



*ATLANTIC AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION*  
*(ATLANTIC AFFILIATE)*

*2014-15*

*RULES & REGULATIONS*



**ATLANTIC AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**  
**2014-2015 RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION**

A. **MEMBERSHIP.**

- (1) Membership Status
- (2) Renewal

B. **REGISTRATION.**

- (1) USA Hockey Registration.
- (2) Classification and Declaration
- (3) Determination
- (4) Fees
- (5) Liability Insurance
- (6) Eligibility Date
- (7) Games Prior To Registration
- (8) Organizational Registration
- (9) Registration Expiration

**ARTICLE II - PLAYERS**

A. **PLAYER ROSTERING**

- (1) Roster Forms
- (2) Birth Certificates
- (3) Dual Rostering
- (4) Time for Rostering
  - (a) Definition of a season
  - (b) Signing period

B. **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- (1) Team Commitments.
- (2) Ineligible Players.
- (3) Financial Responsibility.

C. **EXPEDITED PROCEDURE FOR DECIDING PLAYER ELIGIBILITY DISPUTES**

- (1) Mediation and Review.
- (2) Conduct of the Mediation and Review.
- (3) League Appeals.
- (4) Conduct of League Appeal.
- (5) Decision by the League President
- (6) Affiliate Appeal.

D. **PLAYER MOVEMENT**

- (1) Contracts
- (2) Player Movement.
- (3) [Player Movement Form](#)

E. **PLAYER AWARDS**

- (1) USA Hockey Awards

**ARTICLE III - COACHES**

A. **COACHING ELIGIBILITY**

- (1) Registration of Coaches.
- (2) CEP Compliance.
- (3) Temporary Coaching Cards
- (4) Affiliate Coaches

B. **AFFILIATE COACHING APPOINTMENTS**

- (1) Coach-in-Chief.
- (2) ACE Coordinators.

C. **COACHING SAFETY**

- (1) Helmets

## **ARTICLE IV - OFF-ICE VOLUNTEERS, MANAGER'S & ASSIGNORS**

### **A. REFEREE ASSIGNORS**

- (1) Assignors Duties

### **B. MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES**

## **ARTICLE V - ON-ICE OFFICIALS**

### **A. OFFICIAL'S MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION**

- (1) Registration.

### **B. ZONE REFEREES-IN-CHIEF**

- (1) Designation.

### **C. TRAINING SEMINARS**

- (1) Training.

## **ARTICLE VI - TEAMS, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS**

### **A. TEAM CLASSIFICATIONS**

- (1) Affiliate Declaration of Team Classifications
- (2) Classification Level

### **B. TIER I & TIER II DESIGNATIONS**

- (1) Tier I & Tier II Designations Made By Affiliate
- (2) Tier I AAA Designation Policy.
- (3) Procedure for Making Tier I Designations.
  - (a) Time for Applying for Tier I National Tournament Bound Designation.
    - (1) - [Document A](#) – Application Request Form for National Tournament Bound Team
    - (2) - [Document B](#) – Application Request Information Form Required
  - (b) Tier I AAA Selection Committee.
  - (c) Time for Committee to Make Tier I AAA Recommendations.
  - (d) Time & Method of Notice for President to Declare Tier I AAA Designations & Number of Designations Available for the Following Season
- (4) Criteria for Determining Tier I AAA Designations
  - (a) 12% Rule
    1. 12% Rule Applied Beginning for 2014-2015 Season.
  - (b) Highest Level of Quality & Proficiency.
    1. On-Ice Quality & Proficiency.
    2. Coaching.
    3. Responsible Organizational Governance.
    4. Financial Responsibility.
    5. Access to Suitable Facilities.
    6. Other Requirements.
  - (c) Club Affiliation.
  - (d) Transfer Players.
  - (e) ADM/AAHA Compliance.
  - (f) Annual Application.
- (5) Non-League & Independent Tier I Teams.
  - (a) Tier I Qualifying Tournament.
  - (b) District & Nationals.
- (6) Tier II Designation Policy.
- (7) Procedure for Making Tier II AA Designations.
  - (a) Time for Applying for Tier II AA National Tournament Bound Designation.
  - (b) Tier II Selection Committee

- (c) Time for Committee to Make Tier II Recommendations.
- (d) Time & Method of Notice for President to Declare Tier II Designations
- (8) Criteria for Determining Tier II AA National Tournament Bound Designations.
  - (a) General Acceptance of Competent Tier II Programs.
  - (b) Proficient Level of Quality.
    - 1. On-Ice Quality & Proficiency.
    - 2. Coaching.
    - 3. Responsible Organizational Governance.
    - 4. Financial Responsibility.
    - 5. Access to Suitable Facilities.
    - 6. Other Requirements.
  - (c) Club Affiliation.
  - (d) ADM/AAHA Compliance.
  - (e) Annual Application

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

- (1) Appeal of Denial of Requested Designation
- (2) Notice of Appeal
- (3) Nature of the Appeal
- (4) Conduct of Hearing
  - (a) Evidence
  - (b) Time of Hearing
  - (c) Issues and Standard of Review
  - (d) Method and Time of Decision
- (5) Finality of Decision

D. USE OF TIER I & TIER II DESIGNATIONS

- (1) Exclusive Use of Tier I & Tier II Designations.
- (2) Violations.

E. NON-REGISTERED TEAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- (1) Games Against Non-USA Hockey Teams
- (2) Scholastic Teams.
- (3) Penalty.
  - (a) Players playing on non-registered teams
  - (b) Any organization, teams, individual affiliated

F. ADM COMPLIANCE FOR 6&U, 8&U & 10&U

- (1) General Scope of the ADM Program.
- (2) Establishment of ADM Committee.
- (3) ADM Compliance.
  - (a) 6 & Under Cross Ice Division
  - (b) 8 & Under Half Ice Division
  - (c) Advancement
  - (d) Sanctioning.
  - (e) Definition of In house, Recreational and Travel Teams
  - (f) 10 & Under

G. REFUSAL TO CONTINUE PLAY

- (1) Leaving Ice During Game.
  - (a) Suspension of Coach/Manager.

H. TRYOUTS

- (1) Time for Tryouts
- (2) Tryout Dates
- (3) No Tryouts Prior to 48 Hours After USAH Nationals
- (4) Penalties for Teams & Coaches Violating Tryout Rules

## **ARTICLE VII – APPLICATION FOR LEAGUE SANCTION**

- A. [Admission Requirements for League Sanction](#)
- B. Admission Procedure for League Sanction
- C. Probationary Status of New Leagues
- D. Admission/Rejection of League Sanction

## **ARTICLE VIII - PLAYING RULES**

- A. [USA HOCKEY RULES](#)
  - (1) Applicability of USA Hockey Rules.
- B. [USA HOCKEY OFFICIALS](#)
  - (1) Use of USA Hockey Officials.
- C. [PENALTY DOWNGRADE](#)
  - (1) Reduction of Penalty.
- D. [SCORESHEETS](#)
  - (1) Score sheets.
- E. [DEFINITION OF A "GAME"](#)
  - (1) Game Definition.
- F. [AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION PENALTY REPORT](#)
  - (1) Reportable Infractions.

## **ARTICLE IX - TOURNAMENTS**

- A. [TOURNAMENTS - GENERAL PROVISIONS](#)
  - (1) Affiliate Tournament Director.
  - (2) Tournament Classifications.
  - (3) Fees.
  - (4) Limitations of Players.
  - (5) Court Intervention.
- B. [TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY](#)
  - (1) TIER I & TIER II
  - (2) Senior Women
- C. [TOURNAMENT TEAM REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION & FORMAT](#)
  - (1) Tournament Format.
- D. [TOURNAMENT TEAM QUALIFICATION](#)
  - (1) Minimum Number of Games
  - (2) Verification.
  - (3) Games Played Before Registration.
  - (4) Qualifying Games.
  - (5) DOCUMENTATION.
- E. [TOURNAMENT OPEN COMPETITION](#)
  - (1) Declaration of League Representatives.
- F. [TOURNAMENT GOALTENDER RULES](#)
  - (1) Alternate Goaltenders.
  - (2) No Goaltender.
- G. [TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY CHALLENGES](#)
  - (1) Time For Challenges.
  - (2) Non-Sanctioned Tournament Play.
  - (3) Limitation on Dual Rostering.
- H. [HOUSE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT RULES](#)
  - (1) Minimum Participation
- I. [TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES](#)
  - (1) Schedule & Position Determination
  - (2) Time of Periods
  - (3) Penalties
  - (4) Protests
  - (5) Rules Interpretations.
  - (6) Forfeiture Rule.
    - (a) Any team forfeiting any of its games
  - (7) Suspensions.
  - (8) Opportunity for Suspended Participant to be Heard.
  - (9) Suspensions Prior To Tournament.
  - (10) Reporting of Actions.

J. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

- (1) Referee Systems Recognized.
- (2) Referee Assignments.
- (3) Decisions Final
- (4) Referees Not Eligible.

K. TOURNAMENT UNIFORMS

- (1) Uniforms Required.
- (2) Home Team Uniforms.

L. TOURNAMENT SITE SELECTION

- (1) Venue Designation.

M. TOURNAMENT AWARDS

- (1) Awards.

N. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

- (1) Scheduling of Games.
- (2) Publishing of Schedule.
- (3) Protests of Schedule.
- (4) League Responsible to Notify Teams of Schedule.
- (5) Time Between Games.
- (6) Second Game Rule.
- (7) Host Teams.

O. COMMITMENT FOR REGIONAL / NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- (1) Commitment to Proceed.
- (2) Penalty for Failure to Proceed.

P. REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- (1) Host Teams.
- (2) Team Replacements.

Q. INVITATION TOURNAMENTS

- (1) Sanctioning.
- (2) Officiating.

R. RULES FOR INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

**ARTICLE X - AFFILIATE POLICIES, CODES OF CONDUCT & SCREENING**

A. PARENT & SPECTATOR DISCIPLINE & SUSPENSION GUIDELINES

- (1) Guidelines
- (2) A suspended individual
  - (a) Level A Occurrence
  - (b) Level B Occurrence
  - (c) Level C Occurrence

B. SCREENING

- (1) Screening
- (2) A person may be disqualified and prohibited from serving as an employee
  - (a) Been convicted
  - (b) Been adjudged liable for civil penalties
  - (c) Been subject to any court order
  - (d) Had their parental rights terminated.
  - (e) A history with another organization
  - (f) Has a history of other behavior
- (3) Volunteer or employee will be re-screened randomly

C. HAZING

- (1) It is the policy of USA Hockey
  - (a) Definition: Conduct which is insulting

D. PARENT & SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

- (1) Do not force your children to participate in sports
- (2) Encourage your child to play by the rules
- (3) Do not embarrass your child
- (4) Emphasize skill development and practices
- (5) Know and study rules of the game
- (6) Applaud a good effort in both victory and defeat
- (7) Recognize the importance of volunteer coaches.

E. HIGH SCHOOL POLICY

- (1) General Rule.
- (2) Penalties for infraction of the above

**ARTICLE XI - SUSPENSIONS, APPEALS & RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES**

A. DISPUTE RESOLUTION & APPEALS.

- (1) Any party aggrieved by a decision

B. REFEREES SUSPENSIONS

C. COMMUNICATION OF SUSPENSION

D. GAME DEFINITION (FOR SUSPENSION)

- (1) A game in order to satisfy a suspension

E. LEGAL ACTIONS

- (1) In order to preserve as far as possible

**ARTICLE XII -USA HOCKEY GUIDELINES REGARDING NON-SANCTIONED PLAY**

## ATLANTIC AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION RULES & REGULATIONS

### ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION

#### A. MEMBERSHIP

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

#### B. REGISTRATION

- (1) USA Hockey Registration. Each player must register with USA Hockey with the registrar or as determined by USA Hockey.
- (2) Classification and Declaration. Teams are to declare their classification level on their registration form, subject to the provisions of Article VI (Teams). Failure to declare will result in the team being assigned to the open level.
- (3) Determination. In accordance with USA Hockey Annual Guide, Rules and Regulations, the regular season shall be September 1 through August 31. New members or those members who register on or after April 1 of any calendar year are eligible for participation from the date of their registration through August 31 of the following calendar year.
  - A sanctioned USA Hockey Member Program, as determined by the applicable Affiliate, must register all of its teams in the USA Hockey Affiliate in which the greatest percentage of the Member Program's players reside (as defined below). In addition, unless approved by the applicable Affiliates, all Teams registered within a Member Program must have the greatest percentage of team members that reside in the Affiliate where the Member Program is registered and shall comply with all applicable Affiliate Rules regarding Team Registration. An Affiliate may require that teams registered within its Affiliate have a minimum percentage of players that reside in the Affiliate (or similarly, an Affiliate may place a limitation on out-of-Affiliate or non-resident players).
  - Teams that are not part of a sanctioned Member Program but which are approved by the Affiliate (an "independent team") must register in the USA Hockey Affiliate in which the greatest percentage of its players reside. Independent teams must comply with all applicable Affiliate rules regarding Team Registration.
  - In the event that a Member Program/Independent team have equal percentages of players that reside in two or more Affiliates, the Affiliates involved shall promptly convene and decide as to where that Member Program/Independent team shall register.
  - Notwithstanding that application of the above rules would require that a Member Program or Independent team register in a particular Affiliate, two neighboring Affiliates, with the Member Program's or Independent team's consent, may agree that a particular Member Program or Independent team may register through either of those two Affiliates.
  - If there is a dispute between one or more Affiliates and a Member Program or Independent team regarding the proper Affiliate in which a Member Program or Independent team must register, then the Member Program, Independent team and any affected Affiliate shall seek resolution of such dispute through an appeal to the USA Hockey Youth Council.
  - For the purposes of determining where a player resides under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, absent specific Affiliate rules regarding residency, the residency status of a minor age player



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

- (4) Fees The annual fees for registered players will be set by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting.
- (5) Liability Insurance USA Hockey fees automatically include a charge for inclusion under the liability insurance policy making all members eligible for indemnity coverage from specified suits and other coverage provided under the USA Hockey group insurance policy. Insurance becomes effective on the date you're your teams are fully registered and all fees are paid in full.
- (6) Eligibility Date Teams must be registered before the start of league or exhibition games, but in any event not later than December 31, of the playing season to be eligible for District, Regional, and National tournaments.
- (7) Games Prior To Registration. No game played before a team/organization is officially registered with completed T-1 and T-2 USA Hockey forms shall count to fulfilling the 10/20 or 10/14 game player/team requirements for post season tournament eligibility.
- (8) Organizational Registration. All teams of an organization/association must be exclusively registered only with USA Hockey and the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association (Policy for 2014-15)
- (9) Registration Expiration Team registration expires August 31 of each year.

## **ARTICLE II - PLAYERS**

### **A. PLAYER ROSTERING**

- (1) Roster Forms. All teams must roster players on USA Hockey Player Roster form to be eligible for tournament play.
- (2) Birth Certificates Verification of a birth certificate is shown on the USA Hockey roster and credentials verification sheet. If no verification is shown then a copy of the birth certificate or passport must be presented (Baptismal or hospital certificates are not acceptable).
- (3) Dual Rostering Players may only appear on one USA Hockey roster of teams eligible to participate toward USA Hockey National Tournaments, except Junior, where a name may appear only on one roster. High School rosters and girls playing on boy's teams are not affected by this rule.
- (4) Time for Rostering Any player who signs an official roster form, which has been filed with USA Hockey registration shall not be rostered on another tournament bound team, unless receives a written release from an officer of the club, who is not related to the player. If a player is rostered on two tournament bound teams, playing a game should not matter. The player must be

deleted from the roster or rosters and a written release secured from the club the player is leaving.

- (a) Definition of a season – the date which the player commitment contract was signed through 48 hours after Nationals of that season, whichever is shorter.
- (b) Signing period – a player may be signed to a commitment contract for the following season after the final tryout and/or evaluations

## **B. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- (1) Team Commitments. During the season, the player agrees to play ice hockey exclusively for the club, with the exception that the player may participate in playing hockey for his scholastic, Non-tournament teams, independent travel teams, recognized house league, any affiliate sponsored teams, and girls playing on boy's teams in another organization.
- (2) Ineligible Players. A coach or manager who knowingly allows the participation of an ineligible player in any game shall be subject to suspension for not less than 60 days or more than one year.
- (3) Financial Responsibility. No player from any USA Hockey Affiliate or may register or participate on a team within the Atlantic Affiliate if such player owes any financial obligation, including, unreturned equipment, to any previous team or organization registered within any USA Hockey Affiliate or District.
  - (a) Each organization should put in their contract that the person signing the contract agrees to be bound by this Article regarding Player Eligibility and releases and appeals. All payment plans are to have a final date. Suggest that all payment plans have an end date of January 1. If not paid in full by February 1, the player's name is placed on the Financial Outstanding list and player cannot play for the rest of the season for that team. No name may be placed on the Financial Outstanding list after February 15.
  - (b) After February 15, the Atlantic Affiliate will compile a list of all registered Affiliate players who are claimed to owe an outstanding financial obligation by their previous Atlantic Affiliate team or organization. No player whose name appears on the outstanding financial list shall be rostered with another Atlantic Affiliate team (regardless of youth or adult) until the outstanding financial obligation has been discharged or satisfied to the satisfaction of the club or permission is given by the Affiliate, respective league or club.
  - (c) Any player who is denied a release after having been notified has the right to the review and appeal of such denial in accordance with the provisions of this rule and Article Affiliate's Rules and Regulations.

## **C. EXPEDITED PROCEDURE FOR DECIDING PLAYER ELIGIBILITY DISPUTES**

- (1) Mediation and Review. A player who is denied a release shall have the right to a prompt and reasonably unbiased mediation and review of his release claim upon written notice to the team or organization that has refused to provide the release.
- (2) Conduct of the Mediation and Review. Within a reasonable period of time following the receipt of the Player's request for mediation and review, a reasonably unbiased representative of the team or club shall meet with the player, and in the case of a minor, with his parents or guardians, in person, and review the circumstances of the release claim. The representative

shall be prepared to demonstrate through the team/club's records or other material evidence that the player either owes a financial obligation to the team or club or such other facts as shall substantiate the denial of the release sought. The objective of the mediation and review is to allow the parties the informal opportunity to amicably settle any disputed release claims before any appeal is taken. Mediation and Review must occur before an appeal to the league can be processed.

- (3) League Appeals. In the event that a release dispute cannot be settled by Mediation and Review, the Player may present a written appeal for a release to the President of the League in which the player's team competes. Appeals involving independent teams that do not compete in an Affiliate League shall be presented directly to the Affiliate Vice President of Suspensions and Appeals as set forth below.
- (4) Conduct of League Appeal. Within a reasonable period of time following the receipt of the player's request for a League Appeal, the League President shall conduct a hearing into the facts surrounding the release request. The League President shall have broad discretion in conducting the hearing which may be formal or informal, conducted by the President personally or by appointed committee and be by live witness or by submission of records by the parties. Hearings may be conducted in person, telephonically or electronically at the discretion of the League President.
- (5) Decision by the League President. Within fourteen (14) days of the date of the conclusion of the hearing the League President shall render a written decision which shall contain a brief finding of facts, conclusions and order.
- (6) Affiliate Appeal. Within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of the League President's decision, any aggrieved party may file a written appeal to the Affiliate Vice President of Suspensions and Appeals. The Affiliate appeal shall be governed by Article V of the Rules and Regulations and prevailing Affiliate Policies relating to appeals.

