



## Michigan Amateur Hockey Association Policy & Guidelines

### Michigan Residency Requirements Policy

Section: Registration

Revised: January, 2025

The Michigan Residency Requirements Policy ("Policy") is designed to standardize the process of establishing residency. This Policy addresses a participant's residence requirements and how MAHA will look at residency for the purpose of hockey in Michigan. In an effort to reduce the potential of any problem regarding where a Player resides for any purposes the following Policy is applicable:

- Non-Michigan players will be defined as players who were rostered with USA Hockey outside of Michigan during their first regular season of play after the 8U age classification.
- Once a player is considered/determined to be an out of state player, that player will be considered an out of state player no matter how long they play in Michigan unless they are able to establish residency through this policy.
- MAHA looks first to the residency of both the player's parents as the player's primary residence. There may be exceptions to this rule in the case of divorce or billeted players, but these players must be brought to the attention of the MAHA Registrar, in writing prior to the Roster being submitted for approval. In the event the player does not live with both parents, MAHA can request additional information necessary to determine the player's primary residence.
- If the address on the roster is not the one where the player "lives" or resides with both parents, you must bring the matter affirmatively to the attention of the MAHA Registrar, in writing, and obtain a ruling as to where the Player resides prior to the Roster being submitted. "Lives" or "Resides" for this purpose means: "eats, sleeps, attends school and performs normal daily activities from that address".
- It is the general intent of this Policy that no player may have more than one residence for the purposes of hockey. Therefore, any player who did not play for a Michigan team the previous regular season must identify themselves to the MAHA Registrar that they meet the residency requirements outlined in this Policy or they will be considered an out-of-state player. If the intent is for the player to be deemed an in-state player, the MAHA Registrar will provide further direction for completing the approval process.
- No player may create a residence for the purpose of playing hockey in Michigan. Temporary or limited guardianships are not permitted or recognized by MAHA as residency in Michigan.
- The player/parents shall have the burden of proving the player's residence, and MAHA Rule II Registration and Rostering: Participants and Teams Paragraph K is especially important in this context. For Tier I teams, "district" refers to the State of Michigan. If a player's residence is not with the parent(s), and the player's current residence was necessitated for the purposes of playing hockey, the presumption is that the player does not meet the residency requirements outlined in this Policy.
- If a participant's parents are in the process of relocation to Michigan, documentation such as letters from the parents' employers, school admission records, home listings and purchase agreements could be useful documentation showing intent to relocate. If approved as a resident, further documentation throughout the year may be required to prove residency has been fully established. As a general policy, the player must move with the people he/she was living with previously (full and complete move) in order for a relocation to meet the requirements of this Policy.
- Players who establish residency and are playing in Michigan for the first year may be asked to provide documentation throughout the year to prove that the player is still going to school in Michigan and that he/she continues to meet the residency requirements.

#### Application Process

- An out of state player seeking a change of status to become a Michigan Resident must contact his/her Association / Organization Director and receive permission to access the application on the MAHA website. The application must be completed and the appropriate documentation as proof of residency detailed in the MAHA Residency Policy (see below) must be attached. The Association / Organization shall review the application to ensure all information is true and accurate.

**Note: Tier II and Tier III players may apply for Michigan Residency at any time throughout the season, once they have made a full and complete move to Michigan. Tier I players may apply using the guidelines set forth below in Additional Player Requirements for Tier 1 Players.**

- Annually the MAHA President will appoint a committee ("Residency Committee") to review the applications and make a recommendation to the MAHA Executive Board based on the MAHA Residency Policy criteria included in this Policy. The Residency Committee may request additional information and gather input from other sources to ensure the accuracy of all information provided.
- The Residency Committee will meet in a timely manner to make a recommendation and forward to the Executive Board at their next scheduled meeting. The player must be approved as a Michigan Resident before being added to the roster as an in-state player. If Michigan Residency is not approved the player would be eligible to re-apply to prove Michigan Residency prior to the next season.
- If after reviewing any documentation submitted to prove residency, the MAHA Executive Committee or the State Playoff Committee deems a player a non-resident, the affected MAHA member organization may challenge the adverse ruling under the standard applicable to contest an Administrative Action under USA Hockey Bylaw 10.C. The affected MAHA member organization shall notify the MAHA President who shall appoint a committee of impartial parties to review the challenge.

