

USA Hockey Legislative Proposals

Following 2025 Annual Meeting

This packet includes legislative proposals reviewed at the 2025 Annual Meeting and reflects amendments to the proposals made at the Annual Meeting.

- **Bold black text** reflects text that was proposed to be added in the original legislative proposal.
- ~~Black stricken-out text~~ reflects text that was proposed to be removed in the original proposal.
- **Blue underlined and bold text** reflects amended language that was added at the Annual Meeting.
- ~~Red stricken-out text~~ reflects amended language that was removed at the Annual Meeting.
- **Green underlined and bold text** and ~~stricken-out text~~ reflects amended language that was moved at the Annual Meeting.

Audit #1

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

(5) Review and approval of the financial statements, annual reports, and financial and control policies. ~~and selection of the USA Hockey's independent auditors.~~

Officials #1

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

Assault on Game Official Assaults on Game Officials are violations of USA Hockey Playing Rules and as such are subject to the provisions for Playing Rules Suspensions. In the event of a match penalty for assault on a game official under Playing Rule 601(e)(1), the offending Party shall be immediately suspended from all USA Hockey sanctioned activity. ~~For penalties assessed under 601(e)(1) that are affirmed after a hearing, the offending Party shall be suspended for not less than one calendar year with one year calendar year probation thereafter.~~ In the case of a match penalty for assault on a game official, the applicable USA Hockey Affiliate, its designated hearing body, or the Junior Council sanctioned league shall exercise original jurisdiction in such matter. NOTE: ~~The intent of this provision is to remove local organizations from the hearing process, to ensure that disinterested parties conduct the hearing and to establish jurisdiction in the Affiliate only.~~ Any game official assessing a penalty under Rule 601(e)(1) shall file with his/her USA Hockey District Referee-in-Chief a written game report within ~~forty-eight (48)~~ **twenty-four (24)** hours of the incident. The District Referee-in-Chief shall immediately investigate the incident and promptly submit a written opinion, together with the game sheets and reports to the applicable Disciplinary Authority, indicating whether Rule 601(e)(1) has been properly applied to the circumstances involved in the incident, or whether the incident falls under a different playing rule. Upon receipt of the written game report the District Referee in Chief ~~shall~~**will then** immediately forward ~~the~~**his** report **to the National Referee-In-Chief who will appoint a national review panel to hold a hearing on the incident pursuant to Bylaw 10. The District Referee-in-Chief shall also conduct an investigation of the incident and submit a report to the National Referee-in-Chief within seven (7) days of receipt of the game report. The national review** ~~This~~ panel will have thirty (30) days to ~~investigate the incident and~~ conduct a hearing. ~~NOTE: The intent of this provision is to remove local organizations from the hearing process, to ensure that disinterested parties conduct the hearing and to establish jurisdiction in the Affiliate only.~~ As part of their findings, the national review panel will submit a written opinion, indicating whether Rule 601(e)(1) has been properly applied to the circumstances involved in the incident, or whether the incident falls under a different playing rule to determine whether rule 601(e)(1) was applied correctly. If the panel determines that this rule was applied correctly the offending party will be suspended from all USA Hockey sanctioned activity for a period of not less than one calendar with one calendar year probation thereafter, **provided that the suspended party shall have a right to appeal to the National Appeal Committee pursuant to Bylaw 10.E.** A copy of the Referee-in-Chief's **national review panel's** written report and opinion shall be sent by the Disciplinary Authority to the player, team official and game official involved. ~~Annual Guide 125~~**Bylaws** Suspensions imposed under this bylaw subsection shall be immediately reported to USA Hockey national office, to the applicable Affiliate Association(s), and the appropriate registrar(s). The Registrar may accept a registration subject to the terms of this suspension.

At the beginning of the season the National Referee-In-Chief, in conjunction with the Chair of the Youth and Girls Councils, will appoint 5 District Referee's-In-Chiefs, 5 Coach-In-Chiefs, 5 Affiliate Presidents and 5 members from among the Youth and Girls Councils to act as members of any potential national review panels needed for that season. Upon receipt of an incident report for rule 601(e)(1), the National Referee-In-Chief will select one District Referee-In-Chief, one Affiliate President and one Youth or Girls Council member from the group to serve as a members on the national review panel to hear the case. No member of the panel shall be from the district in which the penalized individual(s) was registered.

Officials #2

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

(b) Playing Rules Suspensions

Any Playing Rules Suspension does not require a hearing except that, in the event of the imposition of a match penalty as defined in the Playing Rules, a hearing must be offered to be held as set forth in the Playing Rules, and the terms and length of the Party's suspension shall be as set forth in the Playing Rules unless modified or revoked by the hearing panel. Any hearing for a match penalty shall be conducted according to the Unified Procedure; provided that, in the case of a match penalty being imposed in a district or national championship tournament, the hearing will be conducted immediately after the game in question by the on-site USA Hockey personnel. All applicable game scoresheets and referee reports must be presented to the hearing panel and made available to the Party subject to suspension. Any Playing Rule Suspension shall remain in force and effect and be final unless modified or revoked at a hearing, except that if the hearing is not held within 30 days of the incident together with a decision in accordance with the Unified Procedure, the suspended Party shall be automatically reinstated after the 30-day period. The failure to offer the hearing shall not prohibit the hearing body from conducting the hearing after the 30-day period and thereafter imposing further disciplinary action.

Beginning with the 2026-27 Season, all game officials under the age of 18 years old at the time current-season membership registration opens shall receive a distinctive "green" USA Hockey Officiating sweater crest. This crest shall designate that the game official is a minor, and a game in any age category (except Junior) that is officiated by a minor official shall be subject to increased penalties for infractions under the following USA Hockey playing rules:

The following infractions shall result in a Double-Minor or Double-Bench Minor penalty:

- Rule 601(a)(1)
- Rule 601(b)(1)
- Rule 601(b)(2) - if directed at officials
- Rule 601(b)(3)

The following infractions shall result in a Double-Misconduct penalty:

- Rule 601(c)(1) - if directed at officials
- Rule 601(c)(7)

NOTE: A Double-Misconduct penalty assessed under this Green Officiating Crest program shall not result in an automatic Game Misconduct mandated by USA Hockey Playing Rule 404(a). The player shall serve twice the amount of misconduct penalty time and shall remain in the game with no Game Misconduct assessed unless the penalty was the second Misconduct assessed to that player during the same game.

The following infractions resulting in a Game Misconduct penalty shall receive a two-game suspension starting with the next game appearing on the schedule for that team:

- Rule 601(d)(1)
- Rule 601(d)(2) - if directed at officials
- Rule 601(d)(3)
- Rule 601(d)(4)
- Rule 601(d)(5) - if misconduct is assessed under Rule 601(c)1 for abuse of an official, or Rule 601(c)(7)
- Rule 601(d)(8)
- Rule 601(d)(9)

Match penalties assessed under Rule 601 shall be subject to the disciplinary process outlined by USA Hockey Bylaw 10.

The increased penalty guidelines imposed under the Green Officiating Crest program shall be in effect for all games using one (or more) minor-age game official, and all penalties listed shall be assessed regardless of which game official was the target of the abuse.

Officials #3

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

a. On-ice Officials

All on-ice officials shall be properly registered with USA Hockey and shall be assigned by the league, or its designee, and all officials shall be paid by the league, or the designee. Only Level 4 referees and Level 3 (minimum) ~~linesmen~~ **linespersons** shall be authorized for use in league competition unless officials at a lesser level are approved in advance by the National Junior Referee-in-Chief.

Officials #4

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

IV. OFFICIALS REGISTRATION

A. Procedure

All on-ice officials must register directly with USA Hockey online at usahockey.com by completing the online registration process and paying the proper fee. Those on-ice officials who are unable to submit their application online may obtain an Official Registration form from their district referee-in-chief.

Previously registered ice hockey officials will receive notification with their specific registration information from the national office prior to the start of the registration season. When the application has been completed online or submitted to the national office with the proper fee, the official will be provided:

- An email confirmation of receipt of their application with additional USA Hockey officiating membership information and resource materials
- The current Official Rules and Casebook of Ice Hockey (if not previously received)
- Information on completing the online **playing** rules examination **exercise** (open-book) and online **education** module curriculum

All non-tenured on-ice officials are required to complete an officiating **classroom** seminar program which will include ~~both classroom and~~ online components. ~~Level 1 and Level 2 officials will also be required to participate in an on-ice session as part of the classroom seminar they attend. It is strongly recommended that all first-year Level 3 officials attend an on-ice session while it is recommended all returning Level 3 officials attend an on-ice session as part of their seminar requirement.~~

All officials that will be 17 years old as of December 31 of that registration year will be required to complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport online training prior to participation and in accordance with Safe Sport Program Policies. **and All officials that are 18 years old when the current season membership opens must** fulfill their USA Hockey background screening requirements once every two seasons.

The MINIMUM requirement for each **classroom** seminar component for each level is as follows:

- Level 1: ~~3.5~~ 3.5 hours of virtual classroom time ~~plus 2.5 hours in-person seminar (including ice session)~~ plus designated online **education** modules
- Level 2: ~~3~~ Minimum of 3 hours of virtual classroom time plus designated online modules
- Level 3: ~~3~~ Minimum of 3 hours of **virtual** classroom time plus designated online modules
- Level 4: ~~3~~ Minimum of 3 hours of **virtual** classroom time plus designated online modules

NOTE: Referees-in-chief and local support staff are encouraged to coordinate in-person development events (both classroom and on-ice) for continued education purposes, and all officials are recommended to participate in these events.

There are tenured registration classifications for both Level 3 and Level 4 officials. Officials who have been completely registered at either Level 3 or Level 4 for three consecutive seasons will be eligible to attend the USA Hockey Advanced Officiating Symposium to obtain their "tenured" status. Once tenured status is achieved, those officials will complete the following registration requirements each season to maintain their tenured status for as long as they continue to register with USA Hockey as an official:

- Submit USA Hockey online application and appropriate fee
- Complete ~~open-book exam~~ **playing rules exercise**
- Complete abbreviated online **education** modules
- Complete online SafeSport training prior to participation and in accordance with Safe Sport Program Policies, and fulfill USA Hockey **background** screening requirements every two seasons

Once all appropriate registration requirements have been successfully completed, for the level applied for, and the appropriate information forwarded to the national office, the applicant shall be sent:

- A registration **referee** card for the proper **level** classification based on requirements met
- A sweater crest for the current season
- Additional information regarding insurance coverage and other officiating program resources available to them

When the referee application has been approved and is received with the appropriate fees in the USA Hockey national office, the referee **membership** record will be created and/or updated upon completion of all registration requirements in the USA Hockey database. The district records are available to the referee-in-chief, or their designee, so that local assigners will know who is eligible to officiate.

Registration cards are not transferable and must be renewed annually through the national office.

Officials #5

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

F. OFFICIATING EDUCATION PROGRAM

The objective of the Officiating Education Program is to supply each official with the resources and support to successfully serve the game.

Instructional and support material has been developed on a progressive step-by step basis so that the official can improve their ability and effectiveness over a period of time, be confident that they have received the training to be successful and provide the opportunity to develop their skills in a positive atmosphere. Five levels of achievement have been created for this purpose: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 in addition to the Tenured (Level 3 or 4) program that recognizes our most loyal and dedicated officials.

~~District referees in chief~~ **The National officiating education program** utilizes trained regional instructors to conduct instructional seminars ~~in~~ **with** a standard curriculum dealing with topics like on-ice mechanics, rules interpretation and advanced theories of officiating. All non-tenured registered officials are required to ~~attend~~ **participate in** one **classroom** seminar annually and complete prescribed online education.

Each summer, development camps are conducted with instruction from our top **American** junior, collegiate, professional and international officials. These camps are designed to further the education of selected officials on all levels using the latest educational methods and techniques.

A full complement of resources, including on-line modules, manuals and videos, the mentor program, an evaluation program, and a local officials association manual and assignors' handbook have been developed for educational purposes.

Officials #6

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

C. Referees-in-Chief

(1) National Referee-in-Chief

There shall be a USA Hockey National Referee-in-Chief appointed by the Executive Director subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. His/Her duties shall be:

- a. In cooperation with the Executive Director, to supervise the activities of the officiating education program, the female development, disabled and district referees-in-chief.
- b. To determine and disseminate the official USA Hockey interpretation of the playing rules.
- c. To assist the officiating program ~~director~~ **staff** in the development and preparation of material for USA Hockey referee registration and education program.

(2) Referees-in-Chief

- a. There shall be one referee-in-chief for each registration district. In addition, there shall be one referee-in-chief for female development and one referee-in chief for disabled hockey, both representing the national program.
- b. He/She shall be appointed by the Executive Director, subject to the approval of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Board of Directors**. Affiliate associations may submit recommendations (at least three).
- c. He/She shall have the authority to appoint local supervisors of officials with the approval of the Executive Director. They shall carry out the duties of the referee-in-chief in the designated area prescribed by the referee-in-chief.
- d. In order to avoid a conflict of interest, the referee-in-chief and any local supervisors of officials shall not hold any other position within his/her hockey district outside of the officiating program without the knowledge and consent of the Executive Director, and then only if he/she had held both positions prior to June 7, 2014.
- e. The referee-in-chief and any local supervisors of officials shall not be a voting member in any USA Hockey Affiliate Board of Directors unless he/she had held both positions prior to June 7, 2014.
- f. **His/Her duties shall be:**
 1. Distribute information for official **membership** registration to new officials.
 2. Assist all officials with the completion of the direct registration process.
 3. Make available the proper officiating education resources at officiating **classroom** seminars.
***NOTE:** These resources may not be sold, except through the USA Hockey national office. They are for properly registered USA Hockey officials only.*
 4. View the work of the officials whenever possible and offer constructive feedback. Institute an evaluation **and mentor** program within their district or discipline.
 5. The referee-in-chief shall not assign referees for USA Hockey games, with the exception that he/she shall assign and supervise all referees and ~~linesmen~~ **linespersons** for any regional **district** and/or national championships within their district or discipline.
 6. **Assist with Schedule scheduling** and conducting seminars for the purpose of improving officiating techniques and uniformity by forming **nationally** trained seminar staffs, who shall be responsible for conducting various level seminars in their area.
 7. Seek out and encourage new people to become officials.
 8. He/She shall be a member of an appeal board to hear any appeal of a referee suspension levied by a local supervisor of officials and/or the local amateur hockey governing body. Referees-in-Chief should only be involved at an Affiliate (or national level for female development or disabled) level, not on a local appeal. (See Bylaw 10: Dispute Resolution, Discipline, Arbitration).
 9. It is strongly recommended that he/she not be a member of a review board that has the authority to suspend a player, team or league official or spectator. His/Her opinion may be expressed, but he/she shall not have a vote on the action to be taken.
 10. Disseminate official interpretations of the USA Hockey Playing Rules Committee.
 11. Forward to the rules committee any recommendations for rules changes.

12. Assist in the development of educational materials and serve on a committee to develop such materials if requested.
13. Prepare an annual report of his/her activities.
14. Maintain complete financial records of all income and expenses, such records shall be subject to review and audit by the Audit Committee of this association and/or their designated representative. A copy of their annual financial report shall be available to the Affiliate association involved upon request, through the USA Hockey national office. The Referee-in-Chief will submit an itemized expense reimbursement report of the Referee-in-Chief checking account each month.
15. Recommend officials in his/her district after consultation with the local supervisors of officials for summer officials camps, international competition, national and ~~regional~~ **district** championships and ~~regional~~ **district**/national level programs.
16. The Referees-in-Chief for female development and disabled hockey shall also serve (as non-voting members) on the Girls Council and Disabled Hockey Section, respectively.

Officials #7

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

(1) Officials (Referees and ~~Linesmen~~ Linesperson)

- (a) The Officials Section shall be composed of all Allied Members who register with USA Hockey as ice hockey officials. The voting members of the Officials Section shall be the National Referee-in-Chief, the Referee-in-Chief of Female Development, the National Disabled Referee-in-Chief and the District Referees-in-Chief, as appointed by the Executive Director of USA Hockey. The voting members of the Officials Section shall be entitled to nominate one candidate from its membership to be considered by the Congress for election as the Officials Section Representative to Congress and Section Chair for a three (3) year term, in accordance with the election requirements set forth in paragraph B(2) of Bylaw 4. Upon the election of a Section Chair, the District formerly represented by the Section Chair may elect a replacement District representative to the Officials Section. Effective as of the elections occurring at the 2023 Winter Meeting, no person may serve more than three consecutive terms as the Officials Section Representative to Congress, provided that a person elected to serve a portion of an Officials Section Representative's unexpired term shall be permitted to be elected and serve three full terms thereafter. The Officials Section is exempt from the Athlete Representation Requirement.

Affiliate Presidents #1

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

Affiliate Residency Rule for Tier II and Recreational Hockey Players

1. General Rule

All players participating in Tier II and Recreational hockey must register and play for the affiliate that corresponds to their primary place of residence. A residency is defined as where the player's parents live as the player's primary residence. There may be exceptions to this rule in the case of changes in family dynamics (divorce, death, etc.). These exceptions will be ruled on a case-by-case basis only, determined by the losing Affiliate, gaining Affiliate and President's Committee. "Lives" or "Resides" for this purpose means: "eats, sleeps, attends school and performs normal daily activities from that address. No player may have more than one residence for the purposes of hockey.

2. Exceptions and Appeals Process

Recognizing that individual circumstances may require flexibility, the following exceptions and processes are available:

A. Proximity to Another Affiliate:

- If a player's primary residence is closer to an associate member in a neighboring affiliate, the player may request a Residency/Proximity Waiver Request.

B. Special Circumstances:

- Players facing unique situations, such as family relocation, access to specific educational opportunities, or other exceptional circumstances, may appeal to play outside their home affiliate or district.

C. Existing Written Affiliate Agreements

- Existing or developed written affiliate agreements amongst neighboring affiliates will take precedence over this policy.

3. Waiver and Appeal Application Process

A. Submission:

- Players or guardians must submit a Residency/Proximity Waiver Request Form to their home affiliate.
- The application must include:
 - Justification for the request.
 - Supporting documentation (e.g., proof of residence, maps showing proximity, or other relevant materials).

B. Review Process:

- Waiver requests will be reviewed by a Residency Review Committee consisting of representatives from the home affiliate, neighboring affiliate, and Affiliate President's Committee, appointed by their respective Presidents.

C. Decision Timeline:

- Decisions on waiver requests will be communicated in writing within 14 days of submission.

D. Appeals:

- If a waiver request is denied, the applicant may appeal the decision to the Appeal Authority made up of three disinterested individuals assigned by the President's Committee and there shall be no further appeals~~whose decision is final~~. There are no personal appearances on appeals to the Appeal Authority. The issues set out in the appeal are resolved solely on the written submissions of the parties to the appeal.

4. Compliance and Enforcement

- Players found violating the residency rule without an approved waiver will be deemed ineligible for the season.
- Teams and associations knowingly rostering ineligible players may face penalties, including but not limited to, forfeiture of games, loss of tournament bound status, fines, sanctions, etc.
- All decisions/determinations will fall under USAH Bylaw 10 procedures and policies.

5. Annual Review

This rule will be reviewed annually to ensure it meets the needs of players, affiliates, and districts.

Ethics #1

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

Move Code of Conduct to the Policies Section at C., and renumber Policies thereafter.

Ethics #2

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

Add at the end of Section B:

- When a Responsible Person serves on a hearing or appeal panel regarding a matter in which they were previously involved.

Example: A person was responsible for investigating a Safe Sport or Disciplinary matter and thereafter serves on the hearing or appeal panel or is present for deliberations when discipline or sanctions are determined.

Example: A Person served on a hearing panel to determine discipline, or an Administrative Action and then serves on the appeal panel for the same matter.

