at USA Hockey: <https://www.usahockey.com/safesporttraining>

12.1.2 The USA Hockey Safe Sport Handbook addresses the following:
Policies prohibiting:
Emotional Abuse

Bullying

Threats and Harassment

Hazing

12.1.3 Other policies included address areas where misconduct can occur and are Intended to reduce the risk of potential abuse, including the following:

Locker Room Policy

Electronic Communications Policy

Travel Policy

Billeting Policy

Education and Awareness Training Policy

Screening and Background Check Program

Reporting of Concerns of Abuse

Responding to Abuse and Other Misconduct

Monitoring and Supervision of the SafeSport Program

12.1.4 Billeting

It is recognized that some youth and junior hockey players do leave home to play hockey in a location away from their parents. In those circumstances, the organization or team typically arranges for the player to live with a host or billet family. Having youth players live outside

their homes increases the risk for abuse and misconduct to occur. All organizations and teams that arrange for players to live with billet families shall have written policies and procedures in place to govern the arrangement. All billeting policies and procedures shall be provided to the player's parents in advance of placing the player with the billet and shall meet the following requirements:

- a. Billet families and the player and player's parents shall all sign an agreement with the Member Program and/or team that they will comply with the terms and conditions of the Billet Policy, the USCSS Code and the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook.
- b. As required by the jurisdiction where the player is billeted, the player's parents shall sign and provide a power of attorney and/or guardianship *(as necessary by applicable state law)* to the billet family adults to allow for them to make emergency medical and schooling decisions.
- c. Each Member Program or team shall have a billet coordinator who shall be responsible for overseeing compliance with the Billeting Policy, the USCSS Code and all USA Hockey SafeSport Policies.
- d. No more than two players may be housed with any one billet family *(at the Junior level, there may be exceptions to the number of players permitted in one billet home if approved by the USA Hockey Junior Council)*.
- e. Owners, coaches, team/program management and staff are not allowed to host or billet players.
- f. Minors must be placed with a billet family and may not reside in an apartment or home solely with other players.
- g. All adults living in the household of the billet family must be registered with USA Hockey, screened in accordance with the USA Hockey Screening Policy, and must complete the SafeSport Training in compliance with Section II. Proof that these requirements have been met must be received by the team's billet coordinator prior to the player moving in with the family.
- h. It is strongly recommended that all billet families be two-parent homes. However, single parent billet families may be acceptable, but the organization or team shall take additional reasonable steps to regularly monitor the billeting arrangement and its compliance with the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies.
- i. The Member Program or team shall have a mandatory curfew for all billeted players. The host family may have an earlier curfew.
- j. Players must agree to comply with the house rules of the billet families, including curfews, chores/ cleaning, telephone usage, etc. Complaints about unusual rules shall be addressed with the Member Program/team billet coordinator.
- k. Players shall not stay overnight at any other home except with the permission of the player's parents and advance notification to the billet family and Member Program or team billet coordinator.

- l.** Players are not to drive billet family vehicles without automobile liability insurance as required by applicable state law, and documentation and approval of the billet family.
- m.** The Member Program's/team's billeting policy shall include requirements that the billet family maintain appropriate homeowners/renters' insurance.
- n.** Players living with a billet family shall be permitted to make regular check-in phone calls to parents. Team personnel and billets shall allow for any unscheduled check-in phone calls between the player and parents.

12.1.5 A USA Hockey member or parent of any member who violates any of the Safe Sport Policies or if required fails to consent to and pass a screening and background check in compliance with the Screening and Background Check Program, will be denied eligibility within any USA Hockey program and is subject to appropriate disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension, permanent suspension, and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.

12.1.6 Mandatory Reporting law requires that:

- a.** ALL adult members of a National Governing Body (NGB) or a facility under the jurisdiction of an NGB or at any event sanctioned by an NGB, and
- b.** ALL adults authorized by such members to interact with an amateur athlete, immediately report an allegation of child abuse of an amateur athlete who is a minor to: The Center for Safe Sport, and to Law Enforcement.

List of USA Hockey Safe Sport resources: <https://www.usahockey.com/resourcesanddownloads>

12.2 SCREENING

AHAI adheres to the USA Hockey National Background Screening Policy.

USA Hockey Screening information link:

<https://www.usahockey.com/backgroundscreen>

In compliance with new requirements from the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (*USOPC*), USA Hockey has a national level background screening program.

12.2.1 All adult coaches, officials, board members, employees, volunteers, and anyone else who will have regular contact with, or authority over, athletes under the age of 18 are required to submit to a background screen before any such contact with those athletes.

12.2.2 USA Hockey has had a background screening policy in place since the 1993-94 season. The responsibility to ensure background screening took place was handled through the appropriate USA Hockey Affiliate. That will no longer be the process and instead the background screening program will be handled at the national level using NCSI. This will provide

consistency, enhance USA Hockey's world-leading SafeSport program, and comply with the requirements given to USA Hockey by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee.

12.2.3 For members who were last screened through their Affiliate after April 1, 2019, for the 2019-20 season, their screens will be valid for the 2020-21 season, and will not need to be screened under the new system until prior to the 2021-22 season. If a member's most recent screen is from prior to April 1, 2019, the member, if in a position that requires a background screen, will need to be screened using the USAH National Screening Program in order to participate in the upcoming 2021-22 season.

12.2.4 All new screens submitted through the NCSI national screening program after April 1, 2020, will be valid for two seasons. For example, a screen submitted and approved on April 15, 2020, will be valid through the end of the 2021-22 season, which is August 31, 2022.

12.3 CONCUSSION PROTOCOL and PLAYER RETURN TO PLAY POLICY

AHAI follows the USA Hockey protocol for concussion management found at www.USAHockey.com/safety-concussion

In the event of a concussion of a player, the Head Coach must adhere to the USAH Concussion Policy.

12.3.1 The USA Hockey Concussion Management Protocol and most state statutes require that an athlete be removed from any training, practice, or game if they exhibit any signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or are suspected of sustaining a concussion. The player should not return to physical activity until he or she has been evaluated by a qualified medical provider who has provided written clearance to return to sports.

12.3.2 Any athlete held out for concussion evaluation or who has been diagnosed with a concussion must provide a written Return to Play Form from a qualified medical provider allowing them to return to any training, practice, or game activity with no restrictions. The parent(s) must sign the form and the coach must also sign the form acknowledging that they received it.

12.3.3 The form must be completed and signed by a qualified medical provider. The parent(s) and coach must then sign the form. The completed should be kept with the team coach or manager.

Information and forms can be found at:
<https://www.usahockey.com/playersafety>

12.4 NECK LACERATION PROTECTION

USA Hockey approved legislation requiring the use of neck laceration protection for players in all age classifications, other than adults, in games and practices, as well as for on-ice officials under the age of 18, effective August 1, 2024. For clarity, the requirement includes players in the youth, girls, and junior age classifications.

(Arm bands, head bands, plain turtlenecks and mock turtlenecks are not neck laceration protectors.)

Not all protective equipment is mandatory in all age classifications. However, if not mandated by USA Hockey rule, USA Hockey strongly recommends that all in all age classifications properly wear an internal mouthpiece, a HECC approved helmet and a HECC approved full facemask for all games and practices.

12.5 CO-ED LOCKER ROOM POLICY

It is not acceptable under USA Hockey/AHA! By-Laws, Policies on Physical and Sexual Abuse for members to be observing the opposite gender while they dress/undress. In order to provide an enjoyable and safe experience for all players, please make certain that proper adult supervision is present in locker room settings at all times, including the provision for more having than one adult supervisor present in the locker room, and arrange to provide supervisors who are of the same sex as the children they are to protect. *(In the locker room means actually being inside the locker room and/or standing right outside, not at the concession stand or somewhere nearby in the lobby area).*

Please follow these Coaching Ethics Guidelines:

- a. Where possible, have the male and female players undress/dress in separate locker rooms; then convene in a single dressing room to hold the coach's pre-game meeting.
- b. Once the game is finished, hold the coach's post-game meeting; then have the male and female players proceed to their separate dressing rooms to undress and shower.

In those cases where separate facilities are not available, have one gender enter the locker room and change into their uniforms. That gender would then leave the locker room, while the other gender enters the locker room and gets dressed. Both genders would then assemble in the locker room and hold the coach's pre-game meeting.

- c. Following the game and the coach's post-game meeting, where separate facilities are not available, the second gender group enters the locker room and undresses/ showers, while the first group waits outside until they have undressed/shower and left the room. Once the second group leaves, the first group enters the locker room and undresses/ showers. This should be done on a rotating basis (*taking turns*) so neither gender is always last to dress/undress and shower. Taking turns is a means of reasonable accommodation so neither gender group is favored. Reinforce to all players, coaches, officials, volunteers, and parents at the beginning of each season at your Member Organization's parents' meetings that your Member Organization takes this issue seriously and has adopted a fair locker room policy.

12.6 LOCKER ROOM SUPERVISION - POLICY

Under USA Hockey's current Locker Room Policy "all USA Hockey Member Programs are required to have at least one responsible [*NCSI screened and SafeSport trained*] adult (*which may include coaches, managers or other volunteers*) present at all times and monitoring the locker room during all

team events to assure that only Participants (*coaches and players*), approved team personnel and family members are permitted in the locker room and to supervise the conduct in the locker room.”

While USA Hockey expressly prefers that locker room monitors remain inside the locker room while Participants are present, if the monitor is “in the immediate vicinity outside the locker room (*near the door within arm’s length and so that the monitor can sufficiently hear inside the locker room*) who also regularly and frequently enters the locker room to monitor activity inside,” the Member Program is in compliance.

Despite this policy, however, more than half of all SafeSport incidents reported each year occur in locker rooms. In all but a few cases, there was no locker room monitor present.

AHAI believes that the presence of adults inside the locker rooms is critical to maintaining a safe and positive environment for our players. For this reason, Illinois is joining the many states that have imposed stricter locker room monitoring requirements than those required by USA Hockey.

Effective immediately, the following conditions are REQUIRED of all AHAI Affiliates for locker room use at all team events including conditioning clinics, tryouts, practices, games, and any event that a locker room is being utilized:

- No players shall be allowed access to the locker room unless a NCSI background screened/Safe Sport trained locker room monitor is present in the locker room.
- If a single player is present, the locker room should be monitored by at least two adults until additional players arrive.
- If there is only one adult present, whether a coach or volunteer parent, they should wait for multiple players to arrive before allowing access to the locker room.
- The same strategies should be applied after practice with a monitor staying until the last player leaves, and at no time should one adult be alone in the locker room with one player, unless the player is their own child.

This policy applies to all minor USA Hockey Participants up through the youth 18U level and through girls 19U level. It should be noted that an Affiliate may at its discretion adopt stricter policies than those defined by USA Hockey or AHAI, but in no case may said policy be less strict.

Affiliates found in violation of this policy will be sanctioned automatically, under Zero Tolerance, in the following manner starting December 1, 2023.
1st team offense: \$500 fine to the Affiliate and one game suspension to the head coach

2nd team Offense: \$1000 fine to the Affiliate and 3 game suspension to the head coach

Any additional offenses will require the Affiliate president and coaches of the noncompliant team to appear before AHAI’s Rules and Ethics Committee to determine appropriate discipline, which may include exclusion from participation in the Illinois State Tournament.

As a reminder, all Affiliates are required to publish locker room policies to the parents of all minor participants that are specific to the facilities they regularly use.

The Affiliate's policies shall include the program's

- a. practices for supervising and monitoring locker rooms and changing areas;
- b. permission or lack of permission for parents to be in the locker rooms;
- c. prohibited conduct, including at least all forms of abuse and misconduct prohibited by USA Hockey; and
- d. specific policies regarding the use of mobile electronic devices and phones and prohibiting the use of a device's recording capabilities.

In addition to publishing these changes to AHAI's locker room policy, AHAI strongly encourages all Affiliates to go over its locker room policy with parents and players at a team meeting. At that time, the Affiliate should:

- Clearly explain the rules and expectations for players with respect to locker room activity.
- Clearly explain the rules and expectations of the locker room monitor.... including the corrective action that will be taken if necessary (*player could be benched or suspended, for example.*).

Ensure players and parents understand the locker room monitor is there to help ensure there is a safe environment for all members of the team.

AHAI is confident that this policy change will reduce incidents of hazing, bullying, harassment, or other inappropriate behaviors caused by an unsupervised locker room. The safety and well-being of every player is and will continue to be AHAI's top priority.

12.7 LOCKER BOXING POLICY

USA Hockey is concerned with the activity known as "Locker Boxing" (aka Helmet & Gloves) that produces head trauma in children and young adults. USA Hockey is opposed to that activity and recommends that our Member Associations take action to prevent this activity through awareness, education, and supervision.

ARTICLE 13 STATE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEES

13.1 AHAI STATE TOURNAMENTS

All state tournament competitions shall be under the respective control and supervision of:

- 13.1.1** AHAI Youth Tournament Committee - responsible for all tournaments 10U through and including 18U. This group is further sub-divided into a Tournament Committee for Tier I Youth and a Tournament Committee for Tier Youth II State Tournaments.

- 13.1.2** AHAI High School Tournament Committee - responsible for all High School related tournaments, including Boys High School teams and Girls High School teams.
- 13.1.3** AHAI Girl's Tournament Committee - responsible for all Girls' State Tournaments, except for Girls High School State Tournament.
- 13.1.4** AHAI Adult Women's Tournament Committee- responsible for the Women's State Tournament.
- 13.1.5** AHAI Adult Tournament Committee - responsible for all Adult Men's State Tournaments.

State Tournament Official as used hereafter means a member of the respective Tournament Committees, or a person appointed by the Chairperson of the respective Tournament Committee or any other AHAI Officer or Director.

13.2 GENERAL STATE TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS

- 13.2.1** Notification: Complete state tournament bulletins containing fee schedules, playoff structures, methods of pairings, qualifications and deadlines shall be prepared by the appropriate tournament committee and distributed to all member teams as early as possible.
- 13.2.2** Player Eligibility: Each Affiliate Organization team may dress a maximum of twenty (20) players including goalkeepers for each state tournament game. To qualify in the State Tournament, a player must play in 75% of the total amount of games that the Affiliate Organization team played from the last date that the player was certified to the team by the AHAI Registrar; and also played in a minimum of ten (10) games with the Affiliate Organization team. The deadline for a player to be added to a roster and be eligible to participate in the State Tournament is December 26th.
- 13.2.3** Team Eligibility: Means a group of amateur hockey players, coaches, and volunteers that, having complied with all of the By-Laws and these Rules and Regulations, have an Official USA Hockey Certified Roster, and must have played at least twenty (20) USAH and AHAI sanctioned games during the season as a unit.
- 13.2.4** Each Affiliate Organization team may select its players in any manner it sees fit, provided it conforms to all of the AHAI By-Laws, Rules and Regulations.
- 13.2.5** The playing of an ineligible player automatically forfeits the game he/she participated in AND disqualifies the Affiliate Organization team on which he/she played from state tournament or USA Hockey competition and makes the player, team, coach, manager, and sponsoring organization (*any or all*) subject to possible suspension.

13.3 GENERAL TOURNAMENT RULES

USA Hockey Rules shall prevail at all state tournament games with any exceptions to be detailed by the State Tournament Committee.

- 13.3.1** The length of periods, both stop time and running time, shall be determined by the State Tournament Committee for each classification and category.
- 13.3.2** It is required that all teams entering the State Tournament competition be properly uniformed, *(i.e., each player in the same-colored jersey with each jersey numbered)*.
- 13.3.3** An Affiliate Organization team may participate in only one division in the State Tournament and must declare which division it will participate in at the time the team files its tournament registration.
- 13.3.4** Any team that enters the State Tournament shall fully participate. Any team not fully participating shall be referred to the Tournament Protest Committee and the AHAI Rules and Ethics Committee for appropriate action.
- 13.3.5** Any school which “boards” students is not eligible for State Tournament play. “Boards” for the purpose of this rule is defined as rooming and living on the campus of the school or housing provided by the school of which the student is attending.

In the event there is no tournament at any age level, there will be no Affiliate Organization representative from Illinois in the USA Hockey Districts and Nationals Tournaments unless otherwise approved by the AHAI Board of Directors.

13.4 STATE TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS

13.4.1 Tier 1/AAA Youth and Girls Division

To compete in the State Tournament, a Tier I Team must be from an Affiliate Organization having at least three Tier I /AAA Teams playing at two different levels, 10U Major thru 18/19U.

13.4.1.1 Tier I Youth playing levels include: 10U Major, 12U Major, 12U Minor, 14U Major, 14U Minor, Fifteen Only, 16U, 18U.

13.4.1.2 No 12U aged youth players may participate on any National Bound Affiliate Organization 14U team

13.4.1.3 Tier I Girls playing levels include: 12U, 14U, 16U, 19U

13.4.1.4 Tier I Girls Declaration of National Bound Team:

In the event a player is registered on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a USA Hockey Nationals Championships Tournament, the player must declare, in writing, by December 31st to the Central District Registrar, the AHAI Registrar and the Girls Committee Chairperson for which National level bound team the player wishes to be eligible to advance with. If the player does not indicate which team she wishes to advance with by such deadline, the Central District Registrar shall

have the final authority to certify the eligibility of any such player solely based on the effective date of the receipt of the earliest Team's Roster Registration.

13.4.2 To compete in the State Tournament, a Tier II Team must be from an Affiliate Organization having at least three Affiliate Organization Tier II Teams playing at three different age levels, 10U through 18U.

13.4.2.1 No 12U aged youth players may participate on any National Bound Affiliate Organization's 14U team.

13.4.3 Tier II "AA" Division:

This tournament shall be for an Affiliate Organization's Top Tier II Team which is registered as "AA" and Affiliate Organization's teams that are registered as "A" who wish to participate in this level of the state tournament.

This division includes teams qualifying for the USA Hockey Districts/ Nationals Championships Tournament. Champions of this bracket must represent Illinois in the USA Hockey Districts and Nationals Championships Tournaments. Any Affiliate Organization whose team registers for the Tier II/AA Youth Division "AA" Division tournament and fails to fully participate therein or which qualified for the subsequent USA Hockey Districts and/or Nationals Championships Tournaments and fails to fully participate therein will not be permitted to enter ANY team in the State Tournament at any age level in the succeeding Playing Season and shall be referred to the Rules and Ethics Committee for appropriate action.

13.4.4 Tier II "A" Division

This tournament shall be for all Affiliate Organization Tier II Teams which are registered "AA" or "A" who meet the requirements set out in these rules and regulations and wish to participate in this tournament.

13.4.5 Tier II "B" (Non-National Bound) "B" Division

This tournament shall be for all Affiliate Organization Tier II Teams which are registered "A" and meet the requirements set out in these rules and regulations who wish to participate in this tournament.

13.5 TEAM PLACEMENT

All Affiliate Organizations which have the following number of teams at a given age division will be placed in the following divisions:

Three Teams

1st Team will play in the "AA" Division
2nd Team will play in the "A" Division
3rd Team will play in the "B" Division

Four Teams

1st Team will play in the "AA" Division,
2nd & 3rd Teams will play in the "A" Division
4th Team will play in the "B" Division

Five or More Teams

1st Team will play in the "AA" Division, 2nd & 3rd Teams will play in the "A" Division, 4th & 5th and additional Teams will play in the "B" Division

13.5.1 "B Level" Exemption

Affiliate Organizations may apply for an exemption to play in the "B" Division if the Organization has formed only two (2) teams at a level (10U, 12U, 14U) and the team is the 2nd team.

13.5.2 "AA" Requesting to Play "A"

Affiliate Organizations are qualified to apply for an exemption to play in the "A" Division if the team is the only team formed at a level by the organization (10U, 12U, 14U).

13.5.3 The judging criteria for all exemption requests will be developed solely by the Tier II Youth State Tournament Sub-Committee.

13.5.4 The Tier II Sub-Committee of the Youth Tournament Committee shall have the final say as to the placement of teams in the divisions.

13.6 HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

The High School Tournament Committee shall have the final say as to the placement of teams in the "Red", "Blue", and Combined divisions.

13.6.1 Red Division – Varsity State Championship. Open to all registered Affiliate Organization High School Division 1 Pure Teams as defined in these rules and regulations.

13.6.2 Combined Division – Open to all Affiliate Organization Division 2 Combined Teams as defined in these rules and regulations. Affiliates with more than six (6) schools are not permitted to participate in the State Tournament.

13.6.3 Blue Division - Junior Varsity State Championship. Open to all registered Affiliate Organization Division 1 Pure Junior Varsity Teams.

13.6.4 Combined Junior Varsity – Affiliate Organization Division 2 Combined Junior Varsity Teams who have played 75% of their games against other Junior Varsity Teams, meet the definition of "COMBINED" teams defined in these rules and regulations and have been approved for participation in the State Tournament after submission of their application to participate. Affiliates with more than six (6) or more schools are not permitted to participate in the State Tournament.

13.7 HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' DIVISION

The State Tournament is open to those Affiliate Organization Girls High School Varsity and High School Junior Varsity teams approved by the AHAI High School Committee. Affiliate Organization Girls High School Pure Teams

and Combined Teams may be in one State Tournament Division. Girls High Schools with six (6) or more schools are not permitted to participate in the State Tournament.

- 13.7.1** Affiliate Organization Teams will be ranked for placement in the Tournament by the High School Committee at the scheduled ranking meeting.

13.8 HIGH SCHOOL PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

For High School Only: Players must participate in seventy-five percent (75%) of the High School Affiliate Organization Team's Regular Season League games (as a part of the team that is rostered and plays in the State Tournament), except for Girls High School which shall be sixty percent (60%) of the team's league games. High School players approved to join the High School Affiliate Organization team before December 26th must participate in 75% of the High School Affiliate Organization team's remaining league games from the time the player is approved on the roster. They must meet the player minimum game requirements stated below for them to be eligible to participate in the State Tournament.

13.9 HIGH SCHOOL TEAM ELIGIBILITY

High School Affiliate Organization Teams must have played at least twenty (20) league games as a high school team. Only Regular season league games count towards a team's eligibility to participate in the State Tournament.

A High School Affiliate Organization should strive to field the best possible varsity team. If a Dual Rostered JV player is of sufficient talent to play on the Varsity team, the High School Affiliate Organization may petition the High School Committee to lock the player to the Varsity roster.

13.10 GIRLS TIER II DIVISION

Girls - Open to all Girls' Affiliate Organizations with teams at the 19U to 10U age levels.

13.10.1 Non-National Bound Levels

The following age levels are considered non-National bound and therefore are not required to submit a declaration and may play in both State Tournaments.

a. Girls' 10U

b. Girls' 12U

Girls may play in two (2) State Tournaments, one for Girls and one for Youth, so long as neither is a National Bound level.

13.10.2 National Bound Levels

Beginning with the 2021-2022 Regular Playing Season, 12U aged players will no longer be eligible to be rostered on a 14U or above National Bound age level team.

The following age levels are considered National bound and therefore are required to submit a declaration by the deadline date and to the persons listed above:

a. Girls' 14U

b. Girls' 16U c. Girls' 19U

All teams entering the State Tournament at the National Bound level do so with the intent of advancing to USA Hockey's Districts and Nationals Championships Tournaments including but not limited to the State Championship Team.

(At-Large Bids are a possibility at all National Bound classifications and divisions of Girls Hockey).

13.11 DECLARATIONS OF NATIONAL BOUND TEAM

In the event a player is registered on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a USA Hockey Nationals Championships Tournament, the player must declare, in writing, by December 31st to the Central District Registrar, the AHAI Registrar and the Girls Committee Chairperson for which National level bound team the player wishes to be eligible to advance with. If the player does not indicate which team she wishes to advance with by such deadline, the Central District Registrar shall have the final authority to certify the eligibility of any such player solely based on the effective date of the receipt of the earliest Team's Roster Registration.

13.11.1 Player Restrictions: Once a declaration is announced, the player will be bound to that team for the State Tournament and possible advancement and becomes ineligible to play with the player's other team in the State Tournament or possible advancement even if the declared team does not participate beyond the play-in or round robin games.

13.12 GIRLS' PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Only players on the certified USAH/AHA! roster are eligible to participate in the State Tournament. All players are required to have played in a minimum of 75% of the team's scheduled season games.

a. Scheduled tournaments will count for a maximum of three (3) games provided the tournament is a 3-game guarantee.

b. Injured players who are noted as such on the score sheet shall be allowed to count the missed game as a game played.

13.13 GIRLS' TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Each team may dress a maximum of twenty (20) players, including goal keepers for each State Tournament game with a maximum of eighteen (18) skaters.

a. The deadline for teams to add players to the roster and be eligible is December 31st.

b. Team seeding will be determined by the Girls' State Tournament Committee after all teams have registered and completed their rankings of the participating teams in their respective age divisions.

(This is not applicable for Tier I Girls' Teams)

- c. All information will be distributed and posted by the Girls' State Tournament Committee with the aid of the Girls Committee.

National Bound Divisions - Tier 1 Girls and Tier II Girls) are 14U, 16U, 19U

13.14 ADULT WOMEN' DIVISIONS

Open to all adult women classifications.

13.15 ADULT MEN'S DIVISIONS

13.15.1 Red - Open USA Hockey National Qualifying Tournament. Champion may represent AHAI in USA Hockey National Adult Open Tournament. All USA Hockey registered Open Adult teams must enter this tournament. Each team must have played at least twenty (20) games during the season as a unit and each rostered Player must have participated in at least fifteen (15) of those games.

13.15.2 White House League - Open to all USA Hockey registered House League teams. Each team must have played at least fifteen (15) games as a unit during the season and each rostered Player must have participated in at least ten (10) of those games.

13.15.3 Blue Old Timers - Open to all USA Hockey registered "Old Timers" League teams. Each team must have played at least fifteen (15) games during the current season as a unit under "Old Timers" rules of No-Check-No-Slapshot hockey and each rostered Player must have participated in at least ten (10) of those games.

13.16 NON-ILLINOIS RESIDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN THE AHAI STATE TOURNAMENTS

It is the intent of the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois (AHAII) to focus on the development of the players and participants who are residents of and living in Illinois with their parents or guardians. (*"Illinois Resident Players"*) AHAI's intent is the development of "our own" players. To that end, AHAI will not permit players who are not Illinois Residents to participate in the AHAI State Tournament, without an exception approved by the respective Tournament Committee and AHAI Board of Directors.

Some types of potential exceptions to this Rule, not absolute, and require approval:

- a. For Non-Illinois resident players from the states of Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, and Kentucky that are actually in closer proximity to Rinks and Affiliate Organizations in Illinois than they are to a Rink or Affiliate Organization in their own State.
- b. Potentially eligible players must play for that Rink and Affiliate Organization in closer proximity.
- c. Potentially eligible players who just recently moved into the State of Illinois with their parent or guardian, and who have not had the time to become a resident after reasonable efforts.

- d. Foreign Exchange Students on a student exchange program attending school full time will be permitted to participate under USA Hockey Rules and Regulations, Article 3 Classifications, Sections - Youth, Girls, Women.

13.17 PROTESTS

Protests during tournaments must be made immediately and as soon as practical. Hearings and appeals must be conducted as soon as practical.

13.17.1 Protests of Player Eligibility must be filed in writing to the respective Tournament Committee Chairperson immediately upon knowledge of the protesting party.

13.17.2 Protests on an event occurring during a game must be made in writing by noting the protest on the scoresheet of that game prior to signing the scoresheet at the end of the game with the protesting party providing the respective Tournament Committee Chairperson with a copy immediately.

