



Tier I Selection Criteria and Process

For the purpose of seeking the Vermont State Amateur Hockey Associations (VSAHA) Tier I allocation(s) for tournaments leading to, and including, USA Hockey National Tournament, member associations will use the criteria and process outlined below.

1. On or before September 1 of each year, USA Hockey will provide VSAHA the number of teams it will be permitted to have at the Girls Tier I 14u, 16u, 19u and Youth 14u, 15, 16u, and 18u national tournament bound levels **for the following season**. These numbers will be posted on the VSAHA website as soon as they are available.
2. Member associations that would like to form a Girls or Youth National Bound team(s) must comply with the Youth Tier I Standards and Criteria and/or Girls Tier I Standards and Criteria as outlined in the USA Hockey Annual Guide and all VSAHA Bylaws and Rules and Regulations.
3. Member associations that would like to form a Girls or Youth National Bound team(s) for the following season must publish and advertise tryout dates prior to the start of the current USA Hockey National Tournament, provided however, that no tryouts may occur until 48 hours after the last game of the National Tournament. Member associations holding tryouts, and players trying out are not necessarily guaranteed that the teams selected/rostered will be granted a Tier I allocation.
4. Prior to August 1st of each season, member associations must finalize rosters and their intent to seek the Tier I allocation. No late declarations will be considered. All rostered teams seeking the allocation must carry a minimum of 15 players, including goaltenders, and meet all other VSAHA, **New England District (NED)**, and USA Hockey rostering requirements.
5. In the event that the number of declared teams in a playing classification exceeds the number of teams permitted by USA Hockey for the specified season, a Tier I Showcase will be held prior to **October 30th** of that season. The results of the Showcase will determine which teams will be awarded Tier I status and eligible to compete in the VSAHA Tier I State Tournament, **NED Regional** and/or USA Hockey National tournaments.
6. Teams, and participating players on those teams, that compete in any respect in the Showcase and do not qualify for Tier I status for that season, may not register that season for or on a Tier II USA Hockey National Tournament bound team.
7. Teams that are awarded a Tier I allocation will not be allowed to make any changes to their rosters for the balance of that season and are required to compete in the VSAHA Tier I State Tournament if one is necessary.
8. Teams receiving Tier I status must have a signed membership agreement and be a member association in good standing with VSAHA.