#### **D. PLAYER MOVEMENT**

- (1) Contracts. All players are free to tryout for any team or organization 48 hours after USA Hockey's National Youth Tournaments. After a player commitment contract is signed, there will be no player movement without a written release from his or her organization.
- (2) Player Movement All AAHA players are free to move at the end of each season to any Member Club at the conclusion of the USA Hockey National Championship. All players are required to fulfill all financial obligations with their current Club. Any Member Club may impose a Player Movement Restriction against a player who has not fulfilled their financial obligation. Written notification to the AAHA Office is required when placing a player on the Restricted List.
  - a. There will be no "in-season" player movement. "In-season" Player Movement is defined as player who has already committed in writing, to play for one AAHA Member Team and is seeking a release to play for a different AAHA member within the same season. Exception – Tier II players who receive a release from the club they are registered with
  - b. Once a player has made his/her commitment to an AAHA Member Club, for the purposes of playing on an AAHA Team; the player will be deemed ineligible to participate with any other AAHA Member Club for that season.
  - c. AAHA Member Clubs may issue a written release "in-season" to any player for purposes of indicating that the player (and Parents) has met all financial obligations with the AAHA Member Club. However, this release does not authorize the player to participate with other AAHA Members for the duration of that season.

- d. For the purposes of this policy, the “season” will commence at the start of the AAHA Member Club’s initial tryout period and run through the conclusion of the following USA Hockey National Championship.
- e. The AAHA Vice President of Suspensions and Appeals is empowered to review extenuating circumstances, such as family relocation, as a possible reason to exempt a player from this policy.
- f. During the season, the player agrees to play ice hockey exclusively for the club, with the exception that the player may participate in playing hockey for his scholastic, non-tournament teams, independent travel teams, recognized house league, any affiliate sponsored teams, and girls playing on boy’s teams in another organization.

Below is the Player Movement Explanation and Parental Notification Form to be completed by each parent/player, returned and retained by the organization as well as a copy to be retained by the parent/player



## Player Movement Policy Explanation Parental Notification Form

Adopted June 2014

### AAHA Player Movement: “One Season – One Team”

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

#### PURPOSE:

The purpose of the AAHA Player Movement Policy is to:

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

#### EXPLANATION:

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name (Parent / Guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name      Witness (Club Official)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**E. PLAYER AWARDS**

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

**ARTICLE III - COACHES****A. COACHING ELIGIBILITY**

- (1) Registration of Coaches. All teams registering with AAHA and USA Hockey must have a head coach and assistant coach(s) in good standing. These individuals must be identified on the team registration form, player roster form, and on the score sheet, along with their CEP card number. The replacement and addition of managers and coaches must be reported immediately.
- (2) CEP Compliance. All coaches in the Atlantic Affiliate shall be in compliance with USA Hockey's Coaching Education Program requirements (see USA Hockey's most current edition of their annual guide under section VII. Coaching Education Programs for these requirements)
  - (a) It will be the responsibility of the league to receive from each of their individual clubs by October 15, a list of all coaches with that clubs teams as well as a copy of their online coaches certification record from USA Hockey to confirm that each coach within that organization within the league are of the proper level of accreditation.
  - (b) If the coaches are not accredited, the leagues will then notify the organizations involved. It will then be the responsibility of the league to follow up with the organizations as to the activation of current accreditation. If an organization allows a coach who is not accredited or not of the proper level to continue to stay on the bench after December 31, the final date for coaching accreditation, the organization will be subject to a fine of \$175.00 per coach, the coach will be officially suspended until the league allows a hearing, and the team involved may not be allowed to participate in District/Regional Playoffs.
- (3) Temporary Coaching Cards Temporary coaching cards may be issued at the request of the league to the Coach in Chief, or Coaching Administrator to allow a coach to stay on the bench without proper accreditation. The Coach in Chief and or the President has the final say as to whether or not the temporary coaching card will be issued. No temporary cards will be issued after December 31 of that season.
- (4) Affiliate Coaches. In order to be eligible to represent the Atlantic as a head or assistant coach or coach any team of select players sanctioned to represent the Atlantic at events including, but not limited to the Chicago Showcase, and District, Regional, or National Development Camps, Festival, or Select Programs, he/she must hold current USA Hockey coaching accreditation of least the Advanced Level. At the discretion of the (Coaching Program Director after consulting with the Player Development Program Director and the President, the head coach or assistant coach may be exempt from obtaining the Advanced Level credentials.

**B. AFFILIATE COACHING APPOINTMENTS**

- (1) Coach-in-Chief. The Atlantic will have an Associate Coach-in-Chief (s) appointed by the Coach-In-Chief. Each local association must appoint an individual to be their association's ACE Coordinator and notify the District/Affiliate ACE Administrator of that appointment.

- (2) ACE Coordinators. The Association Coaching and Education (ACE) Coordinator is an individual who serves as the administrative link to USA Hockey and its Coaching Education Program (CEP). In their role, ACE Coordinators will organize and manage many CEP requirements, assist the local association in the development of a well-trained coaching staff, promote parent education and provide clear goals and objectives for player skill development.

### **C. COACHING SAFETY**

- (1) Helmets. All ice hockey coaches and instructors of registered USA Hockey youth/high school, disabled, girls'/women's 19 & under and below programs must properly wear an ice hockey helmet during all on-ice sessions, including practices, controlled scrimmages and coach and referee clinics (seminars), with the exception of when a team official is tending to an injured player.
- (a) Any ice hockey coaches and instructors found in violation of this rule by their organization, league or the Atlantic Affiliate shall be subject to a recommended suspension of not less than 30 days.

## **ARTICLE IV – OFF ICE VOLUNTEERS, MANAGERS & ASSIGNORS**

### **A. REFEREE ASSIGNORS**

- (1) Assignors Duties
- (a) Assignors shall be registered certified USA Hockey officials and be listed in the Affiliate database
- (b) Assignors (18 years of age and older) shall have a current Background Request (Screening) Form in the files
- (c) Assignors shall be appointed after notifying the Referee-in-Chief or his designee.
- (d) Aid in the retention of officials through appropriate game distribution – this may include both the number of games and the level of games assigned each official
- (e) Assignors shall assign officials to no more than two consecutive upper-level games when feasible
- (f) Assignors shall assign officials to no more than four total upper-level games in one day. There shall be at least a one and a half hour time lapse between games 2 & 3 when feasible
- (g) Assignors shall not assign an official to a game where a relative(s) of the official is involved with either team as a player, coach, or team official
- (h) Assignors shall ensure that assigned officials are at least two years older than the level of the youth games being assigned. A league may recommend that officials be at least four years older. Exceptions may be made in cases where the development of an “up and coming” official may be hampered by this policy. The RIC shall be notified of these exceptions.
- (i) Assignors who assign officials to games not involving USAH registered teams shall notify the officials of that fact. The assignor shall tell the officials that they SHALL NOT wear their USAH crest, and that they are NOT covered by the USAH insurance

umbrella for that game. Any suspension penalties assessed will not be honored by USAH

- (j) Assignors shall use only registered USAH officials who have completed the USAH registration process appropriate for the level of play being assigned. They are responsible to verify the current certification level of each official they assign via the Atlantic Officiating Database. Assignors need to contact the RIC to gain access to that database.

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

- (k) If a sufficient number of properly-registered officials cannot be assigned at any level:
1. The assignor shall contact neighboring assignors and request assistance
  2. The assignor shall specify any officials that he recommends be assigned and the reasons for his recommendations
  3. The assignor shall notify in advance (if possible) the RIC or his designee of the need to fill the vacant assignments with the next lower level recommended officials
  4. In extenuating circumstances (a few hours or less before game time – “an emergency”) if a properly registered official is not available to do the game, the assignor may use a lower level official and shall notify the RIC or his designee of the situation
- (l) If an assignor thinks there is an official who should be assigned higher level games regardless of their age because of the official’s skill and judgment, the assignor shall discuss that official’s assignments with the RIC. Failure to comply with any of the above requirements, subjects the assignor and/or the official to possible disciplinary action.

## **B. MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- (1) Must be registered, screened and complete the USAH SafeSport Program
- (2) Ineligible Players A manager who knowingly allows the participation of an ineligible player in any game shall be subject to suspension for not less than 60 days or more than one year.



**ARTICLE V - ON ICE OFFICIALS****A. OFFICIAL'S MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION**

- (1) Registration. Officials must be registered in accordance with USA Hockey. Registration is made by forwarding their application to USA Hockey Referee-In-Chief.

**B. ZONE REFEREES-IN-CHIEF**

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

**C. TRAINING SEMINARS**

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

**ARTICLE VI**  
**TEAMS, CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS****A. TEAM CLASSIFICATIONS**

- (1) Affiliate Declaration of Team Classifications. The President shall by the third weekend of January of each year designate for the upcoming season which registered teams are Tier I Youth and Girls, Tier II Youth and Girls, and Senior Women A, B & C.
- (2) Classification Level. Team classifications for the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association shall be the USA Hockey classifications at all levels.