Ethics #3

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

(6) Ethics Committee

(a) Composition

The Ethics Committee shall be comprised of six (6) persons, including the Chair, all of whom shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors, provided that the Athletes shall also be subject to the approval of the Athlete Advisory Committee. No member of the Ethics Committee may be a member of the Board or the Congress or hold any other elected or appointed position **(excluding Representatives Emeritus)** within USA Hockey. As a Designated Committee, the Athlete Representation Requirement on the Ethics Committee shall be met by having two Eligible Athletes, one of which must be a 10 Year Athletes and the other may be either a 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athlete, which appointment shall be subject to the approval of the Athlete Advisory Committee and the Board.

(b) Duties and Responsibilities

It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Ethics Committee to:

1. Review and submit proposed revisions to the USA Hockey Code(s) of Conduct, USA Hockey Whistleblower Policy and/or Conflict of Interest Policy for consideration by the Board of Directors;
2. Consider and review alleged breaches of the USA Hockey Code(s) of Conduct, USA Hockey Whistleblower Policy or Conflict of Interest Policy as they apply to members of the Board, Congress and Councils, Committees and Sections; **Associate Registrars, Associate Coaches-in-Chief, Associate Referees-in-Chief and Associate Risk Managers; and other by persons appointed by USA Hockey;** and report all substantive violations to the Board of Directors for referral of adjudication in accordance with the USA Hockey Bylaws;
3. Approve the form of Conflict of Interest Disclosure form to be completed by all members of USA Hockey's Board, Congress, Councils, Committees and Sections; **Associate Registrars, Associate Coaches-in-Chief, Associate Referees-in-Chief and Associate Risk Managers; other by persons appointed by USA Hockey;** and staff;
4. Require the submission of an annual Conflict of Interest Disclosure form by all members of USA Hockey's Board, Congress, Councils, Committees and Sections; **Associate Registrars, Associate Coaches-in-Chief, Associate Referees-in-Chief and Associate Risk Managers; and other by persons appointed by USA Hockey** (requiring the submission of Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms by staff shall be within the authority of the Executive Director);
5. Review Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms by members of USA Hockey's Board, Congress, Councils, Committees and Sections; **Associate Registrars, Associate Coaches-in-Chief, Associate Referees-in-Chief and Associate Risk Managers; and other by persons appointed by USA Hockey;** and investigate and evaluate the existence of any conflicts of interest in particular situations, and how they may be resolved or addressed.
6. Provide an annual report to the Board of Directors and Congress as appropriate;
7. As part of performing its duties as set out above, the Ethics Committee may make inquiry from and request any relevant information from the Board, Congress and all Councils, Committee and Sections, staff members and other individuals within USA Hockey and shall be entitled to conduct or authorize reviews into any alleged violation of any USA Hockey Code(s) of Conduct, USA Hockey Whistleblower Policy and/or Conflict of Interest Policy by any member of the Board, Congress and Councils, Committees and Sections or **Associate Registrars, Associate Coaches-in-Chief, Associate Referees-in-Chief and R Associate Risk Managers or other by persons appointed by USA Hockey.** For avoidance of doubt, the scope of the review is limited to the alleged violation and shall be completely confidential.

The Ethics Committee shall exercise its duties and responsibilities to the highest professional degree possible and shall endeavor to maintain confidentiality of its deliberations and actions and to protect the privacy of individuals before it as required by these Bylaws and applicable law. Any Ethics Committee member with a conflict of interest shall remove themselves from deliberations and abstain from voting on the respective matter(s).

Disabled #2

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

The attainment of that goal begins each summer as USA Hockey hosts a series of national and/or regional Player Development Camps for able-bodied boys and girls ages 14, 15, 16 and 17 as well as a camp for sled hockey players **15 years old and older as of June 30th of the development camp year**. Nearly 1,300 athletes representing each of USA Hockey's 12 districts participate in the week-long events, which attract scouts and evaluators from every level of hockey. Participants receive on- and off-ice training under the direction of leading USA hockey coaches, along with current and former National Hockey League, Women's National Team and National Sled Team players. Participants are chosen through an evaluation process conducted at the local and district levels.

Disabled #6

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION

Youth, Girls, High School, College, Adult, **Disabled Disciplines**

Disabled #7

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

2. Classifications

- Adult Sled ~~(19 & Over)~~ **(18 and over as of December 31st)***
- Youth Sled ~~(18 & Under)*~~ **(Under 18 as of December 31st)*** ~~‡~~
- Special (all ages)
- Amputee/Standing (all ages)
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing (all ages)
- Blind/Visually Impaired (all ages)
- Warrior Hockey (**military** veterans with a disability playing upright)

*** Sled players may be eligible to submit a waiver to play in a different age classification. For further information, please refer to Rule & Regulation Section XIV.**

~~***Sled players 15-17 years of age may be allowed to play on an adult sled team if their skill level and age prevent them from playing in the youth sled division effective upon receiving an approved waiver. Once this age waiver is approved, the player remains eligible to play on an adult sled team until they are age appropriate for that level. Annual waiver requests are not required. If a player aged 15 to 17 has waived onto an adult team for a season or for The Classic/Nationals, they may choose to play in the youth division the following season. If they choose to return to the youth division, they will not be eligible to play adult until they have reached the age of eligibility. All players seventeen (17) years of age or older on or before December 31 of that playing season on the team where this under aged player participates must have a valid SafeSport training completed before the player can join the team. Please refer to Section III. Team Membership and Registration — A. Membership — for details.**~~

~~****Sled players 18 and over may be allowed to play on a youth sled team if their skill level and age prevent them from playing in the adult sled division upon approved waiver. This adult aged player is required to complete Safe Sport training (or receive a SafeSport waiver as appropriate) before joining the youth team. Please refer to Section III. Team Membership and Registration — A. Membership — for details.**~~

~~****In any Disabled Hockey classification, the local program, league, Affiliate or USA Hockey may require that players 18 and over complete a background screen in accordance with USA Hockey's Safe Sport Program prior to participation. Players may be prohibited from participating in disabled classifications based on a violation of the USA Hockey Safe Sport Program policies through a summary suspension where appropriate, or following a hearing in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10.**~~

Disabled #11

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

It is recommended that Youth and Girls , **Girls and Disabled Disciplines** registered ice hockey teams have a team manager. All Youth and Girls national championship bound teams are required to have a team manager. **Disabled Disciplines teams that attend national championship or other USAH sponsored events (e.g. Classics) are required to have a team manager.** A coach who also serves as team manager would register only as a coach. Managers are covered under USA Hockey insurance policies. A team manager who is not registered as a coach may not participate in on-ice activities or be on the bench during games.

USA Hockey Managers/Volunteers, who have access to youth participants, will complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport online training and background check in accordance with USA Hockey SafeSport Policies. Failure to comply with the SafeSport and Screening Policies will result in the forfeiture of privileges in programs, at sites, or events under USA Hockey's governance.

The team manager, locker room monitors and on-ice volunteers (including sled pushers) are required to be added to the team roster.

The team manager shall be the custodian of all documents necessary for credential review prior to participation in invitational tournaments and district, regional and national championships. See Section IX: District Playoffs and National Championships, Subsection P. for complete listing.

Disabled #13

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

- A. Definition of a Game: An ice hockey game is a contest played against another team which is registered with USA Hockey or a member organization of the IIHF **or** an event sanctioned by the IPC/WPIH. USA Hockey playing rules or approved modification thereof shall apply.
- E. (7) Invitational tournaments shall be prohibited from being held within 100 miles of, and on the same weekend as a USA Hockey national championship **and** ~~for~~ no invitational Disabled hockey tournaments shall be held within 100 miles of, and on the same weekend as a **Disabled Discipline Classics.**

Disabled #14

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

Youth Classifications

[13 & 14 (14U), 15-only (15U), 15 & 16 (16U), 17 & 18 (18U)]

Girls Classifications

[13 & 14 (14U), 15 & 16 (16U), 17 to 19 (19U)]

High School

~~Warrior, Adult Sled and Youth Sled~~

Each season, USA Hockey shall conduct state/affiliate and/or district playoffs and national championship tournaments and/or playoffs leading thereto in the Youth, Girls and High School age classifications. ~~USA Hockey shall also conduct national championship tournaments for Warrior Hockey, Youth Sled Hockey and Adult Sled Hockey classifications.~~ The rules and regulations governing eligibility and qualification for the state/affiliate and/or district and national championships are set forth in this Article IX, except for Warrior, Adult Sled and Youth Sled, which are set forth in Section XIV. The USA Hockey Youth Council shall approve a USA Hockey State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook, which shall be published and available on the USA Hockey website on or before September 1 prior to the following year's state/affiliate and/or district and national championship tournaments. Except as set forth herein, to the extent of any contrary information in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, the State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook shall be the binding authority for the requirements, rules, regulations, operation and procedures of all USA Hockey state/affiliate and/or district and national championship tournaments. For regulations applicable to regional, invitational and national championships for the Junior, Adult and Adult classifications **and all Disabled Disciplines**, please contact the appropriate registrar, the junior staff liaison, the Disabled Disciplines staff liaison, or the USA Hockey national office.

NOTE: Each reference to district and national championship tournaments shall refer to state/affiliate and/or district and national championships tournaments and/or playoffs leading thereto.

A. Player and Team Registration

All national tournament-bound teams and players must be registered with USA Hockey and must be a member in good standing of an Affiliate association on or before December 31 of the playing season. Teams competing on natural ice have until January 20 to register. Player changes to the official team roster for youth Tier I and Tier II teams and girls national tournament-bound teams will not be accepted after December 31. ~~Disabled Disciplines should refer to the Disabled Section for roster eligibility and deadlines.~~ For games to count in meeting the 20/10 (14/10 girls) rule, that team's official team roster registration form (1-T) must be certified by the appropriate district registrar or his/her designee prior to that game being played.

B. Coaching Education Requirements (No changes to this section)

C. Team Classifications (NO CHANGES TO Youth/Girls High School language – excluded here for simplicity)

D. Tournament Eligibility and Registration

- (1) Players and registered team members properly classified shall be eligible to participate in state/affiliate and/or district and national championships.

For specifics see:

- (a) Rules & Regulations; Section II: Classifications; Subsections Youth, Girls, High School, ~~Disabled~~ Divisions
 - (b) Rules & Regulations; Section III: Team Membership and Registration; Subsection proper Affiliate for Team/Program Registration ~~and Section E. National Championship-Bound Teams (for Disabled Disciplines)~~
 - (c) Rules & Regulations; Section VI: Team Manager/Volunteer
- (2) The team shall be certified by its appropriate registrar (form 2-C, team roster registration certification) to have complied with all eligibility requirements.

- (a) All players and registered team members shall be listed on the official team roster (1-T) and credential verification sheet (form 1-C).
- (b) All Youth and Girls ~~and Disabled Disciplines~~ national championship bound teams are required to have a team manager and, at minimum, one locker room monitor listed on the official team roster (1-T).
- (c) All national tournament bound teams need to have positions and jersey numbers (home and away) assigned as part of the official team roster (1-T).
- (3) A verification and affirmation that a review of each player's birth certificate ~~or VA disability rating for Warrior Hockey teams~~ has been completed by a district registrar or his/her designee. When no verification and affirmation is provided, a copy of government issued birth certificate, verification of birth or copy of a passport identification page for each rostered player, ~~or VA Disability rating is required.~~ Also, for all High School divisions, evidence of current school enrollment eligibility to participate on the team is required.
- (4) The team's certified player roster and credentials must be in the hands of the championship director one week before the start of the championship.
- (5) The team and each rostered member must be eligible to participate in the state/affiliate and/or district championships in order to participate in the national championships.
- (6) Number of Games for Eligibility – districts and nationals **(NO CHANGES)**
Ineligible Coach(s)/Player(s) – Any coach of a team that knowingly plays an ineligible player(s) shall be suspended from coaching in any games that lead to a state/affiliate and/or district and national championships in the current hockey season.
- (8) **Appeal Procedure** – Should a youth, girls or high school ~~or disabled discipline~~ level team, coach or player(s) be declared ineligible by a final decision of the applicable affiliate, district or registrar to compete in state/affiliate, district and/or national championships, or playoffs leading to a state/affiliate and/or district or national championship, the team, coach or player may appeal its ineligibility to the National Championships Appeal Committee, which shall be comprised of the Youth Council chair, Girls Council chair, Registrar Section chair, National Championship chair, or their designees, and sufficient Eligible Athletes to meet the Athlete Representation Requirement. The National Championships Appeal Committee will add the High School Section Representative in the case of all High School divisions. Upon receipt of the appeal, the National Championships Appeal Committee will render a decision as soon as possible. The decision of this National Championships Appeal Committee shall be final.

E. Number and Qualification of Teams (NO CHANGES TO this section – excluded here for simplicity)

F. Entry Fees

(1) State/Affiliate and/or Districts

Fees should be determined by the cost of running the event. The fee shall be submitted and approved by the national championship chair at least thirty (30) days prior to the state/affiliate and/or district championship. The tournament may charge an entry fee for each team and may not charge a gate. ~~Disabled Discipline fees are set by the Disabled Section.~~

(2) Nationals

Each team at all national tournaments (Youth, Girls and High School) shall pay a tournament entry fee as determined by Section 2(J)(3)(i) of the National Championship Tournament Guidebook. ~~Disabled Discipline teams pay an entry fee prescribed by the Disabled Section.~~

G. Notification of Intent to Enter Team(s) (No Change)

H. Completion Dates (No Change)

I. Age Classifications

~~Disabled Discipline age classifications are in accordance with II—Classifications.~~

All other requirements, rules, regulations, operation and procedures of all USA Hockey state/affiliate and/or district and national championship tournaments shall be set forth in the State/Affiliate and/or District and National Championship Tournament Guidebook ~~or the Disabled Discipline event guidebook as relevant.~~

Disabled #15

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

~~Add in the IPC/IPIH to this section where its relevant.~~

Add a new paragraph A.(6):

(6) All international Sled Hockey games shall follow the rules of the IPC/WPIH.

Disabled #16

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

Sled hockey is played by a wide range of players with a variety of mobility and cognitive limitations **who have** which include, but are not limited to: amputees, spinal cord injuries, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, along with anyone who has a permanent disability that limits participation in stand up hockey. Cognitive limitations are permitted and meet the minimum disability requirement as long as the disability prohibits participation in typical stand up hockey.

In order to meet the minimum disability requirement, an athlete must have a lasting disability that consistently prohibits that individual from playing typical stand up hockey as quantified by standard medical examination and/or testing. A doctor's signed diagnoses and support of play in sled hockey is required.

For participants in sled hockey with disabilities that may be perceived as not meeting the Minimum Disability Requirements will need to complete the Minimum Disability Form. If a player's disability is in question, the player, the player's family, or team coach/manager must provide a doctor's signed documentation along with their Minimum Disability Form completed. These must be provided at any time during competition. The Minimum Disability Form can be found online at usahockey.com/sledrules.

Disabled #17

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

2. Youth-Sled Hockey Age Guidelines and Age Waivers

Age Guidelines

The adult sled hockey division is for players 18 and older as of December 31st of the current playing season.

The youth sled hockey division is for players 17 and under as of December 31st of the current playing season. In addition, players who are 18 years old ~~on~~ as of December 31st of the current **playing** season **and in their last year of high school or equivalent program** can **be rostered and** play ~~on~~ in the youth sled hockey ~~team~~ division if they have never played on any adult team in a USA Hockey-sanctioned game.

All USA Hockey National Sled Hockey Teams are considered adult teams. Any player ~~that~~ who has played with a USA Hockey National Sled Hockey Team, including the U.S. Women's Development Sled Hockey Team, will not be allowed permitted to play on their youth team in sanctioned games and tournaments. **They may participate in practices with youth teams to serve as a leader or mentor.**

Adult to Youth Waivers

= Players ~~that~~ older than 17 years of age as of December 31 of the current playing season and have participated in any USA Hockey sanctioned adult sled game and players older than 18 years of age as of December 31 of the current playing season, may be allowed to play in the youth sled hockey division if a waiver request is submitted and approved by the Sled Hockey Age Waiver **Fair Play** Committee.

= The purpose of this waiver is to allow players with more severe disabilities to play in the youth division, where ~~it~~ **competition** is less physical and **at a slower pace. The approval of this waiver** ~~determination on of approved waivers~~ is based on many factors, but the major consideration will be based on the on-ice ability of the player.

= ~~Sled hockey age waiver requests must be submitted by November 15-~~ **The waiver submission deadline is December 31st** of the current playing season, and must be submitted and approved ~~prior to~~ before the player being allowed to play in the youth sled hockey division.

= Approved Sled Hockey Age Waivers are valid for the entire USA Hockey membership season. If the waiver request is approved, players will be permitted to play in any USA Hockey sanctioned game or tournament. ~~Players with approved waivers are permitted to be dual rostered on a youth sled hockey team and an adult sled hockey team.~~ **Players are not permitted to be dual rostered during the same event/tournament. Once a player has been waived onto a youth or adult team, that player will no longer be eligible to be dual rostered for both divisions going forward.**

= A team manager or coach must submit a waiver request each playing season. Waiver requests may be submitted, depending on whether the previous season's waiver was approved or not. The process and guidelines for submitting a sled hockey age waiver will be determined by the Disabled Hockey Section and posted online at usahockey.com/sledrules ~~no later than August 1~~ each year. Submissions from individual players will not be accepted.

= If a sled hockey age waiver request is denied, ~~a player or~~ team manager may appeal by submitting all supporting documentation **via email** to the chair of the USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Section within seven (7) days of the original denial. A committee of six (6) members (not including ~~the original members of the Fair Play Committee~~) including the Disabled Hockey Section chair will review the appeal. The person submitting the waiver appeal ~~A team manager, coach, or player that submits a waiver request~~ appeal will receive a return email with a determination within ten (10) days of the waiver request submission and if approved, an official letter of approval will be included. If still denied, this decision is final. If, however, such denial is related to the

eligibility to participate in the Sled National Championship, Disabled Hockey Festival and Sled Classic or other national championship events conducted by USA Hockey, then an additional appeal may be referred to and decided by the National Championships Appeal Committee as set forth in Bylaw 10.D.(3)(i).

Youth to Adult Waivers

Youth sled players 15-17 years of age may be allowed to play on an adult sled team if their skill level and age prevent them from playing in the youth sled division upon submission and approval of a waiver. Once this age waiver is approved, the player remains eligible to play on an adult sled team until they are age-appropriate for that level. Annual waiver requests are not required. Players under 15 will not be permitted to play in the adult division.*

If a player aged 15 to 17 has waived onto an adult team for a season or for the Classic/Nationals, they may choose to play in the youth division the following season. If they choose to return to the youth division, they will not be eligible to play adult until they have reached the age of eligibility. All players seventeen (17) years of age or older on or before December 31 of that playing season on the team where this under-aged player participates must have a valid SafeSport training completed before the player can join the team. Please refer to Section III. Team Membership and Registration – A. Membership – for details.

~~All players 17 and older on or before December 31st of that playing season on the team where this under-aged player participates must have a valid SafeSport training completed before the player can join the team. Please refer to Section III. Team Membership and Registration – A. Membership – for details.~~

Players in the youth division who are 15-17 years of age who are contemplating playing up to the adult division but are unsure if they're ready may roster and play on an adult team during the season for specific games and tournaments, with team and tournament director approval, to determine their appropriate path.** Once a **youth** player has submitted and received approval from the Sled Hockey Fair Play Committee to roster with an adult team, they will no longer be eligible to play on a youth team.

The waiver submission deadline is December 31st.

*An exception may be presented to the Sled Fair Play Committee for consideration using the age waiver process.

