



February, 26, 2019

Kevin Kavanagh
Executive Director, Massachusetts Hockey
Via email at: kevink@mahockey.org

Re: USA Hockey Background Screening Requirements

Dear Kevin,

I understand there are questions from members of the Mass Hockey Board of Directors about the adoption of a background screening program for the upcoming season. Some of these questions may arise because my presentation at the USA Hockey Winter meeting indicated changes were going to be coming for the 2020-21 season and that we would have screens go through the national office for that season. While there will be changes coming for the 2020-21 season, the question is whether Mass Hockey should have a compliant background screening process for the 2019-20 season. Attached is a copy of the USA Hockey SafeSport Program Handbook, which includes the requirements for Affiliates screening policies on pages 24-26. These screening requirements have not substantially changed since the SafeSport Program was initially adopted in September 2012.

While there is much more in the specific requirements in the handbook, as to the types of screens required, you should refer to paragraph C on page 24:

- C. All screens of coaches and officials, and all other volunteers and employees in USA Hockey Member Programs over the age of eighteen (18) that will have regular, routine or frequent access to or supervision over minor participants, **must at a minimum include a "national" screen that covers a national criminal database, the sex offender registries for all 50 states, and every county database in which the applicant has lived during the previous five (5) years.** With respect to screens of volunteers or employees that have less contact with youth participants, an Affiliate may request that the USA Hockey SafeSport Program Committee approve of a screening policy for that Affiliate in which certain categories of volunteers or employees are not required to have a "national" screen, but in all cases such screens must include the sex offender registries for all 50 states, and every county database in which the applicant has lived during the previous five (5) years. For screens of individuals that will serve as a team driver, the screen must also include a Department of Motor Vehicles check. Affiliates may in their discretion include additional databases in their search.



USA Hockey, the national governing body for the sport of ice hockey, is a member of the International Ice Hockey Federation and the United States Olympic Committee





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Please feel free to share this letter with the Mass Hockey Board of Directors as having a compliant background screening policy is critical to an effective SafeSport Program within the Affiliate.

Also feel free to let people know they may contact me if they have questions.

Regards,

Casey L. Jorgensen

Casey L. Jorgensen

cc: John Tobin, Mass Hockey President
Chris Mayer, Mass Hockey SafeSport Coordinator
Jim Smith, President, USA Hockey
Pat Kelleher, Executive Director, USA Hockey



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