13.17.3 Protests on other matters must be filed in writing with the respective Tournament Committee Chairperson immediately but no later than twenty-four (24) hours after completion of the game or incident under dispute.

13.17.4 All protests must be accompanied by a \$125.00 protest fee that will be returned only if the protest is upheld.

13.17.5 No protests of judgments, rulings by referees or linesmen shall be permitted.

All protests will be decided by the respective Tournament Protest Committee appointed by the respective Tournament Committee Chairperson and the decision of the respective Tournament Protest Committee shall be final unless a notice of appeal is filed as set out below. Due to time constraints and the need to have an efficient tournament, decisions of the respective Tournament Protest Committee are final.

(Exception: Appeals may be filed only if the grounds are.)

- a. There is new evidence not known to the appealing party prior to the original hearing with the respective Tournament Protest Committee.
- b. There is no rational basis for the decision of the respective Tournament Protest Committee and there is sufficient time to hear the protest prior to the completion of the tournament without postponement or undue disruption of the tournament

ARTICLE 14 6U & 8U OR UNDER YOUTH & GIRLS' POLICY

14.1 6U and 8U YOUTH & GIRLS

Following the concepts of USA Hockey Long Term Athletic Development (LTAD) and American Development Models (ADM), AHA! strongly encourages the skill level development of all players, especially at the entry level.

- 14.1.1** Cross-ice, 1/2 ice and small area games are recommended for 8U and 6U to increase ice time, puck touches and skill development.
- 14.1.2** Tier II Youth 8U players may not "play up" to the 10 & Under Youth team or higher level without approval of the AHAI Tier II Youth Committee.
- 14.1.3** 8-year old's playing Tier II Girls may "play up" on a 10 & Under team provided that the number does not exceed 50% of the total players rostered.
- 14.1.4** 6U players may not play up to the 8U or higher level without approval of the appropriate AHAI Committee.

14.2 AHAI DOES NOT RECOMMEND FULL ICE 8U TOURNAMENTS

It is recommended that 6U and 8U teams do not participate in out-of-state tournaments.

- 14.2.1** AHAI recommends geographical play (within a local area) for all 8U players.
- 14.2.2** 8U teams will be limited to one (1) out of state tournament travel permit per season.
- 14.2.3** All 6U games will be Cross Ice or 1/2 ice hockey in accordance with the American Development Models (ADM).

House League C (*complete in-house programs*) do not need to meet these requirements. The above policies will be monitored by each local Affiliate Organization and AHAI.

ARTICLE 15 TIER III YOUTH "B" & HOUSE "C"

15.1 Tier III Youth Hockey

Tier III teams are USA Hockey teams registered by an AHAI Affiliate Organization meeting Tier III Youth standards. Tier III Youth leagues will be composed of Tier III Youth 'B' Travel, Tier III Youth Plus Teams, Tier III Youth 'B' Prime Teams.

15.1.1 Standards for Tier III Youth 'B' Travel Teams

Tier III Youth 'B' Travel Level Teams mean AHAI Affiliate Teams that play against other USA Hockey Registered teams at a Tier III Youth 'B' Travel level outside of their home rink in a league or other competitive format.

The following are the standards for Tier III Youth 'B' Travel Teams. To qualify as a Tier III Youth 'B' Travel Team, except as set out under Tier III Youth 'Plus' and Youth 'Prime' Teams, the program must follow the following standards for Tier III Youth 'B' Travel Level teams:

- a.** Tier III Youth 'B' Travel Teams participate in an Affiliate Organization that has a no-cut policy, and has a first-come, first-serve registration procedure that may give preference to returning players and their family members. Governmental entities (*e.g., Park Districts*) may give preference to residents.

- b. Tier III Youth 'B' Travel Teams. Member evaluations are used to determine team placement. The method used is determined by the league rules that the team is competing with.
- c. Players are not limited by AHA! Tier II requirements.
- d. Tier III Youth 'B' Travel Teams games are to be played for a mix of recreational enjoyment, fitness, competition and sportsmanship.
- e. Tier III Youth 'B' Travel Teams will apply equal emphasis on skill development, team concepts, fair play.
- f. Please refer to Article 11.13.12 for rules pertaining to Tier III Youth 'B' Travel Teams Goaltenders.

15.1.2 Tier III Youth 'B' Plus Travel Teams

Tier III Youth 'B' Travel 'Plus' Teams are defined by the following criteria:

- a. The team(s) and all players on such team(s) must currently be on a team which is part of a single Affiliate Organization/Club/Government entity Tier III League program which is registering the team.
- b. The program must be fully described (x practices, x games/ tournaments and x dollars cost) prior to becoming a member of the team.
- c. The program must be an open Organization/Club/Government entity publicized within the Affiliate.
- d. A maximum of two (2) teams is allowed per age level per Affiliate Organization/Club provided said Affiliate Organization/Club has a minimum of four (4) teams registered at the specific age level.
- e. If there is to be more than one team at an age level, teams may be selected by talent.
- f. A specified number of positions must be noted (*x' players maximum per age classification*).
- g. The program has a specific sign-up date.
- h. Teams may be formed on a tryout basis if Affiliate Organization/Club so chooses.
- i. Players may be cut due to numbers on enrollment or player skill level.
- j. Tier III Affiliate Organization/Club may form these teams to play in either Tier III 'B' Travel leagues, tournaments or Tier II tournaments.

15.1.3 Tier III Youth 'B' Prime Travel Teams

Tier III Youth 'B' Prime Travel Teams are defined by the following criteria:

- a. The team(s) and all players on such team(s) must currently be on a team which is part of a single Affiliate Organization/Club/Government entity Tier III Youth 'B' program which is registering the team.

- b. The program must be fully described (*x' practices, x' games/ tournaments and 'x' dollars cost*) prior to becoming a member of the team.
- c. The program must be openly Organization/Club/Government entity, publicized within the Affiliate
- d. A maximum of one (1) 'Prime' team is allowed per age level per Affiliate Organization/Club provided said Affiliate Organization/Club has a minimum of three (3) teams registered at the specific age level.

For example: 12u age level has 3 teams – they may have 1 Prime team and 2 Standard teams – player pool is sufficient

For example: 14u age level has 2 teams – the player pool would not be sufficient to support a Prime team

- e. A specified number of positions must be noted (*x' players maximum per age classification*).
- f. The program has a specific sign-up date.
- g. Teams may be formed on a tryout basis if Affiliate Organization/Club so chooses.
- h. Players may be cut due to numbers on enrollment or player skill level.
- i. Players on these teams may not be rostered on any other Youth team during the fall (*regular*) season.
- j. Tier III Youth 'B' Affiliate Organization/Clubs may form these teams to play in Tier II Youth Leagues.
- k. Out of Tier game limits only apply to non-league games.

15.2 STANDARDS FOR HOUSE 'C' TEAMS

House 'C' Level Teams mean AHA! Affiliate Organization Teams that play against other USA Hockey Registered teams at a Tier III Youth level inside their home rink and not in a league or other competitive format.

15.2.1 The following are the standards for House 'C' Teams. To qualify as a House 'C' Team, the program must follow the following standards:

- a. House 'C' Level Teams participate in an Affiliate Organization that has a no cut policy, and has a first come, first serve registration procedure that may give preference to returning players and their family members. Governmental entities (*e.g., Park Districts*) may give preference to residents.
- b. House 'C' Level Teams will have no tryouts. Member evaluations are used to determine draft levels. The draft procedure must be used to achieve balanced teams.
- c. The philosophy of House C Level Teams will adhere to a development focus and equal playing time for both games and practices.

- d. House 'C' Level Teams games are to be played for recreational enjoyment, fitness, and sportsmanship.
- e. House 'C' Level Teams will apply equal emphasis on skill development, team concepts, and fair play.
- f. House 'C' Level Teams may at times play outside their home rink during tournaments or exhibition games.

15.3 APPLICATION PROCESS FOR TIER III YOUTH AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

All proposed Tier III Youth Affiliate Organizations shall follow the application process in Article 3 of the AHAI Rules & Regulations.

- 15.3.1** The following are specific to Tier III Youth Affiliate Organizations:
 - 15.2.1** The following are specific to Tier III Youth Affiliate Organizations:
 - a. The proposed Tier III Youth Affiliate Organization shall demonstrate the ability to field and sustain teams in at least three (3) youth age divisions 8U through 18U.
 - b. The proposed Tier III Youth Affiliate Organization shall register all 8U teams with USA Hockey and AHAI each and every season.
 - c. The proposed Tier III Youth Affiliate Organization must meet the AHAI definition of 'Community-Based' Tier III Youth Hockey. 'Community-Based' means supporting a geographical area either underserved or not served by an existing Tier III Youth Affiliate Organization.

15.4 DESIGNATED HOME RINK

Tier III Youth 'B' and House 'C' Teams shall have a designated home rink location based on the location of the charter for such Tier III Youth Affiliate Organization. All AHAI teams emanating from the Tier III Youth Affiliate Organizations must be formed at the location and community where such Tier III Youth Affiliate Organization received its charter for play, and no satellite or expansion teams shall be permitted.

- 15.4.1** With respect to the prohibition of satellite/expansion teams – this means that no teams shall be formed by an AHAI Affiliate Organization if that geographical area is already served by existing AHAI Tier III Youth Affiliate Organizations. No AHAI Affiliate Organizations shall form satellite/expansion teams to expand the charter previously granted.
- 15.4.2** The need for additional ice may be purchased at other facilities that are within a fifteen (15) mile driving distance of the Affiliate Organization's designated home rink.

Rinks outside the designated area must be approved by a committee established by the Board of Directors of AHAI to govern Tier III Youth 'B' & House 'C' before the season of play is allowed.

ARTICLE 16

TIER II YOUTH

16.1 TIER II YOUTH TEAMS

A Tier II Youth Team shall consist of a group of players that have complied with the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of AHAI, USA Hockey and any other provisions adopted by the AHAI Board of Directors for Tier II Youth Affiliate Organizations.

- 16.1.1** Tier II Youth Teams must play at least twenty (20) games during the season as a unit.
- 16.1.2** Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization must demonstrate an ability to field no less than one AHAI rostered team in at least three of the following youth age classifications: 10U,12U, 14U,16U, 18U.
- 16.1.3** The Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization shall register all teams including 8U teams with USA Hockey and AHAI each season.
- 16.1.4** An AHAI Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization must properly registers its teams using the USA Hockey Registry Portal and submitting the teams electronically to the AHAI Webtool. They must comply with the Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of AHAI,
- 16.1.5** The first team established in any age division shall be deemed to be the AA team. Any subsequent team in any age division may be deemed by the Affiliate Organization as either AA or A. The Tier II Youth Committee may establish the maximum number of teams that any Tier II Affiliate Organization may field in a youth age division. It is an AHAI requirement and the obligation of every Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization to place its best players on its AA (*first*) team. If an Affiliate Organization has a single Tier II Team at a particular age level 8U through 14U it must be registered as AA. All 16U and 18U teams are registered as AA.
- 16.1.6** The deadline for registering a new Tier II Youth team roster is October 15th.
- 16.1.7** A Tier II Youth player shall not participate on or with an AHAI team until that player is added to the team in the USA Hockey Registry portal, transmitted to AHAI using the AHAI webtool and is approved by the AHAI Registrar.
- 16.1.8** Once a Tier II youth player has been approved on the Official USAH Hockey Certified Roster, that player may not be removed from the roster without the approval of the AHAI Registrar.
- 16.1.9** A Tier II youth player may move from one team to another team within a single Tier II Affiliate Organization in accordance with the policies and procedures of that Tier II Affiliate Organization with approval from the AHAI Registrar. This change may be made up to the deadline for adding players to a roster.
- 16.1.10** The deadline for adding a player to a Tier II youth roster is December 26th.

16.2 PLAYER RECORDS

It shall be the responsibility of the Tier II Youth Member Affiliate Organization to verify and maintain records of all players who are playing or have played for the Tier II Affiliate Organization for the current and prior seven (7) playing seasons.

16.3 HOME RINK

All Tier II Youth Affiliate Organizations shall have a designated home rink location based on the location of the charter for such Affiliate Organization *(defined as 51% or more of Applicant's total ice utilization)*.

- 16.3.1** All AHAI Affiliate Organizations emanating from the Tier II Youth Affiliate Organizations must be formed at the location and community where such Tier II Youth Affiliate Organizations received its charter for play, and no satellite or expansion Affiliate Organization shall be permitted.
- 16.3.2** With respect to the prohibition of satellite/expansion Affiliate Organization, this means no Affiliate Organization shall be formed by an Affiliate Organization if that geographical area is already served by another existing Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization.
- 16.3.3** No Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization shall form satellite/expansion Affiliate Organization to expand the charter previously granted.
- 16.3.4** Need of additional ice may be bought at other facilities that are within a fifteen (15) mile driving distance of the designated home rink. Rinks outside the designated area must be approved by the Tier II committees before season play is allowed.

16.4 TIER II YOUTH APPLICATION PROCESS

All proposed Tier II Youth Affiliate Organizations shall follow the application process in Article 3 of the AHAI Rules & Regulations.

- 16.4.1** The AHAI Board of Directors shall establish the requirements that an organization must achieve to become a new or re-admitted AHAI Tier II Youth Member Affiliate Organization. Such requirements include, but are not limited to, the following, and the Board may in its discretion adopt any other requirements it deems appropriate in the best interests of youth hockey in Illinois.
- 16.4.2** The following are specific to Tier II Affiliate Organizations:
 - a.** The proposed Affiliate Organization shall demonstrate the ability to field and sustain teams in at least three (3) youth age divisions 8U through 18U.
 - b.** The proposed Affiliate Organization shall register all 8U teams with USA Hockey and AHAI each and every season.
 - c.** The proposed Affiliate Organization must meet the AHAI definition of 'Community- Based Youth Hockey'. Community-based means supporting a geographical area either underserved or not served by an existing Tier II Affiliate Organization.

- 16.4.3** The Tier II Committee shall have sole authority to review Applications, to hold meetings it deems necessary on Applications, to seek further information about the Applicant from the Applicant or from other sources, and to take any other actions it deems warranted in processing the Application, in order to make its recommendation to the AHAI Board of Directors on the merits of the Application.
- 16.4.4** After receiving the Committee's recommendation, the AHAI Board of Directors shall have the sole authority to decide the application, consistent with the AHAI Rules and Regulations as then in effect, take any other actions it deems warranted, including whether the Application meets the overall goals of Tier II Youth and whether it is in the best interests of amateur hockey in Illinois.
- 16.4.5** The Tier II Youth Applicant Affiliate Organization shall at all times comply with all USA Hockey, AHAI and its own applicable Bylaws and Rules.
- 16.4.6** The Tier II Youth Applicant Affiliate Organization shall use its best efforts to field Tier II youth teams made up of players drawn from within its own Affiliate Organization or its feeder organization. A feeder program is described as an existing Affiliate Organization Tier III B / House League C and/or a Learn to Play program that has a history of fielding USAH registered team for a minimum of three (3) years. An Applicant program cannot draw Tier II youth players from any other current Affiliate Organization (*except as outlined in these rules and regulations*).
- 16.4.7** The Applicant Tier II Affiliate Organization cannot advertise or state that they are an AHAI Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization until the Application has been approved by the AHAI Board of Directors.
- 16.4.8** Once the Tier II Membership has been granted to the new Tier II Affiliate Organization, the authority to field Tier II Youth Teams may be terminated by the Tier II Committee upon reasonable notice to the Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization and an opportunity for the Tier II Affiliate Organization to be heard by the Tier II Youth Committee.
- 16.4.9** Decisions of the AHAI Board of Directors under this Rule shall be final unless a notice of appeal therefrom is filed as provided in the AHAI Bylaws governing appeals of Board decisions.
- 16.4.10** AHAI Board of Directors may require certain, or any and all Affiliate Organizations to re-apply for Tier II status annually.

16.5 YOUTH TIER II CHOICES

The purpose of this rule is to emulate the concept of community-based hockey in the State of Illinois.

- 16.5.1** Every Player in the State of Illinois may choose between two (2) Tier II Youth Affiliate Organizations in good standing as to where to play amateur Tier II Youth hockey. If one of those choices

ceases to be a viable choice due to cessation of operations of the entire Affiliate Organization, that Player shall apply for a substitute choice online through the Tier II Youth Committee Choice Application process. Tier II Youth Affiliate Organizations are defined as an Organization that has obtained AHAI Youth Tier II or Youth Tier II Applicant status.

- 16.5.2** A Player's choice or choices are defined as any Tier II Affiliate Organizations team that the player has played with up until the beginning of the current Regular (*Fall*) Season. This does not include any spring or summer participation.
- 16.5.3** A Players Youth Tier II choice is defined as in these Rules and Regulations. Each Youth Player playing Tier II hockey is restricted to two (2) Youth Tier II Affiliate Organizations beginning their 10U playing season, through the Players 14U year playing season.
- 16.5.4** Players 16U (*fifteen and sixteen birthyears*) and 18U (*seventeen and eighteen birthyears*) aged will be allowed one (1) choice in addition to their current choices with Tier II Youth Affiliate Organizations. A Player does not automatically receive an additional choice at the 16U/18U level. If a Player has received a 3rd choice approval from the AHAI Tier II Committee before the Player reaches their 16U/18U level, the Player will not receive an additional choice.
- 16.5.5** Players aged 8U or younger will not be assessed with a choice.
- 16.5.6** AHAI 8U Two Choice Clarifications. To clarify the AHAI Tier II Choice Rule as it applies to 8U, ANY USA Hockey registered 8U Players for the playing seasons (beginning in the 2014/15 season) will not be assessed with a choice exception toward the AHAI Youth Two Choice rule.
- 16.5.7** Players that were previously rostered on a Tier I, Tier III, House League, or High School (*past or current*) team do not count as a Choice.

16.6 COUNSELING

Every Player and the family of that Player first entering an Amateur Tier II Youth Hockey Program offered by a Tier II Affiliate Organization shall be counseled by the Affiliate Organization as to their opportunities, special considerations, and choices of Amateur Tier II travel hockey, but it remains the responsibility of the Player and his/her guardian(s) to obtain information and be fully informed as to all regulations and obligations that may apply.

The Board of Directors of AHAI shall promulgate rules, regulations, and guidelines for Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization so that all players and families are apprised of these opportunities, special considerations, and choices.

16.7 TIER II AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION TRY-OUTS

Tryouts and team selection process for levels 8U through 14U may not begin more than eight (8) days prior to the date of the nationally recognized Labor Day holiday of the playing season. Tryouts and team selection process for levels 16U and 18U may not begin prior to August 15 of the playing season.

16.8 YOUTH TIER II CHOICE DECLARATION

When a player is added to a Tier II Affiliate Organization's Youth Tier II Team Official USAH Certified Roster at the 10U playing level and above, and has participated in two (2) team events or practices and or one (1) game (*defined in AHAI Rule 11.14*) they may receive an email from AHAI to address the following:

16.8.1 The AHAI Youth Tier II Choice Rules.

16.8.2 The player's playing history. If the playing history is not correct, they will be asked to reply with the correct playing history for the AHAI Registrar to review, confirm or reply to the player with the history documented in the AHAI Player Database.

16.8.3 If a player does not have a Youth Tier II Choice available, they will be sent an email detailing the information listed above along with the link to the Youth Tier II Choice Substitution Application Process. Notification from AHAI is to assist in the player's and their family's Choice rule knowledge. It is the responsibility of the player and family to understand and adhere to the AHAI Rules & Processes.

16.9 TIER II CHOICE SUBSTITUTION PROCESS

The online Tier II Youth Choice Substitution Application process shall begin on July 15th of each year. There shall be a minimum of three (3) hearings on this matter held each season. The Tier II Choice Application process shall close on September 15th of each year. Specific hearing dates will be published each year by the Tier II Choice Committee.

16.9.1 A Request for a Tier II Youth Choice substitution shall be submitted electronically to the Tier II Youth Committee Chairperson. The Chair will provide a link to the application form to be filled out online.

16.9.2 The Board of Directors is empowered to set criteria for a substitution of a choice and/or grant a Tier II Youth Player a substitution of a choice of a Tier II Youth Affiliate Organizations with another Tier II Youth Affiliate Organizations and may delegate that responsibility to the Tier II Committee with a limited right of appeal to the Board of Directors or the AHAI Appeals Committee under such terms as set out in advance by the Board of Directors. Each Player requesting the granting of a substitution shall clearly present the facts supporting the substitutions set out by the Board of Directors.

16.9.3 Decisions of the Tier II Youth Committee shall be final unless a notice of appeal form is filed as herein provided. Any person, Player, member, team, or Affiliate Organizations affected by the decision of the Committee may appeal such decision in accordance with the By Laws, and these Rules and Regulations of AHAI by filing a written notice of appeal to the President of AHAI within ten (10) days after the date that the decision appealed from has been rendered, which appeal shall be acted upon by the Appeal Committee whose decision shall be final.

The Board of Directors of AHAI shall promulgate such rules and regulations as necessary to implement the provisions of these Rules and Regulations. Such Rules and Regulations shall be in keeping with the missions and purposes of USA Hockey and the AHAI.

16.10 PLAYER SUBSTITUTION CRITERIA

The following provisions must be met for a player's Youth Tier II Choice Substitution to apply to a new Tier II Youth Affiliate organization and removed the player's choice from one of their previous Tier II Youth Affiliate Organizations.

- 16.10.1** A Player playing at the Tier II level may not substitute a choice of one Tier II Affiliate Organizations with another Tier II Affiliate Organizations, except in cases where there are practical difficulties or particular hardships in carrying out the strict application stated above. These exceptions shall apply only at each age-appropriate level. An "age- appropriate level" is the age level of the youngest age level that the Player is permitted to play.
- 16.10.2** The predicament of the Player is due to unique circumstances that were not created by the Player; If a Substitution is based on an Affiliates Rules and Ethics or any other issue, the petition must be accompanied by the Affiliates Organizations Rules and Ethics findings and supporting documents.
- 16.10.3** The purpose in requesting the substitution shall not be based exclusively upon a desire to be rostered on a team or Affiliate Organization that is perceived to be more competitive than the current AHAI Team or Affiliate Organization to which a player belongs.
- 16.10.4** The granting of the substitution furthers the goals, objectives and policies of the Amateur Hockey Players Association of Illinois, Inc.
- 16.10.5** The granting of the substitution must not be detrimental to Tier II travel hockey or undermining the "community-based principles" of Tier II hockey.
- 16.10.6** If a Player requests a substitution, such Player must remove a current Affiliate Organization from such Player's current Two-Choices and the choice that the Player gives up then becomes the automatic 3rd choice at the 16U level.
- 16.10.7** "Financial Hardship" is not a basis for substitution.
- 16.10.8** It is not intended that every Player must have two (2) viable options at any given time. The rule states two (2) Choices, not two (2) viable options will be had by all Players.
- 16.10.9** No additional 3rd choice or substitution shall be given to any Player in the 8U or 10U playing level without the approval of the Board of Directors or its designated representative.
- 16.10.10** If the Player and family move from the rink of the first choice which is within ten (10) mile of the home and the new residence is at twenty (20) miles or more from the prior choice, they may petition the Tier II Committee for a second choice. The two choices then become permanent until the Player reaches the 16U level.

16.10.11 Players staying within their two Affiliate Organization choices can relocate between those two Affiliate Organizations.

At the discretion of the Board of Directors, the substitute choice granted by the Board of Directors may be permanent or for a specific playing season.

16.11 GAME LIMITS

Refer to Article 11

16.12 OUT OF TIER GAME LIMITS

Refer to Article 11

16.13 DEFINITION OF A GAME

Refer to Article 11

16.14 TAMPERING:

No Player/Participant, Coach, Manager shall be solicited nor shall the possibility of playing Tier II Youth Hockey be discussed with any Player/Participant, Coach, or Manager of a National Bound Team at any Tier Classification until 48 hours after the last game on the last day of the Tier I & Tier II Youth National Championships Tournament.

(Exception - An existing Tier II Girls' Player/Participant, Coach, or Manager for the particular Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization for which that Player, Coach, or Manager played for during the existing season and then only by that Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization.)

Players, Coaches, and Managers of Non-National Bound age divisions may hold discussions at the conclusion of the Illinois State Tournament.

If a Tier II Player initiates contact with another Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization, the Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization must advise said Player it cannot discuss the matter and will advise the individual(s) of the date after which contact is permitted.

16.15 COACH(ES) MOVEMENT

AHA! Coaches who move from one Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization to another Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization cannot coach any of the same players from the previous season's AHA!/USAH rostered team for a period of one season with the new Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization.

16.15.1 Classification: Coach is any rostered Head or Assistant Coach for a Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization during the USA Hockey playing season. This includes a coach that is not rostered but coaches the team or is on the bench for more than 33% of the season.

16.15.2 Classification: Player is any player who was rostered on the same Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization's roster as the Coach.

(Exception: family member or relative of the coach)

16.15.3 Classification: Hockey Director of an AHAI/USAH registered Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization shall not count as a Coach if listed on all of the Youth Affiliate Organization's rosters as an Assistant Coach. If a Hockey Director is listed as the Head Coach of a team, the rules of sub-section 16.16.1 of this Article then apply. If there are unique circumstances that a Hockey Director becomes a Head Coach of a team during the season, the new Youth Affiliate Organization may petition the Tier II Youth Committee for a ruling on the eligibility of the coach before the next season. Coaches coaching players from a prior Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization will be considered in violation of these AHAI Rules & Regulations

16.16 PLAYER MOVEMENT RULE

Player movement between AHAI Tier II Youth Affiliate Organizations is limited by age classification. In addition to the restrictions listed below, players must comply with the Youth Tier II Choice Article in these rules and regulations.

- 16.16.1** 10U - The limit is two (2) players per Tier II Team at the 10U Squirt level who played Tier II the previous year for another Affiliate Organization Tier II program as a Squirt.
- 16.16.2** 12U - The limit is three (3) players per Tier II Team at the 12U Pee Wee level who played Tier II the previous year for another Affiliate Organization Tier II program.
- 16.16.3** 14U - The limit is four (4) players per Tier II Team at the 14U Bantam level who played Tier II the previous year for another Affiliate Organization Tier II program.
- 16.16.4** There is no limit on Tier II Youth Player movement at the 16U and 18U playing level.
- 16.16.5** There are two exceptions to the Player Movement limit:
 - a.** Players who previously played with a Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization, as one of their Two Choices, will not count against the maximum, regardless of their club affiliation the previous Regular Season.
 - b.** Players who played for a Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization that does not field a team at a level will not count against the maximum for the Tier II Youth Affiliate Organization to which the Player moves.

16.17 PENALTIES

Affiliate Organizations violating the Youth Tier II Player Movement Rule will be referred to the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee along with the coach from the team violating the 2/4/6/8 Youth Tier II Rule. The recommended consequences include disqualification from the state tournament and referral to their Tier II league for further penalties as well as AHAI Rules & Ethics for possible further sanctions.

ARTICLE 17 GIRLS

17.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

AHA!’S Philosophy on Girls/Women’s hockey is as defined by USA Hockey in the USAH Annual Guide: To provide an innovative grassroots foundation for the growth and development of USA Hockey, designing programs aimed at increasing participation, improved skills, and a responsible environment for the conduct of youth and girls’ hockey.