** Players must play over 50% of the in-season games in their age-specific divisions without an approved age waiver.

~~**Adult to Youth Waivers**~~

~~Players that older than 17 years of age as of December 31 of the current playing season and have participated in any USA Hockey sanctioned adult sled game and players older than 18 years of age as of December 31 of the current playing season, may be allowed to play in the youth sled hockey division if a waiver request is submitted and approved by the Sled Hockey Age Waiver **Fair Play** Committee.~~

~~The purpose of this waiver is to allow players with more severe disabilities to play in the youth division, where it **competition** is less physical and **at** a slower pace. **The approval of this waiver** determination on of approved waivers is based on many factors, but the major consideration will be based on the on-ice ability of the player.~~

~~Sled hockey age waiver requests must be submitted by November 15 **The waiver submission deadline is December 31st** of the current playing season, and must be submitted and approved prior to before the player being allowed to play in the youth sled hockey division.~~

~~Approved Sled Hockey Age Waivers are valid for the entire USA Hockey membership season. If the waiver request is approved, players will be permitted to play in any USA Hockey sanctioned game or tournament. Players with approved waivers are permitted to be dual rostered on a youth sled hockey team and an adult sled hockey team. **Players are not permitted to be dual rostered during the same event/tournament. Once a player has been waived onto a youth or adult team, that player will no longer be eligible to be dual rostered for both divisions going forward.**~~

~~=~~

~~A team manager or coach must submit a waiver request each playing season. Waiver requests may be submitted, depending on whether the previous season's waiver was approved or not. The process and guidelines for submitting a sled hockey age waiver will be determined by the Disabled Hockey Section and posted online at usahockey.com/sledrules no later than August 1 each year. Submissions from individual players will not be accepted.~~

~~=~~

~~If a sled hockey age waiver request is denied, a player or team manager may appeal by submitting all supporting documentation **via email** to the chair of the USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Section within seven (7) days of the original denial. A committee of six (6) members (not including the original members **of the Fair Play Committee**) including the Disabled Hockey Section chair will review the appeal. The person submitting the waiver appeal A team manager, coach, or player that submits a waiver request appeal will receive a return email with a determination within ten (10) days of the waiver request submission and if approved, an official letter of approval will be included. If still denied, this decision is final. If, however, such denial is related to the eligibility to participate in the Sled National Championship, Disabled Hockey Festival and Sled Classic or other national championship events conducted by USA Hockey, then an additional appeal may be referred to and decided by the National Championships Appeal Committee as set forth in Bylaw 10.D.(3)(i).~~

The Sled Fair Play Committee

The Sled Hockey Age-Waiver **Fair Play** Committee will consist of ~~at least two~~ **three people** members that appropriately represent the discipline appointed by the chair of the Disabled Hockey Section **who represent the players and teams of the discipline. This committee shall review waivers, place teams in competitive brackets for the Sled Classic and National Tournament and other duties as relevant for the discipline.**

Disabled #18

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

(3) Sled Hockey Roster Eligibility

~~Sled hockey players will roster with their closest local team/program according to their place of residence (their home program). Players attending school or temporarily relocated for business or personal reasons during the season will consider their temporary address to determine their local team/program. USA Hockey recognizes that some programs may be some distance from a player. Regardless of the distance, the closest team/program to the player is where they are expected to register and roster for all in-season and post-season play.~~

Without an approved sled hockey waiver, sled hockey players must be rostered and play with the sled team/program closest to them and have their primary current residence within a geographical area of a 100 miles driving distance of their sled hockey team's main practice facility (home rink). The player's closest sled team/program is determined by the distance in driving miles from the player's primary residence to the sled team's main practice facility (home rink).

~~Players may be permitted to be dual-rostered on two youth or two adult teams during the season only if the player's home program does not participate in a league or the player's home program does not have a team at the player's competition level. In both cases, the player may dual roster with the approval of both the home program and when appropriate, their league. Requests and approvals to dual roster will be handled by the teams/programs/leagues involved. The Sled Fair Play Committee will only review age waivers and manage the National Travel Roster.~~

Sled Hockey players must register with their closest program, but may dual roster on two youth or two adult teams during the season to increase opportunities for play only if the player's home program does not participate in a league or the player's home program does not have a team at the player's competition level. In both cases, the player may dual roster with the approval of both the home program and when appropriate, their league. Sled players may not dual roster at the same game/event/tournament and must play with their local program if the local program is in attendance**. Roster and league eligibility shall be managed by the teams and league/tournament directors involved according to their local Affiliate or District, except for the Sled Classic and USA Hockey Sled Nationals. The rosters for those events shall be managed by the Disabled Hockey Section Fair Play Committee.

***girls/women sled players may dual roster during a tournament with tournament director approval in order to increase opportunities and grow the game.

A USA Hockey Sled National Travel Roster will be created for those players who wish to participate in the Sled National Championship in the case when their home program is not participating. Teams and programs must submit the names of those players interested in being added to the National Travel Roster on behalf of their players by not later than December 31st of the current playing season to the Sled Fair Play Committee. Submissions from individual players will not be accepted. Requests to be added to a specific participating program's roster may be accepted, but the Sled Fair Play Committee shall make the final decision on player placement in this instance.

Adult players wishing to participate in the Sled Classic Tournament will be rostered with a team that represents their closest NHL program. The Disabled Section will identify one official program per NHL team that will handle rosters for this event.

The Sled Fair Play Committee will only approve travel waivers for the Sled National Championship.

USA Disabled Hockey will provide programs/teams and tournament directors with the tools they need to collect and approve waivers for their events. A receipt of all players waived for games/events/tournaments will be submitted to the Sled Fair Play Committee that demonstrates that both the home program and the program the player will be waived onto have approved for that transaction to occur. Tournament directors are expected to follow all USA roster rules when approving waivers. Failure to follow the rules may result in disciplinary action up to the denial of any further sanctions requests.

~~Players cannot be dual rostered on two youth teams or two adult teams, but are permitted to be dual rostered on a youth team and adult team. Players will only be allowed to play and be rostered on one team at the USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Festival.~~

~~Players under the age of 17 may play in the Adult Division, however, significant consideration should be given whether a younger player is ready and able to play in the adult division~~

~~Any deviation from the sled hockey roster eligibility rules, including players who do not reside within 100 miles driving distance or who wish to be dual rostered (i.e. league team and tournament team), must submit a Sled Hockey Waiver Request and be approved by the Sled Hockey Waiver Committee.~~

The process and guidelines for submitting a Sled Hockey [age or distance](#) Waiver will be determined by the Disabled Hockey Section and posted online at usahockey.com/sledrules no later than August 1 each year.

Teams intending to participate in the Adult National Sled Championship or the Sled Hockey Classic, must follow the respective roster rules as published in the Disabled Hockey Tournament/Event Guidebook, **or the National Tournament Guidebook as appropriate** which will be posted online at usahockey.com/sledrules by August 1 each year.

Disabled #19

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:-

Change heading under Section XIV for "A. Sled Hockey" to "C. Sled Hockey."

(4) Able-Bodied Players

Three able-bodied players are ~~not~~ allowed to play in the youth **and adult** sled hockey divisions for any USA Hockey sanctioned game **or practice** involving two sled hockey teams **provided they are not replacing a disabled player when one is identified and available. Only two able bodied players** ~~are~~ **is** **permitted on the ice at one time. Able bodied players are not permitted to be goaltenders** . Able-bodied players ~~are permitted to practice with a youth sled hockey team and~~ are permitted to play in a game involving a sled hockey team versus an able-bodied team as long as the able-bodied players all are playing in sleds. **All able bodied players must be marked on the roster or scoresheet as "AB"**

~~Adult sled hockey teams are permitted to dress and play three (3) able-bodied players in any given game and must be marked on the scoresheet with an "AB." Able-bodied players may not play the goalkeeper position.~~

Disabled #20

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

Each season, USA Hockey shall conduct a Sled National Championship, Disabled Hockey Festival **Warrior National Championship, a Warrior Classic**, a Sled Classic, **a Special Hockey Classic and a Blind Hockey Classic**, and may in its discretion conduct **other** national championships or other events and tournaments in other disabled hockey disciplines.

The rules and regulations governing eligibility and qualification as well as tournament-specific rules shall be published in the Disabled **Disciplines** Hockey Tournament/Event Guidebook(s), which shall be published and available on the USA Hockey Disabled Disciplines website on or before September 1 **the start** of the current playing season. **The Event Guidebook(s) may be published as separate documents for each Disabled Discipline or may be combined with the USA Hockey National Tournament Guidebook as appropriate.** The Disabled Hockey Section will approve all such **event** rules and regulations at the USA Hockey Annual Meeting, just prior to the applicable playing season. Any changes to the Disabled **Disciplines** Hockey Tournament/Event Guidebook(s) must be submitted to the chair of the Disabled Hockey Section by April 1 ~~to be considered~~ **for consideration and ratification** by the Disabled Hockey Section **at the Annual meeting**. Except as set forth herein, to the extent of any contrary information in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, the Disabled **Disciplines** Hockey Tournament/Event Guidebook(s) shall be the binding authority for the requirements, rules, regulations, operation and procedures of **the Sled National Championship, Warrior National Championship, Warrior Classic, Sled Classic, Special Hockey Classic and Blind Hockey Classic** Sled Hockey National Championships, Disabled Hockey Festival, Sled Classic and other applicable events. Any appeal of eligibility of a team, coach or player to participate in these **events** Sled National Championship, Disabled Hockey Festival and Sled Classic or other national championship events conducted by USA Hockey, following a final decision by the applicable registrar or eligibility committee appointed by the Disabled Hockey Section, are not subject to Bylaw 10 and shall be referred to and decided by the National Championships Appeal Committee as set forth in Bylaw 10.D.(3)(i).

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

F. Warrior Hockey.

Warrior Hockey is dedicated to injured and disabled U.S. military veterans who have served our country and play the sport of ice hockey.

USA Hockey requires that all programs be fully sanctioned with all teams, players, volunteers, coaches and staff, fully registered with USA Hockey.

To be eligible, every player must have been discharged under "Honorable" conditions with the ability to provide official documentation from at least one of the six branches of service (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force) and/or their respective Reserve and/or National Guard components. Official documentation from the Department of Veterans Affairs is also acceptable provided it shows "Honorable" character of service. Any exceptions must be approved by the USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Section.

Players must also meet one of the following criteria for eligibility:

1. Players must possess a minimum of 0% combined service-connected disability through a Department of Veterans Affairs evaluation and show an "Honorable" character of service designation. Players must be able to provide the Department of Veterans Affairs Benefit Letter showing this information.
2. Players who are recipients of a Purple Heart Award are eligible regardless of their current Department of Veterans Affairs combined service-connected disability status but must have been discharged from the service. Players must be able to provide their Department of Defense issued Purple Heart Medal Award citation along with a DD214 showing "Honorable" service.
3. ~~3.~~ Rosters cannot exceed 20 players.

Proof of eligibility must be presented for verification before team check-in at USA Hockey events. Eligibility documentation will not be accepted on site at an event. The USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Section Chairperson in consultation with the Warrior Discipline representative must approve any exceptions to this eligibility criteria in advance of participation.

Warrior Hockey is played utilizing Adult Hockey playing rules.

All Warrior Hockey tournaments and events must follow the USA Hockey standard protocol for sanctioning.

The Warrior Advisory Committee

The Warrior Advisory Committee will consist of at least three people appointed by the chair of the Disabled Hockey Section who represent the players and teams of the discipline. This committee shall review place teams in competitive brackets for the Warrior Classic and National Tournament and other duties as relevant for the discipline.

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

A. Blind Hockey.

Blind Ice Hockey is played similarly to typical hockey, with a few adaptations to make it accessible to players who are blind or visually impaired. The most significant adaptation is the puck, which makes noise and is larger and slower than a traditional hockey puck.

A blind hockey puck specification is:

- **Material: 22-gauge steel**
- **Construction: Hollow**
- **Color: Black**
- **Contains: 8 ball bearings**
- **Diameter: 5 1/2 inches / 14 centimeters**
- **Height: 1 7/8 inches / 4.8 cm**
- **Weight: 7.76 ounces / 220 grams**

The sport of Blind Hockey is played by athletes who are blind or visually impaired. Players must meet the criteria of one of the three International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) classifications or the United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) Recognized Low Vision Classification of B4. The criteria for each classification are below.

IBSA Class B1: There is no light perception in either eye up to light perception, but they are unable to recognize the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction.

IBSA Class B2: From the ability to recognize the shape of a hand up to visual acuity of 20/600 and/or a visual field of less than 5 degrees in the best eye with the best practical eye correction.

IBSA Class B3: From visual acuity above 20/600 and up to visual acuity of 20/200 and/or a visual field of less than 20 degrees and more than 5 degrees in the best eye with the best practical eye correction.

USABA Recognized Low Vision Class B4: From visual acuity above 20/200 and up to visual acuity of 20/70 and a visual field larger than 20 degrees in the best eye with the best practical eye correction.

Blind hockey teams can include both youth and adult players. When both youth and adult players participate on the same team, all adult players are required to complete SafeSport training.

All Blind Hockey tournaments and events must follow the USA Hockey standard protocol for sanctioning.

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

B. Deaf/Hearing Impaired Hockey.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Hockey is for individuals diagnosed with hearing loss. Instruction is based on the player's ability to communicate with coaches using American Sign Language, lip reading, hearing aids, or cochlear implants. Interpreters may be used as needed and are welcome on the bench.

Eligibility for participation on a deaf/hearing impaired team requires that a player has at least a 55-decibel hearing loss in their better hearing ear. All other players need to be diagnosed with some hearing loss to participate.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing hockey teams can include both youth and adult players. When both youth and adult players participate on the same team, all adult players are required to complete SafeSport training.

All Deaf/Hard of Hearing Hockey tournaments and events must follow the USA Hockey standard protocol for sanctioning.

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

D. Special Hockey.

Special hockey aims to give people with cognitive and/or developmental disabilities the opportunity to play ice hockey in an environment adapted to their level of ability. It emphasizes having fun through teamwork and social interaction and improving the quality of life through on- and off-ice activities.

Individuals with developmental disabilities who experience limitations in three or more major core life competencies: capacity for independent living, economic self-sufficiency, learning, mobility, receptive and expressive language, and self-care/direction are eligible to play Special Hockey. Common developmental disabilities include, but are not limited to: Autism Spectrum disorders, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, ADD/ADHD, Seizures, Neurological disorders, and intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Special Hockey requires that players skate upright and unassisted. As such, assistive skating devices are not permitted during any games. However, players who are new to the sport and are developing their skating ability may use an assistive device on the ice during practice, provided its use does not endanger other participants on the ice.

Special Hockey players are rated as A, B and C based on their playing ability.

A Level

- Able to skate unassisted
- Able to play at a faster pace
- Able to play structured game with minimal to no assistance
- Has more advanced hockey skills
- Has better understanding of game rules and concepts
- Able to follow rules/instruction/drills
- Always engaged in the play
- Has the ability to change shifts on the fly
- Needs no prompting
- On-ice helpers are not permitted at this level.

B Level

- Able to skate unassisted
- Able to play at a mid-level pace
- Able to play structured game with minimal assistance
- Has mid-level hockey skills
- Has a basic understanding of game rules and concepts
- Able to follow rules/instruction/drills (occasional prompting may be needed)
- Mostly engaged in the play
- May need assistance in positioning
- May need occasional prompting
- On-ice helpers at this level are not permitted to have sticks on the ice. They must wear helmets in accordance with USA Hockey rules. They must be listed on the roster.

C Level

- May need assistance in skating
- Able to play at a slower pace
- Needs assistance to play a structured game

- **Has lower level hockey skills**
- **Has limited understanding of game rules and concepts**
- **Has difficulty following rules/instruction/drills**
- **May need some/constant prompting to engage in the play**
- **Needs assistance in positioning**
- **On-ice helpers at this level are not permitted to have sticks on the ice. They must wear helmets in accordance with USA Hockey rules. They must be listed on the roster.**

Special hockey teams can include both youth and adult players. When both youth and adult players participate on the same team, all adult players are required to complete SafeSport training.

All Special Hockey tournaments and events must follow the USA Hockey standard protocol for sanctioning.

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

E. Standing Amputee Hockey.

Standing Amputee hockey is played upright and follows typical ice hockey rules. It has allowed a growing number of athletes with congenital or acquired amputations or other physical impairments to participate. Players use prostheses to control a hockey stick or to skate.

Players may be added to Standing Amputee rosters if they are missing one or more upper or lower extremities.

Standing Amputee hockey teams can include both youth and adult players. When both youth and adult players participate on the same team, all adult players are required to complete SafeSport training.

All Standing Amputee Hockey tournaments and events must follow the USA Hockey standard protocol for sanctioning.

Disabled #26

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

The duties and responsibilities of a Disabled Hockey District/Discipline Representatives shall be, but not be limited to, the following:

- Assist with the affairs of the Disabled Hockey Section in cooperation with USA Hockey District/ Affiliate Associations and the USA Hockey Board of Directors and assume other responsibilities as may be appropriate when possible.
- Serve as the first contact **representative** from their respective district/disciplines **District/Discipline** to the USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Section.
- ~~Act as USA Hockey's troubleshooter in his/her respective district/disciplines and facilitate the resolution of disputes within/between the various member organizations in his/her district/disciplines and with any USA Hockey Affiliate association(s).~~
- Serve as liaison between the various member organizations within their respective district/disciplines **District/Discipline** and USA Hockey.
- Attend the annual meetings of the various member organizations and the USA Hockey ~~d~~**District/a**Affiliate association(s) on behalf of **their** his/her district/disciplines **District/Discipline** when possible.
- Disseminate information from the USA Hockey national office to all member organizations within **their** his/her district/disciplines **District/Discipline**.
- Attend the USA Hockey Annual Meeting and the Winter Meeting. **Three consecutive absences may be grounds for replacement.**
- Inform [USA Hockey and](#) USA Hockey, and the eChair of the Disabled Hockey Section when any USA Hockey Bylaws, Rules and Regulations are not being complied with.
- Perform any other duties as may be directed by the eChair of the USA Hockey Disabled Hockey Section.
- Encourage all **programs**/teams within **their** his/her district/disciplines **District/Discipline** to register **and roster** with USA Hockey.
- Assist new teams and organizations **which may include establishing governance, educating about the benefits and rules of USA Hockey and connecting the new team/organization with other programs in close proximity for games, etc., and utilizing resources within the Disabled Section and the National office as needed.**
- Disseminate information from **the** USA Hockey national office, **including** actions of **the Congress and the Executive Committee** and Board of Directors.
- Forward respective district/disciplines **District/Discipline** newsworthy items to the USA Hockey national office for publication in the USA Hockey Magazine and website.
- **To serve as the tournament co-director for District, regional and national tournaments held within their District.**
- **Perform duties timely as assigned by the Chair of the Disabled Section to maintain operating and playing rules, education resources and other items as necessary to provide clear and current guidance to the Disabled Hockey community.**

Governance #1

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

1. **District Representatives**

- (a) Persons in the Congress elected to represent Districts are referred to herein as "**District Representatives.**" Each District of USA Hockey shall be represented in the Congress by one (1) District Representative who shall represent the Registered Participant Members of their District. Districts registering more than 10,000 but less than 20,000 paid Registered Participant Members shall be entitled to a second Representative; Districts registering more than 20,000 but less than 28,000 **paid** Registered Participant Members shall be entitled to a third District Representative. Districts registering more than 28,000 paid Registered Participant Members shall be entitled to a fourth District Representative. No District shall be entitled to more than four (4) District Representatives.