### **Michigan Residency Documentation Requirements**

Required minimum documentation to help establish residency.

- Valid permanent Michigan Driver's License for both Father & Mother
- Player's School Registration for the coming year
- Sales Agreement for previous residence
- Purchase / Rental Agreement for Michigan address

Other documents that may help establish residency. All documents must have the family name and Michigan residence address on them (Michigan P.O. Boxes are not acceptable residence address): Employment agreements or job offers for parents

- Utility bill or credit card bill issued within the last 90 days
- Account statement from a bank or other financial institution issued within the last 90 days
- Life, health, or auto insurance policy
- Federal, State, or local government documents such as receipts, licenses or assessments
- Michigan Title Registration (must show current address)
- Adoption paperwork showing permanent guardianship

### **Interstate Player Transfer Protocol for Youth and Girls Tier II and III and High School Classifications**

- Out of Affiliate residents are not permitted. Any player who resides in another state and wishes to play hockey with a team in a MAHA program in these classifications, without changing his/her residence to Michigan, must first obtain a properly executed waiver from the player's resident state. Conversely, the MAHA requires that any Michigan resident wishing to play hockey in another state, while remaining a resident of Michigan, must first obtain a properly executed waiver from the MAHA.
- This protocol is consistent with the terms and conditions of the USA Hockey Affiliate Agreement that grants each affiliate the right of "exclusive jurisdiction" within the definition of its geographical boundaries. The MAHA VP Youth or his/her designee will act upon all interstate waiver requests from those who submit them, using the following criteria:
- This protocol applies to Youth and Girls programs that are conducted during the MAHA "regular season", which extends from September 1 of a given year through the end of the MAHA Youth/Girls/High School Tournaments in March.
- Players must first register within their resident state. An approved waiver from the player's resident state must be obtained and approved by the MAHA designee before the player may be placed on a MAHA team roster.
- The MAHA will accept approved players from another state who wish to play in Michigan because the state in which they reside does not offer a program similar to those offered in Michigan. Transfer of players who desire an interstate residency waiver based upon other reasons will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Transfer of

players who desire an interstate residency waiver based on geographical proximity of their residence will also be considered on a case-by-case basis, within the MAHA rules. Approval of these types of requests will not be unreasonably withheld.

#### **Additional Player Requirements for Tier 1 Players**

- Tier I organizations are limited in the number of non-Michigan (out of state) players per organization. This encourages MAHA member organizations to provide development and playing opportunities at the Tier I level for Michigan players.
- Out of state players are not permitted in Tier I at the 10U and 11U age groups. Players in those age groups may apply for Michigan Residency at any time after making a full and complete move. The player must be approved as a Michigan Resident before being added to a 10U or 11U team roster.
- A player whose entire family has moved to and become residents of the State of Michigan for reasons other than to play hockey may apply for acceptance as a Michigan resident after playing one regular season\* registered on any team in Michigan in the 12U, 13O, 14U, 15O, 16U and 18U age classifications.
- Applications for players in the 12U, 13O, 14U, 15O, 16U and 18U age classifications may be submitted beginning in February through September for the upcoming regular season. If Michigan Residency is not approved by September 30 of the current season, the player can play on a Michigan Tier I 12U, 13O, 14U, 15O, 16U and 18U age classification that season but would be considered an out of state player per the MAHA allowance for that age classification for that season. The player would be eligible to re-apply to establish Michigan Residency prior to the next season.

\*Must be on a certified Michigan certified USA Hockey roster by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season.

This is the Policy that MAHA uses to determine the residence of a player participating in Michigan. Failure to comply may result in the disciplinary action of the Player and/or Team and/or Organization.