- 17.1.1** All Girls’ Affiliate Organizations are required to adhere to AHA! Rules & Regulations Article 2 – Affiliate Agreement.
- 17.1.2** All Girls’ Affiliate Organizations are required to adhere to all AHA!’s Policies, By-Laws, Rules & Regulations unless otherwise specified herein.
- 17.1.3** All girls’ teams within an existing Affiliate Organization (*Tier I, II & III*) as of January 10, 2021, are required to be under a separate USA Hockey/AHA! identification number for the purposes of rostering, administration, and distribution of communications. The existing Affiliate Organization is not required to change its name except to add the word ‘GIRLS’ (*i.e., AHA! & AHA! Girls*). The Affiliate Organization’s By-Laws and Board may remain the same except whereas the Affiliate Organization must identify a designated Girls Representative within their Affiliate Organization’s Board structure (*Director of Girls Hockey*).

17.1.3.1 For purposes of clarity

Girls’ classifications will be designated as follows:

- a.** Tier I (1) & Tier II (2)
- b.** All Girls teams will now be classified as Tier I or Tier II. There is no longer a Tier III level in Girls Hockey as all girls’ teams are now registered under separate ILH identification numbers.

17.2 NEW AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION APPLICATION PROCESS

New Affiliate Organization Application Process - The “Applicant” is defined as a rink, park district or any other organization recognized by USA Hockey and/or AHA! as having the qualifications to operate an affiliate organization. A proposed Girls Affiliate Organization is required to begin their program at the lowest level of play (*8U OR 10U*) or the grassroots level - Learn to skate / Learn to play programs following the USA Hockey American Development Model (*ADM*).

- 17.2.1** Girls Tier I Refer to Article 3 – New Affiliate Organization Application Process
- 17.2.2** Girls Tier II Refer to Article 3 – New Affiliate Organization Application Process except as noted below regarding the proposed combining of existing Girls Affiliate Organizations

17.3 COMBINING GIRLS' PROGRAMS

Existing Girls' Affiliate Organizations that cannot consistently sustain girls' teams' season to season may consider joining with another Girls' Affiliate Organization in close geographic proximity to create a new Girls Affiliate Organization, but only under the approval, supervision, and guidance of the AHAI Girls Committee. The proposed combined Girls Affiliate Organization under this rule cannot adversely affect any already established Girls Affiliate Organizations with sustained Girls programs/teams.

17.3.1 No more than two (2) Girls' Affiliate Organizations may be on the formal application except through specific exemption by the AHAI Girls Committee.

17.3.2 Both Girls' Affiliate Organizations must jointly submit the application.

Items listed herein must be included as part of the complete application submittal and in conjunction with the requirements in Article 3:

- a. Reason for the proposed combination
- b. What types of hockey programming have been offered at both Affiliate Organizations to attract and retain girls for the past five (5) seasons.
- c. Historical information on the number of female players within their respective Affiliate Organizations for the past five (5) seasons

17.3.3 The proposed combined Girls' Affiliate Organization must show proof that they will be able to roster a minimum of one (1) 10U and one (1) 12U team from within the combined Girls' Affiliate Organization.

NO players already playing for another Girls' Affiliate Organization will be allowed to be added to the proposed newly combined Girls' Affiliate Organization at any age level the first (1st) regular playing season. *(Spring/Summer are not considered part of the regular playing season)* The purpose is to create more opportunities for new players to join Girls Affiliate Organizations in a geographic area where otherwise they would play on a youth team or would cause a player to travel a further distance.

17.4 GIRLS AGE CLASSIFICATIONS

Refer to Article 5 of the AHAI Rules & Regulations

17.5 GAME LIMITS

Refer to Article 11 of the AHAI Rules & Regulations

17.6 DEFINITION OF A GAME

Refer to Article 11 of the AHAI Rules & Regulations

17.6.1 Non-Compliance: Affiliate Organizations violating the Maximum Game Limits and/or the 20% Rule will be referred to the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee along with the coach from the team violating this rule. The recommended consequence includes but is not limited to disqualification from the State Tournament, notification to the league the team plays in, and possible forfeiture of an Affiliate's current membership status.

17.7 GIRLS' TIER I

The Girls Committee will work closely with the Tier I Committee on all matters pertaining to Girls Tier I hockey.

17.7.1 Authority: The Tier I Committee shall have responsibility for all matters pertaining to Girls' Hockey within Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organizations, Tier I Teams, and Tier I Hockey, subject to the AHA! Board of Directors review, direction, change and approval. For all other applicable Rules & Regulations, refer to Article 18, Tier I (Open or AAA Teams) of these Rules and Regulations and USA Hockey Team Memberships & Registrations subsection "F" Girls' Tier I Standards & Criteria.

17.7.2 Re- Authorization: A Tier I Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization who has been granted a charter may rely upon maintaining that charter for three years so long as it continues to comply with all AHA! and USA Hockey By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and Policies. Each third (3rd) year a chartered Tier 1 Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization must submit the required documents indicating compliance to this Article to the AHA! Tier I Committee Chairperson.

17.7.2.1 Annually, each Tier I Youth and Tier I Girls Affiliate Organization's Teams must submit a player fact sheet with every player card being submitted.

17.7.3 Girls Tier I Tryouts

Any approved Girls Affiliate Organization fielding Tier I teams will be eligible to hold tryouts beginning May 15th and ending May 31st.

17.7.4 Any Tier I Girls' team from a Girls' Affiliate Organization wishing to tryout in this window of time must submit in writing their intent to do so no later than April 1st. Letters of intent will be emailed to the Tier I Committee Chairperson. Confirmation of receipt will be sent within 24 hours.

17.7.5 Tier I Girls Affiliate Organizations wishing to tryout in the early time window may not field more than one team per age level per Affiliate Organization.

17.7.6 All approved Girls' Affiliate Organization's teams requesting to tryout early in this window of time will be scheduled in a grid so as to avoid conflict. This tryout window will apply to the following age groups: 12U, 14U, 16U and 19U. Age groups younger than 12U are not eligible for early tryouts.

17.7.7 Each team shall furnish each player and her parent(s), in writing, before any tryout and prior to signing a player card, a fact sheet, providing full disclosure about the team indicating all costs, number of games and practices, amount of travel, any "rules" of the team.

17.7.8 Signed player cards must be delivered to the AHA! Executive Director no later than June 2nd and will be binding to those players for the ensuing hockey season.

- 17.7.9** These player cards will commit all signed players to play for that team that season. Players may not “opt out” once a player card has been signed. Any player who signs a qualified player card is committed to that Tier I Girls’ team.
- 17.7.10** A team will be qualified by a minimum of twelve (12) players and one (1) goaltender. Any Tier I Girls’ Affiliate Organization not fielding twelve (12) players and one (1) goaltender on a team by June 2nd, *(as evidenced by 13 players signature cards)*, will not be allowed to field a team at that age level for the coming season. The team will be disbanded, and those players’ names may be submitted to the Girls’ Committee Chairperson for distribution amongst other Tier II Affiliate Organizations.
- 17.7.11** layer additions to a qualified Tier I girls’ team roster (supplemental roster) may take place from June 2 – June 16. Those rosters will be frozen from June 16 – September 15. Thereafter teams may add players to their early tryout roster. A player may not be cut from a team after signing the player card without AHA! Board approval.
- 17.7.12** No player shall be required to pay monies in excess of actual ice time cost or participate in mandatory team activities prior to August 15th of the ensuing playing season. The season shall commence on August 15th of each year and end on the last day of the USA Hockey Nationals Tournament but not prior to 48 hours after the last game for National Bound age levels. 12U teams’ season will end with the completion of the Illinois State Tournament.
- 17.7.13** Players who are cut from the early tryouts from a Tier I Girls’ Affiliate Organization may choose to have their names submitted to the Girls’ Committee Chairperson for release to other Affiliate Organizations who may need players. This is an optional program for players. Player information is submitted to other Affiliate Organizations upon request only.

17.8 GIRLS TIER II

The general intent of Tier II Girls’ Hockey in Illinois is to provide an opportunity for female players to develop and compete at the travel level within a Community-Based Affiliate Organization while being guided by the fundamentals and principals set forth in USA Hockey’s American Development Model (ADM).

- 17.8.1 General:** A Girls’ Tier II Affiliate Organization is a Girls’ Affiliate Organization duly organized and operating in accordance with the By-Laws, Rules, Regulations and Policies of AHA! and USA Hockey.
- 17.8.2 Limitation:** Girls’ Tier II Affiliate Organizations MUST be an entirely separate and distinct entity and operation apart from a Girls’ Tier I Affiliate Organization.
- 17.8.3 Responsibility:** Each Tier II Girls’ Affiliate Organization shall govern, control and be fully responsible for its Affiliate Organization’s actions, inactions and/or infraction of its teams,

players, coaches, managers, parents, and personnel. This responsibility shall include debts incurred by or in the name of the Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization or any of its teams.

17.9 GIRLS' TIER II SEASON

The season shall begin on August 15th of each year and end on the last day of the Nationals Tournaments of each year unless otherwise approved by the Girls Committee.

17.9.1 Affiliate Organizations' Growth: It is NOT the intent of Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organizations, their personnel, coaches, or players to solicit, recruit, steal players from other Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organizations but rather to maintain a Community-Based environment where geographically possible.

17.9.2 Tryouts may begin August 15th of each year.

17.9.3 All Girls' Affiliate Organizations must publicly announce their tryout dates. This announcement must be in place at least thirty (30) days in advance of the first date but under no circumstances prior to forty-eight hours after the last game of the last day of the Women's and Girls' USA Hockey Nationals Tournaments.

17.9.3.1 Announcement of tryouts must include the following:

- a. Girls' Affiliate Organization name
- b. Levels of tryouts and Coaches names, if known
- c. Contacts with phone numbers
- d. Brief statement about the program,
- e. Dates, times, and location(s) of tryouts
- f. Costs

17.9.4 Player cuts should be sent to the Girls' Committee Chairperson for assistance in placement within another Girls' Affiliate Organization.

17.10 GIRLS TIER II TRYOUTS

Any team from an approved Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization may begin tryouts on June 15th & end on June 22nd of each year for National Eligible Age Classifications only (14U, 16U, 19U).

Any Tier II Girls' team from a Girls Affiliate Organization within these age categories may conduct tryouts beginning June 15th and must submit in writing their intent to do so no later than May 1st.

Letters of intent to be emailed to the Girls Committee Chairperson. Confirmation of receipt will be sent within 24 hours.

17.10.1 Tryouts for all non-National Eligible Age Classifications (8U, 10U, and 12U) will remain at the already established August 15th tryout date. The August tryout is also set for any potential second (2nd) team at the National Eligible Age Classifications.

- 17.10.2** These teams will be designated at the Tier II Level of play for the State Tournament.
- 17.10.3** These teams will be responsible for continuing to the Tier II Girls' Districts and/or USA Hockey Nationals Tournaments should they win the State Tournament.
- 17.10.4** Tier II Girls Affiliate Organizations who do not offer a roster position to players at the conclusion of early tryouts for the National Eligible Age Classifications (*14U, 16U, 19U*) are required to submit their cut list(s) to the AHAI Girls Committee Chair with the following information:
- Name
 - Birth year
 - Age level
 - Position
 - Parent contact information (*name, phone number, email address*)

The information will remain with the AHAI Girls Committee Chair. If another Girls Affiliate Organization (*Tier I or Tier II*) is in need of players and notifies the AHAI Girls Committee Chair, the Girls Committee Chair will send an email to the player's parent(s) & give them contact information for the Girls Affiliate Organization(s) who have roster positions available.

The parent(s) may then choose to reach out to the contact person of the Girls Affiliate Organization(s) listed if they are interested.

Any player and parent(s) information on such cut lists will NOT be shared with any Girls Affiliate Organization, their Representatives, Board Members, Hockey Directors, Players/Families within the specific Girls Affiliate Organization, or any other member of the USA Hockey & AHAI Hockey Community.

This information is required at the conclusion of early tryouts for the National Eligible Age Classifications (*14U, 16U, 19U*) & at the conclusion regular tryouts in August for ALL age classifications.

- 17.10.5** Tier II Girls Affiliate Organizations wishing to conduct tryouts beginning June 15th within these age classifications may NOT field more than one team per age level AND they may NOT promise any player a position on a second (*2nd*) team within the Tier II Girls Affiliate Organization as this team does NOT exist & tryouts for this team do not occur until August 15th.
- 17.10.6** Girls Affiliate Organizations conducting tryouts beginning on June 15th for the National Eligible Age Classifications may not open these tryouts to any player in the 8U, 10U, or 12U age levels. 12U players may not be added to a 14U roster for any Girls Affiliate Organization who stated their intent is to be National Eligible.
- 17.10.7** Each team shall furnish each player and her parent(s), in writing, before any tryout and prior to signing a player card, a fact sheet, providing full disclosure about the team indicating all costs, number of games and practices, amount of travel, any "rules" of the team.

17.10.8 Signed player cards must be delivered to the Girls Committee Chairperson no later than July 2nd and will be binding to those players for the ensuing hockey season.

17.10.9 Any Player who signs a Player Card for any Tier II Girls Affiliate Organization shall not be recruited by or on behalf of any other Tier II Girls Affiliate Organization including the individual teams of said Tier II Girls Affiliate Organization and cannot be removed from that Tier II Girls Affiliate Organization's Team roster without the prior approval of the AHAI Board of Directors.

17.10.10 These player cards will commit all signed players to play for that team for the ensuing playing season. Players may not "opt out" once a player card has been signed. Any player who signs a qualified player card is committed to that Tier II Girls' team.

17.10.11 Any Player who signs an AHAI Tier II Girls Player Card is irrevocably committed to that Tier II Girls Affiliate Organization and Team for the ensuing playing season and cannot play for another USAH Tier I or Tier II Girls Affiliate Organization's team in Illinois. *(Exception – High School Hockey if the High School Affiliate Organization allows for double rostering.)*

17.10.12 A team will be qualified by a minimum of twelve (12) players including a goaltender. Any Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization not fielding twelve (12) players including a goaltender at the specific age level by June 29th, *(as evidenced by twelve (12) players signature cards)*, will not be allowed to field a team at the specific age level for the ensuing season. The team will be disbanded, and those players' names may be submitted to the Girls Committee Chairperson for distribution amongst other Tier II Girls Affiliate Organizations.

17.10.13 Player additions to a qualified Tier II Girls' team roster *(supplemental roster)* may take place from July 2nd – July 13th. Rosters will then be frozen from July 13th – September 1st. Thereafter, teams may add players to their certified roster. A player may not be cut from a team after signing the player card without AHAI Board approval.

17.10.14 No player shall be required to pay monies in excess of actual ice time cost or participate in mandatory team activities prior to August 15th of the ensuing playing season. The season shall commence on August 15th of each year and end on the last day of the USA Hockey Nationals Tournament but not prior to 48 hours after the last game for National Eligible Age Classifications.

8U, 10U, and 12U teams' season will end with the completion of the Illinois State Tournament.

17.10.15 Any team from an approved Girls' Affiliate Organization not participating in the June 15th tryout window may begin tryouts on August 15th.

17.11 TEAM AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Refer to Article 11 of the AHAI By-Laws, Rules & Regulations

(Note: The Player Movement Rule and the Two-Choice Rule both apply to Girls' Hockey – refer to 17.16 & 17.17 respectively in this Article).

7.12 TEAM REGISTRATION AND ROSTERS

Refer to Article 5 & Article 11 respectively in the AHA! Rules & Regulations.

17.13 GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

The Girls' Committee will work closely with the High School Committee on all matters pertaining to Girls High School Hockey. Refer to Article 19.

17.14 TAMPERING:

No Player/Participant, Coach, Manager shall be solicited nor shall the possibility of playing Tier II Girls' Hockey be discussed with any Player/Participant, Coach, or Manager of a National Bound Team at any Tier Classification until 48 hours after the last game on the last day of the Tier I & Tier II Girls' National Championships Tournament.

(Exception - An existing Tier II Girls' Player/Participant, Coach, or Manager for the particular Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization for which that Player, Coach, or Manager played for during the existing season and then only by that Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization.)

Players, Coaches, and Managers of Non-National Bound age divisions may hold discussions at the conclusion of the Illinois State Tournament.

No Girls' Affiliate Organization may advertise Spring clinics or teams to players in other Girls' Affiliate Organizations at the National Bound age levels until 48 hours after the last game on the last day of Tier I & Tier III Girls' National Championships Tournament.

No Girls' Affiliate Organization may advertise Spring clinics or teams to players in other Girls' Affiliate Organizations at the Non-National Bound age levels until the conclusion of the Illinois State Tournament.

If a Tier II Player initiates contact with another Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization, the Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization must advise said Player it cannot discuss the matter and will advise the individual(s) of the date after which contact is permitted.

17.15 COACH(ES) MOVEMENT

AHA! Coaches who move from one Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization to another Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization cannot coach any of the same players from the previous season's AHA!/USAH rostered team for a period of one season with the new Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization.

17.15.1 Classification: Coach is any rostered Head or Assistant Coach for a Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization during the USA Hockey playing season. This includes a coach that is not rostered but coaches the team or is on the bench for more than 33% of the season.

17.15.2 Classification: Player is any player who was rostered on the same Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization's roster as the Coach.

(Exception: family member or relative of the coach)

17.15.3 Classification: Hockey Director of an AHAI/USAH registered Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization shall not count as a Coach if listed on all of the Girls' Affiliate Organization's rosters as an Assistant Coach. If a Hockey Director is listed as the Head Coach of a team, the rules of sub-section 17.16.1 of this Article then apply. If there are unique circumstances that a Hockey Director becomes a Head Coach of a team during the season, the new Girls' Affiliate Organization may petition the Girls' Committee for a ruling on the eligibility of the coach before the next season. Coaches coaching players from a prior Girls' Affiliate Organization will be considered in violation of these AHAI Rules & Regulations

17.16 PLAYER MOVEMENT

Player movement between AHAI Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organizations is limited by age classification.

In addition to the restrictions listed below, players must comply with the Girls' Tier II Choice Section in these Rules and Regulations.

17.16.1 All 8U & 10U Tier II Girls' Teams are limited to a maximum of two (2) NEWLY added players to an organization at the 8U and 10U age levels, who played for another Girls' Tier II Affiliate Organization during the previous regular season.

17.16.2 All 12U Tier II Girls' Teams are limited to a maximum of four (4) NEWLY added players to an organization at the 12U age level, who played for another Girls' Tier II Affiliate Organization during the previous regular season.

17.16.3 At the 14U and 16U age levels - any Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization adding players from another Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization from the previous Fall (*Regular*) Season are limited to a maximum of four (4) NEWLY added players at the age level from said Tier II Girls Affiliate Organization. EXAMPLE: If a Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization has more than one (1) team at an age level, they may not add more than four (4) players at the age level.

17.16.4 At the 19U age level – any Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization adding players from another Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization from the previous Fall (*Regular*) Season are limited to a maximum of four (4) players from said Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization. EXAMPLE: If a Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization has more than one (1) team at an age level, they may not add more than four (4) players at the age level.

Exceptions to the Player Movement Rule:

- Players who previously played with a Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization, as one of their Two Choices, will not count against the maximum, regardless of their Affiliate Organization the previous regular season.
- Players who played for a Tier II Girls' Affiliate Organization that does not field a team at a specific age level will not count against the maximum for the Tier II Girls' Affiliate organization to which the Player moves.

Non-Compliance: Any Girls' Affiliate Organization's Team(s) in violation of the Player Movement Section of this Article will be ineligible to participate in that season's State Tournament. In addition, if the Team(s) is at the National-Bound age level, the Team(s) will be ineligible for participation in Districts or Nationals for the same season. Further violations of the Player Movement Section will then be sent to the AHAI Rules and Ethics Committee for potentially additional disciplinary action.

17.17 GIRLS TWO-CHOICE

Effective with the 2024/25 Fall (*Regular*) Season, the Girls' Two-Choice Rule/Section is no longer in existence & has been removed from the AHAI Rules and Regulations. This includes the Choice Declaration and the Girls' Tier II Choice Substitution and Process.

17.18 GIRLS DUAL/DOUBLE ROSTERING

17.18.1 Dual Rostering: Defined as a female player that is rostered on more than one team within the same Affiliate Organization.

- A female player rostered on a Girls' team and a Youth team in the same Affiliate Organization.

17.18.2 Double Rostering: Defined as a female player that is on more than one team in two different Affiliate Organizations.

- A female player rostered on both a Youth team for one Affiliate Organization and a Girls' Team for another Affiliate Organization.

17.18.3 A female player may also play on a High School Team (*boys or girls*) if not prohibited by the High School Affiliate Organization.

17.18.4 Players may NOT roster on an Adult Men's or Women's Team and a Youth or Girls' Team except as otherwise permitted by the Girls Committee and the Women's Committee.

17.19 GIRLS' STATE TOURNAMENTS

Refer to Article 13 of the AHAI Rules & Regulations

ARTICLE 18 TIER I / OPEN / AAA

18. GENERAL INTENT

The general intent of Tier I Youth & Girls' Hockey in Illinois is to provide an opportunity for Youth & Girls' players to develop and compete at the highest level of hockey available in the United States at Youth 10U minor, 10U major 12U minor, 12U major, 13 only (13O), 14U major, 15 only (15O), 16U and 18U age levels and Girls 12U, 14U, 16U and 19U age levels. Tier I Hockey in Illinois is limited to those players who have the ability to play at a higher level, can meet the higher competitive, practice, travel and financial demands of Tier 1 and wish to continue to develop as players by playing Tier I Hockey while being guided by the fundamentals and principals set forth in USA Hockey's American Development Model (ADM). Tier I Hockey is not intended to place pressure on any Player/Participant to play Tier I Hockey nor is it available to the 8U or 9U age levels.

18.2 TIER I, OPEN AND "AAA" TEAMS

Any existing Youth Affiliate Organization or proposed new Affiliate Organization wishing to form Tier I, "Open" or "AAA" teams for any AHAI season must comply with the prescribed procedure as stated in the AHAI By-Laws, Rules & Regulations in addition to this Article and inform the Tier I Committee Chairman of said intention prior to taking any overt action to form a team or teams and do so on or before the deadline date of the current playing year set out in the these AHAI By- Laws, Rules & Regulations. Upon approval by the AHAI Board of Directors said Affiliate Organization and the teams of the Affiliate Organization may take overt action to form a team or teams and shall be considered as "Open" or "AAA" and shall be ineligible to play in any Tier II Tournament until such succeeding playing year that, the players as to players and Affiliate Organizations as to teams, notifies the Tier I Committee Chairman of its intention to play on or as a Tier II Team, requests and receives a Tier II Affiliate Organization status from the Tier II Committee Chairman, and meets all other requirements for Tier II Tournament play.

18.3 TIER 1 SEASON

The Tier I season shall commence on August 15th of each year and end 48 hours after the last game on the last day of the Nationals Championships Tournament of each year unless otherwise stated and announced by USA Hockey and the AHAI Board of Directors. Non-National Bound age divisions will end on the last day of the Illinois State Tournament.

18.3.1 In-State Game Play:

This rule applies to ALL AHAI Approved Tier I Youth and Tier I Girls Affiliate Organizations and for ALL levels.

- a. Games must be scheduled prior to December 15th of the current playing season.
- b. Dates and times shall be agreed to at the Tier I Spring Committee Meeting.
- c. For all non-National Bound birth years, ALL Tier I Youth & Tier I Girls Affiliate Organizations must play each other one (1) home and one (1) away game per team per year.
- d. Games must be played prior to the commencement of the AHAI Tier I State Round Robin games with February 1st as the deadline.
- e. For all National Bound birth years, ALL Tier I Youth & Tier I Girls Affiliate Organizations must play each other once per season prior to the commencement of the AHAI Tier I State Round Robin games with February 1st as the deadline.
- f. Tournament, Showcase, and League games are eligible.

Exception to this rule: If two (2) Affiliate Organizations feel a game is not appropriate at an age level(s), and the Hockey Directors of each Affiliate Organization in question mutually agree in writing, then the game(s) will not be required for that given season.

Failure to comply with this rule shall constitute a full report be submitted to the AHAI Board of Directors and forwarded to the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee for suspension(s) and or disqualification(s) from the State Tournament.

18.4 TIER I COMMITTEE

The AHAI President shall establish and appoint the Tier 1 Committee and Tier I Chairperson. Each member, and every authorized Tier 1 Affiliate Organization shall be entitled to recommend rule changes to the AHAI Board of Directors through the Tier I Committee.

18.4.1 Authority:

The Tier I Committee, subject to the AHAI Board of Directors review, guidance, change, and approval, shall be responsible for matters pertaining to the Tier I Affiliate Organizations, their players/participants, and teams.

18.4.1.1 These responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to:

- a. Establishing of a Tier 1 try out schedule for all Affiliate Organizations.
- b. Establishing of a Tier 1 AHAI State tournament format.
- c. Establishing a Tier 1 Spring and Summer program schedule.
- d. Establishing guidelines which shall be used to carry out the purposes of the Tier 1 Committee.

18.5 TIER I TEAM

A Tier I Team (sometimes called "AAA" or Open) is an AHAI registered team from a Tier I Affiliate Organization as defined in the AHAI Rules and Regulations, in which the Tier I Affiliate Organization having requested and received approval for "Tier I" status pursuant to these Rules and Regulations. A Tier I Team may NOT be classified or qualify as a House Team or a Tier II Team.

18.6 GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING THE NUMBER OF TIER I AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS AND TEAMS

Every three years, beginning in 2022, the USA Hockey Youth Council will determine the number of Tier 1 Affiliate Organizations and Tier I Teams in Illinois.

18.6.1 Determining the number of Tier I Youth and Girls' Affiliate Organizations and Teams in Illinois shall include, but is not limited to the following:

- a. In AHAI's discretion, changing the number of Tier 1 Teams will further the goals of providing Tier I hockey.
- b. The number of Illinois registered Players in a USA Hockey age division.
- c. The number of Illinois registered Players in the USA Hockey age division who will play Tier I youth hockey.

- d. Not more than 15% of the total registered Youth Players in Illinois at any age level should play Tier I youth hockey, per the USA Hockey Rule Section F. Paragraph 2.e Section F. Paragraph 2.
 - e. No more than 20% of the total registered girls in Illinois per age divisions may play Tier I Girls hockey.
 - f. No Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization will be granted Tier I authorization if they fail to field a 12U Minor Team.
 - g. No Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization shall have more than one (1) team at an age level, except where the AHA! Rules and Regulations authorize Minor and Major levels in a specific age division and then, the Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization may have two teams at that age level (*i.e. one team at Minor and one team at Major*). A Minor player is a player that is at the first year of that age division (*i.e., no 17-year-old player may play on a Midget Minor team*). Additionally, each Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization may field one (1) 15year old Midget team (*all players on the team must be 15 years old only*).
- 18.6.2** Tier I Youth Affiliate Organizations only - The 16U age level will be a division limited to players with the major age birthyear of this age group and registered as sixteens (16s) in the USA Hockey Registry. 15-Only (15O) is limited to the minor age birthyear of this age group and registered as fifteens in the USA Hockey Registry. No 15-year-old shall be permitted to play on the 16U team, and no 15- or 16-year-old player shall be permitted to play on the 18U team.
- 18.6.3** Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organizations shall ONLY be permitted to have one (1) team at each age division.
- 18.6.3.1** Refer to Article 17 for additional information specific to Tier I Girls'
- 18.6.4** 8U aged players/participants are not permitted to play Tier I hockey. No players/participants are permitted to be rostered on any Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls' Team unless said player/participant is at least nine (9) years of age for Boys Youth Tier I and ten (10) years of age for Girls Tier I as per USA Hockey age divisions.
- 18.6.5** For the Youth 10u minor age levels, All AHA! Tier I Affiliate Organizations shall play each other AHA! Tier I Affiliate Organization a minimum of four (4) times per Fall/Winter Season; this shall be two (2) homes games against each Tier I Affiliate Organization of which AHA! currently has five (5). This constitutes a minimum of sixteen (16) in-state games for the 10u minor level.
- 18.6.5.1** For this game count, the following rules shall apply:
- a. Play fees to be set prior to each Fall/Winter Season by the Tier I Committee.
 - b. For the 10U minor level, no Tier I Affiliate Organization may have more than three (3) players from any one (1) AHA!/USAH Tier II Affiliate Organization's roster from the prior Fall/Winter Season.