Governance #2

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

Add New Subsection (8) titled "Filling Vacancies in Congress"

(8) Filling Vacancies on the Congress

In the event of a vacancy in a position in the Congress caused by the resignation, removal or withdrawal of any Representative, or such person is unable to complete their full term of service for which they were elected, such position may be filled for the remainder of the term in the manner set forth below for each position:

- a. Officer positions shall be filled in the manner set forth in Bylaw 5.A(3).
- b. District Representatives shall be filled by a vote of the applicable governing authority for such District.
- c. Section Representatives shall be filled by a vote of the voting representatives of the applicable Section, except that the Professional Hockey Organizations Section shall appoint their Representative.
- d. Representatives At-Large shall be filled by a vote of the Congress at its next meeting.
- e. The Affiliate Presidents Representative shall be filled by a vote of the Affiliate Presidents Committee at its next meeting.
- f. The Independent Representative shall be filled by a vote of the Board of Directors at the Board's next meeting.

g. The Athlete Representatives shall be filled in the manner set forth in Bylaw 4.C.(6).

g-h. Any person elected to serve a portion of an unexpired term in the above positions shall thereafter be permitted to be elected and serve the number of consecutive full terms as are permitted for such position.

Governance #3

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

XV. USA HOCKEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

B. Registrars

(1) District Registrars

(e) His/Her duties shall be:

7. Disseminate information from the USA Hockey national office, actions of the Executive Committee **Congress** and Board of Directors.

17. **Annual Budget:** Registrars must prepare and submit an annual budget to the Executive Director for review by the Executive Committee **Board of Directors** and approval at the Annual Meeting. Approved expenses included on the budget will be reimbursed to the registrars during the year on a monthly basis. The registrars are required to submit a monthly expense reimbursement application and only those budgeted expenses will be reimbursed. Any expenses not included in the district's approved budget will have to be approved by the Executive Director before they are paid by the registrar.

C. Referees-in-Chief

(2) Referees-in-Chief

- (a) There shall be one referee-in-chief for each registration district. In addition, there shall be one referee-in-chief for female development and one referee-in chief for disabled hockey, both representing the national program.
- (b) He/She shall be appointed by the Executive Director, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee **Board of Directors**. Affiliate associations may submit recommendations (at least three).

D. Coaches-in-Chief

(2) District Coaches-in-Chief

- (a) There shall be one coach-in-chief for each registration district. In addition, there shall be one coach-in-chief for female development and one coach-in chief for disabled hockey, both representing the national program.
- (b) He/She shall be appointed by the Executive Director, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee **Board of Directors**. Affiliate associations may submit recommendations (at least three).

(g) His/Her duties shall be:

4. **Annual Budget:** Coaches-in-chief must prepare and submit an annual budget for review by the Executive Committee **Board of Directors** and approval at the Annual Meeting. Approved expenses included on the budget will be reimbursed to the coaches-in-chief during the year on a monthly basis. The coaches-in-chief are required to submit a monthly expense reimbursement application and only those budgeted expenses will be reimbursed. Any expenses not included in the district's approved budget will have to be approved by the Executive Director or CEP Director, before they are paid to the coach-in-chief.

E. Risk Managers

(2) District Risk Managers

- (a) There shall be one risk manager for each district and one national disabled hockey risk manager.
- (b) He/She shall be nominated by the Executive Director, subject to the approval of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Board of Directors**. Affiliate associations may submit recommendations (at least three).

18. **Annual Budget:** Risk managers must prepare and submit an annual budget to the Executive Director for review by the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Board of Directors** and approval at the Annual Meeting. Approved expenses included on the budget will be reimbursed to the risk managers during the year on a monthly basis. The risk managers are required to submit a monthly expense reimbursement application and only those budgeted expenses will be reimbursed. Any expenses not included in the approved budget will have to be approved by the Executive Director or designees of USA Hockey before they can be paid.

F. Disabled Hockey District/Discipline Representatives

The duties and responsibilities of a Disabled Hockey District/Discipline Representatives shall be, but not be limited to, the following:

- Disseminate information from USA Hockey national office, actions of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Congress** and Board of Directors.

G. Player Safety Coordinator

- (1) There shall be one player safety coordinator for each district.
- (2) He/She shall be appointed by the Executive Director, subject to the approval of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Board of Directors**. Districts or SPEC should submit names for the district position (up to three).

(6) His/Her duties shall be:

- (e) **Annual Budget:** Player Safety Coordinators must prepare and submit an annual budget for review by the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Board of Directors** and approval at the Annual Meeting. Approved expenses included on the budget will be reimbursed to the player safety coordinator during the year on a monthly basis. The player safety coordinators are required to submit a monthly expense reimbursement application and only those budgeted expenses will be reimbursed. Any expenses not included in the district's approved budget will have to be approved by the Executive Director or Manager of Player Safety, before they are paid to the player safety coordinator.

Governance #4

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

4.C.(6) Athlete Representatives

Each Athlete Representative shall be elected by a representative democratic election held by Eligible Athletes to staggered three (3) year terms. The Athlete Directors elected under Bylaw 4.E.(3) shall be eight (8) of the Athlete Representatives, with the remaining nine (9) Athlete Representatives being elected from such number of 10 Year Athletes and 10+ Year Athletes candidates as are required to meet the Athlete Representation Requirement. ~~The election of athletes to fill the required 10 Year Athlete positions shall be held first, followed by the election to fill the positions that may be held by either 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes.~~ **The election of the Athlete Directors who are also Athlete Representatives shall be held first, followed by the election of the Athlete Representatives. In each election, the 10 Year Athlete positions shall be filled by the 10 Year Athlete(s) receiving the highest number of votes, and the remaining positions that may be filled by either 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes shall be filled by the persons receiving the most votes from among either 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes.** In the event that an Athlete Representative shall be unable, for any reason, to serve his/her full term then the Athlete Advisory Committee may immediately appoint an Athlete Representative from a list of 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes (based on the Athlete Representative being replaced) to serve for the unexpired term of the Athlete Representative being replaced provided that, any vacancy in a position as an AAC Representative or AAC Alternate Representative shall be filled as required by the bylaws or policies of the USOPC AAC.

4.E.(3) Athlete Directors

(b) Each Athlete Director shall be elected by a representative democratic election held by 10 Year Athletes. Each Athlete Director shall be elected to staggered three (3) year terms. **In each election, the 10 Year Athlete positions shall be filled by the 10 Year Athlete(s) receiving the highest number of votes among 10 year athletes, and the remaining positions that may be filled by either 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes shall be filled by the persons receiving the most votes from among either 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes.** In the event that an Athlete Director shall be unable, for any reason, to serve his/her full term, then the Athlete Advisory Committee may immediately appoint an Athlete Director from a list of Eligible Athletes to serve for the unexpired term of the Athlete Director being replaced provided that, any vacancy in a position as an AAC Representative or AAC Alternate Representative shall be filled as required by the bylaws or policies of the USOPC AAC. Effective as of the elections occurring at the 2024 Annual Meeting, no Athlete Director can serve as an Athlete Director for more than three consecutive terms, provided that a person elected to serve a portion of an Athlete Director's unexpired term shall be permitted to be elected and serve three full terms thereafter.

(c) Election of 10 Year Athletes to the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) Athletes Advisory Council (AAC).

- ~~1. Athlete Directors~~ **The Eligible Athletes who are 10 Year Athletes** will elect ~~A-a~~ 10 Year Athlete as: (i) an Athlete Director ("AAC Representative") to represent USA Hockey on the Athletes' Advisory Council ("AAC") of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, and (ii) an Athlete Director to serve as the AAC Representative's alternate ("AAC Alternate Representative").
- ~~2. The Athlete Advisory Committee shall elect the AAC Representative and AAC Alternate~~ **shall be elected** in compliance with any requirements of the AAC Bylaws and AAC Member Elections and Voting Policy.
3. The AAC Representative shall serve at the minimum a full (or partial, if applicable) quad, and at the maximum, if re-elected pursuant to Section 1 above, two quads. For purposes of this section, "quad" shall mean the period between and including two consecutive Summer Olympic Games.

Governance #5

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

F. Powers of Board

- (15) The Board of Directors shall be empowered to act on the behalf of the Congress on matters within the authority of the Congress between meetings of the Congress provided that (a) the Board shall not have the authority to amend, alter, or repeal the Bylaws, **Policies, Programs & Philosophies** or **Affiliate Agreement**, Rules and Regulations, but may recommend such changes to the Congress for consideration and (b) **upon recommendation by the applicable Council, Committee or Section**, the Board shall have the authority to amend, alter or repeal Rules and Regulations **between meetings of the Congress if the Board determines the change is needed immediately** ~~only in the case of an emergency when a vote of the Congress cannot reasonably be obtained~~, and in such event the action taken by the Board shall be placed on the agenda at the next meeting of the Congress for ratification, amendment or repeal.

8. MEETINGS OF THE USA HOCKEY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE CONGRESS

A. Procedure for Placing Items on the Agenda for the USA Hockey Winter Meeting:

- (1) Proposed changes, additions or deletions to USA Hockey Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Programs and Philosophies, Policies, Duties and Responsibilities and/or Affiliate Agreement [Annual Guide].
- (a) Commencing in January ~~2024~~**2026**, those matters referenced in subsection (1) above may only be changed or modified every two (2) years and in even numbered years thereafter, **except as provided in Section A.(1)(b) or (c) below or Bylaw 4.F(15)**. Any member wishing to place an item on the agenda for the USA Hockey Winter Meeting that will be a change, addition or deletion to those matters referred to in subsection (1) above, must do so by presenting it to the principal office of USA Hockey, in writing, not later than April 1 of the year preceding the rule-change year. Items submitted must include the specific wording of the proposed change, addition or deletion. The following procedure must then be followed:
1. April 1 – Received in the USA Hockey national office.
 2. May 1 – Post on the USA Hockey website and mail or email to the Board of Directors, Representatives to the USA Hockey Congress and Affiliate Presidents.
 3. May 15 – Proposals made by the President or Board after April 1 shall be accepted and posted on the USA Hockey website and mailed or emailed to the Board of Directors, Congress Representatives and Affiliate Presidents.
 4. June Meeting (Annual Meeting)
 - a. Review and discuss by appropriate Councils, Sections and/or Committees.
 - b. Review, discuss and amend by the USA Hockey Congress.
 - c. Withdraw any proposals at the request of the person submitting the proposal.
 - d. Cause any proposals to be defeated at the Annual Meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Congress Representatives present at such meeting.
 5. September 1 – Post the final proposals on the USA Hockey website and mail or email to the Board of Directors, Congress Representatives and Affiliate Presidents.
 6. January Meeting (Winter Meeting) – Vote on the proposals by the USA Hockey Congress at the USA Hockey Winter Meeting. If a proposal is amended and it is determined by the procedure below to be a major amendment, then the proposal, as amended, will be postponed until the next meeting of the USA Hockey Congress. If there is an amendment (motion and a second) to any rule or legislative proposal, the proposed amendment is considered first. If the amendment does not pass, the proposal will remain on the table in its original form. If the amendment passes, then consideration of whether the amendment is a minor or major amendment may be made at any time before the final vote on the proposal. If, by a majority vote of the Congress Representatives present, the Congress

Representatives determine that the amendment is a major amendment, then the entire proposal, as amended, will be postponed until the next meeting of the USA Hockey Congress. If the Congress Representatives determine that the amendment is a minor amendment, then the proposal as amended may remain on the table for consideration during that meeting of the USA Hockey Congress.

7. Unless specified otherwise in the legislation adopting such, changes, additions or deletions to the USA Hockey Bylaws, and Duties and Responsibilities adopted at a January Meeting (Winter Meeting) shall be effective as of the close of the Winter Meeting following adoption of such changes, modifications or deletions. Unless specified otherwise in the legislation adopting such, changes, additions or deletions to the USA Hockey Rules and Regulations, and Programs, & Philosophies, and Policies shall be effective on April 1 following adoption of such changes, modifications or deletions. **Unless specified otherwise in the legislation adopting such, changes, additions or deletions to the Affiliate Agreement shall be effective on September 1 following adoption of such changes, modifications or deletions.**
8. ~~Notwithstanding the foregoing, changes to the Rules and Regulations made by the Board of Directors, pursuant to these Bylaws, in between meetings of the USA Hockey Congress shall automatically be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Congress for ratification, amendment or repeal.~~

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section A.(1)(a) above, changes, additions or deletions to the USA Hockey Bylaws or Affiliate Agreement may be made at any meeting of the Congress so long as the proposal (i) is required for USA Hockey's compliance with the requirements of the USOPC, US Center for SafeSport, the IIHF or applicable law, (ii) has been approved by the Legal Council and by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, and (iii) provided to the Congress no less than thirty (30) days prior to the Congress meeting.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section A.(1)(a) above, changes, additions or deletions to the Programs & Philosophies, Policies, and Rules and Regulations of USA Hockey may be made annually if approved by the appropriate Council, Committee or Section and approved by the Board of Directors. Further, changes to the Rules and Regulations made by the Board of Directors, pursuant to Bylaw 4.F(15), in between meetings of the USA Hockey Congress shall automatically be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Congress for ratification, amendment or repeal.

- (3) Any member wishing to place an item on the agenda for the USA Hockey Winter Meeting, other than stated in (1) and (2) above, must do so by presenting it to the principal office of USA Hockey, in writing, not later than November 1. Any member wishing to place an item on the agenda for the USA Hockey Annual Meeting, other than stated in (1) and (2) above, must do so by presenting it to the principal office of USA Hockey, in writing, not later than April 1.
- (4) Items submitted for the agenda of the Annual Meeting or Winter Meeting must also be sent by the submitter to the chair of the appropriate Council, Committee and Section along with a single paragraph explaining the intent and purpose of the proposal **and any budgetary impact**. ~~Any item submitted by a member shall have attached to it the proof of submission of the proposed item to their Affiliate Association or District organization.~~ The complete agenda for the Winter Meeting will be published by the principal office of USA Hockey not later than December 15. The complete agenda for the Annual Meeting will be published by the principal office of USA Hockey not later than April 15.
- (5) Any item determined by the Board of Directors to be in the same form, or substantially similar form, to one which was rejected or withdrawn at the previous Winter Meeting, cannot be placed on the agenda of the upcoming Winter Meeting of the USA Hockey Congress, unless it has received a two-thirds majority vote of approval by the (i) Board or appropriate Council, Committee or Section and (ii) the Congress, in that order, recommending that it be placed on the agenda.

- (6) After the appropriate timeline to receive agenda items, any additional items that are to receive consideration of the USA Hockey Congress must receive two-thirds approval of those present at the Congress meeting in order to be placed on the agenda.
- (7) ~~Proposals for changing the Rules and Regulations of USA Hockey shall be made by the USA Hockey Congress in even-numbered years only, provided, however, proposals for changing the Rules and Regulations may be made annually if approved by the appropriate Council, Committee or Section and approved by the Board of Directors.~~

12. AMENDMENTS

- A.** Amendments to these Bylaws shall only be made every two years commencing in ~~2014~~ **2026** and shall be made only at a Winter Meeting of the USA Hockey Congress held in even-numbered years, provided, however, that amendments to these Bylaws may also be made at a ~~Winter Meeting held in an odd-numbered year if~~ **any meeting of the Congress so long as the proposal (i) is required for USA Hockey's compliance with the requirements of the USOPC, US Center for SafeSport, the IIHF or applicable law, (ii) has been** approved by the **Legal Council** ~~appropriate USA Hockey council or committee and approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors and (iii) provided to the Congress no less than thirty (30) days prior to the Congress meeting.~~ Amendments ~~in any year~~ shall be permitted only after specific notice to the principal office of USA Hockey in writing pursuant to the provisions of Bylaws 7 and 8 herein. The principal office of USA Hockey shall communicate such proposed amendments or alterations to each director ~~by May 1 prior to such Annual Meeting~~ **according to the timeline in Bylaw 8**. All amendments to these Bylaws shall require a two-thirds majority vote by the USA Hockey Congress under the authority granted in Bylaw 4, and compliance with Bylaw 8.
- B.** The Executive Director shall notify all Congress Representatives of any changes in the Bylaws or Rules and Regulations of USA Hockey within thirty (30) days of the date of the change.

Governance #6

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

4.B.(5) Independent Representative

There shall be one (1) Independent Representative to the USA Hockey Congress. The person meeting the requirements to be an Independent Director of USA Hockey, as set forth in Bylaw 4.E.(76) shall also serve as the Independent Representative.

4.C.(5) Independent Representative

The Independent Representative to the Congress shall be elected in the manner as set forth in Bylaw 4.E.(76).

4.E.(6) Independent Director

~~The Board of Directors shall elect an Independent Director at the Winter Meeting in 2023 to an initial term expiring at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting in 2025, and thereafter the Independent Director shall serve for a three (3) year term.~~ **The incumbent Independent Director shall continue to serve in office until expiration of the term at the conclusion of the 2028 Annual Meeting. Beginning with the Independent Director election at the 2028 Annual Meeting, the Independent Director shall be elected by the USA Hockey Congress and shall serve a term for three (3) years and subsequently reelected every three (3) years.** An individual will not be eligible to serve as an Independent Director if, within the twenty-four months preceding election: (i) such individual or an immediate family member of such individual is/was employed by or held any governance position (whether a paid or volunteer position) with USA Hockey, any District or Affiliate of USA Hockey or the IIHF; (ii) such individual is/was affiliated with or employed by USA Hockey's outside auditor or outside counsel, or an immediate family member of such individual is/was affiliated with or employed by USA Hockey's outside auditor or outside counsel as a partner, principal, or manager; (iii) such individual is/was a member of USA Hockey's Athletes Advisory Committee; (iv) such individual is/was a member of any constituent group with representation on the USA Hockey Board of Directors; (v) such individual receives or received any compensation from USA Hockey, directly or indirectly, or its Districts, Affiliates (other than reimbursement for approved expenses reasonably incurred as part of their Board duties); (vi) the individual is/was an executive officer, controlling shareholder, or partner of a corporation or partnership or other business entity that does business with USA Hockey; (vii) the individual is/was the parent or close family member or coach of an athlete that has competed in a Protected Competition; or (viii) the individual is/was a member of USA Hockey in a membership category that participates in Protected Competitions. The Independent Director must maintain an independent perspective by maintaining the requirements above for their entire term and any successive term, with exceptions related to their service on the Board. The Nominating Committee shall solicit individuals for the Independent Director fulfilling these criteria and submit such nominations to the Board of Directors **for recommendation to Congress** no less than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the USA Hockey Congress. A person may not serve as an Independent Director for longer than three consecutive terms, provided that a person elected to serve a portion of an unexpired term as an Independent Director shall be permitted to be elected and serve three full terms thereafter.

Legal #1

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

"Disciplinary Authority" shall mean USA Hockey, including each operating council of USA Hockey (Youth, Girls, Junior, Adult and International), **any other USA Hockey committee authorized to issue Discipline under USA Hockey Policies or Rules & Regulations**, any certified Junior league, any Affiliate Association, or a local league, association or program having jurisdiction to issue Discipline to any Party within the jurisdiction of USA Hockey.

Insert new definition for "Record":

"Record" shall mean any evidentiary submission, including, but not limited to, documentation, written statements, audio and/or video recordings, game scoresheets, referee reports, and testimony, submitted by a Party at a hearing as described in Bylaw 10.C.(4)(E), together with the Parties' pre-hearing written submissions, if any, to the hearing panel (as defined in Bylaw 10.C.(4)(a)), and a stenographic or other record of the hearing held in accordance with Bylaw 10.C.(4)(E).

Change defined term for U.S. Center for SafeSport Code:

"USCSS SafeSport Code" shall mean and refer to the policies and procedures adopted by the USSCS for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement's sport National Governing Bodies, which may be found at www.uscenterforsafesport.org.

Make corresponding changes where this definition is used throughout Bylaw 10.