**B. TIER I & TIER II DESIGNATIONS**

- (1) Tier I & Tier II Designations Made By Affiliate. Tier I AAA & Tier II designations apply to those teams that are registered within the Affiliate and shall be made annually by the Affiliate President by no later than the third weekend of January for Tier I AAA and by July 15 for Tier II of each year effective for the upcoming season.
- (2) Tier I AAA Designation Policy. Any team registered within the Atlantic Affiliate that wishes to be considered for a Tier I AAA designation (Youth 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U and Girls 14U, 16U, 19U) may make written application to the President for such designation. The President shall with the advice of the Tier I Selection Committee, formally designate those teams that shall be authorized to use the Tier I AAA designation and be eligible to participate in the Tournament. Every Tier I AAA National Tournament Bound application shall be duly considered and acted upon in accordance with the procedures and criteria set forth in this Article.
- (3) Procedure for Making Tier I National Tournament Bound Designations. All Tier I AAA National Tournament Bound designations shall be made by the President in accordance with the following procedure:
  - (a) Time for Applying for Tier I National Tournament Bound Designation. By no later than November 30th of each year, any team that wishes to be considered for a Tier I AAA designation shall submit a written application in Document A and in the manner prescribed by the President. At the meeting for all Tier I "AAA" applicants in early January, Document B and supporting information are required to make a presentation before the Tier I Selection Committee.



**Document A – Application Request for National Tournament Bound Team Status**

(This application is due by November 30th for Tier I AAA youth and girls and July 1<sup>st</sup> for Tier II AA youth, girls and Senior women A, B and C)

(1) Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Level Applying For: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Individual Application Required For Each Level)

(4) Primary Rink Team Will Be Skating Out Of: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Rinks: \_\_\_\_\_

(5) Organization:    \_\_\_\_\_ 501(c)(3)    \_\_\_\_\_ For Profit    \_\_\_\_\_ Corporation    \_\_\_\_\_ Subchapter S    \_\_\_\_\_ Partnership  
                          \_\_\_\_\_ Other

(6) Feeder Program:

How Many Teams in Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

At What Levels: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Total Number of Players in Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Head Coach of Designated Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Coaching Level: \_\_\_\_\_ CEP # \_\_\_\_\_

Modules Taken \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

(7) Organization Atlantic Affiliate/ADM Compliant: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_\_ No  
(Attach Your ADM Policy Currently Being Used)

THIS APPLICATION REQUIRED TWO SIGNATURES OF THE ORGANIZATION PRESIDENT AND ANOTHER OFFICER.

\_\_\_\_\_, PRESIDENT                            DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print & Sign Name)

\_\_\_\_\_, OFFICER                               OFFICER POSITION: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print & Sign Name)

1. If your application is denied you may not use the Tier I or Tier II designation in your tryout notices. Please initial that you acknowledge this paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Completed application can be submitted electronically to [TKOES#@aol.com](mailto:TKOES#@aol.com) or via fax to 610-828-2673 prior to November 30th for Tier I AAA youth and girls and July 1<sup>st</sup> for Tier II AA youth, girls and senior women)

**DOCUMENT B - APPLICATION REQUEST FOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT BOUND TEAM STATUS**

(Completed application along with all documentation due for review at status meeting with selection committee)

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(1) Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Level Applying For: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Individual Application Required For Each Level)

(3) Primary Rink Team Will Be Skating Out Of: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Rinks: \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Organization:    \_\_\_\_\_ 501(c)(3) \_\_\_\_\_ For Profit    \_\_\_\_\_ Corporation    \_\_\_\_\_ Subchapter S  
                          \_\_\_\_\_ Partnership    \_\_\_\_\_ Other(5) Games Played Between August 1, 2014 - January 1, 2015: \_\_\_\_\_ Wins \_\_\_\_\_ Losses \_\_\_\_\_  
(Submit 15 Score Sheets of Games Played Against Teams at Level You Are Requesting Designation For)

(6) How Many Players On Current Team Are In Last Year Of Eligibility At This Level: \_\_\_\_\_

(7) At Level Below The Level You Are Requesting For The 2015-2016 Season, What Is Their Record: \_\_\_\_\_ Wins \_\_\_\_\_  
Losses

(8) How Many Player Will Be Moving Up? \_\_\_\_\_ (Include 10 Score Sheets From This Lower Level Team Against Higher Level Competition)

(9) Feeder Program:

How Many Teams in Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

At What Levels: \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Total Number of Players in Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Head Coach of Designated Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Coaching Level: \_\_\_\_\_ CEP # \_\_\_\_\_

Modules Taken \_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

(10) Organization Atlantic Affiliate/ADM Compliant: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_\_ No  
(Attach Your ADM Policy Currently Being Used)

THIS APPLICATION REQUIRED TWO SIGNATURES OF THE ORGANIZATION PRESIDENT AND ANOTHER OFFICER.

\_\_\_\_\_, PRESIDENT                      DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print & Sign Name)\_\_\_\_\_, OFFICER                      OFFICER'S POSITION: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print & Sign Name)If your application is denied you may not use the Tier I or Tier II designation in your tryout notices. Please initial that you  
acknowledge this paragraph: \_\_\_\_\_

- (b) Tier I AAA Selection Committee. The President shall by no later than November 30th of each year appoint a committee consisting of not fewer than Five (5) persons who are sufficiently familiar with the game of ice hockey to reasonably evaluate the qualifications of those teams seeking a Tier I designation. The Tier I AAA Selection Committee shall be headed by a Chairperson who shall be appointed by the President and be generally responsible for the conduct of all Committee business and shall submit a written report to the President containing the Committee's recommendations. The Tier I selection Committee shall consider all Tier I AAA applications provided by the President for Tier I AAA designations and make written recommendations to the President on all such applications in accordance with this Article.
- (c) Time for Committee to Make Tier I AAA Recommendations. The Tier I AAA Selection Committee shall submit its written recommendations to the President by no later than the third weekend of January of each year based upon the criteria set forth in this Article.
- (d) Time & Method of Notice for President to Declare Tier I AAA Designations & Number of Designations Available for the Following Season. The President shall by the third weekend of January of each year declare those teams that are designated as Tier I AAA and are authorized to use that designation and compete as Tier 1 AAA teams for the upcoming season. At that time, the President shall also identify the number of Tier I AAA designations that will be available for the following season based upon the criteria set forth in this Article. Publication on the Affiliate website of those teams designated as Tier I AAA for the then- current year and the number of Tier I AAA designations available for the following year shall be sufficient notice of such determinations for the purposes of this Article.
- (4) Criteria for Determining Tier I AAA Designations. Tier I AAA hockey is the highest level of youth hockey within the Affiliate. Tier I AAA teams should be those that have demonstrated the highest level of competence based on past tournament performance, organization, league schedule, and development of Division One college hockey players. The Affiliate designations shall be based upon the following criteria:
- (a) 12% Rule. No more than Twelve Percent (12%) of the average total number of combined Tier I and Tier II teams participating within the Affiliate during the previous season shall be designated as Tier I for the following season as determined by the President in accordance with the provisions below ("12% Rule"). By the third weekend of January of each year, the Affiliate will identify the number of Tier I AAA designations available at each level for the following season which shall not exceed the percentages of teams at each level set forth in B(4)(a)(1), below. The 12% Rule shall thereafter be strictly applied beginning in the 2014-2015 season in accordance with these guidelines as follows:

1. 12% Rule Applied Beginning for 2014-2015 Season. Beginning in the 2014-2015 season the 12% Rule will be strictly enforced. The total combined average of Tier I teams designated by the President shall not exceed 12% of the total number youth teams as follows:

<u>Example:</u>	2014-15 and forward		
- Peewee	9.0%	**%	of the total no. of Peewee teams
- Bantam	10%	**%	of the total no. of Bantam teams
- 16U	14%	**%	of the total no. of 16U teams
- 18U	7.0%	**%	of the total no. of 18U teams
Total Combined Average	10.0%	12% (not to exceed 12% of the Total combined average)	

- (b) Highest Level of Quality & Proficiency. Prospective Tier I AAA teams must demonstrate their willingness and ability to perform at the highest levels of proficiency both on the ice and in their administration, including, each of the following:
1. On-Ice Quality & Proficiency. Teams must demonstrate the highest skill level(s) and the ability to compete at the highest level and to develop high-level players in the future; and
  2. Coaching. Teams must have qualified high-level coaches, in good standing and demonstrate effective training and player development standards and protocols; and
  3. Responsible Organizational Governance. Teams must demonstrate that they are part of a responsible organization with a willingness and ability to consistently adhere to USA Hockey and Affiliate bylaws, rules, regulations and policies, including those of any league of which they are a member; and
  4. Financial Responsibility. Teams must demonstrate their willingness and ability to meet their financial obligations; and
  5. Access to Suitable Facilities. Teams must demonstrate consistent and reliable access to suitable facilities; and
  6. Other Requirements. Teams must meet such other requirements as the Affiliate shall from time to time adopt.
- (c) Club Affiliation. Every prospective Tier I AAA team must be part of a club or program and demonstrates a viable feeder program. Each prospective Tier I AAA team shall have a minimum of three (3) age level teams below the requested level so as to demonstrate an established feeder program. (Example – If applying for 14U level a team would be required to have the following feeder teams, 8U-10U-12U or similar combination, within its organization or a working relationship with another organization that has its primary home within the same rink facility)
- (d) Transfer Players. No prospective Tier I AAA team may add more than two (2) players who were rostered on any singled Tier I AAA team or more than four (4) players who were rostered on the same Tier II team the previous season. The 2/4 player rules set forth in this paragraph shall not apply to those players who:
- (i) Participate at the 18U level; or
  - (ii) Move up or transfer from within the same club, organization or from the prospective Tier I AAA team's feeder team(s); or
  - (iii) Legitimately tryout with their original organization and are subsequently cut or who are not offered a player contract
- (e) ADM/AAHA Affiliate Compliance. All prospective Tier I AAA teams must provide evidence that their affiliated organization is ADM/AAHA Affiliate compliant.
- (f) Annual Application. All teams must re-apply for Tier I AAA designation each year. However, those teams earning a berth in the USA Hockey National Tournament are presumptively designated Tier I AAA for the following year provided they otherwise meet these Tier I AAA requirements.