18.7 TIER I AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION LIMITATION

Tier I Youth Affiliate Organizations and Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organizations must be an entirely separate and distinct entity and operation apart from any Tier II Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization. A Tier I Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization and their respective Tier I Teams must not be part of or associated with any Tier II Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization or their respective Tier II Teams and no person shall be an Officer, Director, Hockey Director, Coach, Coaching Director, Manager, etc. of a Tier I Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization and hold any of the above positions in a Tier II Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization.

(Exception - Any Tier I Youth or Girls' Coach may be an Assistant Coach on any AHAI Registered Team where as his/her Child is a registered player.)

Nothing herein shall be interpreted to preclude an Independent Contractor who is offering his/her services to the public at large from offering and providing his/her services as a skating or skills instructor to any Tier I Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization or Tier II Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization. The Independent Contractor shall not be an employee, full-time instructor, or representative of either Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organizations nor participate in any manner, directly or indirectly, with the evaluation of Players /Participants, recruiting or offering Players/Participants the opportunity to play for the Tier 1 Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organizations which hire the Independent Contractor.

18.7.1 Responsibility:

Each Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization and Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization shall govern, control and be fully responsible for its Organization, the actions, inactions and/ or infractions of its teams, players /participants, coaches, managers, parents, and personnel. This responsibility shall include all employees and debts incurred by or in the name of the Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization or Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization or any of its respective Tier I Teams.

18.8 TIER I AUTHORIZATION PROCEDURE

Refer to Article 17 for additional information specific to Tier I Girls'

18.8.1 Re - Authorization:

A Tier I Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization who has been granted a charter may rely upon maintaining that charter for three years so long as it continues to comply with all AHAI and USA Hockey By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and Policies. Each third (3rd) year a chartered Tier 1 Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization must submit the required documents indicating compliance to this Article to the AHAI Tier I Committee Chairperson.

18.8.1.1 Annually, each year, Tier I Youth and Tier I Girls Affiliate Organization's Teams must submit a player fact sheet with every player card being submitted.

18.8.2 Tier I Youth Affiliate Organizations and Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organizations shall complete and deliver to the Tier I Chairperson, no later than April 1st of each year, or as extended by the Tier I Chairperson, but not less than 30 days prior to any Tier I Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization proposed Tier I Team tryout, the AHAI Tier I Affiliate

Application form and the required application minimum requirements as stated in Article 3 and below along with an application fee determined by the AHAI Tier I Chairperson.

18.8.3 No proposed Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization or Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization shall have the authority to operate or otherwise participate in Tier I Hockey in any capacity unless it has received its authorization in writing. The Tier I Chairperson along with the Tier I Committee shall recommend to the AHAI Board of Directors the acceptance or denial of the application. The recommendation shall be in writing and shall clearly state any and all reasons.

18.8.4 The AHAI Board of Directors shall establish the threshold requirements that a Tier 1 Youth Affiliate Organization or a Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization applicant must meet to be considered for admission as a Tier 1 Affiliate Organization. Information will be gathered from multiple sources to determine whether such admission will further the best interests of amateur hockey in Illinois and meet the intent of Tier I Hockey.

Every authorized new or existing Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization and Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization shall comply with the minimum requirements set forth in this Article, and the AHAI and USA Hockey By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and Policies.

These minimum requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. A Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization must have at least one (1) 12U Minor (*eleven- year-old*) Youth Team and at least one additional Youth Team from one of the following divisions: 12U Major, 14U Minor, 14U Major, 15O, 16U, 18U.
- b. A Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization may NOT apply for or have more than one (1) Minor and one (1) Major team at any given age division. A Minor team must consist of all Minor age players.
- c. No authorization will be given for any 8U or 9U teams.
- d. Submittal of a list of Officers and Directors, the number of Tier I Youth Teams at each age division, and the names of the coaches for each team with written proof that EACH coach has obtained the appropriate USAH Coaching Certification level, complied with USA Hockey's Screening Policy, completed USA Hockey Safe Sport training requirements) or will obtain these mandates by the applicable deadline.
- e. Submittal of Financial and Historical information demonstrating that the Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization is financially solvent and stable with the ability to finance the next season. Documentation demonstrating that the Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization or the Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization can procure sufficient ice to support an appropriate number of home games and practices consistent with the size of its program, its season and this Article.

- f. It is strongly recommended to have Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) tax exemption status under the Internal Revenue Code.

- 18.8.5** Submittal of a Fact Sheet as written documentation setting out the structure, organization, and responsibilities of the Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization & Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization, and each Tier I Youth Team, its Coaches, Managers, and Administrators.

18.8.5.1 Fact Sheet:

Tier I Youth Affiliate Organizations and Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organizations along with their respective Tier I teams shall post on their website and furnish each player/participant and the players' parent(s), in writing, before any tryouts, and prior to signing a Player Card, a Fact Sheet providing full disclosure about Tier I Youth Hockey or Tier I Girls Hockey (whichever is applicable) by the Tier I Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization indicating all costs, *(which shall, at a minimum, include coaches' salaries, fund raising requirements, any additional funds or monies due from the players/participants)* number of games and practices, amount of travel, any "rules" of the Tier I Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization/Team, and the actual costs of playing for the Tier I Youth or Girls' Team and Tier I Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization.

- 18.8.6** Each Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization and each Tier I Girls Affiliate Organization must provide a Fact Sheet to anyone who makes an inquiry.
- 18.8.7** Submittal of the Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization's and Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization's written By-Laws, Rules and Regulations accompanied by current compliance and a statement of future abilities, intents, and procedures to continue to comply with the AHAJ and USA Hockey By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, and Policies as well as the Guidelines and Policies established by the Tier I Committee is required.
- 18.8.8** All Tier I games played in Illinois must have officials assigned through the AHAJ Approved Assignment System authorized for Tier I Hockey.
- 18.8.9** All Tier I Youth Affiliate Organizations and Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organizations shall be committed to USA Hockey's American Development Model (ADM) which integrates training, competition, and recovery programming with relation to biological development and maturation. Tier I Youth & Girls' Affiliate Organizations and coaches promise to offer equal opportunity for recreation and competition as opposed to the "win" at all cost approach.
- 18.8.10** All Tier I Youth & Girls' Affiliate Organization coaches shall sign a code mandating principals and mandatory guidelines for coaching conduct promulgated by the Tier I Chairperson.
- 18.8.11** Coaches shall have the responsibility to develop equally all players/participants chosen for the team with a de-emphasis on winning.

- 18.8.12** All other information or requirements deemed necessary by the Tier I Chairperson and or the Tier I Committee, or his/ her designee. Failure to strictly comply with the requirements set forth in USA Hockey's American Development Model (ADM), especially as to ice practice hours and off-ice practice hours game counts or de-emphasis of winning at all costs at the 10U minor, 10U major, 12U minor and 12U major levels shall be the basis to DENY any Tier 1 Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization's and 12U, 14U, 16U and 19U teams the right to participate in the Tier I State Championships Tournament and/or renewal of the Tier I Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization's charter for the following season.

Existing Tier 1 Youth Affiliate Organizations and Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organizations will be notified in writing of the acceptance or denial of its application by May 5th of each year by the Tier 1 Chairperson or his/ her designee. New Tier 1 Youth Affiliate Organizations and New Tier 1 Girls' Affiliate Organizations will be notified in writing of the acceptance or denial of its application by June 1st by the Tier 1 Chairperson or his/ her designee. A new Tier 1 Youth Affiliate Organization or new Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization applicant may only accept 3 players per age division that played Tier 1 level hockey the previous year.

18.9 TAMPERING:

No Player/Participant, Coach, Manager shall be solicited nor shall the possibility of playing Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls' Hockey be discussed with any Player/Participant, Coach, or Manager of a National Bound Team at any Tier Classification until 48 hours after the last game on the last day of the Tier I Youth & the Tier I Girls' National Championships Tournament.

(Exception - An existing Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls' Player/Participant, Coach, or Manager for the particular Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization for which that Player, Coach, or Manager played for during the existing season and then only by that Tier I Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organization.)

Players, Coaches, and Managers of Non-National Bound age divisions may hold discussions at the conclusion of the Illinois State Tournament.

If a Tier I Player initiates contact with another Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization, the Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization must advise said Player it cannot discuss the matter and will advise the individual(s) of the date after which contact is permitted.

18.10 TEAM SELECTION PROCESS PROCEDURES

Each Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization and Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization shall institute procedures to select the best players available.

Guidelines for team selection process shall include, but are not limited to the following:

- 18.10.1** Each Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization and Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization shall hold open tryouts. Tryouts may not be

announced or advertised until the tryouts schedule for ALL Tier I Youth & Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organizations has been approved by the Tier I Chairperson or his/her authorized designee and not less than 48 hours after the final game on the final day of the USA Hockey Nationals Championships Tournament. Spring/Summer announcements, in any form, cannot be made until January 15th of each year for the following spring.

18.10.2 Personal invitations for tryouts are permissible, however, tampering deadlines MUST be avoided. Tryouts are required to be announced publicly through a general publication or individual mailing to ALL players/participants at each age divisions and on the respective Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization's & Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization's websites. These invitations are afforded to any players wishing to try out. This announcement shall take place at least thirty (30) days prior to the first date & time of the first tryout.

18.10.3 The announcement must contain a minimum of at least the following information:

- a. Tier 1 Youth Affiliate Organization or Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization name
- b. Age Divisions of tryouts and Coaches name for each age division, if known Affiliate Organization's Contact Names with phone numbers
- c. Dates, Location(s), and Times of tryouts
- d. Brief statement about the respective Tier I Youth or Girls Affiliate Organization
- e. A Tier I Youth or Girls Affiliate Organization official invitation
- f. The date contact is permitted between the Tier I Youth or Girls Affiliate Organization and the player
- g. Costs

18.10.4 Tryouts may NOT be announced or advertised until the Tier I Chairperson & the Tier I Committee have approved all information, dates, locations, times, etc. for each Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization & for each Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization. However, under no circumstances may ANY announcements be made until 48 hours after the final game on the final day of the USA Hockey Nationals Championships Tournament.

18.10.5 Spring/Summer announcements, in any form, are prohibited until a minimum of 48 hours after the final game on the final day of the USA Hockey Nationals Championships Tournament.

18.10.6 Player Card:

Players must sign a "Player Card" and the Player's parent(s) must sign an "Acknowledgment Form" that they have received a Fact Sheet and have been fully informed of all terms and

conditions, including financial responsibilities, required for play on the specific Tier I Youth or Girls' Team.

18.10.6.1 Number of Players Cards:

Each Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization and each Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization shall be permitted twenty (20) Player Cards per Tier 1 Youth or Girls' Team at the 14U and younger age classifications.

Each Tier I Youth Affiliate Organization and each Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization shall be permitted twenty-two (22) Player Cards per Tier I Youth or Girls Team at the 15O, 16U and 18U, and Girls 19U age classifications

18.10.7 Issuance of Player Cards:

Tier I Youth Affiliate Organizations and Tier I Girls Affiliate Organizations are required to issue player cards on the last day of tryouts at each age division for the upcoming playing season.

18.10.8 Player Commitment:

Any Player who signs an AHAI Tier I Player Card is irrevocably committed to that Tier I Youth Tryouts may NOT be announced or advertised until the Tier I Chairperson & the Tier or Girls' Affiliate Organization for the ensuing playing season and cannot play for another USAH Tier I team in Illinois. A player could play on a Tier I team out of state if the player has met any obligations to the Affiliate Organization they are leaving and said Affiliate Organization has agreed to release the player. This includes any other AHAI Tier I Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organizations or USAH National Bound AHAI Tier II Youth or Girls' Affiliate Organizations.

(Exception – High School Hockey if the High School Affiliate Organization allows for double rostering.)

- 18.10.9** Any Player who signs a Player Card for any Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization shall not be recruited by or on behalf of any other Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization including the individual teams of said Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organizations and cannot be removed from that Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls' Affiliate Organization's Team's roster without the prior approval of the AHAI Board of Directors.

18.10.10 Commitment Date:

Except for tryouts, no Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls' player shall be required to participate in or attend ANY Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls' activity prior to August 15th of the ensuing Playing Season.

18.10.11 Submission of Player Cards to the Tier I Chairperson:

The signed Player Card and Parental Acknowledgment for each player must be submitted to the Tier I Committee Chairperson by the dates set out in these Rules or a date designated by the Tier I Committee Chairperson.

- 18.10.12** All "Player Cards" and parental Acknowledgment Forms shall be submitted to the Tier I Committee Chairperson by September 1st (5:00 p.m.) or prior to the Tier I Youth Teams' first (1st) team

activity of the current playing season for 10U minor, 10U major, 12U minor, 12U major, 14U minor, 14U major, 15U only, 16U, and 18U age divisions.

- 18.10.13** All “Player Cards” and parental Acknowledgment Forms shall be submitted to the AHA! Executive Director by June 2nd for all Tier I Girls’ Teams.

Refer to Article 17 for additional information specific to Tier I Girls.

18.11 COACH(ES) MOVEMENT

AHA! Coaches who move from one Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls Affiliate Organization to another Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls Affiliate Organization cannot coach any of the same players from the previous season’s AHA! USAH rostered team for a period of one season with the new Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls Affiliate Organization.

- 18.11.1** Classification: Coach is any rostered Head or Assistant Coach for a Tier I Youth or a Tier I Girls Affiliate Organization during the USA Hockey playing season. This includes a coach that is not rostered but coaches the team or is on the bench for more than 33% of the season.

- 18.11.2** Classification: Player is any player who was rostered on the same Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls Affiliate Organization’s roster as the Coach.

(Exception: family member or relative of the coach)

- 18.11.3** Classification: Hockey Director of an AHA! USAH registered Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls Affiliate Organization shall not count as a Coach if listed on all of the Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls Affiliate Organization’s rosters as an Assistant Coach. If a Hockey Director is listed as the Head Coach of a team, the rules of sub-section 18.11.1 of this Article then apply. If there are unique circumstances that a Hockey Director becomes a Head Coach of a team during the season, the new Youth Affiliate Organization may petition the Tier I Committee for a ruling on the eligibility of the coach before the next season.

Coaches coaching players from a prior Tier I Youth or Tier I Girls Affiliate Organization will be considered in violation of these AHA! Rules & Regulations

18.12 ROSTERS

Refer to Article 11 of these AHA! Rules & Regulations

18.13 GAME LIMITS

Refer to Article 11 of these AHA! Rules & Regulations

ARTICLE 19 HIGH SCHOOL

19.1 GENERAL

It is the general intent of the rules stated below to follow the annually published IHSA Rules pertaining to transfer students, recruiting of high school athletes and high school foreign exchange student eligibility. It is the responsibility of the student, parent(s) of the student, coach, and

high school organization to raise any issues which may be in question and bring them to the High School Committee for resolution before the playing season begins.

High School Season - The start of the high school season is equal to the start of the IHSA High School Fall Sports Season.

It is strongly recommended for ALL High School Affiliate Organizations to have a pre-season meeting with all their players, parents, coaches, and administrators in attendance. Upon request, a representative of the High School Committee will be present at such a meeting. The attendance of a representative from IHOA is strongly encouraged.

19.2 HIGH SCHOOL DEFINITIONS – PLAYER & TEAM

19.2.1 High School Player

Restricted to amateurs who are full time students in good standing (*grades 9 through 12*), and under 20 years old on December 31st of the Playing Season, not to exceed eight (8) consecutive semesters starting with the freshman year, who are enrolled and attending the school designated on the team's and player's registration.

19.2.2 Those students graduating mid-year are no longer full-time students and therefore are not eligible to play on the high school hockey team. This is effective on their last day of attending classes as a full-time student, even if the team's season is not over.

19.2.3 Transferring students - Any student that transfers from any one school to any other after the start of the school year will:

- a. Have a thirty (30) day waiting period if the student had not tried out or played on the hockey High School Team of the first school the same year or
- b. Have a one year waiting period if the student had tried out or played on the hockey High School Team of the first school in the same year. This applies to transfers between any two schools whether they be public or private.

19.2.4 High School Affiliate Organization, either pure or combined, will require proof of enrollment in an accredited High School program as well as proof of residency within the public-school boundary based on their home address. This only applies to public schools with defined borders. Private Schools do not have defined boundaries and therefore are not considered to be home schooling or online education.

Players may stay eligible by carrying a full load of classes for four (4) consecutive years from their start date as a freshman with no breaks. If all criteria are met, they may be approved by the AHAI Registrar on the roster for the High School Affiliate Organization in which the public school is part of. Home-schooled and Online High School students who wish to be approved to participate with a program must notify the High School Committee Chair of their request and provide the required information/documentation prior to being approved on a roster.

19.2.5 High School Team

A group of players currently attending High School that, having complied with all the By- Laws and these Rules and Regulations and must have played at least twenty (20) games during the season as a unit. As of July 1, 2024, all Girls' High School Teams are required to be under a separate USA Hockey/ AHAI Identification Number (*ILH*) for the purposes of rostering, administration, and distribution of communications. The existing High School Affiliate Organization is not required to change its name except to add the word 'GIRLS' (*i.e. AHAI & AHAI Girls*). The High School Affiliate Organization's By-Laws and Board may remain the same except whereas the High School Affiliate Organization must identify a designated Girls Representative within their High School Affiliate Organization's Board structure (*Director of Girls Hockey*).

19.2.6 Only players on the teams Official, USA Hockey Certified Roster may participate with the team.

19.2.7 The first team registered by a High School Affiliate Organization must be registered as varsity. Teams must be registered in the order in which they are selected, with the better teams registered first. Organizations with multiple teams may register the second and all teams that follow as either Varsity or Junior Varsity.

19.2.8 Each high school team is required to have a minimum of fourteen (14) distinct skaters and at least one (1) goaltender.

19.2.9 Each Girls High School Team must have a minimum of twelve(12) players including the goaltender. The first girls high school team registered by a HS Affiliate Organization must be registered as varsity. Teams must be registered in the order in which they are selected with the better teams registered first. Organizations with multiple teams may register the second and all teams that follow as either Varsity or Junior Varsity.

19.2.10 No team will be permitted to play as two (2) teams, at both Varsity and Junior Varsity levels, from a single roster. Each team, at each level, must have a separate and distinct USA Hockey Certified Roster.

19.2.11 Tier I Players may play for a High School Varsity team but cannot play for a High School Junior Varsity team. However, Tier I female players may double roster to either a High School Varsity or Junior Varsity team.

19.3 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A high school player may play for one (1) High School team except for the rules providing for dual rostered players. Girls may play for a Youth High School team OR a Girls' High School team but cannot play for both in the same season. Please refer to the exception for female goaltenders.

19.4 HIGH SCHOOL DIVISIONS

19.4.1 Pure High School Team - High School Teams made up solely of players in good standing attending one high school. These teams are registered as Division 1 in the USAH Registry Portal by an AHAI Affiliate Organization that has annually been reviewed and approved by the AHAI High School Committee.

19.4.2 Combined High School Team - High School Teams made up of players in good standing attending two or more high schools. These teams are registered as Division 2 in the USAH Registry Portal by an AHAI Affiliate Organization that has annually been reviewed and approved by the AHAI High School Committee.

19.4.3 The following rules apply to Combined High School Teams and Combined High School Affiliate Organizations.

19.4.3.1 The criteria for grouping players from multiple high schools together to form a Combined Organization will be as follows:

- a. Maximizes the “Essence of High School hockey” (*based on school district, community, and geographic proximity*). The priority of an AHAI Combined Affiliate Organization shall be to combine players representing High Schools within the same school district. Such schools should be within geographical proximity of one another. The High School Committee may elect to use other measures when approving combinations.
- b. Ensures the long-term viability of a Combined Organization based on a projection of an adequate number of players each year for the foreseeable future (*viability not to be confused with competitiveness*).
- c. All eligible players from all the Combined High Schools must be invited to participate with the teams organized by the Combined Organization. Any infractions of this rule will terminate Combined Organization status.
- d. There is no “cutting” of players that want to participate unless approved by the High School Committee.
- e. Combined Affiliate Organization should have a minimum of two (2) High School Teams: varsity and junior varsity. Additional High School Teams may be formed as needed.
- f. There is no maximum number of players in the Combined Affiliate Organization.

19.4.4 School Committee an online a “Combined Status Form” for approval no later than June 30th of the upcoming Playing Season.

Combined High School Affiliate Organizations must annually submit to the High

- 19.4.5** Once approved by the High School Committee, the core high school designations may not be changed without the approval of the High School Committee. The designation of core schools shall remain the same from season to season unless a change is approved.
- 19.4.6** All Combined High School Affiliate Organization must have a Board of Directors with at least one (1) representative from each High School that has an active player on the Combined High School Team.
- 19.4.7** All Combined High School Teams must enter the AHAI State High School Tournament unless an exception is approved by the High School Committee. Central Illinois High School Combined High School Teams must enter the Central Illinois State High School Tournament unless an exception is approved by the High School Committee.
- 19.4.8** Combined High School Affiliate Organizations offering spring high school teams will be limited to the same school combinations as the preceding fall season.
- 19.4.9** Any deviations from Sections 19.2, 19.3, or 19.4 must be approved by the High School Committee.

A group representing players from a single High School within an existing Combined Affiliate Organization that seeks to become a separate Pure High School Affiliate Organization and Team must apply to the AHAI High School Committee for approval prior to January 15th of the current playing season for the upcoming playing season. The AHAI High School Committee will review, request additional documentation if warranted, and conduct interviews if deemed necessary.

The AHAI High School Committee shall submit a recommendation to the AHAI Board of Directors which will determine final approval no later than April 15th.

Refer to Article 3 of the AHAI Rules & Regulations.

19.5 TRANSITION RULE

The purpose of the transition rule is to provide a process to either divide a Combined High School program into separate Combined High School Affiliate Organizations or re-distribute the High Schools or players to improved or more logical combinations while allowing Junior and Senior players to finish their high school eligibility with their existing Combined High School Team.

When the High School Committee determines the need to alter the roster of schools in a Combined High School program, the High School Committee may at its discretion allow incoming Juniors and Seniors to opt for staying with their existing High School High School Team. It is a one-time option. Once they play for the choice of High School High School Team, they may not change High School High School Teams. This includes incoming Juniors; they are locked to that program for the remainder of their High School eligibility unless they transfer schools, in which case, they become subject to the restrictions published in these Rules and Regulations.

19.6 HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY PLAYER

Players selected for the Varsity high school team will be designated by the High School Affiliate Organization's Registrar in the AHAI Webtool Program with a "V". If there are multiple Varsity teams, players will be designated with a "V1, V2, etc. respective of the order of the team selection. Varsity players are not permitted to be rostered on a Junior Varsity team. If there is more than one Varsity team, players may be on two (2) Varsity rosters within the same High School Affiliate Organization according to the player movement rules below.

- 19.6.1** Tier I Youth players may play for a High School Varsity team but cannot play for a High School Junior Varsity team. However, Tier I female players may double roster to any High School Varsity or a High School Junior Varsity team.

19.7 HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR VARSITY PLAYER

A High School Junior Varsity player will be designated by the High School Affiliate Organization's Registrar in the AHAI Webtool Program with a "JV". If there is more than one Junior Varsity team, players will be designated with a "JV1, JV2, etc. respective of the order of the team. Junior Varsity players may be on multiple rosters within the same High School Affiliate Organization according to the player movement rules below.

19.8 HIGH SCHOOL PLAYER MOVEMENT

A High School player may be dual rostered meaning they appear on more than one roster within the same Affiliate Organization.

- 19.8.1** Dual rostered players must be on the team's official roster to participate with the team.

- 19.8.2** A player may only dual roster up to a team one level higher.

(Example - They may allow a player to be dual rostered between two teams by rostering a player from a team 1 (one) level below such as JV2 to JV1, or Varsity 2 to Varsity 1, or JV to Varsity.)

- 19.8.3** The player must carry the designation of their primary team on both Official USAH Rosters. When placed on a second roster, they must carry the same primary team designation on the team to which they are dual rostered.

- 19.8.4** The dual rostered players may play up in 9 league games on the non-primary team. Once they play in a tenth league game, it will lock that player to the non-primary roster for all games for the remainder of the season. They may not return to the lower-level team for ANY games, including all league and non-league, practice, scrimmage, or tournament/showcase games including the State Tournament.

- 19.8.5** If a team plays in more than 1 league, the combined number of league games played count in the nine (9) allowed games before being locked to the upper team.

- 19.8.6** The player remains as a player on the primary team but is now locked to the non-primary team.

- 19.8.7** The player's V/JV designation does not change on the certified roster, and the player is not removed from the primary team's roster.
- 19.8.8** The primary team may not drop below the fourteen (14) players and one (1) goaltender minimum roster requirements by reason of moving players up and being locked on the upper team.

Games played by the upper team in violation of this rule will be forfeited and the player will be locked on the lower team.

- 19.8.9** It is recommended that there are two (2) goalies on each team. One goalie could be a goaltender dual rostered on the next upper team. If there is only one goalie on a team, and there is not a team registered below them, a dual rostered goalie from an upper team may only be on the lower roster as a Back Up Goalie, subject to Back-Up Goalie Rules.
- 19.8.10** No player may play down, except by petition if there is a crisis as determined by the HS Committee and the AHAI registrar. Individual leagues may be more restrictive but may not amend the rule to be less restrictive.

19.9 HIGH SCHOOL GOALIE EXCEPTION

High School Goalie Exception for Requesting a Goalkeeper from a Source Outside Their Own Affiliate High School Organization

- 19.9.1** All movement by goaltenders for a High School Team from other than the school or group of schools in the case of a combined High School Team must be:

The result of a High School Affiliate Organization claiming hardship, namely not having a goaltender for one of their High School Teams. A High School Affiliate Organization that has at least one goaltender for each High School Team will be deemed to be a lower priority than a high school team that has none. Petitions are made to the Chairman of the High School Committee or his/her designated coordinator. League presidents may help counsel a program in their league and advocate for them, however the final approval is the responsibility of the Chairman of the High School Committee.

- 19.9.2** A Combined Affiliate Program may not by definition cut any players, even when the program has more than two (2) goaltenders per high school team. They may council a goaltender that their playing time may be significantly less than the other goaltender. The goaltender then may elect to be placed into a pool of goaltenders to be placed on a high school team claiming hardship. If the goaltender rejects this proposal, the original Combined High School Affiliate Organization must accept and coach the goaltender even if they do not play. The goaltender must fulfill the High School Team's other requirements including school attendance and payment of fees.
- 19.9.3** A High School Affiliate Organization that cuts a goaltender or allows a goaltender to go into the pool may not claim hardship to obtain another goaltender from the pool.

