



From the desk of
Tom Berry:

Youth and Girls' Tier III
SPRING 2026
2026-27 Regular Season

To: Head Coaches, Association Presidents, MAHA Representatives

I wanted to take a few minutes to remind everyone of the MAHA and USA Hockey tryout rules and also emphasize that the rules for the MAHA Spring 2026 Season are the same as for the MAHA 2026-2027 Regular Season including those for rostering.

TRYOUTS

Tier III teams are not allowed to have tryouts.

This is the current language from USA Hockey:

“Tryout” means any process on or off-ice that evaluates a player or group of players for the purpose of choosing players for a program or team. A Tryout also includes any team practices, off ice training sessions, open skates, skills sessions, or identification skates which include a player that is not on a regular season USA Hockey Roster with that association’s teams or program. USA Hockey programs, coaches and administrators are not permitted to operate a program outside of USA Hockey as a means of avoiding the prohibitions on tryouts or recruiting. While USA Hockey does not restrict a coach’s private business, if a coach runs a private camp, meeting, event, skate or skills clinic outside of USA Hockey for one or more players, then the coach and/or team/program should be investigated as Code of Conduct/tampering and the player should face disciplinary action.

A player’s obligation to his/her regular season team ends on April 30 of the current season or when his/her regular season team becomes inactive prior to that date. A team becomes inactive when their ice contract ends. An “interest” skate is considered a tryout. An “open skate” is considered a tryout.

PLAYER SELECTION

The Tier III category is a recreational travel level of hockey in Michigan determined by a draft.

For the 2026-27 Regular season Youth teams need to follow the rules in the 64th MAHA Annual Guide:

IV. Youth Age & Division Classifications

D. 10U – 18U Tier III Category and B & BB Division.

For the 2026-27 Regular season Girls’ teams need to follow the rules in the 64th MAHA Annual Guide:

V. Girls Age & Division Classifications

C. 10U – 19U Girls Tier III

Single entry teams must take players on a first come first serve basis.

ELECTRONIC SIGNUP

Associations/Clubs are encouraged to have some sort of electronic sign up.

USA Hockey membership numbers should be a required field in the electronic signup. This protects both the player and the Association/Club.

OUT OF DISTRICT PLAYERS ALL TIER III

There are no restrictions.

INTER-STATE RELEASE FOR TIER III PLAYERS

Tier III players that live close to the state lines and do not have a place to play and/or the rink in the other affiliate is the closest option, must obtain a release in order to roster in the Affiliate that is not where their residence is.

Any players coming into Michigan from border states needs to get a release from either Mid-Am (Ohio and Indiana) or Wisconsin prior to being able to roster with one of our MAHA associations. Likewise, players leaving Michigan and going to those states must have MAHA signoff to roster in the other Affiliate.

The form is online on MAHA website [Moving to Michigan](#)

If a player is coming to Michigan, they must have the release completed by the bordering affiliate. It would then go to the Chairperson of the Michigan District for approval prior to rostering.

HOW MANY PLAYERS CAN BE ROSTERED

64th MAHA Annual Guide

II. Registration and Rostering: Participants and Teams

O.

4. Spring/Summer type teams formed to play between the end of the last USA Hockey Youth/Girls National Championship and August 31, have a limit of twenty-five (25) players on a roster and may dress twenty (20) players per game.

MAHA RULES REGARDING COACH/MANAGER MOVEMENT

64th MAHA Annual Guide

VII. COACHING REQUIREMENTS

3. Any Association or Club with a head coach, assistant coach, or manager that formerly coached or managed in another Association or Club shall not be restricted on the amount of individuals from their preceding regular or post season team(s) pending the head coach, assistant coach, or manager has a signed letter from both the preceding and new association club approving the move; submitted both letters to the affected district(s); and receive approval from said district(s).

Where the above criteria are not met, the head coach, assistant, or manager that formerly coached or managed in another Association or Club shall not have a team with more than 50% of its players who played on a team coached or managed by one or more of these individuals during the preceding regular or post season.

ROSTERING

All teams will be required to be rostered for Spring whether they play games or not.

Rostering rules should follow the 2026-2027 Regular Season.

If you have coaches that will be moving up an age classification this Spring (example: 8U to 10U), the coaches will need to complete the age based modules in order to be on the roster. They can begin now meeting this requirement.

If you have new coaches, those coaches will need to register with USA Hockey as a coach, complete the USA Hockey background check, complete Safe Sport training, complete concussion training, and the age based modules prior to being placed on a roster. They can begin now meeting these requirements.

64th MAHA Annual Guide

XIV. Spring/Summer League

10. Spring/Summer players must play in the USA Hockey age classification they will be in for the next Regular (winter) hockey season.

DUAL ROSTERING

In all Youth divisions, a player may register and play with a maximum of two teams at a time in the Spring/Summer season.

TEAM NAMES

Teams may not use 'Selects', 'Elite', 'Premier', or the like in their team's name or market themselves as such including but not limited to tryout advertising, jerseys, player enticement, etc. Teams found in violation shall have the Head Coach suspended up to the remainder of the current season and the following season.

Associations/Clubs rostering these teams shall be subject to disciplinary action.

CONCUSSION TRAINING

Michigan's Sports Concussion Law requires coaches and other adults involved in youth sports to complete online concussion awareness training *every three years*. Anyone with a certificate on file prior to 4/2023, will need to recertify and provide an updated certificate prior to rostering to the Association/Club.

HELMETS

All Districts will continue with the USA Hockey required 30-day suspensions for on-ice helmet violations. This is a serious matter that could affect the USA Hockey Insurance for everyone involved. If anyone is on the ice including skill instructors, without a helmet, the suspension is to the head coach.