All teams that qualify and participate at the Tier I AAA Affiliate Playoffs at each age level

shall gain automatic Tier I AAA designation for the following season, with no need to apply, provided they otherwise meet these Tier I AAA requirements.

- (5) Non-League & Independent Tier I AAA Teams. In order to afford non-league and independent teams' reasonable access to the Tier I AAA designation and Affiliate Tournament, the Affiliate shall organize, administer and operate through its President and Vice President of Tournaments, an Annual AAHA Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament. The Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament is intended to allow those Tier I AAA teams that do not play a regular Tier I AAA league schedule and are not part of league standings, the opportunity to play into the Tier I AAA Tournament. The Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament shall be administered in accordance with the rules applicable to Affiliate Invitational Tournaments set forth in Article IX.
- (a) Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament. The Affiliate VP of Tournaments shall determine the eligibility and seeding for the Tier I AAA Tournament in accordance with prevailing policies and may appoint a competition committee to assist in determining eligibility and seeding for the annual Affiliate tournament.
- (b) Districts & Nationals. The AAHA Tier I AAA Qualifying Tournament shall determine which Tier I teams qualify for the District Tournament and USA Hockey National Championship.
- (6) Tier II Designation Policy. Any team registered within the Atlantic Affiliate that wishes to be considered for a Tier II A and B designation may make written application to the President for such designation. The President shall with the advice of the Tier II Selection Committee, formally designate those teams that shall be authorized to use the Tier II A or B designation and be eligible to participate in the Affiliate District Tournament. Every Tier II AA National Tournament Bound application shall be duly considered and acted upon in accordance with the procedures and criteria set forth in this Article.
- (7) Procedure for Making Tier II AA National Tournament Bound Designations. All Tier II AA National Tournament Bound\_designations shall be made by the President in accordance with the following procedure:
- (a) Time for Applying for Tier II AA National Tournament Bound Designation. By no later than July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, any team that wishes to be considered for a Tier II AA National Tournament Bound\_designation shall submit a written application on a form and in the manner prescribed by the President. Teams shall provide such information and documentation as shall from time to time be requested by the President.
- (b) Tier II Selection Committee. The President shall by no later than July 15th of each year appoint a committee of persons sufficiently familiar with the game of ice hockey to reasonably evaluate the qualifications of those teams seeking a Tier I designation consisting of not fewer than Five (5) persons including the following: (1) the President of the Delaware Valley Hockey League; (2) the President of the New Jersey Youth Hockey League; plus, one (1) designee from each League; plus one (1) independent representative. The Tier II Selection Committee shall be headed by a Chairperson who shall be appointed by the President and be generally responsible for the conduct of all Committee business and shall submit a written report to the President containing the Committee's recommendations. The Tier II selection Committee shall consider all Tier II applications provided by the President for Tier II designation and make written recommendations to the President on all such applications in accordance with this Article.

- (c) Time for Committee to Make Tier II Recommendations. The Tier II Selection Committee shall submit its written recommendations to the President by no later than July 15th of each year based upon the criteria set forth in this Article.
- (d) Time & Method of Notice for President to Declare Tier II Designations. The President shall by July 15th of each year declare those teams that are designated as Tier II and are authorized to use that designation and compete as Tier II teams for the upcoming season. At that time, the President shall also identify the number of Tier II designations that will be available for the following season based upon the criteria set forth in this Article. Publication on the Affiliate website of those teams designated as Tier II for the then current year and the number of Tier II designations available for the following year shall be sufficient notice of such determinations for the purposes of this Article.
- (8) Criteria for Determining Tier II AA National Tournament Bound Designations. Tier II AA National Tournament Bound\_hockey is a competitive level of youth travel hockey within the Affiliate. Tier II teams should be those that have demonstrated a consistent level of competition, organization, and development of youth hockey players for advancement to Tier I or other youth hockey programs and for their enjoyment and recreation. The Affiliate designations shall be based upon the following criteria:
- (a) General Acceptance of Competent Tier II Programs. Since Tier II is intended as a less competitive classification of youth hockey than Tier I, no limiting percentages will be applicable and the criteria for granting Tier II designations shall be less stringent. Once a team is designated as Tier II, it shall be presumed to retain that designation unless otherwise recommended by the Tier II Selection Committee and approved by the President. The President, with the advice and recommendation of the Tier II Selection Committee shall generally grant Tier II designation requests each level based upon the following criteria:
- (b) Proficient Level of Quality. Prospective Tier II AA National Tournament Bound teams must demonstrate their willingness and ability to perform at proficient levels both on the ice and in their administration; including, each of the following:
1. On-Ice Quality & Proficiency. Teams must demonstrate the ability to field teams of competent skill level(s) to compete and develop youth travel players in the future; and
  2. Coaching. Teams must have qualified coaches, in good standing and demonstrate effective training and development standards and protocols; and
  3. Responsible Organizational Governance. Teams must demonstrate that they are part of a responsible organization with a willingness and ability to consistently adhere to USA Hockey and Affiliate bylaws, rules, regulations and policies, including those of any league of which it is a member; and
  4. Financial Responsibility. Teams must demonstrate their willingness and ability to meet their financial obligations; and
  5. Access to Suitable Facilities. Teams must demonstrate consistent and reliable access to suitable facilities; and
  6. Other Requirements. Teams must meet such other requirements as the Affiliate shall from time to time adopt.

- (c) Club Affiliation. Every prospective Tier II AA National Tournament Bound team must be part of a club or program and demonstrates a viable feeder program. Each prospective Tier II AA National Tournament Bound team shall have a minimum of three (3) age level teams below the requested level so as to demonstrate an established feeder program. (Example – If applying for 14U level a team would be required to have the following feeder teams, 8U-10U-12U or similar combination, within its organization or a working relationship with another organization that has its primary home within the same rink facility)
- (d) ADM/AAHA Affiliate Compliance. All prospective Tier II AA National Tournament Bound teams must provide evidence that their affiliated organization is ADM/AAHA Affiliate compliant.
- (e) Annual Application Teams must re-apply for Tier II AA National Tournament Bound 14U, 16U and 18U designation each year.

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

- (1) Appeal of Denial of Requested Designation. Any team denied their requested Tier I or Tier II designation shall be entitled to a review of the President's decision by the Executive Board of the Affiliate
- (2) Notice of Appeal. Any team denied its requested Tier designation may appeal the President's decision by sending written notice of appeal to the President and to the Vice President of Suspensions and Appeals within fourteen (14) days of its receipt of notice of denial. Notice may be sent by any means reasonably calculated to achieve receipt of notice of the appeal, including, but not limited to: electronic mail, provided the recipient acknowledges receipt of the notice.
- (3) Nature of the Appeal. The Affiliate Appeals Committee, which shall be appointed by the President, shall hear all administrative appeals and shall provide the aggrieved team an opportunity to present any evidence or argument it may have to support its application.
- (4) Conduct of Hearing. All appeals shall be informal and be presided over by the Vice President of Suspensions and Appeals or such Vice President's designee, who shall serve as the Chairman of the Executive Committee for the purposes of the hearing. If no person is currently serving in the position of Vice President of Suspension and Appeals, then the legal counsel for the Affiliate shall serve as the Committee Chairman. If no legal counsel has been designated, then the person with the longest tenure on the Executive Committee as of the date of the hearing shall serve as its chairman. The hearing shall proceed in the following manner:
  - (a) Evidence. The hearing may proceed on submitted documents, via teleconference or upon personal appearance, in the sole discretion of the Chairman. The formal rules of evidence shall not apply and the Appeals Committee may accept or reject any information submitted as the Chairman shall allow.
  - (b) Time of Hearing. The hearing shall be conducted at the time, place and in the manner as the Chairman shall designate.
  - (c) Issues and Standard of Review. The sole issue to be considered and decided by the Executive Committee shall be whether the President had a rational basis for denying the application; this means that Committee's decision shall be limited to deciding whether there exists any reasonable basis for the President to deny the request based upon the



criteria set forth in this rule. If there was any reasonable basis that for the President's decision, the decision must be upheld.

(d) Method and Time of Decision. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Committee shall decide the appeal based upon a simple majority of its members. Thereafter, the Chairman shall issue a brief written letter to the appealing team notifying it of the Appeals Committee's decision within seven (7) days.

(5) Finality of Decision. There shall be no further appeal of the Affiliate Appeals Committee's decision.

#### **D. USE OF TIER I & TIER II DESIGNATIONS**

(1) Exclusive Use of Tier I & Tier II Designations. Only those Tier I and Tier II teams designated under this Article may use the following designations in/on promotional material or on tournament applications: Tier I, Tier II, "AAA" and "AA"

(2) Violations. If a violation occurs, the Tier I, Tier II, "AAA" and "AA" teams and leagues shall be notified of the infraction, provided the name of the offending organization and given a recommendation that their teams not schedule any games with the offending organization until the infraction is corrected

#### **E. NON-REGISTERED TEAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

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

(2) Scholastic Teams. Registered teams may play non registered high school, preparatory school, or college team with prior permission form USA Hockey registrar.

(3) Penalty. Any team violating any of the foregoing rules will be declared ineligible for District, Regional, or National Tournaments.

(a) Players playing on non-registered teams are ineligible for AAHA Tournaments or USA Hockey Player camps.

(b) Any organization, teams, individual Affiliated directly or indirectly with a non-USA Hockey team or organization except with respect to Varsity status academic institutions shall be subject to suspension.

