

MAHA Rule Changes

Note- rules that have an effective date of '26-27 season are effective for Spring 2026.
A detailed chart is attached.

Sent to Special Committee:

MAHA # 10 which would allow a limited number of second year players to play on A teams (Youth 10U, 12U, 14U) has been sent to special committee for study/recommendation.

Substantively new or revised:

MAHA #1-3, 11-22, 24-29

MAHA #1-3 move pilots to rules.

MAHA #11 and 12 revise the 72-hour rule.

MAHA 13 clarifies player options for those participating in October MAHA State Championships.

MAHA #14 clarifies Tier II tournament team requirements.

MAHA #16 extends the period of scrimmage time allowed in association shared ice practices.

MAHA #17 game count limits are now a recommendation versus mandatory limits.

MAHA #18 clarifies how teams can name themselves and market.

MAHA #19 clarifies CEP requirements for coaches in October MAHA State Championships.

MAHA #20 documents how to show suspensions on the scoresheet and allowable participation.

MAHA #21 allows games against JV teams to meet minimum game count requirements.

MAHA #22 clarifies responsibilities of head coaches and managers.

MAHA #25 all 10U and above teams must be credentialed.

MAHA #28, 29 clarifies the 30% rule for Tier III

Correct Guidebook omissions/errors and/or to reflect current practice:

MAHA #30-43

Late #2-5, 7-13

Pass through changes from USA Hockey prior to the January 2026 USAH Winter Congress:

MAHA #44-51, 54

Bylaw changes to reflect current operations:

MAHA #23, 55, 56

Late #14-19

From Special Committee:

Revises the out of district requirements for Youth 10U, 12U, 14U.

All the rule submissions can be viewed at MAHA.org

USA Hockey Significant Rule Changes: January 2026

- Moves the hearing for 601e (Abuse of Officials and Other Misconduct) violations from the Affiliate and sends to a National Review Committee.
- Updates the delivery of Officiating seminars to primarily virtual.
- **Establishes a national residency policy for Tier II teams.**
- Several updates to Disabled Hockey governance and eligibility.
- USAH Congress and the Board allowed to act on needed proposals between rule change cycles under certain circumstances.
- Various proposals clarify the intent and processes of Bylaw 10.
- **Clarification of provisions of the Tier 1 Tryout rule.**
- Recommendation for all sanctioned invitational tournaments to have medical personnel on site.
- Restricts the use of smelling salts. Also regulates providing over the counter drugs to minors without parental permission.
- **Several proposals that create the framework for the USA Hockey Development League starting in 2027 - 2028.**
- **Game count requirement changed to 18/12 for both Youth and Girls.**
- **Moves roster freeze date and use of vertical integration date from 12/31 to 2/15.**
- **Rule to eliminate non-national bound Tier 1 teams.**
- **Reduces the number that Tier 1 youth team allocation is based on to 5%. Grandfathers existing teams and clarifies how the number is calculated.**
- Requires that only a head coach needs to sign the scoresheet ahead of the game.
- Clarifies the definition of a tournament and showcase (similar to what Michigan has been using).
- **Changes and clarifies the replacement of injured goaltenders for District Tournaments and National Championships.**
- **Rule that clarifies One Team - One Roster requirements at Tier 1.**
- **Proposal that clarifies residency criteria and out of state player limits for Tier I.**
- **Clarification on Tier 1 player rostering restriction to comply with one team - one season rule.**
- Several provisions that update financial governance, 501c requirements, Affiliate accountability and reporting.

All the rule submissions can be viewed at USAHockey.com