Legal #2

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

C. *Unified Procedure*

(4) Hearing Procedure

(a) Hearing Panel

(i) The Disciplinary Authority considering issuing any Discipline, or upon written demand by a Party contesting a suspension or other disciplinary action where no hearing was held, or **(ii) the issuer of an Administrative Action**, upon written demand by a Party that desires to contest an the Administrative Action, shall appoint a hearing panel of a minimum of three reasonably disinterested and impartial persons to conduct the hearing. ~~In cases involving coaches and referees, the District or Affiliate Association Referee in Chief or Coach in Chief, as appropriate, or his/her designee, shall serve on the hearing committee.~~ For any dispute where USA Hockey appoints a hearing panel to address a grievance or impose discipline at the national level, at least 33.3% of the members of the hearing panel shall be Eligible Athletes.

(c) Hearing Notice

~~Not later than~~ **At least** seven (7) days before the hearing date, the hearing panel shall provide written notice to all interested Parties of the time and place of the hearing, the manner in which the hearing will be conducted, the grounds for any proposed suspension, discipline or Administrative Action, the possible consequences of an adverse finding, and the issues to be resolved by the panel, **and the Parties' right to create a stenographic or other record of the proceedings if the hearing panel has not made such arrangements.** Notwithstanding that a hearing panel must ordinarily provide at least seven (7) days notice before a hearing date, a Party that has been issued a Summary Suspension or that may be suspended pursuant to an issued hearing notice may waive such seven (7) day notice period in order to have a hearing on less notice.

(e) Conduct of Hearing

The hearing panel may in its discretion hold a formal or informal hearing, hear any evidence it believes is relevant to the issue(s) before it, place limits on time, evidence and documentation, have witnesses or written statements and establish other hearing rules so long as the Parties are informed of the established procedures, each Party has a reasonable opportunity to present its case and argument in accordance with the hearing panel's rules, and each Party is treated in a substantially equal manner. Any Party that may be subject to Discipline shall be permitted to submit a written response/answer to the allegations set forth in the hearing notice prior to the commencement of the hearing. All documents or other evidence ~~that have been submitted to and will be considered by the hearing panel~~ shall be provided to all Parties to the hearing reasonably in advance of the hearing except with proper cause, provided that appropriate redaction of names or other identifying information may be made if approved by the hearing panel. The Rules of Evidence in judicial proceedings shall not apply in the hearing, **however, all exculpatory evidence available to the Disciplinary Authority or hearing panel shall be provided to the Parties in advance of the hearing.** The Parties may be represented by counsel of their choosing at their own expense, provided that the hearing panel may set rules for the involvement of counsel in the hearing. If the hearing panel has not made arrangements for a record of the proceedings, a Party may at its own expense create a stenographic or other record of the proceedings and must inform the hearing panel prior to the hearing of any arrangements so made. A copy of any such record created by or for a Party shall be provided at such Party's cost to the hearing panel. Other Parties will be permitted to secure a copy of the record in the normal course at their own expense.

(f) Burden of Proof

In order to impose a suspension or Discipline, the hearing panel must make a finding supported by a preponderance of the evidence (i.e., more likely true than not true) that the Party violated an Applicable Rule. The Disciplinary Authority proposing the Discipline shall have the burden of proof

and shall present evidence to support the suspension or discipline by a preponderance of the evidence. In the case of an Administrative Action, the burden of proof shall be on the Party challenging the Administrative Action to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the Administrative Action **was not supported by the facts or** was made in an arbitrary or capricious manner ~~or was not supported by the facts. In a contest of an Administrative Action, only the evidence presented to or considered by the Party taking the Administrative Action shall be presented and considered by the hearing panel.~~

(g) Decision

The hearing panel shall use reasonable efforts to (i) render its decision within five (5) business days of the completion of the hearing or the closing of the record whichever is later, and (ii) prepare and deliver a written decision to the Parties **(including the Party subject to the alleged misconduct)** within fifteen (15) business days of the completion of the hearing or the close of the record whichever is later. The written decision shall contain findings of material facts, conclusions, the order of the hearing panel and a statement of any right of appeal a Party may have as a result of the decision. Delivery of the decision to the Parties may be made by first class mail or other delivery service or electronic mail in the discretion of the hearing panel.

(h) Scope of Hearing Panel Decision

Unless explicitly excepted by another provision of these Bylaws, the decision of the hearing panel shall be (i) in effect only for the program governed by the Disciplinary Authority and (ii) subject to appeal as set out in Bylaw 10.E. and any further review provided for in the governing documents of USA Hockey or the appropriate Affiliate Association. If the Disciplinary Authority wishes to extend any suspension or discipline it ordered beyond its program, it must **submit written notification to, notify as applicable, the state or Affiliate Association, and the Party against whom the Discipline is imposed, within fourteen (14) ~~ten (10)~~ business days from the date on which the hearing panel issues its written decision.** If the suspension or discipline is imposed by an state or Affiliate Association, or if a local Disciplinary Authority's decision is affirmed by an state or Affiliate Association, and the ~~state or~~ Affiliate Association wishes to extend the scope of the hearing panel's decision beyond the state's or Affiliate's jurisdictional geographic area, it may only do so by submitting a written request, **within fourteen (14) ~~ten (10)~~ days from the date on which the hearing panel issues its written decision, or the date on which the hearing panel's decision is affirmed by an Affiliate Association, together with to do so and** a copy of the written **hearing panel's** Disciplinary Authority's and/or Appeal Authority's decision to the Executive Director of USA Hockey **and the Party against whom the suspension or discipline is imposed.** ~~who~~ **Upon receipt of such notification, the Executive Director if USA Hockey** shall advise all other Affiliate Associations and Junior Leagues of the suspension or Discipline and upon such notice the suspension or Discipline shall be in effect for all Affiliate Associations and all Junior Hockey. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, any suspension imposed by USA Hockey or a USA Hockey Affiliate (i) for a violation of the sexual misconduct policies of the USCSS or USA Hockey, or (ii) that is one year or more in length, shall automatically be considered a national suspension and shall be in effect across all USA Hockey sanctioned programs.

Legal #3

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

D. Exclusions from Unified Procedure

(3) Exclusions

(a) Summary Suspensions

A Summary Suspension may be imposed by any Disciplinary Authority only in those cases where **(i)(A)** a Party has been arrested for a crime alleged to have been committed, **(B)** a Party has assaulted another or violated the USA Hockey Safe Sport Policy, including such abuse between adults, or **(C) a Party is alleged to have committed** other violations of USA Hockey Policies set forth in the Annual Guide or comparable Policies of Affiliate Associations that are in writing and have been approved by USA Hockey, **and (ii) the suspended Party's continued participation presents a risk of harm to USA Hockey and/or other persons.**

Any such Summary Suspension must be in writing and given to the suspended Party and the writing shall inform the Party of his or her right to request a hearing. The suspended Party must submit a request for a hearing of a Summary Suspension within seven (7) days of the Party being notified of the suspension. Any hearing following a Summary Suspension shall be conducted according to the provisions of the Unified Procedure.

(b) Playing Rules Suspensions

Any Playing Rules Suspension does not require a hearing except that, in the event of the imposition of a match penalty as defined in the Playing Rules, a hearing must be offered to be held as set forth in the Playing Rules, and the terms and length of the Party's suspension shall be as set forth in the Playing Rules unless modified or revoked by the hearing panel. Any hearing for a match penalty shall be conducted according to the Unified Procedure; provided that, in the case of a match penalty being imposed in a district or national championship tournament, the hearing will be conducted immediately after the game in question by the on-site USA Hockey personnel. All applicable game scoresheets and referee reports must be presented to the hearing panel and made available to the Party subject to suspension. Any Playing Rule Suspension shall remain in force and effect and be final unless modified or revoked at a hearing **or on appeal**, except that if the hearing is not held within 30 days of the incident together with a decision in accordance with the Unified Procedure, the suspended Party shall be automatically reinstated after the 30-day period. The failure to offer the hearing shall not prohibit the hearing body from conducting the hearing after the 30-day period and thereafter imposing further disciplinary action.

(c) Officiating Suspensions

The applicable ~~state-association~~ **Officials' Organization (defined below)** or league or local supervisor of officials shall have the authority to suspend a referee up to ten (10) days without a prior hearing. The ~~state-association~~ **Officials' Organization** or Affiliate Association shall have the authority to suspend a referee after a hearing (held in accordance with the Unified Procedure) or in accordance with the Summary Suspension procedures.

Any official(s) who boycotts any game(s) due to any disciplinary action taken or not taken by a Disciplinary Authority shall subject said official(s) to Discipline in accordance with the Unified Procedure conducted by the organization subjected to said boycott.

USA Hockey does not recognize ~~eo~~Officials' ~~eO~~Organizations. However, if any registered USA Hockey official is restricted or denied assignment eligibility for any USA Hockey game by an officials' organization or group of officials ("Officials' Organization"), except for good cause shown in accordance with the Officials' Organization written rules and then only for a very limited duration without a hearing as provided herein, then said Officials' Organization shall be subject to suspension or expulsion in accordance with the rules and regulations herein and that restriction or denied assignment shall have no effect.

[No Other Changes in this Subsection]

(d) Assault on Game Official

Assaults on Game Officials are violations of **the** USA Hockey Playing Rules and as such are subject to the provisions for Playing Rules Suspensions. In the event of a match penalty for assault on a game official under Playing Rule 601(e)(1), the offending Party shall be immediately suspended from all USA Hockey sanctioned activity. For penalties assessed under 601(e)(1) that are affirmed after a hearing, the offending Party shall be suspended for not less than one calendar year with one year calendar year probation thereafter.

In the case of a match penalty for assault on a game official, the applicable USA Hockey Affiliate, its designated hearing body, or the Junior Council sanctioned league shall exercise original jurisdiction in such matter.

NOTE: *The intent of this provision is to remove local organizations from the hearing process, to ensure that disinterested parties conduct the hearing and to establish jurisdiction in the Affiliate only.*

Any game official assessing a penalty under Rule 601(e)(1) shall file with his/her USA Hockey District Referee-in-Chief a written game report within forty-eight (48) hours of the incident. The District Referee-in-Chief shall immediately investigate the **any** incident **alleging a Rule 601(e)(1) violation** and promptly submit a written opinion, together with the game sheets and reports to the applicable Disciplinary Authority, indicating whether Rule 601(e)(1) has been properly applied to the circumstances involved in the incident, or whether the incident falls under a different playing rule. A copy of the Referee-in-Chief's written report and opinion shall be sent by the Disciplinary Authority to the player, team official and game official involved.

Suspensions imposed under this bylaw subsection shall be immediately reported to USA Hockey national office, to the applicable Affiliate Association(s), and the appropriate registrar(s). The Registrar may accept a registration subject to the terms of this suspension.

Insert new Subsection (j):

(j) Minor Infractions of Team Rules

Team or Member Program imposed suspensions for violations of Applicable Rules or that team's or Member Program's rules that do not exceed the lesser of one game or seventy-two (72) hours.

Renumber Subsections below.

(j)

Legal #4

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

E. Appeals

(1) Right to Appeal

Any Party that is suspended, otherwise disciplined or subject to an Administrative Action may, after a hearing or failure to have a hearing in accordance with the Unified Procedure, appeal such action as follows (it is recognized that rules of an Affiliate Association may also allow appeals within the Affiliate by other Parties to the matter):

(a) Suspensions

Playing Rule Suspensions or suspensions for violations of bylaw and/or rules of local, league or District organizations, or by a committee of a state association or an Affiliate ~~Association~~ shall be appealable to the ~~Board of Directors of the state association or where no state organization exists to the Affiliate's~~ **Association's** Board of Directors or the designated **appeal** committee of such Board of Directors (the "Appeal Authority"). Upon the written appeal of any Party whose suspension has been upheld by an state or Affiliate Association, **or where otherwise provided in the Applicable Rules**, the National Appeal Committee of USA Hockey shall allow an appeal of such suspension to be determined by it pursuant to Section E.(2) of this appeal procedure. The National Appeal Committee may delegate or assign the matter to an appeal panel of no less than three committee members. **If the appeal involves a suspension of an official, the National Referee-in-Chief shall be invited to consult with the National Appeal Committee.** The appeal panel from the National Appeal Committee shall decide any appeal within thirty (30) days of the parties' submissions and shall render its decision within a reasonable period thereafter.

(b) Appeals Not Involving Suspensions

Appeals of Administrative Actions or other disciplinary action which do not involve suspension shall be appealed to the Board of Directors of the state association or where no state organization exists to the Affiliate Association's Board of Directors or the designated **appeal** committee of such Board of Directors. Except for Administrative Actions by a USA Hockey Council, Committee or Section, which shall be appealable to the USA Hockey National Appeal Committee, there shall be no further appeals of Administrative Actions or other disciplinary actions not involving a suspension.

(c) Officials

~~Officials may appeal a suspension, other disciplinary action or an adverse Administrative Action if by an officials' association, USA Hockey District Referee-in-Chief or local supervisor of officials to the applicable Affiliate Association. If the official has been disciplined by the Affiliate Association or if the Affiliate Association has affirmed the discipline previously imposed, or if an official has been disciplined by the USA Hockey Officiating Development Program, the official may appeal the discipline to a committee consisting of the National Referee-in-Chief, a District Representative from the District to which the Affiliate belongs and a third impartial individual selected by those two. There shall be no further appeal of any decision by the said committee and the Discipline shall be final.~~

(d) (c) District/National Championship Rules Appeals

District or national championship rules or special jurisdictional hockey association rules shall be appealable to the USA Hockey council or its designee having jurisdiction over the program. There shall be no further appeal of any decision by the said council and the decision shall be final.

(e) (d) Council Decisions

Except as otherwise provided, any decision of a USA Hockey council shall be appealable to the USA Hockey National Appeal Committee whose decision shall be final.

(f) (e) Junior Appeals

~~Any Junior participant, or team or league that is suspended, otherwise disciplined or subject to an Administrative Action after a hearing or a failure to have a hearing by their league, may appeal the discipline to the Junior Council National Appeal Committee. Any Junior participant or team that is subject to an Administrative Action, after a hearing or failure to have a hearing, may appeal that decision to the applicable Junior league. In the case of appeals of Playing Rule~~

~~Suspensions or other Discipline, and Player Eligibility issues, the decision of the Junior Council shall be final. In the case of any other appeals under this subsection (f), the decision of the Junior Council shall be subject to appeal to the USA Hockey National Appeal Committee.~~

Any Junior participant may appeal discipline imposed after a hearing at the league level in accordance with the Junior league's appeal procedure as approved by USA Hockey. Any Junior participant who has exhausted League Appeal remedies may appeal the discipline to the USA Hockey Junior Council Chair, who shall convene an Appeal Panel pursuant to USA Hockey Bylaw 10, which appeal panel's decision shall be final with no further appeals. Any junior participant or team subject to an Administrative Action may appeal the decision to the Junior league as permitted by the applicable league's rules and bylaws.

(f) Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee

Any Party subject to Discipline imposed by the Affiliate President's Review Subcommittee shall be subject to appeal to the National Appeal Committee whose decision shall be final.

(2) Appeal Procedure

The appeal procedure for all appeals as described in Section E(1) above shall be as follows.

(a) Statement of Appeal

The appealing Party must submit a Statement of Appeal in writing to the appropriate Appeal Authority, with a copy to the Disciplinary Authority and the hearing panel, of the decision appealed from within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the decision appealed or of the date of the failure to hold a hearing, whichever is applicable. The Statement of Appeal shall include a statement of why the Discipline should be overturned or reversed, and should attach the record of the hearing panel, if any, and a copy of the decision. The Disciplinary Authority and any responding Party shall have fourteen (14) days from the receipt of the Statement of Appeal to file a reply and any reply must be served upon the Appeal Authority and the appealing Party. The Statement of Appeal and reply should be a complete and comprehensive document and include all materials **from the Record** the Party wishes **the Appeal Authority** to be considered. Letters and other documents not submitted by the Party him/herself as part of the Statement of Appeal need not be considered by the Appeal Authority. If a Statement of Appeal is not received by the appropriate Appeal Authority within the fourteen (14) day period, the discipline shall be final. The failure to respond by any Party will exclude that Party from further participation in the appeal proceedings. If included in its governing documents addressing appeals, an Affiliate may require the submission of a reasonable fee not to exceed \$250 as a condition of allowing an appeal to the Affiliate.

The Statement of Appeal and any reply shall be no longer than ten (10) typed double spaced pages with a font size no smaller than twelve (12) point. Exhibits **from the Record** to support the Statement of Appeal and/or reply may also be attached, ~~including together with~~ any relevant governing documents the Party is relying upon to support its argument. Exhibits shall not be included in the ten (10) page limitation.

For purposes of this rule and when there is a written decision in the matter being appealed, the Disciplinary Authority and any responding Party may affirm and adopt the earlier written decision as its reply without the need for an additional reply.

(b) Conduct of Appeal Proceeding

The members of the Appeal Authority must include at least three persons, all of whom are reasonably disinterested and impartial. The Appeal Authority shall review the decision of the Hearing Panel and the written submissions of the Parties and may in its sole discretion consider the appeal on the written submissions of the Parties, or may hold an appeal hearing on the issues being appealed, and establish other rules so long as each Party is treated substantially equal. **If an appeal hearing is held,** ~~Notice of an appeal hearing, if any, shall be given~~ **provided** to all Parties, and any appeal hearing may, in the discretion of the Appeal Authority, be held in person, telephonically or by video conference. If a hearing is held, it shall be held within thirty (30) days of the Appeal Authority's receipt of submissions from all Parties, except as agreed by the Parties or in circumstances beyond the control of the Appeal Authority. Only the evidence and theories presented to the Hearing Panel shall be presented or considered on appeal.

(c) Standard and Scope of Review

The Appeal Authority shall not conduct a de novo hearing of the facts decided by the Hearing Panel but shall apply a deferential standard of review to the Hearing Panel decision. The Appeal Authority shall only reverse, vacate or modify the Hearing Panel decision if the Appealing Party demonstrates that the Hearing Panel:

1. acted in an arbitrary or capricious manner without reasonable grounds or adequate consideration of the circumstances; or
2. made a finding of material fact that is clearly erroneous, in other words, the Appeal Authority must have a definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been made; or
3. misinterpreted or misapplied any controlling bylaw, rule, procedure or policy that made a difference in its decision.

(d) Appeal Decision

The Appeal Authority shall make every reasonable effort to issue a written decision that shall include a statement of the facts ~~that were proven at the hearing~~ **supported by the Record** and the conclusions of the Appeal Authority within the later of (i) thirty (30) days of the receipt of a reply or expiration of the period for a reply, or (ii) fourteen (14) days of the Appeal Authority review. The Appeal Authority may affirm, reverse or modify (including increase or decrease the term of a suspension) any decision in its sole discretion and as it deems proper under the circumstances.

(e) Suspension or Discipline Remains in Effect

Any suspension, discipline or Administrative Action appealed from shall remain in force and effect until it expires, is reversed or is modified by the Appeal Authority.

(3) No Further Appeals

There shall be no further appeal of any decision by the National Appeal Committee of USA Hockey in matters concerning Discipline and its decision shall be final as it is the final Appeal Authority in this appeal process.

Legal #5

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

(4) Challenges to Affiliate Status

Challenges to an Affiliate Association's status with USA Hockey by a third party other than USA Hockey shall be referred to the Legal Council for investigation and recommendation to the Board of Directors for action at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. The ~~Board of Directors~~ **Legal Council, or a subcommittee thereof**, shall allow the challenging party to submit to it such matters as it deems appropriate to decide the challenge and shall allow any challenged Affiliate Association to submit such material and evidence it deems appropriate to rebut any such challenge.

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

G. Arbitration

(1) Purpose

It is the specific purpose of Bylaw 10.G to provide for a **full, final and** uniform method of resolving **final resolution of** all disputes ~~which utilizes~~ **utilizing** the specific skills, expertise and background of people experienced in hockey and sports administration matters **in lieu of and as a complete substitute for all court proceedings** ("Arbitration Procedure").