#### **F. ADM COMPLIANCE FOR 6&U, 8&U & 10&U**

(1) General Scope of the ADM Program ALL AAHA MITE 8&U TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO PLAY CROSS ICE OR HALF ICE ONLY. NO MITE 8U TEAMS ARE PERMITTED TO PLAY FULL ICE.

ALL 8&U, 6&U REGISTERED "IN HOUSE" TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO SKATE CROSS ICE OR HALF ICE, BUT ARE NOT REQUIRED TO MEET THE AAHA ADM RULES WITH REGARD TO PRACTICE TO GAME RATIO REQUIREMENTS.

ALL 8&U, 6&U REGISTERED "RECREATIONAL" TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO SKATE CROSS ICE OR HALF ICE, AND ARE REQUIRED TO MEET THE AAHA ADM RULES WITH REGARD TO PRACTICE TO GAME RATIO SHALL BE MINIMUM OF 1 TO 1.

ALL 8&U, 6&U REGISTERED "TRAVEL" TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO SKATE CROSS ICE OR HALF ICE, AND ARE REQUIRED TO MEET THE AAHA ADM RULES AND GUIDELINES.

- (2) ESTABLISHMENT OF ADM COMMITTEE. EACH SANCTIONED LEAGUE WITHIN THE ATLANTIC AFFILIATE WILL ESTABLISH A STANDING ADM COMMITTEE THAT WILL SERVE AS PART OF THE AAHA ADM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. THE ADM/AAHA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE WILL MAKE BY-LAW, POLICY, GUIDELINE AND RULES AND REGULATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ADM COMPLIANCE TO THE AAHA EXECUTIVE BOARD ANNUALLY PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>. AAHA WILL GIVE APPROVAL TO EACH LEAGUE'S ADM PLAN FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>.
- (3) ADM COMPLIANCE. IN ORDER FOR A "TRAVEL" ORGANIZATION TO BE CONSIDERED IN GOOD STANDING AND ELIGIBLE FOR POST SEASON PLAY, IT MUST BE IN ADM COMPLIANCE, WITH THE FOLLOWING:
- (a) 6 & UNDER CROSS ICE DIVISION
1. CROSS ICE PRACTICE AND GAMES
  2. MINI NETS WITH ROTATING GOALIES
  3. BLUE PUCKS
  4. SEASON LENGTH: 20 WEEKS AS DETERMINED BY FACILITY (SUGGEST OCT 1 – MARCH 1)
  5. COACHES SERVE AS OFFICIALS
- (b) 8 & UNDER HALF ICE DIVISION
1. HALF ICE OR CROSS ICE PRACTICE/GAMES
  2. REGULATION SIZE NETS OR ADM SKILL NETS
  3. ROTATING GOALIES WITH EQUIPMENT
  4. BLUE PUCKS
  5. GAMES PLAYED WITHIN GEOGRAPHIC ZONES
  6. CROSS ZONE BOUNDARIES AS NEEDED FOR SMALL CLUBS
  7. 20 WEEK SEASON (SUGGEST OCT. 1 – MARCH 1)
  8. REQUIRED 2 PRACTICES TO ONE GAME RATIO
  9. WHERE POSSIBLE OFFICIALS MENTORING PROGRAM OR COACHES SERVE AS OFFICIALS
  10. PRE SEASON JAMBOREE
- (c) Advancement. STARTING IN THE 2014-15 SEASON, ONLY PLAYERS IN THEIR LAST YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY AS A MITE WHO PLAY IN EITHER THE DVHL, AYHL, MAWHA, NJYHL, OR INDEPENDENT TEAM OR LEAGUES CAN ADVANCE TO THE 10&U LEVEL ONLY UNDER EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE LEAGUES ADM COMMITTEE AND IN CONSULTATION WITH USA HOCKEY'S ADM ATLANTIC AFFILIATE REGIONAL MANAGER.

STARTING IN THE 2014-15 SEASON, ONLY PLAYERS IN THEIR LAST YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY AS A MITE WHO DO PLAY ON A "RECREATIONAL" TEAM AS DEFINED CAN ADVANCE TO THE 10&U LEVEL ONLY UNDER EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE USA HOCKEY'S ADM ATLANTIC AFFILIATE REGIONAL MANAGER. "IN HOUSE" PROGRAMS AS DEFINED ARE EXEMPT.

EFFECTIVE WITH THE 2016-17 SEASON, A PLAYER WHO IS 8 YEARS OLD OR UNDER, SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PLAY UP AT THE 10U LEVEL. "IN HOUSE" PROGRAMS AS DEFINED ARE EXEMPTED FROM THIS REGULATION.

(d) SANCTIONING. NO SANCTIONING OF MITE FULL ICE TOURNAMENTS WILL BE APPROVED IN THE ATLANTIC-AFFILIATE

(e) DEFINITION OF "IN HOUSE", "RECREATIONAL", AND "TRAVEL TEAMS":

**"IN HOUSE":**

- TEAMS DO NOT LEAVE THE BUILDING

**"RECREATIONAL":**

- TEAMS THAT LEAVE THE BUILDING
- TEAMS THAT PRACTICE A MINIMUM OF ONCE PER WEEK AND PLAY ONCE A WEEK.

**"TRAVEL":**

- TEAMS THAT LEAVE THE BUILDING
- TEAMS THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THE DVHL, NJYHL, MAWHA AND THE AYHL AND ANY INDEPENDENT LEAGUE.

(f) 10 & UNDER SECTION BELOW WILL BE PLACED IN IT'S OWN CATAGORY WHEN RULES ARE REPRINTED.

10 & UNDER

1. FULL ICE
2. REGULATION SIZE NETS
3. BLACK PUCKS
4. GAMES PLAYED WHERE POSSIBLE WITHIN GEOGRAPHIC ZONES
5. 3:1 PRACTICE TO GAME RATIO. TEAMS MAY COUNT ALL PRACTICES FROM TRYOUTS/EVALUATIONS UNTIL FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>
6. 30 MINUTE OFF ICE TRAINING SESSION PER WEEK
7. MAXIMUM OF 30 GAMES TOTAL THAT INCLUDES LEAGUE GAMES AND NON-LEAGUE GAMES OCTOBER 1 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28. TEAMS MAY ALSO ENTER UP TO FOUR (4) TOURNAMENTS IN ADDITION, THESE EVENTS PLUS LEAGUE PLAYOFF ARE EXEMPT FROM TOTAL GAME COUNT
8. 30 GAMES = 90 PRACTICES (5400 MINUTES)
9. 25 GAMES = 75 PRACTICES (4500 MINUTES)
10. STARTING IN THE 2014-15 SEASON, ONLY PLAYERS IN THEIR LAST YEAR OF ELIGIBLTY AS A MITE WHO PLAY IN EITHER THE DVHL, AYHL, MAWHA, NJYHL, OR INDEPENDENT TEAM OR LEAGUES CAN ADVANCE TO THE 10&U LEVEL ONLY UNDER EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE LEAGUES ADM COMMITTEE AND IN CONSULTATION WITH USA HOCKEY'S ADM ATLANTIC AFFILIATE REGIONAL MANAGER..

STARTING IN THE 2014-15 SEASON, ONLY PLAYERS IN THEIR LAST YEAR OF ELIGIBLTY AS A MITE WHO DO PLAY ON A "RECREATIONAL" TEAM AS DEFINED CAN ADVANCE TO THE 10&U LEVEL ONLY UNDER EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE USA HOCKEY'S ADM ATLANTIC AFFILIATE REGIONAL MANAGER. "IN HOUSE" PROGRAMS AS DEFINED ARE EXEMPT

**G. REFUSAL TO CONTINUE PLAY**

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

**H. TRYOUTS**

- (1) Time for Tryouts. No Tier I or Tier II team may hold tryouts for the upcoming season prior to 48 hours after the USA Hockey National Championships end.
- (2) Tryout Dates. Tryout dates amended as follows for Tier I and Tier II for the 2013- 14 season are:
- |  |         |                              |
|--|---------|------------------------------|
| 18&U, 16&U, 14&U, 12&U, 10&U                     | Tier I  | March 31, 2015 after 5:00 PM |
| 18&U, 16&U, 14&U, 12&U, 10&U, 8&U                | Tier II | April 13, 2015 after 5:00 PM |
| Girls, Tier I and Tier II – all levels           |         | March 31, 2015 after 5:00 PM |
| All USA Hockey non- tournament Bound Clubs/teams |         | April 20, 2015 after 5:00 PM |
| All tryouts must be concluded for the above by   |         | October 15, 2015             |
- (3) No Tryouts Prior to 48-Hours After Nationals. No team (s), organizations (s) or program may hold tryouts, evaluations, training camps, skills sessions, or any other program that has players who were not registered with that team, organization or program the previous season, prior to 48 hours after the end of USA Hockey's National Championships without being in violation of this Rule.
- (4) Penalties for Teams & Coaches Violating Try-Out Rules. Team (s), organization (s), or program (s) found in violation of these bylaws, may lose their privilege of being eligible to compete at Districts and toward a national championship for a period of up to three (3) years. Coaches found in violation may be suspended up to five (5) years