- 19.9.4** A goaltender placed into the pool will be placed by the High School Committee Goalie Coordinator by priority: A Combined Affiliate Program may not by definition cut any players, even when
- 19.9.5** First priority will be for High School Teams with no goaltender at all.
- 19.9.6** Second priority will be geographic proximity to the acquiring High School Team.
- 19.9.7** The High School Committee will attempt to place older more experienced goaltenders on Varsity High School Teams when the conditions above are met.
- 19.9.8** A goaltender who rejects their assignment will be removed from the pool and will be ineligible to be rostered on any High School Team other than his original High School Team to which he required no exception.
- 19.9.9** Goaltenders that are cut from Pure Programs may contact the High School Committee Goalie Coordinator to be placed in the Pool.
- 19.9.10** Individual Goaltenders and High School Affiliate Organizations may make no side arrangements to circumvent this process. If it is found that such an arrangement took place, the high school committee may impose sanctions including removal of the High School Team from the State Tournament and denial of access to future goalie pools.
- 19.9.11** Girls' High School goaltenders may apply for a special exemption whereby they would be allowed for a single season to double roster on both a girl's and co-ed High School Team if it is determined by the Chairperson of the High School Committee that there is a need. That exemption would only be valid for one season and that Player would not be allowed to "triple roster" on any other team including but not limited to a Tier 1 team.

19.10 HIGH SCHOOL BACK-UP GOALIE RULE

High School Back Up Goalie (*HS BUG*) - BUGs must be approved by the AHA! Registrar before they may be added to the High School Team's USA Hockey Certified Roster.

- a.** High School Teams may register a HS BUG under specific circumstances. A HS BUG may only be registered on a High School Team if there is only one Goaltender on each of the High School teams. Dual rostering should always supersede the use of a HS BUG as the second goaltender on a team. A goaltender that is dual rostered to a High School Team is considered to be a second goaltender on the team, which is a case when a HS BUG may not be added to the team.
- b.** A High School BUG may only be used in the case where the rostered Goalkeeper on the AHA! high school team is injured or ill. The High School team must notify the AHA! Registrar and Chairperson of the High School Committee if they request to use the High School BUG in a game. The notification can be made by phone but must be documented in writing in an email and

sent to the AHAI Registrar and Chairperson of the High School Committee. The High School BUG cannot be used in a game until acknowledgement is received from the High School Committee Chairperson and/or the AHAI Registrar. This rule does not restrict any league from having rules that would require additional prior notification and approval. In that event the AHAI High School Team must also get approval from the league to play the High School BUG. The league may be more restrictive in the ability to play a High School BUG.

19.11 HIGH SCHOOL BUG SCENARIOS

(not intended to be inclusive of all scenarios)

The high school team has two teams and two goaltenders in their Affiliate Organization.

In this case, the Varsity Goaltender may be a HS BUG on the JV team. The JV goaltender should be dual rostered on the Varsity team.

A High School Affiliate Organization with 1 Varsity and 2 JV teams and 3 goaltenders may roster the JV 1 goaltender as a HS BUG on the JV2 team.

The JV 1 goaltender should be a dual rostered goaltender to the Varsity team, and the JV 2 goaltender dual rostered goaltender to the JV1 team. A High School Affiliate Organization with 2 Varsity and 1 JV teams and 3 goaltenders may roster the V 2 goaltenders as a HS BUG on the JV1 team.

The V 2 goaltender should be rostered as the dual rostered goaltender to the Varsity 1 team, and the JV 1 goaltender as the dual rostered goaltender to the V2 team.

19.12 7TH and 8TH GRADE SKATES

Pursuant to the Rules, players and/or students not attending a High School may not participate in any High School Team and/or High School Affiliate Organization's activities.

The following policy will allow High School Affiliate Organizations to provide 7th and 8th grade students the opportunity to participate in two (2) High School hockey programs on ice activities each year, subject to the following:

- 19.12.1** Each high school Affiliate Organizations is limited to two (2) events per season. *(Season defined as September 1 through March 31)*
- 19.12.2** Each High School Affiliate Organizations must provide written notice to the High School Committee Chairperson and the AHAI Registrar of any date(s) chosen for an on- ice 7th/8th grade event and receive approval from the High School Committee and the High School League.
- 19.12.3** Only 7th or 8th grade students are eligible to participate.
- 19.12.4** Each participant must provide a written consent form executed by a parent or guardian consenting to the student participating in the event.

- 19.12.5** Each participant in the event must have a current USA Hockey registration.
- 19.12.6** Each participant must always wear full equipment during all on ice activities.
- 19.12.7** Current High School Players/Participants and/or students are not allowed on the ice during these skates.
High School Affiliate Organizations will only allow proper U.S.A. Hockey Registered and/or Certified Coaches from that Affiliate Organization on the ice during the event.

ARTICLE 20 ADULTS & WOMEN'S

20.1 ADULTS & WOMEN'S

- 20.1.1** Adults & Women's Teams may NOT actively recruit or solicit players under the eighteen (18).
- 20.1.2** ALL players must be eighteen (18) years of age or older to play on an Adult team.
- 20.1.3** Participants on Adult teams must have a current USA Hockey Registration.
- 20.1.4** Teams must have an official USA Hockey Certified roster which is submitted to the league before any games are played.
- 20.1.5** Adults may roster with multiple Adult teams.
- 20.1.6** Adult teams must use USA Hockey Credentialed Officials.

ARTICLE 21 COACHING

21.1 USA HOCKEY COACHING EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- 21.1.1** Coach Registration: All Ice Hockey Coaches, as well as instructors of USA Hockey Programs, shall be registered annually as Individual Participants of USA Hockey for the current season (*before the start of the season*) in order to be eligible to coach/instruct in any regular- season activities (*practices, clinics, games, tournaments, try-outs, etc.*), State, District, Regional Playoff, Nationals Championships or in USA Hockey Player Development Programs. There is an annual fee to register as a coach (*head and assistants*) and or instructor. Coaches who also play on a USA Hockey registered team are required to pay this registration fee only once per year. Coaches may register as participants online at www.usahockey.com or through a local Affiliate Organization.

Exception 1: All USA Hockey Coaching Education Program Instructors and Nationals Player Development Camp coaches are exempt from the annual participant registration fee. These individuals are still required to complete the participant registration process.

Exception 2: All coaches (*head and assistants*) of each Disabled Hockey Team must complete the required CEP registration and online age-specific module(s) for each level of play. Those volunteers or employees who assist with helping disabled hockey teams (*i.e. interpreters, pushers, on-ice mentors, etc.*) must be properly registered with USA Hockey (*including screening and SafeSport*) but are not required to attend a CEP clinic and otherwise comply with these Rules and Regulations.

For ALL USA Hockey Coaching certification requirements, guidelines, and criteria, refer to USA Hockey's website. <https://www.usahockey.com/coachingcertification>

21.2 SAFE SPORT AND SCREENING POLICY

ALL USA Hockey Coaches and Instructors will complete the USA Hockey SafeSport online training and background check in accordance with USA Hockey SafeSport and Screening Policies. Failure to comply with the SafeSport and Screening Policies will result in the forfeiture of coaching privileges in programs, at sites, or events under AHAI or USA Hockey's governance. Information on bit these programs can be found at: <https://www.usahockey.com/safesporttraining> and <https://www.usahockey.com/backgroundscreen>.

21.3 COACH/INSTRUCTOR HELMET REQUIREMENT

ALL Ice Hockey Coaches and Instructors of registered USA Hockey Youth 18U and below, High School, Girls/Women's 19U and below, and Disabled Programs must properly wear an approved ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions, including but not limited to practices, controlled scrimmages, and ALL Coaching Education Program clinics and/or workshops. Failure to comply WILL result in a 30-day suspension from all activities involving USA Hockey registered programs.

21.4 UNDER-AGE COACHES

A player aged 13 through 17 who is currently and properly registered with USA Hockey may serve as a Student Coach. For further requirements to be a Student Coach, refer to USA Hockey's website. <https://www.usahockey.com/studentcoaches>

21.4.1 An Affiliate Organization that utilizes a STUDENT COACH must provide the proper documentation indicating on what team he/she is participating as a STUDENT COACH, and, if applicable, what team he/she is properly registered/rostered as a player. The documentation form may be found on the USA Hockey website. <https://www.usahockey.com/studentcoaches>

21.4.2 The Student Coach candidate along with his/her Affiliate Organization, team, and parents must completely fill out the USA Hockey Student Coach form and mail the completed document to:
AHA! / Student Coach – P.O. Box 1636 – Warrenville, IL 60555

21.4.3 The Affiliate Organization for which the candidate will be a Student Coach must provide a copy of the USA Hockey completed Student Coach Form to the AHAI Registrar before said candidate may participate as a Student Coach. The approved

document must be submitted annually and/or whenever there is a change of either team (*participation as a Student Coach or participation as a player*).

- 21.4.4** Only NEW candidates to become Student Coaches are required to attend a Student Coach Workshop. Any Student Coach that has already attended an AHAI Sponsored Student Coach Clinic or Level 1 Clinic as a Student Coach in the past need NOT attend again. However, every Student Coach MUST submit the USA Hockey Student Coach form to the AHAI Registrar as indicated above.

21.5 COACHING ETHICS

ALL USA Hockey Ice Hockey Coaches (*head and assistant*) and Instructors must abide by the USA Hockey Coaching Ethics Code and understand that violations may result in full or partial forfeiture of coaching privileges in programs, at sites or events under AHAI or USA Hockey's governance. All coaches have an obligation and are required to be familiar with USA Hockey's Coaching Ethics Code. Lack of awareness or misunderstanding of an ethical standard is not in itself a defense to a charge of unethical conduct. Part of the Coach's Ethics Code is all coaches have the responsibility to develop equally all players chosen for the team with a de-emphasis on winning.

The USA Hockey Coaching Ethics Code can be found on USA Hockey's website: <https://www.usahockey.com/coachingethics>

ARTICLE 22 DISCIPLINARY ACTION

22.1 DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Violations of the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, Guidelines, decisions and/or requests of AHAI (*including its' Committees*) and/or USA Hockey, and conduct deemed by the Rules & Ethics Committee of AHAI to not be in the best interests of amateur hockey, the purpose and/or intent of the By- Laws, Rules & Regulations. Guidelines, decisions and/or requests of AHAI (*including its Committees*) and/or USA Hockey constitutes conduct detrimental to and not in the best interests of hockey and makes the Player, Parent, Spectator, Coach, Manager, Team, League, Administrator, Minor Official, Referee and/or Linesman, Person, Affiliate Organization and/or Sponsoring Organization subject to disciplinary action with possible suspension(s) by the AHAI Board of Directors and/or its Committees so empowered.

- 22.1.1** Normally, sanctions (*other than playing rule sanctions*) may be imposed only upon notice and a hearing, which is interpreted to be a reasonable opportunity to be heard. However, under certain circumstances, sanctions may be imposed without a hearing.

- 22.1.2** The general procedure for imposition of sanctions:

Notice - A reasonable opportunity to be heard which may be formal or informal, including discussions in person, by telephone or in writing. They may also include the statements or attendance of factual witnesses and the production of documents; and a decision which normally will be in writing, setting forth the sanctions and time periods as appropriate.

22.1.3 Sanctions may, however, be imposed without hearing:

Where there is no factual dispute and the sanctioned party does not request a hearing, setting out facts supporting a factual dispute, in writing within seven (7) days of receipt of written or verbal notice of the sanctions.

22.1.4 Where the AHAI Rules & Ethics Committee and or the AHAI Suspension Committee determines that the conduct is such that immediate sanctions are necessary in the best interests of hockey.

Some examples of conduct that may require immediate sanctions:

- a. Physical, sexual, or mental abuse of a player or person.
- b. Physical striking of a player or person, fighting, causing a fight.
- c. Use, sell or giving of non-prescription mind-altering substance.
- d. Violation of USA Hockey Policies or AHAI Policies of a comparable nature or the allegation.
- e. Any of the above.

These are examples but they are not exhaustive nor limiting in any manner.

22.1.5 The sanctioned party shall be advised of the sanction or sanctions verbally or in writing. If verbally, it shall be confirmed in writing together with the right to request a hearing. The sanctioned party may request a hearing in writing, in accordance with this Rule within seven (7) days of receipt of written notice of the sanction or sanctions. The request for a hearing shall set out facts and reasons supporting the need for a hearing and why immediate sanction(s) are not appropriate and shall be sent to the Chairperson of the Committee imposing the sanction(s). If the sanctioned party provides this notice requesting a hearing in accordance with this Rule, a reasonable opportunity for a hearing shall be provided within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice by the Committee Chairperson or the sanctions shall be suspended on the thirty-first (31st) day after receipt of the notice by the Committee Chairperson, until a reasonable opportunity to be heard is provided. Where a reasonable opportunity to be heard is provided, the sanction(s) shall remain in effect until the hearing is conducted and a decision by the Committee provided.

22.1.6 Receipt of written notice of sanctions will be presumed three (3) days after deposit of the written notice, pre-addressed and correctly stamped in the United States Mail.

22.1.7 A Coach who allows a Player who has been suspended by virtue of a gross or match misconduct penalty, to dress, play or participate in practice shall be suspended from any further games until his/her case has been dealt with by the AHAI Suspension Review Committee. A reasonable opportunity to be heard shall be provided within thirty (30) days of the incident the Coach shall be automatically reinstated. This rule applies to ALL AHAI Hockey levels.

22.1.8 A graduated penalty for coaches receiving penalties for "Abuse of Officials" shall be the following:

- a. The first occurrence would receive the One (1) game suspension prescribed by USA Hockey.
- b. The second occurrence in the same season would require a three (3) game suspension.
- c. A third violation in one season would require an indefinite suspension pending a hearing before the Suspension and Review Committee.

22.1.9 Zero Tolerance — In an effort to make ice hockey a more desirable and rewarding experience for all participants, AHAI has a very simple definition of Zero Tolerance and any violation will not be tolerated.

The definition is: Any lack of respect or unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated and will be a violation of AHAI's Zero Tolerance Policy. This rule is designed to require all players, coaches, officials, team officials and administrators, parents, and spectators to comply with the Zero Tolerance Policy.

22.1.10 Each organization, player, coach, official, team officials and administrators, parents and spectators are expected to enforce this Policy. In addition, AHAI has instructed the Officiating Program to adhere to certain points of interest to enforce this Policy in all USA Hockey sanctioned games.

Thus, the following points of emphasis must be implemented by all On-Ice Referees and Linesmen:

22.1.11 PLAYERS

A minor, major or misconduct/game misconduct penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (*Zero Tolerance*) shall be assessed whenever a player.

- a. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- b. Uses obscene or vulgar language at any time, including any swearing, even if it is not directed at a particular person.
- c. Visually demonstrates any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision. Any time that a player persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a misconduct penalty. A game misconduct shall result if the player continues such action.

22.1.12 COACHES

A minor penalty or game misconduct penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct (*Zero Tolerance*) shall be assessed whenever a coach:

- a. Openly disputes or argues any decision by an official.
- b. Uses obscene or vulgar language in a boisterous manner to anyone at any time.

- c. Visually displays any sign of dissatisfaction with an official's decision including standing on the boards or standing in the bench doorway with the intent of inciting the officials, players, or spectators.
- d. Any time that a coach persists in any of these actions, they shall be assessed a game misconduct penalty.

22.1.13 OFFICIALS

Officials are required to conduct themselves in a businesslike, sportsmanlike, impartial, and constructive manner at all times. The actions of an official must be above reproach. Actions such as "baiting" or inciting players or coaches are strictly prohibited.

On-ice officials are ambassadors of the game and must always conduct themselves with this responsibility in mind.

22.1.14 PARENTS/SPECTATORS

In an effort to help control inappropriate spectator behavior, the following AHAI rule is effective immediately.

22.1.14.1 A game will be stopped by on-ice officials when the parents/spectators displaying inappropriate or disruptive behavior interfere with other parents/spectators or the game. The on-ice officials will identify violators to the coaches for the purpose of removing parents/spectators from the parents'/spectators' viewing and game area.

22.1.14.2 Once removed, play will resume. Lost time will not be replaced. Violators will incur a minimum mandatory 5-game suspension from that team's games and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the local governing body.

ARTICLE 23 APPEALS

23.1 APPEALS

- \ Appeals of any AHAI Committee decision, except the Tournament Protest Committee which are covered in Article 13, may be made to the AHAI Board of Directors, or at the AHAI Board of Director's discretion, an Appeals Committee of the AHAI Board of Directors' (*which for the purposes of this Article may be referred to as "Board of Directors" or "Board"*) or appeals of an AHAI Board of Directors decision will be heard by an independent appeal committee appointed by the AHAI President.

23.1.1 The appeal procedure is as follows:

Appeals for consideration by the AHAI Appeals Committee must be submitted in writing to the President of AHAI by the affected individual, Affiliate Organization's Teams' Officers and/or Directors. The appeal must state the reason and basis for the appeal. AHAI Appeal forms will be provided after notification.

23.1.2 Must be accompanied by a \$125.00 Filing Fee that shall be paid by "certified check" only.

- 23.1.3** Must be received by the President within ten (10) calendar days of the respective Committee's notice to defendant.
(Forms can be found on www.ahai.org).
- 23.1.4** Must complete and submit to the President of AHAI an "Appeal Form" within ten (10) days of submitting the appeal. The form must include a written statement of why the decision should be modified or reversed together with any documents to be considered on appeal. The Appeal Form, including the written statement and documents, shall be delivered by the appealing party, to the original decision-making body Chairperson at the same time it is submitted to the AHAI President.
- 23.1.5** Only the evidence and theories explicitly presented to the initial decision-making body for consideration prior to the rendering of its decision and made part of the Appeal Form shall be presented or considered for appeal.
- 23.1.6** The AHAI Appeal Authority (*AHAI Board of Directors or the Appeals Committee*) may hold a hearing, at its option, or consider the appeal on the written submissions of the parties to the appeal. If the appeal is only based on written submissions, the Board shall provide the original decision-making body the opportunity to respond, in writing, to the appealing party's Appeal Form. Notice of a Hearing shall be given to all parties. In the event the AHAI Appeals Committee determines to hold a hearing, individual, member team officers, and/or directors and persons with knowledge, must appear before the AHAI Appeals Committee at the time and place specified by the Appeals Committee and present the appeal.
- 23.1.7** Decisions of the AHAI Board of Directors or the Appeals Committee will generally be given to the individual, Affiliate Organization's Team officer and/or its Directors within seven (7) calendar days after the hearing.
- 23.1.8** An appeal is not a rehearing of the facts. An appeal is limited to why the decision of the initial hearing body should be modified or reversed. The burden of proof shall be on the person or party attempting to have the decision modified or reversed. Any disciplinary action as a result of the initial or any other hearing or decision shall remain in full force and effect until it expires, or the appeal authority modifies it.
- 23.1.9** All decisions of the Board of Directors of AHAI are final.
- 23.1.10** USAH Rules regarding appeals can be found in their Annual Guide
- <https://www.usahockey.com/annualguide>

ARTICLE 24 OFFICIATING

24.1 REGISTRATION

An Ice Hockey Official who is properly registered with USA Hockey, AHAI, and the Illinois Hockey Officiating Association (*IHOA*) will be eligible to officiate

any and all games played between USA Hockey/AHAI properly sanctioned and registered teams. Teams not properly sanctioned and or registered with USA Hockey/AHAI will not be allowed to use the services of the Illinois Hockey Officiating Association (*IHOA*).

24.2 PURPOSE

The involvement of AHAI in officiating matters is solely for the purposes of promoting qualified officiating through which that Officials are properly trained; an equitable assignment system; and prompt compensation of Officials by those who retain their services. Through its involvement, AHAI seeks to foster a system which provides qualified officials the opportunity to officiate in a competitive hockey environment.

24.2.1 To carry out these purposes, AHAI offers:

- a.** High quality education and instruction to improve the knowledge of officiating.
- b.** A mentoring program to assist in officiating experience and skill development.
- c.** Exposure to advanced competition through participation in high caliber games and tournaments.
- d.** Evaluation to assist in growth potential and development. AHAI's involvement in officiating is specifically not intended to create an employer-employee or principal-agent relationship between AHAI and any official. Nothing in this Article should be interpreted as creating such a relationship.

24.3 AHAI OFFICIATING MANAGER

The AHAI Officiating Manager shall be appointed by the AHAI Board of Directors to carry out the functions required. This person may either be an AHAI Volunteer, Employee, or an Independent Contractor. The AHAI Board of Directors reserves the right to annually review the status and continued service of the Officiating Manager.

- 24.3.1** The Officiating Manager shall be responsible for certification and training of all Officials eligible to officiate at USA Hockey sanctioned events in Illinois. This includes but is not limited to establishing Mentoring, Evaluation and Supervisory Programs.
- 24.3.2** The Officiating Manager shall be responsible for the approval of all "Officiating Assigners" who schedule Officials for USA Hockey sanctioned events in Illinois.
- 24.3.3** The Officiating Manager shall be responsible for all accounting and billing functions as described in this Article. This shall include but is not limited to issuing all required invoices to AHAI Affiliate Organizations, receiving the payments on those invoices, and dispersing funds due from the Affiliate Organizations to the Officials and Officiating Assigners.

24.4 AHAI DESIGNATED ASSIGNER

The AHAI Board of Directors shall annually and by August 30th, designate and approve an Assigner of Officials. This person(s) or entity shall be the exclusive body approved by AHAI to provide assignment services for AHAI Affiliate Organizations for Officiating Services at all USA Hockey sanctioned events in Illinois. The Officiating Assigner is an independent contractor of AHAI and not an employee or agent of AHAI.

24.4.1 The Assigner of Officials shall promote, develop, and administer a competitive Officiating and Assignment program. The principal purpose of this program shall be to provide Officials the opportunity to officiate in a competitive hockey environment by offering:

- a. High quality education, instruction, and knowledge of officiating.
- b. Adequate mentoring via ice time and game assignments to gain experience and skill development.
- c. Exposure to advanced competition through participation in high caliber games and tournaments.
- d. Ongoing evaluation, supervision and reinforcement of growth potential and development consistent with the intent to provide every Official with games they are qualified to officiate. A monitoring tool will be used by the Assigner of Officials to evaluate the number of games Officials' request, the levels Officials request, and how many games are ultimately assigned to each registered Official.

24.5 QUALIFICATION OF OFFICIALS

All Officials (*Referees and Linesmen*) must be registered with USA Hockey and AHAI through the designated process. All Officials working in any USA Hockey sanctioned event in Illinois must wear the current USA Hockey Officials crest as prescribed and required by USA Hockey.

24.6 RETENTION AND COMPENSATION OF OFFICIALS

Except in circumstances where AHAI is itself operating a USA Hockey sanctioned event in Illinois, Officials are retained to provide officiating services for any USA Hockey sanctioned event in Illinois solely by one or more of the Affiliate Organizations and or properly Registered Teams participating in such event. Compensation due to Officials for providing such services is solely the responsibility of the retaining Affiliate Organization(s) AHAI has no obligation to provide compensation to any Officials for their services at such events.

24.7 AHAI BILLING AND FUND TRANSFER

In order to promote accurate, fair, and timely compensation for Officials who provide officiating services for any AHAI/USA Hockey sanctioned event in Illinois, AHAI has established a billing and payment system that all AHAI Affiliate Organizations are required to use when they retain Officials services for sanctioned events.

24.7.1 The following describes this system:

- a.** Billing System: AHAI acts solely as an Independent Management entity for the benefit of its Affiliate Organizations and for the Officials and Officiating Assigners. The AHAI Officiating Manager will issue a monthly invoice to each Affiliate Organization for Officials and Assignment Services which that Affiliate Organization used in the prior month. The Officiating Manager will send the invoice during the last week of each month and will send a reminder if the account is not current by the 2nd day of the following month.
- b.** AHAI Service Fee in Invoice Amount: An AHAI service fee will be set by the AHAI Board of Directors and billed to the Affiliate Organization for each event. This service fee includes compensation to the software platform Developer, AHAI operational expenses and the AHAI-approved training and development programs for Officials.
- c.** Banking: AHAI has established a specific-purpose bank account to serve as a repository for all payments made by Affiliate Organizations on such invoices. Officials and Officiating Assigners are paid out of that account solely through the funds paid by the Affiliate Organizations. In so acting, neither AHAI nor the AHAI Officiating Manager can be deemed to have established an Employer- Employee or Principal-Agent relationship. AHAI has established this Billing System solely to centralize the payment system for Officials and to promote the timely payment to Officials of amounts due from the Affiliate Organizations for their services rendered.
- d.** Failure to Pay: In the event any Affiliate Organization fails to timely pay the amounts due on an invoice, AHAI reserves the right to withhold payment to the respective Officials and Officiating Assigners whose services have not been paid for by that Affiliate Organization. AHAI reserves the right to require prepayment for expected fees of any kind from any Affiliate Organization that has previously failed to pay invoices in a timely manner.

24.8 SOFTWARE PROGRAM

Unless otherwise decided by the AHAI Board of Directors, the accounting, billing, and assignment process shall be handled exclusively through the use of the AHAI Approved Software Platform.

24.9 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

All AHAI Affiliate Organizations are subject to the following rules with respect to officials:

- 24.9.1** II USA Hockey sanctioned events must be reported through the AHAI Webtool database or by approved software tools provided to Officiating Assigners.

24.9.2 All game information including officiating fees, scheduling fees, and service fees must be posted correctly by the Officiating Assigner(s).

24.9.3 All USA Hockey sanctioned events played in the State of Illinois shall schedule Officials exclusively by using the AHAI Approved Assignment Software platform.

24.10 OFFICIALS SUPERVISION

It is the recommendation of AHAI that 5-10% of games be supervised by a local Assigner, AHAI or a USA Hockey Supervisor of Officials. Appropriate reporting of such supervision shall be maintained.

ARTICLE 25 PLAYING RULES

The Amateur Hockey Association Illinois, Inc. shall follow the Official Playing Rules of USA Hockey. Any exceptions or additions to these Playing Rules must be approved by the AHAI Board of Directors.

25.1 FIGHTING PENALTIES

Refer to USA Hockey Rule 615(a)

25.2 SLASHING PENALTIES

The following rules have been implemented for all ice hockey games played in the State of Illinois. All USA Hockey registered teams (*whether registered with AHAI or not*) must abide by these additional penalties:

- a.** Any Player who is assessed a penalty for slashing under USA Hockey Rule 634 above the waist shall be suspended for the next three (3) games of that team not including the game in which the penalty was assessed.
- b.** Any Player, Coach, Team, Manager, Affiliate Organization, or individual violating this Rule shall be referred to the AHAI Rules and Ethics Committee and/or AHAI Suspension Committee for disciplinary action.

Any Tier I Team, or any Team participating in a league based outside of Illinois, or any other Illinois team participating in a game outside the State of Illinois, shall follow regular USA Hockey Rules and/or the Rules of the Affiliate/Federation, and/or Tournament Rules they are playing that game within.

USAH Rule 634 – Slashing

(Note) Slashing is the act of a player swinging their stick at an opponent whether contact is made or not. Any forceful chop with the stick on an opponent's body or opponent's stick on or near the opponent's hands shall be considered slashing.

- a.** A minor penalty shall be assessed for slashing an opponent.
- b.** A major plus a game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who recklessly endangers an opponent as a result of slashing.

(Note) Referees are instructed to penalize any player who swings their stick at any opposing player (*whether or not contact is made*) or makes a wild swing at the puck with the intention of intimidating the opponent.

- c. A match penalty for reckless endangerment may also be assessed for slashing.
- d. Any player who swings their stick at another player in the course of an altercation shall be assessed a minor or major plus game misconduct or a match penalty. This is in addition to any other penalties that may be warranted under the fighting rule (*Rule 615*).
- e. A minor penalty shall be assessed to any player who makes stick contact with an opposing goalkeeper while they are in their goal crease and who has covered or caught the puck, regardless of whether or not the Referee has stopped play.