(2) Scope

The Arbitration Procedure shall be available to appeal ~~Any party against whom a final decision of an Administrative Action. has been rendered by a governing body as defined herein shall be entitled to demand that the dispute be subject to arbitration pursuant to the procedure set out in this Section 10.G.~~

This arbitration procedure may also be used to challenge the construction, interpretation and application of a governing body's bylaws, rules and regulations and the authority, relationship and arrangements by or among any governing body(ies) if a governing body has rendered a final decision relative to same.

A Party bound by this Arbitration Procedure waives the right to a jury trial and to seek judicial relief, including, but not limited to, injunctive, declarative, or other court relief or determination, except where authorized by law.

(3) Definitions

~~"Record" shall mean the record developed and/or presented in connection with the deliberation and rendering of a final decision.~~

(5) Commencement of Arbitration

The Petition shall be no longer than ~~ten (10)~~ **twenty (20)** typed double-spaced pages with a font size no smaller than twelve (12) point. Exhibits to support the Petition may be attached and shall include a copy of the decision appealed from and any relevant governing documents of the applicable state association or Affiliate Association applicable to the final decision.

The Petition shall be filed with the Chair and USA Hockey's business office in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and shall be served on all named parties, no later than fourteen (14) days from the date of the decision that is the subject of the Petition. Filing shall be deemed to have occurred upon receipt of the Petition by USA Hockey's business office in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Filing, and responses, may be accomplished by U.S. Postal Service, overnight courier, and/or email to the proper persons.

(6) Response

Any responding party to the Petition shall file its response in the same manner and which shall meet the same requirements set out in Bylaw 10.G.~~(4)~~ **(5)** above upon all other parties within fourteen (14) days of the responding party's receipt of the Petition. Any named party not responding within the time period above shall continue to be a party to the arbitration, but shall have no further right to assert any rights, defenses or claims in the arbitration.

(10) Hearing

Once the panel has been formed the arbitrators should conference in a manner of their choosing and determine ~~how the panel will conduct the hearing on the arbitration. The panel will determine whether it will proceed upon the submission of documents, take testimony in person~~ **hear oral argument**, place limits on time for submission of evidence, the rules of evidence to be applied and establish a procedural order for the hearing to be completed. The panel shall not conduct a de novo investigation or hearing but shall be limited to the Record of the matter before it. ~~The panel shall not entertain any theories or evidence that have not been decided or submitted to the body that decided the issue being arbitrated.~~ The panel shall render a written decision within ~~twenty (20)~~ **thirty (30)** days from the **latter of the response received pursuant to Bylaw 10.G(6) or** the date of the completion of the hearing **oral**

argument unless a majority of the panel determines this time frame should be extended. The decision shall be in writing and shall set forth findings of fact along with the reasoning and conclusion of the panel.

(11) Burden of Proof

The party that has filed the Petition for Arbitration shall have the burden of proof to ~~present sufficient evidence and to persuade the panel by clear and convincing evidence to uphold its appeal~~ **that the decision below should be reversed, vacated, overturned, modified or remanded**. The panel may make inferences and presumptions from the evidence presented to it or from the failure to produce available evidence, materials or witnesses.

(12) Standard for Determination

In making its determination and deciding the matter before it, the panel shall be limited to deciding whether in the decision being appealed that:

- (a) there was an abuse of discretion by the governing body; or **the governing body acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner;** and
- ~~(b) the governing body acted in an arbitrary and capricious manner; and~~
- ~~(c) (b)~~ but for such actions, a different result would have resulted.

Legal #7

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

I. Exception to Internal Arbitration – ~~AAA Arbitration~~ Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act – United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee and Protected Competition

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in Bylaw 10.I or in USA Hockey's Rules and Regulations:

- (1) As provided by Bylaw 10.B.(1), USA Hockey agrees to submit to binding arbitration conducted in accordance with the commercial rules of the ~~American Arbitration Association~~ **arbitral organization designated by the USOPC**, any controversy involving its recognition as a national governing body, or involving the opportunity of any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official to participate in amateur athletic competition, as provided in the USOPC Constitution and the USOPC's Bylaws, and
- (2) No action on behalf of USA Hockey shall be made, or shall be deemed to have been made, which denies or threatens to deny, in violation of approved selection criteria, any amateur athlete the opportunity to compete in Protected Competition.

Legal #8

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

III.B.(1)(a)(3)d.:

d. the Player Agreement would not restrict a player from playing with another team, including a Tier I team, if the player files a grievance with any applicable Affiliate (the Signing Team's Affiliate and, if different, the Affiliate where the player would like to sign) and a hearing is held or overseen by the Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee (and not the Signing Team or Local Program) where it is determined that the Signing Team, its coach(es) or other participants have violated USA Hockey Safe Sport Policies or other USA Hockey, Affiliate or Signing Team policies and which violation(s) justify the player's release from the Player Agreement and eligibility to sign with another Tier I team (but still subject to any other rostering rules and timelines). The Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee shall endeavor to hold hearings on such grievances on an expedited basis when appropriate. The Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee's determination shall be final and is not subject to appeal, except that any **Discipline** suspension imposed by the Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee shall be appealable to the National Appeal Committee.

III.B(1)(e)2:

2. **Enforcement against Coaches.** Incidents in which coaches or others involved in a program are alleged to have tampered with players who have signed a Player Agreement **with another Tier I team**, in violation of Tampering as defined above, will be referred to the Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee for investigation and disciplinary action. Any coach determined by the Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee or USA Hockey to have tampered with another player will face a minimum suspension of one year and minimum probationary period of two years for the first offense.

III.B(1)(e)4:

4. **Appeals of ~~Suspensions~~-Discipline.** Any ~~suspension~~-**Discipline** imposed by the Affiliate Presidents Review Subcommittee shall be appealable to the National Appeals Committee

Youth #1

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

4. Prior to offering a Player Agreement to a player, or signing the Player Agreement, an authorized program or team representative from the Signing Team must present and review a Team Fact Sheet with the player and their parent, which must include all the information, provisions and requirements the player and family will be committing to by signing the Player Agreement and becoming a member of the Signing Team. The Team Fact Sheet must be referenced in the signed Player Agreement, must be signed by the team and parents, and must be provided to the player's parents. The required elements of the Team Fact Sheet must include at least the following information:

- a. The specific team upon which player will be rostered;
- b. The Signing Team's anticipated ~~budget~~ and fees for the season, which includes team fees to participate on the Signing Team for the season, uniform or equipment fees, and anticipated travel fees (to the extent known or planned) for the player and any required travel for parents, and any other anticipated fees that are required to be paid as a condition of participation on the team;

SPEC #1

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

9. ~~It is recommended that the~~The sanctioned tournament operator ~~is required to~~ arrange for medical personnel to ~~attend~~ ~~be in attendance for~~ all tournament games. At a minimum, there ~~should~~~~shall~~ be one (1) medical personnel on-site at every venue (regardless of number of ice sheets or games played) used for tournament play. Medical personnel shall be defined as: a Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC), EMT, Paramedic, or Physician.

~~*NOTE: This is for sanctioned tournaments only.*~~

SPEC #2

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

D. ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, SMOKING PRODUCTS AND DRUG ABUSE

It is the considered judgment of the Board of Directors of USA Hockey 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, USA Hockey prohibits use by any participant of alcohol, tobacco, smoking products or drugs, as these terms are defined below, during participation in its programs as follows:

1. Zero tolerance for possession or use of drugs by any participant unless participant is currently under a doctor's care and the medication is required for treatment of an illness or injury;
2. Zero tolerance for providing or condoning the use of alcohol, tobacco, smoking products or drugs to or by a minor athlete by a coach, assistant coach, manager, official or any other person who is in a position of authority over that athlete;
3. Zero tolerance for being under the influence of alcohol, tobacco, smoking products or drugs while supervising minor athletes or while participating in a USA Hockey practice, game or event; and
4. Abuse of alcohol, tobacco, smoking products or drugs by a participant while participating at a USA Hockey event other than that prohibited by #3 above.

Violation of this policy shall subject the participant to disciplinary action up to and including suspension or disqualification from membership. Further, USA Hockey hereby recommends that each and all of its teams, associations, programs and affiliates develop and enforce alcohol, tobacco, smoking products and drug abuse policies and practices that are consistent with this policy.

For purposes of this policy, the word "alcohol" shall include the following:

1. Intoxicating beverages.

For purposes of this policy, the words "drug" shall include the following:

1. Any controlled substances.
2. 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.
3. Any mood altering or psychoactive substance that produces a state of intoxication in the participant.
- ~~4. Ammonia inhalants, also known as smelling salts, should never be used by a participant under the age of 18 years old.~~
- ~~5. Over the Counter medications should not be provided to any participant, under the age of 18, without the written consent of their parent or legal guardian.~~

For purposes of this policy, the words "tobacco and smoking products" shall include the following:

1. Electronic Smoking Devices are devices that heat a chemical solution into a vapor that is inhaled into the lungs (e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pens or other similar devices).
2. Smokeless Tobacco are tobacco products chewed or snuffed rather than smoked by the user, including dipping tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, snus or similar tobacco products not used for smoking.
3. Tobacco smoking is the use of regular tobacco in cigarettes, cigars, pipes, hookahs, water pipes or other similar tobacco smoking products.

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

[Create new Policy E. and renumber policies after:](#)

E. Ammonia Inhalants and Over the Counter Medications.

It is the considered judgment of the Board of Directors of USA Hockey that (i) ammonia inhalants, also known as smelling salts, should not be used by a participant under the age of 18 years old, and (ii) over-the counter medications should not be provided to any participant, under the age of 18, without the written consent of their parent or legal guardian.

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

D. PLAYER DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The objective of USA Hockey's Player Development Program is to select and train the most competitive men's and women's ice hockey and sled hockey teams to represent the United States at the Olympic, Paralympic, National, and Select levels of international competition.

The attainment of that goal begins each summer as USA Hockey hosts a series of national and/or regional Player Development Camps for able-bodied boys and girls ages 14, 15, 16 and 17 as well as a camp for sled hockey players. Nearly 1,300 athletes representing each of USA Hockey's 12 districts participate in the week-long events, which attract scouts and evaluators from every level of hockey. Participants receive on- and off-ice training under the direction of leading USA hockey coaches, along with current and former National Hockey League, Women's National Team and National Sled Team players. Participants are chosen through an evaluation process conducted at the local and district levels.

Starting with the 2026/27 Season, USA Hockey will initiate play within the USA Hockey~~National~~ Development League (NDL**). The **NDL** will focus on ~~15U (14 & 15)~~ and ~~the~~ 17U (15, 16 & 17) age ~~levels~~**groups** in order to provide a more focused plan for high performance player development. The **NDL** is being established under USA Hockey's authority as a National Governing Body as part of a high-performance national player development program to train and develop USA Hockey~~American~~ players from across the country to advance to high level Junior programs, College Hockey programs and also to increase the pool of players eligible to play for the United States in international competition.**

USA Hockey's National Team Development Program is an important part of player development efforts for select 16 and 17-year-old boys. The full-time residency program was formed to help influence increased success at all levels of international competition and also prepare players for professional hockey. In addition, USA Hockey's junior leagues, including the Tier I United States Hockey League and Tier II North American Hockey League, also play a significant role in USA Hockey's player development strategy.

INTENTION OF PROPOSAL: Part of proposed legislation to establish the USA Hockey ~~National~~ Development League. This specific proposal identifies the ~~National~~ Development League as a part of the USA Hockey Player Development Program under USA Hockey's authority as an NGB.

DL #2

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

1. MEMBERSHIP IN USA HOCKEY

D. Registration Fees

An annual registration fee for Registered Participant Membership and/or Allied Membership shall be approved by the Board of Directors, following a recommendation by the USA Hockey Congress, at the Winter Meeting of USA Hockey, to take effect for the following membership season; provided, however, if the annual registration fee approved by the Board of Directors was not recommended by the USA Hockey Congress, then any increase in the registration fee must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. The amount of the fee shall be paid or forwarded by the applicant through USA Hockey's online registration system along with the annual membership application.

USA Hockey~~National~~ Development League (**DL**) teams shall pay an annual team assessment as determined each season by the voting members of the **Development League joint sub-committee**~~Player Development Committee~~. ~~The~~**National** Development League annual team assessment shall be set forth each season in the **USA Hockey**~~National~~ Development League Guidebook.

(No further changes)

INTENTION OF PROPOSAL: Part of proposed legislation to establish the USA Hockey ~~National~~ Development League. This specific proposal would establish a team membership assessment to cover possible costs to USA Hockey in connection with the ~~National~~ Development League.

DL #3

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

(10) Player Development Committee

(b) Duties and Responsibilities

The Player Development Committee will oversee the coordination of USA Hockey Player Development initiatives and programs. This will include, but is not limited to, District and National Player Selection Camps, District and National Player Development Camps, ~~the National Development League~~ and American Development Model initiatives. In this regard the Player Development Committee will review the direction of all related Player Development Programming. The Joint sub-committee of the Player Development Committee and the Youth Council will also oversee the USA Hockey Development League (DL).

INTENTION OF PROPOSAL: Part of proposed legislation to establish the USA Hockey ~~National~~ Development League. This specific proposal would establish that the oversight of the USA Hockey Player Development Committee has the responsibility to oversee the National Development League will be the responsibility of a joint sub-committee of the Player Development Committee and the Youth Council.

DL #4

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

II. CLASSIFICATIONS

The following are the official ice hockey player and team classifications of USA Hockey. The classifications of a player shall be determined by his/her age at midnight on December 31 prior to or during the current playing season.

Player and team classifications for Junior hockey are as provided in Section XI: Junior Hockey.

B. Youth, Girls, High School

(1) Age/Team Classifications

YOUTH

Seventeen (17) and Eighteen (18) (18U)

~~Sixteen (16) and Seventeen (17)~~ (17U DL) ~~National~~ Development League teams only

Fifteen (15) and Sixteen (16) (16U)

Fifteen (15) (Tier I National Bound Teams only) (15O)

~~Fourteen (14) and Fifteen (15) (15U) National Development League teams only~~

Thirteen (13) and Fourteen (14) (14U)

Thirteen (13) (Tier I National Bound Teams only) (13O)

Eleven (11) and Twelve (12) (12U)

Nine (9) and Ten (10) (10U)

Seven (7) & Eight (8) (8U)

Six (6) & Under (6U)

Classifications for players and teams participating in the USA Hockey ~~National~~ Development League (~~N~~DL) shall be as provided in RULES & REGULATIONS Section III. I.

(2) Citizenship Eligibility

- (a) Only U.S. citizens are eligible to participate in the National Player Development Program ~~or play on teams participating in the National Development League.~~ A Development League team may roster and play up to two (2) non-US citizens on that Development League team (excluding goalies, who must be US citizens) provided that the player(s) have previously been registered with USA Hockey and played on a USA Hockey team.

INTENTION OF PROPOSAL: Part of proposed legislation to establish the USA Hockey ~~National~~ Development League. This specific proposal sets out the age classifications for the ~~National~~ Development League. ~~and provides that only U.S. Citizens may participate as players on National Development League teams. The NDL is being established as part of USA Hockey's high-performance National Player Development Program. The NDL will become part of the development pathway for American players and as part of the USA Hockey National Development Program only U.S. Citizens would be eligible to participate.~~

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

III. TEAM MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION

A. Membership

Except for Juniors, **and teams participating in the USA HockeyNational Development League (NDL)**, all teams of USA Hockey member programs must register with USA Hockey in a manner prescribed by the appropriate district registrar. All youth, girls, high school, **National Development League**, and disabled teams shall be required to use the official USA Hockey roster registration form (1-T). Affiliates and leagues may also require the USA Hockey roster registration form (1-T) for other specified teams. All applicants for team membership must be members in good standing of an Affiliate.

Junior registration for players, coaches, teams, leagues and referees shall be as provided in Section XI: Junior Hockey.

Registration of players, and teams-and-programs participating in the USA HockeyNational Development League (NDL) shall be as provided for in RULES & REGULATIONS Section III. I.

All players seventeen (17) years of age or older on or before December 31 of that playing season, and that play on a team in a classification that allows minor age players, shall be required to complete U.S. Center for SafeSport online training before being added to such team and prior to participation (on-ice or off-ice). This requirement shall apply to all teams in the Youth, Girls, High School, Junior Hockey, Flex Hockey and Disabled Hockey program classifications that allow both minor age and adult age players. Players required to complete the training shall complete the Core Center for SafeSport Training prior to being added to a team and shall complete the Refresher Course on an annual basis in accordance with SafeSport Program Policies in each subsequent season in which they are on a team in the above classifications.

INTENTION OF PROPOSAL: Part of proposed legislation to establish the **USA HockeyNational Development League**. This specific proposal provides that registration of players, teams and programs participating in the **NDL** would be governed by a new Rules and Regulations section III. I.

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

SECTION III TEAM MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATION

I. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE (NDL)

Starting with the 2026/27 Season, USA Hockey will initiate play within the ~~National~~[USA Hockey](#) Development League (~~NDL~~). The ~~NDL~~ is being established under USA Hockey's authority as a National Governing Body (NGB) as part of a high-performance national player development program to train and develop [USA Hockey](#)~~American~~ players from across the country to advance to high level Junior Hockey programs, College Hockey programs and also to increase the pool of players eligible to play for the United States in International competition. Oversight of the Development League will be under a Joint sub-committee of the Player Development Committee and the Youth Council. The DL Joint sub-committee will consist of seven (7) sub-committee voting members. The membership of the DL Joint sub-committee will be the Chair of the Player Development Committee, the Chair of the Youth Council, the Chair of the Registrars Section, a voting member of the Player Development Committee appointed by the Chair of the Player Development Committee, a voting member of the Youth Council appointed by the Chair of the Youth Council and two (2) athlete representatives with one appointed by the Chair of the Player Development Committee and the other appointed by the Chair of the Youth Council. The Chair of the Youth Council shall serve as the Chair of the DL Joint sub-committee. A staff liaison will also serve as a non-voting member of the DL Joint subcommittee.

The voting members of the [DL Joint sub-committee](#) ~~USA Hockey Player Development Committee~~ shall approve a [USA Hockey](#)~~National~~ Development League Guidebook, which shall be published and available on the USA Hockey website on or before January 1 prior to the start of ~~NDL~~ team formation for the following year. Except as set forth and contrary to any information contained in the USA Hockey Annual Guide, the ~~National~~ Development League Guidebook shall be the binding authority for the selection and application process for participation of teams and programs within the ~~NDL~~, the recruitment, tryout, selection and player agreement of any player participating in the ~~NDL~~, operating requirements for teams participating in the ~~NDL~~, game requirements and any end of season league playoffs.

1. Player, Coach and Team Registration

- a) All participants (players and coaches) must complete the USA Hockey registration process and register using the USA Hockey website at usahockey.com. Each participant (players and coaches) will pay the USA Hockey individual membership fee and any applicable Affiliate individual membership fee at the time of the online registration.
- b) All teams registering to participate in the ~~NDL~~ must submit their official USA Hockey roster registration form (1-T) to the designated ~~NDL~~ Registrar on or before October 15th of the season. A team roster registration form (1-T) shall not be effective until the date it is approved by the ~~NDL~~ Registrar through the USA Hockey portal.
- c) All programs with ~~NDL~~ teams must also be members of their applicable Affiliate. Programs with ~~NDL~~ teams ~~must~~[shall](#) register those teams in the Affiliate where the ~~NDL~~ teams play home games and hold team practices.
- d) All teams registering with the ~~NDL~~ must be full season teams with games and practices during the period September-February of the season.
- e) ~~Only U. S. citizens are eligible to compete on any team registered as part of the NDL.~~ [A Development League team may roster and play up to two \(2\) non-US citizens on that Development League team \(excluding goalies, who must be US citizens\) provided that the player\(s\) have previously been registered with USA Hockey and played on a USA Hockey team.](#)

- f) The **N**DL will operate as a national league. Teams participating in the **N**DL will be open residency teams with no residency restrictions for players rostered on any **N**DL teams.
- g) Players participating in the **N**DL may not be rostered or registered on any other hockey team during the same season, with the exception that such players may participate in Tier I and Tier II Junior Hockey games as permitted in the USA Hockey Youth/Junior Player Policy.
- h) All **N**DL teams are required to have a team manager, and, at minimum one (1) locker room monitor listed on ~~the an~~ **N**DL team roster (1-T). Team managers and locker room monitors listed on ~~the an~~ **N**DL team roster must have current background screening and current SafeSport training.
 - i) No players may be added to an **N**DL team roster (1-T) after December 31st of the season.