**ARTICLE VII- APPLICATION FOR LEAGUE SANCTION**

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

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

1. be registered under the laws of its state of residence as a non-profit corporation; and
  2. have received within 180 days of league application 501(c)3 tax status from the United States, Department of Treasury; and
  3. have a minimum of eight (8) member teams with at least four (4) teams in each of two (2) age categories each of which is qualified to advance toward a National Championship by USA Hockey (e.g., four (4) 12 & Under; four (4) 14 & Under teams);
  4. be governed by an executive board and board of directors that have been duly elected through a representative election process from among its member teams; and
  5. All component league teams must be located within the geographical boundaries of the District; and
  6. Be governed by written bylaws that have been approved by the District; and
  7. Outline house league and Learn to Skate commitments of all prospective league teams; and
  8. Submit an application for league sanctioning by May 1<sup>st</sup> in advance of the next District Annual meeting.
- b. Admission Procedure for League Sanction - League sanctioning shall be acquired first upon submission of a written application to the District Executive Committee which shall demonstrate its compliance with the requirements set forth above and be approved by simple majority vote by the Executive Committee. Upon approval of the District Executive Committee, the prospective league must be approved for formal sanctioning by a three-quarters (3/4's) majority vote of the District Board at its next regularly-scheduled Annual Meeting. All prospective league members shall comply with the requirements of the Bylaws, the Rules and Regulations, as from time to time, amended, pay all required fees and agree to be subject to all disciplinary action by the Executive Board, including, suspension, fine or expulsion from the District upon a finding of "good cause" by a simple majority of the Executive Committee.
- c. Probationary Status of New Leagues - Once approved from admission by a three-quarters (3/4's) majority vote of the full Board, all new leagues shall be approved on a conditional or probationary basis ("Probationary League Sanction") for a period of One (1) year following their approval vote. At the first Annual Meeting following their probationary admission, the Executive Committee shall make a recommendation to the full Board on whether the Probationary League Sanction shall be made permanent. The full Board shall thereafter decide by a two-thirds (2/3s) majority vote whether to accept or reject the Probationary League Sanction for permanent League Sanctioning
- d. Admission/Rejection of League Sanction - If the Board approves a Probationary League Sanction under Section c., above, the League shall be accepted for full league sanctioning. If the Board votes to reject a Probationary League Sanction, the vote shall be final and the League shall not re-apply for league sanctioning for a period of not less than one (1) year.

Status of Probationary League Sanction Pending Permanent Sanction Vote - Leagues granted Probationary League Sanction shall not have voting rights in the District during the One-Year probationary period. Once accepted for full league sanctioning, the new League and its constituent teams shall have representative voting rights within the District in accordance with the prevailing Bylaws and Rules & Regulations in the District.

## **ARTICLE VIII - PLAYING RULES**

### **A. USA HOCKEY RULES**

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

**B. USA HOCKEY OFFICIALS**

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

**C. PENALTY DOWNGRADE**

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

**D. SCORESHEETS.**

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

**E. DEFINITION OF A "GAME"**

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

**F. AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION PENALTY REPORT**

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

**ARTICLE IX - TOURNAMENTS****A. TOURNAMENTS – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- (1) Affiliate Tournament Director. The USA Hockey Affiliate Vice President of Tournaments ~~Director~~ or his/her designee shall be named the Tournament Director.
- (2) Tournament Classifications. tournaments may be held in the following classifications:
  - (a) Tier I AAA: 14 & Under through 18 & Under (National Tournament Bound)
  - (b) Tier II AA: 14 & Under through 18 & Under (National Tournament Bound)
  - (c) Tier II AA, A & B: 12 & Under through 18 & Under
  - (d) Tier I AAA: 12 & Under
  - (e) House League: 10 & Under, 12 & Under
  - (f) Girl/Women: 12&U, 14&U, 16&U, 19&U, Senior B (National Bound),
- (3) Fees. Tournament fees are to be determined on an annual basis by the Board of Directors as recommended by the Vice President of Tournaments and accepted by the Board.

- (4) Limitations of Players. No Olympians, Para-Olympians, USA Hockey NTDP players or members of the USA Hockey Jr. National Sled Hockey team may participate in any AAHA tournaments.
- (5) Court Intervention. In the event that any court shall intervene to affect the participants, that tournament shall be canceled, and the representative, if any, to go to the next level of tournament play will be designated by the Tournament Director.

## **B. TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY**

- (1) TIER I and TIER II The AAHA Representative at Nationals will be determined by a District tournament playoff in accordance with these as determined by the AAHA President and AAHA Vice President of Tournaments
- (2) Senior Women Senior Women's tournaments may be used to determine who will represent the AAHA at a National Championship.

## **C. TOURNAMENT TEAM REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION & FORMAT**

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

## **D. TOURNAMENT TEAM QUALIFICATIONS**

- (1) Minimum Number of Games In order to qualify for or National play, teams must play 20 games as a unit and each player on that team must play at least 10 games against USA Hockey registered teams from other organizations at a similar or more competitive level. Girls/Women's teams must play 14 games as a unit at their competitive level and each player on that team must play at least ten games against USA Hockey Registered teams. For a Senior Women's A team, each player must play 10 games at their competitive level.
- (2) Verification. The score sheets, signed by the Registered Officials, must be available to the tournament committee.
- (3) Games Played Before Registration. Games played prior to the date a team has registered with USA Hockey Registrar, will not count toward satisfying the 10/20 or 10/14 rule.
- (4) Qualifying Games. Only games against Atlantic member USA Hockey teams may be used to determine a league representative(s) to an Atlantic Tournament, or a USA Hockey National Championship.
- (5) DOCUMENTATION. ALL TEAMS MUST PROVIDE THE REQUIRED CREDENTIALS PRIOR TO THE TOURNAMENT AS DETERMINED BY THE REGISTRAR

## **E. TOURNAMENT OPEN COMPETITION**

- (1) Declaration of League Representatives. Leagues must declare their representative(s) not later than 10 days prior to the tournament. Where a league is eligible to participate at two levels in the same division, they must compete at the higher level.

**F. TOURNAMENT GOALTENDER RULES**

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

**G. TOURNAMENT ELIGIBILITY CHALLENGES**

- (1) Time For Challenges. No challenge on player or team eligibility can be made after the first puck is dropped of the challenged team's first game. The Tournament Director may act at any time.
- (2) Non-Sanctioned Tournament Play. Any registered team or any registered player participating in a non USA Hockey sanctioned tournament shall be ineligible by the Tournament Director for District, Regional or National Tournaments.
- (3) Limitation on Dual Rostering. No player rostered on a Tier I (AAA) or Tier II team (including teams designated as either ``AA" or ``A', or "B") at any age classification shall be permitted to participate in the house league tournament.

**H. HOUSE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT RULES**

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

**I. TOURNAMENT PLAYING RULES**

- (1) Schedule & Position Determination Tournaments formats shall be determined by AAHA VP of Tournaments and the Affiliate President. If two or more teams have an equal number of points, their position in the standings will be determined in accordance with USA Hockey's National Tournament Rules & Regulations. Copies shall be distributed and posted at the tournament(s) site(s).
- (2) Time of Periods. All age levels shall be per USA Hockey National Championship Format.
- (3) Penalties All penalties will be: minor (two minutes), major (five minutes), misconduct (ten minutes).
- (4) Protests. No game protests are permitted after the scoresheet has been signed.
- (5) Rules Interpretations. Any dispute relating to the interpretation of the playing rules shall be dealt with and ruled upon by the Referee-In-Chief or his representative or in consultation with his representative assigned at that game and in attendance at the moment of incident. The decision will be final. No protest on interpretation of the playing rules shall be accepted after play has been resumed. Any other protests will be ruled on by the Tournament Director.
- (5) Forfeiture Rule. If a team forfeits one game in a tournament, they will forfeit all of their games and will not be eligible to continue in the Atlantic tournament nor advance to USA Hockey



Nationals Tournament. The offending team will be subject to the penalties in Paragraph 98 of this section (Penalty).

- (a) Any team forfeiting any of its games shall have all of its losses declared forfeit (1-0 loss) for the purpose of determining the tournament standings for the other participants.
- (6) Suspensions. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for deciding any action (suspensions or restrictions) to be placed against a player or team official receiving a match, gross or game misconduct penalty. The Tournament Director shall have full power to waive or increase any suspension or penalty.
- (7) Opportunity for Suspended Participant to be Heard. No player or other participant may be barred in the remaining tournament games without an opportunity to tell his or her version of the incident. Failure to attend the meeting after being notified shall be deemed an opportunity.
- (8) Suspensions Prior To Tournament. Any suspensions measured in game incurred prior to a Tournament, shall not be served during this tournament.
- (9) Reporting of Actions. All disciplinary action shall be reported to the home association of the player or others involved, for further action at their discretion.

#### **J. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS**

- (1) Referee Systems Recognized. An approved USA Hockey system (two or three man) of officiating will be used subject to the approval of the Referee-In-Chief and the Tournament Chairman Assignment.
- (2) Referee Assignments. All officials will be assigned by USA Hockey Referee-In-Chief or his appointee, in conjunction with the Tournament Director.
- (3) Decisions Final. The decision of the Tournament Director will be final.
- (4) Referees Not Eligible. Neither the Referee-In-Chief nor his appointee can officiate in any games.

#### **K. TOURNAMENT UNIFORMS**

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

#### **L. TOURNAMENT SITE SELECTION**

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

#### **M. TOURNAMENT AWARDS**

- (1) Awards. The AAHA may supply awards to the winners and second place finishers in each tournament classification.

**N. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

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

**O. COMMITMENT FOR REGIONAL / NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- (1) Commitment to Proceed. Any team entering an Atlantic Tournament agrees to participate in Northeast Sectionals, Regionals or National Championship should they become eligible.
- (2) Penalty for Failure to Proceed. Any team failing to fulfill its commitment at the District, Regional or National Tournament shall become disqualified to participate in all tournaments in the following year. Also a team's entire organization may be declared ineligible for tournament participation the following year.