25.3 CHECKING FROM BEHIND PENALTIES

The following rules have been implemented for all ice hockey games played in the State of Illinois. All USA Hockey registered teams (*whether registered with AHAI or not*) must abide by these additional penalties:

- 25.3.1** A minor plus a misconduct penalty, or a major plus a game misconduct penalty, shall be assessed to any player who body checks or pushes an opponent from behind.
- 25.3.2** A major penalty plus game misconduct penalty shall be assessed to any player who injures an opponent as a result of checking from behind or who body checks or pushes an opponent from behind causing them to go headfirst into the boards or goal frame.
- 25.3.3** A match penalty for attempt to injure or deliberate injury to an opponent may also be assessed for checking from behind.
- 25.3.4** Any player who receives a second major penalty for Checking from Behind with the same team during the same season shall receive a three (3) game suspension.
- 25.3.5** Any player who receives a third major penalty for Checking from Behind with the same team in the same season, the player shall be suspended until a hearing is conducted by the Authority Having Jurisdiction under USA Hockey Rule 410 - Supplementary Discipline.

25.4 PLAYER AND COACH SUSPENSION CLARIFICATION

25.4.1 RULE 401 - Penalties

- a. For any Team Official or Player service a suspension for a prior game misconduct violation or disciplinary suspension, the suspension will commence 45 minutes prior to the start of each game and conclude 30 minutes following the conclusion of each game.

The Team Official or Player serving the suspension shall be prohibited from:

- Having any interaction, involvement, or communication “in person”, electronically, or otherwise with the team.
- Being present in the locker room.
- Being on or near the bench of their team.

Any violation of the Rule may result in supplementary discipline and may subject such Team Official or Player to further disciplinary proceedings.

25.4.2 RULE 404 – Misconduct Penalties

- A “GAME MISCONDUCT” penalty involves the suspension of a Player or Team Official for the balance of the game with immediate substitution taking place on the ice. A Player or Team Official incurring a game misconduct penalty shall also be suspended for the team’s next game *(the game already appearing on the schedule of that team at the time of the infraction)*, except that when such penalty is imposed under Rule 403(b) *(Second Major in Game)* there shall be a minimum two-game suspension.

(Note 1) In all cases where a game misconduct penalty is assessed, the incident shall be reported to the proper authorities who shall have full power to impose further suspensions.

(Note 2) For all game misconduct penalties regardless of when imposed, a total of ten (10) minutes shall be charged in the records against an offending player.

- Any Player or Team Official who is assessed a game misconduct penalty may not remain near the bench of their team, nor in any way attempt to direct the play of their team, for the balance of the game in which the game misconduct penalty has been issued.



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2025-26
AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ILLINOIS
COMMITTEES

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Amateur Hockey Association Illinois, Inc.

presents the



**ILLINOIS
HIGH SCHOOL
STATE
CHAMPIONSHIPS**



at the

ALL-STATE ARENA
Friday, March 6, 2026

This date is **PRELIMINARY** and should only be used as a quick reference guide.
Please check the AHAI website at www.ahai.org for the most current information.

Plan to keep this date open for you and your family as
many new and exciting events are planned for this night.

WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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AHAI FOUNDER'S AWARD RECIPIENTS



AHAI wishes to thank the following individual who have served the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois, Inc. for a period of thirty-five years and has contributed countless hours and efforts to improve the sport of ice hockey in Illinois.

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Tony Rossi | 1979-09 |
| Jim Smith | 1980-10 |



AHAI PIONEER AWARD RECIPIENTS



AHAI wishes to thank the following individual who have served the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois, Inc. for a period of twenty-five years and has contributed countless hours and efforts to improve the sport of ice hockey in Illinois.

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| Joe Benedetto* | 1975-01 | Rich Becker* | 1985-10 |
| Tony Rossi | 1979-04 | Bob Mathson | 1987-12 |
| Jim Smith | 1980-05 | Norm Spiegel | 1988-13 |
| Jim McGlynn | 1985-10 | | |



AHAI MASTER'S CLUB AWARD RECIPIENTS



AHAI wishes to thank the following individuals who have served the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois, Inc. for a period of twenty years and have contributed countless hours and efforts to improve the sport of ice hockey in Illinois.

| | | | |
|------------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| Joe Benedetto* | 1975-95 | Rich Becker* | 1985-05 |
| Tony Rossi | 1979-99 | Bob Mathson | 1987-07 |
| Ed Howe | 1979-99 | Norm Spiegel | 1988-08 |
| Steve Pinkstaff* | 1979-99 | Ken Michel | 2000-20 |
| Jim Smith | 1980-00 | Mike Mullally | 2000-20 |
| Jim McGlynn | 1985-05 | Kevin Bolger | 2003-23 |
| | | Jack Weinberg | 2005-25 |



AHAI STATESMANSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



AHAI wishes to thank the following individuals who have served the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois, Inc. for a period of fifteen years and have contributed countless hours and efforts to improve the sport of ice hockey in Illinois.

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| Joe Benedetto* | 1975-90 | Rich Becker* | 1985-00 | Pete Humann | 2000-15 |
| Tony Rossi | 1979-94 | Bob Mathson | 1987-02 | Mike Mullally | 2000-15 |
| Ed Howe | 1979-94 | Norm Spiegel | 1988-03 | John Dunne | 2003-19 |
| Steve Pinkstaff* | 1980-95 | Bob Saliba | 1997-12 | Kevin Bolger | 2003-19 |
| Jim Smith | 1980-95 | Don Allord | 2000-15 | Jack Weinberg | 2005-22 |
| Jim McGlynn | 1985-00 | Ken Michel | 2000-20 | Chuck Smith | 2020-25 |

*Deceased



AHAI DIPLOMATE AWARD RECIPIENTS



AHAI wishes to thank the following individuals who have served the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois, Inc. for a period of ten years and have contributed countless hours and efforts to improve the sport of ice hockey in Illinois.

| | | | |
|------------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| Joe Benedetto* | 1975-85 | Bob Saliba | 1997-07 |
| Jim Carolan* | 1977-87 | Don Allord | 2000-10 |
| Tony Rossi | 1979-89 | Ken Michel | 2000-10 |
| Dick Slifer* | 1979-89 | Pete Humann | 2000-10 |
| Ralph Considine* | 1979-89 | Mike Mullally | 2000-10 |
| Ed Howe | 1979-89 | Maddy Rossobillo | 2000-10 |
| Steve Pinkstaff* | 1980-90 | Kevin Bolger | 2003-13 |
| Jim Smith | 1980-90 | John Dunne | 2003-13 |
| Tony Johnson* | 1984-94 | Bill Gomolinski | 2003-13 |
| Jim McGlynn | 1985-95 | Doug Becht | 2007-17 |
| Rich Becker* | 1985-95 | Jack Weinberg | 2008-18 |
| Bob Mathson | 1987-97 | Jim Clare | 2010-00 |
| Norm Spiegel | 1988-98 | Chuck Smith | 2010-00 |
| Jim Cline | 1989-99 | Greg Chudacoff | 2012-22 |
| Dave Loughnane | 1990-00 | Gino Cavallini | 2014-24 |
| Mike Lebarre | 1995-05 | Bill Crowley | 2015-25 |



AHAI LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



AHAI wishes to thank the following individuals who have served the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois, Inc. for a period of five years and have contributed countless hours and efforts to improve the sport of ice hockey in Illinois.

| | | | |
|------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| Joe Benedetto* | 1975-80 | Frank Leonette | 1995-00 |
| George Fialco | 1975-80 | Bob Saliba | 1997-02 |
| Joe Zeller | 1975-80 | Mark Shutan | 1997-02 |
| Bruce Bowen | 1975-80 | Cindy Fujii | 1998-03 |
| Jim Carolan* | 1977-82 | Don Allord | 2000-05 |
| Don Jan | 1978-83 | Maddy Rossobillo | 2000-05 |
| Dick Slifer* | 1979-84 | Ken Michel | 2000-05 |
| Jerry Saviano | 1979-84 | Pete Humann | 2000-05 |
| Tony Rossi | 1979-84 | Fred Lopez | 2000-05 |
| Ralph Considine | 1979-84 | Mike Mullally | 2000-05 |
| Ed Howe | 1979-84 | Dennis O'Malley | 2000-05 |
| Steve Pinkstaff* | 1980-85 | Lisa Olsen | 2001-06 |
| Jer Hughes* | 1980-85 | Kevin Bolger | 2003-08 |
| Jim Smith | 1980-85 | John Dunne | 2003-08 |
| Roger Nelson | 1981-86 | Bill Gomolinski | 2003-08 |
| Tony Johnson | 1984-89 | Randy Jacobs | 2003-08 |
| Jim McGlynn | 1985-90 | Doug Becht | 2007-12 |
| Rich Becker* | 1985-90 | Sjoukje Brown | 2007-12 |
| Dave Streit | 1985-90 | Mike Durkin | 2008-13 |
| Jack Sheasby* | 1986-91 | Jim Clare | 2010-15 |
| Lou Morgan* | 1987-92 | Jim Powers | 2010-15 |
| Bob Mathson | 1987-92 | Chuck Smith | 2010-15 |
| Norm Spiegel | 1988-93 | Gregg Chudacoff | 2012-17 |
| Cliff Koroll | 1988-93 | Mike Barrett | 2012-18 |
| Jim Cline | 1989-94 | Gino Cavallini | 2014-19 |
| Ken Fikis | 1990-95 | Bill Crowley | 2015-20 |
| Dave Loughnane | 1990-95 | Anita Lichterman | 2018-23 |
| Jay Cohen | 1994-99 | Keri Zschach | 2018-23 |
| Pete Creticos | 1994-99 | Dan Gallagher | 2020-25 |
| Mike Lebarre | 1995-00 | Justin Lewandowski | 2020-25 |



AHAI CITATION AWARD RECIPIENTS



AHAI wishes to thank the following individuals who have served the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois, Inc. and have contributed countless hours and efforts in an effort to improve the sport of ice hockey in Illinois.

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|-------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|
| Bob Long* | 1975-76 | Ron Tash..... | 1995-98 |
| Ralph Shields* | 1975-76 | Mark Cohen | 1997-00 |
| Joe Benedetto** | 1975-03 | Ken Glowacki | 1997-00 |
| John Martin* | 1975-77 | Rick Kohler | 1997-99 |
| Arnie Berkson | 1975-77 | Bob Saliba | 1997-12 |
| Frank Murphy* | 1975-79 | Mark Shutan | 1997-03 |
| George Fialco* | 1975-80 | Kevin Mann..... | 1997-00 |
| Bruce Bowen* | 1975-80 | Dick Glass | 1998-02 |
| John Harris* | 1975-79 | Cindy Fujii..... | 1998-03 |
| Dan Hvalir* ** | 1975-77 | Jim Benz..... | 1999-00 |
| Joe Zeller | 1975-83 | Don Allord..... | 2000-00 |
| Oliver Jervis** | 1976-78 | Maddy Rossobillo..... | 2000-10 |
| Ton Ingram | 1976-78 | Ken Michel..... | 2000-22 |
| Steve Janakas | 1976-78 | Pete Humann | 2000-17 |
| Len Kurzawski** | 1976-77 | Fred Lopez | 2000-06 |
| Bill Saunders | 1977-79 | Mike Mullally | 2000-19 |
| Jim Carolan** | 1977-89 | Dennis O'Malley | 2000-08 |
| Bob Henkle..... | 1978-80 | Lisa Olsen..... | 2001-06 |
| Howard Levin | 1978-82 | Sarah Tueting | 2001-03 |
| Ray Barnhart | 1978-80 | Bruce Meckler | 2002-04 |
| Don Jan** | 1978-85 | Kevin Bolger | 2003-25 |
| Clyde Willian | 1978-80 | John Dunne | 2003-19 |
| Dick Slifer** | 1979-89 | Bill Gomolinski** | 2003-17 |
| Jer Hughes** | 1980-89 | Randy Jacobs | 2004-10 |
| Jerry Saviano..... | 1979-85 | Wayne Orchowski..... | 2004-06 |
| Tony Rossi | 1979-13 | Al Torres..... | 2005-07 |
| Ralph Considine** | 1979-89 | Jack Weinberg | 2005-25 |
| Steve Pinkstaff** | 1980-00 | Terry Stasica** | 2006-10 |
| Ed Howe..... | 1979-99 | Doug Becht | 2007-17 |
| Jim Smith | 1980-19 | Sjoukje Brown | 2007-12 |
| Terry Beacom** | 1981-85 | Mike Durkin | 2008-15 |
| Roger Nelson..... | 1981-89 | Jim Clare** | 2010-23 |
| Sue Varon-Spector | 1983-87 | Jim Powers..... | 2010-17 |
| Tony Johnson** | 1984-94 | Jack Raslawski | 2010-13 |
| Jim McGlynn | 1985-13 | Chuck Smith | 2010-25 |
| Dave Streit | 1985-94 | Steve Silvey | 2010-11 |
| Rich Becker** | 1985-13 | Tony Cachey | 2011-14 |
| Jack Sheasby** | 1986-94 | Greg Chudacoff..... | 2012-24 |
| Bob Sills | 1986-88 | Marc Kapsalis | 2012-14 |
| Bob Mathson..... | 1987-15 | Mike Barrett..... | 2013-19 |
| Lou Morgan** | 1987-96 | Tony Cachey | 2014-16 |
| Norm Spiegel..... | 1988-15 | Gino Cavellini..... | 2014-25 |
| Cliff Koroll | 1988-94 | Don Angelini | 2015-17 |
| Joe Modrich | 1988-90 | Bill Crowley..... | 2015-25 |
| Ken Smith | 1989-90 | Melissa Rotuno..... | 2016-18 |
| Jim Cline..... | 1989-99 | Tony Rossi Jr. | 2017-19 |
| John Meo | 1989-92 | Keri Zschach | 2018-25 |
| Ken Fikis | 1990-98 | Anita Lichterman | 2018-25 |
| Dave Loughnane | 1990-04 | Paul Jakubowski | 2019-20 |
| Marty Peccia** | 1991-93 | Dan Gallagher..... | 2020-25 |
| Roy Deopere..... | 1992-94 | Justin Lewandowski | 2020-25 |
| John Brown | 1993-96 | Bob Apter | 2021-25 |
| Ed Nickey | 1993-96 | Melissa Surrette..... | 2021-23 |
| Keith Magnuson** | 1994-97 | Chris Naveja | 2022-25 |
| Jay Cohen | 1994-03 | Spencer Montgomery..... | 2023-24 |
| Jeff Chesson | 1994-95 | Glenn Jauch | 2023-25 |
| Pete Creticos..... | 1994-00 | Kathy Monohan | 2023-25 |
| Mike Lebarre | 1995-05 | Topher Scott | 2023-25 |
| Mike Rickert | 1995-96 | Julie Rancourt | 2024-25 |
| Frank Leonette | 1995-00 | | |

*Founder



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| | | | |
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| Joe Zeller | 1979-81 | Bob Mathson..... | 2001-06 |
| Tony Rossi | 1981-83 | Mike Mullally..... | 2006-12 |
| Steve Pinkstaff | 1983-85 | John Dunne | 2012-18 |
| Jim Smith | 1985-88 | Mike Barrett..... | 2018-20 |
| Roger Nelson..... | 1988-89 | Kevin Bolger | 2020 — <i>present</i> |
| Jim McGlynn | 1989-92 | | |

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| | | |
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| Rich Becker | Bob Mathson | Bob Saliba |
| Jim Carolan | Jim McGlynn | Norm Spiegel |
| Bill Gomolinski | Ken Michel | Jim Smith |
| Ed Howe | | |

USA HOCKEY MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

| | | | |
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| 1988-89 | 1995-96 | 2003-04 | 2014-15 |
| Steve Pinkstaff | Jim Cline | Kevin Bolger | Gino Cavallini |
| Dick Slifer | Bob Mathson | John Dunne | |
| Tony Rossi | Ed Nickey | Bill Gomolinski | 2015-16 |
| Joe Zeller | | | Don Angelini |
| Jim Smith | 1996-97 | 2004-05 | Bill Crowley |
| | Jay Cohen | Randy Jacobs | |
| 1989-90 | Pete Creticos | Wayne Orchowski | 2016-17 |
| Roger Nelson | Bill Peluse | | Melissa Rotuno |
| Joe Benedetto | Holly Spiegel | 2005-06 | |
| George Fialco | | Al Torres | |
| Rich Butera | 1997-98 | Jack Weinberg | 2017-18 |
| | Mike Lebarre | | Tony Rossi Jr. |
| 1990-91 | Marty Peccia | 2006-07 | |
| Chet Stewart | | Terry Stasica | |
| Jerry Saviano | 1998-99 | 2007-08 | 2018-19 |
| Ralph Considine | Mark Cohen | Doug Becht | Anita Lichterman |
| Ed Howe | Ken Glowacki | Sjoukje Brown | Keri Zschach |
| Dave Streit | Kevin Mann | 2008-09 | |
| Jim Carolan | Bon Saliba | Mike Durkin | 2019-20 |
| Jerry Hughes | Mark Shutan | | Paul Jakubowski |
| | 1999-00 | 2009-10 | |
| 1991-92 | Jim Benz | Laura Johnson | 2020-21 |
| Jim McGlynn | Cindy Fujii | | Dan Gallagher |
| Lou Morgan | Dick Glass | 2010-11 | Justin Lewandowski |
| Jack Sheasby | | Jim Clare | |
| | 2000-01 | Jim Powers | 2021-22 |
| 1992-93 | Don Allord | Jack Raslawski | Bob Apter |
| Cliff Koroll | Pete Humann | Steve Silvey | Melissa Surette |
| Tony Johnson | Ken Michel | Chuck Smith | |
| Norm Spiegel | Mike Mullally | 2011-12 | 2022-23 |
| | Maddy Rossobillo | Anthony Cachey | Chris Naveja |
| 1993-94 | | 2012-13 | |
| Rich Becker | 2001-02 | Greg Chudacoff | 2023-24 |
| Ken Fikis | Fred Lopez | Marc Kapsalis | Glenn Jauch |
| Dave LaBuda | Lisa Olsen | | Spencer Montgomery |
| | Dennis O'Malley | 2013-14 | Kathy Monahan |
| 1994-95 | Sarah Tueting | Mike Barrett | Topher Scott |
| Ollie Stankovsky | 2002-03 | 2014-15 | 2024-25 |
| | Bruce Meckler | Gino Cavallini | Julie Rancourt |



ILLINOIS HOCKEY HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Players Category

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2024 Mike Leonard Greg Tam | Don Granato Tim Stapleton | 2015 Chris Chelios Nikos Tselios Dennis Vaske | 2012 Tim Breslin Bob Nardella Mike Rucinski | 2009 Jim Augustine Patrick Bryne Bob Melton | 2006 Denis Cyr Tony Granato Joe Prescott Rick Zombo |
| 2023 Todd Channell Bob Janecyk | 2018 Joe Corvo Brett Lebda Darren Pang | 2014 Lisa Chesson Steve Cromie John Murphy | 2011 Annie Camins Jack O'Callahan Jeff Rohlicek Blake Sloan | 2008 Tom Finks Steve Glickman | 2005 Chris Chelios Cammie Granato Jeff Nelson Ed Olczyk |
| 2022 Kevin McKee Erica Mitchell-McKee | 2017 Gino Cavallini Steve Poapst | 2013 Bates Battaglia Seans Berens Joe Day Mark Kurzawski Carisa Zaban Wahlig | 2010 Cliff Koroll Mark La Varre Steve Richmond | 2007 Val Belmonte Chadd Cassel Stan Mikita Scott Paluch | |
| 2020 Kendall Coyne Grant Mulvey | 2016 Megan Bozek Steve Konroyd | | | | |
| 2019 | | | | | |

Coach's Category

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| 2024 Mike Hernbrott Anthony Noreen Darrin Madeley | 2021 Tony Cachey Jon Grzbek | 2018 Terry Stasica | 2014 Ray Berens Derek Denoyer | Kevin Mann Gene Ubriaco | 2007 Mark Olson |
| 2023 Cindy Fuji John Janda Lisa McCormick | 2020 Bob Graham Mike Svac | 2017 Rafe Aybar | 2013 Efren Molina | 2010 George Hayes | 2006 Tony Fritz Paul Hruby Michael Kirby |
| 2022 Ken Kliein Tom Kurzawski Wally Naumenko Jim Philbin | 2019 John Conenna Jim Friberg Chuck Linkenheld- Ken McCudden Sylvain Turcotte | 2016 Myles Gottainer Mike Rohdenburg | 2012 Bob Arturo Karl Kaebel Bob Turngren | 2009 Bill Holke | 2005 Wally Humeniuk Wally Kormylo Keith Magnuson |
| | | 2015 Tim Mattila Tom Miller | 2011 Jim Campbell DJ La Varre | 2008 Ken Fikis Jerry Hughes Tom Kurow Vee LaCroix Jim Misiora | |

Builders Category

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| 2024 Gregg Chudacoff John Dunne Laura Johnson Mark Shutan Bob Wagner | 2020 Paul Jakubowski Jim McKeague JJ O'Connor | 2016 Linda Becker Dave Loughnane Mike Mullally | 2012 Amy Lapoe Don Levin | 2007 Sara Bolin Jay Cohen Bill Crowley Hank Curcio Frank DeCristina Randy Jacobs Doug Schmatz Holly Spiegel | 2005 Terry Beacom Joe Benedetto Rich Butera Jim Carolan George Fialco Lee Graziano Bob Krolak Bill Peluse Steve Pinkstaff Bill Roche Tony Rossi Jerry Saviano Dick Slifer Chet Stewart Sue Varon Spector William Wirtz Sr. Joe Zeller |
| 2023 Jim Clare Mike McPartlin Anders Sorensen | 2019 Lynn Bournazos Tim Gabel Rich Jecmen | 2015 Andrea Hahn Pete Humann Bob Saliba | 2011 Dan Englebright Mickey Norton | | |
| 2022 Mike Schmitt Eric Schneider Gary Wells Jim Wood | 2018 Kevin Bolger Karen Hyde Mary Ann Robinson | 2014 Ned Forsberg Rocky Wirtz | 2010 Bob Mathson Jim Smith Norm Spiegel Irv Tiahnybik | 2006 Rich Becker Bill Coombe Ira Greenberg Jim McGlynn Ken Michel Carl Miller Dave Shapiro | |
| 2021 Joe Modrich Jack Weinberg | 2017 Jerry Ballard Rich Blight Terry Juliar Jim Neville Shari Wolfe | 2013 Mike Lebarre Buddy Meyers Joe Olson | 2009 Dan Ahern Tom Gullen | | |
| | | | 2008 Peter Bardezbani Lou Morgan | | |

Officials Category

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| 2024 Steven Foresta Peter May | 2020 Larry Swakon D Ray Tucker | 2016 Dave Sciatta Dick Sharp | 2012 Scott Brand Paul Ciancanelli | 2009 Tom Hughes Dave LaBuda | 2006 Tom Jan Don Olynky Sue Varon Spector | 2003 Sam Ferrara Leroy Albrecht Dick Dockrell Bob Pulley |
| 2023 Gary Como Dave Zednik | 2019 Steve Drews Randy Krawiec | 2015 Derek Martin Matt Nilles | 2011 Al Stensland Scott Zelkin | 2008 Don Allord Mark Johnson Harry Sator | 2005 Pete Lederer Jim Rushing Gary Thomas | 2002 Jim Kurtz Bob Lilla Fred Pye Chet Stewart |
| 2022 Bill Green Geoff Schlender | 2018 John Cerza Jack Raslawski | 2014 Sjoukje Brown Jon Raslawski | 2010 Jay Jacobs Andy McElman | 2007 Phil Lovecchio Joe Prescott Jim Smith | 2004 Bill Bright Paul Hruby Dan Sullivan | |
| 2021 Bill Fehrman | 2017 Dave Edwards Peter Moffat | 2013 Bud Monaco John Opoka | | | | |

2025 AHAI STATE HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONS

| <u>DIVISION</u> | <u>CHAMPION</u> | <u>2nd PLACE</u> |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Varsity | New Trier Green | Benet |
| Girls Varsity | New Trier | Barrington Fillies |

Combined Division Varsity Tournament Winner & Runner Up

1st D200/204 - Warriors — 2nd BGHW

Central Illinois Varsity Tournament Winner & Runner Up

1st Pekin Dragons — 2nd Kankakee Irish

Junior Varsity Division Tournament Winner & Runner Up

1st Lake Forest Gold — 2nd Providence

Combined Junior Varsity Division Tournament Winner & Runner Up

1st D100/122/205/207 - Rockford — 2nd Plainfield

AHAI HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONS "RED DIVISION"

| 1973-74 | 1986-87 | 1999-00 | 2012-13 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1st Proviso West | 1st Mt. Carmel | 1st New Trier Green | 1st New Trier Green |
| 2nd Mt. Carmel | 2nd Schaumburg | 2nd Naperville Central | 2nd Glenbrook North |
| 1974-75 | 1987-88 | 1900-01 | 2013-14 |
| 1st Oak Park/ Rr Fost | 1st Mt. Carmel | 1st New Trier Green | 1st New Trier Green |
| 2nd Deerfield | 2nd Deerfield | 2nd Loyola Gold | 2nd Glenbrook North |
| 1975-76 | 1988-89 | 2001-02 | 2014-15 |
| 1st Notre Dame | 1st Glenbrook South | 1st New Trier Green | 1st Glenbrook North |
| 2nd Glenbrook North | 2nd St. Viator | 2nd Fenwick | 2nd Benet |
| 1976-77 | 1989-90 | 2002-03 | 2015-16 |
| 1st New Trier West | 1st Mt. Carmel | 1st Fenwick | 1st New Trier Green |
| 2nd Homewood | 2nd Loyola | 2nd Loyola Gold | 2nd Providence |
| 1977-78 | 1990-91 | 2003-04 | 2016-17 |
| 1st Maine South | 1st Fremd | 1st Fenwick | 1st New Trier Green |
| 2nd Evanston | 2nd Fenwick | 2nd Loyola Gold | 2nd Providence |
| 1978-79 | 1991-92 | 2004-05 | 2017-18 |
| 1st Mt. Carmel | 1st Fremd | 1st New Trier Green | 1st Loyola Academy |
| 2nd St. Viator | 2nd Marist | 2nd Fenwick | 2nd Stevenson |
| 1979-80 | 1992-93 | 2005-06 | 2018-19 |
| 1st Lyons Township | 1st Fremd | 1st Glenbrook South | 1st New Trier Green |
| 2nd Naperville North | 2nd Loyola | 2nd Loyola Gold | 2nd Loyola Gold |
| 1980-81 | 1993-94 | 2006-07 | 2019-20 |
| 1st New Trier East | 1st New Trier Green | 1st Glenbrook North | No Champion |
| 2nd Brother Rice | 2nd Marist | 2nd Fenwick | Due to COVID-19 |
| 1981-82 | 1994-95 | 2007-08 | 2020-21 |
| 1st St. Rita | 1st Loyola Gold | 1st Glenbrook North | No Champion |
| 2nd Lyons Township | 2nd New Trier Green | 2nd New Trier Green | Due to COVID-19 |
| 1982-83 | 1995-96 | 2008-09 | 2021-22 |
| 1st New Trier Green | 1st Loyola Gold | 1st New Trier Green | 1st Stevenson |
| 2nd Loyola | 2nd New Trier Green | 2nd Loyola Gold | 2nd St. Viator |
| 1983-84 | 1996-97 | 2009-10 | 2022-23 |
| 1st Glenbrook North | 1st Lake Forest Academy | 1st St. Rita | 1st New Trier Green |
| 2nd St. Rita | 2nd Loyola Gold | 2nd Loyola Gold | 2nd York |
| 1984-85 | 1997-98 | 2010-11 | 2023-24 |
| 1st Glenbrook North | 1st New Trier Green | 1st New Trier Green | 1st New Trier Green |
| 2nd St. Charles | 2nd Mt. Carmel | 2nd Glenbrook North | 2nd York |
| 1985-86 | 1998-99 | 2011-12 | 2024-25 |
| 1st Mt. Carmel | 1st New Trier Green | 1st St. Rita | 1st New Trier Green |
| 2nd New Trier Green | 2nd Glenbrook South | 2nd St. Viator | 2nd Benet |