2. Roster Size

A limit of twenty ~~two~~ (2~~0~~) players (not more than ~~twentyeighteen~~ (20~~18~~) skaters) may be rostered and participate in **National** Development League games. All **N**DL teams must roster two (2) Goaltenders and no ~~fifteen~~ (15) ~~fourteen~~ (14) year old players may be rostered as a Goaltender on an **N**DL team.

3. Team Age Classifications

~~Programs and t~~ Teams participating in the **National** Development League must register teams in the 17U DL (Fifteen (15), Sixteen (16) and Seventeen (17) year old players following USA Hockey age classification.~~s:~~

~~15U NDL—Fourteen (14) and Fifteen (15) year old players. No thirteen (13) year old player may participate in the NDL. A maximum of two (2) fourteen (14) year old players may be rostered on a 15U NDL team. No fourteen (14) year old player may be rostered as a Goaltender on a 15U NDL team.~~

~~17U NDL—Sixteen (16) and Seventeen (17) year old players.~~

Programs participating in the **N**DL that also field Tier I teams may not field ~~150 and~~ 16U Tier I teams in addition to their ~~15U and~~ 17U **N**DL teams during the same season.

~~4. Vertical Integration between NDL Program Teams~~

- ~~a) Vertical integration of fifteen (15) and sixteen (16) year old players (up and down) is allowed between a program's NDL teams. No vertical integration is allowed for any fourteen (14) and seventeen (17) year old NDL players. A player participating in an NDL game under the vertical integration policy may play only one (1) game per day. There is no vertical integration between an NDL program's Tier I teams and an NDL team.~~
- ~~b) In games played by any NDL team against Tier I teams, the teams must follow the Tier I vertical integration rules as set forth in the Annual Guide.~~
- ~~c) In games played by any NDL team against Canadian teams, no vertical integration of players is allowed.~~

5.4. Post Season Play

National Development League teams are not eligible to participate in any USA Hockey National Championships. Team and player eligibility to participate in any **N**DL playoff or championship will be governed by the USA Hockey ~~National~~ Development League Guidebook rather than Section IX of the USA Hockey Rules and Regulations. The League Commissioner will decide any question on the eligibility of a player, team or coach to participate in any **N**DL playoff or championship based on the **National** Development League Guidebook. Should a player, team or coach be declared ineligible to compete in any **N**DL playoff or championship by a final decision of the League Commissioner, the player, team or coach may appeal its ineligibility to the DL joint sub-committee ~~USA~~

Hockey Player Development Committee. Upon receipt of any such appeal the **DL joint sub-committee** ~~Player Development Committee~~ shall render a decision as soon as possible. Notwithstanding Bylaw 10.F.(1)(b), the decision of the **DL joint sub-committee** ~~Player Development Committee~~ shall be final.

6.5. _____ Player Recruitment, Player Agreements and Tryouts.

National Development League teams/~~programs~~ may recruit and sign players to Player Agreements according to the following timeline:

- a) January 15th-January 31st: Year 1 **N**DL Only – Early Signing Period for any player.
- b) January 15th-January 31st: Subsequent Years – Early Signing Period for **N**DL teams to sign their returning players.
- c) February 1st – End of February: **N**DL Open Signing Period.
- d) March 1st – End of National Championships: Blackout Period (no signing of players).
- e) End of National Championships – 48 hours after National Championships – **N**DL Open Signing Period resumes
 - i. Players participating in the USA Hockey National Championships may be signed to an **N**DL player agreement once that player's team has been eliminated from National Championship medal games.
 - ii. **N**DL teams (as well as Tier I teams) may begin player tryouts and signing of players 48 hours after the last game of the National Championships.
- f) **N**DL teams are required to release any **N**DL team player from his Player Agreement without any financial penalty if the player is signing with the NDTP or a USHL team prior to that **N**DL team's first game. If a player seeks to leave an **N**DL team after that team's first game to play with the NDTP or a USHL team the player must satisfy any financial obligation to the **N**DL team or the player and **N**DL team may reach a mutual agreement on any financial obligation of the player to the **N**DL team.
- g) Player Agreements must be executed for all **N**DL players before they can be rostered on an **N**DL team. **N**DL teams may offer Player Agreements and sign a maximum of twenty (20) players to an **N**DL team.
- h) An **N**DL team/~~program~~ must notify the **N**DL League Registrar of the name of any players signed to a Player Agreement and the specific team that the player committed to playing on within 24 hours after the signing of a Player Agreement.
- i) Player Agreements offered by **N**DL teams/~~programs~~ must provide information as required in the **National** Development League Guidebook.
- j) The execution of a Player Agreement by a player and parent binds and commits the player to that **N**DL team for the entirety of the team's playing season. Likewise, the execution of a Player Agreement by an **N**DL team binds and commits that team to the player and secures a roster position for that player on the signing team for the entire applicable season. Any disputes between the player and the **N**DL team on the application of a Player Agreement may be resolved in the sole discretion of the **N**DL Commissioner as he/she deems proper under the circumstances, with the right to appeal to the National Appeals Committee pursuant to Bylaw 10.E.

7.6. _____ Selection of Teams/Programs to Participate in the USA Hockey National Development League The specific criteria for team participation in the **National** Development League, the application and selection process, the annual team assessment due to the league, the number of teams in the League, the team operating requirements, the periodic review of team/program performance, and the withdrawal and continuation of teams within the League will be set out each season in the **National** Development League Guidebook on or before January 1 of each year.

Except as specifically set forth in this Section III I of the USA Hockey RULES & REGULATIONS the applicable Affiliate shall retain discipline authority over **N**DL teams and players.

INTENTION OF PROPOSAL:

This legislation allows for the establishment of the [USA Hockey](#)~~National~~ Development League. The USA Hockey Board of Directors approved a Resolution dated January 19, 2025 - Resolved that "USA Hockey confirms its commitment to the development of American hockey players throughout its programs and development routes,and emphasizes the opportunities available to American players to play hockey at the highest level of junior hockey in programs under the jurisdiction of USA Hockey." The stated purpose of the ~~N~~DL (Proposal #6) is to establish the ~~N~~DL as part of USA Hockey's high-performance national player development program to train and develop American players from across the country to advance to high level Junior Hockey programs, College Hockey programs and also to increase the pool of players eligible to play for the United States in International competition. The establishment of the ~~N~~_DL is consistent with the commitment expressed by the USA Hockey Board in its recent Resolution.

Tournament Guidebook #1

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

All **state/affiliate, and/or** district tournaments must be completed not less than fourteen (14) days prior to the first day of the national championships. Dates for national championships will be established by the Youth and Girls Councils at the Annual Meeting prior to the tournaments and announced at that time.

Tournament Guidebook #2

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

a. The Youth Tier I and Girls Tier I National Championship Tournament shall include **up to a total of 1624** teams (except that Youth 130 Tier I Nationals shall include 12 teams with no Host representative). The Youth Tier II and Girls Tier II National Championship Tournaments shall include up to 48 teams. The High School National Championship shall include up to 48 High School teams and up to 48 Girls High School teams. The High School Section will decide each year the specific number of teams for High School National Championships.

Registrars #1

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

- (6) Number of Games for Eligibility – state/affiliate and/or districts and nationals
- (a) Each team must have competed as a team unit in at least ~~twenty (20)~~ **eighteen (18)** games for youth **and girls** teams, at least ~~fourteen (14)~~ games for girls teams and at least ten (10) games for all High School divisions, and
 - (b) Each youth and girls player must have played in at least ~~ten (10)~~ **twelve (12)** games during the season. Each player in all High School divisions must have played in at least five (5) games during the season.
 - (c) For games to count in meeting the ~~20/10 (14/10 girls)~~, **18/12** (10/5 all high school divisions) rule, that team's player roster form (1-T) must be certified by the appropriate registrar or his/her designee prior to that game being played. Teams formed and certified prior to the September 1 season start may have games played in August counted toward fulfilling the ~~20/10 (14/10 girls)~~, **18/12** (10/5 all high school divisions) requirement, with approval of the district registrar. Player changes to the official team roster for youth and girls Tier I and Tier II teams will not be accepted after December 31 (February 15 for all High School divisions). If an affiliate, state or district tournament is held prior to December 31, player changes to the official team roster will not be accepted after the affiliate, state or district tournament begins. If a player is rostered on a team at the time the team participates in a State/Affiliate and/or District tournament before December 31, the player may not be rostered on a different official team roster after the affiliate, state, or district tournament begins.
 - (d) A game is a contest played against another team which is registered with a member organization of the IIHF of the same competitive level and officiated by registered officials. A game shall consist of at least three (3) periods (or the equivalent, see paragraph Q. Time of Periods below), except where the game is interrupted, (by some unforeseen event) after two (2) periods have been completed. High School division games played against school sanctioned teams and USA Hockey high school teams shall count as games toward the 10/5 rule.

Also, make any other applicable housekeeping changes in the Annual Guide to reference that the 20/10 youth and 14/10 girls rules are now 18/12 for both.

Registrars #2

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

A player may not register on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a national championship except for players on High School division teams, who may also play on a Youth or Girls national championship-bound team. Player changes to the official team roster form (1-T) for youth or girls Tier I and Tier II national championship-bound teams will not be accepted after ~~December 31~~ **February 15**. Refer to Rules and Regulations Section IX: District Playoffs and National Championships, for additional requirements for national championship-bound teams.

Also, make any other applicable housekeeping changes in the Annual Guide to reference that the December 31 date is now February 15.

Regarding Vertical Integration:

Amend the first sentence of Rule and Regulation III.D to change the February 1st date to February 15th.

Registrars #3

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

F. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria

USA Hockey recognizes Youth Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No youth Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I teams shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior (i.e., the player registration numbers in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for 2020-21 would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the 2022-23 season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. For example, the total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 15%, and the product shall then be divided by 20 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has 360 players in an age classification in the 2020-21 season, then 15% of that number would equal 54 players. In order to have teams of 20 players, the Affiliate would be limited to two Tier I teams at that age classification in the 2022-23 season. **~~In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph.~~** Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.
- Notwithstanding the use of 20 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- 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 years.
- The Association/Program must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound teams from the 14U, 15 Only, 16U or 18U age categories in either the Tier I or Tier II categories, each of which must have a minimum of 15 players per team.
- **All Teams with rosters categorized as Tier 1 must be National Tournament Bound**
- It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to "grandfather" any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the 2016-17 season, and in the Affiliate's discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register team(s) in that age classification. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section F, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate's rules or decisions. The Youth Council recommends that each Affiliate's teams do not exceed a maximum of 15% of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Youth Council.

G. Girls Tier I Standards and Criteria

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in special circumstances as determined by the applicable Affiliate, the Affiliate may submit a request for approval of a new Tier I Program/Team during this Moratorium, which shall be submitted and reviewed by a Committee composed of the Vice President, Youth Council, Vice President Girls Council, and the Chair of the Registrar's Section. Any decision of this Committee to approve or deny a new Tier I Program/Team shall be final and not subject to appeal.

USA Hockey recognizes Girls Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 16U and 19U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No girls Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Girls National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I teams shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior (i.e., the player registration numbers in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for 2020-21 would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the 2022-23 season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have eighteen (18) players. For example, the total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 20%, and the product shall then be divided by 18 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has 350 players in an age classification in the 2020-21 season, then 20% of that number would equal 70 players. In order to have teams of 18 players, the Affiliate would be limited to three Tier I teams at that age classification in the 2022-23 season. ~~In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph.~~ Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section G, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.
- Notwithstanding the use of 18 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at 14U, 16U and 19U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the program/association must have been in existence and have registered Girls team(s) with the applicable Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive years.
- **All Teams with rosters categorized as Tier 1 must be National Tournament Bound**
- It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section G, each Affiliate shall be permitted to "grandfather" any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the 2016-17 season, and in the Affiliate's discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register team(s) in that age classification. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section G, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate's rules or decisions. The Girls Council recommends that each Affiliate's teams do not exceed a maximum of 20% of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Girls Council.

Registrars #4a

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

F. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria

USA Hockey recognizes Youth Tier I programs/teams only at the **13 Only**, 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- **(1)** Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No youth Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- **(2)** The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I teams shall not exceed ~~fifteen~~**five** percent (~~±55%~~) of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior (i.e., the player registration numbers in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for 2020-21 would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the ~~20223-234~~ season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. For example, the total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by ~~±55%~~, and the product shall then be divided by 20 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has 360 players in an age classification in the 2020-21 season, then ~~±55%~~ of that number would equal 54 players. In order to have teams of 20 players, the Affiliate would be limited to two Tier I teams at that age classification in the 2022-23 season. In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.
- **(3)** Notwithstanding the use of 20 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at **13 Only**, 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- **(4)** 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 years.
- **(5)** The Association/Program must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound teams from the **13 Only**, 14U, 15 Only, 16U or 18U age categories in either the Tier I or Tier II categories, each of which must have a minimum of 15 players per team.
- **(6)** It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- **(7)** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to "grandfather" any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the ~~201625-1726~~ season, and in the Affiliate's discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register **the same number of** team(s) ~~in that age classification~~. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section F, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate's rules or decisions. ~~The Youth Council recommends that e~~Each Affiliate's teams ~~do~~ **are** not exceed a maximum of ~~±5~~ **5%** of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- **(8)** Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Youth

Also, make any other applicable housekeeping changes in the Annual Guide to reference that the 15% is now 5%.

Registrars #4b

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

F. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria

USA Hockey recognizes Youth Tier I programs/teams only at the **13 Only**, 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- **(1)** Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No youth Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- **(2)** The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification ~~the Tier 1 age classifications of 13 through 18U~~ shall be limited. ~~by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the number of Tier I teams in each age classification shall not exceed fifteen percent (15.5%) of the average total players registered in that 14U age classification in that Affiliate two seasons over the four (4) seasons prior. (i.e., the average number of the players registration numbers in the 14U age classification in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for 2020-21 over the 2021-2022 to 2024-2025 seasons would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the 2026-27 season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent every 4 seasons. Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. For example, the total average number of players in that 14U age classification shall be multiplied by 15.5%, and the product shall then be divided by 20 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has an average of 360 540 players in an the 14U age classification in the 2020-21 2021-2022 to 2024-25 seasons, then 15.5% of that number would equal 54 40 players. In order to have teams of 20 players, the Affiliate would be limited to two Tier I teams at that each two birth year age classification in the 2026-27 season. Single-birth-year age-classifications would have 50% of the calculation.~~ In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.
- **(3)** Notwithstanding the use of 20 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at **13 Only**, 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- **(4)** 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 years.
- **(5)** The Association/Program must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound teams from the **13 Only**, 14U, 15 Only, 16U or 18U age categories in either the Tier I or Tier II categories, each of which must have a minimum of 15 players per team.
- **(6)** It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- **(7)** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to "grandfather" any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the 2016-17 2025-1726 season, and in the Affiliate's discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such

programs continue to register **the same number of** team(s) in that age classification. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section F, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate's rules or decisions. ~~The Youth Council recommends that each~~ Each Affiliate's teams ~~do~~ **are** not exceed a maximum of ~~15~~ **7.5** ~~5~~% of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.

- **(8)** Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Youth Council.

G. Girls Tier I Standards and Criteria

USA Hockey recognizes Girls Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 16U and 19U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- **(1)** Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No girls Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Girls National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- **(2)** The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited. ~~by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that the 14U age classification. In each age classification, the~~ **number of Tier I teams in each age classification** shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the **average total** players registered in that **the 14U** age classification in that Affiliate **over the four (4)** ~~two~~ seasons prior (i.e., the **average number of players in the 14U age classification** player registration numbers in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for ~~2020-21~~ **over the 2021-2022 through 2024-2025 seasons** would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the ~~2022-23~~ **2026-2027** season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have eighteen (18) players. For example, the total number of players in ~~that the 14U~~ age classification shall be multiplied by 20%, and the product shall then be divided by 18 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted at each age classification in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has **an average of** 350 players in ~~an the 14U~~ age classification in the ~~202-21~~ **2021-2022 through 2024-2025 seasons** season, then 20% of that number would equal 70 players. ~~In order to have teams of~~ **divided by** 18 players, **and** the Affiliate would be limited to three **(3)** Tier I teams at ~~that each~~ age classification in the ~~2026-2027~~ **2022-23** season. In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/ American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section G, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.
- **(3)** Notwithstanding the use of 18 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at 14U, 16U and 19U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- **(4)** In order for any team to be eligible for National Tournament play, the program/association must have been in existence and have registered Girls team(s) with the applicable Affiliate for a minimum of three (3) prior consecutive years.

- **(5)** It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).
- **(6)** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section G, each Affiliate shall be permitted to “grandfather” any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the ~~2016-17~~ **2025-2026** season, and in the Affiliate’s discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register team(s) in that age classification. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section G, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate’s rules or decisions. The Girls Council recommends that each Affiliate’s teams do not exceed a maximum of 20% of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- **(7)** **Tier 1 Residency – Each season, an Affiliate will choose the level of residency that applies to all Tier 1 rostered teams in their affiliate. Affiliates may select a limit from a range of no out of district players to the number below for each age classifications.**
 - 14U: 100% in affiliate residency or up to 4 out of affiliate players**
 - 16U: 100% in affiliate residency or up to 6 out of affiliate players**
 - 19U: Minimum 51% in affiliate residency**

(8) Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Girls Council.

Registrars #5

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

V.B.(2).:

(2) Evidence of Level

It is the responsibility of the local association to identify those coaches who do not meet the certification requirements. All coaches have until December 31 of the current season to attend a USA Hockey coaching clinic.

~~Beginning January 1 of the current season, p~~Prior to the start of each game, all **the Head** coaches present ~~are~~ **is** required to sign the designated area of the scoresheet ~~in order~~ to verify the accuracy of the playing roster, as it appears on the scoresheet, for that game.

Registrars #6

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

~~C. **Definition of a Tournament:** Ice hockey competition, other than normally scheduled league or exhibition games, where three or more legally registered teams compete within a specified time frame for the purpose of declaring a champion. This shall include gatherings consisting of more than three (3) teams, except Association Exchanges (limited to two (2) Associations), even though there are no winners declared.~~

C. Definition of a Tournament: *Ice hockey competition, other than normally scheduled league or exhibition games, where multiple, legally-registered, teams compete within a specified time frame in which a champion may or may not be determined. This shall include gatherings typically consisting of three (3) or more teams, except Association Exchanges which are limited to two (2) Associations. This shall also include events described as Showcases, Exhibitions, 3 on 3, or 4 on 4 Pond style events, league championship tournaments, or any other gathering of teams outside of regular season league games ~~including events~~ where a registration fee is charged to participate. At the discretion of the District Registrar certain 8U Jamboree style events or Disabled events designed to make it easier for teams to play other teams in the league, where no champion is determined, may be sanctioned as a Special Event rather than an Invitational Tournament.*

Registrars #7

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

A player may not register on more than one team that participates in games leading towards a national championship except for players on High School division teams, who may also play on a Youth or Girls national championship-bound team. Player changes to the official team roster form (1-T) for youth or girls Tier I and Tier II national championship-bound teams will not be accepted after December 31. Refer to Rules and Regulations Section IX: District Playoffs and National Championships, for additional requirements for national championship-bound teams.