**P. REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

- (1) Host Teams. With respect to regional tournaments held in the Atlantic District, they will be hosted by the Atlantic District.
- (2) Team Replacements. If a designated representative is unable to represent AAHA in a Regional or National Tournament the runner up or last eliminated team may be given permission by the Tournament Director to represent the Atlantic District.

**Q. INVITATION TOURNAMENTS**

- (1) Sanctioning. Any independent or invitational tournament held in the AAHA must secure the sanction of USA Hockey. This may be accomplished by contacting USA Hockey Registrar and filing a USA Hockey Tournament application form along with a copy of the rules and regulations for the tournament.
- (2) Officiating. All AAHA invitational tournaments must be officiated by USA Hockey officials assigned by USA Hockey Referee-in-Chief or his designee.

**R. RULES FOR INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

- (1) Required Forms. Tournament Director(s) for all tournaments within the involving USAH teams shall submit form 3-T.
- (2) Tournament Referee Assignor(s) for all tournaments within the involving USAH teams shall be notified after consultation with the RIC or his designee
- (3) Tournament Referee Supervisor(s) for all tournaments within the involving USAH teams shall be appointed after consultation with the RIC or his designee
- (4) Penalties assessed by an on-ice official shall not be changed or removed other than in accordance with Rule 502
- (5) All suspension penalties shall be served, and
  - (a) The referee shall have general supervision of the game and shall have full authority over all game officials (including off-ice officials), team officials, and players before, during and after the game
  - (b) In case of any dispute, the decision of the referee shall be final
  - (c) The referee may not change a decision, or that of any other official, after the resumption of play following the rendering of the original decision
  - (d) The referee may not change any penalties assessed at the end of the game after signing the score sheet
- (6) Tournament Directors, Rink Managers, and other Tournament personnel shall not become involved in the conduct of the game unless requested by an on-ice official; and
  - (a) Only team players and team officials are permitted in the players' bench area
  - (b) Only off-ice officials and penalized players are permitted in the penalty bench area
  - (c) Only off-ice officials are permitted in the official scorers/game timekeepers area
  - (d) No changes shall be made to the score sheet after it is signed by the officials
  - (e) No changes to penalties incurred can be adjudicated by tournament director(s), rink manager(s) or other tournament official(s)
  - (f) The only tournaments that are not considered invitational are those run by the Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association (AAHA), an Affiliate of USA Hockey.
- (7) Scheduling. No invitational tournament shall be sanctioned within a 75 mile radius of a or Regional Tournament or 100 miles of a National Tournament on the same weekend without permission of the registrar and AAHA President.

**ARTICLE X - AFFILIATE POLICIES, CODES OF CONDUCT, SCREENING AND SAFESPORT****A. PARENT & SPECTATOR DISCIPLINE & SUSPENSION GUIDELINES**

- (1) Guidelines for action are provided to emphasize the need to have in place as a guideline on how to handle disciplinary matters. It is imperative to demonstrate a FAIR pattern of actions to avoid protests that there are personal reasons behind suspension. To do this, it is important to have and to follow guidelines for disciplinary actions.
- (2) A suspended individual will be suspended from all USA Hockey activities including practices or games for other children.

- (a) Level A Occurrence

This will apply for first offenses only. The action should be of a non-threatening manner and should be considered unusual for the party involved. There should be remorse expressed by the party and it should be anticipated that there would not be a repeat of the behavior. Actions to be taken when found in violation at this level can be as low as a written warning and a maximum suspension not to exceed three (3) games or ten (10) days.

- (b) Level B Occurrence

This would be in effect for a second time offender. Also falling into this group would be those individuals who may have had past observed behavior issues and have finally been reported. The individual would likely show minimal if any remorse. The penalty should be more severe with a suggested range between three (3) games and thirty (30) days

- (c) Level C Occurrence

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

**B. SCREENING**

Screening. To be in accordance with USA Hockey's SafeSport program

- (1) A person may be disqualified and prohibited from serving as an employee or volunteer of USA Hockey and the Atlantic (AAHA) or its member organizations if the person has:
  - (a) Been convicted (including crimes the record of which has been expunged and pleas of "no contest") of a crime of child abuse, sexual abuse of a minor, physical abuse, causing a child's death, neglect of a child, murder, manslaughter, felony assault, any assault against a minor, kidnapping, arson, criminal sexual conduct, prostitution related crimes or controlled substance crimes.
  - (b) Been adjudged liable for civil penalties or damages involving sexual or physical abuse of children.

- (c) Been subject to any court order involving any sexual abuse or physical abuse of a minor, including but not limited to domestic order or protection.
  - (d) Had their parental rights terminated.
  - (e) A history with another organization (volunteer, employment, etc.) of complaints of sexual or physical abuse of minors. 6. Resigned, been terminated or been asked to resign from a position, whether paid or unpaid, due to complaint(s) of sexual or physical abuse of minors.
  - (f) Has a history of other behavior that indicates they may be a danger to children in USA Hockey or the Atlantic (AAHA) or its member organizations.
- (2) Volunteer or employee will be re-screened every two years in accordance with USA Hockey policy

### C. HAZING

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

### D. PARENT & SPECTATORS CODE OF CONDUCT

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

### E. HIGH SCHOOL POLICY

- (1) General Rule. The Atlantic recognizes the value of both club hockey and high school hockey to a player's development and enjoyment of the game. It is the policy of the Atlantic District, that:
  - (a) No Bantam, Midget or Junior coach or organization may prohibit any of their players from participating with their USAH registered scholastic team
  - (b) No scholastic coach or organization may prohibit a player from participating on a USAH registered Bantam or Midget team.

- (c) In the event of a conflict between a game for one team and a practice for another team, the player shall be permitted to attend the game, with no penalties to the player for missing practice. It shall be an excused absence from practice, and not be held against the player in any way, including but not limited to any allowances a player is permitted to miss for that team
- (2) Penalties for infraction of the above
- (a) 1<sup>st</sup> offense – warning to coach and club
  - (b) 2<sup>nd</sup> offense – 30 day suspension to head coach of offending organization and person responsible (if different from head coach)
  - (c) 3<sup>rd</sup> offense – 1 year suspension to head coach and \$1,000 fine to organization

## **ARTICLE XI - SUSPENSIONS, APPEALS & RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES**

### **A. DISPUTE RESOLUTION & APPEALS**

- (1) Any party aggrieved by a decision, ruling or determination of the Affiliate or any of its Boards or other subdivisions, shall unless otherwise provided for in these Rules & Regulations, shall be governed by the provisions of USA Hockey Bylaw 10.

### **B. REFEREES SUSPENSIONS** in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10

### **C. COMMUNICATION OF SUSPENSION** in accordance with USA Hockey Bylaw 10

### **D. GAME DEFINITION (FOR SUSPENSION)**

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

### **E. LEGAL ACTIONS**

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

## **ARTICLE XII - USA HOCKEY GUIDELINES REGARDING NON-SANTIONED PLAY**

USA Hockey and its Affiliates are charged with establishing rules and policies for the organization, coordination and betterment of hockey, including developing players, coaches and officials, and managing and minimizing risks associated with the sport. Examples of recent rules and policies include the American Development Model (ADM), Red, White and Blue Hockey (cross-ice) for players 8 and under, and processes and procedures for expansion of junior hockey programs. USA Hockey strongly *believes* in these programs as evidenced by the

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

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

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

White and Blue Hockey, if the Affiliate has in fact mandated such rules.

- An Affiliate may enforce a rule that prohibits its member teams from participating in games or practices that are not sanctioned by USA Hockey. Unless sanctioned as a Special Event, USA Hockey's insurance policies are not available to cover local programs, teams and Individual Participants when participating in a game or practice among or between teams sanctioned by an Affiliate and a non-sanctioned team. A parent of a youth hockey player that has registered with USA Hockey with the expectation of receiving the benefits of such membership, should not be placed in a situation where they may be surprised to learn after their child is injured that the injury occurred during a non-sanctioned event.
- An Affiliate may also enforce a rule that its member organizations must register all of their teams and players with USA Hockey and the Affiliate. If an Affiliate has such a rule, a member organization within that Affiliate cannot register some of its teams with the Affiliate while other teams in that organization are not registered with the Affiliate. Important reasons for such a rule are so that neither USA Hockey nor its Affiliates become liable for activities conducted by a member organization that is also conducting non-sanctioned events, and to prevent the occurrence of situations where USA Hockey's insurance could potentially be asserted to apply in a non-sanctioned event.
- Despite the foregoing, if an Affiliate's member organization or team desires to play in events or games that are not sanctioned by USA Hockey, they may seek a Special Event sanction for such game or event, or they may also do so provided that certain other requirements are met.

Teams playing in a non-USA Hockey sanctioned event or game must be part of a separate organization (for example, a separately incorporated corporation) that is sufficiently distinct from the USA Hockey sanctioned program. The non-sanctioned organization or team(s) should also have a separate board of directors, the team cannot wear the same uniforms or have the same team names, and all rink or vendor contracts relating to the non-sanctioned team(s) or activities must be in the name of the separate organization rather than the USA Hockey member organization or team. Distinguishing teams participating in non-sanctioned events or programs from teams that are members of USA Hockey will help avoid making USA Hockey, its Affiliates or member organizations liable for activities conducted in connection with non-sanctioned play, prevent the occurrence of situations where USA Hockey's insurance could potentially be asserted to apply in a non-sanctioned event, and will also help make Individual Participants (and their parents or guardians) aware of which games or events are under USA Hockey rules and oversight and are covered by USA Hockey insurance and other benefits.

•USA Hockey Rules & Regulations, Section IV., provide as follows:

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



rule regardless of the sanctioning body that governs the applicable Junior team, all Junior teams are treated equally.

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

- USA Hockey may amend or supplement these guidelines.