**2025
AAAI YOUTH DIVISIONS
ILLINOIS
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
RESULTS**



TIER I

Squirt AAA Minor
Squirt AAA Major
PeeWee AAA Minor
PeeWee AAA Major
Bantam AAA Minor
Bantam AAA Major
Midget 15
Midget AAA Minor
Midget AAA Major

TIER II

Squirt B
Squirt A
Squirt AA
PeeWee B
PeeWee A
PeeWee AA
Bantam B
Bantam A
Bantam AA
Midget 16U "A"
Midget 16U "AA"
Midget AA Major

GIRLS TIER I

Girls 12 & Under AAA
Girls 14 & Under AAA
Girls 16 & Under AAA
Girls 19 & Under AAA

GIRLS TIER II

Girls 10 & Under AA
Girls 12 & Under AA
Girls 14 & Under AA
Girls 16 & Under AA
Girls 19 & Under AA

CHAMPIONS

Fury
Fury
Team Illinois
Team Illinois
Mission
Mission
Mission
Mission
Fury

CHAMPIONS

Blues
Wilmette (*Hextall*)
Blues
Blues
Blues
Jets
Jets
Sabres
Jets
Bulldogs
Sabres
Hawks

CHAMPIONS

Storm
Mission
Mission
Mission

CHAMPIONS

Sabres
Mammoth
Northshore
Hawks
Glenview

RUNNER-UP

Mission
Reapers
Reapers
Mission
Reapers
Reapers
Reapers
Storm
Team Illinois

RUNNER-UP

Vikings
Wilmette (*Braband*)
Chargers
Rockford
Winnetka
Hawks
Stallions
Hawks
Blues
Sabres
Bulldogs
Vikings

RUNNER-UP

Mission
Team Illinois
Team Illinois
Storm

RUNNER-UP

Glenview
Sabres
Glenview
Glenview
Hawks



Girls High School All-State Team 2025



WHITE TEAM

| | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------------|--------------|
| GOALKEEPERS | 33 | Juliet Drake | New Trier |
| | 34 | Caroline Hurst | Naper Valley |
| | 35 | Casey Stockbridge | Glenbrook |

| | | | |
|---------|----|-------------------|--------------|
| DEFENSE | 2 | Kenedi Mrozik | Evanston |
| | 3 | Madelyn Pasterick | Naper Valley |
| | 6 | Willow Sell | New Trier |
| | 7 | Olivia Vertucci | Naper Valley |
| | 14 | Madison Romanoff | New Trier |
| | 15 | Tate Roth | Glenbrook |

| | | | |
|----------|----|-------------------|--------------|
| FORWARDS | 4 | Sarah Reeder | Glenbrook |
| | 5 | Ava Schuster | New Trier |
| | 8 | Lily Sherman | Naper Valley |
| | 9 | Ella Skotty | Fenwick |
| | 10 | Lauren Deutsch | Naper Valley |
| | 11 | Ella Walbert | Naper Valley |
| | 12 | Claire Nicgorski | Glenbrook |
| | 16 | Alexis Bornhoeft | New Trier |
| | 17 | Cassidy Cha | Glenbrook |
| | 18 | Kaitlyn Dill | Fenwick |
| | 19 | Addison Stewart | New Trier |
| | 20 | Arielle Sushinski | Evanston |

COACHES: Scott Thompson, Ben Piskor, Mason Strom

BLUE TEAM

| | | | |
|-------------|----|--------------------|--------------------|
| GOALKEEPERS | 33 | Savannah Alexander | Burlington Central |
| | 34 | Chrysoula Dafnis | Chicago Central |
| | 35 | Riley Sherrin | Barrington Fillies |

| | | | |
|---------|----|-------------------|--------------------|
| DEFENSE | 3 | Isabella Gratzl | Barrington Fillies |
| | 4 | Kyla Schneider | Lake Forest Scouts |
| | 14 | Rachel Gorbatenko | Barrington Fillies |
| | 15 | Fiona Napolitano | Maine |
| | 16 | Mia Winterkorn | Barrington Fillies |
| | 18 | Adeline Proctor | Burlington Central |

| | | | |
|----------|----|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| FORWARDS | 2 | Maggee Lempa | Maine |
| | 5 | Abigail Schrantz | Maine |
| | 6 | Lucia Lavalle | Maine |
| | 7 | Avery Villacorta | Barrington Fillies |
| | 8 | Chloe Ariens | Burlington Central |
| | 9 | Sanya Arora | Chicago Central |
| | 10 | Annie Chen | Chicago Central |
| | 11 | Andrea Fernandez | Lake Forest Academy |
| | 12 | Violet Fotino | Burlington Central |
| | 17 | Nicole Gorbatenko | Barrington Fillies |
| | 19 | Carla McSweeney | Chicago Central |
| | 20 | Abigail Piatigorsky | Loyola Academy |
| | 21 | Vanessa Magsino | <i>injured</i> Lake Forest Scouts |

COACHES: Nick Lavalle, Trinity Alexander, Erin Stoney



Boys High School All-State Team 2025



WHITE TEAM

| | | | | |
|--------------------|----|-------------------|----|------------------|
| GOALKEEPERS | 33 | Alex Richter | SR | Deerfield |
| | 34 | Michael Reyderman | SR | Glenbrook North |
| | 35 | Brock Harer | SR | St. Viator |
| DEFENSE | 2 | Ben Vavra | SR | Carmel |
| | 3 | Matas Norkus | SR | DuPage |
| | 4 | Ilija Marich | SR | Evanston |
| | 5 | Logan Lyons | SR | Glenbrook North |
| | 6 | Hutch Dunlay | SR | St Ignatius Gold |
| | 7 | Mack Klein | SR | Loyola Gold |
| FORWARDS | 8 | Giovanni Sena | SR | Fenwick |
| | 9 | Deacon Rose | SR | Carmel |
| | 10 | Dustin Zimberoff | SR | Deerfield |
| | 11 | Kingston Scrim | SR | Evanston |
| | 12 | Ryan Loftus | JR | St. Viator |
| | 14 | Kasper Szymczak | SR | Glenbard |
| | 15 | Austin Haynes | SR | St Ignatius Gold |
| | 16 | Jackson Steinlauf | SR | St Ignatius Gold |
| | 17 | Dylan Lansky | SR | Highland Park |
| | 18 | Peter Lochnicki | JR | Loyola Gold |
| | 19 | Ryan Goff | SR | Maine |
| | 20 | Broden Oswald | SR | Naperville |

COACHES: Evan Poulakidas - GBN — Nick Fabbrini - Fenwick — Greg Mrofcza - Maine

BLUE TEAM

| | | | | |
|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|-----------------|
| GOALKEEPERS | 33 | Ben Ciesla | SR | Benet |
| | 34 | Wyatt Schmidt | SR | New Trier Green |
| | 35 | Henry Gillman | SR | OPRF |
| DEFENSE | 2 | Adrian Wisniewski | SR | BGHW |
| | 3 | Nathan Wilczak | SR | Brother Rice |
| | 4 | Zack Huebsch | SR | New Trier Green |
| | 5 | Ryan Mulvey | JR | Glenbrook South |
| | 6 | Jacob Morgan | JR | Warriors |
| | 7 | Drew Gami | SR | York |
| FORWARDS | 8 | Cam Christopher | JR | BGHW |
| | 9 | James Esposito | JR | Brother Rice |
| | 10 | Ayden Gray | SR | Chicago North |
| | 11 | Ethan Baker | SR | New Trier Green |
| | 12 | Garrett Chong | SR | New Trier Green |
| | 14 | Connor Hirschtritt | SR | New Trier Green |
| | 15 | C J Rybka | SR | Plainfield |
| | 16 | Blake Hoffer | JR | Glenbrook South |
| | 17 | Benjamin Pajerski | SR | Glenbrook South |
| | 18 | Hudson Schlie | SR | Benet |
| | 19 | Bryan Wojdelko | SR | Stevenson |
| | 20 | Joseph Pijanowski | JR | Warriors |

COACHES: Chris Waters - BGHW — Matt Boeing - York — Brian Coleman - St.Rita



Congratulations to the following athletes from Illinois who were selected to play for the United States in international competition.

All of us in Illinois are proud of their hard work and dedication and we continue to support them as they represent Illinois and our nation.

2025 NHL ENTRY DRAFT

Asher Barnett • Edison Engle • Ryker Lee • Cole McKinney • Zachary Sharp

2025-26 USA HOCKEY NTDP UNDER 17 TEAM

Alexander Milojevic

2025-26 USA HOCKEY NTDP UNDER 18 TEAM

Brady Knowling • Abe Barnett • Lukas Zajic • AJ Garcia

2025-26 USA HOCKEY NATIONAL SLED HOCKEY TEAM

Travis Dodson • Kevin McKee • Josh Misiewicz • Brody Roybal

2025-26 USA NATIONAL WOMEN'S SLED HOCKEY TEAM

Erica Mitchell

2025 USA NATIONAL WOMEN'S FESTIVAL

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| JoJo Chobak | Kendall Coyne Schofield | Savannah Harmon | Rosie Klein |
| Jesse Compher | Kelly Gorbatenko | Tessa Janecke | Abbey Murphy |

2025 USA NATIONAL U18 SELECT TEAM

Jack Hextall • Brody Knowling • Kalder Varga

2025 USA NATIONAL U17 SELECT TEAM

Anthony Valenti

2025 USA HOCKEY SELECT 17 FESTIVAL

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Peter Chlebowski | Jack Holland | Cody Powels | Ryan Hecker |
| Caden Dabrowski | Andrew Moheky | Andrew Rivera | Patrick McCormick |
| Nathan Hauad | | | |

2025 USA HOCKEY SELECT 16 FESTIVAL

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Sammy Inendino | David Blasiak | Sullivan Stark | Emery Ipsen |
| Cameron Anderson | Jacob Lukes | Kaden Aucoin | Thaddeus McMahon |
| Talen Aling | Jackson Smith | Andrew Haas | Charles Mineman |

2025 USA HOCKEY SELECT 15 FESTIVAL

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Aiden Ali | Shayne Keefe | Michael Miniscalco | Jack Naese |
| Andrew Cheng | Anthony Johnson | Ty Moad | Patrick Taylor |
| Malone Cooney | Evan Miller | | |

2025 USA HOCKEY CENTRAL 2008 DISTRICT 17 CAMP

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Peter Chlebowski | Keegan Gregory | Patrick McCormick | Micah Seery |
| Luca Cisternino | Nathan Hauad | Cody Powels | Louis Vittorio |
| Caden Dabrowski | Ryan Hecker | James Rieber III | Jacob Voris |
| Luke Dubsy | Jack Holland | Andrew Rivera | Vincent Wrzos |
| Jake Faude | Declan Jason | Rosenberg | Parker Zumdah |

2025 USA HOCKEY CENTRAL 2009 DISTRICT 16 CAMP

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Talen Aling | Jonathan Cygan | Sammy Inendino | Nolan Shorter |
| Cameron Anderson | Henry Fiske | Emery Ipsen | Trevor Shorter |
| Kaden Aucoin | Andrew (Al) Haas | Jacob Lukes | Jackson Smith |
| David Blasiak | Reid Hmura | Thaddeus McMahon | William Sorenson |
| Cameron Carder | Cameron Holyoke | Jackson Romanoff | Sullivan Stark |

2025 USA HOCKEY CENTRAL 2010 DISTRICT 15 CAMP

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Leo Acker | Andrew Cheng | Dane Jacobs | Shayne Keefe | Jack Naese |
| Aiden Ali | Malone Cooney | Jonathan Jalcovik | Evan Miller | Eric Obrebski |
| Frankie Binetti | Landon Heinrich | Anthony Johnson | Michael Miniscalco | Patrick Taylor |
| Santino Cantore | Shea Henriksen | Davis Johnston | Angelo Murrell | Aiden Sieczkowski |

2025 USA HOCKEY IN-DISTRICT 2011 BANTAM CAMP

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Mason Altangerel | Bowen Domaleski | Kyle Haronik | Gavin Perkovich | Lachlan Tantaro |
| Patrick Anderson | Ryan Drury | Axel Iden | Duncan Pucci | Chase Thulin |
| Rylan Axe | James Danielwicz | Kaleb Jacques | Robert Selleck | Gust Tyk |
| Gavin Carnow | Jameson Downs | Caelin Judge | Tyler Senne | Masen Van Patten |
| Lucas Cirrincione | Luke Georgy | Nico Maryniarczyk | Conrad Siavelis | Joshua Vander Velde |
| Conner Cooper | Dillon Gesink | Lachlan McGuire | Evan Smith | Domas Zemaitis |
| Lou Philippe Delcourt | Spiros Giannoulis | Allister Murphy | | |

2025 USA HOCKEY GIRLS SELECT U18 CAMP

Kylie Amalkovich

2025 USA HOCKEY GIRLS 16/17 CAMP

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Bianca Birrittieri | Morgan Link | Charlotte Prodoehl | Amanda Rosen | Olivia Vertucci |
| Alexis Bornhoeft | Lillian Myers | Sarah Reeder | Tate Roth | Cecilia Wielenberg |
| Helen Lane | Everyn Pasin | Laine Rettell | Ella Skotty | |

2025 USA HOCKEY GIRLS 15 SELECT CAMP

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Cassidy Cha | Lilia Martin | Maggie Ptak | Willow Sell | Shae Watson |
| Elise Fontana | Kelly Mateya | Michaelina Romero | Viviana Taylor | Quinn Wigmore |
| Jillian Limb Quinn | | | | |

2025 CENTRAL DISTRICT GIRLS 2008 CAMP

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Keira Barr | Charlotte Dukovac | Bianca Birrittieri | Morgan Link | Saige Ruback |
| Sophia Ottolino | Kaitlyn Dill | Olivia Vertucci | Laine Rettell | Ella Skotty |

2025 CENTRAL DISTRICT GIRLS 2009 CAMP

| | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Alexis Bornhoeft | Sophia Monaco | Kate Mulvihill | Charlotte Prodoehl | Tate Roth |
| Helen Lane | Sophia Most | Everyn Pasin | Sarah Reeder | Cecilia Wielenberg |
| Neve Johnston | | | | |

2025 CENTRAL DISTRICT GIRLS 2010 CAMP

| | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Elizabeth Boveri | Elise Fontana | Jillian Limb | Maggie Ptak | Reese Warrington |
| Madison Bozue | Hayden Harpur | Natalie Malloy | Michaelina Romero | Shae Watson |
| Cassidy Cha | Avery Jasper | Lilia Martin | Willow Sell | Quinn Wigmore |
| Kayleigh Dunford | Quinn Kelly | Elena Monaco | Viviana Taylor | Sarah Yates |

2025 CENTRAL DISTRICT GIRLS 2011 CAMP

| | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Braelyn Barker | Hadley Cohen | Alexis Gorski | Violet McCann | Lydia Rusick |
| Samantha Bonarek | Sloane Deptula | Katherine Jessup | Margot Miller | Grace Soler |
| Gabriella Bogacz | Isabella Dynia | Madeline Licudine | Brooklyn Odell | Madelyn Ulleweit |
| Graycen Bowman | Avery Ebben | Julia Ling | Emma Pape | Gia Vertucci |
| Erin Brown | Isabelle Goodwillie | Margaret Maguire | Veronica Poulik | Ainsley Washo |
| Grace Carlstrom | | | | |

2025 AHAI PLAYER 17 DEVELOPMENT CAMP INVITEES

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Trey Adams | Matthew Conner | Keegan Gregory | Ian Manisco | Martin Prizgintas | Nikolai Vahmistrovs |
| Michal Bakiej | Jackson Conno | Nathan Hauad | Justin Massillo | James Rieber III | Augustus Vennetti |
| Billy Barrett | Jacob Coomer | Ryan Hecker | Patrick McCormick | Andrew Rivera | Louis Vittorio |
| Anthony Bergeron | Nicholas Crededio | Jack Holland | Antoni Mierzwa | Ethan Rose | Jacob Voris |
| Gate Bessey | Caden Dabrowski | Christian Hughes | Ethan Miller | Luke Rosenberg | Brady Walsh |
| Noah Bowers | Dylan Dawes | Matthew Iwinski | Ethan Newburg | Finnegan Samas | Memphis Wilcox |
| Brady Brown | Eli Decker | Declan Jason | Marty Nitsche | Kyle Sebastian | Jacob Wilhelm |
| Maddix Buchanan | Tommy Drzich | Kevin Jendrzejak | Lucca Ortega | Micha Seery | Vincent Wrzos |
| Jackson Burgess | Luke Dubsky | Jack Jesanis | Danny O'Shea | Alex Sergel | Jack Zelenka |
| Nathan Carter | Donovan Dunlay | Joseph Krausfeldt | Maxwell Padilla | Blake Sidell | Parker Zumdaahl |
| Ryan Carter | Jake Faude | Lawson Krueger | Markus Palmeritz | Colin Simpson | Kody Zuniga |
| Michael Chenier | Evan Flores | Zach Lampros | Kajus Paulauskas | Ryan Sustek | |
| Logan Chesna | Nico Frausto | Tristan Lange | Hunter Pope | Lucian Taylor | |
| Peter Chlebowski | Joseph Gariti | Sam Lenzi | Landen Porter | Luke Tipner | |
| Luca Cistermino | Owen Garr | Nathan Lezotte | Cody Powels | Braeden Truelsen | |
| Fritz Clark | Robert Greer | Luke Maltais | Mason Pozen | Xavier Turcotte | |

2025 AHAI PLAYER 16 DEVELOPMENT CAMP INVITEES

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Talen Ailing | Lorenzo Digate | Cameron Holyoke | Aidan Mayer | Carter Quint | Rylan Swienton |
| Cameron Anderson | Aleksandar Djuric | John Huber | Thaddeus McMahon | Aiden Ramsay | Gregory Tagler |
| Kaden Aucoin | Maxwell Dominick | Sammy Inendino | Jack Melone | Maxwell Reed | Anthony Tapio |
| Maven Aaron Bacus | Henry Fiske | Emery Ipsen | Vito Menna | Jackson Romanoff | Benjamin Thomas |
| Bruce Basin | Daniel Fournier | Ryan Joy | Amadeus Merriion | Danny Rudman | Erik Timko |
| Dean Beckberger | Patrick Galley | Nathaniel Kohler | Ryan Michelli | Holden Sandner | Hudson Tinchner |
| Max Beemsterboer | Anton Gesink | Owen Kosmeder | London Netzkzy | Gavin Seeger | Andy Tsiamas |
| David Blasiak | Brice Glanz | Mateusz Kowalik | Elias Nikas | Tyler Seiwert | Igtel Tumurbaatar |
| Jacob Borkowski | George Golden | Jimmy Kramer | Aiden Novotny | Nolan Shorter | Joseph Wagner |
| Drew Brierley | Lucas Goluch | Luca Kummertz | Chase Novy | Trevor Shorter | Asher Weil |
| Blake Byrne | Lucas Gatzl | Alexander Lam | Jack Odell | Jackson Smith | Dylan Werner |
| Cameron Carder | Oliver Grudzien | Thayne Lergner | Gavin Ostendorf | Illan Son | Henry Wiseman |
| Brogan Chinlund | Andrew (AJ) Haas | George Lewandowski Fox | Ryan Pape | William Sorenson | Brandon Yu |
| Trevor Cook | Nathan Haddock | Loomis Lincoln | Antons Podskocijs | Joseph Stahnke | Hale Zyung |
| Tyler Costescu | Riley Harby | Jacob Lukes | Patrick Pollina | Sullivan Stark | |
| Jonathan Cygan | Tyler Hardy | Jack Malm | Ari Popovskiy | Crew Staudacher | |
| Cayden Czajkowski | Matheas Hejda | Mikay Manchik | Nicolas Pratapas | Renner Stavroplos | |
| Jonah Derengowski | Reid Himura | Cooper Matthews | Christopher Pretzie | Brandon Suh | |

2025 AHAI PLAYER 15 DEVELOPMENT CAMP INVITEES

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Leo Acker | Andrew Cheng | Giovanni Gravina | Edward Kasprovicz | Michael Miniscalco | Xander Rojel |
| Aiden Ali | Luke Congoran | George Greer | Shayne Keefe | Logan Moran | Titus Russom |
| Bekim Alijoski | Malone Cooney | Alexander Guerra | Jacob Kelley | Connor Murphy | Chris Sadowski |
| Dylan Alonzo | Mark Cotrano | Hendrix Hanna | Martynas Kirda | Angelo Murrell | James Scatchell |
| Colbin Anderson | Jacob Cotton | Landon Heinrich | Brody Krahm | Jack Naese | Aiden Sieczkowski |
| Zach Ayyad | Rylan Daly | Shea Henriksen | Daniel Kruk | Kian Nowak | Blake Smith |
| Jacksen Baird | Patryk Dron | Wyatt Hutchen | Alexander Leonard | Connor O'Gara | Patrick Taylor |
| Alexander Bender | Joshua Eickhoff | Dane Jacobs | Bryce Lewandowski | Eric Obrebski | Ethan Waldeck |
| Matthew Bigane | Colton Elbert | David Jakubec | David Li | James O'Hara | Jackson Warrington |
| Frankie Binetti | Moulis Elijah | Jonathan Jalcovik | John Lucas | Leo Papageorgiou | Evan White |
| Payton Brown | Alexander Filatov | Aidan Jarosik | Casper Maslowski | Steffen Peic | Dominick Wisniewski |
| Maksymilian Budz | Jayden Finke | Jack Jarvinen | Ryon McCullum | Colton Piacenza | William Woods |
| Brady Burns | Bennett Forman | Kevan Jedlowski | Brody Quigley | Ethan Threl | |
| Logan Campion | Mateo Frausto | Ayden Joanis | John Rappel | John Rappe | Samuel Zheng |
| Santino Cantore | Cole Georgas | Davis (Will) Johnston | Evan Miller | Donald Redmon | John Zuccaro |
| Tristan Castelar | Mateo Grachan | Luc Joubert | Xander Miller | Leo Rohlf | Michael Zundell |

2025 AHAI PLAYER 14 DEVELOPMENT CAMP INVITEES

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Mason Altangerel | James Danielwicz | Dillon Gesink | Maxwell Kohler | Ethan Ramsay | Noah Thomas |
| Caden Anderson | Louis Delcourt | Spiros Giannoulis | Patrick Koloszy | Charles Rancourt | Chase Thulin |
| Patrick Anderson | Berardo DeSimone | Nicholas Goldstein | Leo Kwon | William Roegner | Brayden Tropper Evans |
| Clyde Andrew | Kevin Dolan | Daniel Granato | Benas Ludavicius | Sean Rybicki | Gust Tyk |
| Rylan Axe | Bowen Domaleski | Kyle Haronik | Sebastian | Joseph Sahli | Masen Van Patten |
| Gabriel Ayala | Tucker Donald | Finn Helminen | Magnusson | Riley Schuman | Joshua Vander Velde |
| Joseph Balsavich | Jameson Downs | Tomas Holy | Mason Marek | Robert Selleck | Brady Wahl |
| Colin Bencik | Aristos Drivas | Axel Iden | Nico Maryniarczyk | Max Semmelhack | Jackson Wallace |
| Jackson Bennett | Gregory Drivas | Aris Ivanans | Lachlan McGuire | Leo Senerchia | Cooper Ward |
| Damian Borkowski | Ryan Drury | Luke Jackson | Allister Murphy | Tyler Senne | George Weber |
| Axel Brown | Matthew Dy | Kaleb Jacques | Cooper Nass | Conrad Siavelis | Dylan Weinstein |
| Thomas Cannady | Bryce Falconi | Jaydin Jarka | Connor Neumann | Reid Sidell | Charles Winkofsky |
| Gavin Carnow | Nicholas Faust | Wrangell Jesswein | Colin Oconnor | Evan Smith | David Zapala |
| Harrison Cirino | Wyatt Foose | Vox Jones Bangs | Gavin Perkovich | Parker Stewart | Domas Zemaitis |
| Lucas Cirrincione | Vincent Gallelli | Caelin Judge | Carter Plaskett | Wesley Sullivan | Jacob Zieba |
| Harrison Close | Colin George | Kane Kearney | Duncan Pucci | Matthew Suptela | |
| Conner Cooper | Luke George | Jack Klein | Lucas Raimondo | Lachlan Tantaró | |



BLACKHAWK ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS



1988

TOM DILLON - NEW TRIER

1989

BRIAN HENNING - YORK

1990

MIKE FITZPATRICK - LOYOLA

1991

KEITH JOHNSON - ST. LAURENCE

1992

MIKE KELLY - ST. RITA

1993

SEAN CARTER - ST. LAURENCE

JOHN GILLEY - ST. VIATOR

1994

JOE ADAMCZYK - ST. VIATOR

MIKE BROWN - LOYOLA

MIKE TRICROCE - FENWICK

1995

BOBBIE BOOPE - JOHN HERSEY

SAM EATON - NEW TRIER

DAN KIRBY - PLAINFIELD

DAN ROARK - YORK

1996

RANDY GALLAGHER - YORK

JOE GAROFALO - SCHAUMBURG

WILLIAM KUJAWA - MT. CARMEL

JOSEPH MOORE - ST. LAURENCE

ERIK SCHNOTALA - LOYOLA

1997

JASON ABBEY - NILES WEST

KEVIN CARROLL - LOYOLA

JOHN KHYM - MT. CARMEL

J.J. O'CONNOR - LOYOLA

1998

MIKE BOETTCHER - HIGHLAND PARK

DEREK GRAHAM - LYON TOWNSHIP

ANDREW HAVLIR - BUFFALO GROVE

DARON TAYLOR - MARIST

1999

MATT BLEECHER - MARIST

CHRIS O'MALLEY - NAPERVILLE C.

DANE PAULSEN - DRISCOLL

BRIAN TILDEN - YORK

2000

JACOB CASALI - HINSDALE SOUTH

PAT CLYDER - WHEELING

CRAIG HENSLEY - ST. LAURENCE

RYAN OSBERG - STEVENSON

GRANT PAULSEN - DRISCOLL

JOSEPH UHLARIK - SCHAUMBURG

2001

ANDREW BRAMNIK - DEERFIELD

TIMOTHY CHAPP - MAINE WEST

JUSTIN HOOPER - NEQUA VALLEY

2001 (con.)

DAVID KRYDYSKI - MARIST

MICHELLE RADZIK - LYONS TOWNSHIP

TRAVIS TINGEY - NEW TRIER

TED ZIMMERMAN - FENWICK

2002

FRANK CIRONE - ST. VIATOR

CHRIS GOMEZ - HINSDALE CEN.