Goaltenders:

If during the time period of December 31st of the current season when rosters are frozen and seven (7) days before the start of the team's state/affiliate championships a rostered goaltender is lost due to a season ending injury as determined and attested to by the player's treating physician, the team which lost the rostered goal tender may add a replacement goaltender from the same age classification ~~lower-level team~~ providing the following criteria is met:

- 1. A Tier I, Tier II or High School National Tournament Bound team may replace their lost goaltender with a goaltender rostered on a non-National Tournament Bound team, provided the lost goaltender has been identified as a goaltender on the roster and the replacement goaltender has not been rostered on any National Tournament Bound team during the current season. The replacement goaltender is exempt from the USA Hockey game count.**
- 2. The injured goaltender must be dropped from the National Tournament Bound roster.**

Also, if Registrar Proposal #2 passes to change the roster deadline, the December 31st date above shall be changed to February 15th.

Registrars #8

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

C. Registration

The team roster registration form (1-T) shall be completed and forwarded to the official district registration office by the appropriate date as set forth in the USA Hockey Annual Guide of the current playing season for teams eligible for district playoffs and national championships.

The team roster registration form (1-T) shall not be effective until the date it is approved by the official District or Associate Registrar through the USA Hockey portal.

One Team – One Roster - Players rostered on a Tier 1 declared team may not be rostered on any other regular season, Invitational Tournament or Pre/Post roster unless properly released from their Tier 1 team per section III.B.(b).

A limit of twenty (20) players at any one time may be registered per team except for (1) high school, girls high school, college and women's college which may roster 30 players and may dress 20 players, (2) adult and women's teams which may roster 25 players and may dress 20 players, and (3) Tier I teams at the 18U, 16U and 15O youth classifications and 19U girls classification which may roster and dress 22 players, of which not more than 20 shall be skaters (see Section XI: Junior Hockey for junior roster limits). Affiliates may allow their post-season (spring/summer) teams, formed to play between the end of the last USA Hockey Youth/Girls National Championship and August 31, to have a limit of twenty-five (25) players on a roster and may dress twenty (20) players per game. A player may be registered in only one (1) national ice hockey federation.

The regular season shall be September 1 through August 31. New members or those members who register on or after April 1 of any calendar year are eligible for participation from the date of their registration through August 31 of the following calendar year.

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

III.D.:

- (1) A sanctioned USA Hockey Member Program, as determined by the applicable Affiliate, must register all of its teams, **except for NDL Teams**, in the USA Hockey Affiliate in which the greatest percentage of the Member Program's players reside (as defined below). In addition, unless approved by the applicable Affiliates, all Teams registered within a Member Program must have the greatest percentage of team members that reside in the Affiliate where the Member Program is registered and shall comply with all applicable Affiliate Rules regarding Team Registration. An Affiliate may require that teams registered within its Affiliate have a minimum percentage of players that reside in the Affiliate (or similarly, an Affiliate may place a limitation on out-of-Affiliate or non-resident players).
- (2) Teams that are not part of a sanctioned Member Program but which are approved by the Affiliate (an "Independent Team"), must register in the USA Hockey Affiliate in which the greatest percentage of its players reside. Independent Teams must comply with all applicable Affiliate rules regarding Team Registration.
- (3) In the event that a Member Program/Independent Team have equal percentages of players that reside in two or more Affiliates, the Affiliates involved shall promptly convene and decide as to where that Member Program/Independent Team shall register.
- (4) Notwithstanding that application of the above rules would require that a Member Program or Independent Team register in a particular Affiliate, two neighboring Affiliates, with the Member Program's or Independent Team's consent, may agree that a particular Member Program or Independent Team may register through either of those two Affiliates.
- (5) If there is a dispute between one or more Affiliates and a Member Program or Independent Team regarding the proper Affiliate in which a Member Program or Independent Team must register, then the Member Program, Independent Team and any affected Affiliate shall seek resolution of such dispute through an appeal to the USA Hockey Youth Council.
- (6) For the purposes of determining where a player resides under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, ~~absent specific Affiliate rules regarding residency,~~ the residency status of a minor age player shall be the same as at least one of the minor's parents or legal guardians.

~~**GIRLS**—Should a player not be residing with a parent or legal guardian but rather residing and attending school elsewhere, the location of the school shall be considered the player's residence.~~

~~**YOUTH**—Should a player not be residing with a parent or legal guardian but rather residing at a residential boarding school, the player can be considered the resident of either the affiliate where the residential boarding school is located or where the parents live. Residential boarding schools are defined as schools accredited by the state where players attend classes in a supervised, on campus, room & board environment. A player living with a billet family or living in a hotel or other alternative living arrangement the player will not change the player's residency for the purposes of this residency definition. be considered a resident of the billet affiliate. This is true regardless where the player is attending school. The location of the school shall not be considered the player's residence.~~

~~**YOUTH PREP DIVISIONS**—Should a player not be residing with a parent or legal guardian but rather residing and attending at a residential boarding school elsewhere, the location of the school shall be considered the player's residence. Residential boarding schools are defined as players who attend classes in a supervised, on campus room & board environment.~~

The residency status of a player 18 or older shall be where the player lives. Any dispute under this section regarding where a minor age player resides shall be resolved by the appropriate USA Hockey Registrar(s), in consultation with the Assistant Executive Director of Member Services of USA Hockey. There shall be no appeal following such determination. The residency

determination for the purposes of this rule does not affect the player's residency for the purposes of representation at player development camps.

III.F.:

F. Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in special circumstances as determined by the applicable Affiliate, the Affiliate may submit a request for approval of a new Tier I Program/Team during this Moratorium, which shall be submitted and reviewed by a Committee composed of the Vice President, Youth Council, Vice President Girls Council, and the Chair of the Registrar's Section. Any decision of this Committee to approve or deny a new Tier I Program/Team shall be final and not subject to appeal.

USA Hockey recognizes Youth Tier I programs/teams only at the 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U age levels. The following criteria must be met for any team to be classified as a Tier I team in any Affiliate:

- Tryouts for Tier I teams must be published and advertised. No youth Tier I or II team may recruit or solicit players or offer hockey contracts to players for the following season, or hold development camps, tryouts, player selections or any activity that could be construed as a tryout/solicitation or recruitment for the following season, until 48 hours after the last game of Youth National Championships (both Tier I and Tier II Nationals must be completed). For example, if the National Tournament ends at 4 pm on Monday, tryouts can begin after 4 pm on Wednesday. Any violation of this prohibition may subject the coach, team, program and/or responsible administrators to appropriate discipline, or ineligibility of the team or coach, as determined by the Affiliate.
- The number of Tier I teams in each Affiliate in each age classification shall be limited by the number of players registered in that Affiliate in that age classification. In each age classification, the Tier I teams shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior (i.e., the player registration numbers in USA Hockey's Final Registration Report for 2020-21 would be used to determine the number of teams permitted in the 2022-23 season, and similar calculations would be made in subsequent seasons). Each Affiliate's player registration numbers for the preceding season shall be provided on or before September 1 each year. For the purposes of this calculation, each team shall be presumed to have twenty (20) players. For example, the total number of players in that age classification shall be multiplied by 15%, and the product shall then be divided by 20 players, which shall determine the number of Tier I teams permitted in the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has 360 players in an age classification in the 2020-21 season, then 15% of that number would equal 54 players. In order to have teams of 20 players, the Affiliate would be limited to two Tier I teams at that age classification in the 2022-23 season. In Affiliates that allow programs to have multiple Tier I teams in an age classification (e.g., Major/Minor, National/American), then only the teams that are national tournament bound shall count against the limitations on Tier I teams in this paragraph. Notwithstanding the limitations in this paragraph on the number of Tier I teams permitted in an Affiliate based on the number of players registered, subject to Affiliate approval and satisfaction of all other requirements of this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification.
- Notwithstanding the use of 20 players per team in the calculation of the number of teams that may be registered in an Affiliate at the Tier I level, all teams at 14U, 15 Only, 16U and 18U classifications must have a minimum of 15 players (including goalkeepers).
- 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 years.
- The Association/Program must have at least two (2) National Tournament Bound teams from the 14U, 15 Only, 16U or 18U age categories in either the Tier I or Tier II categories, each of which must have a minimum of 15 players per team.
- It is recommended that each player on the team have on-ice and off-ice practices consistent with the ADM recommendations for that age group (which practices may include practices on other teams).

- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Section F, each Affiliate shall be permitted to “grandfather” any Tier I team(s) that were in existence in the 2016-17 season, and in the Affiliate’s discretion may allow such team(s) to continue to be classified as Tier I so long as such programs continue to register team(s) in that age classification. If an Affiliate chooses to reduce the number of Tier I teams beyond those permitted in this Section F, then the Affiliate may do so through the Affiliate’s rules or decisions. The Youth Council recommends that each Affiliate’s teams do not exceed a maximum of 15% of the total players registered in that age classification in that Affiliate two seasons prior.
- ~~Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Youth Council.~~
- **Tier 1 Residency – Each season, an Affiliate will choose the level of residency that applies to all Tier 1 rostered teams in their affiliate. Affiliates may select a limit from a range of no out of district players to the number below for each age classifications.**
 - 130: 100% in affiliate residency or up to 4 out of affiliate players**
 - 14U: 100% in affiliate residency or up to 4 out of affiliate players**
 - 150: 100% in affiliate residency or up to 6 out of affiliate players**
 - 16U: 100% in affiliate residency or up to 6 out of affiliate players**
 - 18U: Minimum 51% in affiliate residency**
- Any exceptions to the above limitations on teams may be granted by the Youth Council.
- ~~Tier 1 Prep Divisions teams must be scholastic based defined as residential boarding schools and pre/post or split season teams where players leave their teams to attend school and participate on school teams.~~

Team Classifications

YOUTH/GIRLS – Within each Youth and Girls classification, the state/affiliate and/or district and national championships shall be at the Tier I, ~~Tier I Prep~~, and Tier II levels with eligibility to participate as follows:

Tier I – any youth or girls team that is properly registered with USA Hockey as a Tier I ~~or Tier I Prep~~ national championship bound team.

Tier II – any youth or girls team that is certified Tier II by an Affiliate organization which has jurisdiction over the team. Tier II certification will be based on criteria set up by the Affiliate and approved by the Youth Council.

If the Affiliate rules permit a certified Tier II team to participate in the Affiliate’s Tier I district playoffs and a certified Tier II team elects to participate in that Affiliate’s Tier I district playoffs, then that certified Tier II team shall be ineligible to participate in the Tier II national championships.

Registrars #10

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

III.B.(1).(a).3.b:

the Player Agreement would not restrict a player from playing with any other team, including a Tier I team, if the Signing Team and player mutually agree for the player to be released by the Signing Team. **A player may not re-sign with the same team in the same season;**

III.B.(1).(a).5:

Player Agreements must be executed for all Tier 1 players before they can be rostered on a Tier 1 team. Teams are only allowed to offer and sign the number of players to Player Agreements equal to the maximum number of roster spots permitted on a USA Hockey Roster at any one time for the Signing Team's rostered age level. For example, a team that is permitted to have 20 players on a USA Hockey Roster may not sign more than 20 players to Player Agreements and then move players on and off the roster. A team may only sign additional players to Player Agreements if another player on the roster has been released from their Player Agreement pursuant to subsection (a) 3. above.

Playing Rules #1

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

VII. PLAYING RULES

USA Hockey will publish two official playing rules books – one that will pertain to all teams and leagues registered in the Youth, ~~Adult and Girls~~, **High School, Adult and Disabled** ice hockey classifications and one that will pertain to all teams and leagues registered in the Junior classifications. ~~In addition, USA Hockey shall make available on the USA Hockey website, on or before August 1 of the current membership season, the Official Rules of Sled Hockey, which shall contain all sled hockey specific rules that are not covered in the Official Rules of Ice Hockey.~~ All constituent members must abide by the appropriate rulebook. Constituent members include all teams registered with USA Hockey as well as the leagues in which these teams are playing. No other playing rules book will be allowed.

Any requested modifications to the playing rules by any Affiliate or local league must be submitted to the district referee-in-chief for their review (in the case of modifying a Disabled Playing Rule the request shall be submitted to the Disabled Section chairperson and Disabled Hockey referee-in-chief). The ~~district~~ referee-in-chief will then submit their recommendation to the USA Hockey Playing Rules Committee who shall make the final decision.

For the Junior version of the USA Hockey playing rules, any requested modifications to the playing rules shall be submitted to the Junior Council for review and recommendation prior to final review and approval by the USA Hockey Playing Rules Committee.

These requests must be submitted in writing prior to the start of each season and no later than August 15.

Changes to the above policy can be made from time to time by the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Board of Directors**.

Finance #1

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

3. DISTRICT AND AFFILIATE ASSOCIATION JURISDICTION

Districts for supervision and operation of USA Hockey's activities will be established by the Board of Directors at its Annual Meeting, subject to review and modification by the Board, at the Board's discretion, at its Annual Meeting, or at its Winter Meeting or any Special Meeting(s). Each District shall be composed of one (1) or more Affiliate Association designated as such by the Board of Directors. Districts ~~may~~ **comprised of more than one Affiliate shall** organize themselves as 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of USA Hockey. **If a District comprised of only one Affiliate seeks to incorporate, it must be a 501(c)(3).** Districts shall account for all funds collected by the District or its programs, which funds shall be held by the District in trust and used solely for hockey programs of USA Hockey or the District or Affiliates within the District. Districts shall provide an annual financial report of operations to the Executive Director of USA Hockey and to each Affiliate within the District.

Finance #2

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

(3) The Executive Director shall oversee the USA Hockey Accounting Policies and Procedures as approved by the Board of Directors. ~~The Executive Director shall receive all monies of USA Hockey and deposit same in a chartered bank selected by the Finance and Investment Committee. He/She shall keep proper books of account and pay all bills budgeted by USA Hockey or approved by the Finance and Investment Committee. Official numbered receipts are to be issued for all monies received, the duplicates to be kept on file. Checks shall be signed by the Executive Director of USA Hockey, or his/her designee, and checks over the sum of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) shall require two signatures. The Treasurer shall be the alternate signing officer for USA Hockey. Both shall be bonded for not less than \$200,000.~~

~~(4) The Executive Director shall cause to be prepared the annual financial statement each year, which shall be presented to the members of the Board of Directors after being duly audited, for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. He/She shall be treasurer of all committees of USA Hockey. The Executive Director shall be and is hereby authorized with the concurrence of the President for and in the name of USA Hockey, to draw, accept, sign and make all or any bills of exchange, promissory notes, checks and orders for the payment of money; to pay and receive all monies and to give acceptance for the same, to borrow monies from time to time from a chartered bank selected by the Finance and Investment Committee upon the credit of USA Hockey in such amounts as he/she may deem proper and by way of overdraft or otherwise, to grant securities by way of mortgage, hypothecation or pledge covering all or any of the property and assets of USA Hockey as security for all or any money so borrowed and interest thereon and generally for and in the name and on the behalf of USA Hockey to transact with the bank any business he/she may think fit.~~

(5) The Executive Director shall oversee all financial matters that USA Hockey are operated in compliance with the USA Hockey Accounting Policies and Procedures as approved by the Board of Directors. ~~shall be and is hereby authorized with the concurrence of the President on behalf of USA Hockey to negotiate with, deposit with or transfer to the bank (for credit of USA Hockey account only), all or any Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Checks or Orders for the payment of money and other negotiable paper, and for the said purpose to endorse any or all of them on behalf of USA Hockey; also from time to time to arrange, settle, balance and certify all books and accounts between USA Hockey and the bank; and to receive all paid checks and vouchers, unpaid and unacceptable Bills of Exchange and other negotiable instruments.~~

Finance #3

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

(4) Audit Committee

(a) Composition

The Audit Committee shall consist of at least six (6) persons, all of whom shall be Directors. The Audit Committee members other than the Athletes shall be appointed by the President, upon the advice of the Nominating Committee and may be removed by the Board at its discretion. As a Designated Committee, the Athlete Representation Requirement on the Audit Committee shall be met by having 33.3% of the voting membership of the Audit Committee appointed by the President from the Eligible Athletes, fifty percent (50%) of which must be 10 Year Athletes and the remaining fifty percent (50%) of which may be either 10 Year Athletes or 10+ Year Athletes, which appointment shall be subject to the approval of the Athlete Advisory Committee. The term of office of the Audit Committee members shall be the same as their term as Congress Representatives, provided that no person shall serve more than ~~six (6)~~ **nine (9)** consecutive years as a member of the Audit Committee. The President shall designate a Chair from the appointed committee members. Each person appointed to the Audit Committee shall: 1. Not have participated in the preparation of the financial statements of USA Hockey at any time during the past two years; and Annual Guide 95 Bylaws 2. Be able to read and understand fundamental financial statements or become able to do so within a reasonable period of time after appointment to the Audit Committee. Members of the Audit Committee should understand generally accepted accounting principles; have experience preparing, auditing, analyzing or evaluating financial statements of similar complexity to those of; and understand internal controls, procedures for financial reporting, and audit committee functions. Compliance with the foregoing requirements shall be determined by the Board of Directors in its business judgment.

Finance #4

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

New provisions to be inserted into Code of Conduct after section applying to all Administrators of USA Hockey Programs:

Specifically, all persons responsible for financial matters in or for USA Hockey Programs, at the national, district, affiliate, or local program level must display and adhere to:

- ***Financial Integrity:*** The program must be operated pursuant to stringent administrative and financial accounting procedures and policies.
- ***Fiduciary Responsibility:*** Program leadership has a responsibility to operate the program towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies.
- ***Financial Oversight:*** All programs must maintain stringent financial accounting procedures that are overseen by the program's board and/or an external auditor.

SPECIFIC WORDING OF PROPOSAL:

E. Financial Reports Due and Assessments Obligations and Reporting

(i) 501(c)(3) Status

Affiliate shall at all times during the term of this Agreement maintain its tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and shall cooperate with USA Hockey in the event that USA Hockey and Affiliate deem it advisable for Affiliate to be included in a group exemption letter.

Failure to maintain compliance under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code can result in suspension of the Affiliate Agreement and/or eligibility for USA Hockey Block Grant program.

(ii) Reports Due and Assessments

Affiliate shall provide to the Executive Director of USA Hockey and to the Assistant Executive Director of Finance of USA Hockey an annual financial report of operations, and all dues and assessments by Affiliate shall be reasonable in relation to the programs it offers to its members, as determined by the USA Hockey Board of Directors.

F. Publication of Constitution/Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws/Minutes

Affiliate shall annually distribute to its members, or make readily available, copies of its articles of incorporation, bylaws and other governing documents, and all amendments thereto. Copies shall also be available upon request. Affiliate shall also publish minutes of all annual meetings and board of director meetings on its website reasonably promptly after such meetings.

~~I. 501(c)(3) Status~~

~~Affiliate shall at all times during the term of this Agreement maintain its tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and shall cooperate with USA Hockey in the event that USA Hockey and Affiliate deem it advisable for Affiliate to be included in a group exemption letter.~~

I. Affiliate Site Review Cooperation

Affiliate shall cooperate with site reviews and/or audits, in a schedule and format as are directed by USA Hockey, including making all documentation available in a timely fashion to the persons conducting the site review, being present for the site review meeting either in person or via video conference (in USA Hockey's discretion), providing any requested certifications as are necessary for the site review, responding to the site review report within thirty (30) days from receipt of the report, and making any corrections or changes as are required in the site review report in a reasonably timely manner.

J. Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower Policies

Affiliate shall have, apply and enforce a Conflict of Interest Policy and a Whistleblower Policy in a form consistent with such policies adopted by USA Hockey.

[RENUMBER PARAGRAPHS BELOW]