MATTHEW INGERSOLL - BRO RICE

STEVE LAKE - NEW TRIER

DENNIS MORRIN - MT. CARMEL

JUSTINE SKIBBE - BUFFALO GROVE

2003

BRIAN KENNEY - NEQUA VALLEY

DALEY KIRBY - NEW TRIER

ADAM STASICA - ST. JOSEPH

TIM RYAN - MT. CARMEL

2004

JANELLE KORBAS - WARREN TOWNSHIP

BOBBY LAING - HIGHLAND PARK

DAVE DeCARLO - FREMONT

2005

ALEXANDER AZUMA - NAPERVILLE CENTRAL

NATHANIEL CORWIN - OAK PARK/RF

JORDAN PRINGLE - BARRINGTON

2006

KELSEY FORSBERG - NEW TRIER

BENJAMIN KIM - NAPERVILLE NORTH

THOMAS O'CONNELL - WHEATON

2007

JASON DIDIER - ADDISON TRAIL

KALE FRANK - HIGHLAND

PATRICK McAULIFFE - PROVIDENCE

2008

ADAM GOLDBLATT - GLENBROOK NORTH

SEAN MILLS - NEQUA VALLEY

DANIEL MOIR - NAPERVILLE NORTH

2009

TYLER GREGORY - FREMONT

DAVID SVAC - NEQUA VALLEY

BROOKE WITTELEDER - NEW TRIER

2010

BIANCA BONFIM - OAK PARK/RF

DONALD CUBA II - LYONS TOWNSHIP

JACOB KANCHERLAPALLI - BARTLETT

2011

FRANK ALVINO - ST. VIATOR

BRIANNE MAHONEY - NAZARETH ACADEMY

TREVOR SANTORO - EVANSTON

2012

LAURA BRENNAN - OAK PARK/RIVER FOREST

STEPHANIE JACKSON - NEQUA VALLEY

JACOB WACHLIN - CEDAR GROVE ACADEMY

2013

MICHAEL BUCHE - ST. LAURENCE

DUNCAN COOGAN - GLENBROOK NORTH

JACLYN STORY - GUERIN COLLEGE PREP

2014

GRACE HWANG - NEW TRIER

DAN LORDEN - JONES COLLEGE PREP

ELEK WELLMAN - SACRED HEART/GRIFFIN

2015

JOSEPH ORECCHIO - ST. VIATOR

WILLIAM SPELL - BROTHER RICE

MARGOT WERNER - LATIN SCHOOL

2016

JUSTIN CRUZ - ST. VIATOR

JACOB ROSE - GLENBROOK NORTH

LUCAS TROJANOWSKI - MONTINI CATHOLIC

2017

ANDERS LINDGREN - MOMENCE

TREVOR SCIANNIA - ST. RITA

NOLAN SORNSON - DEERFIELD

2018

PATRICK NASTA - PRAIRIE RIDGE

AJ SALMON - PEKIN

EVAN WELLMAN - SACRED HEART - GRIFFIN

2019

RICHARD "ROCKY" ARAUJO - HINSDALE CENTRAL

LUKE CARTER - CARL SANDBURG

BRETT WISEMAN - MT. CARMEL

2020

ANDREW CAPUANO - ST. RITA

OLIVIA TURMAN - LAKE PARK

EVAN WURZBACHER - BUFFALO GROVE

2021

CHRIS ARAUJO - HINSDALE CENTRAL

EMILIE LINDGREN - MOMENCE COMMUNITY

PRESTON WATT - NEW TRIER

2022

RAFAEL BIEDRON - STEVENSON

MADELINE AREND - NEW TRIER

PIERCE ROMO - HIGHLAND PARK

2023

THOMAS MURRAY III - LINCOLNWAY CENTRAL

MACKENZIE RUSSELL - HOMEWOOD FLOSSMOOR

DANIEL WEINSTEIN - LAKE ZURICH

2024

NICOLO FELICE - PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC

ALEX GUIDA - LAKE PARK

MAX SOMBONG - MARIST

2025

CADEN HICKEY - NOTRE DAME

MICHAEL HOLLUB - ST. IGNATIUS PREP.

SEAN YURKOV - STEVENSON



2025 AHAI LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Sylvain Turcotte

2025 JJ O'CONNOR HIGH SCHOOL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Michael Reyderman

Glenbrook North High School

2025 CAMMI GRANATO GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Carla McSweeney

Chicago Central High School

2025 DISABLED COACH OF THE YEAR

Malisa Komalrajun

Blind Hockey

2025 AHAI SERVICE AWARDS

Anthony Fiorito

IHOA Registra

Mike Narge

AHAI Assignor

2025 AHAI FEMALE HONORS AWARD

The Mammoth Girls

Girls High School

2025 AHAI NEW LEADER AWARD

Tophier Scott

2025 AHAI VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Jenny MacDougall

Girls Metro High School League

2025 AHAI COACHING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Youth

Joseph Locallo

Glenview

Girls

Hannah Bielawski

Mammoth

Boys High School

Chris Waters

BGHW

Girls High School

Scott Tompson

Naper Valley



2025 USA HOCKEY CENTRAL DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

Tier I Girls 16U — Chicago Mission

Tier I Girls 19U — Chicago Mission

Tier II Girls 16U — Chicago Hawks

Tier II Girls 19U — Glenview Stars

Youth Tier I 13 Only — Chicago Mission

Youth Tier I 14U — Chicago Mission

Youth Tier I 15 Only — Reapers

Youth Tier I 16U — Chicago Mission

Youth Tier I 18U — Chicago Fury



ILLINOIS HOCKEY OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

2025-26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Central District RIC
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centralsdistrictric@gmail.com



2025-26 AFFILIATE ASSOCIATIONS

Registered with AHL



ADDISON ADULT HOCKEY LEAGUE
AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSN IL
AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ILLINOIS
ARCTIC ICE ARENA ADULT
ARCTIC ICE ARENA YOUTH
AWF HS HOCKEY
BARRINGTON GIRLS HS HOCKEY
BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BRONCOS
BENET HS HOCKEY
BEVERLY BOMBSHELLS
BLAZE WOMENS HOCKEY
BLOOMINGTON ADULT HOCKEY
BLOOMINGTON MONDAY MORNING HOCKEY CLUB
BLOOMINGTON RECREATIONAL HOCKEY
BLOOMINGTON YOUTH HOCKEY
BROTHER RICE HS HOCKEY CLUB
BUFFALO GROVE HERSEY HS HOCKEY
CAN LAN ADULT HOCKEY
CANLAN YOUTH HOCKEY
CANLAN WEST DUNDEE ADULT HOCKEY
CANLAN WEST DUNDEE YOUTH
CARMEL CATHOLIC HS HOCKEY
CENTER ICE OF DUPAGE ADULT HOCKEY
CENTRAL ILLINOIS GIRLS HOCKEY ASSN
CENTRAL ILLINOIS SLED HOCKEY
CENTRAL ILLINOIS WARRIORS HOCKEY
CHAMPAIGN URBANA HS HOCKEY
CHAMPAIGN-URBANAYOUTH HOCKEY
CHICAGO BLIND HOCKEY
CHICAGO BLUES
CHICAGO BRUINS GIRLS HOCKEY
CHICAGO BULLDOGS YOUTH HOCKEY
CHICAGO CENTRAL GIRLS HS HOCKEY
CHICAGO CENTRAL HS HOCKEY
CHICAGO FLAMES YOUTH HOCKEY
CHICAGO FROZEN SNAPPERS WOMENS HOCKEY
CHICAGO FURY AAA HOCKEY
CHICAGO HAWKS GIRLS HOCKEY
CHICAGO HAWKS HOCKEY CLUB
CHICAGO HORNED FROGS
CHICAGO INFERNO WOMENS HOCKEY
CHICAGO JETS HOCKEY CLUB INC
CHICAGO MISSION AAA HOCKEY CLUB
CHICAGO MISSION GIRLS HOCKEY
CHICAGO NORTH HS HOCKEY
CHICAGO PHANTOMS AAA HOCKEY
CHICAGO RIVER DOGS
CHICAGO SOUTH HS HOCKEY
CHICAGO STORM SPECIAL HOCKEY
CHICAGO WARRIORS HOCKEY
CHICAGO X-FACTOR
CHIEFS GIRLS HOCKEY
CHIEFS HOCKEY CLUB

COBRAS HS HOCKEY CLUB
COUGARS WOMEN HOCKEY
CYCLONES AMATEUR. HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
D100, 122, 205, 207, 223 HS HOCKEY
D86, 88, 99, 204 GIRLS HS HOCKEY
R108 U46 HS HOCKEY
D155 HS HOCKEY
D200 204 HS HOCKEY
D203 NAPERVILLE HS HOCKEY
R21D CHES CHIEFS HS HOCKEY
D308 OSWEGO HS HOCKEY
D46 MID VALLEY RAMPAGE HS HOCKEY
DAISY CUTTERS HOCKEY CLUB
DANVILLE YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
DECATUR ADULT HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
DECATUR HS HOCKEY
DECATUR WOMEN
DECATUR YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
DEERFIELD HS HOCKEY
DHS HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY
DOWNERS GROVE BLADES YOUTH HOCKEY
DUPAGE BLACK BEARST
EAST RIVER HS HOCKEY
ELMHURST MOTHER PUCKERS
EVANSTON GIRLS HS HOCKEY
EVANSTON HS HOCKEY
EVANSTON YOUTH HOCKEY
FALCONS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
FENWICK GIRLS HS HOCKEY
FENWICK HS HOCKEY
FIFTH THIRD ICE ARENA ADULT HOCKEY
FIGHTING SQUIRRELS WOMENS HOCKEY
FIREWAGON YOUTH HOCKEY
FOX VALLEY HS HOCKEY
FOX VALLEY ICE CENTER ADULT HOCKEY
FRANKLIN PARK ADULT LEAGUE
FRANKLIN PARK GIRLS HOCKEY
FRANKLIN PARK ICE ARENA
GLASA FALCONS SLED
GLENBARD HS HOCKEY
GLENBROOK GIRLS HS HOCKEY
GLENBROOK NORTH HS HOCKEY
GLENBROOK SOUTH HS HOCKEY
GLENVIEW PARK.DISTRICT
GLENVIEW STARS GIRLS HOCKEY
GLENVIEW STARS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
GLENWOOR HS HOCKEY
HIGHLAND PARK HS HOCKEY
HINSDALE CENTRAL HS HOCKEY
HOFEMAN ESTATES GIRLS HOCKEY
HOFFMAN ESTATES PARK DISTRICT HOCKEY
HOMEWOOD FLOSSMOOR ICE ARENA
HORNETS SLED HOCKEY



2025-26 AFFILIATE ASSOCIATIONS

Registered with AHL



HUSKIES HOCKEY CLUB
ICE DOGS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
ICE DOGS HOUSE LEAGUE
ICE PROGRAM HOCKEY CLUB
ILLINI WOMENS HOCKEY
INWOOD HOCKEY LEAGUE
IRISH HS HOCKEY
JAGUAR HOCKEY CLUB
JETS WOMENS HOCKEY
KANKAKEE YOUTH HOCKEY CLUB
KINGS HS HOCKEY
LADY LEOPARDS
LADY YELLOWJACKETS
LAKE FOREST ACADEMY
LAKE FOREST ACADEMY GIRLS HS HOCKEY
LAKE FOREST GIRLS HS HOCKEY
LAKE FOREST HIGH SCHOOL
LAKE ZURICH HS HOCKEY
LAKERS HS HOCKEY
LEYDEN HS HOCKEY
LIBERTYVILLE HS HOCKEY
LINCOLN WAY HS DISTRICT HOCKEY CLUB
LOYOLA ACADEMY HS HOCKEY
LOYOLA GIRLS HS HOCKEY
LYONS TOWNSHIP HS HOCKEY
MAINE GIRLS HS HOCKEY
MAINE TOWNSHIP HS HOCKEY
MAMMOTH AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
MAMMOTH GIRLS HOCKEY
MARIST HS HOCKEY
MARMION HS HOCKEY
MAYHEM WOMANS HOCKEY
MCFETRIDGE ADULT LEAGUE
MCLEAN COUNTY HS HOCKEY
MOUNT CARMEL HS HOCKEY
MPSC ORIGINAL SIX ADULT LEAGUE
MS CONDUCT WOMENS HOCKEY
MT PROSPECT ADULT HOCKEY
NAPER VALLEY GIRLS HS HOCKEY
NAZARETH ICCP RB US HOCKEYN
NEUQUA VALLEY HS HOCKEY
NEW TRIER GIRLS HS HOCKEY
NEW TRIER HS HOCKEY
NILES RANGERS
NORTH SHORE WARHAWKS GIRLS HOCKEY ASSN
NORTH STAR WOMENS HOCKEY
NORTHBROOK HOCKEY LEAGUE
NORTHERN EXPRESS
NORTHWEST BANDITS
NORTHWEST CHARGERS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
NOTRE DAME HS HOCKEY
OAK PARK RIVER FOREST HS HOCKEY
OAKTON ICE ARENA LEARN TO PLAY HOCKEY

PALATINE CT WOMENS HOCKEY
PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK
PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK GIRLS
PEKIN AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
PEKIN HS HOCKEY
PEORIA YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
PHOENIX WOMENS
PLAINFIELD HS HOCKEY
PREP HS HOCKEY
PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HS HOCKEY
RAMPAGE WOMENS HOCKEY
REAPERS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
RIC BLACKHAWKS SLED HOCKEY TEAM
ROCKFORD HOCKEY CLUB
ROLLING MEADOWS RENEGADES
SABRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
SABRES GIRLS HOCKEY
SACRED HEART GRIFFIN HS HOCKEY
SANDBURG HS HOCKEY
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT ADULT
SKOKIF PARK DISTRICT YOUTH
SPARTANS HS HOCKEY
SPRINGFIELD HS HOCKEY
ST IGNATIUS HS HOCKEY
ST JUDE GIRLS HOCKEY
ST JUDE KNIGHTS
ST RITA HS HOCKEY
ST VIATOR HS HOCKEY
STALLIONS. HOCKEY
STEVENSON HS HOCKEY
SUBURBAN HS HOCKEY
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TEAM ILLINOIS YOUTH
TIGERS RIUE
TIMBERWOLVES HOCKEY CLUB
TWIN RINKS ICE PAVILION
VIKINGS WOMENS HOCKEY
VIKINGS YOUTH HOCKEY
VIPERS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
WARREN HS HOCKEY
WEST DUNDEE GIRLS HOCKEY
WEST DUNDEE HOCKEY CLUB
WHEATON WEST HS HOCKEY
WILLOWBROOK SNIPERS YOUTH HOCKEY
WILMETTE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
WINDY CITY STORM AAA HOCKEY
WINDY CITY STORM GIRLS HOCKEY
WINNETKA HOCKEY CLUB
WINTER CLUB OF LAKE FOREST
WOODRIDGE WILD VOLTH HOCKEY
YORK HS HOCKEY



**2025-2026
USA HOCKEY
NATIONAL PERSONNEL**



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HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY SECTION

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AHAI & USA HOCKEY TOURNAMENT DATES



AHAI YOUTH STATE TOURNAMENT

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| February 1—21, 2026 | Qualifying Rounds Tier II "B", "A" and "AA"& Girls |
| February 19—February 22, 2026 | AHAI Tier I ("AAA") Round Robin Series |
| February 20— February 22, 2026 | AHAI Girls State Round Robins @ Glenview Ice Arena |
| February 26— March 1, 2026 | AHAI Tier II Round Robins @ Various Sites |
| February 28 — March 3, 2026 | AHAI Tier I Championship Series @ Mt. Prospect Rink |
| February 28 — March 1, 2026 | AHAI Girls Tier II State Championships @ Mt. Prospect Rink |
| March 7—March 8, 2026 | AHAI Tier II State Championships @ Mt. Prospect Rink |

AHAI HIGH SCHOOL STATE TOURNAMENT

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| February 1—21, 2026 | Elimination Play |
| February 26, 2026 —March 9, 2026 | Playdowns & Championships @ West Meadows |
| March 6, 2026 (<i>TENTATIVE</i>) | Varsity Red, Girls, Combined & JV Championships @ All-State Arena |

CENTRAL DISTRICT TIER I & GIRL'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

| |
|---|
| March 7-9, 2026 |
| Girls Tier I & Girls Tier II — St. Peters, Missouri |
| Tier I Youth — Sun Prairie, Wisconsin |

USA HOCKEY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 18 - March 22, 2026 — Plymouth, Minnesota

TIER I NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 24 - 29, 2026

| |
|--|
| Tier I 13O/14U — Plymouth, Michigan |
| Tier I 15 O/16U— Green Bay, Wisconsin — Tier I 18U — Las Vegas, Nevada |

TIER II NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 24 - 29, 2026

| |
|--|
| Tier II - 13 Only — Plymouth, Michigan |
| Tier II - 14 & Under — Dallas, Texas — Tier II - 16 & Under — Irving, California |
| Tier II - 18 & Under — Westchester, Pennsylvania |

GIRL'S TIER I NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 24 - 29, 2026

Girls Tier I (*All Levels*) - Amhurst, New York

GIRL'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 25 - 29, 2026

| |
|---|
| Girls Tier I - Amhurst, New York — Girls Tier II 14 - Rochester, Michigan |
| Girls Tier II 16 - St. Louis, Missouri— Girls Tier II 19 -Rockland, Massachusetts |

USA HOCKEY SENIOR WOMEN

WOMEN'S ADULT 30, 40 & 50 & 60 OVER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

April 16 - 19, 2026— Florida Hospital Ice Center — Wesley Chapel, Florida

USA DISABLED HOCKEY

Warrior National Championships (*All Divisions*) — April 23 - 26, 2026 - Dallas, Texas

Sled National Championships (*All Divisions*) — April 30 - May 3, 2026 - — Dallas, Texas

Special, Blind, Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Standing/Amputee
will have Regional Events as opposed to a National Event

MEN'S ADULT NON CHECK

30 & OVER, 40 & OVER, 50 & OVER, 60 & OVER, 65 & OVER & 70 & OVER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

April 9 - 12, 2026 — Florida Hospital Ice Center — Wesley Chapel, Florida

TIER II JUNIOR A (*NAHL*) NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

NAHL Robertson Cup National Championship

May 15-19, 2026 — Blaine, Minnesota

TIER I JUNIOR A (*USHL*) NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

May, 2026— Location TBD



FUTURE USA HOCKEY & NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

2026

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| USAH National High School Championships..... | March 19-23, 2026 |
| Youth and Girls' National Championships..... | April 9-13 2026 |
| Women's NCAA Tournament..... | March 13-15, 2025 |
| USA Hockey Women's National Championships..... | April 3-5, 2026 |
| Easter Sunday | April 5, 2026 |
| Men's NCAA Tournament..... | April 9-11, 2026 |
| Men's NCAA Tournament D-III | <i>TBD</i> |

2027

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| USAH National High School Championships..... | March 18-22, 2027 |
| Youth and Girls' National Championships..... | April 1-5 2027 |
| Women's NCAA Tournament..... | March 19-21, 2027 |
| USA Hockey Women's National Championships..... | April 1-4, 2027 |
| Easter Sunday | March 28, 2027 |
| ACHA National Tournament | March 11-23, 2027 |
| Men's NCAA Tournament D-III | <i>TBD</i> |

2028

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| USAH National High School Championships..... | March 16-20, 2028 |
| Youth and Girls' National Championships..... | April 6-10, 2028 |
| Women's NCAA Tournament..... | March 31 - April 2, 2028 |
| USA Hockey Women's National Championships..... | April 2-5, 2028 |
| Easter Sunday | April 16, 2028 |
| ACHA National Tournament | March 13-22, 2028 |
| Men's NCAA Tournament D-III | March 23-25, 2028 |



2025-26 "TIER I" ASSOCIATIONS

Chicago Fury
Chicago Mission
Chicago Phantoms
Reapers
Windy City Storm
Team Illinois



| 2025 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|-------|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|--|--|
| JULY | | | | | | | AUGUST | | | | | | | SEPTEMBER | | | | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | | | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | 24/31 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | |
| OCTOBER | | | | | | | NOVEMBER | | | | | | | DECEMBER | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | 23/30 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | |
| 2026 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| JANUARY | | | | | | | FEBRUARY | | | | | | | MARCH | | | | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | | |
| APRIL | | | | | | | MAY | | | | | | | JUNE | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | 23/31 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | |
| JULY | | | | | | | AUGUST | | | | | | | SEPTEMBER | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | 23/30 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | | |
| OCTOBER | | | | | | | NOVEMBER | | | | | | | DECEMBER | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | |
| 2027 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| JANUARY | | | | | | | FEBRUARY | | | | | | | MARCH | | | | | | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | |
| | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | | | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | | | |
| 24/31 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 28 | | | | | | | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | | | |
| APRIL | | | | | | | MAY | | | | | | | JUNE | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | 23/30 | 23/31 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | |

2025-26 CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

SEASON SCHEDULE

PRESENTED BY *Circa* SPORTS



OCTOBER 25

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 FLA 4:00 | 8 | 9 BOS 6:00 | 10 | 11 MTL 6:00 |
| 12 | 13 UTA 7:30 | 14 | 15 STL 8:30 | 16 | 17 VAN 7:30 | 18 |
| 19 ANA 6:00 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 TBL 6:00 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 LAK 6:00 | 27 | 28 OTT 7:45 | 29 | 30 WPG 7:00 | 31 | |

NOVEMBER 25

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | | | | | 1 EDM 8:00 |
| 2 | 3 SEA 9:00 | 4 | 5 VAN 8:00 | 6 | 7 CGY 8:00 | 8 |
| 9 DET 12:00 | 10 | 11 | 12 NJO 8:30 | 13 | 14 | 15 TOR 6:00 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 CGY 7:30 | 19 | 20 SEA 7:00 | 21 BUF 6:00 | 22 |
| 23 COL 6:00 | 24 | 25 | 26 MIN 7:30 | 27 | 28 NSH 7:00 | 29 |
| 30 ANA 2:30 | | | | | | |

DECEMBER 25

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|----------------|-----|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 1 | 2 VGK 9:00 | 3 | 4 LAK 8:00 | 5 | 6 LAK 8:00 |
| 7 ANA 7:30 | 8 | 9 | 10 NYR 8:30 | 11 | 12 STL 7:00 | 13 DET 7:00 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 TOR 8:00 | 17 | 18 MTL 8:00 | 19 | 20 OTT 2:00 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 PHI 8:00 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 DAL 7:00 |
| 28 PIT 6:00 | 29 | 30 NYI 7:30 | 31 | | | |

JANUARY 26

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | | | 1 DAL 7:30 | 2 | 3 WSH 6:00 |
| 4 VGK 6:00 | 5 | 6 | 7 STL 7:30 | 8 | 9 WSH 7:00 | 10 NSH 7:00 |
| 11 | 12 EDM 7:30 | 13 | 14 | 15 CGY 7:00 | 16 | 17 BOS 7:00 |
| 18 | 19 WPG 7:30 | 20 | 21 | 22 CAR 6:00 | 23 TBL 6:00 | 24 |
| 25 FLA 6:00 | 26 | 27 MIN 7:00 | 28 | 29 PIT 6:00 | 30 CBJ 7:30 | 31 |

FEBRUARY 26

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|-----|---------------|------|---------------|----------------|-----|----------------|
| 1 | 2 SJS 7:30 | 3 | 4 CBJ 6:00 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 NSH 7:00 | 27 | 28 COL 5:00 |

MARCH 26

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1 UTA 3:00 | 2 | 3 WPG 7:00 | 4 | 5 | 6 VAN 7:30 | 7 |
| 8 DAL 5:00 | 9 UTA 7:30 | 10 | 11 | 12 UTA 8:00 | 13 | 14 VGK 8:00 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 MIN 7:30 | 18 | 19 MIN 7:30 | 20 COL 7:30 | 21 |
| 22 NSH 2:00 | 23 | 24 NYI 6:00 | 25 | 26 PHI 6:00 | 27 NYR 6:00 | 28 |
| 29 NJD 8:00 | 30 | 31 WPG 7:30 | | | | |

APRIL 26

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|-----|----------------|------|----------------|---------------|-----|----------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 EDM 8:00 | 3 | 4 SEA 8:00 |
| 5 | 6 SJS 8:00 | 7 | 8 | 9 CAR 7:30 | 10 | 11 STL 4:00 |
| 12 | 13 BUF 7:30 | 14 | 15 SJS 7:30 | 16 | 17 | 18 |



HOME

AWAY

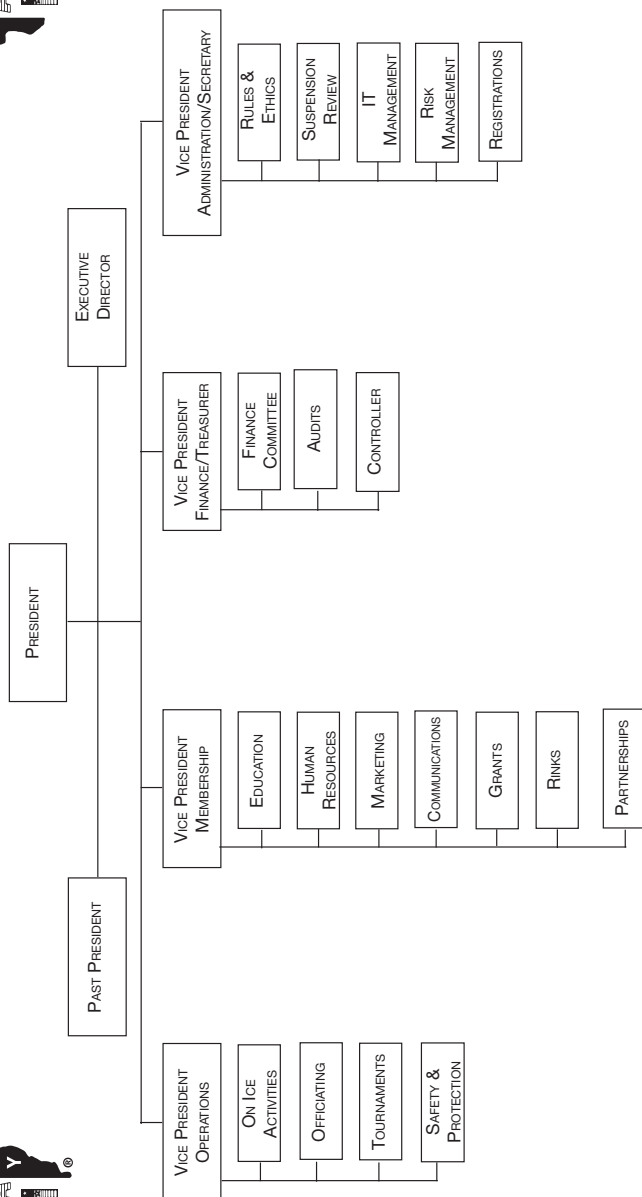
All game dates and times subject to change.
All game times listed in Central Time.

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AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION ILLINOIS, INC.

ORGANIZATION CHART





Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame Class of 2025 Induction Dinner

Sunday, February 1, 2026

**Belvedere Banquet Hall
1170 West Devon Avenue in
Elk Grove Village**

5:00 pm.

Illinois hockey has a very long and rich hockey history, due in large part, to the foundation laid down by the Hall of Fame inductees. Their tireless dedication in making sure every individual who had a desire to participate in this great sport has had the opportunity to do so.

The mission statement of the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame is as follows:

"To honor the excellence of those individuals who, through their exceptional endeavors both on and off the ice, have contributed in an extraordinary way to enhance the sport and image of hockey in Illinois."

On behalf of everyone involved in the game of hockey, we invite you to come out and thank each of the inductees into the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame class of 2025 at the IHHF dinner on February 1, 2026. They truly are in a class of their own.

For further information and tickets, contact John Dunne at 224/636-3215 or e-mail John at executive.director@ahai.org.

Honoring the excellence of those individuals
who have enhanced hockey in Illinois.

**Relax.
It's just a game.**



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